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Photo from Agape

Addis adds mega agricultural products market center

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA-Addis Ababa's Mayor Adanech Abiebie inaugurated yesterday a 1.45- billion- Birr Lemi Kura Agricultural Products Market Center that is said to be instrumental to avail commodities with

affordable price and stabilize the market.

Upon the inauguration of the center, which was held in connection with the Day of Industriousness, Mayor Adanech stated that the new facility would play a vital role in providing agricultural commodities in bulk

to Addis' residents.

Recalling the government's promise to build five agricultural products market centers in the five gateways of Addis Ababa, she indicated that the first center was inaugurated in Akaki-Kality Sub-

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BEDELE SPECIAL
EXPORT QUALITY

AU becomes permanent member of G20

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA- The African Union (AU) became a permanent member of the Group of 20 largest economies (G 20) yesterday.

The Group agreed on Saturday to grant permanent membership to the AU in an effort to make the group more representative.

The agreement was reached at the inaugural session of the two-day G20 summit held in New Delhi during the weekend.

Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat tweeted that the membership will provide a propitious framework for

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Association urges youth to replicate patriots' victory in preserving unity

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- The present generation needs to repeat the victory of forefathers and mothers over foreign invaders in preserving Ethiopia's unity and passing down prosperous country to the posterity, the Ethiopian Patriots Association said.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Association President Lij Daniel JoteMesfin called for an intensified effort to educate the young generation about the enormous sacrifices the patriots have paid for freedom. "Having a deeper understanding of the noble sacrifice that our forefathers paid to preserve the country is crucial to maintain its unity and build a

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Lej Daniel JoteMesfin



Photo: Gebabo Gebere

China envisages consolidating public diplomacy with Africa: Ambassador

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An overriding national feeling

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'Generation Day' to honor the past, build a bridge to next generation

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Generational solidarity for promoting stronger and cohesive communities

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News

EEG sets plan to generate 14.6 bln Birr

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – The Ethio Engineering Group (EEG) leadership revealed a plan to secure over 14.6 billion Birr from the current year operation and maintain the company's auspicious performance.

EEG held a discussion yesterday with its stakeholders aimed to boost production and productivity themed "Ethiopia deserves its own brand."

Speaking at the occasion, EEG Chief Executive Officer Suleiman Dedefo said efforts that have been exerted to put the firm in the right track has brought about commendable outcomes. Accordingly, taking last year's encouraging performance as the springboard, the plan is set to amass 14.6 billion Birr from the current year's operation.

Owing to various years, the EEG performed under capacity over the last five years. Reversing the firm's path to bankruptcy, the ongoing reform enabled it to collect some 490 million Birr revenue before tax during the past fiscal year.

The CEO noted; however, that the mere assembling of imported products is not helpful for Ethiopia. To fill this gap, consolidated efforts are underway to transform the sector from assembly to production in the current fiscal year as well as to maximize production and productivity.

As a result, different activities are underway to put the systems in place to produce exportable items and secure foreign exchange earnings. Attempts have also been made to produce the assembled items with own capacity; however, forex crunch has hindered the implementation.

Moreover, this shift needs to be supplemented by widening and diversifying the market and ensuring product's quality, Suleiman stressed.

Public Holding Enterprises and Administration Agency (PEHA) Director General Habtamu Hailemichael for his part said that the enterprises registered over 8 billion Birr profit and 40 billion Birr total revenue in the reported period. "The EEG also started making a profit for the first time after three years recovering from rampant loss and underperformance."

Institute working to launch second satellite "ETRSS-II" • Nurturing future astronauts

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

BURAYU – Feasibility studies and other necessary preparations are being undertaken to launch the second satellite dubbed ETRSS-2 in the coming three years, the Ethiopian Space Science and Geospatial Institute (SSGI) disclosed.

Yesterday, Burayu Talent Development Center, an affiliate of the SSGI, graduated 50 students who have completed theoretical and practical training.

Approached by the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) at the sidelines of the inauguration, SSGI Director-General Abdisa Yilma said that consolidated efforts are underway to launch the satellite in the stated time frame. "The satellite would play a critical role in weather forecasts and supplement agricultural activities."

The director general further noted that the institute is working to launch a medium satellite assembly center and accurate GPS reader systems at Bishoftu with a plan to expand to other cities.

Moreover, wide ranges of innovative activities have taken place at Entoto and Addis Ababa Science and Technology University (ASTU).

About the graduation, Abdisa indicated the institute has been offering training to 50 talented and gifted students drawn from different parts of the country.

During their stay, the students have been taking theoretical and practical skill development training in the areas of astronomy, coding, earth observation among



others. Besides, the students have come up with innovative works including algorithm development, radar and UAV which is used for face detection and other projects.

Since space science is a recent phenomenon, the development center is currently being utilized by various institutions and a plan is

set to expand the facility to other states.

"Regarding space and geospatial sector, the institution has been undertaking research, developing technologies, delivering training, consultation and technical support for developmental institutions. Also, along with universities, we have been engaged in human development in MSC and PhD levels."

Since its inception, the center has graduated over 150 students, it was learned.

Speaking at the occasion, Innovation and Technology State Minister Huria Ali indicated the institution is a place where selected Ethiopian students with special talent nurture their gifts without compromising formal education.

Ethiopia is joining the digital economy with core initiatives such as inclusive and digital base job opportunities and developing innovative projects that help curb import substitution and innovative inputs, Huria added.

"My ministry, along with the institute, is aggressively working to reach out talented students from every corner of the country to become technologically competent while developing their skills and pursuing their passion for the development of the Ethiopian economy."

Ethiopia launched its first satellite dubbed ETRSS-1 in December 2019.

The center was inaugurated under the initiative of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) with the vision of developing talented students.

Ethio telecom donates 8.6 mln-Birr shops to youth

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA- In connection with the Day of Benevolence, the state-owned operator ethio telecom donated 8.6 million- Birr worth mobile shops to young entrepreneurs.

Yesterday, the company distributed portable shops to the youth and meals to the elderly and women that are coming from all parts of the country and provided textbooks to students.

Speaking at the occasion, ethio telecom CEO Frehiwot Tamiru indicated apart from its engagement to accomplish the business mission, the operator is making its mark on discharging social responsibility. In particular, education, health, environmental protection, green development and blood donation are the major issues in which the company actively participates.

"Our company is contributing to creating jobs and a source of income for the youth, and has delivered 30 mobile shops to 99 youths organized by an association in Kirkos Sub-City at a cost of more than 8.6 million Birr," she added.

Apart from securing jobs, the youth will also earn extra income by working as a legal agent of Telebirr. They will be able to expand their business by getting loans without collateral.

The operator, under the theme "With a new beginning; with new hope towards New



Year" marked the six days of Pagumen under different charitable activities and provided more than 89 million Birr for 7,112 elderly people and women in 26 welfare centers.

Also, ethio telecom has donated textbooks to more than 70,000 students enrolled in over 430 schools across the country at a cost of more than 72.9 million Birr. "Ethio telecom has been hugely engaged in extending various supports in the education sector and we are mainly providing basic educational materials to underprivileged students with a view to nurturing a better generation."

On the event, ethio telecom management

and employees also donated blood. "This manifested our company's engagement in ranges of social issues that could bring positive impact on the society," the CEO emphasized.

Mubarak Kemal, Chief Executive Officer of Kirkos Sub-City said that ethio telecom's donation could inspire other institutions to work for the public's benefit. "The active participation of every actor will greatly contribute to the unity and prosperity of Ethiopia."

The Benevolence Day was marked yesterday with various programs under the theme "Benevolence for the Country."

Editorial

Bequeathing rosy tomorrow to coming generation

The furtherance of a nation is ensured when a generation cedes place to the next one on the row and the latter do the same to its successor. This is a natural phenomenon. There is no immortal being. Procreation takes place as per the aforementioned natural law. It is this way we Ethiopians embarked on the 21th century.

Undeniably, there are good as well as bad things we inherited from our predecessors. Distilling the best virtues and putting them into our backpacks for use down the road manifest a show of sagacity.

Cordiality, honesty, integrity of seeing the translation of set objectives to the letter, valor, love for a nation, togetherness, considerateness, chemistry in handling common objective, among others, are merits we inherited from days gone.

Backbiting, jealousy, contempt, villainy, ingratitude, not recognizing others' achievements, bigotry, sloth, among others, are the chaffs we bagged in the seed we inherited from our ancestors. The chaffs beg for separation and warding off task.

Highlighting and scaling up best practices from the past and handing it down for the coming generation are imperative duties. Otherwise, the coming generation could not go on magnifying the cultural values and invaluable assets that serve the characteristic features of the ancient country. Worse still, brushing aside one's own virtues, assets and lifestyles a new generation may make recourse to aping, lauding and practicing that of others to the point of entirely erasing one's identity. This lapse from grace could be nothing but willful servitude.

The seedbed for the continuity of a generation is family. Thus, a family remiss in fathoming the best virtues of a nation will find it hard to bequeath such nation-hard-won wealth to posterity. Hence, the continuity of a nation's virtues rests on a family that knows full well its culture, tradition, identity and practices. When a generation blossoms on the fertile ground of a family that boasts best virtues, a nation catapults to a greater height.

