



# The Ethiopian Herald

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Jafar Bediru

## Ethiopia's diplomatic principle crucial to regional integration

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia's diplomatic principle is vital for regional integration and mutual growth, Foreign Affairs Institute Strategic Affairs Deputy Director-General and Researcher Jafar Bediru said.

Ethiopia's foreign diplomatic

See Ethiopia's ...page 3

# Ethiopia, China forge all-weather strategic cooperation partnership

• Premier Abiy says relations with China model for Africa

BY YESUF ENDRIS

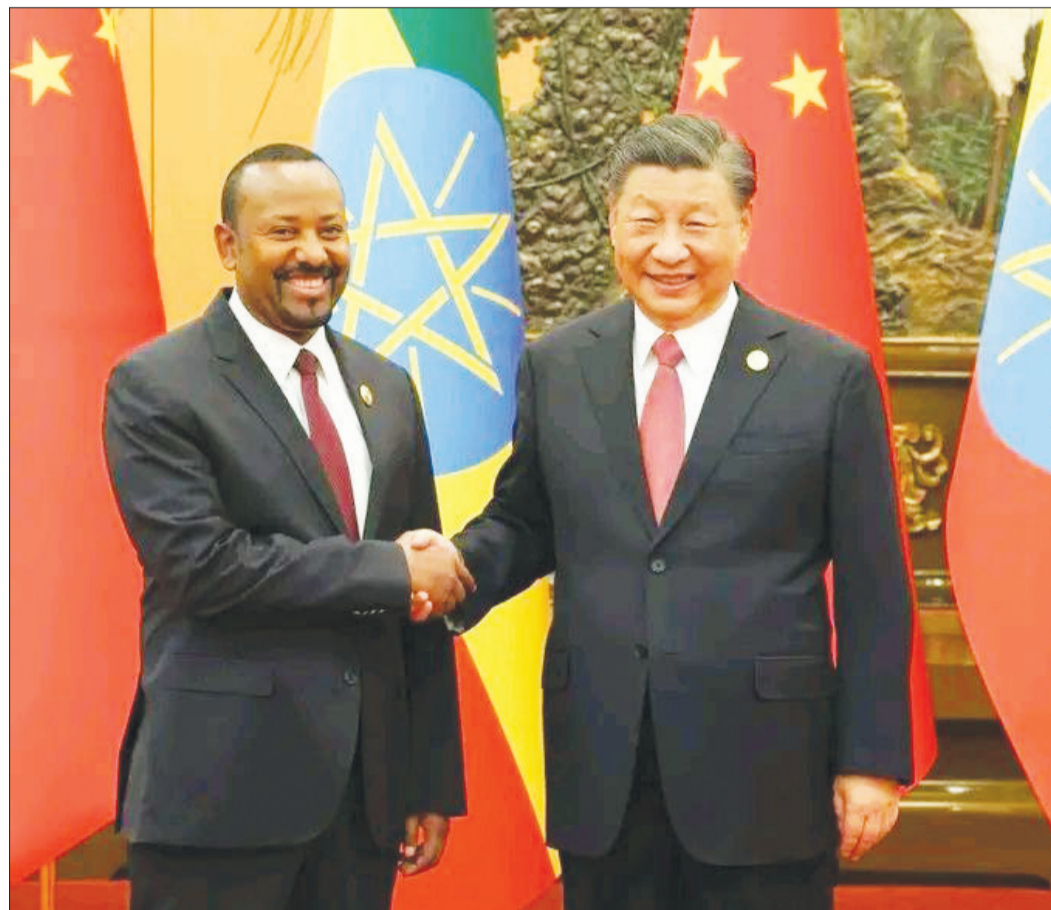
ADDIS ABABA – Chinese President Xi Jinping said his country's Comprehensive and Enduring Strategic Cooperative Partnership with Ethiopia has been transformed into All Weather Strategic Cooperation Partnership.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD), who is in Beijing to attend the third Belt and Road Forum (BRI), held talks with President Xi on various issues of mutual significance.

During the meeting, President Xi reportedly said the BRI cooperation between China and Ethiopia over the past ten years has been wide-ranging, fruitful and pace setting in Africa.

Xi commended Ethiopia's Green Legacy program achievements and affirmed that it will be an integral part of the green belt and road. "China is ready to work with Ethiopia in promoting peace and development, building a community with a shared future

See Ethiopia, China ...page 3



## Nat'l ID program expedites agricultural digitization

BY TEWODROS KASSA

ADDIS ABABA-The ongoing national ID program seeks to expedite the country's agricultural digitization and to enhance the role of technology in the sector, experts in the area said.

