



The Ethiopian Herald

Vol. LXXX 036 22 October 2023 - Tikimt 11, 2016

SUNDAY EDITION

Price Birr 10.00



AGI CONSTRUCTING THE FUTURE AFRICA
Abyssinia Group of Industries

Manufacturer of Rebars, Angles, Channels, Flat Bars & Round Bars. Introducing cut & bend service for rebars.

Contact & Address
Tel: +251 116 63 97 55/ 251 116 63 51 22/25
Mob.: +251 962 009 072/ +251 949 440 868
+251 911 45 9790
E-mail: sales@agiethiopia.com
4th Floor, Dabi Building, Boie road Addis Ababa Ethiopia

Medhin Decor

የተንጣላ ጽንቅ የሰርግ አዳራሽ ከገጠሉ የውበት ስራ የተሟላ የምግብ ዝግጅት ከሙሉ ሙስተግጾ ጋር

Medhin Decor
ለሙሉ ለሰዓት ለገንዘብ ለላይ ላይ ዝግጅት

አድራሻ 1ኛ ቤል ገደብ ኮሚርሻል ጀርባ 2ኛ ከቃሊቲ ማሰልጠኛ አለፍ ብሎ ቆርኪና ጣሰ ፋብሪካ ገቢ ብሎ
Contact Us 0911222993/ 0911208918

BEDELE SPECIAL
EXPORT QUALITY

በኩዳራ ዲፕሎማት ሽንት ብሎናጌ

Scholar exploring amicable options for Ethiopia to access sea outlet

BY MENGESHA AMARE

ADDIS ABABA-Some groups' interpretation of Ethiopia's pursuit to sea access as an attempt to take a piece of land is a misleading outlook that disparages the country's aspiration to mutual growth, a

senior researcher said.

Speaking to FBC, the Institute Foreign Affairs (IFA) Senior Researcher Amare Kenaw (PhD) indicated common benefits have to be well underlined instead of sticking to an attitude of snatching a piece of land whenever a given nation claims to have a sea port.

The scholar further stated that a number of conferences have been conducted with coastal neighbors that underpinned the mutual benefits that would be garnered from Ethiopia's direct access to ports. The conferences aimed at assessing the Red sea

See Scholar exploring ... page 4



Costantinos Berhutesfa (PhD)

Meeting Ethiopia's port desire realizes dynamism in HoA

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA - Supporting Ethiopia's aspiration of a sea outlet would bring a radical shift in the economy of the Horn of Africa (HoA) and promote mutual growth among member states, according to a senior

See Meeting Ethiopia's ... page 4

Office mobilizes over 297 mln. Birr for Abbay Dam

• Dam's civil works to reach completion within six months

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA- Abbay Dam Coordination Project Office announced that it has amassed over 297 million Birr in the last two months as the government is striving to complete dam's civil work construction within six months.

The office Media Communication Director

See Office mobilizes ... page 4



Ethiopia to generate 141 million USD exporting meat

BY TAMERU REGASA

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia has planned to generate some 141 million USD from the export of move 38,000 tons of meat and meat products

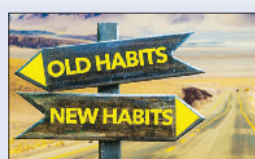
this Ethiopian fiscal year, Livestock Development Institute disclosed.

The Institute Executive Director Asrat Tera(PhD) told the Ethiopian Press Agency(EPA) that the country is

See Ethiopia to generate... page 4

Assembly plants: Key towards economic advancement

Page 6



Invest in youth, reap the rewards

Page 9

Ensuring shared development and equitable benefits through access to the sea

Page 10

News

Ministry

underlies realizing Digital Ethiopia 2025 significance

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MoIT) and institutions accountable to it announced that they are striving for making Digital Ethiopia 2025 real through expanding modern technological service in the country.

These bodies presented the 2016 fiscal year plan and 1st quarter plan performance report to the House of People Representative standing committee on Friday.

Speaking at the occasion, MoIT Minister Belete Molla (PhD) said that this fiscal year plan has incorporated four programs namely national science technology and innovation development, constructing infrastructure for the science technology and innovation sector, increasing digital economy, and establishing structure as well as rules and regulations to efficiently lead the national science and technology scheme.

As to him, the Ministry is striving for expanding all inclusive participation thereby bringing about meaningful accessibility in realizing digital Ethiopia 2025. To this end, the Ministry has been working in collaboration with various stakeholders so as foster technological advancement. The ministry has also appreciated and supported homegrown research with a view to coming up with fundamental changes in science, technology and innovation fields.

The Ministry has also secured 250,000 USD for ACTS –Africa for conducting research in health, agriculture, environment, energy, and the likes in a bid to help the country record significant change across the nation. So far, some 90 proposals were provided and some 6 winner proposals are being selected, and they will be provided with 35,000 USD each to help them realize their respective ambition.

“Creating enabling environment in reducing corruption, increasing e-commerce and e-governance, developing geospatial information, giving license for electronic market and the likes are among the various measures that are taken in the first quarter plan performance. For instance, the number of Electronic marketing has increased from 50 to 117. Besides, 95% of the fiscal work is accomplished and 25% of the capital performance it hit.

The ministry planned to utilize 159 million Birr and 89.9 million Birr for regular budget and capital budget in the 1st quarter of this fiscal year in that order. However, it utilized 130 million birr and merely 25 million Birr respectively in the stated period. It means that 82 % of the regular budget and 26% of the capital budget has so far been utilized.

Standing Committee Chairperson, Negri Lencho (PhD) on his part commented that the Ministry should attach serious attention to job creation, awareness raising, e-service expansion, conducting meaningful researches, bridging skilled human power gap thereby successfully and confidently realizing digital Ethiopia 2025.

Ethiopia inaugurates first Isuzu vehicle assembly, sales centre

BY NAOL GIRMA

ADDIS ABABA- The first Isuzu vehicle assembly plant was inaugurated in Ethiopia, the outskirts of Addis Ababa, Alemgena, in the presence of senior government officials.

Speaking at the event, Transport and Logistics Minister Alemu Simie said that in the ever growing competitive transport sector, having a vehicle assembly plant would play a crucial role in bolstering the economy of the nation.

According to him, as assembly plants have a significant role in saving foreign currency, the Ministry will work aggressively to support the efforts of local producers.

He also said that the newly inaugurated Japan-made Isuzu vehicle assembly, sales and post-sales centre will play a significant role in creating employment opportunities for citizens and supporting the national economic reform.

At the event, Kaki Motors Private Limited Company Executive Officer Gebre-Michael Girmay said that the assembly plant will be instrumental in replacing imported products with local products. It is learned that the newly inaugurated centre will assemble 2,500 trucks a year when gets operational in full swing.

He further said that the opening of the Japanese version of Isuzu vehicles assembly, sales and after sales center is committed to replace imported products with domestic ones, and our organization pays due attention to human resource development and works with various educational institutions to recruit graduates with outstanding academic achievement to help them translate what they have learned in theory into practical actions.



Industry Minister Melaku Aebel on his part said Ethiopia has an area of more than 1.1 million square kilometers and 167,000 kilometers of road area so far, of which 28,000 kilometers have been completed in the last four years.

However, he said the total number of vehicles in the country does not exceed 1.2 million, which is no more than one percent of the total population.

“We need to have vehicles that fit the way we are stretched,” he said adding that there is a need to build enough factories not only for imported vehicles, but also for domestic production and assembly.

In addition to the Khaki Motors joints, other manufacturing ,Kaki Motors currently has four vehicle and five spare parts, as well as maintenance service centres and one main spare part and storage depot. Ethiopia is a country with great potential in Africa, said Mansour Ahmed,

President of Isuzu Motors International.

Mansour said: “I have an ambitious vision for Kaki Motors to become a hub for the manufacturing sector in East Africa. I also believe that Ethiopia will play an important role in the African Free Trade Zone via working with and assisting Kaki Motors as it will maintain its world-class status and become a great competitor, especially in Africa.”

As to him, their commitment to the manufacturing industry is high and other investors will come to investment subsector and work diligently to create large manufacturing enterprises in the country, they have sought government support, of course.

He explained that it could be possible to create more than 1,500 additional jobs over the next five years by increasing 200 vehicles a year to Kaki Motors’ current production capacity.



Company launches first private payment instrument issuer

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA—Kacha Digital Financial Services S.C officially launched the first private payment instrument issuer in Ethiopia.

The service is believed to bring a new era in the country’s financial landscape by revolutionizing digital financial services. Kachahas dedicatedly tested its digital platforms demonstrating the efficacy of its mobile money transfer and other financial services across various levels and service channels.

Speaking at inauguration ceremony, Company Board Chair Teshome Beyene said that the service is made accessible to citizens through both Ethio-telecom and Safaricom’s network ,the user-friendly USSD short number *677#, as well as Android and iOS applications.

“The new service has introduced its cutting-edge digital banking platform. The product demo has showcased the company’s

commitment to delivering secure, convenient, and inclusive digital banking solutions so as to meet the ever-increasing demands of customers.

During an auspicious signing ceremony, Kacha Digital Financial Solutions S.C. formalized partnerships with prominent bank, microfinance institutions, and other strategic partners which aims at leveraging the strengths and expertise of each organization to create a robust ecosystem that can potentially empowers individuals and businesses with cutting-edge finance service.

“The launching of a new service is a demonstration of Kacha’s innovative remittance partnerships where users can experience efficient and secure cross-border remittance services, streamlining the process and reducing transaction costs for both international remittance service providers and enabling partnering commercial banks gain massive foreign currency inflow as Kacha aggregates transactions.”

As to Kacha Board Chairperson, dedication to customer-centric innovation, commitment to ensure robust data security and privacy protection is of significantly useful in leveraging advanced technologies with a view to driving financial inclusion and enhancing the digital banking landscape in Ethiopia.

Innovation and Technology State Minister Huria Ali on her part said, “The achievement is a testament to Kacha’s determination to elevate Ethiopia’s digital financial landscape to new height, and the inclusion, innovation and reliability of services offered by Kacha will contribute a lot to the national financial inclusion endeavors and the digital Ethiopia 2025 goal. It will be a gateway and access to finance to our broader population.”