In better shaping a nation the institutes that play a paramount role next to a family are schools. In the absence of schools that inculcate ingredients in the minds of students for the betterment of a nation, the effort towards coming up with an identity- firm -and -proud nation which stands on the global arena with a square shoulder

could not come anywhere near success.

Also, social institutions like self-help associations (Idir), rotatory fund-raising schemes (ekube), farmers' associations play quite a role in the baton handing down task. The role of religious institutions goes without saying.

Accountability, responsibility, collaboration, impartiality are virtues successors draw lessons from predecessors. Serving the public in a satisfactory manner and taking pride from it is another virtue.

The change of governments is part of the handing over task. Bolstering the outstanding performances of the previous government, weeding out its shortfalls and injecting own best virtues are expected assignments for a new government sworn in to take a nation to new heights.

Spearheading development is a duty a nation ill affords to put on the backburner. Rocking down what the previous generation built and practicing a zero-sum game is uncharacteristic of a right-oriented government. Such a practice rather bogs down a nation's march for a better tomorrow.

In so far as the replacement of one generation by another is a must what matters most is the former generation's being a seminal effect to the latter in terms of tranquility, unity and affluence. Today is therefore high time we plunge headfirst into the task of saving a generation mending wrong turns, buttressing best practices and bringing into play own footprints to afford coming generation springboards. Here, it suffices to reflect on Ethiopia's laudatory task towards ensuring GERD, Green Development and export trade in wheat, among others.

We are on the eve of a New Year (Ethiopian). Hence, it is an appropriate time for us to reiterate commitment to see to the birth of a self-reliant as well as self-oriented Ethiopia that basks under its own glory and shuns imitating others.

For a robust Ethiopian tomorrow let us invest a lot on this generation.

It was standing in unison, clicking with love and upholding peaceful coexistence our forbearers handed us down a sovereign Ethiopia that saved a beckon of freedom. In the sport front too Ethiopia's name bubbles up to the front. Let us keep this ancient and great nation as the apple of our eye with a spirit of togetherness.

Opinion

Ethiopia: A country of chain of generations

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

The current generation of Ethiopians, overwhelmingly young, do not need to go to war but certainly, they have a lot to contribute to the development of their country and of course more to demand. Compared to the previous generation, the current young generation of Ethiopians is in a relatively better situation of life but of course with several challenges which the author will mention later on in this contribution.

The current generation of youth has access to modern technologies like cell phones, the internet and social media outlets of all forms. There is no doubt that they have better sources of information from printed books, e-books and other online publications which they can use to enrich their knowledge about their country and the rest of the world. Today we have more than 40 universities and hundreds of secondary schools and vocational training centers publicly owned by those in the private sector who invested in education. They indeed have all the means to have access to both national and international academic outputs.

There are several national associations of youth established both at the federal and regional levels. Thousands of you are members of professional associations and trade union federations functioning across the country. Is the current generation of youth effectively utilizing these opportunities for their own life and career development? The answer could be yes or no depending upon the quality and level of their participation in these civil society associations. As mentioned earlier, what are some of the challenges that the current generation of Ethiopian youth are facing? The author will mention only some of the major ones.

The current generation of youth is facing a huge level of social crisis in terms of unemployment which is exposing the youth to various forms of undesirable experiences forced by the dire need they have to sustain their life. Thousands of Ethiopian youth in urban and rural settings are living with their families right from birth because they cannot make ends meet. This is uncommon in Europe and North America but a normal way of life in Africa and more particularly in Ethiopia.

Being under the influence of social media, a large number of Ethiopian youth in universities, secondary schools and public services are being politicized and over-politicized by ethnocentric politics which is forcing them to give priority to their ethnic identity and ignoring their role in civic nationalism and patriotism. Chronic level of unemployment, misinformation and propaganda on social media has now become a threat to the maintenance of stable livelihood for youth pushing them into committing crimes of all sorts and engaging in illicit trade.

Consume xenophobia among the current generation concerning liking anything made abroad even with low quality is affecting the attitude of the youth toward quality commodities produced in the country.

The cultural domination of Western values

on the youth in Ethiopia has reached alarming levels. Copying the Western materialistic and cultural values and trying to adapt them to the Ethiopian way of life is one of the areas in which the Ethiopian youth are trying to show their modernity and cultural civilization. Most of Ethiopia's current young generations have already become victims of such absurd cultural imperialism. The spirit of patriotism that has been uplifted in the previous generation is being overtaken by ethnic exclusiveness with no specific agenda or the necessary socio-economic position to support this. In some parts of the country and among specific ethnic groups taking to the forest and gun tottering to engage in a rampage of killings, destruction and looting is becoming popular among the youth in this country shrouded with the concepts of liberation, freedom, democracy and self-determination.

Now, therefore, what are the possible solutions that could be suggested to pull the Ethiopian youth of nowadays from the impending quagmire? In the first place, both the federal and regional governments need to revise and update their operational policies on the youth in this country. Focus needs to be made on detaching politics from pure academic activities that are to be based on quality education. This would mean that mixing politics with academics must stop once and for all. Academic institutions but not be allowed to use their facilities for any political undertakings.

The issue of promoting quality education that is gaining currency must be implemented right from the lowest level of educational institutions up to the institutes of higher learning. Educational institutions need to enforce strict levels of discipline both in the classroom and outside the campuses without compromising the academic rights of the students.

Providing employment opportunities for the young generation needs to be one of the most important priorities for both the federal and regional governments. The youth need to contribute their part in the economic development of their country through collective efforts or on an individual basis. It is useful to engage them in income generation activities by making a participatory and inclusive planning system. Over the next year, the government, CSO and private enterprises need to pull their resources to markedly reduce the huge level of unemployment among the youth. This would help to reduce some of the most outstanding socio-economic problems among the youth in the country.

The youth centres that were established in Addis Ababa and the regional cities must be used for the purpose for which they are built. They need to be managed properly so that the youth can enjoy their pastime in such facilities and make them centres of learning and mental development.

Ethiopian youth need to be engaged in a wide spectrum of voluntary services so that they can freely serve their respective communities by addressing the needs of the poor the elderly and bedridden patients.

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



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News

Ethiopia builds digital infrastructure to ensure confidentiality

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDISABABA-The Ethiopian government is building the digital infrastructure to ensure confidentiality and security of the sector in the country, so stated INSA.

Information Network Security Administration General Director, Solomon Soka, told FBC that the Ethiopia government has invested finance on digital Ethiopia infrastructure. It will be completed and implemented in this year. The infrastructure helps avoid security threats in the sector. The building digital infrastructure will help Ethiopia have advanced Africa via developing digital economy. Digital Ethiopia 2025 will be the foundation of the country.

As to him, based on this growing demand, the infrastructure helps maintain the security of the sector that will be completed and put into operation in the current fiscal year.



Solomon Soka

It is important to build infrastructure for Digital Ethiopia 2025 to become a reality. It will also help Ethiopia achieve its dream of prosperity and plays a significant role in reducing and preventing crime, creating economic revitalization and bringing social

and political stability.

This sector's infrastructure has greatly contributed to the wide application of artificial skills for digital payment and national digital identity, as well as to the digital transformation works being implemented by the government. And it saves the data exchange process from various problems and ensures the overall security of the activity, he noted.

As to the General Director, INSA is fulfilling its responsibility in terms of making the national digital identity, and digital payment systems would be secured either by including them in the Digital Ethiopia 2025 framework or expected to be implemented in the future.

He said, "When we think of Digital Ethiopia 2025, infrastructure must be laid. One of the most important is the public infrastructure one."



Didha Dirriba

Authority underlines concerted effort for pollution free Addis

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA- Addis Ababa City Environmental Protection Authority disclosed that concerted effort needs to be exerted to make the city free from air pollution.

Speaking at a half day discussion forum the Authority organized to discuss issues with a range of stakeholders yesterday, under the theme, "Vehicle Pollution Control Implementation Guide," Up on the forum, Authority General Manager, Didha Dirriba said that the smoke emitted vehicles has been causing great damage to the social and economic and health of the residents of the Addis Ababa city. Therefore, it needs to be managed the gas emission in the city.

As to him, the main aim of the discussion would be creating public awareness towards having pollution free and green Addis Ababa through concerted efforts. It is the right time to manage the gas emission from the vehicles and industry in a bid to create attractive city for all. The smoke released from vehicles has accounted for over 35 % of environmental pollution in the city whilst outdated cars are exacerbating serious challenges in that regard.

"Some elements such as Sulfur dioxide (SO₂), Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), Carbone monoxide (CO), Ozone (O₃) are among the serious cause of environment pollution that should be effectively managed. According to World Bank (WB), over 7,000,000 people died due to environment pollution in 2018. In a similar manner, the world is spending close to 225 billion USD each year in relation to health protection. Addis Ababa expends over 78 million birr caused by air pollution per year," he added.

As to him, 9 out of 10 persons are breathing unclear air to the environment, and some 1.2 million citizens (5% of the total population) in Ethiopia are suffering from upper respiratory diseases due to environmental pollution.

An exclusive interview with The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Addis Ababa Transport Bureau Climate Change Senior Expert, Akelilu Adeferes said that the Bureau is working in collaboration with environment protection Authority and security bodies with a to realizing pollution free area. However, lack of adequate skilled human power, modern technology, and related issues might be serious factors hindering the effort to ensure pollution free city. Therefore, the stakeholders and the government should give due attention to air pollution, he noted.