The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) have jointly hosted a forum on a national strategy to boost climate-smart agriculture. The event is taking place at the ILRI campus under the theme "Shaping

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## Win-win approach pathway to Ethiopia's sea access: Expert

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA –Exploring a win-win approach, which would ensure the benefits of neighboring states, is instrumental to materialize Ethiopia's quest to access the sea and supplement the growing economy, a noted historian and researcher said.

Approached by the local media, historian and researcher Ayele Bekiri (PhD) stated that securing access to sea is mandatory for Ethiopia's growing population to foster development. "The issue should be handled by peaceful discussion and negotiation with relevant stakeholders."

According to him, securing sea access requires the establishment of an institution of experts who will make a scholarly



bargain with concerned bodies. "War could not be a solution in any means for this issue."

The issue also requires the completion of our

homework and strengthening internal peace and unity. Since we have the same people

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Exploiting available opportunities to attain the aspired economic growth

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Ethiopia's role as a key player in regional, global affairs

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Sea access as a crucial element in Ethiopia's development agenda

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# News

## Coordination, strong measures vital to meet IMF's prediction: Scholars

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA** – The government ought to deepen cooperation with stakeholders and the people in controlling inflation and sporadic conflicts to attain the planned 6.2% economic growth in 2024, Scholars suggested.

Recently, International Monetary Fund (IMF) disclosed that Ethiopia's economy will be grown from 6.1% to 6.2% by the end of 2024.

Economic Lecturer at Haramaya University, Molla Alemayehu (PhD) told The Ethiopian Herald that the government should take serious measures on inflation, and strive to peace and stability to grow the economy as scheduled.

According to IMF, Ethiopia's economy grows better than Sub Saharan African countries in spite of conflict, inflation, reduction of provision, and foreign loan debt that restricted the budget policy.

For Molla, this showcases that Ethiopia's economic grow will continue even under difficulties.

Promoting the homegrown economic reform, encouraging manufacturing and service sectors, and the likes would play significant role in registering better economic performance by the end of 2024, he indicated.

Sidama State Planning Bureau Expert Dawit Hayesso (PhD) on his part said that the economic growth of the country in the past ten consecutive years and the current economic structure are the two huge opportunities that

indicate the national economy will grow positively.

In this regard, he suggested that developing uncultivated land and using technology will give impetus to the national growth as Ethiopia's economy is dominated by agriculture.

He further stated that Ethiopia has created conducive environment for industrial development through increasing the capacity of providing energy, land, and encouraging the high demand to consume industry products among others.

The country also has done commendable jobs in easing doing business in the service and other sectors, Dawit said quoting the recent report by Business Insider Africa which assured Ethiopia is the best place to do business and the return is high compared with other countries.

"Ethiopia also uses growth momentum. If a growing economy faces a crisis at some point, the growth will not stop immediately, it rather will continue for some time. In this case, the country should take serious measure to avoid the crisis whereas the economy is stagnant when it is not taking measures," Dawit noted.

He also advised that giving priority to the public interest, export promotion, subsidize the public transport, and create positive situation to gain loans among others are useful to register a better economic performance.

Recently, President Sahlework Zewde was announced that the government is working to achieve a 7.9% economic growth in 2023/24 fiscal year.

## Youth vow to foster peace, national dev't

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA**- The youth in Addis Ababa have expressed determination to keep national peace and work hard to immensely contribute to the successful completion of the Abbay dam.

Having a stay with *The Ethiopian Herald*, Derbie Debele said, "As we laid a cornerstone of Abbay dam by ourselves, we should maintain national peace and work hand in hand to complete the dam soon."

He added that the youth should also be alert to effectively utilize common natural resources cascaded from forefathers and foremothers.

He said, "The government should make roundtable discussions with society to eliminate the conflict happening in Ethiopia."

Another member of the youth, Bontu Temire, said that Abbay Dam will be one of the sources of income for the nation both for domestic and foreign electric consumption in the future.

She further underlined that the youth have great responsibility to discharge responsibilities in a very determined manner and by standing united to effectively complete the dam for the generation to come.

"The youths are also expected to do more to uphold peace, strengthen harmonious ways of living among Ethiopians thereby creating a better nation to live and work in. We have to properly use our indigenous conflict resolution methods to end skirmishes, further facilitate people to people connection and strengthen the culture of solving disagreements using a roundtable discussion," she added.