The National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) Deputy Governor Advisor, Martha Hailemariam on her part said that the directive of NBE which strictly dictates all financial services to be offered by Banks or only in outsourcing agreement with payment instrument issuers.

Editorial

Buttressing the return from agriculture sector

About 85 percent of Ethiopians comprise of an agrarian community. But it is not hard to surmise that the country has not benefited to the required level from the sector which is its backbone.

The reason for aforementioned challenge is ascribable to the antediluvian agriculture system the sector has not yet liberated itself from. The agriculture sector has still clung afloat to a rain fed agriculture. This casts a shadow on the country's ability of ensuring food self-sufficiency parrying dependency syndrome of food aid.

Cognizant of this Achilles heel, the government has brought into play different agricultural techniques and structures. It as well has amended policies and strategies to the required effect as part of its multifaceted bid to address the challenge. It has incorporated lands that lie fallow into the farming sector and increased the size and productivity of tillable lands. This way, the government is doing its best to curb food shortages and jumpstart the export of wheat. Regarding the latter the incumbent has showcased its mettle facilitating things and walking its talk. Not only wheat, it has tangibly worked on the export of other agricultural produces.

If seen as a quick fix, such a push is commendable. It could be mentioned exemplary in the struggle to get back on one's feet when it comes to food self-sufficiency. As is the case elsewhere in the world buying tractors and using irrigation the government could not feed the whole population single alone. Ethiopia could not stand aloof from this trend. Hence, the government pondering on the issue should invite the private sector and investors to plunge into the sector by way of extending a helping hand. Assessing wrongheaded policies in the sector, the government is expected to play a catalytic role. Otherwise, the single-handed wheat production by the incumbent could not transcend a showcase purpose. The intended target would be nothing but elusive. Following suit, entrepreneurs must take the bumper wheat harvest to a sustainable level multiplying it over manifold.

Ethiopia is blessed with multitude of agro ecological zones. Its geographic position, near the equator, gets her in the hottest countries list. On the other hand, it is not that distant from European countries. It is therefore profitable for Ethiopia to produce crops that are in short supply in the Middle East. Thus, tapping on the back Ethiopian investors here and abroad as well as inviting foreign investors, it is quite possible to export agricultural yields badly needed in Saudi Arabiya, Yemen and Sudan, among others. Tax holidays and incentives are called for to fructify this push ahead. But this must not be misconstrued as if local investors are not doing so. Rather we have to work on increasing the number of investors here who are focused on yields much-demanded by the market. This is a must do. But at this juncture it is appropriate to raise the issue that investors (especially in floriculture) must refrain from activities that affects the environment. They must learn to treat the wastes they release into nearby rivers true to the promises they make while signing on documents that entitles them the green light of investment.

Also when it comes to the livestock sector, illegal cattle trading is proving inimical to the country's economy. Though the country is exporting animal products to the Middle East and is reaping benefits, there is a huge opportunity for investors to involve in this area and create job opportunities for many. This way, it is possible to augment the returns the country secure from such ventures in terms of hard currency thereby heralding a robust economy starting to get on its wings for this to crystalize the government has to discuss with investors and stakeholders in a bid to redress challenges.

Opinion

Ethiopia's accessing of sea outlet is beneficial for all

BY SOLOMON GIRMAY

Ethiopia has disclosed its interest to have access to sea outlet which is vital for its economic development. According to what the governments statement indicates the country pursues its intent for a sea outlet through peaceful means, bilateral or diplomatic ways and that respect the relevant international laws as well as that adhere to the principles of give and take.

Currently, 49 countries and 5 partially recognized territories in the world are landlocked. Among the landlocked countries, Ethiopia is the most densely populated one with about 120 million people. This means a quarter of the total population living in landlocked countries is Ethiopia's population.

Ethiopia isolation from the sea has made the country to suffer huge economic loss. The loss it sustained over the years can be estimated at millions of dollars per day which would have helped the growth of its fledgling economy by and large.

Not having a port has a negative impact on the development of a country. For instance, some reports indicate that it took 24 years for port countries to double their economies, and 36 years for landlocked countries. Foreign investment will drop from 33 down to 43 percent due to absence or being far away from ports. Being away from the sea has a negative impact on tourism. It also has its mark in diplomacy. As an area of intense international attention, the Red Sea is an age-old tool of diplomacy. The port has a connection with national security.

A port has a cable to connect with homeland security. In particular, it boosts the ability to repel attacks from the sea. A neighboring port through which landlocked countries import goods can be used for espionage purposes. In the event of war, there is a possibility that the country that has leased the port may interfere with the importation of weapons in favor of opposition country.

Ethiopia is one of the fastest growing economies in the continent. It also has a large population, estimated at around 126 million and projected to grow at about 2.57% a year. This indicates many human basic needs to be met.

Economic development became central to fiscal and economic planning and projections in the period between 2000 and 2012. But lack of direct coastal access became a notable obstacle to Ethiopia's efforts to achieve middle-income status via export-oriented industrialization.

For many decades Assab port handled 70% of Ethiopia's trade. But now Ethiopia's imports and exports mainly pass via the port of Djibouti. Relying on port of Djibouti has proved costly and unsustainable. This is a good factor that can lead Ethiopia to search for alternatives.

For many decades Assab port handled 70% of Ethiopia's trade. But now Ethiopia's imports and exports mainly pass via the port of Djibouti. Relying on port of Djibouti has proved costly and unsustainable. This is a good factor that can lead Ethiopia to search for alternatives

In 2017, a concession agreement was signed between DP World, Ethiopia, and the government of Somaliland to rebuild and modernize the port of Berbera. The 30-year concession envisaged a commercial port, a free zone, a corridor from Berbera to Ethiopia's borders, and an airport in Berbera.

The concession allowed Somaliland's government to retain 30% of the shares in the port, 19% for Ethiopia, and 51% for DP World. But in June 2022, Somaliland announced that Ethiopia had failed to acquire its 19% share of Berbera port as Ethiopia failed to meet the conditions.

Many Ethiopians, especially those engaged in business and investment realize the seriousness of Ethiopia's landlocked status. It is hard to imagine that Ethiopia is the only major country in the entire world that is so close to the sea, only about 60 kilometers, yet has no access to it.

Consequently, following the outbreak of the Ethio-Eritrea war on May 1998, Ethiopia was forced to use the Port of Djibouti. It also struggled to look for additional outlets through Sudan, Somalia and Kenya, all at great cost to the nation. Experts in the field quote a wealth of expert data, facts and figures to analyze the detrimental impact of the loss of access to the sea on the economic, political, diplomatic and security well-being of the country.

Peaceful and mutually beneficial agreements with any of the neighboring countries will have positive outcomes for all. Ethiopia would still emerge stronger, and would continue on its economic growth path.



The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays
By The Ethiopian Press Agency

Office of the CEO

Tel. 011-126-42-22
Fax. 251-011-156-98-62
email- epa@press.et

Advertisement and Dist. Department

email: etpresspromotion@gmail.com
Tel. 011-156-98-73/011-811-13-15
Telegram :- 0976084707 - press
Editor-in-Chief: Worku Belachew
email- workubelachew@press.et
Address- Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-city
Woreda - 05, House No----
Tel- +251 111 26 41 98

Managing Editor: Wakuman Kudama

Email: wakuma220@gmail.com

Deputy Editors-in-Chief:

Alem Hailu
Elizabeth Mengistu
Zekarias Woldemariam
Desta Geberehiwot
Daniel Beyene

Website: www.press.et
email: ethiopianherald@press.et
Fb//Ethiopian Press Agency/
The Ethiopian Herald

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

News

Ethiopia, South Korea inks MoU to collaborate on agricultural mechanization

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- The Ministry of Agriculture signed a Memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Korea Institute for Advancement of Technology (Korea Institute for Advancement of Technology) to work on agricultural mechanization together.

Appreciating the commitment of the Korean government, Agriculture Minister Girma Amente (PhD) said during the signing ceremony that the agreement would help modernize nation's agricultural sector given sector's backbone of Ethiopia's economy.

President of Korea Industrial Technology Improvement Institute, ByungJoo Min (PhD), on her part expressed that the support would greatly contribute to the modernization of the agricultural sector.

It was learned that the agreement would help nation in improving the quality of the value chain through the development and maintenance of agricultural machinery, providing capacity building in the agro-processing sector and modernizing the mechanization of wheat cultivation from production to processing.

Agriculture Minister Girma Amente (PhD) and Korea Institute for Advancement of Technology (Korea Institute for Advancement of Technology) President ByungJoo Min (PhD) signed the memorandum of understanding (MoU).

Meanwhile, Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Korea's Trade, Industry and Energy Ministry to strengthen the trade relation between the two countries.

During the signing ceremony, Gebremeskel Chala, Trade and Regional

Integration Minister mentioned that the agreement would improve trade relations as well as cooperation while enabling trade digitalization.

Reminding the Trade and Economy agreement signed in 2002, he underlined that the new deal would not only further strengthen that but it would also improve trade ties and beneficiaries of the two countries.

Emphasizing Ethiopia's huge economic potential as host of the African Union, Industry and Energy Minister of the Republic of Korea Bang Moon Kyu reiterated that the agreement would enhance trade and investment relation between Korea and Ethiopia.

Trade and Regional Integration Minister, Gebremeskel Chala and Industry and Energy Minister of the Republic of Korea Bang Moon Kyu signed agreement.

Ethiopia to generate ...

working hard to boost export earnings through increasing quality and volume of animal products as well as expanding market access.

Ethiopia ranks first in Africa and fifth in the world in terms of livestock resources, however, Asrat said the country is not generating the income it deserves from due to various challenges like poor market system and lack of coordination among abattoirs.

He mentioned that the country's revenue from the sector is very low as it earned only 1.1 billion USD from the sector in the past 14 years.

The country has 12 large slaughter houses that can export more than 200,000 tons of meat annually if the operate at full capacity. However, these slaughterhouses are only processing and exporting 20,000 tons meat per year which is 10 percent of their capacity, he noted.

