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Gov't set to hit 7.9 percent economic growth

- Plans economic integration with neighbors

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDISABABA- President Sahlework Zewde announced that the government is working to achieve a 7.9 percent economic growth this Ethiopian fiscal year.

Addressing the 6th year, third tenure of the Joint Session of House of Peoples Representatives (HoPR) and House of Federation(HoF) yesterday, President Sahlework said that the national economy is getting into 'historic shift' since the implementation of the ten-year prospective plan.

All plans are being implemented as scheduled, she said adding that the government is

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Tourism exhibition expects to attract more investors, professionals

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- The National Tourism and Hospitality Investment and Exhibition would play a significant role in welcoming more investors and professionals , so said Ethiopia Tourism and Hotel Market Association.

Ethiopia Tourism and Hotel Market Association, President Getahun Alemu, told *The Ethiopian Herald* that the exhibition hosted by Ministry of Tourism, will be held from October 10 to November 8, 2023 at Science Museum, would not only stimulate investors but it would also encourage other investors to engage in tourism investment.

He said the event would also enable like-minded people to exchange ideas and experience in the sector and allow them to create more market linkages.

The exhibition would bring more than 100 tour-operators, 50 Hotels and service providers as well as the Ethiopian Airlines. Ethiopian Airlines would promote the

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Photo Eyob Teferi



DPM, FM inaugurates ultramodern training , research center on Kaizen here

ADDIS ABABA (ENA)-Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Demeke Mekonnen inaugurated on Sunday a new state-of-the-art training and research center on Kaizen built in Addis Ababa with a 27.5 million USD grant from the Government of Japan.

The center will serve as a hub for African industrial human resource development, and it is expected to spread from Ethiopia throughout Africa.

The center will also provide trainings to employees of manufacturing companies, civil servants, vocational school teachers and Kaizen consultants from the Ethiopian Kaizen Institute on Kaizen methodology.

Kaizen focuses on continuous improvement, increasing productivity, enhancing quality and boosting competitiveness.

At the inauguration ceremony, JICA Senior Vice President Sachiko Imoto said the

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News



Late Tsige Gebreamelak

Renowned journalist, songwriter laid to rest

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDISABABA—Former Editor-in-Chief of The Ethiopian Herald, songwriter Tsige Gebreamelak laid to rest yesterday at Salite Miheret Church .

The renowned journalist , song writer died at the age of 65. His professional career spanned for about five decades.

Tsige graduated in Foreign Languages and Literature from Addis Ababa University in 1977 E.C. He completed his primary and secondary education at Atse Yohannes IV School. Since he was known for his influential works, he wrote songs and lyrics for various vocalists including Tilahun Gessese, Melkamu Tebeje, Tsehay Yohannes, Zemene Melese, Teshome Welde and Netsanet Melese.

It was learnt that his poems in the campus used to attract a larger audience . Most of his works became the subject of political criticism and literary discussion in the Ethiopian newspapers such as Addis Zemen and Ye Zareitu Ethiopia at the time . He was the writer of the most popular Amharic children song “Tshaye Demekech” as well .

Moreover, he served in various capacities as a member of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission. He prepared statements and other written documents on human rights issues with greater depth of contents.

Tsige Gebreamlak was born in 1951 in Mekelle from his father Gebreamlak Gebremichael and his mother Tsehaynesh Gezahegn.

He passed away on September 27, 2016 E.C having undergone treatment.

Irreechaa vehicle to reinforce peace, harmony: Celebrants

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

BISHOFTU –The Hora Arsedi *Irreechaa* celebrants stressed on the need to reinforce peace and harmony by utilizing the values of the festivity.

The celebrants highlighted the need to promote the most important characteristics of the festival including love, unity and forgiveness in a bid to bolster cooperation among citizens.

Celebrant Birke Tsegaye said that *Irreechaa*, the Oromo people’s Thanksgiving Day, cements unity and accelerates national development by stimulating collaboration among citizens.

“*Irreechaa* carries the symbol of unity and peace thereby it should be used for mobilizing the public to a common goal of national development,” she noted.

She observed that people gathered in harmony and peace when the Hora Arsedi *Irreechaa* takes place last Sunday in Bishoftu town of Oromia State.

Birke added that *Irreechaa* is a thanksgiving ceremony in which the Oromo people offers gratitude to its God for all blessings.

On this day, people who fought in the past forgive each other so that are conciliation takes place, she stated.

She further noted that celebrating *Irreechaa* strengthens unity and cement harmony beyond enabling the people to promote and

Photo: Dagene Abera



preserve its culture.

Celebrant Kedir Fete on his part said that *Irreechaa* is ancient Oromo festival which is reviving these days as it is being celebrated colorfully among the Oromos accompanied by various nationalities.

He told *The Ethiopian Herald* that the festival benefits citizens since its main values are promoting love and reconciliation.

Irreechaa terminates hate, preaches peace, brotherhood, love and unison among the

community, he added.

“We need to preserve *Irreechaa* for the generation to come and use it properly in a way it could cement togetherness for development. We should convert this festival into an opportunity for economic development,” Kedir said.

This year *Irreechaa* was celebrated with various thanksgiving programs and rituals in Addis Ababa and Bishoftu by the Oromo people and other Ethiopians regardless of ethnicity, age, sex and other differences.



Photo Eyob Teferi

Ministry puts into action TWG to support oversee job seekers

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA— Ministry of Labor and Skills (MoLS) announced the establishment of the National Technical Working Group (TWG) to assist overseas job seekers in Ethiopia.

Opening the discussion forum focusing on Better Regional Migration Management(BRMM) Programme Brochure yesterday , MoLS Employment and Labor Sector State Minister Asegid Getachew (PhD) said that TWG aims at modernizing the migration management system, identifying challenges faced by countries related to labor migration and setting solutions, facilitating job creation for the citizens of Horn of Africa countries in the region and curbing illegal immigration.

The TWG has been established

incorporating MoLS, the International Labor Organization(ILO) and other partners.

The State Minister also said that the technical working Group will allow citizens to leave the country legally when they leave the country for work. The plan prepared by the group will be approved by the forum and will be implemented.

“It is said that citizens who travel abroad for work can get the necessary training and have enough information about the country they are traveling to, so that they can get the pay they deserve. It is also promised that the technical group will solve the problems faced by citizens who leave the country for employment,” he said.

As to him, migration for job search, if managed properly, will have a significant role in benefiting the countries of origin

and destination of the migrants. However, he said that the multi-faceted challenges faced by migrants in countries of origin, transit and destination put their lives in danger.

Therefore, discussions, consultations, coordination and collaborations have to be applied to solve such problems, he added.

He said that the Ministry has improved the labor market information system, which plays a significant role in facilitating favorable working conditions in the country and putting it into operation.

ILO Country Office for Horn of Africa Director, Alexio Musindo on his part said that the idea of coming together with the TWG is a way of addressing the challenges, opportunities associated with labor migration within and outside the region.

News

Ethiopia, dev't partner stepping up efforts towards WASH implementation

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA - The government of Ethiopia and Lifewater International have been jointly working to provide Oromia and Sidama states with safe water and access to sanitation facilities.

Global Program Implementation Director Zerihun Hailu said at the annual event discussion that Lifewater has been successfully implementing water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) program in Bensa, Dodola, Kokosa and Nensebo districts of Oromia and Sidama states since its establishment in 2016.

Remarking their vision of strategy which is mainly focusing on providing safe water, sanitation improvements and promoting better hygiene practices aiming at achieving maximum health benefits to rural families, he said that they have been implementing comprehensive water, sanitation and hygiene programs in the aforesaid areas.

He said: "In Ethiopia, we have installed a

total of 617 new water centers in Bensa of Sidama State, as well as Dodola, Kokosa and Nensebo districts of Oromia State. Moreover, Lifewater has been undertaking various initiatives such as constructing latrine blocks in schools, water points and significant awareness raising interventions among others."

"We spent over close to 4,000,000 Birr to execute its water, sanitation and hygiene program across four program areas in the last seven years. And hence, the community members were able to redirect their efforts and resources to more productive activities," he remarked.