If conflict arises, elders should meet together and solve it immediately beforehand with a view to preclude the situation from being rife



Derbie Debele



Bontu Temire

to other areas and would cause life loss and property damage, Bontu added.

As to her, everybody has a responsibility to throw a stone to the effort geared towards sustaining peace and silencing guns to everlastingly ensure serenity in the soil.

## Livestock expo central to lift agrarian technology, knowledge transfer

### • Ethiopia to stage 8th African livestock expo

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

**ADDIS ABABA**- Livestock expo is believed to create opportunities to step up agricultural products, an expert said.

Meat, Hide and Skin Technology Expert with the Ministry of Agriculture, Awasa Tsela said that the ministry has set strategies to enhance the livestock sector in cooperation with regional bureaus and research institutes to step up the livestock sector.

Mentioning the highest demand of consumption and capacity, the expert stated that the institute has been taking bold steps to help actively participate in thereby encouraging the private sector, cooperatives and investors who are keen to take part in expos.

As to him, expos are very critical for technology transfer and leverage farming community's potential with a view to promoting livestock farming systems and value chains.



Photo: Eyob Teferi

Having said Ethiopia's poultry sector is one of the most promising and potential sector and stating the increasing demand of participants in the expo, Agricultural Counselor at the Embassy of the Netherlands, Meeuwes Brouwer said that the government of the Netherlands is working with Ethiopia to enhance the dairy and poultry sectors as well as improving the quality and safety of products.

He further remarked that the interests of participants in the expo is growing in these sectors and the Netherlands investors are operating in these sectors as it is an important platform where business partners and other

stakeholders meet and exchange knowledge, experience, among others.

So far, these investors have been playing an important role towards the poultry sector in Ethiopia as it is one of the prior sectors in his country, Meeuwes noted.

"We are also working cooperatively to improve the animal health status in Ethiopia by implementing ways to support farmers with breeding material for small and medium size farms," he added.

It is also indicated that the export of animal products has a chance to grow if the required government intervention is done in tune with

the planned business-to-business meetings with potential buyers.

Prana events Managing Director, Nebeyu Lemma on his part said that Ethiopia is the leading in livestock resources in the continent, however, the level of livestock productivity and per capita consumption is one of the lowest in the world.

He said, "Due to unmatched demand for animal products in Ethiopia with the growth in local production, the government is implementing a four-year development program dubbed "Yelemat Tirufat" which aims at boosting productivity on dairy, eggs, chicken meat, honey, and related hive products.

More than 100 global leaders, key local stakeholders, exhibitors drawn from 17 countries and over 4000 visitors from Ethiopia and East Africa are expected to take part in the event which is to be held from 26 - 28 October 2023 at the Millennium Hall, Addis Ababa featuring top-quality exhibitors.

# News



## EIC inks MoU with Chinese Pharmaceutical, Agro-Processing Firms

BY STAFF REPORTER

**ADDIS ABABA** – Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with pharmaceutical (2) and agro-processing (1) enterprises from China, the Chief Commissioner of EIC, Lelise Neme disclosed.

In her recent twitter post, Lelise stated three of the firms that inked the MoU are all set to invest in Ethiopia.

The MoU was signed at the Ethiopia-China Investment Forum Series–Beijing Episode II, which is being held in the Chinese capital. The business forum is being attended by over 300 potential investors where the

Minister of Finance of Ethiopia, Ahmed Shide, and the EIC Chief Commissioner, have delivered keynote speeches.

The event is deliberating on investment potentials of Ethiopia in the mining and other priority sectors.

The forum, marked by the MoU signing, is said to be a major boost for the burgeoning economy of Ethiopia.

Recall that Ethiopia and China announced Tuesday the elevation of their bilateral ties Comprehensive and Enduring Strategic Cooperative Partnership level to an All Weather Strategic Cooperation Partnership level, according to the joint statement issued by the leaders of the two countries.

## Win-win approach pathway...

and enjoy similar culture with our neighbors in the Red Sea, securing sea access needs a win-win approach and cooperation. Furthermore, it could be applied through a give and take mechanism.

Recently, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) said that the Red Sea and the Nile are intimately linked to Ethiopia, serving as the pillars that could either propel the country's progress or lead to its demise. "Both of them determine Ethiopia's future and contribute to its development. Securing access to the Red Sea is vital for Ethiopia's surviv-

al, warranting thorough careful discussion."