AU becomes...

amplifying advocacy in favor of the Continent and its effective contribution to meeting global challenges.

G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation playing an important role in shaping and strengthening global architecture and governance on all major international economic issues.

India holds the Presidency of the G20 from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023.

China envisages consolidating public diplomacy with Africa: Ambassador

BY YOHANES JEMANEH

ADDIS ABABA - China has expressed its plan to consolidate public diplomacy with Africa as the country commemorated the 60th Anniversary of OAU/AU and the African Union Day with various theatrical performances.

During the event held on last Friday at the AU Headquarters, Head of Mission of China to the African Union Ambassador Hu Changchun said that his country is ready to work closely with Africa to consolidate mutual learning and enhance people-to-people bond as well as all-round exchanges.

This comes after the Global Civilization Initiative proposed by President Xi Jinping on March this year to advocate respecting the diversity of world civilizations, promoting the common values of mankind,

appreciating the inheritance and innovation of civilizations, and strengthening international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation, he stated.

According to the Ambassador, the cooperation between Africa and China has seen gaining momentum in recent years availing fruitful results in various fields thanks to the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and the Belt and Road Initiative that have strengthened people-to-people relations and cultural exchanges.

For him, China and Africa are cradles of civilization with time-honored history, culture and splendid artistic heritages.

Mentioning the Great Wall and the ancient pyramids of Egypt from ancient history of the two partners, the Ambassador

noted that the cultural relations mainly the vibrant African dances and Chinese operas complemented each other.

"Our civilizations have played an irreplaceable role in flourishing human development and the world," Ambassador Changchun said.

He believed that Agenda 2063 leads the African integration to promote economic revitalization and cultural prosperity.

On the occasion, Chinese artists from the Zhejiang Wu Opera Research Center have presented theatrical performance which is described by the Ambassador as "a wonderful show."

The artists performed folk art and traditional opera performances to their audience at the African Union amphitheater.

Addis adds mega agricultural...

City a month ago. "This center is much different from the first one due to technological capabilities and modern instruments that enable it to hold products for longer period while keeping quality. Its extensive capacity is also beneficial to bridging the supply-demand gap in the agriculture value chain."

Addis is building a lot of projects so as to realize the holistic development of its residents in particular and the country in general. The second agricultural product market center also showcased the growing capability of completing projects on time and the execution only took eight months, the Mayor emphasized.

Addis Ababa Mega Projects Office Manager Debo Tunka (Eng.) on his part said that the office has been carrying out various activities to make the city a right place to live and ensure holistic development. Within the past three years, the office has managed to accomplish four splendor projects namely Meskel Square, riverside development, Abrehot Library, and Unity Park with ultimate quality.

The construction of the Lemi Kura Agricultural Products Market Center consumed 1.45 billion Birr and created over 3,500 jobs. The construction follows international standards and would play a paramount role in creating a direct market

linkage between suppliers and consumers. The facility is also equipped with grain storage, dairy products, and retailer and wholesaler stores.

The manager extended appreciation to the OVID Group Construction company for its active participation in the execution of various mega projects.

Yonas Tadesse, Founder and Owner of the Ovid Group Construction noted that the company is working to supplement the government's development aspirations especially in the construction of houses. "We have finalized the preliminary activities to build 60,000 houses within a short period."

Association urges youth to...

better country for the future."

The young generation needs to be motivated by the patriots' commitment and the sacrifice they made for independence through engaging in activities that will contribute towards nation building. "Our forefathers and mothers paid enormous sacrifice to sustain the country that we have today. This generation should do its job and maintain this proud history."

Lij Daniel also urged the youth to join

efforts in defending some interest groups' attempts to disrupt the peaceful balance that exists between ethnicities and religions. In the same manner, they need to draw a lesson from their forefathers on how to resolve differences amicably and stand for national cause.

Patriots' heroic deeds should be repeated by this generation through development, education, unity and defending home country's sovereignty. "The more we become stronger and become good at what

we do, the better we can ensure Ethiopia's prosperity."

"Misleading narratives and wrong interpretation of history has impacted our longstanding values of unity, cooperation and patriotism. Thus, promoting the patriot's heroic deeds and work to revive such spirit constitute our success in creating a generation that will preserve such values and defend Ethiopia's sovereignty," he emphasized.

Opinion

Combined effort towards making responsible, patriotic generation

BY BACHA ZEWDIE

An ancient book says; "A generation is going, and a generation is coming..." Cognizant of this reality, people across the globe have gone through multiple ups and downs when designing and applying various strategies that enable them making responsible, reasonable, and patriotic generation that receives their respective countries along with its assets that are tangible and intangible.

As it is true for every nation, Ethiopia has been sustained as a nation with all its cherished history, sovereignty, unity, and grace among others through generations relay. The Forefathers of this generation paid invaluable sacrifice of blood, sweat and life to protect the country from any foreign attacks and handed it over to today's generation. They transferred the country not simply as an object but also made the generation via equipping with the values of liberty and sovereignty and assets amassed over millenniums. Besides, they taught the next generation practically what unity means and its aftereffects, regardless of their differences.

Thus, this generation is at the historical juncture of receiving the trust with the options either to transferring the country intact to the generation to come via keeping their unity and adding their own value or failing to carry out the responsibility falling apart into their own trajectories led by divisive narrations presented as a Christmas gift by those with ill will to see the strong nation.

Aiming to raise a responsible and patriotic generation, the current incumbent has exerted its maximum effort since assuming power some six years ago. On top of correcting the past mistakes and reviving the existed valuable assets of society, it has taken remarkable measures to create a conducive environment for the current generation, especially those at school age, so that they have to be optimist regarding the hereafter of their country.

As a result, it has been naming "Pagumen with six days this year", the thirteenth month of Ethiopia by valuable assets that have to be cultivated in the people for their harmonious coexistence and sustainability of the nation. Applying the same trend, the six days of this year's pagumen are named by Days of Volunteerism (Service), Sacrifice, Benevolence, Industriousness (Productivity), Generation and togetherness (Unity). And today is the day of generation.

Documents indicate that a generation refers to all of the people born and living at about the same time, regarded collectively. It can also be described as, "The average period, generally considered to be about 20-30 years, during which children are born and grow up, become adults, and begin to have children." In kinship terminology, it is a structural term designating the parent-child relationship. It is known as biogenesis,

Ethiopian intellectuals have a moral and patriotic duty to explore and present ideas and innovations that could help the younger generation

reproduction, or procreation in the biological sciences.

Generation is also often used synonymously with birth/age cohort in demographics, marketing, and social science; under this formulation it means "people within a delineated population who experience the same significant events within a given period of time." Generations in this sense of birth cohort, also known as "social generations", are widely used in popular culture, and have been the basis for sociological analysis.

Serious analysis of generations began in the nineteenth century, emerging from an increasing awareness of the possibility of permanent social change and the idea of youthful rebellion against the established social order. Some analysts believe that a generation is one of the fundamental social categories in a society, while others view its importance as being overshadowed by other factors including class, gender, race, and education.

Ethiopia today is the Land of Youth equally divided by gender. Seventy-six percent of the Ethiopian population is between 0-34 years; Ten percent between 35-44 years. Those above age 65 constitute 3.6 percent of the population.

It is genuinely believed that Ethiopian intellectuals have a moral and patriotic duty to explore and present ideas and innovations that could help the younger generation not only avoid and learn from the mistakes of past generations but also provide them constructive insights and counsel on how to do things better and more efficiently to

produce a New Ethiopia that is a fair and equitable home for all its peoples.

Next Generation Ethiopia, a global research program initiated in countries that are experiencing a period of significant change, with the purpose of ensuring that young people's voices are heard and their interests properly represented in decisions that will have lasting implications for their lives, explores the attitudes, aspirations and needs of young people across the country. It looks at their views on the opportunities available to them, their interaction with family and friends, their values, and how they view Ethiopia and its place in the world.

Generation Unlimited (GenU), a global multi-sector partnership to meet the urgent need for expanded education, training and employment opportunities for young people, aged 10 to 24, on an unprecedented scale, was launched in Ethiopia in 2021.

Speaking at the launching event, Dr. Catherine Sozi, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, said, "The United Nations' commitment to young people - Youth 2030 - is aimed at building a new, equal partnership with young people everywhere. Gen-U is part of this commitment. It is a multi-sector partnership to meet the urgent need for expanded education, training and employment opportunities for young people aged 10 to 24, on an unprecedented scale."

Of today's 1.8 billion youth, 200 million secondary school-aged young people are not in school and 267 million aged 15-24 are not in employment, education or training (NEET). Meanwhile, over three quarters of the 429 million employed youth have jobs in the informal sector. If current trends continue in low-income countries, only 8 per cent of young people will achieve a minimum level of secondary skills compared to 70 per cent in high-income countries.

It is estimated that around two million young Ethiopians enter the labor market every year in hope and with aspirations for a better life. The then Jobs Creation Commission also estimated that 14 million jobs are needed to absorb the new labor market entrants between 2020 and 2025.

"To effectively and successfully remove the barriers for young people to attain learning outcomes and complete formal education, gain relevant skills and transition successfully to the labor market, many players have to get their part right," Dr. Sozi said.