Citing the significant involvements of the government and the local communities, Oromia NGO's Economic Sector Affairs Team Leader Deressa Degefa said that under the program these actors have been actively involving construction of boreholes, wells and engaging in promotional activities such as building latrine blocks, sanitation practices, and facilitating hygiene education to prevent

the spread of diseases. As to him, a total of over 235,000 individuals benefited from the program.

"We have been implementing long term solutions which are mainly community driven, culturally appropriate and environmentally sustainable. Lifewater WASH program has been focusing on building a healthier and more productive future for remote communities by actively engaging local communities, families, health facilities, community leaders and the government," he opined.

It is indicated that this nonprofit organization is currently operating in East Africa and South East Asia thereby impacting the lives of more than 2.5 million people worldwide.

Ethiopia is hosting the 2023 Lifewater International Annual Global Leadership Meeting which is to be held for the next 5 consecutive days in Addis Ababa. And it is expected to endorse the 2024 budget and review the three-year strategy of 2024-2026.

Tourism exhibition...

aviation technologies, while smart hotels and tour operators would introduce their services and packages to participants.

Apart from sharing its experiences, the Airlines would exchange ideas with tour operators on transit tourism.

Moreover, paper presentation and discussions would be carried out to identify gaps that have been observed in the sector and gather feedback.

Besides the tourist destination that has been inaugurated recently, such event would open doors to put the major drawbacks of the sector on the table and bring about sustainable solution along with concerned institutions.

The President emphasized that the success of tourism is measured by its flow of tourists. Unfortunately, despite having several tourist attractions, tourist flow in Ethiopia is far behind than its neighboring countries.

Thus, due emphasis should be given to promotion activities, organizing exhibitions, as well as conducting and implementing studies.

Furthermore, he indicated that through formulating road map and long and short term plans, the nation needs to compensate the sector that has been highly affected by external and internal factors.

In doing so, the association has signed MoU with Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa and Rwanda focusing on promotion, cooperation and development activities. However, implementing the agreement should not be left to the association, hence, investors and concerned bodies should actively play their role, as to him.

"Promotion is the backbone of tourism sector. Our promotion should be executed in a way that we can reach to more people from all walks of life," he underscored.

"As September is Tourism month, the promotion and other activities that are carried out must take the huge events that take place in this month such as New Year celebration of different societies across the nation, in to consideration."

On the other hand, in order to make the exhibition more inclusive, a plan is set to consolidate efforts with Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sport Ministry and other sectors as well as invite international professionals and sectors in the future, he underlined.

DPM, FM inaugurates...

center will allow Kaizen consultants to provide lectures and hands-on Kaizen training to private sector employees.

She noted Kaizen could be a solution for improving productivity at manufacturing sites planned under Ethiopia's 'Let Ethiopia Produce' national movement.

Imoto added that the center will be a hub for industrial human resource development in Ethiopia and across Africa. It will be a key venue for jointly promoting Kaizen on the continent.

The Kaizen Project is one of JICA's flagship projects in Ethiopia. The center is expected to train thousands of individuals annually and will play a major role in helping the Ministry of Industry achieve its goals.

While inaugurating the state of the art facility, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Demeke Mekonnen said the establishment of this center is one of the many expressions of friendship and longstanding cordial bilateral relationship between Ethiopia and Japan.

"We are glad that Ethiopia is becoming the Kaizen excellent center that serves the whole of Africa," he said, adding Kaizen is embraced

in Ethiopian governance system through programs launched in 2009.

"We have been observing encouraging success stories in enterprises, which are utilizing Kaizen tools, he said. It is time to scaling up the experience to realize our development agenda," he added.

Minister of Industry, Melaku Alebel, said the KAIZEN excellence center represents a significant step forward in our journey towards continuous improvement and growth.

"It is a testament to the unwavering commitment of our government, in collaboration with the people and government of Japan to invest in the future of our workforce and industries."

The government of Japan, through JICA, has been resiliently capacitating our KAIZEN excellence center since 2009, the minister said.

KAIZEN has had a great impact on Ethiopia's manufacturing industry. KAIZEN was being adapted by Ethiopians, he stated.

"We are aware that our industries have been benefiting from the KAIZEN disseminations. The improvement of quality has been improved from 5-46 percent, productivity 15-39 percent and generally speaking from

improvement activities, production waste reduction and elimination efforts above five billion birr in monetary value have been registered."

The Government of Ethiopia has adopted policies to use KAIZEN to further develop the manufacturing and services sectors, as well as hospitals and schools.

Japanese Ambassador to Ethiopia, ITO Takako, on her part said the center will serve as a hub for African industrial human resource development, and it is expected to spread from Ethiopia throughout Africa.

The Nairobi Declaration of TICAD 6 in 2018 pledged to increase the productivity in Africa by 30 percent through the expansion of the Kaizen Initiative throughout Africa as human infrastructure development is one of the priority areas of cooperation between Japan and Africa.

It is to be recalled that on September 30, 2019, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the construction of the TICAD Human Resource Development Center for Business and Industry (TICAD-HRD) the fund covered through Grant Aid from the Government of Japan.

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realizing the plan thereby working to record 7.9 percent economic growth this fiscal year.

According to the President, preparations are also being finalized to the second homegrown economic reform.

Government initiatives that aimed at maximizing productivity are bearing fruits. As a result, surplus agricultural and industrial products have been acquired from Let Ethiopia Produce and Yelemat Tirufat development programs, she mentioned.

The agriculture, service, manufacturing,

and tourism sectors are projected to grow significantly. Accordingly, some 2.1 million hectares of land will be cultivated to yield 810 million quintal of crops this fiscal year, she indicated.

Sahlework also expressed her government's plan to create 3.05 million new jobs including 500,000 for overseas job seekers. Moreover, about 9.15 million jobs will be created in upcoming three years.

Fiscal policies that are under implementation to arrest the growing inflation will be reinforced, the president said, while mentioning that one of major government

plan this year is also to enhance the manufacturing sector to substitute import goods.

"In line with production initiatives, poverty reduction measures like the school feeding and Sunday market projects will be also sustained," she said.

In her briefing on the political situation, Sahlework stated that the government has reaffirmed its commitment to resolve issues via dialogue.

Likewise, negotiation over internal affairs will be started nationwide this fiscal year as

the National Dialogue is anticipated to enter a new phase, she expressed.

This year, the government has renewed its commitment to build democratic institutions, therefore, she pointed out that all parties including armed ones should pursue peace talks.

In connection with border issues, she noted that the government has still firm commitment to continue with peaceful mechanisms. Furthermore, the government is keen to transform its political diplomacy to economic integration with neighbors, she added.

Opinion

Engaging the youth in all matters to benefit them, their country

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

East Africa is one of the populous regions inhabited by more than 488,366,603 people and according to the recent UN report, 70% of the population is below the age of 30 and this implies how youth is the major feature of the region.

Since the decolonization of Africa 60 years ago, similar to other African regions, it came across various upside downs including conflicts because of internal power struggle, cross border war and displacement, poverty, drought, drug as well as human trafficking and terrorism. The mentioned mayhem brought negative consequence on the socio-economic and political development of the region.

After independence, border demarcation and delimitation had not been conducted and as the result, sporadic conflicts between countries were common phenomena and the situation cost the countries in terms of human resource, finance and time. Lack of strong institutions which have the capacity to manage the border areas' administration opened the way for illegal trade and human trafficking which again brought its own negative consequence on the countries' economy.

It is also understood that the mainstay of the region's economy is agriculture characterized by rain fed, subsistence and vulnerable to drought. The sector serves as food supplier to the local market, raw material to the emerging agro- industries, creates employment opportunity to millions and it is the major foreign currency earner.

The underdevelopment of the sector inhibits the region's countries to bring structural change in the economy. It is also understood that the region is one of the least urbanized areas in the world and only 22% of the population reside in the urban center.

The majority of the youth reside in the rural parts engaged in the subsistence farming and live hand to mouth. The absence of sufficient educational institutions in the rural parts of the countries barred the youth not to change their life to the better. They are forced to repeat their parent's life for generations. There is high rural to urban migration and most of the migrants are youth who come to the urban centers to search job but the urban economy fails to accommodate them.

In the urban centers, poverty is already rampant, unemployment is high and due to shortage of residential houses and sky rocketing rents most people reside in the substandard shelters and reside in appalling situation. Therefore, migrants who came from rural parts are forced to engage in the informal sector to win their daily bread. They mostly engage in street vendor, daily laborer, jobs which requires unskilled labor, females join the prostitution and when the situation become worse, some engaged in criminal activities.