Accordingly, the institute is striving to increase export earnings by taking measures to boost the quality and volume animal products as well as market expansion.

The institute in collaborating with other stakeholders has been undertaking a fruitful activities including the preparation of different legal frameworks and launching

of various initiatives, as to the Executive Director.

Yelemat Tirufat initiative, a four-year development programme designed to boost animal products, is also an important means to increasing the production of the livestock sector as it has a complete package to develop the industry.

Moreover, the nation is working hard to expand market access that trade its animal products with the right price. In this regard, Asrat expressed that agreements have been signed with China and other Asian countries this year to import Ethiopia's animal products.

Office mobilizes over...

Hailu Abraham told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the office has collected over 297 million of the 1.7 billion Birr that it has planned to mobilize for the construction of Abbay Dam this Ethiopian fiscal year.

As to him, the amount is collected via bond sales both locally and internationally via 8100 SMS and other platforms. "We have mobilized over 824,000 and 64 million Birr from Diaspora bond sale and gift, and the Ethiopian Electric Power gift respectively," he added.

Moreover, some 213 million Birr was collected from 8100 SMS platform, he stated, adding that over 18.6 billion Birr was collected from the public and Diasporas since the beginning of the construction of the dam up to 8 September 2023.

Hailu said: "The remaining works require more than 50 billion Birr to finalize the project. Thus, joined hands are needed to realize the final stage through awareness creation, telethons, honoring recognition certificates to contributors and facilitating regional project offices."

He also expressed that the civil works of the project such as turbine assembly, power generation, accumulation and other technical works are scheduled to be completed in the next six months.

So far, two turbines have been generating 500 MW in which they would be generating a total of 750 megawatts up on completion, he noted.

It is to be recalled that the nation has recently completed the 4th round filling process successfully.

Scholar exploring...

region security threats, boosting coordination accords and reinvigorating efforts to make nations with various communalities benefited out of coordination and shared values. For example, the Djibouti Code of Conduct and the Red Sea Forum and others were evaluated at what level their objective was met."

"The very point that was underlined during the conference was how states with common good and common agendas can benefit from cooperation and amicable ways of employing shared interests. Getting into conflict should not be an option and a reliable mechanism to get seaport."

The issue of sea access was well discussed and promising inputs were garnered. When the issue of sea port is raised, there is something on which nations, even neighboring countries have stood still which has been erroneously thought and wrongly interpreted as if the issue revolves around taking a piece of land from someplace. "This is a wrong perception that has to be altered well."

According to him, there are a number of ways to innovatively and systematically utilize ports and ensure Ethiopia's direct access to the sea. Building a corridor, a canal and other related lucrative aspects could be

considered and the materialization of such projects is quite beneficial for Ethiopia as a seaport is of paramount importance in keeping its national security and economic progress.

"All alternatives that could realize Ethiopia's direct access to ports should be scientifically researched."

"Apart from being a guarantee for national security for a given nation, sea port is significantly useful in boosting economic development and fostering ties with other nations, especially with the neighboring ones," Amare remarked.

Meeting Ethiopia's...

policy expert.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Senior Public Policy Expert and Economist Costantinos Berhutesfa (PhD) said backing Ethiopia's quest to seaport is something expected from countries in the HoA. Ethiopia's access to the sea would have a far-reaching impact in advancing the economic activities of the region and significantly helping its coastal neighbors.

The issue of access to the sea has been a public demand in Ethiopia where the national economy is affected by absence of sea outlets. In addition, this claim is not unique for Ethiopia and many landlocked countries that had no direct access to seaports are now benefiting from mutual agreements with their coastal neighbors.

"Despite the above fact, making a landlocked country directly access sea outlets is not an easy task and it could take long deliberations and negotiations. Thus, Ethiopia should be patient for regional issues that demand consultations and negotiations, the expert advised.

Costantinos is optimistic that Ethiopia's fast-growing economy can be one of the issues that have the weight in the negotiation process. The growing infrastructural connectivity including road and railway developments can also persuade neighbors to concede.

Ethiopia's power and agricultural exports are highly desirable in the neighboring countries, which have extensive coastlines. So, permitting Ethiopia to have sea outlets in exchange for economic benefits is easy for these nations though it requires noble political commitment, he elaborated.

The Ethiopian government has the responsibility to address coastal neighbors through proper diplomatic channels about the country's big market and the window of opportunity its access to the sea would create in the region.

"I see no problem that can be unresolved through diplomatic consultation. The initiation by the Ethiopian side should be sustained. The existing diplomatic engagement with all neighboring countries also needs to be strengthened," the expert recommended.

Opinion

Power, conflict and consensus building in Africa

BY GETACHEW MINAS

Political scientists point out that the effectiveness of consensus building as a mechanism for conflict resolution is discarded and unwanted in Africa. Based on studies of conflict, consensus and debates of the 1960s, they argued that the inherent character of power does not allow for building consensus.

Considering the nature of the state in Africa which is subordinated to private interests, Browne Onuoha, an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Lagos, suggested that the political leaders will not readily bend to consensus. Instead of consensus studies suggest a reform of the State. But beyond the reform, they point out the compelling need for the development of a strong civil and democratic society. A reformed State in Africa, thereafter, will be in a better position to effectively manage power and conflict. As an African country, Ethiopia is well placed to manage its social and political conflicts and build consensus within its regions and sub-regions.

Consensus is a concept that has dominated the African political and conflict studies. Other related concepts include peace-dialogue, peace-building and culture of peace. Their relationship is very close as the culture of peace certainly encourages consensus building.

The concept of consensus building represents an approach to be applied towards resolving some of the many intractable conflicts that have embroiled the continent for decades. As currently applied in Africa, including Ethiopia, consensus building seems to be a product of conflict resolution in affected zones.

Normally, professional negotiators and mediators are recruited by governments or international agencies to be involved in the processes. This mechanism has been encouraged during negotiations for peace at the end of civil wars in parts of Africa. Also, consensus is needed in the resolution of racial, ethnic, tribal or religious wars and conflicts. It is believed that consensus building will provide the key to peace in conflict areas of Africa, including Ethiopia.

Any arrangement of dialogue and consensus building mechanism in Africa which does not put the State at the centre will have very little chances of success. Studies reveal that most of the conflicts in Africa are politically motivated. In some cases, however, they appear to be religious. This is because most of the conflicts result from the struggle for access to political power. If that is the case, consensus building becomes difficult.

It is believed that conflict often takes place when people perceive that there is a threat

to their interests. Disagreements may also arise from misinformation, prejudices, wrong perceptions of justice, and differing socio-cultural traditions. It may arise from personal beliefs, prejudices, and ideologies.

Conflict involves open clashes between social forces. These forces have incompatible differences of objectives. They have a desire to attain what is available “only” to one of them. Thus, the concept of social conflict is the force that leads to change. Experts remark that societies and social organizations are held together “not” by consensus but by constraint, not by universal agreement but by the coercion of some by others. Here, the “value system” is mostly that of the ruling party and not that of the common people.

It is usually upheld by force rather than by consensus. Conflict is identified with change and constraint. As conflict generates change, so constraint may be thought of as generating conflict. It is assumed that conflict is ever-present wherever human beings create social organizations. However, in politics, conflict often arises during the struggle for access to, control and management of political power. For Harold Lasswell, who was an American political scientist and communications theorist, the essence of politics is “who gets what, when, how.” Most conflicts often end up being political, because in most instances their mediation is through some form of “politics” or public policy.

In consensus advocacy, most conflicts can be resolved through consensus building. By its nature, consensus represents social contract on stability, harmony and equilibrium. Social contract is said to involve the overwhelming majority in unity, identity and co-ordination.

Experts point out that consensus refers to a collective opinion expressing acceptance of a “middle ground” in important issues or policies. Thus, it is a position of “no winner, no loser” in which there is no victor nor vanquished. It used to be based on “give and take” situation in Africa, including Ethiopia.

Consensus advocacy may be used in difficult socio-political crises and conflicts. Political scientists have been worried about the issue of conflict, particularly when directly or indirectly related to the structure of power in the society in general.

The political scientists made proposals on how to reconcile conflict and consensus in relation to the enforcement of rules, laws, punishment and sanctions. They also tried to connect reconciliation with power, authority, policy and the state. The problem of reconciliation underlined the social trust which was employed in the consensus/conflict debate.

The “conflict model” views individual or group relationships as a struggle which demonstrates some form of coercion wherever power structures exist. On the other hand, the “consensus model” emphasizes the existence of legitimate authority in the society. It shows that regulation is guaranteed by the “incentive or threat” of State sanctions. They argue that the possibility of imposing sanctions is the core of all power. They also think that established norms are nothing but ruling norms defended by the agencies of society and those who control them.

Centuries back, philosophers insisted that the law is the command of the sovereign or laws are dictated and enforced by the ruling class. All these remarks emphasize the structure of power in the society. It is determined by the level of consensus or conflict. However, part of the problem is centered round the definitions given to consensus and conflict.

Also the inability to reconcile consensus/conflict at all levels of the society, represent “two faces” of society. It means that both conflict and consensus exist in the same society. The consensus/conflict difference cannot be resolved through empirical investigation. What is important is the existence of more consensus or conflict in the society.

In Africa, including Ethiopia, studies are replete with terms like “crisis”, “conflict”, “war”, which are all interconnected with the structure and struggle for power. These situations attracted open use of force which did not accommodate consensus as a serious political option. The reason is not unrelated to the nature of political power itself, which happens to be resulting in conflict that resists consensus.

It is contended that rights given by the Constitution are sacred by consensus. But, politicians fight one another in a political struggle because they cannot agree on what these rights are. These unsettled rights are areas of political conflict, where political power is personified and expressed forcefully. These issues may be resolved within the State power which does not respect consensus. In other words, there may be consensus on some fundamental issues like federation or unitary system or democratic government or military dictatorship.