True, as Ethiopia's population is growing rapidly, it is essential to take into consideration how to make self relied, responsible and trustworthy generation and this is the responsibility of current generation at adult age whether it is educated or not, rich or poor, or rural dweller or urbanized.

A lot of actions can be done in this regard such as protection, encouragement, empowering and equipping the new generation with

valuable assets among others.

As the world is advancing in terms of technology, the young generation, everywhere, cannot escape from being part of the blessing or the curse. Technology is important for myriads of purposes if wisely used. But it is also devastating like a land mine if accessed foolishly exposing to dangerous habits.

Those in charge of nurturing the new generation, thus, have tough responsibility in protecting the new generation from harmful features of the ever advancing technology. Equals to providing good opportunity to study and conduct research or for innovation, technology exposes the young generation to mention but few like immoral deeds, fake news, hate speeches, selfishness, cultural invasion and addiction. In order to help the new generation make well informed decision; families, communities, the government and concerned institutions need to be aware in advance and act accordingly.

Commendably, today's generation those have the opportunity to access the new technology are using it intelligently in the way they can help themselves, their relatives and their country through engaging in innovation and changing it to business.

They have to be encouraged to keep up in their journey with the provision of appropriate education in the way they can develop qualities of respect, helping, strong work culture, good citizenship, fairness, rationality and others you can add to the list.

Similarly, as the new generation is to receive the country, it needs preparation to be fit mentally, physically, morally and ethically. When they come to the leadership position, they have to be with the leadership quality, good example, innovative mind, research attitude and balanced judgment.

To this end, they have to be nurtured today with ethics, honesty, humanity, far sighting, and courage to face challenges, integrity, hopefulness, victorious, thankfulness, and capability.

As the ancient book I mentioned in the beginning says, "Train the boy in the way he should go; Even when he grows old he will not depart from it", today's effort the families, the community and the government exert to nurture the generation will not be in vain. It can bear fruit sooner or later.

Thus, combined effort towards making responsible, and patriotic generation is essential to come up with the well oriented people of tomorrow that make the exemplary country in prosperity, sovereignty.

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

Business & Economy

Uplifting irrigation farm to boost agriculture production

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Ethiopia is an agrarian country and 80% of its population's livelihood relies on the agriculture sector. As the sector is rain-fed and mainly traditional, it has remained subsistence. Due to the low yield of agriculture, the nation is still labeled as a food-insecure country. To enhance agriculture productivity, the government has taken various measures and among others, expanding irrigation farms, mechanization of the sector and supplying modern inputs can be mentioned. To that end, the government established the Ministry of Irrigation and Lowland Areas.

Mulugeta Melese is a senior irrigation Engineer working at the Ministry of Agriculture. As to him, Water is mankind's most vital and versatile natural resource and has played essential role in Ethiopian society as it is an input to almost all production systems. Water is also considered as vital resource for irrigation.

Irrigation can be defined as an artificial application of water to soil for the purpose of supplying the moisture essential in the plant root-zone to prevent stress that may cause reduced yield and/or poor quality of harvest of crops. This is a universal action made by human to apply water for growing crops, especially during dry seasons where there is a shortage of rainfall. Water applications to crop fields are of various types.

According to the report of Ministry of Agriculture for the 2023 production year, Small-scale irrigation is now a policy priority in Ethiopia as a means of ensuring household food security, adapting to climate change, alleviating rural poverty, and boosting economic growth by increasing agricultural production and productivity. Although Ethiopia has 3.7 million hectares of irrigable land potential, only less than five percent of it has been utilized.

Small scale household farms are the main units for development in Ethiopia and main drivers of Irrigation Development. All the irrigation development partners work for the betterment of these households. The Homegrown Economic Development Program introduced three years ago and its driving strategies make use of favorable conditions for the irrigation development.

Most of the irrigation partners are from international community up to localities that have significant contributions towards food security and poverty reductions at household and national levels.

Irrigation in Ethiopia is considered as a basic strategy to alleviate poverty and thereby ensuring food security. It is useful to transform the rain-fed agricultural system which depends on rainfall into the combined rain-fed and irrigation agricultural system. This is believed to be the most prominent way of sustainable development in the country. However, the development of irrigation practices in Ethiopia has to be investigated so as to seriously know the history of irrigation emergence and its subsequent developments.

Feleke Tefera is working in Food and Agriculture Organization /FAO/ as an agriculture expert. As to him, the benefits of irrigation that includes; increasing



There is commitment in Ethiopia to scale-up irrigation – photo google

food production in arid and semi-arid regions, enhancing food production, promoting economic growth and sustainable development, creating employment opportunities, and improving living conditions of small-scale farmers. As a result, irrigation contributes to poverty reduction and protects the environment from degradation and pollution. Furthermore, it increases subsurface water levels and recharges groundwater.

Small, medium and large scale irrigation infrastructure needs to be developed in the country. This helps to produce export commodities that would earn foreign exchanges and provides raw materials to the local industries. Though most of the irrigation development in Ethiopia is expressed through an expansion of small-scale irrigations, medium and large scale irrigation developments are also needed to be taken into consideration.

Currently, the cultivation of wheat in the vast areas of various regions through irrigation brought a glimpse of hope to attain food self-sufficiency. Shifting the seasonal cultivation in to all year through irrigation farm is undergoing.

The Ministry of Agriculture recently announced that summer wheat production through irrigation system has enabled to achieve not only ensuring food security but also serves for exporting wheat.

According to State Minister of Agriculture, Melese Mekonen, exporting wheat production indicates that the country is attaining self-sufficiency in wheat production and changes the nation's image which regarded as food recipient from abroad for ever and raises its pride.

Exporting wheat has opened a new chapter to Ethiopia. However, some complain that the government has to make sure that it fulfilled the domestic demand before engaging on exporting wheat. But the government officials announced that, Ethiopia began exporting wheat after it reaffirmed that surplus product which is more than the domestic demand is produced.

Based on the professionals detailed study in the year 2022/23, the domestic demand was 97 million quintals of wheat. But 129 million quintals of wheat was produced. Therefore, the surplus product, 32 million quintals of wheat was exported.

According to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's Economic Advisor, Girma Biru, exporting wheat is relied on detailed study of the nation's production capacity and export is conducted after meeting the domestic demand.

As to him, Ethiopia produces such amount of wheat firstly to meet the local demand and next to export and it has undergone through repeated assessments. He further said that wheat harvested in the end of last year and the wheat that has been harvested in this dry season is estimated to be more than the annual consumption of wheat at national level. Hence, the surplus product is exported

As to the State Minister of Agriculture, Melese Mekonen, these all indicate how the nation has a potential not only for domestic food self-sufficiency but also in exporting wheat to the foreign market.

According to Mulugeta, the Senior Irrigation Engineer, some of the challenges witnessed in irrigation development can be explained as technical constraints and knowledge gaps and among others inadequate awareness of irrigation water management as in irrigation scheduling techniques, water saving irrigation technologies, water measurement techniques, operation and maintenance of irrigation facilities.

In addition to these, inadequate knowledge on improved and diversified irrigation agronomic practices; shortage of basic technical knowledge on irrigation pumps, drip irrigation system, sprinkler irrigations, surface and spate irrigation methods; scheme based approach rather than area/catchments based approach for the development; inadequate baseline data and information on the development of water resources; lack of experience in design, construction and supervision of quality irrigation projects; and low productivity of existing irrigation

schemes are among the challenges.

Moreover, inadequate community involvement and consultation in scheme planning, construction and implementation of irrigation development, Poor economic background of users for irrigation infrastructure development, to access irrigation technologies and agricultural inputs, in which the price increment is not affordable to farmers.

Experts say that the use of irrigation is very important as it enables farmers to employ agricultural lands multiple times in a year.

In time of drought, it helps to alleviate water shortage during poor rain in the dry season. However, in the country, insignificant portion of land is irrigated as compared to the available water and arable land. Most of the irrigated areas in Ethiopia are cultivated by maize, sorghum, teff and wheat.

As to Mulugeta, to practice irrigation farm sustainably, the involvement of private sector is a must. When the Ministry of Agriculture conducts experiments on the cultivation of wheat in small areas, better outcomes are witnessed sooner and the private sector follows its footsteps and involves in full-fledged manner.

Currently, various questions are forwarded by the private entities on how they access to selected seeds and other inputs and conducive technologies. In the coming years, it is expected that private sector will engage in irrigation farming with commitment in collaboration with other stakeholders. In addition to supplying its products to local market, the private sector will engage in export market.

Wheat also served as inputs for food industries. Macaroni, Pasta and breads are some of the products of food industries though sometimes challenged by shortage of inputs. This problem can be resolved by enhancing the production of wheat through irrigation. In so doing, exportation can be attained on top of meeting the local demand, it was learned.

Planet Earth

Acidic soil strains affect Ethiopia's food safety, sustainable development

BY FIKADU BELAY

Agriculture plays a vital role in the country's economy, employing a significant portion of its population and contributing to food security. Soil is the primary agricultural setting for a country that was founded on agriculture. However, beneath its fertile soils lies a hidden challenge that has been silently affecting the agricultural productivity of the country.

The acidity of soil is a critical factor that influences the growth and development of plants. While some soils naturally possess acidic properties, others become acidic due to various factors, including human activities and environmental processes.