On the other hand, when the youth lose

Expanding educational institutions and educating the youth and creating job opportunity also can be taken as a remedy to reinvigorate the youth hope to stay and work in their country

hope upon coming to urban centers for better opportunities, they begin to look for crossing border for migration through contacting human traffickers.

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) report, through human trafficking, only in East Africa, millions of Dollars transact illegally annually and the situation aggravates the corruption network and ultimately harms the countries' poor economy.

Female youth mostly migrate to the Middle East and will be employed as a house maid others also migrate to Europe through crossing Sudan, Libya and Mediterranean Sea.

South Africa, after the abolishment of apartheid in 1991, has become the major destiny of migrants from east Africa. Migrants from Ethiopia and Somalia leave their countries and go to their destine country by crossing borders such as Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, and Mozambique. In their way, they come across various horrific experiences.

As their journey is illegal, they might face police arrest and imprisonment in any country; going inside container trucks may leave them to their death; while crossing borders on foot might be eaten by beast. They also might face other hardship in prison without appearing to court.

Migrants who travel towards Libya through crossing the Sudan border might be abducted by criminal gangs and will be asked to pay money to rescue their life. Their body parts also might be stolen by the criminal gangs. They also might be sold in Libyan open market as slave.

According to studies, there are push and pull factors for migration. Unemployment, poverty, political instability, conflict and drought can be mentioned as push factors.

On the other hand, job opportunity, obtaining better salary, political stability of the destined country can be mentioned as pull factors.

Migrants from east Africa also suffer from various inconsistencies in South Africa. Unemployed young Africans regard migrant Africans from other countries as their foe that crowd out their job opportunity. As a result, the migrants face discrimination by native Africans, looting of their property, biting and even murder.

According to the IOM report, only in the last decade and a half, more than ten thousand African migrants lost their life while crossing Mediterranean Sea due to the submerging of their old boats because of overload.

Italy is the first country which African migrants arrive after crossing the Mediterranean Sea. The country serves both as host and transitor of migrants to other countries of Europe and recently the parliament enacted law to stop hosting migrants and this situation might bring hardship to the migrants in the future.

Horn of Africa is also known by the highest birth rate and population growth. In the economically emerging countries including China, high population is regarded as an asset because it can be a working force, productive and consumer. Behind China's economic development, there is huge number of working force. Particularly the youth play pivotal role in transforming that country's economy.

But in poor countries where there is not enough job opportunity, population growth might be regarded as a burden. Therefore, family planning and managing population growth should be expanded in the rural parts of the countries to deter the ill consequence of rapid population growth.

Expanding educational institutions and educating the youth and creating job opportunity also can be taken as a remedy to reinvigorate the youth hope to stay and work in their country.

Considering the multifaceted problems of the youth and to mitigate it, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has adopted Youth Policy with a view to promoting the rights of the youth and strengthening their engagement in all matters of the region.

IGAD held a landmark ministerial meeting towards the adoption of the IGAD Youth Policy in Kenya, Nairobi recently.

It was indicated during the occasion that the IGAD Youth Policy is a crucial framework for promoting youth rights in the IGAD Region as it is designed to guide and mainstream youth priorities in policies, laws, and programs aimed at empowering youth and ensuring their meaningful participation in political processes.

Supporting the Horn of African youth to unleash their potential is vital. The policy is also believed to play crucial role for the development of comprehensive roadmap and action plan to empower the youth in

the region.

The policy has been developed through extensive consultations with Technical Experts responsible for Youth Affairs from member states, National Youth Councils, Youth-Led Organizations, and the IGAD Secretariat.

Upon concluding their meeting, the ministers have issued a statement on the declaration of the adoption and implementation of IGAD Youth Policy Framework.

They also agreed to establish IGAD technical experts and ministerial committees on Youth Affairs as a platform to oversee, follow up, and periodically take stock of the progress of the implementation of the IGAD Youth Policy Framework.

They also called upon development partners, including the International Financial Institutions, to provide support to the IGAD Secretariat and its member states to make operational the IGAD Youth Policy Framework.

As mentioned above, the youth is in the productive age and has potential to bring miraculous development in the countries within few decades. Providing education and trainings to the youth is vital so that they can be competent in the labor market.

To absorb the unemployed youth stranded in the rural parts of the countries, expanding labor intensive agro industries is essential. To that end, galvanizing both local and foreign investment should be continued. The youth should not be passive in their countries' affairs and governments must create opportunities to unleash their potential by utilizing both their mental and physical capacities.

They have to be empowered through protecting their rights to express their ideas freely by various means, to organize independently and to participate in their countries' political and economic affairs.

In the past, due to the prevalence of dictatorship and the absence of rule of law in many countries, the youth were marginalized from the day to day affairs of their countries and such situation frustrated them and forced to leave their countries.

Unemployment also left the youth to involve in drug and alcohol addiction which abuse their future. In our country, prioritizing the youth issues, the government established the pertinent institutions since long time to provide opportunities to the youth.

The Ministry of Labor and Skills is one of the relevant institutions which create enabling environment for youth empowerment. There are numerous youth organizations from the federal up to the woreda level.

The Ministry, in cooperation with other stakeholders, provides training regarding life skills and creates enabling environment to aspire better future. The role of the Development Bank of Ethiopia in providing loan for their initial capital formation is also immense.

Editorial

Clearest indication for sustainable peace!

Needless to state, all religious and cultural festivals are amity festivals that help citizens pronounce peace lyrics. Thousands of millions of cultural festivity participants gathered for religious and cultural festivals like Meskel and Irreechaa concluded the rituals with absolute peaceful earnings.

Yes, Ethiopia has been marking a number of religious and cultural merriments as peacefully and harmoniously as possible. These celebrations full of serene have prettily exhibited country's being in a state of unwavering stability.

As community engagement is an important mechanism to maintain togetherness in a pluralistic and multicultural country like Ethiopia, active involvement of diverse members of the society with mutually beneficial interactions has to be well focused.

Citizens of different ethnic backgrounds and cultural festivals like the recent Irreechaa and Meskel in Ethiopia promote community engagement along cultural and ethno-religious lines; lessen segregation through what may be extended contact in preparation for the event and establishing relationships and communication between/among citizens. No doubt, Ethiopian inter-religious and inter-cultural harmony is of paramount importance in reinvigorating socio-cultural and tuneful way of living.

Every year, such marvelous cultural and religious celebrations openly invite local community and the social and cultural celebrations like the aforesaid ones have adopted in respective communities. These festivals are key parts of accelerating social integration.

A call for peace and serenity has to be well embarked as it is instrumental in boosting unity among different ethnic groups. The government is now continuously working on finding ways to bring peace and stability across the nation.

It is also promoting citizens' culture and even modernizing it in a beautiful way, like what was observed during Irreechaa celebration. It has really provided citizens with more dignity, respect, and made nations and nationalities proud of Ethiopian's cultures and values.

This year's cultural event is the first of its kind in the capital, with communities proudly exhibiting songs and dances, expressing the cohesion of their diversity.

Such a cultural bond, which has brought together different ethnicities of the country, reflects unity, fraternity and harmony, and makes Ethiopia a country of love, a country that provides ample opportunities for every human being regardless of ethnicity, language, sex, social status or other parameters.

The major assumption behind the notion in the parliament like peace and the issue of high cost of living helps get to know new approaches, cultures, values and experiences, which are capable of increasing mutual understanding among people who have been living in diverse cultural backgrounds.

Unequivocally, building understanding and respect among various religious and cultural aspects is the key to bolster peace and harmony in a multiracial and multi-religious country like Ethiopia. Annual festivities like Meskel, Irreechaa, and others are auspicious occasions for all races to cultivate harmony, goodwill, peace and unity.

Generally, Ethiopia is unique in which the festive occasion of one ethnic group is also celebrated by other ethnic groups and even foreign tourists. Of course, culture is both an enabler and a driver of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development. Really, culture and religious festivities are intangible resources that help citizens glue unity in well-founded peaceful coexistence.