But in a federation there are questions about which states or regions are to be created, what the boundaries are to be between federal and state powers, and how tight or weak the federation should be. These questions are difficult to define and resolve. They constitute the issues of political power, which most often are not readily subject to consensus. For instance, in the Federal

States of the DRC, Nigeria and Sudan, it has been difficult to reach a consensus on how tight or weak the federations should be. These countries have gone to war at different times to get the issues resolved in the past fifty years.

Also, allocation of resources triggers crisis and conflict at various levels of the society. This is an area that has created problems in Cote D'Ivoire and the crisis after general elections in Nigeria, Kenya and Zimbabwe in the past. Thus, as observed by Denis Wrong, who was a Canadian-born American sociologist, while reviewing the conflict and consensus debate, it is more helpful to view institutional order as an outcome of past and on-going political conflict.

D. Wrong points out that this insistence on political conflict and its inherent forceful aspects has dominated political trends. Related to the issue of power, there are a few basic questions that have been raised. These are where to locate the consensus; who are to be involved and what the content of the consensus should be. These questions are important in relation to community power. Even if consensus were to be achieved it would be meaningless unless it involved those who move the community or larger society. Answers to these queries emphasize the central issue of power that frustrates consensus, particularly when those who wield power are put into power.

In order for consensus to be meaningful, it needs to involve those who wield power. In democracy those who wield power, the political parties, do not politically behave in ways that give in to consensus. This is particularly the case in Africa since there are too little democratic leadership and too few democratic personalities. This character of undemocratic leadership is further confirmed by recent events and studies about the on-going democratization processes in Africa.

The question is whether democracy is an imported culture which all Africans, including Ethiopians, have to adhere to. The social and cultural ties of people may not allow them to hold to imported alien political systems. Even if there is a need for transition to western democracy, it may take time to involve all the people of voting age to understand and interpret the elements of party politics. In Ethiopia, partisanship is essentially based on ethnic, tribal, clannish and ancestral ties, which negate modern system of democracy.

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

Business & Economy

Assembly plants: Key towards economic advancement

• Kaki's Japan-made Isuzu vehicle assembly plant one step towards realizing industrialization

BY NAOL GIRMA

Following the economic and political reformation, several changes are being witnessed all over the country. The economic progress which is being registered all over the nation and several manufacturing plants that are creating job opportunities for thousands of citizens are a good indication how the government is decisively working to achieve its goals and its reform is sound. Vehicle assembly plants are among these manufacturing sectors that are attracting foreign investment and creating job opportunities for Ethiopians.

As the experiences of other countries indicate, vehicle assembly plants play a significant economic role in developing countries like Ethiopia. These plants contribute to the growth and development of the country's economy in several ways. What is more, vehicle assembly plants can also serve as a platform for export-oriented manufacturing. By producing vehicles for both domestic and international markets, developing countries like Ethiopia can enhance their export potential and earn foreign exchange.

Lately, the first Isuzu vehicle assembly plant was inaugurated in the outskirts of Addis Ababa, Alemgena, West Shewa Zone of Oromia State in the presence of senior government officials and others. Speaking at the event, Minister of Transport and Logistics, Alemu Simie (PhD), said that in the ever growing competitive transport sector, having a vehicle assembly plant has a crucial role for the economy.

According to him, assembly plants have a significant role in saving foreign currency to the country. In this regard, the Ministry will work aggressively to support the efforts of local producers.

He also said that the newly inaugurated Japan-made Isuzu vehicle assembly, sales and post-sales center will play a significant role in creating employment opportunities for citizens and supporting the national economic reform.

Speaking on his part, Managing Director of Kaki Motors Private Limited Company, GebreMichael Girmay, said that the assembly plant will be very instrumental in replacing imported products with local products. It is learned that the newly inaugurated center will assemble 2,500 trucks per year when it is operating at full capacity.

Vehicle assembly plants are one of the areas where manufacturing industries contribute to the industrialization process of developing countries. They help in diversifying the economy by establishing a manufacturing sector and creating job opportunities for the local population. Industrialization plays a crucial role in the Ethiopian economy, contributing to its growth, development, and overall transformation.

As the nation invests its energy and capital on agricultural sector, industrialization also helps to diversify the economy by moving beyond traditional sectors such as agriculture. What is more, by promoting the growth of manufacturing industries, Ethiopia reduces its reliance on a single sector, thus enhancing



The inauguration ceremony of the car assembly plant



economic stability and resilience.

Job creation is the other most important factor that is given a special attention by the government. Industrialization leads to the creation of employment opportunities, particularly in the manufacturing sector. As industries expand, they require a skilled and semi-skilled workforce, leading to job opportunities for the growing population. This helps in reducing unemployment rates and poverty levels.

Productivity is another area where industrialization plays a key role to the growing economy of the nation. Industrialization is linked to increased productivity levels in the economy. Modern manufacturing techniques, machinery, and technology improve efficiency and output, leading to higher productivity

levels across various sectors. This increased productivity contributes to economic growth and competitiveness.

As the nation works aggressively to expand its industrialization, value addition and export growth will play key role to earn hard currency. In this regard, industrialization enables value addition to raw materials and agricultural products, transforming them into finished goods. This adds value to the products and allows for higher export earnings. By expanding its industrial base, Ethiopia can increase its export capacity, generate foreign exchange, and improve the balance of trade.

Above and beyond, industrialization drives the development of infrastructure, including transportation networks, power generation, and telecommunications. These infrastructure

investments support the growth of industries and facilitate the movement of goods and services within the country and for export purposes. In this regard, the more the nation exerts its effort on the industrial sector, the more it gives chance to infrastructural development.

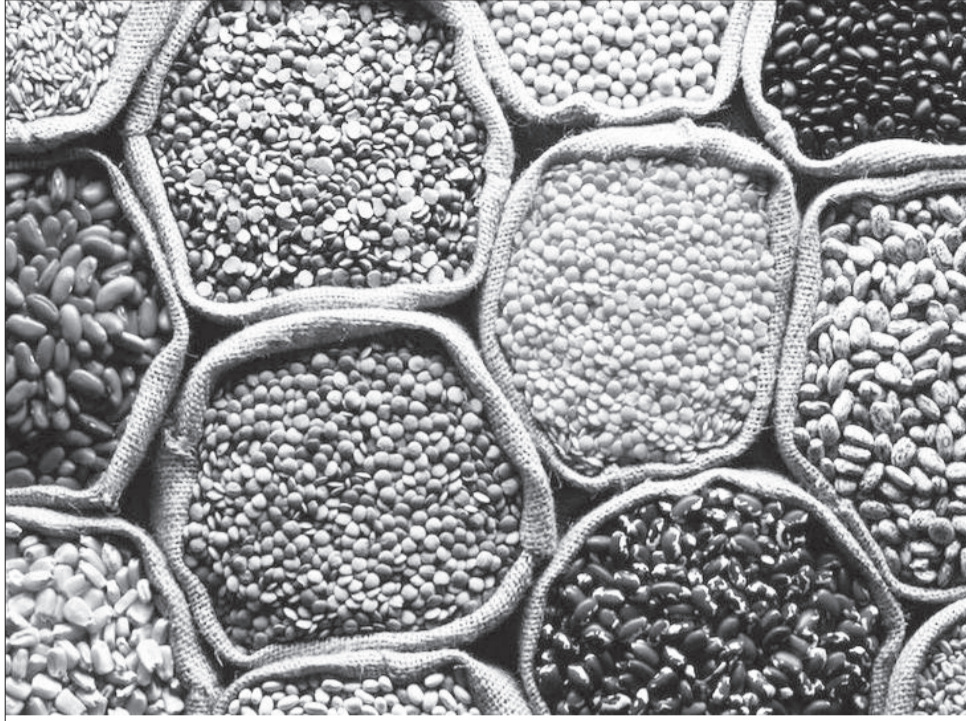
Technology transfer and innovation are the other important areas where industrialization gives an opportunity. Industrialization attracts foreign direct investment (FDI) and partnerships with international companies. This facilitates the transfer of technology, knowledge, and best practices to the local workforce and industries. It promotes innovation, research and development activities, and technological advancements, which further contribute to economic growth.

Industrialization also plays a significant role to increase government revenue through taxation and tariffs. As industries grow and expand, the government can collect more tax revenue, which can be reinvested in social and economic development projects, such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure. This in turn will help the government to fight poverty-which is number one enemy of growth.

As the experience of developed nations witness, industrialization plays a crucial role in reducing poverty, in this regard, the more the nation gives an opportunity to the industry sector, the more it can minimize poverty by creating employment opportunities, increasing productivity, and generating income.

Overall, industrialization plays a vital role in transforming the Ethiopian economy by creating jobs, diversifying the economy, increasing productivity, promoting export growth, and driving overall economic development.

Planet Earth



How lowland pulse research program in Ethiopia helps climate change mitigation, ecosystem conservation

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

The Low Land Pulse research program in Ethiopia is an initiative aiming at studying and comprehending the dynamics of land usage and land cover change in the country's lowland areas. These lowland areas represent a significant percentage of Ethiopia's landscape. They are distinguished by distinct ecosystems and are home to a broad range of communities and species.

The program's main goal is to gather and analyze data on many elements of land use and land cover change, such as deforestation, agricultural growth, urbanization, and infrastructural development. It seeks to discover the causes of these changes as well as their consequences for the environment, biodiversity, and local communities.

To obtain comprehensive data, the program takes a multidisciplinary approach, combining remote sensing tools, field surveys, and socioeconomic research. This information is then used to create models and tools to assist policymakers and stakeholders in making informed decisions about land use planning, conservation measures, and sustainable development in lowland areas.

The Low Land Pulse research program also works with local communities, government agencies, and international organizations to ensure that research findings are successfully disseminated and converted into practical policies and practices. It facilitates communication and knowledge exchange among many stakeholders to promote sustainable land management techniques and increase the resilience of lowland ecosystems across the country.