In Ethiopia, the issue of acidic soil has gained prominence as it poses a significant hazard to sustainable agriculture and food production.

There are many causes of acidic soil in Ethiopia. Such factors as natural weathering processes, deforestation, improper land management practices, and the use of certain fertilizers contribute to the acidification of soil.

The existence of acidic soil in Ethiopia has several consequences that impact agricultural productivity and the overall well-being of farmers.

Based on the research, Acidic soil limits the availability of essential nutrients to plants. It hinders the uptake of nutrients such as phosphorus, calcium, etc., which are crucial for healthy plant growth. Consequently, crops grown in acidic soil suffer from nutrient deficiencies, leading to stunted growth, low yields, and inferior crop quality.

Not only reducing but also increasing soil toxicity elements like aluminum and manganese. These elements become more available to plants, causing toxicity symptoms and impairing their growth and productivity. Moreover, the increased solubility of heavy metals can pose environmental risks, potentially contaminating water sources and affecting human and animal health.

Acidic soil negatively affects the activity and diversity of beneficial soil microorganisms. That can disrupt microbial balance, leading to a decline in soil fertility and ecosystem functions.

The combined effects of nutrient deficiencies, toxicity, and impaired soil microbial activity contribute to reduced crop yields in acidic soil. Farmers face significant challenges in achieving the desired productivity levels. This

The existence of acidic soil in Ethiopia has several consequences that impact agricultural productivity and the overall well-being of farmers

phenomenon not only threatens the livelihoods of smallholder farmers but also poses challenges to achieving food security and sustainable development goals in the country.

The challenge of making acidic soil produce by treating it with natural fertilizers has been completed, according to the agricultural ministry, and the work of reducing the acidity of the soil is being done to boost production and productivity in the nation.

Soil resource development's leading executive at the Ministry of Agriculture, Lire Abiyu, told to Ethiopia Press Agency "Over 6.4 million hectares of land were treated in the current fiscal year as part of the work to improve soil fertility by preparing natural fertilizers."

According to him, the situation of being affected by acidity, the growth of salty soil, and the issue of waterlogging in acidic soil are the challenges that are growing in Ethiopia's soil fertility and health.

Based on him, Ethiopia's seven million hectares of acidic land are being worked on to boost productivity and production; he also explained that agricultural lime grinding mills in Dejen town of Amhara State, Guder town of Oromia State and Kela Woreda of the Gurage zone are used to reduce soil acidity.

He further stated that while 8,671 hectares of land were treated with agricultural lime the performance was inadequate due to supply issues and other challenges.

Areas with a lot of rainfall are highly vulnerable for acidification. One of them, for instance, is Southwest Ethiopia, where efforts are being made to grow coffee and tea plants that can withstand the issue.

Aside from this, he said, acidity can be avoided by growing sorghum and oat crops. He stated that it had completed the work on more than 655 thousand hectares of land necessary to make soil suitable for farming.

To address the issue of acidic soil effectively liming helps restore the optimal pH range for plant growth, enhances nutrient availability, and improves soil structure. The amount of lime required varies depending on the severity of soil acidity and the specific crop requirements.

He noted that we are testing the location of lime minerals in collaboration with the Ministry of Mines and providing attention to the supply of lime as they

begin production activities.

In addition to allowing farmers to use natural fertilizers extensively in the 2016 year, it is also intended to make lime available to farmers for use as fertilizer. Moreover, he further stated that 5.5 million hectares of land will be covered in natural fertilizers, 700,000 hectares would be covered with acidic soil, and 10,000 hectares of acidic soil would receive treatment in the coming year.

He said that by maintaining the land fertile and healthy, it is possible to double productivity in addition to what is already being done to solve the issue.

Besides this, Incorporating organic matter into the soil, such as compost, manure, or cover crops, helps improve soil structure and enhances nutrient-holding capacity. Organic matter buffers soil acidity and promotes beneficial microbial activity, contributing to long-term soil health and fertility.

Properly balanced and targeted fertilization is essential for managing acidic soils. Soil testing can guide the application of fertilizers that address specific nutrient deficiencies. Using slow-release fertilizers and avoiding excessive use of acidic fertilizers can help prevent further soil acidification.

Furthermore, implementing conservation agriculture techniques, such as contour plowing, terracing, and agroforestry, helps reduce soil erosion and maintain soil organic matter content. These practices contribute to overall soil health and resilience, mitigating the impacts of acidity.

And also, promoting farmer education and extension services is crucial for disseminating knowledge about soil management practices, such as liming, adopting sustainable land management practices, promoting agroforestry, and utilizing appropriate fertilizers. Additionally, policymakers, researchers, and other concerned parties must explore the importance of capacity-building programs and knowledge dissemination to empower farmers with the necessary tools and techniques to combat acidic soils.

Addressing the issue of acidic soil in Ethiopia requires a holistic and integrated approach that combines scientific knowledge, local expertise, and community engagement. By adopting sustainable soil management practices and implementing targeted interventions, Ethiopia can mitigate the negative impacts of acidic soil and pave the way for improved agricultural productivity, food security, and sustainable development.

Art & Culture

An overriding national feeling

BY ALEM HAILU G/KRISTOS

Abebe Bekela, Miruts Yefter
 ...Derartu, Haile, Tirunesh
 Kenenisa, Meseret, ... Solomon
 Eletesenbet Gudaf ... and all
 With a similar footfall!
 Displaying a superb
 Long-distance athletic feat
 When many superstars
 Awe inspiringly you beat
 And as a result of it
 When your sought-for
 Fought-for
 And nation- prayed-for
 Dream proves a hit
 And also with kudos
 A stadium full of people opt
 You to greet
 And when spectators
 Accord you a high five
 It is for your country's flag
 You immediately dive!
 Also on the podium
 while Ethiopia's row-wise
 Green, Yellow and Red
 Emblazoned flag,
 Shoulder high,



Soars above
 You express
 Your umbilical cord-tight
 National love
 With tears that
 Trickle down each of
 Your cheek, quick.

Is it because
 Reminiscent of
 Each living hero
 With a life sacrifice
 That brought colonial
 Aggression to zero?

Is it because
 The bounty of the land

You grew up
 Seeing first hand?

Is it because
 The cherished corner
 You cut in the heart of
 The poor but prideful
 Ethiopian neighbor?

Is it because
 The unity-in-diversity
 That showcases
 Ethiopia's identity
 Or citizens hospitality?

Is it because
 At heart strings a tug

Or , among others
 Gratefulness to
 Your iron-strong lung
 When you hear
 Ethiopian anthem sung?

Is it because a secret another
 Deep down you harbor?

Is it because the Fertility
 Hope and Sovereignty ideals
 The flag advance,
 Also Ethiopia's being
 A beacon of independence
 What is more
 The nation's renaissance
 Which in a curtain of mist
 Before your eyes dance?

Soaring with wings of success

BY ALEM HAILU G/KRISTOS

“When we hand down
 This flag to posterity
 Paying prices of life
 To the country's
 Age-old sovereignty
 It is with a word of caution
 ‘This generation
 Should accord due attention
 To handing down
 To the coming generation
 A new Ethiopia
 To fruits of development
 A cornucopia! ‘ ‘
 “Yes, grandpa



Working day and night
 We shall take Ethiopia
 To a new developmental height!
 Once Ethiopia was great
 How could we that forget?
 The country's renaissance

Firm we shall advance!
 For common growth
 Resources we
 Shall harness,
 Allowing the region
 Soar with wings of success! “

A great influencer

BY SENAIT G/HIWOT

She is a great influence
 For those who know her place
 She writes poems and articles
 About the world's different crisis
 Sugar coating isn't her style
 Her poems don't make you smile
 She writes from her experience
 It is for you to choose or pass
 So this is one of her poems
 And she also has lots of others...

Society

'Generation Day'

to honor the past, build a bridge to next generation

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

Country is the outcome of generational continuity and the strong cohesion and integration of its citizens. Like a relay race that is run on a track-and-field by a member of a team to pass on a baton to the next runner to continue the race, the country is built by the uninterrupted effort and sacrifice of its successive children.

And as the performance of a certain relay team is highly dependent on the degree of its members' strength and weakness, commitment and perseverance and the energy each member exerts to win, any country's national sovereignty relies on its consecutive generations' endeavors to preserve national unity, maintain cultural and historical continuity; and carry them forward into the future.

In a manner the first sprinter passes on the baton to the second competitor and the third to the fourth to sustain the race and win, the contribution of the successive generations in building a stronger country in which its children's pride in their country is a prime.

Ethiopia is one of the ancient countries in the world built and sustained by its consecutive brave citizens.

As a multinational country where people with different backgrounds, ethnic, language, religion are coexisting in harmony with one another, the generations that came and went throughout times have contributed a lot and left their marks on country's independence, growth and peace and stability and many more aspects

They successfully defended the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, let fellow citizens breathe the air of freedom, preserved and transmitted the social, cultural, traditional and historic values of the people to the generations.

For instance, the life and blood sacrifices our forefathers paid at various areas in different courses of time, including at the Battle of Adwa, at the diplomatic arena, athletics tracks and fields, in various development activities, such as the construction the Abay Hydroelectric Dam and many more successes can be sited in this regard.