The government has planned to capitalize on dealing with the problems in relation to security, inflation, which results in high cost of living, and other related aspects for the wellbeing of citizens. The national dialogue has to be translated into practical actions as discussion on matters of common good would absolutely pay off. Besides, the growth and development registered especially in the agriculture sector centering rice, wheat and other marvelous changes have to be well expanded as they help address unemployment, which contributes a lot to lasting peace.



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The Ethiopian Herald

Opinion

To Jointly build a community with a shared Future for mankind, for a better world in the future

BY H.E. ZHAO ZHIYUAN

10 years ago, President Xi Jinping propounded the idea of building a community with a shared future for mankind, answering a question raised by the world, by history, and by our times: "Where is humanity headed?" His proposal lights the path forward as the world fumbles for solutions, and represents China's contribution to global efforts to protect our shared home and create a better future of prosperity for all.

The other day, the Chinese Government released a white paper entitled "A Global Community of Shared Future: China's Proposals and Actions", which expounds on China's efforts and achievements to building a community with a shared future for mankind.

Over the past decade, the development of a community with a shared future for mankind has been steadily transformed into actions. On both bilateral and multilateral occasions and in both regional and global domains, fruitful and ground-breaking results have been yielded from the concept in all respects: joint implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the Global Development Initiative (GDI), the Global Security Initiative (GSI) and the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) has produced great dividends for global prosperity and stability and improved peoples' livelihoods with concrete actions. It is universally recognized by the international community that the concept of a community with a shared future for mankind goes beyond egoism and protectionism, breaks through the hegemonic idea of self-superiority, and reflects on China's unique insights into a direction for advancement of humanity. The concept is therefore highly relevant for promoting unity and cooperation among all countries and creating a bright future for mankind.

A China-Africa community with a shared future, as the first regional community deriving from the concept, has become a good example for China and regional countries to build a community with a shared future. Ethiopia, a major African country with great influence, is an important doer to jointly build a China-Africa community with a shared future.

China and Ethiopia work together to forge greater synergy to achieve lasting peace. The two countries, as comprehensive strategic cooperative partners, always firmly support each other on multilateral occasions, actively practice true multilateralism, together safeguard the common interests of developing countries and promote the development of a fairer and more equitable international order. Both sides advocate respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries, respecting each other's' core interests and major concerns, and respecting the development path and social system chosen by the people of a country independently. We both oppose bloc confrontation and exclusive circles, and take a new approach to developing state-to-state relations with communication, not confrontation, and with partnership, not alliance.

China and Ethiopia work together to develop a conducive environment for universal security. The Ethiopian side firmly supports the GSI proposed by the Chinese side, advocates a vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, and remains committed to resolving differences and disputes among countries through dialogue and consultation. China lent its support to Ethiopia in holding the Horn of Africa Peace Conference so as to join hands in promoting the Outlook on Peace and Development in the Horn of Africa. Our two countries are actively exploring new ways for deeper

cooperation and better coordination to maintain security in both traditional and non-traditional domains, promoting dialogues and cooperation in bio-security, cyber-security, data security and AI security, and jointly preventing potential threats.

China and Ethiopia work together to inject greater confidence to common development. Both countries highlight that development issues should be back at the core of international agenda. The GDI proposed by President Xi Jinping highly dovetails with the AU's Agenda 2063 and UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Practical cooperation between China and Ethiopia under the framework of the GDI has produced a rich harvest. The Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway, the Addis Ababa riverside green development project, Chinese medical teams to Ethiopia and other projects have won the heart and mind of Ethiopians, improved their livelihoods, promoted common development and become "a golden business card" for jointly building a community with a shared future for mankind.

China and Ethiopia work together to provide a lasting source of driving force for mutual learning between civilizations. Both countries champion equality, mutual learning, dialogue and inclusiveness between cultures, advocate peaceful and harmonious coexistence between civilizations, together take creative steps to advance human civilization and enhance popular support for relations between countries by promoting mutual understanding and affinity between peoples. Two Confucius Institutes have been set up in Ethiopia. Amharic language major has been set up in a Chinese university. Communication in each other's' language leads to people-to-people connectivity. Not long ago, the Chinese Embassy in Ethiopia held the National Day Reception in celebration of the 74 anniversary of the People's Republic of China. During the Reception, Chinese and Ethiopian artists together staged traditional folk performance, showing that China and Ethiopia as two ancient civilizations advance their civilizations in a creative way by exchanges, mutual learning and integration. A series of exchanges between cultures and mutual learning between civilizations have been a vivid demonstration for implementing the GCI.

China and Ethiopia work together to preserve ecology through concrete actions. Both countries commit themselves to practicing the harmonious coexistence between humanity and nature, raise the awareness of the need to respect, accommodate and protect nature, make green development a concept deep-rooted in people's mind, make steady and long-term progress in global ecological conservation and join hands in protecting the Mother Earth for the sake of human survival. The "Green Legacy Initiative" proposed by Prime Minister Abiy Ahemd Ali encapsulates a similar vision with the harmonious coexistence between man and nature—one of the defining feature of Chinese modernization—proposed by President Xi Jinping. Under their guidance, both China and Ethiopia have made important contributions to preserving ecological environment and tackling climate change.

Friends, a line of an ancient Chinese poem reads, "Riding the winds and cleaving the waves, I will set cloud-like sail to cross the vast ocean." We are ready to walk hand in hand with all parties including Ethiopia, hold high the banner of a community with a shared future for mankind, tackle current global challenges in joint efforts and build an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security, and common prosperity!

Editor's Note: The author of this article is Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Business & Economy



Fishermen on Lake Chamo, Arba Minch with their boats and their catch on the beach stock

A glimpse of aquatic wealth multifarious advantages

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Being well endowed with a number of water bodies such as rivers and lakes that can potentially provide Ethiopia with abundant seafood, the country is left with a long journey in terms of properly exploiting the aquatic bounties from the fishery sector. It has been common these days that fish play a key role in filling the nutritional requirements of human beings and the public expenses to improve productive capacity in aquatic food across the nation. A lot has been done for expanding fishery sector via supplying fishing boats, refrigerators, fish nets and other supplies for a similar purpose to quench such an alarming increase in due course of meeting fishery demand in Ethiopia.

Taking the huge significance of fishery into consideration, *The Ethiopian Herald* approached Waqgari Tessema, a Biologist graduated from Haramaya University and specialized in aqua-life to garner professional knowledge about the significance of seafood or fishery products for economic progress and food security.

He said, “It is really significantly useful to closely see why and how people fish for the purpose of boosting livelihood and guaranteeing welfare. Development in fish production would have great economic contribution to Ethiopia as fisheries provide employment, food and income. Fish provide fatty acids critical for brain development as well as protein and minerals.”

As to him, good fisheries’ governance can contribute to sustainable aquatic resource management and fish production potential of Ethiopia is immense enough. Lake Tana, Ashenge, Hayk, Koka, Ziway, Langan, Hawassa, Abaya and Chamo, among others, are among the potential fish rich lakes found in the country.

There is a major priority to maintain food security at the national and household levels for Ethiopia. Though ongoing efforts are being exerted to provide a more stable, sustainable and predictable food supply in Ethiopia, the ever increasing population growth in the nation has been contributing to chronic under-nutrition and food insecurity.

Aquatic animals in general do contain a high level of protein with good amino acid profile similar to that of the meat of land animals. The flesh of a fish is also readily digestible and immediately utilizable by the human body, which makes it suitable for complementing the high carbohydrate diets. Compared with land animals aquatic animals have a high percentage of edible flesh, and there is little wastage.

The fatty acid content of fish is highly polyunsaturated and particularly those which are attributed to reduce blood cholesterol. Aquatic animals are also source of minerals such as calcium, iron and phosphorus as well as trace elements and vitamins. There are also some indications that certain fatty acids in fish may provide protection against renal disease, he elucidated.

Yes, he said smallholder farmers and family farming dominate the agricultural system, and there are ongoing supplies of technology and inputs for various agricultural sectors such as crop production, livestock, apiculture and fishery which led to increased yield in the country.

To be more specific, fisheries are one of the important and renewable natural resource bases for many developing countries, and the livelihood of many rural communities relies on the fishery sector. Accordingly, fisheries are a key sector for reducing poverty and it could be considered as a potential strategy because it helps diversify household income directly and indirectly, he added.