Endeshaw Habte et al stated in their academic paper entitled "Production and Marketing of Major Lowland Pulses in Ethiopia: Review of Developments, Trends, and Prospects" that lowland pulses are multipurpose crops that benefit farmers by providing protein, animal feed, cash income, and improving soil fertility through N fixation. Lowland pulses are eaten as a grain or as vegetables. Nifro (cooked beans)



Erana Kebede

mixed with cereals, flour/split grain to make stew (wat), and whole seed to make samosas or soup. Besides, all parts of cowpea are used as food where the green pods and seeds are used as vegetables and the grain is also used to prepare several main dishes.

Accordingly, the program provides valuable insights into the drivers and impacts of land use and land cover change in lowland areas. This understanding is essential for developing effective strategies and policies for sustainable land management. Moreover, the program generates data and models that can be used by policymakers and stakeholders to make informed decisions regarding land use planning, conservation strategies, and sustainable development in lowland areas. This helps to ensure that decisions are based on scientific facts that lead to positive outcomes.

It is also imperative to preserve the area's biodiversity because Ethiopia's lowland areas are home to a variety of habitats and fauna. The research program can identify places of high conservation value and propose ways to safeguard and conserve biodiversity by examining land use dynamics. This helps to preserve endangered animals and ecosystems.

In response to these facts, Haramaya University created the Lowland Pulse Research Program in 1980. Since its start, the program has made significant

contributions to technology production and diffusion operations. The initiative and its results have had a significant impact on community livelihood, farming systems, and health. The institution was able to distribute 12 common beans to the community and satisfy the nutritional needs of society.

HU Lowland Pulse Research Program Coordinator Erana Kebede said that with over 30 years of experience, the program has committed a significant amount of time and energy to lowland pulse research and technology transfer. As a result, it has successfully introduced 12 new common bean types. These bean varieties are now available not only in the local area but also across the entire country.

Indeed, the lowland Pulses type should be high-yielding, and resistant to major common illnesses, insects, and climate change. As a result, the type generated by HU has high Iron and Zinc contents, making it a key micronutrient source that can assist significantly in addressing the micronutrient deficit in Ethiopia.

In addition, the program is carrying out several nationally coordinated trials, such as maintaining common bean varieties and germplasm, multiplying and providing seeds of common bean varieties, promoting and scaling up existing lowland pulse crop technologies, developing a research project to address common bean production constraints, and so on.

He further noted that such research activities should be expanded at the national level since they give low-land pulse variations for students, food complexes, and other research institutes working on food ingredients, food mixing, and food engineering.

Beans, in particular, are becoming an increasingly important crop that significantly contributes to the national economy (commodity and employment) as well as a source of food and cash income in the country. Unlike in other regions of the country, eastern Ethiopia produces more than 90 percent of the common bean through intercropping with maize, sorghum, chat, and other crops, he explained.

"Lowland beans and pulses are now widely accepted in the community of Eastern Hararge. Farmers are increasingly more aware of and interested in bean cultivation, even if sorghum and maize are still widely grown in the Eastern Hararge region. According to research, bean cultivation is compatible with the local climate, particularly with the farming system," he explained.

However, the area is mainly conducive to grow Khat, but the farmers are heavily interested in planting common beans since they gain yield by applying intercropping farming mechanisms. Planting sorghum or corn with khat is a bit challenging and not scientifically proven. As a result, the community favored common bean plantations that fix nitrogen biologically or naturally, supply natural fertilizer, and do not cause problems in intercropped crops. More importantly, farmers are encouraged to produce these protein-rich diets that are imperative for the impoverished.

However, the area is primarily suited to khat farming, but farmers are particularly interested in growing common beans since they increase production through intercropping farming techniques. Planting sorghum or corn with chat is difficult and has not been scientifically verified. As a result, the community preferred common bean plantations that fix nitrogen biologically or naturally, and provide natural fertilizer.

In general, there are many advantages to the Low Land Pulse research program in Ethiopia, including better knowledge, well-informed decision-making, biodiversity protection, sustainable development, cooperation, and increased resilience of lowland ecosystems. These advantages support the long-term health of Ethiopia's local inhabitants and environment.

Therefore, the initiative has to be expanded and advanced nationwide to improve knowledge of the dynamics of land use in lowland areas and to support the creation of evidence-based plans for climate change mitigation, ecosystem conservation, and sustainable land management.

Art & Culture

The art and science of advertising for effective communication

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

There are at least two remarks anyone can make regarding advertising billboards and the language in which they are presented these days. The first is the size of advertising billboards that are increasingly assuming “superhuman” proportions. When you look at them from close quarters, they give you the impression that the artists who produced those huge billboards created pictures of peoples with an aura of immortality or a physical stature so out of this world. They are not only intimidating but also frightening. The people in the pictures may be nonentities in real life but they assume godlike proportions when seen on the billboards while we feel so diminished. We may perhaps call this an illusion or distortion of reality.

Advertisements are basically illusions of reality because they exaggerate reality like all art does. Some of them occupy one side of entire buildings and display people and products with such vivid pictures and colors that you often have the impression that you are dwarfed by the gigantic proportions. This is in fact the main objective of huge advertising billboards, namely to make you feel small so that you may think that the only way to become bigger could be by consuming a given product, that may be a new model car, or a bottle of whiskey or by saving your money at a local bank so that you become rich in no time, although interest rates are the same in all the banks,

Advertising gurus often tell us that one of the techniques of advertisements is to wet your mouth or stir your appetite for a product, that which may be a food item or a brand of liquor. Some of the advertisements on hotel premises are so lavishly done by artists with the aid of computer simulators that the products create in you the illusion of achieving happiness by consuming them by any means and without delay although everyone understands that meat is not the best healthy food nowadays when science is advising us to eat more fruits and vegetables.

That is why the same gurus tell us that we go to a certain entertainment outlet as if we are programmed to go there as a result of our daily bombardment with visual or auditory advertisements that manipulate our decisions quite unconsciously. They virtually force us to choose a given brand over the other. Some people think, quite rightly, that advertising is the science of manipulating the human mind and bending or twisting it to the extent that it is falling in love with certain products that subsequently assume brand names. This is a long-accepted and long-established fact of advertisement and we seldom question why we choose this or that product or service instead of a different one.

The second observation this writer in particular often makes is the language in which the words on the billboards are written. Exaggeration is an art in literature because the characters and situations are

fictitious to begin with and you are expected what literary critics call, “the willing suspension of disbelief” in order to accept illusions as facts. Yet, advertisements work differently because if you tell the consumer that he would turn into a lion if he drinks a certain brand of beer, this will certainly fail to convince both the consumer as well as the general public because no one has ever seen humans turning into lions except in science fiction movies or in magical realist novels.

The other point about most advertisements written in English in particular is the language they use to convey their messages. Using English together with Amharic or any other Ethiopian language is justified because there is a sizable population of foreigners living in the country and consuming local or imported products and services. This is not however always the case. There are also remote regions where English speaking people have never set foot since god created those places. And yet advertisers who feel they are following the modernizing trends often resort to using English as their medium of communication. They write their advertisements in English which is neither “Afro-English” nor “Ethio-English” but something in between.

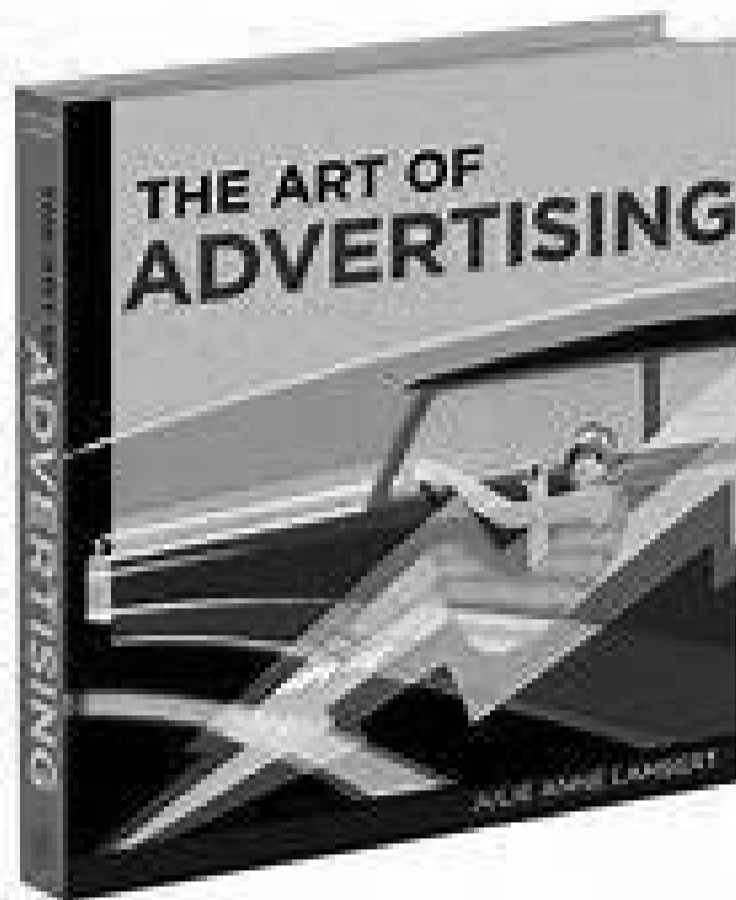
My advice to these kinds of advertisers is that they should write their messages into English and get them translated by professionals before they expose them to the eyes of the public. When you travel to the outskirts of Addis, it is not uncommon to see various business outlets exhibiting their properties in English whereas there might not be a single European or American putting order in English.

Advertisements, whether written in English or Amharic, should therefore be written in a clear language the majority of the local consumers understand because they should observe the main rule of language as a tool of communication. Advertisements are not expected to be written in Shakespearean English or the Amharic of author Haddis Alemayehu in “Love unto Death” but they should at least be free from spelling mistakes, common errors and clichéd expressions.

A pedestrian definition of language would suggest that it is medium of communication but for communication to be effective it has to be conveyed in a language and style that the communicators will understand without extra effort. This is the basic rule of written and oral communication that any average human being can understand. A more sophisticated definition says that, “Language is a system of communication that relies on verbal or interchanging messages or information or non-verbal codes to transfer information.