These and other achievements scored by the past and the present Ethiopians have helped Ethiopia to sustain its sovereignty and territorial integrity and maintain its reputation at the international platforms.

Today, Pagumen 5, 'Generation Day' is being marked across the nation with the aim to acknowledge the contributions of the past and the present generations in nation-building.

As per the announcement of the Government Commission Service, celebrating 'Generation Day' focuses on letting the young generation know the



The generations that came and went throughout times have contributed a lot and left their marks on country's independence, growth and peace and stability

value of the past age in nation building.

Further, the day creates opportunities for the posterity to be courageous enough in facing and beating challenges, to learn from the mistakes of the former generation, and value those who played a constructive role in nation building.

Former Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) member and a Psychologist, Lieutenant Mulatu Gebremarian said that marking 'Generation Day' plays a significant role in bringing all communities together for a common purpose and engaging the young people in nation-building based on clear understanding.

Celebrating 'Generation Day' at this point in time is appropriate because the nation is found in a condition where negative energy is high; it helps to create hope and courage among the people and to put an end to fabricated stories.

"Our forefathers and mothers have paid all the prices to build the nation. There are a number of gaps and achievements that the past generation recorded, the big deal should be to learn from the experiences."

According to him, marking the day fosters a sense of unity and pride, and strengthens shared identity among the members of the society. It also provides an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments, values, and contributions of a number of generations and recognize their role in shaping the nation's history by creating an informed community and letting the posterity draw lessons from the mistakes of their forefathers.

"Through, acknowledging the role of generations, it could help instill a sense of national pride in motivating the current and

future generations to strive for excellence, love of Ethiopia," he underlined.

According to him, marking generation day should not be a onetime event or limited to a single day of the year; rather it should receive official recognition and support from the government and other relevant institutions.

He also forwarded his opinion and urged stakeholders and concerned bodies to devise or issue official proclamations that could support the celebration annually.

Yifat Development Association General Manager Kiflu Biferu for his part said that, the current generation should beware of the sacrifice paid to defend Ethiopia's sovereignty and territorial integrity and write his own history.

"This generation should build new progressive ways to safeguard peace and development and pass a peaceful, developed Ethiopia to the next generation," he underlined.

According to him, academia and other institutions should offer scholarships, research grants, mentorship programs, or initiatives that promote the values and causes championed by the honored generation.

"As an Ethiopian, we should stand in unison to create a lasting legacy of Ethiopia through crafting comprehensive points among the various ethnic groups that could unite us as a nation thereby minimizing the negative energy that is dragging us to conflicts."

"In a nutshell, it is high time to ensure the impact of the celebration of 'Generation Day' in extending the desired effect beyond the immediate festivities spirits."

As to him, the success of Ethiopia as a nation depends on getting its many distinct ethnic groups to have equal access to all services. Above all, the new blood should be vigilant in framing agendas that could address differences peacefully, and engaged in developing workable ways that could benefit all with dignity.

"I believe each generation brings its unique cultural perspectives, traditions, and values through time; and marking generation day provides an opportunity to showcase and preserve these cultural elements to the next generation."

He further noted that the celebration also creates opportunities for the nation to appreciate the diversity and richness of Ethiopia's heritage, through fostering a sense of inclusivity and unity among different generations and addressing gaps.

"The cultural preservation effort could strengthen social cohesion and promote intergenerational understanding and respect among the current and the generations to come. It can also help bridge the generation gap, promote understanding, and ensure the continuity of important values, traditions, and skills to the posterity and add values in nation building," he remarked.

Law & Politics

Generational solidarity for promoting stronger and cohesive communities

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Generation gaps are a part of society, but a crucial aspect of coexisting is to recognize shared interests and goals that unite various generations. Although differences between age groups may exist, younger and older generations have to come together to build solidary and stronger communities. One way of achieving this unity is by understanding the distinctive strengths and weaknesses each generation possesses.

Bridging the gaps between generations enables the transfer of knowledge and skills from one generation to the next. The older generations possess valuable expertise and life experiences that can be passed down to younger counterparts. Similarly, younger generations bring fresh ideas and technological know-how that can benefit older individuals. By establishing platforms for this exchange, such as mentorship programs or workshops, we can create a collaborative ecosystem that fosters continuous learning and growth for all generations.

By working together, generations can develop policy solutions that respect the unique needs of various generations, resulting in better outcomes for all. Furthermore, younger generations can benefit from the successes and failures of the past. By understanding the historical context of the past, younger generations can have a broader perspective on current issues.

Achieving unity and strengthened communities requires recognizing the importance of generational diversity. By bridging the gaps between generations and fostering better communication, we can create a harmonious society that capitalizes on the unique strengths of each age group. By embracing this approach, we can work together across generations to address societal challenges and create innovative solutions that benefit everyone. Through continuous learning, empathy, and collaboration, we can pave the way for a united and prosperous future.

With the constant changes that occur in the world today, the ability to harness the unique characteristics that each generation brings is critical, and this can only be achieved through mutual respect and appreciation.

As older generations gradually pass the baton to the newer ones, there exists both continuity in certain values and a fresh perspective offered by the incoming generation. This intergenerational exchange ensures a balance between experience and innovation, resulting in a more dynamic and vibrant political landscape. Every generation inherits the actions and decisions made by their predecessors, carrying the weight of past mistakes or the benefits of their achievements.

Older generations can share their experiences of overcoming similar challenges and provide insights into decision-making. They can share their wisdom and insights on past decisions to help younger generations make informed choices in the present. By working together and passing down values and traditions to younger generations, society can preserve a diverse range of cultural practices. This helps create a strong sense of community, promotes social cohesion, and enhances cultural awareness and appreciation.

Generational solidarity and unity are essential for promoting stronger and cohesive



communities. It allows younger and older generations to work together towards a common goal and create a brighter future for all. Through sharing knowledge, addressing societal problems, fostering personal and professional development, and establishing inter-generational relationships, societies can take advantage of each age group's strengths to build a more productive and inclusive future.

Each passing generation adds to the sum of cultural and intellectual knowledge, creating a rich tapestry of human experience. Through each generation's unique heritages, perspectives, and worldviews, a unique experience of human life is developed. At times, the inheritance of past legacies can be both positive and negative.

When a generation has a shared cultural, political, or social legacy, it creates a sense of community and shared experiences. These legacies can unite people across all ages and backgrounds, inspiring them to take collective action for the betterment of society. Taking responsibility for the inheritance of past legacies is a fundamental requirement for creating a better future.

The process of creating a better future requires that each generation consciously chooses to create a legacy that will benefit future generations. The decisions made by the current generation will determine the legacy that future generations inherit. This requires a long-term perspective that prioritizes the preservation of natural resources, the promotion of social equality, and the establishment of a just and equitable society.

The inheritance of past legacies impacts the present and the future in significant ways. Whether positive or negative, every generation has a responsibility to address the inherited legacies and create a better future for coming generations. By acknowledging and building on past achievements while addressing its failures, each generation can contribute to the creation of a brighter future for everyone.

Generation gaps have always been present in various societies, creating differences between the younger and older age groups. However, despite these differences, it is essential to recognize shared interests and goals that unite the generations. It is important to remember that each generation has its unique strengths

and weaknesses that can be harnessed for the betterment of society.

When both generations can come together and acknowledge each other's strengths and weaknesses, there is an opportunity for a cohesive and united society. This understanding leads to better communication and the ability to work together towards solutions that benefit everyone. In a world that is rapidly changing, this unity among generations is essential to ensure economic prosperity, social stability and address issues that affect different generations, such as healthcare, education, and social inequality.

The generation gaps that exist can sometimes lead to misunderstandings, communication barriers, and conflict. It is important to break down these barriers and facilitate conversations that allow each generation to share their perspectives openly. This way, both generations can learn from each other and find common ground that will help to build a stronger and more prosperous society.

Recognizing and comprehending the unique qualities and limitations of every generation is of utmost importance when it comes to fostering harmony and empowering communities. The presence of multiple generations brings valuable diversity and perspectives, which can be utilized to tackle challenges and generate innovative ideas that will ultimately benefit everyone.

In order to ensure effective collaboration and understanding, it is vital to bridge the existing gaps between different age groups, establishing pathways for improved communication and fostering a more united society committed to working together towards shared objectives.

Fostering better communication between generations is a critical aspect of achieving unity and cohesion within society. It is essential to establish platforms and spaces where individuals from different age groups can interact, exchange ideas, and engage in meaningful dialogue. This can include mentorship programs, intergenerational community projects, or even family gatherings that encourage open and respectful conversations. By facilitating these opportunities for communication, we can break down barriers and misconceptions, fostering empathy and understanding among

generations.

By recognizing and embracing the strengths of each generation and addressing their weaknesses, we can harness the power of intergenerational collaboration. This unity paves the way for innovative problem-solving and the creation of sustainable solutions that benefit everyone.

In addition to fostering communication and knowledge transfer, bridging the generational gap promotes social cohesion and empathy. When individuals from different age groups come together, they gain a deeper understanding of one another's perspectives, challenges, and aspirations. This increased empathy fosters a sense of unity and mutual respect, reducing misunderstandings and generational biases.