Truly speaking, for Ethiopia fish could be one of the most important commodities in terms of ensuring food security and providing national income when exported if the nation capitalizes on the sector as per its many seafood sources, he added.

“However, lack of sufficient demand, hygiene and lack of cool chains to transport products to market has been compromising the development of the fishery sector in Ethiopia. Surprisingly, rivers and other water resources of Ethiopia are considered as huge potential sources of fish and employment opportunities and the nation is known as the water tower of Eastern Africa, which provides about 86 % of the Nile water. No doubt, the big fresh water artificial lakes like

the ones which are going to be developed at beach of the Grand Abbay Dam will be reliable sources of fish production potential in the country,” he elaborated.

As to him, the dam will be creating fishing opportunities for cooperatives and households providing an alternative income source for member households and individual citizens.

He further stated that fish possess a great economic, nutritional, medicinal, industrial and aesthetic values as well as providing employment for millions of people in Ethiopia. They contribute to food security, providing a valuable supplement for diversified and nutritious diets.

Poor purchasing power of the citizens, the remoteness of fishing areas, poor human and institutional capacity, the lack of basic infrastructure and equipment, the degradation of natural resources and the limited funds to implement the country’s strategies, plans have had direct repercussion to the low level of production of the fishery sector.

Consumption of fish has several health, nutritional, environmental and social advantages over other terrestrial animal meat. Even when consumed in small quantities, fish often comprises a nutritionally important part of many people’s diets in developing countries. It is a vital source of protein and micro-nutrients, and improves the quality of protein in largely vegetable and starch-based diets by providing essential amino acids. Fish provides nutrients and micro-nutrients that are essential to cognitive and physical development, especially in children, and are an important part of a healthy diet.

Therefore, fisheries are regarded as an important sector in the effort to increase animal protein consumption and achieve food security for the growing population, he opined.

National fish demand is somewhat seasonal and large quantities of fish are consumed secured from major fish production areas such as the Great Rift Valley lakes, and major towns, particularly in Zeway, Arba Minch, Tana, among others. As far as employment opportunity is concerned, the fishery sector has grown more rapidly than both population rise and employment in agriculture. A

considerable workforce is employed, both directly and indirectly, by fishery sectors which also help sustain livelihoods of local communities.

Fishery sector plays a significant role in the economic development of a country in terms of employment, income and provision of principal protein to the diet. The fishery sector in Ethiopia generates a variety of benefits, including nutrition and food security, livelihoods, employment, exports and foreign currency and conservation and biodiversity values that are of paramount significance. Fish and fishery products are valuable sources of protein and essential micro-nutrients for balanced nutrition and good health.

Farmed fish in Ethiopia is an integral nutrition, income earning and employment commodity for rural households, he added.

“Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. As one growing demand for food is rising, the balance between demand and supply of consumer goods has to be made balanced by arranging alternative sources of food; hence, seafood and fishery is an activity practiced in different parts of the country to this end.”

Besides, fishing activities are practiced at different water bodies both by individual fisherman and cooperatives. However, as the activity is practiced using traditional means and did not aid by modernized technology due to various problems like poor implementation of policies and regulations, irresponsible fishing activities, poor coordination and management of the resources and stakeholders, and lack of fishing facilities and infrastructures.

Waqgari further said since most of the fishermen start fishing activities because of their failure in education, the sector is forced to be based on the traditional knowledge and skills. Since such a niggling aspect affects the marketing of fish in many ways including technology adoption or adaptation, production improvement and communication, fishery knowledge and experience needs to be well promoted to help the nation reap benefit it deserves out of the sector.

In the Sphere of Diplomacy

BRICS- building fairness, Ethiopia's image as regional power

BY SOLOMON WASSIHUN

For several years now, we have been watching the slow but sure shift of the equilibrium of global power from the West to the East. The economic giants of the East such as China, India, and Russia, representing the Global South's demand for a fair and just world order, are confidently expanding their influence in terms of military power, trade, investment, high-tech capabilities, and access to high-value natural resources, and so on.

The global political and economic landscape is changing much faster than we realize. In a short period of time, the BRICS have gone from being an investment thesis to a global force to be reckoned with. Just 15 years ago, the word BRICS was an almost unknown term; now it dominates the global political agenda.

The GDP of the BRICS bloc has already surpassed that of the G7, the group of the world's most advanced economies. According to PPP based comparison, the BRICS account for about 32 % of global GDP, which is more than that of the G7 share which is around 29 %.

Following its decision last month to more than double the number of its member states, next year the BRICS bloc would grow to cover close to half of the world population, about one-third of the global GDP, over a quarter of global exports, over 40% of global oil production and would cover far more land surface than the G7 bloc. With all these and other facts, BRICS has assumed the power to shake the existing unfair world order.

It originally started as BRIC with only four nations about 15 years ago, then a year later it became BRICS, and now after 14 years it became BRICS+. But there is something funny about this bloc. Unlike the G7 block, it is a group of unequals. There is a wide difference in the policy and size of their economies. They have differing alignments with the West.

Some analysts say BRICS is the outcome of the struggle of the Global South against the unfair nature of the existing world order which is under the hegemony of Western powers that account for a minimal portion of the world population and natural resources.

Most of the global multinational agencies like the UN are under the spell of these powers. The voice of the global south is underrepresented in the UN. The West is in control of 60% of permanent seats of the UNSC, while the share of continents of Latin America and Africa is zero. It is unthinkable to access the services of the IMF and World Bank, the two international agencies supporting the structure of the world's economic and financial order, without getting the green light from the Western powers. The undisputed supremacy of the US dollar in the global financial system and trade is another



example of unfairness.

Under the backdrop of these situations, it is not at all surprising to see the rise of an alternative economic bloc, BRICS, which has won the favor and confidence of so many states in the global South.

Above all the news that came from South Africa during the BRICS summit, the one that took the international community by surprise most was the inclusion of Ethiopia on the list of countries invited to join the block next year.

The recent expansion of BRICS to become BRICS Plus is not just adding the number of members, rather it is a carefully calculated strategic move driven by geopolitical and economic reasons. It is more likely a decision made by the BRICS leaders with two things in their mind- the need to get ahead in the competition against the West to control natural resources and assert a strong influence on the increasingly tensioned region of the Red Sea. This region is, as some analysts put it, the chocking point of the major strategic trade route linking the East with the West.

Four of the six states invited to join BRICS are in the Red Sea region. These are Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt and Ethiopia. Moreover, the fifth one, Iran is another Middle Eastern state that shares a maritime border with the other two BRICS entrants, UAE and Saudi Arabia.

The BRICS decision is indicative of the fact that the Red Sea region would continue to be the most strategic and fiercely contested region of the world, where major powers would spend their time and resources to ensure the protection of their interests.

In light of this assessment, Ethiopia's invitation to join the BRICS should not be regarded as a favor to Ethiopia. The major BRICS powers need Ethiopia for their strategic objectives just as much as Ethiopia needs their financial

Four of the six states invited to join BRICS are in the Red Sea region. These are Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt and Ethiopia. Moreover, the fifth one, Iran is another Middle Eastern state that shares a maritime border with the other two BRICS entrants, UAE and Saudi Arabia

cooperation without jeopardizing its long-standing beneficial relations with the G7 nations. Ethiopia's admission to the BRICS club has huge symbolic value in upgrading the country's image in the global arena. The increased possibility of alternative ways of conducting trade and investment without the need to use the US dollar is another advantage.

It is unfair not to recognize the invitation of Ethiopia to join BRICS as one of the foremost diplomatic successes scored by the incumbent Ethiopian government during the just-ended Ethiopian year. This success undoubtedly can be interpreted as an indirect recognition of Ethiopia's stature as a geopolitical heavyweight and indispensable regional power in the Red Sea region. Some International media analysts covering the news of BRICS have been heard describing Ethiopia as the powerhouse of the Horn of Africa.

Two weeks after the news of Ethiopia's invitation to join the BRICS, so many political analysts are still wondering in disbelief, and only guessing how that happened. We may not know the criteria that the BRICS leaders employed to choose Ethiopia over the other African heavyweights Algeria and Nigeria, both of which are well ahead of Ethiopia in terms of industrialization, infrastructure, and development of strategic natural resources like oil/gas.