Advertisements are also modern public communication tools used by producers to sell their products to consumers because, “advertising is a form of marketing communication that aims to persuade and influence people to take a specific action, like buying a product or using a service.”

In Ethiopia, business advertising is a



relatively recent phenomenon because capitalism was introduced lately and modern advertising was virtually unknown until late into the monarchic regime. Emperor Haile Sellassie can be credited for encouraging capitalist development in the country as he was fascinated with the level of development and civilization that European countries had attained as late as his exile to England following Mussolini’s invasion of Ethiopia. As soon as he returned from exile, the monarch launched a vigorous program of capitalist modernization although the conditions for such a progressive agenda were not present during the post-war period until well into the 1960s.

According to the historical records, “In Ethiopia, advertising in general is believed to have begun in the 19th century, during the reign of Emperor Menelik II. At the time, advertisements used to be announced at main squares and streets using the “negarit”, a traditional war drum.” With the beginnings of capitalist economic development came the business of advertisement because the two were not separable. Even in relatively older Ethiopia, traders used primitive methods of introducing their items to the public by sending individuals to the most prominent market in Addis and in the region where they used their voices to declare that they are ready to sell such and such products that were mainly agricultural ones.

Whenever modern advertising in Ethiopia is discussed, the first name that comes to mind is Wubishet Werkalemahu, the doyen of modern advertising in Ethiopia “who made his name in advertisement business in his early days of his childhood. Wubishet is also famous for his pioneer work in traditional Ethiopia advertising during the time when modern techniques were unknown. he came

to Addis Ababa from his native Yifat and his first stint in modern advertising was an assignment from his first customer that was the National Lottery.

He went all over the country to sell lottery tickets. In one of his interviews, Wubishet said, “I used to have one donkey - I loaded a bag of money on the back of the donkey and marched down along Churchill Avenue telling people that they better buy and take a chance.” By the end of the 20th century, business advertisement was well established as foreign companies massively set shops in the country while domestic businesspeople became increasingly familiar with the sophisticated techniques of advertising.

At the dawn of this century and the invention of more sophisticated electronic devices, advertising companies not only flourished in the global marketplace but their works also assumed professionalism based on the latest scientific discoveries. Capitalism would not have developed to its present stage anywhere in the world without the parallel development in advertising and its emergence as a separate field of study by colleges and universities as a vital aspect of marketing management.

The best option should be for our advertising agencies to understand the art and science of advertising as an engine that pushes forward their businesses but also as an art form that has its own ethical standards that put the consumers at the center of their activities. Consumers need respect and honesty to embrace a given product and breaches of ethics would be an insult to consumers and a disaster for the long term prosperity of the advertisers.

Society

Invest in youth, reap the rewards

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Dejene Kassa is a dedicated Yoga Therapist who works at New Life Drug Rehabilitation Center and Bright Hills Rehabilitation Center. He passionately volunteers his services to help numerous youths break free from their bad habits. In addition to his work as a Yoga Therapist, Dejene also teaches Information Communication Technology (ICT) at Asko Secondary School.

Dejene emphasized the importance of cultivating a healthy generation and has been actively involved in providing various life coaching trainings to youths in youth centers, rehabilitation centers, and schools. His goal is to empower young individuals to lead active lives without being consumed by addictive behaviors. He often incorporates Yoga and kickboxing training to help youths overcome their deep-rooted addictions and psychosocial traumas.

He strongly believes that in order for youths to succeed in their future endeavors, they must possess a well-rounded set of skills. Merely excelling academically is not sufficient for achieving success in life, according to Dejene. Therefore, he has cultivated the habit of reading various philosophical, religious, psychological, scientific, and other books beyond his academic curriculum. Additionally, he engages in various physical exercises to enhance his physical fitness.

Dejene emphasizes the parallel importance of mental well-being and physical fitness. He firmly believes that one cannot achieve true health without being both mentally and physically active. Therefore, he encourages youths to recognize the significance of staying active and safeguarding themselves from bad habits.

"I have trained myself to be multidisciplinary," Dejene says. "I graduated with a degree in IT from Wollo University and teach youths how to utilize technology properly to improve their future. I have also learned Taekwondo, kickboxing, and Yoga to maintain physical fitness. I had the opportunity to attend a one-month-long Yoga training in India and received certification as a trainer."

Dejene has provided life-skill and Yoga trainings to over 100 youths in Arada Sub-city, youth centers, and youth rehabilitation centers. Through his efforts, he helps young individuals make wise decisions regarding their education.

It is evident that many youths face exposure to bad habits during their early lives, often due to peer pressure. In light of this, Dejene emphasizes the importance of access to mentors and coaches who can provide guidance and advice to youths.

Moreover, it is highly recommended for youths to actively engage in various volunteer services as a means to protect themselves from falling into bad habits. By participating in volunteering activities, young individuals can develop a sense of responsibility and effectively fulfill their duties.



At present, the prevalence of bad habits among youths poses a significant challenge to their success in life. It is crucial for young people to be mindful of their habits and the company they keep.

Several factors contribute to the vulnerability of youths to bad habits, including the pursuit of happiness, fear of facing challenges, feelings of loneliness, peer pressure, and a lack of direction or dreams. These factors can greatly influence their inclination towards engaging in negative behaviors.

Different psychiatrists have emphasized that understanding why people become addicted requires a comprehensive examination of biological, psychological, and social factors. Biologically, addiction can be linked to the brain's reward system. Certain substances such as drugs, alcohol, gambling, and excessive internet use can trigger the release of dopamine, a neurotransmitter associated with pleasure and reward. This pleasurable sensation reinforces the behavior, leading individuals to seek it repeatedly and eventually leading to addiction.

Psychologically, individuals may turn to addiction as a means of coping with emotional or psychological distress. Substance abuse or engaging in addictive behaviors can temporarily alleviate feelings of distress, anxiety, depression, or loneliness.

Social factors also play a significant role in addiction. Peer pressure, societal norms, and environmental influences can contribute to the development of addictive behaviors.

In this case, youths should understand that it is possible to find happiness naturally. There are various yoga therapies that help counter stress.

According to Dejene, addiction affects an individual's brain disorder, cognition, and

Several factors contribute to the vulnerability of youths to bad habits, including the pursuit of happiness, fear of facing challenges, feelings of loneliness, peer pressure, and a lack of direction or dreams

overall well-being. Misuse of substances such as alcohol, stimulants, tobacco, or other illicit drugs is a clear sign of addiction.

He elaborated that individuals who are exposed to bad addicts are advised to undergo rehabilitation therapies such as yoga. According to him, yoga can have a positive impact on cancer recovery by reducing stress, improving physical function, managing side effects, and fostering a sense of community.

Thus, incorporating yoga and other physical

exercises into daily life immensely contributes to the overall well-being and quality of life for individuals on their journey of recovery from bad habits.

He further highlighted that meditation can be a valuable tool in the process of drug recovery, offering individuals a way to cultivate inner peace, self-awareness, and emotional resilience.

One of the primary benefits of meditation in drug recovery is its ability to reduce stress and promote relaxation. It helps individuals build emotional resilience by providing space to explore and process their emotions in a non-judgmental and compassionate manner.

Moreover, leading a healthy life will have a significant contribution to cultivating more productive, responsible, and industrious generations. Thus, the government, media, schools, and other stakeholders are expected to fulfill their responsibilities to protect the new generation from bad habits.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), individuals should be physically active and refrain from bad habits to maintain their health and happiness. Leading a happy and healthy life is possible when youths are well aware of the importance of mental and physical well-being.

WHO guidelines and recommendations provide details for different age groups and specific population groups on how much physical activity is needed for good health. For adults aged 18–64 years, it is recommended to engage in at least 150–300 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic physical activity, or at least 75–150 minutes of vigorous-intensity aerobic physical activity, or an equivalent combination of moderate- and vigorous-intensity activity throughout the week.

Law & Politics

Ensuring shared development and equitable benefits through access to the sea

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Ethiopia has been facing various challenges as a result of its geographical location. Being surrounded by other countries' territories with no direct access to a seaport has made it difficult and expensive to transport goods across its borders. Ethiopian businesses have had to rely heavily on road and rail transportation to get their products to and from neighboring countries. This has caused long delays, additional costs, and logistical challenges which have impacted the country's trade and economic growth.

With access to a seaport, transportation costs associated with trade will see a considerable reduction both in terms of distance and time. This, in turn, will benefit the country's economic growth and development. Ethiopian businesses will be able to offer their products at a lower cost making them more competitive in international markets. This will result in increased demand for Ethiopian products and may encourage the consumption of locally produced goods and services leading to further economic growth for the country.

Seaport access has the potential to attract new foreign investors to the country. Investment in Ethiopia's port infrastructure will signal the country's commitment to expanding its trade and its readiness to collaborate with other nations. This is particularly important for Ethiopia's economic growth given its status as a landlocked country.

Access to the sea enables Ethiopia to be an active participant in regional integration in East Africa. Through collaboration with other African nations, Ethiopia could leverage seaport access to develop a regional trade and transportation infrastructure capable of boosting the country's economic growth and fostering greater regional economic integration.

Seaport access has significant economic benefits for Ethiopia. A seaport will reduce transportation costs, create new jobs, provide better access to international markets and boost Ethiopia's economic growth. Seaport access will also provide national security advantages and contribute to regional integration making Ethiopia a vital player in the Horn of Africa. While Ethiopia faces various challenges in accessing the sea, it is determined to overcome them positioning itself as a hub for trade and transportation in the region.

Furthermore, seaports bring numerous economic advantages beyond increased investment. When Ethiopia establishes a seaport, it creates a secure and efficient channel for transportation enhancing the viability of trade for the country. With greater access to international markets, trading opportunities increase and the economy expands.

Access to a seaport puts Ethiopia in a better position to negotiate more favorable trade agreements and improve its bargaining power in securing international funding. By negotiating better trade agreements, the country can boost its trade relations with other countries which, in turn, will expand the country's trade. Moreover, seaport access stimulates local growth by encouraging local industries such as fisheries and tourism.