A cohesive society that values and supports all generations is a society that thrives. By recognizing and understanding the strengths and weaknesses of each generation, we can leverage these differences to cultivate an environment of inclusivity and empowerment. In doing so, we unlock the potential for unified efforts towards shared goals. Through enhanced communication, knowledge transfer, and empathy, we can build a brighter future in which intergenerational collaboration becomes the norm rather than the exception.

Generation gaps have long been prevalent in society, with distinct differences in attitudes and beliefs between people of different ages. However, it is crucial to recognize the shared interests and goals that unite generations in order to coexist peacefully. Rather than focusing on the differences, it is important that younger and older generations come together to build solidary and stronger communities. Although younger generations may have different values and experiences than older generations, they possess their own unique strengths that can contribute to society.

Bridging the generation gap requires a shift in perspective towards a more inclusive and cooperative mindset. As we learn to work together and leverage our collective strengths, we can create a brighter future for ourselves and the generations to come. It is only by recognizing our shared interests and goals that we can achieve the solidarity necessary to build a more equitable and just society.



Ephrem Endale
Contributor

Between you & me

Another year in our lives...

We're ushering yet another New Year. Of course in the times we are in not only nationally but globally the smiles might not be as wide and as shining as New Year smiles are supposed to be. But still it is New Year. Time for reflection of how we came through the past years! How we made it this far and the lessons learned along the way. Genuinely is important. Once we look at those lessons then maybe, just maybe we might fare better in the coming year. But this is not as easily done as it is said. First it demands the courage to see the reality as it is and admit "So this is how it is..." only then can we think of changing what we can actually change and learn to live with what we can't change. But most of things are mostly the creations of human actions and there is no reason why they couldn't be changed. It is only with motivation and with dedication we can change things.

Here is an uplifting story.

An old man sat down to teach his grandson about life.

"There's a fight going on inside me," he tells the young boy, "a fight between two wolves."

"One wolf is evil. It's full of malice, anger, greed, self-pity and false pride. The other is good. It's full of peace, love, joy, kindness, and humility."

"This same fight is going on inside you and everyone else on the face of the earth."

The grandson was quiet, pondering this revelation for a moment before asking,

"Grandfather, which wolf will win?"

The old man smiled and replied, "The one you feed."

That should be the question we should be asking. Which wolf are we feeding and which one are we letting starve?

The wolf of hate or the wolf of love?

The wolf of war or the wolf of peace?

The wolf of animosity or the wolf of brotherhood?

Because, after all everything that comes down to which wolves we're feeding.

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that we are in the most difficult times of recent memory. Apart from the wars and the near-wars all over the place, seeing the hurricanes, floods, landslides, blazes and the like presently besieging much of the world you're forced to think twice about the whole business of living. Watching at impressive looking whole houses and the most modern of cars being swept away like unwanted toys thrown away you know that everything in this world is nothing but the reflection of toys in the last analysis. And it's still for this world and for this life we have failed to work out how we can live together in harmony; because everything would be nothing better than toys thrown out faraway. The world seems to have lost track of reality. What is built over decades could all go down in minutes. The ferocity of the floods in various countries is so scary you'll be pardoned for pleading, "God; please don't subject us to such a disaster!"

Take this story;

At the beginning of a new school year, a class teacher stands up in front of her students holding a \$100 bill.

She tells them, "Put your hands up if you want this money".

Every hand in the room goes up, to which the teacher says, "I am going to give this money to someone here, but first, let me do this..."

She takes the bill and crumples it up in her hands, before asking, "Who still wants it?"

The hands stay up.

The teacher then drops the bill on the floor, stomps and grinds it into the ground, and picks it back up. "How about now?" she asks again.

The hands stay up.

"Class, I hope you see the lesson here. It didn't matter what I did to this money, you still wanted it because its value stayed the same. Even with its creases and dirtiness, it's still worth \$100."

She continues, "It's the same with us. There will be similar times in your life when you're dropped, bruised, and muddied. Yet no matter what happens, you never lose your value."

Yes, life's hardships are come and go. Realization that ever-present fat of life might ease our frustration at every stumbling block, small or big, we encounter along the way, there have been many, there will be many more. That's what life is about.

In this age of a thousand and one daily headaches it could be exhausting to play the nice guy in town game. Many fail to acknowledge the gesture. But then at times you're helpless, "What can I do! This is the world as it is. I'll stay nice maybe until nice begins the hurting."

Of course, we can't smile at a world where what you say or think doesn't matter. Even if we do smile it would be about amateur diplomacy and not the expression of genuine feelings. We would like a world where our thoughts are heard and where we hear the thoughts of others. It is all about which wolf you are feeding. There are many of us obsessed with hate. And that is eating us inside out while at the same time it's disturbing the social interactions.

We only hope that the world cuts back its political tug-of-war about the climate and do something about it. We have passed the time when everything said about climate change is taken as conspiracy theory. The monsters have come out of their caves and running only wouldn't save us for a virtual doomsday; doomsday which would be a reality sooner than we would have expected unless the world reclaims its senses and goes into action to right the wrongs of decades.

"Another year in our lives is another chance for us to accomplish the impossible.... To transform our dreams into reality... to work for growth and success of our nation... to love our country and to be better citizens..."

Happy New Year!

'Sharpshooting Blanks!'

Tuesday will be the start of the New Year. I'd like to have three guests for interview. How about that? Me the interviewer! In case you still aren't convinced we are in weird times there you have your evidence.

Me: I'd like to thank all three of you for agreeing to sit in for this interview. (The nods came. Even the nods are sort of customized. One 'looks' genuine; the second is just like a piece of blank paper; the third one! Well the third one would be probably the one who'll give me most of the hiccups and all the unpleasant sensations. His nod is unpleasant.)

I invited to the studio so we can talk about the problems affecting our society. As you know we are facing a multitude of problems and almost all are the results of human action. (All three seem like they were some static creatures with nothing about them moving even a fraction of an inch, not a single nerve twitching. I didn't even start with the real questions and they play the serious guy game. I'm not falling for that.) To solve these problems I think we first have to identify and classify them. (Look at me acting like the conquistador of the studio. I'm lecturing them and I could feel them sizzling inside; "Who does he think he is trying to talk up to us that way!")

What do you think are our society's outstanding problems and how can we solve them? (I know some interviewees could talk for half a day about that without even beginning to answer the question. Well someone should talk endlessly for me to feel the two hour slot! The keep your sentences short" and "stick to the point" advices are sometimes the interviewers' and interviewees' worst nightmares. I mean it; thirty five minutes into the interview the guys

run out of what to say, you having run out of your questions after asking the second one.)

Guest A: - (He clears his throat. They all do, don't they? It must be some display of importance. They clear their throats even if there is nothing interfering in that part of their anatomy.) I think the most important problem is that people are jealous. (What! What the hell is he talking about! I just hope he didn't visit the watering hole downstairs in the building the studio is found.)

Me:- Sorry, don't you think we've other outstanding problems than things like jealousy.

Guest A: - That is what you think. People are jealous. They don't want to see you leading the good life. I think all the country's problems would be solved if we do away with jealousy. (Just like that! He makes it sound a few of just go out with sleeves rolled and throw a few pinches ad jealousy is flat on the floor! I was about to challenge him when the other guys jumped in.)

Guest B: - I don't think jealousy is the main problem. (Guest A's face starts displaying too many lines than normal.)

Me:- What in your opinion is the main problem holding us back?

Guest B: - The main problem is people don't like to work. (That is the "Wow!" moment.) Many in fact are lazy. (What! This dude is not going to put me in the firing line! I'm not letting him go with that.)

Me:- Isn't that a little harsh sir? I mean in any society there are the workaholics and there are the lazy. But you're generalizing and I don't think that's right. (The faces of all three

display the same message. "Who cares what you think, you *&%\$! You're the messenger boy blockhead! Just deliver the questions and try to fill that empty journalist's head of yours with some knowledge!")

Guest B: - That's the problem with you journalists. The concepts are too big for your little brains. (My hair starts to stand when rescue comes in the form of Guest C.)

Guest C: - I don't agree with the both answers. The most important problem is that people aren't intelligent enough. (No! not yet another one! I was thinking about ways of cornering Guest B and getting the applause and this one comes with a real bombshell!)

Me:- What makes you say that?

Guest C: - Because that's the case and on one is talking about this. Not even you journalists.

Me:- You mean a country's people all have to be intelligent for the nation to progress! (Who the hell do you think you are to make such a statement when I know that you hold your present high position because of strings pulled? I can guess the big fish who made it all happen!)

Guest C: - You journalists never understand do you? (Yes. The journalist is the scapegoat. I could have said things about each of them that would have seen them running to one border of another barefoot. But I'm a nice guy and wouldn't do that. My bosses also would probably give a dressing down I'll never forget; "You're there to ask questions not to argue." I'll be lucky if I avoid the marching orders as big phone calls form big offices aren't nice news for journalists.) I'm talking from facts.

Me:- Sorry, I'm asking this question because I've never heard researches being conducted or studies being conducted on the issue.

Guest C: - We...well, I...I was try...trying.... (Bingo! I got him. He stammered! The guy stumbled on his own words! And that coming from a guest that moments ago was trying to make a moron out of me it is nothing less than Godsend!) ...to put things in perspective. (Perspective my #%\$^! Cut the word play and get to the point! No he wouldn't get to the point. Because he doesn't have any. In too many so-called interviews you hear generalized comments and opinions from the guests made without any supporting facts. And the salt in the wound is that most of the time the interviewers don't press the guests. That's why we have so many philosophers, the know-all self-crowned geniuses and the like because their unsubstantiated and highly arrogant comments or narratives are seldom challenged!)