"In the list of new entrants [to the BRICS], one name stood out sparking debates and discussions: Ethiopia. This East African nation with its unique history and rapid development strides was a surprise addition for many. Ethiopia is joining the BRICS and is shaking the [regional] geopolitical landscape." says Anastasia Golyakova, a publicist writing on BRICS affairs.

But there is one thing we can be sure of. Hereafter, the international community, be it for political and economic considerations, would look at Ethiopia with glasses different from the one they used in the past.

and technological support to realize its socio-economic development objectives, especially in building economic and social infrastructures and nurturing a speedy growth of the manufacturing sector.

Like other African nations, Ethiopia considers BRICS as an alternative venue for bilateral and multilateral economic

Law & Politics

Achieving brighter future through consolidated participation in National Dialogue

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

The national dialogue process in Ethiopia is heading in the right direction by fulfilling everything required for positive change and progress. It is critical in strengthening Ethiopia's democracy and creating an inclusive society for all stakeholders.

In a similar vein, the national dialogue process in Ethiopia is making strides towards success by adhering to the promised measures for reform and advancement.

Various efforts have been undertaken to ensure that the set objectives are achieved and that the nation is propelled towards sustainable growth. Through constructive conversations and consultations, the people of Ethiopia are able to voice their concerns and aspirations towards a better future.

By prioritizing the need for positive change and progress, Ethiopians are coming together to build a brighter future for the country. Through this process, Ethiopia's democracy is being strengthened ensuring that all citizens have access to fair representation and decision-making processes.

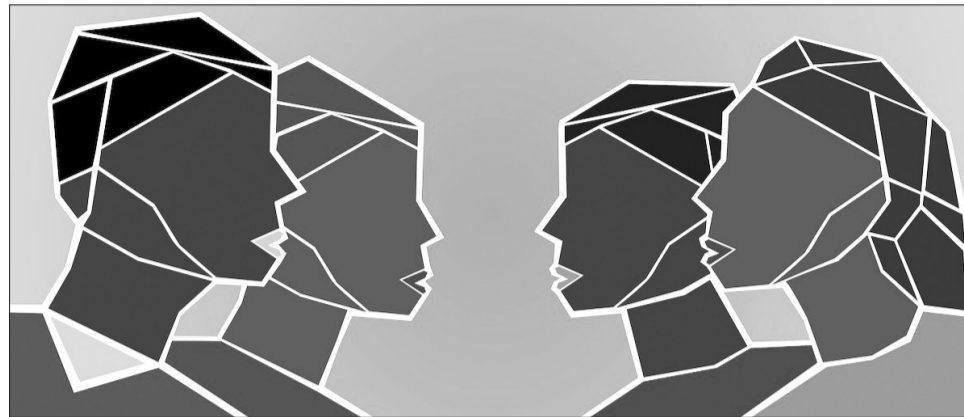
By recognizing the shared responsibility that they have for the future of the country Ethiopians are opening up space for constructive dialogue that is transparent and accountable. This is helping to create a more peaceful and respectful environment where all opinions are valued and heard. Moreover, the national dialogue process is providing an opportunity for all Ethiopians to work together towards common goals.

The national dialogue has been successful in increasing transparency and accountability in the political landscape. It has opened up space for better communication and has provided opportunities for stakeholders to engage in constructive dialogue. The process has also fostered a peaceful and respectful environment for all participants to voice their thoughts and opinions freely without any fear.

By prioritizing positive change and progress, Ethiopians are working to strengthen their democracy and create a more inclusive future. Through consolidated participation, stakeholders are building a shared vision for the country that reflects its diverse interests and experiences.

The openness and inclusivity of the national dialogue process have strengthened the sense of ownership and participation in the democratic process in Ethiopia. Every stakeholder now feels valued and has a significant role to play in the development and progress of the country. This has created a sense of shared responsibility which is essential for sustainable progress.

The process has encouraged Ethiopians to come together to work towards a common goal and celebrate what makes them unique as a nation. This has led to an increase in national pride and a renewed commitment to building a better Ethiopia for all its citizens. The consolidation of participation in the



national dialogue process in Ethiopia is a crucial factor for the country's democratic progress.

To consolidate participation, Ethiopians must approach the national dialogue with an open mind. This means that everyone should be willing to listen to different opinions and perspectives from all stakeholders. It also means that they must be willing to consider constructive criticisms and suggestions without being defensive or dismissive. This approach is essential in ensuring that the national dialogue process accommodates all views and opinions in a constructive and peaceful way.

In addition, Ethiopians need to approach the process with mutual respect. This implies that all stakeholders must recognize and acknowledge each other's differences, experiences, and concerns. No opinion shall be disregarded or disrespected regardless of the social status.

In a national dialogue process, all stakeholders should prioritize the country's interest over their personal interests. This implies that all opinions and suggestions must be geared towards creating a bright future for Ethiopia and its people. Therefore, any personal, political, or social differences and interests must be put aside while making decisions.

Consolidated participation in the national dialogue process by Ethiopians ensures effective decision-making. This implies that all decisions made during the process will have the interests of all stakeholders in mind and everyone would own the outcomes. Effective decision-making will also lead to greater inclusivity by bringing all voices to the table ensuring that all groups and individuals are appropriately represented.

Ethiopia has various opportunities for development but they can only be harnessed if all stakeholders work together towards a common goal. Through consolidated participation, Ethiopians can reduce the likelihood of neglecting essential sectors that require attention for the development of the country.

Consolidated participation ensures that conflicts are resolved through dialogue and consensus rather than violence or retribution. It also helps in building a peaceful and stable society. Consolidated participation in the national dialogue process provides a

chance for Ethiopians to develop a shared vision of their future. This vision is critical for sustainable democratic progress as it provides the necessary framework for inclusivity, respectful coexistence, and effective decision-making.

Consolidated participation in the national dialogue process is fundamental to Ethiopia's democratic progress. Ethiopians must approach the process with an open mind, mutual respect, and a willingness to work towards a common goal. Consolidated participation ensures that all stakeholders have a voice in decision-making, promotes inclusivity, sustainable development, trust-building, peace, stability, and security.

By engaging in the national dialogue with this mindset, Ethiopians can ensure that all voices are heard and that the democratic progress of the country is not hindered by confrontation or conflicts of interest. Moreover, the consolidation of participation in the national dialogue is critical because it provides an opportunity for Ethiopians to examine and address the structural, systemic and cultural deficits in the country's governance.

To consolidate their participation, Ethiopians need to approach the national dialogue with an open mind recognizing that mutual respect and understanding are crucial components of the process. This means that all stakeholders including the government, opposition, civil society, and other interest groups should be willing to share their perspectives in a constructive and peaceful manner.

By consolidating participation in the national dialogue, all stakeholders can work together to identify these deficits and develop a common vision and framework for addressing them. Another reason why Ethiopians should consolidate their participation in the national dialogue process is that it helps to promote the representation of marginalized groups in decision-making process.

The consolidation of participation ensures that all stakeholders have a shared vision for the country's future and they are all responsible for achieving that vision. This shared vision and responsibility provide the foundation for sustainable democratic progress in Ethiopia. Furthermore, consolidated participation in the national

dialogue process is necessary because it promotes respect for the rule of law and fosters a culture of democracy.

Through consolidated participation, Ethiopians can ensure effective decision-making, inclusivity, sustainable development, trust-building, peace, stability, and security. This, in turn, will create a bright future for Ethiopia and its entire people.

It is essential that all stakeholders engage in the process with an open mind, mutual respect and a willingness to work towards a common goal. Through consolidated participation, Ethiopians can ensure effective decision-making, inclusivity, sustainable development, trust-building, peace, stability, and security. The consolidation of participation in the national dialogue is essential for the democratic progress of Ethiopia. To consolidate their participation, Ethiopians need to approach the process with an open mind, mutual respect, and a willingness to work towards a common goal.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said the upcoming National Dialogue promises to be an important milestone in the country's collective efforts to bring about understanding on contested issues, according to information obtained from the Ethiopian News Agency.

The National Dialogue Commission presented a status report to the Prime Minister and high level government officials.

The session included an update on the works undertaken by the National Dialogue Commission thus far.