Access to a seaport is vital to Ethiopia's



economic growth and development attracting foreign investment, expanding the country's trading opportunities, stimulating local growth and boosting its bargaining power in securing international funding. Beyond trade, seaport access enhances Ethiopia's competitiveness, innovation, and access to technologies.

By accessing a seaport, Ethiopia could increase its export volumes, particularly of perishable goods, by offering a more efficient and cost-effective mode of transportation. This would enable Ethiopia to compete in global markets and help to boost foreign exchange earnings.

Through its seaports, Ethiopia could more effectively monitor imports and exports, facilitate trading relations, and protect its borders. By fortifying its position in the region and enhancing its regional influence, Ethiopia will improve its national security outlook. Ethiopia views access to a seaport as a critical component of its economic and trade policies. It would provide significant advantages in terms of cost reduction, expansion of trade, job creation, and regional integration.

Ensuring shared development and equitable benefits in the horn of Africa heavily relies on the crucial matter of access to the sea. This issue holds great significance, as it directly affects the economic, social, and political dynamics of the countries involved. Without proper access to the sea, nations may face numerous challenges and limitations in their efforts to foster growth and prosperity.

Access to the sea plays a significant role in fostering regional cooperation and integration. It serves as a gateway for cross-border trade, investment, and cultural exchange. Close proximity to the sea allows nations to connect with global markets, attract foreign direct investment, and participate actively in international organizations and initiatives.

Efforts to address the issue of access to the sea require a multi-faceted approach involving various stakeholders including governments, regional organizations, international institutions and local communities. Collaborative initiatives such as joint infrastructure projects, bilateral

agreements, and regional frameworks can help promote shared development and equitable benefits.

Ethiopia's quest for access to sea and alternative ports is supported by existing international laws, bilateral agreements, and regional initiatives. These support structures provide Ethiopia with legal protections and infrastructure development opportunities that will enable the country to achieve its economic goals. By working with other countries and regional organizations, Ethiopia can overcome the challenges related to its landlocked geography and contribute to regional integration and prosperity.

Access to the sea has significant importance for a country's economic and social development providing a gateway to global trade, security, culture, and valuable resources. Coastal states stand at the forefront of globalization unlocking social diversity and economic growth opportunities across borders. It is an essential resource that is vital to a nation's success.

Countries with access to the sea can easily exploit their geographic location to establish trade links with countries across the ocean. Having a seaport can shorten the transportation time and reduce transportation costs making trade more viable. Additionally, a seaport can function as a hub for imports and exports expanding economic activities creating employment and income, and attracting foreign investment.

Ethiopia's quest for access to sea and alternative ports aims at realizing the principle of developing together with other countries by strengthening collaboration in addition to safeguarding its national interest in the region, scholars told ENA.

The country's strategy is also in line with the foreign policy it has been pursuing in East Africa region, they added.

Dire Dawa University Law College Dean, Roba Petros said there are international laws and frameworks that ensure the benefits of landlocked countries, including Ethiopia.

In this regard, Ethiopia's quest for access to sea and alternative ports is supported by existing

international laws, he stated.

In its resolution in 1952, the United Nations has stipulated that the issue of access to sea is the survival of Ethiopia that should be addressed positively, the scholar recalled.

Ethiopia can use this resolution as an alternative means to ensure its right of access to sea, Roba pointed out.

According to the scholar, this same resolution also states that the issue of access to sea is crucial to maintain peace and security in the region.

The scholar elaborated that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea signed in 1982 in Jamaica also allows landlocked countries to use ports located in other countries and to utilize resources in sea.

The laws and international frameworks indicate the fact that Ethiopia has the right to have access to the sea that could be implemented with diplomatic relations of the pertinent countries.

Negotiations and discussions are vital in realizing these rights, Roba said, adding that the idea raised by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed on the issue is based on the principle of give and take.

The scholar stressed the need to explain to countries in the region and the international community about Ethiopia's idea of mutualism.

International Relations researcher, Henok Getachew on his part said Ethiopia's quest for access to sea and alternative ports has been under discussion for a long time.

The demand is legal and coincides with the foreign policy the country pursues in the region, he added.

According to him, the strategy will help Ethiopia to properly understand and safeguard its national interest in the region by establishing good relationship with other countries.

The issue of access to sea is vital in ensuring shared development and equitable benefits in the region, Henok noted.

Ethiopia's quest for access to sea doesn't affect the national interest of other countries and is supported by international laws.



Ephrem Endale
Contributor

Between you & me

“Are We the Undesirables?”

Dear Boss; I've told the last time I managed to write a piece to you. I told you questions like “Where are you from?” are inappropriate. I'm in the place you run not because I want to ask your daughter's hand in marriage but to earn my daily bread. The only thing you need is my skills at doing the job and my discipline. And when it comes to both I hold my head high, my chest out and say I'm proud of my skills for the job and my work discipline. So why are you so adamant trying to learn where I am from! What's giving you the sleepless night many of which I am sure you have?

I'm a law-abiding citizen but I have come to discover you scoff at this fact. Yes, I publicly say that I'm a law-abiding citizen and in the present times where breaking the law seems to have become the new normal I'm proud that fact. If you ask around you'd even find people who look up at me as role model. I know you'd scoff at hearing this and it wouldn't surprise me. That could be giving too much credit where it isn't due! Why am I writing this? I'll tell you why. Someone should remind you your position doesn't give you any right to break the laws and regulations that are supposed to govern all of us in this building. But then how is it possible to have a staff of law-abiding citizens when their boss likes kicking everyone around as if we work for him and not the organization which writes us our monthly checks! The last time I applied for a raise that has passed me more than a couple of years, you didn't have the humility to give legitimate reason

as to why I'm treated as some kind of an outcast. Shouldn't you have! You didn't try to send the message through your one of your private surveillance team. I know this would get me in to some hot water but it has to be said.

With the price of everything having already crashed through the roof as a boss you should have asked yourself how we're managing the whole thing they call life. I'll tell you; by now you should have been looking for ways to help your staff bear the financial burden. Do you know how a sorry piece of bread costs, ten birr! I beg your pardon? That's a very senseless question to raise. How can you ask me if I'm wailing for such a 'small' sum! Yes, I'm wailing about ten birr bread. In a family of six can you imagine what it means to keep the bread on the table daily? With average ten pieces a day you know what the monthly bread expenditure would be, three thousand birr! I wouldn't talk about teff which is supposed to be the ever-present food in any household and we're seeing less and less of it every month.

I could go on listing at how life really looks like for us out here. Of course I'm sure nothing would ring the bells for you. If you were such a considerate person you'd have been looking for ways to help us through the difficult economic times. Have you any idea about the taxi fare we bleed daily to travel to and from work? No, you don't. How could you! You don't even want to know. The only thing you're

capable of is cutting our reputations to pieces just because we raise very simple questions.

A couple of times you've seen my wife and commented positively about her looks. You should have seen her now. She is a different woman. She is managing with practically no makeups, even the very basic and inexpensive ones! Some items she looks like someone has dragged her through the streets face down. But she is holding her head up and going around with her head high. Not that her makeups and my weekend night-on-the-town 'adventures' are priorities. But isn't my wife entitled to some makeup if not all possible; am I not entitled for a few drinks on weekends having worked my &*^ off throughout the entire week! Aren't my kids entitled to the smiles that should be on every child's face? How can I enable them enjoy that when I am finding hard to feed them adequately as I used to?

Your employees are leading life of in practical economic straightjackets and all you worry about is the proverbial 'mystic' enemy behind the curtain! That 'enemy' trying to unseat you from that comfortable chair which sinks almost a full seven centimeters every time you sit on it! That 'enemy' which is spreading gossip about your alleged extracurricular activities while you are doing it out in the open for everyone to see! That 'enemy' who is trying to derail your 'solid marriage' while almost every member of the staff could come up with credible

lists of females with whom you have been 'discovered' in the wrong place and at the wrong time, if the rumors are anything to go by.

Dear Boss, no I'm not going to tell it as it is. I'm not out here to drag your name all over the place because after all this isn't personal. Of course I'm aware you think otherwise. Every application, request, demand that hits your table is about the 'mystic enemy' out to get you. Of course, we don't need someone reading the crystal ball to know that you consider half of the staff as your enemy. Maybe you think all of us are being manipulated by others; others only you know the identity of. But however bad you think of us, however negatively you take our every well-intentioned, positive actions one fact remains that you can't deny; there are those inefficient and ineffective staff members who are so below-par in their performances and yet still get raises and promotions faster than the organizations rule books set while most of us are left out in the cold to freeze. There're many of us whose performances are proof to what we're made of. There are a lot of us who, if you indeed were the kind of boss who acts by the books and the books only, should have been given raises and promotions to higher levels three, four years back. Maybe in your eyes we're the undesirables who should remain locked out however efficient and productive we might be in the performance of the duties entrusted upon us.

“Don't Punch above Your Weight!”

So it's you again! I should have known it. You know what really surprises me! You're perhaps the only one who writes me such disrespectful letters. The words you use are not words staff members write to their bosses. No! And I have been doing a lot of thinking since your last letter. I've been asking questions as the level of your disrespect towards me warrant deeper look. That's what I've been doing; digging deeper to get to the source of the whole campaign against me and my reputation. And I didn't need the services of judge and jury to come to the conclusion that you're playing the messenger boy role. No, no! 'Messenger' is too feeble a term to describe the likes of you. You're playing the mercenary role. Yes, that is what you are. Your last attempt just blew in the wind and they have sent you again giving you the same old mission of destroying the columns on which me and my reputation rest. I asked myself questions which maybe I should have started asking earlier; because if I had risen to what was going on around me earlier you would have been out in the streets with no employer willing to take you in. Believe me it'd have been the easiest thing for me to do running you not only into an unemployed brute but also an unemployable loser. If you think your puppet masters would have come to your rescue in the event of such a scenario then you have a very twisted picture of yourself. You're no body! Didn't anyone tell

you about the fable where the frog which tried to get as big as the elephant simply burst into a hundred pieces!