Demonizing the other side is a global sport these days. Demonizing has taken the place of wise exchange of ideas. When short of ideas demonization is the simplest thing to do and the shortest lane to take out of maybe an embarrassing situation. My guests are proving to be perfect at demonizing whole societies! Aren't all like that!

Of course in the final analysis the pieces would fall in place and truth wins the days, however much times it takes. We should scale back at demonizing what we call "the other side" and concentrate on the real issues of life.

After all, sharpshooting blanks wouldn't allow us to cross many bridges, would it!

Opinion

Ethiopia: A showcase of peaceful coexistence

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

On the 6th day of Pagumen, which is on the eve of Ethiopia's New Year, the nation marks a day of coexistence. The people of Ethiopia have lived together or coexisted for thousands of years as part of their socio-cultural stance of tolerance, and mutual respect and resolving their differences by employing traditional means of resolving conflicts.

Conceptually the term coexistence is usually used with the prefix peaceful denoting peaceful coexistence among the people, the neighborhood, ethnic groups religious institutions and their followers.

Peaceful coexistence was coined in the 1950s as a legal and judiciary provision among nations in the socialist and Western bloc during the era of the Cold War. Earlier, the UN Charter devoted two chapters of the Charter, i.e. Chapter 6 and Chapter 7 to the importance of a peaceful and non-violent mode of resolving conflicts among nations.

The Five Principles of Peaceful Co-Existence are mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence.

In a legal lexicon, peaceful coexistence denoted the nature of relations between countries. As a founder of both the League of Nations and the UN, Ethiopia has put the principle of peaceful coexistence and resolution of conflicts as an important component of her foreign policy and diplomacy.

Coexistence or peaceful coexistence is not only a matter of foreign relations but is no less applicable in a national context as a respectful and mutually beneficiary means of livelihood for everyone.

As noted above, the cardinal principles of peaceful coexistence have been enshrined in the charter of the United Nations as a core value of the foreign relations among the members of the global entity.

Even during the Cold War era leaders of both blocks continued to refer to coexistence despite the clandestine diplomatic and intelligence wars. It is believed that several treaties signed between the former Soviet Union and the USA including SALT 1 and 2 and treaties on ICBM reduction underpinned the necessity of peaceful coexistence between the superpowers. Despite the apparent end of the Cold War, the principle of peaceful coexistence still holds on as a major component of international relations.

During the imperial regime, although the nation lacked a consolidated foreign policy document for reference, the selected utterances of the late emperor repeatedly referred to the principles of coexistence as a foreign policy objective of the country.

Although the Derg verifiably followed and adhered to gunboat diplomacy in its relations with the neighbouring countries, its leaders tried to formulate the policy of proletarian internationalism oddly blended with the policy of peaceful coexistence in

The overarching problems that this country and its government should solve surpass the extent of the differences and minor contradictions that are surfacing among the people of Ethiopia

global international relations.

In November 2002, the EPRDF-led government issued a document entitled Foreign Affairs and National Security Policy and Strategy which dealt with the foreign policy objectives of the country. The document prescribed major principles of Ethiopia's foreign policy which focused on establishing the necessary correlation between domestic and foreign policy which hinged on upholding the national interest of the country in implementing economic diplomacy.

The current internal crisis in some parts of the country is posing a major threat to the peaceful development of the country as the constitutional principle of self-determination is being abused and misunderstood by a substantial section of the population triggering a sentiment of exclusiveness sponsored by those who wish to create total discord in this country.

Social media activists who are out to make money by trying to instigate a civil war in the country are busy misinforming the public and the international community of nations as if the law enforcement measures being taken by the government in the Amhara region are targeting the civilian population.

In the domestic affairs of this country, the principle of peaceful coexistence between religions and peoples of the country has been put into practice long before the basic institutions of government have been commissioned. Even in cases of periodic conflicts over scarce resources, the people

of the country had long-standing traditional mechanisms of resolving conflicts which in a way is still relevant to seeking solutions to current crises in parts of the country.

Here it is very important to carefully consider the dialectical relations between peace and coexistence. Coexistence among the peoples in this country presupposes establishing joint principles and locally tailored regulations and a mutual understanding of the critical need for the prevalence of peace. Coexistence creates a win-win situation from which everyone can benefit from prevailing peace and tranquility.

The principle of peaceful coexistence may be declared by the government but if the people of this country do not cherish it there would be a huge risk of derailing the current reform the results of which would certainly reverberate into the entire region of the Horn of Africa. In the struggle against terrorism and

Despite the current chaotic situation in several areas of the country, a glimmer of hope is on the horizon relating to the comprehensive relations between the countries of the Horn. The political commitments of the leaders of Ethiopia, Somalia, Djibouti, and Kenya raise the hope to ensure peace, development and security to ensure mutual development in the areas of trade, infrastructure development, collective security and curbing illegal migration in the region. The current undesirable situation in Ethiopia would do a disservice to the calls for crisis-proofing the Horn of Africa.

Coexistence between the peoples of Ethiopia has come a long distance but in the current situation promoting peaceful coexistence requires a change of attitude among the peoples of Ethiopia and their ability to shift the rhetoric from reality and what is real from apparent.

Peaceful coexistence is a general term but what the writer is referring to is a political and religious. Political peaceful coexistence is accommodative and does not focus on short-lived interests but strategic gains from which every citizen of this country can benefit.

The overarching problems that this country and its government should solve surpass the extent of the differences and minor contradictions that are surfacing among the people of Ethiopia.

Peaceful coexistence among the people of Ethiopia could be catalyzed by the efforts of all stakeholders. If the political parties settle their accounts and come together to act in unison to save the country from any possible political crisis, they can help to avert the current situation in the country and get ready for the next election. It is however necessary to ensure sustained peace that should be ensured by all elements of the political system and not only from the government.

The public wants to hear about the strategies of peace and development that the political parties are to offer. This is very urgent because these parties have so far done

nothing meaningful except for issuing press briefings on specific issues. If they do not mobilize and act today when are they going to come up with something reasonable and applicable?

Peaceful coexistence and national peace do not come only through public gatherings and peace conferences dedicated to peace. By the way, most of these peace conferences are attended by senior citizens, elders, Aba Gedas and older women and mothers who are supposed to take care of their children. They attend these conferences with huge expectations from the results but what is the role of the youth in the current situation? The youth are the victims and at the same time the partakers of the current crisis. It is very important to effectively mobilize the youth in different parts of the country if a reliable peace and coexistence is to prevail.

Yes, the peoples of Ethiopia have coexisted for ages but some new factors and challenges are posing a threat to this age-old social capital. There is a major focus on demands for upgrading zones into regional states and woredas are demanding to be upgraded to a zone level but the prevalence of peace and peaceful coexistence is a major precondition for reviewing such demands.

The other critical situation is the fact that the government is riddled with numerous challenges that await responses in the short run. Politically the government seems to find it difficult to engage in effective development programs as a lot of time is being dedicated to crisis management.

The public in some parts of the country is fed up with the prevailing insecurity in the border areas between regions like Oromia and Benishangul-Gumuz the peoples of whom have lived together for several hundreds of years. The public should be able to know the motives behind all these protracted chaotic situations.

Again, the Ethiopian media have not done enough to solicit applicable solutions to the current crisis in the areas of their specific media sectors. It is one thing to report on what is going on in the country. If all stakeholders are not doing their part in systematically curbing the current crisis in the country, it might be too late to worry.

Nobody or a group of people is harmed because they coexist peacefully. On the other hand internal border conflicts associated with looting herds of cattle need to stop by mutual peace negotiations and commissioning joint development projects on both sides of common borders between two or more ethnic groups.

It must be clear that the government cannot enforce coexistence unless all contending parties are ready to discharge their share in the entire process. This is of crucial importance.

As the nation gets ready to welcome the Ethiopian New Year, the people in this country and all religious denominations should help to promote mutual coexistence through prayers, preaching and implementing forgiveness among the faithful and other selectors of the public.

In Pictures

ADDIS ABABA CITY ADMINISTRATION'S WEEKEND MARKET BECOMES A HIT

BY HELINA TESSEMA

Mayor Adanech Abiebie established the Saturday and Sunday market in Addis Ababa. The project's objective is to significantly reduce residents living pressures while regulating product costs. In addition to offering a different shopping option, they sell agricultural, industrial, and factory items straight to the consumer, which tremendously aids in maintaining product prices and lowering the cost of living.



Residents of Addis Ababa city can be seen taking advantage of this program all throughout the city. There are currently 172 weekend markets throughout the city, and goods are offered to the public at lower rates and more reasonable than those found in the regular market. In addition to offering reasonable prices, these markets are conveniently located all around the city, making it easier for locals to access.



According to estimates from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), food costs had risen by 33% globally as of September 2021 and continues to rise. The mayor of Addis Ababa recently stated that her administration is working to lessen this burden felt globally so that locals have options. By noticing the price difference compared to conventional markets, connecting the producers and consumers directly has undoubtedly eased the strain.