Institution building, stakeholder's engagement, crafting a dialogue process, identifying dialogue participants as well as pending tasks and challenges requiring assistance for a successful dialogue process are among the works so far undertaken.

During the occasion, Prime Minister Abiy said the upcoming National Dialogue promises to be an important milestone in our collective efforts to bring about understanding on contested issues.

The Commission Chairman, Professor Mesfin Araya stated that the commission has so far identified participants of the dialogue in five regional states and two city administrations noting that similar activities will further be strengthened.

The National Dialogue Commission with eleven members came into effect since February 23, 2022 with the main objective of facilitating consultations among various segments of the society on fundamental issues of the country by identifying the root causes of existing differences through dialogue.

It is also aimed at laying strong social and political foundations on the basis of which the current problems of the country will be solved in a sustainable manner and ensure lasting peace.

Society

Irreechaa: Beyond Thanksgiving Day

BY STAFF REPORTER

The annual *Irreechaa* festival, the thanksgiving holiday of the Oromo community, celebrated at the end of the rainy season, at the first month of the Ethiopian New Year (Meskerem), was marked warmly and colorfully, last weekend, on Saturday and Sunday.

This year's festival was celebrated under the title "*Irreechaa*: A symbol of fraternity and unity."

The festival, especially in the capital, Addis Ababa at the Hora Finfine and Bishoftu at the Hora- Harsadi was marked in the presence of *Aba Gedaas* and *Hadha Siinqes*, government officials, guests and tourists and a large number of people, Oromo and non-Oromos, residing in the cities and the surrounding areas as well as from various parts of the country and abroad to partake in this colorful festivities.

This year's *Irreechaa* festival was celebrated in a peaceful manner; without any security challenges.

Following the two successive days *Irreechaa* celebrations, *Aba Gedaas* and *Hada Siinqes* who were in presence at Hora- Harsadi festival carried out in Bishoftu, told ENA that the rite has been a platform that our peace and unity in diversity is demonstrated evidently.

According to *Aba Gedaa* Dechassa Wedajo who was in the celebration of *Irreechaa* festival at Hora- Harsadi, Bishoftu, this year's *Irreechaa* festival has shown the unity and peace of the people in diversity.

Hada Siinqe Shemsiya Gutama on her part said that *Irreechaa* is a symbol of peace, love and togetherness. "Thus, we all have a responsibility to pass the *Irreechaa* festival to the next generation. Especially, the young people are duty bound to preserve the value of the festival and make it a national treasure," she added.

Aba Gedaa Soboka Leta also said that the *Irreechaa* festival is a manifestation of the country's identity and peoples' unity. So, its value should be preserved and passed on to the next generation. To this effect, concerted efforts should be exerted to handover the heritage with its prestige and value to the next generation.

Furthermore, by introducing *Irreechaa*, which has a great tourism potential to the world and enhancing the benefit of the sector is central, he remarked.

Likewise, some of the participants who attended the festival also reflected their impression about the festival. According to Birhanu Sorsa, the celebration of *Irreechaa*, which is a sign of unity and peace, is allowing the generation to understand its value properly. Further works should be done in a more concerted manner than before to pass on the value of the festival to the next generation.

Meanwhile Kenyans who participated in the festival at the Hora-Finfine, in the capital Addis Ababa also indicated that *Irreechaa* festival is a cultural value that strengthens people-to-people ties.

Expressing their amazement by the ceremony they have witnessed, Yosef Tuse, Kenyan,



Celebration of *Irreechaa* at Hora Harsadi, Bishoftu

who came to attend the celebration, said that Ethiopia, which is the ambassador of Africa, should focus on result-oriented activities and undertake effective marketing works to promote its diverse culture, food culture, and untapped potential tourism destinations to the world.

He also mentioned that Ethiopia and Kenya have long established historic and people-to-people relationships that transcends generation to generation.

This age-old friendship should be developed in a way that ensures the mutual benefit of the people of the two sisterly countries; and

celebrating *Irreechaa* together is an important platform to further strengthen the bond.

Tuqa Jirmo, the other Kenyan, on his part said that celebrating the festival with Ethiopians brothers and sisters is appealing.

Irreechaa does not only show the unity of the Oromo people, but it is also a festival that embraces reconciliation and peace and a good value that the people of the world can learn from and exercise it to themselves. Festival's cultural festivals have crucial importance to unite the people. It is necessary to promote and expand *Irreechaa* to make more people come and celebrate the festival, he said.

Veteran journalist, song writer Tsige Gebreamlak dies aged 65

Renowned journalist and song writer Tsige Gebreamlak, has passed away on Sunday, 8 September 2023 and laid to rest yesterday at St Saalite Mihret Church, around CMC area, here in Addis Ababa.

Tsige was born on 4 July 1959 in Mekele city to his father Gebre Amlake G / Michael and his mother, Teshaynesh Gezahegne. After completing primary and secondary education at Emperor Yohanes School in his hometown, he had graduated with bachelor's degree in foreign languages and literature from Addis Ababa University.

Tsige has been in prison for about a year due to his political participation in EPRP. After being released from prison, he formed a music band along with friends. One of his works that made the band famous was the song "Yeafe tagaye" which literally means nominal fighters.

This song has won him close friendship with one of Ethiopia's to song writers Yilma Gebrab. By then, Yilma was the guitarist of the Band. "He [Tsige] was a man who despised the earthly world, did not obey the cadre, and had a strong personality of his own" said Yilma.

"Tsige used to write poems in few minutes and sent to us soon while he was in prison," he recalled with admiration.

After being release from prison, Tsige continued to compose lyrics and melody that made many famous singers of our country more influential and popular. Among the singers who have performed Tsige's works are Honorary Doctor Tilahun Gesese, Hirut Bekele, Netsanet Melese, Tsehaye Yohannes, Melkamu Tebeje, Teshome Wolde and Zemene Melese. In particular, the seven songs in



the album entitled 'Yichi Nat chawata' which Dr. Tilahun played after recovering from his illness, are the works of Tsige.

Tsige has written the lyrics and melody of the 16 works for the two albums of the famous veteran singer Melkamu Tebeje, including "Gud Andsemon New" and "Yan Gora Beyet Liksewew".

He also wrote the lyrics of many songs by the famous female singer Netsanet Melese such as "Ende Hamle Tsehaye", "Ere Min Honehal Semonune Ante Sew", and "Menew jal".

Tsige, has contributed many poems and songs to the cultural center of the university. He was also

known for delivering deep, unique and system-shaking poems at programs organized in the university campus.

In particular, his lyrics of the song "Yichi nat chaweta" by Ethiopia's all time famous singer Tilahun Gesese's was the subject of hot political criticism and literary discussion in the Ethiopian newspapers of the Addis Zemen, Yezareyitu Ethiopia including the "Serto Ader" newspaper, which was the organ of the then ruling party, Workers Party of Ethiopia (WPE). This art works had put him at loggerheads with the officials of the then Derg regime.

Another popular music especially among children for decades was "Tsehaye Demekech". It was popularly beamed on the children's program of Ethiopian Radio in the 1970's to 80s. However some song writers made a botched claim to have written this song. Tsige's reaction for such claim was to keep silent for years and finally expressing the truth on one of his Facebook posts.

Tsige's colleagues and friends testify to his diligent at work, voracious reading habit and professionalism filled with deep and free opinion. A lot many of Tsige's artistic works are left unpublished. It is also known that he was admirable and popular by presenting in-depth analysis, criticisms and artistic works in newspapers.

Though especially remembered for his writing skills Tsige was also transferred from *The Ethiopian Herald* newspaper to the English Desk of Ethiopian Television where he worked as the head of the department for 3 years.

Then, starting from freelance journalism, he worked as editor-in-chief for *The Ethiopia*

Herald, the largest English newspaper of our country for four years. In recognition of his skills which he had proved in practice, the former President of the country Dr. Negaso Gidada, who was the Minister of Information at the time, had offered him a position as the general manager of one of the media institutions. He, however, declined to leadership position as he rather preferred to work as a professional.

Tsige was dismissed from his position as Editor inChief of *The Ethiopian Herald* for allowing the publication of an opinion article that entitled "BPR cannot be implemented with this kind of leadership and working system" which criticizes the implementation of the Business Process Reengineering (BPR), in the 1990s.