I asked myself “Who are the people or groups behind this guy?” “Who is giving him the orders?” Because it is about orders isn't it? You were never the real complainant or applicant. You're nothing but the mule willing to be loaded with whatever as long as they keep throwing the crumbs your way. You are just of their many tools with which they think they can bring me down for good. You think I don't know they probably have promised you one thing or another? Maybe some job where you'll be paid twice you're getting now! You'd even do anything for that opportunity, wouldn't you? Well I'm sorry to tell you the sad news that doesn't always work.

What kind of person do you think I am to just sit idle while you people trying to deepen the hole you're digging for me? You wouldn't want me to brush the dust off and climb up again, would you? That would be a whole lot of a different story the Hollywood bigwigs would have paid a cool million or to lay their hands on. I even suspect they have decided who they want to take my place. Did I say 'suspect'? No, it isn't only about suspicion. It has been decided and the talk about the one who has been promised my position is making the rounds. In fact his friends are already bragging about it every

time they have a drink too much. He's so sure he will get my place that they tell me he has started drinking whiskey!

Coming back to you, I didn't know if I should laugh or cry reading about what you said how your wife looked without makeup! You said it yourself and I'm not making this up! You must be a very terrible husband and I really feel sorry for the woman! How can you throw your wife out to the wolves just to make me look bad! Shouldn't you have been her protector! Also the thing you wrote about your family of six is suffering. Well, if there is any blame here it on you. You should have tried to limit your family within your means. And you try to accuse me for having such a large family when you know there's no way you can give them the lives they deserve. Maybe you should have slowed down on this stuff of making children, as they say. So believe me I don't even blink that you are having fewer pieces of bread on your table because it has nothing to do with me.

Then there is this thing about other employees getting raises and promotions you were passed over a couple of years. What can I say! That's one thing you have been itching to get out into the open, isn't it? Now that you've done so do you think it would make any difference? You don't choose the best and the worst of employees, I do. If that hasn't entered your brain until

now I don't think it would ever find its way in because your brain is filled with too much of the wrong stuff. Maybe an extended time away from all work would give you time to feed your brain some of the facts it should have already been fed; just as a sort of simple refresher, take care of the stones on which you step because you don't know which one would give way and send you all the way to the bottom of the pit.

You also wrote about rules. I laughed and laughed out loud. Who do you think you are and what the hell do you about rules and books to tell me what I should and shouldn't have done? Let me tell you about rules; As long as I'm in the position I hold I am the rules! Does that ring loud enough? However bitter the taste, swallow it!

So what should we do about the letter? (Or is it a sort of ultimatum!) Look, I'm not any guy. I wouldn't rush into your office and kick you out the nearest window to the nearest tej bet because that is going to be your usual hangout when I throw the employment termination letter in your face. Are you shocked? You know your biggest problem is that you tried to punch above your weight; and see what happens!

So as you'll be kicked out unceremoniously a little bit of advice from me wouldn't hurt; “Don't ever try to punch above your weight!”

Hmmm...

International

New facility to test practical skills of ICT professionals in Africa

Technology solutions firm Data Infinity has opened a modern practical assessment centre seeking to improve the quality of ICT workers in Africa.

The centre will offer human resource managers and chief technology officers a reliable way of evaluating job seekers' practical knowledge and skills in various ICT domains such as coding, programming, system design and database management.

Data Infinity Chief Executive Tim Kitonyi said that the centre is a response to the major gap between the practical skills and theoretical knowledge of many ICT workers in the region.

He cited a study by his firm that found 60 per cent of new hires lacked the required practical skills and knowledge to perform their ICT tasks and assignments effectively.

Mr Kitonyi said this resulted in high training costs and delays in implementing critical IT solutions for many organisations.

He said Kenya has not been spared in this regard despite being a key source of ICT workers for other African countries due to its reputation as the "Silicon Savannah."

"Kenya has a thriving tech ecosystem, digitally skilled talent, geographical positioning endowment, and ICT-centric public policies. These factors have elevated the country in the region, and as such attract regional and international attention, capital, networks and resources. However, one of the biggest challenges that many organisations face is the struggle to hire good IT people," explained Mr Kitonyi.



He noted that there were less than 5,000 IT professionals in Africa, and that meeting the demand for 120,000 specialised IT professionals would require an investment of Sh48 billion by 2030. "This challenge stems from the fact that apart from the paper certificates, there are no practical platforms to establish the capabilities of new hires.

That is why we have invested heavily in attaining the necessary training and certification requirements so that we can contribute effectively to the overall growth of home-grown IT talent," said Mr Kitonyi. He said Data Infinity has partnered with global technology leaders such as Oracle, Red Hat and Acronis to deliver cutting-edge

enterprise ICT systems, focused training and cyber security solutions.

"We are confident that our new practical assessment centre will help bridge the gap between theory and practice in ICT hiring and ensure that our clients get the best talent for their needs," he added.

#Source the Standard

South Sudan president pledges free and fair elections in 2024

South President Salva Kiir has reiterated his administration's commitment to free and fair elections come 2024 at the end of the transitional period.

He was on Thursday meeting the US Ambassador to Juba, Michael J. Adler in his office.

During the meeting, the South Sudanese leader briefed the US official about efforts in place to ensure all prerequisites for the conduct of free and fair elections are in place.

Ambassador Adler, the state-owned television (SSBC) reported, said he discussed with the South Sudanese leader the requirements for the elections, which includes a legal framework that provides for political and civic space as well as a politically neutral security force that can be achieved by the deployment of the necessary unified forces.

He further disclosed that the Joe Biden administration is working with governments as well as civil society entities around the world to prevent, resolve and mitigate violent conflicts.



However, while President Kiir and members of his administration are determined to push for the conduct of elections, leading opposition and foreign diplomats have expressed concerns that credible elections require addressing the violence across the country.

Already, previously peaceful areas have fallen into traps of tensions and violence, causing fear in Eastern and Central Equatoria, Unity, Warrap, and Jonglei states, as well as the Abyei Administrative Area,

where civilians have endured multiple attacks, fueling a cycle of cattle raiding, abductions, revenge killings and gender-based violence.

South Sudan is expected to hold its first democratic elections in December 2024 as per the 2018 peace agreement. But given disagreements between Kiir and other leading opposition parties, it is unclear whether the potential elections will take place next year.

President Salva Kiir and First Vice President

Riek Machar are already divided on elections conduct, amid concerns over delays in the implementation of key provisions of the peace deal.

Kiir expressed his frustrations on the delays in the polls at the swearing-in ceremony of newly appointed SPLM national advisors, secretaries, and deputy secretaries last month.

In August last year, South Sudan's leaders signed a two-year extension of the transitional government, in a move foreign partners warned as lacking legitimacy.

This was the second time the parties extended the country's transitional period.

Machar said implementation of key provisions in the roadmap is behind schedule.

In July, the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General in South Sudan, Nicholas Haysom said the young nation could still make significant strides towards this December 2024 target to hold elections with political will, adequate resourcing and commitment to create an appropriate political environment.

#Sudan Tribune

PM Abiy visits China, attends 3rd Belt and Road Forum



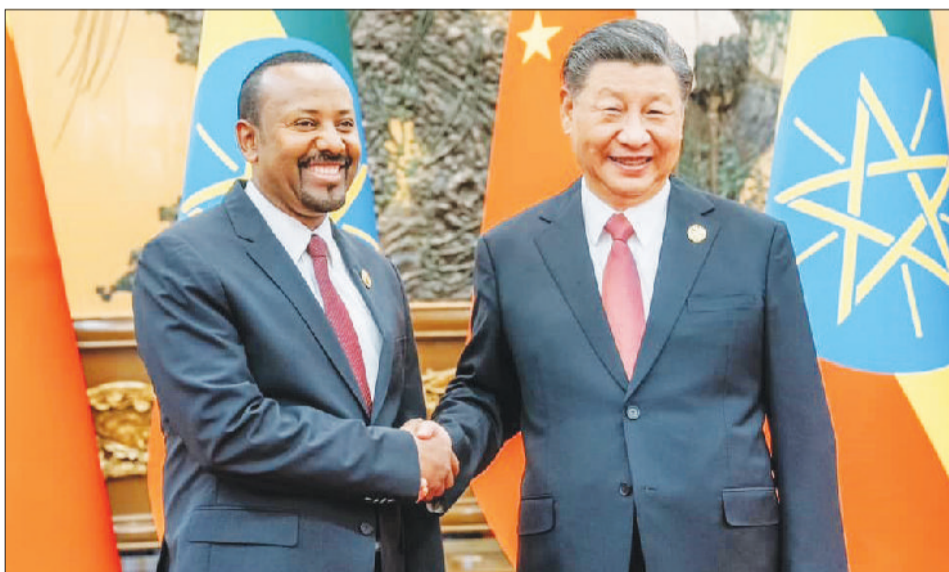
Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) together with his ministerial delegation arriving in China, Beijing on October 15 for an official State Visit. During his arrival in Beijing, Prime Minister, Abiy with First Lady Zinash Tayachew and his delegation, was accorded a warm welcome by the Government of China.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed receiving an official welcoming ceremony by Chinese Premier Li Qiang in his office.

The two leaders discussed on ways of enhancing economic cooperation between Ethiopia and China. PM Abiy and Premier Li Qiang presided over the signing of 12 cooperation agreements and 2 letters of intent in various fields.



Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and First Lady Zinash Tayachew attending the Belt and Road Initiative welcoming banquet hosted by President Xi Jinping. While addressing the Third Belt and Road Forum opening session, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) said that the Belt and Road Initiative strengthens Sino-African relations especially in infrastructural development within the African continent.



During his official state visit to China, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed met President Xi Jinping and held a bilateral meeting at the Great Hall of the People with their respective delegations. President Xi congratulated PM Abiy on Ethiopia's accession to BRICS and announced the elevation of partnership between the two countries from Comprehensive and Enduring Strategic Cooperative Partnership level to an All-Weather Strategic Cooperation Partnership level. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed appreciated Chinese investments in Ethiopia's economy and encouraged more investments in agriculture, manufacturing, ICT, mining and Tourism.