After that, he became an excellent professional who served diligently in various institutions. In particular, when he served as a member of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, he prepared statements and other written documents on human rights issues with great depth of thought.

While working as the head of the Information and Communication Team of the Human Rights Commission, he traveled to Ghana and Greece to exchange experiences with experts. In the past, he had the opportunity to visit America, China, Israel, Djibouti and other countries.

In 1974, Tsige was deployed to Kebri Dehar, in today's Somali State as a participant of National youth campaign for Development popularly known as *Edget Behiberet* as well as the villagization campaign in Metekel area located in today's Benishangul Gumuz state.

Planet Earth

Adding value to animal...

he said. For instance, there are times when we contribute blood and dung from slaughter for the composting process, he added.

Recycling animal slaughter waste, such as bones, trimmings, and leftover organic matter, can be composted to create high-quality fertilizer for agricultural purposes. Through implementing community-based composting initiatives, individuals can actively participate in waste reduction and contribute to the enrichment of soil health. Moreover, these fertilizers provide essential nutrients to the soil, improving its fertility and promoting sustainable agricultural practices. Local farmers and agricultural cooperatives can benefit from the availability of organic fertilizers, reducing their dependence on chemical-based alternatives and contributing to long-term soil conservation.

According to him, the company generates revenue by converting animal slaughter remaining products into value-added products. In this sense, he further stated that during the last fiscal year, the enterprise has obtained some 210 Million birr from the sale of by-products like fats, soup bones, tails, horns, and other unwanted byproducts.

And also, it is a renewable energy source

that can be generated by the anaerobic digestion of organic waste. By capturing the methane gas emitted during the decomposition process of animal slaughter waste, communities can produce clean and sustainable energy for cooking, heating, or even electricity generation.

Furthermore, with composting and biogas production, there are opportunities to explore recycling initiatives for animal slaughter waste. The bones can be processed into bone meal for other animals like hens and dogs, which has applications in various industries, including domesticated food, pharmaceuticals, and fertilizer production. The skins and hides can be utilized in the leather industry, supporting local craftsmanship and economic growth.

Animal hides are primarily used to produce leather, which is a durable and versatile material. Like in the manufacturing of items such as shoes, bags, belts, jackets, furniture upholstery, and various other leather goods.

Also, he said that the skin and hides can be processed to obtain other by-products such as gelatin, which is used in food, pharmaceuticals, and cosmetics. Fatty substances like tallow, which is rendered animal fat, can be used to make soap, candles, and lubricants.

In some cultures, animal hides are used for

traditional purposes such as making drums, shields, clothing, or as part of ceremonial or religious practices.

In this sense, local communities can benefit from job creation and income generation through waste collection, sorting, and processing activities. Moreover, the adoption of sustainable waste management practices can enhance community pride and foster a sense of environmental stewardship.

As to him, societal health issues are carried on by illegal slaughter, particularly when dangerous meat products are provided. And he also claimed that because unlawful activities are not kept adequately clean, the local air is polluted, which leads to many different kinds of health problems.

Through adopting proper waste management techniques, Ethiopians can not only mitigate the environmental impact of holiday celebrations but also unlock economic opportunities and promote a circular economy. The government can be developing taken practical steps to the at the individual, community, and governmental levels to ensure a greener, cleaner, and more sustainable future.

Furthermore, the potential benefits of animal slaughter include waste management, encompassing environmental conservation, reduced greenhouse gas

emissions, improved soil health, and even job creation and income generation within local communities.

In this regard, supportive policies and measures from the government are essential to effectively handle the waste management issues related to holiday celebrations. A key factor in encouraging the adoption of animal slaughter waste management solutions is providing infrastructure for waste collection and processing as well as encouraging sustainable practices.

Using implementing these strategies and initiatives, Ethiopia can achieve a holistic approach to waste management during holiday celebrations. This approach not only addresses the environmental impact of animal slaughter waste but also contributes to resource conservation, sustainable energy production, agricultural development, and socio-economic progress.

Ethiopia could rethink its holiday customs into sustainable practices that support both economic development and environmental preservation by realizing the potential of animal slaughter waste as a useful resource. By adopting cutting-edge waste management strategies, Ethiopia can open the door to a greener, more sustainable future and serve as an inspiration for other nations.

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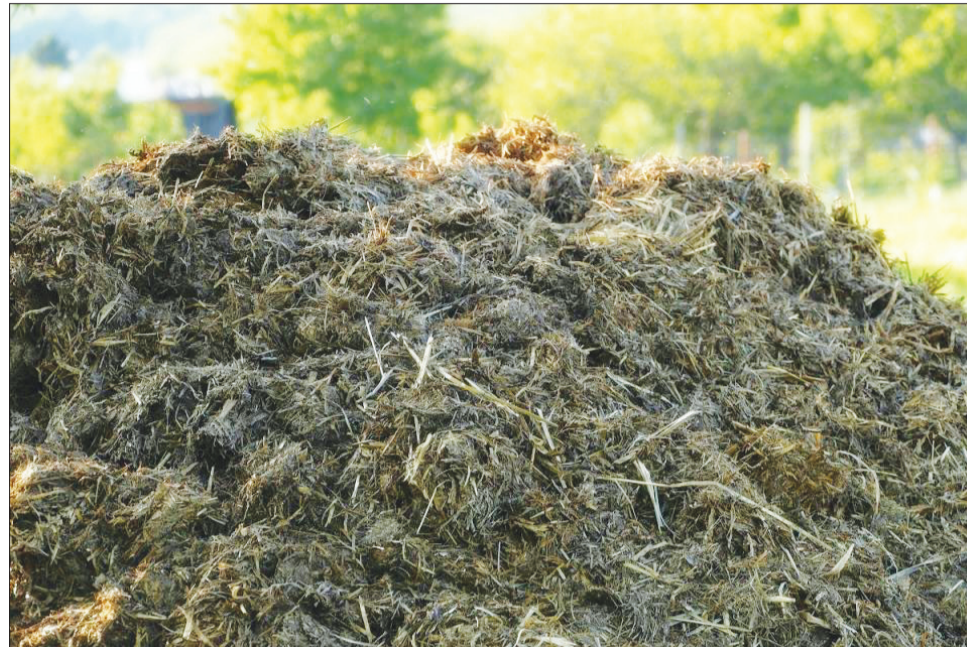
Adding value to animal waste to prevent their role in environmental pollution

BY FIKADU BELAY

Ethiopia stands as one of the richest countries in terms of its livestock resources in the world. Considering the large amount of revenue that can be obtained from these resources, they are economically beneficial to the country. Yet they are also sources of environmental and air pollution risk.

One of the risks associated with animals is the huge volume of manure they release to the ecosystem. The cattle manure is a source of greenhouse gas that is accountable for a significant portion of climate change and/or global warming. Therefore it is important to make sure that the manure and other wastes released from the animals are disposed of safely to avoid environmental and air pollution.

One of the ways to safely dispose of these wastes is to add value on them and utilize them to generate extra income. Especially in Ethiopia people are well known for the use of animal products like meat, milk and egg despite varying levels. Furthermore they are used to celebrate holidays where they slaughter large number of cattle as part



of the feast. Such practices are not carried out with due care to dispose the wastes like blood which is another fluid that contributes to pollution of the environment.

The poor habit of waste management has attracted a lot of attention in recent years as societies work to address the effects

of their activities on the environment. While this tradition holds deep cultural and religious meaning, it also generates substantial organic waste, which, if not managed properly, can have detrimental environmental consequences.

During festive periods, the amount of

waste generated from sacrificial slaughter increases significantly. Improper disposal of animal slaughter waste can lead to pollution of water sources, emit foul odors, attract pests, and contribute to the spread of diseases. Additionally, the decomposition of organic waste without proper management can release greenhouse gases, further exacerbating climate change.

According to the Addis Ababa Abattoir Company report, there isn't much waste to be disposed of for unwanted products from animal slaughter.

Atakilti Gebremichael, Head of Communications for Addis Ababa Abattoir Enterprise, stated to The Ethiopian Herald that the slaughter organization generated revenue from the by-products of slaughtering livestock by protecting them from negatively impacting the environment and recycling them.

Due to this, we use our equipment to turn livestock slaughter byproducts into other animal feed and it provides other byproducts of slaughter to companies as raw materials,

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