Speaking to *The Ethiopian Herald*, the seasoned diplomat Ambassador Girum Abay stated that the uninterrupted access to the Red Sea is the matter of existence to Ethiopia and it is a lifeline for Africa's second largest population. "The question today is how Ethiopia would ensure a guaranteed and uninterrupted access to the Red Sea. The mechanisms for landlocked nations to access the sea are more or less those which Ethiopia has been using for centuries."

## Ethiopia, China forge...

for mankind," he was quoted as saying by the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wan Wenbin.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) on his part said that China remains the critical partner of Ethiopia in which the partnership between the two has set a constructive model for China-Africa and South-South cooperation.

Following the discussion with President Xi, Abiy said on his social media post that the two countries "can build on this model to effectively address our current and future development challenges in the new era. China continues to be a critical partner for Ethiopia."

Speaking to the EBC, Finance Minister Ahmed Shide said the new partnership agreement between the two countries is an assurance of sustaining the strong partnership through all thick and thin. There

will be more cooperation with China in economic and security affairs to preserve mutual interests.

According to him, President Xi pledged more economic partnership and gave direction to Chinese financial institutions to extend loan maturity dates to Ethiopia. "The loan maturity date extension and loan structuring issues are amongst big deals agreed by the two leaders."

Press Secretariat for the Prime Minister Office Billene Seyoum also stated that Premier Abiy's visit to China and his participation in the BRI is fruitful in attracting more cooperation.

It was learnt that leaders of the two countries signed 14 new agreements and exchanged views on ways to bolster the existing cooperation in economic and environmental issues.

## Ethiopia's diplomatic...

policy encourages regional integration, mutual growth and benefitting based on multilateral.

The country's diplomacy is based on giving priority to neighboring countries, strengthening people-to-people ties, and inclusive cooperation.

In an exclusive interview with ENA, the deputy director-general noted that this diplomatic principle has huge significance in regional integration, ensuring mutual growth and benefit.

Beyond enhancing Ethiopia's multilateral cooperation relations and promoting joint development and economic growth, it is decisive in boosting multifaceted regional integration, Jafar added.

Stating that there are potentials to realize the regional integration, the deputy director-

general said focus should be made on utilizing these enabling conditions.

Countries need to work closely by strengthening cooperative diplomacy, correcting distorted narratives, and strengthening people-to-people bond to realize mutual development, Jafar pointed out.

The researcher also stressed that the need to further support Ethiopia's effort in boosting the spirit of pan-Africanism and continental cooperation is encouraging and should be supported by all. He further stated that working for mutual growth and prosperity is pivotal in strengthening the Africa's all-round development and cooperation.

President Sahle-Work Zewde has recently affirmed Ethiopia's ambition to strengthen its all-round cooperative relations with neighboring countries during this Ethiopian New Year.



## Nat'l ID program expedites....

Agriculture for Greater Impact in Ethiopia" from 15-20 October 2023.

Speaking at the occasion, Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Institute Deputy CEO Yifru Tafesse (PhD) said that the Ethiopian government has been taking various measures to digitize the agriculture sector. In this regard, the effective implementation of the national ID program is important to synchronize digital agricultural services and improve technology's contribution in the agricultural sector.

Accordingly, farmers are now accessing experts' recommendations through hotlines and other digital instruments and improving product and productivity. It is estimated that Ethiopia has more than 19 million household farmers.

In neighboring Kenya, there are six million farmers and they are digitized and geo-referenced with their available land resources and other assets through integrating with latest agricultural technologies. Therefore, pertinent stakeholders are working jointly to expedite agricultural digitization in Ethiopia and to improve agricultural practices, the CEO added.

According to him, integrated partnership of all stakeholders is fundamental to transform the sector, he said.

AICCRA Program Director Ana Maria Loboguerrero (PhD) said that the center stands for accelerating the impact of CGIAR climate research for Africa. "Our main objective is to enhance access to

climate-smart agricultural technologies and climate information services in Africa. Currently, we are working in six African countries namely; Ethiopia, Senegal, Mali, Ghana, Zambia, and Kenya.

In addition, the center extends services at regional level in West and South Eastern Africa.

She further highlighted the great importance of supporting the AICCRA project through integrated partnerships among stakeholders to pass the CGIAR scientists' innovations to smallholders African farmers and benefit the latter from latest technologies.

AICCRA Ethiopia Country Coordinator Dawit Solomon (PhD) emphasized the role of Private-Public-Partnership (PPP) to transform the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in the country. AICCRA projects forge groundbreaking partnerships to deploy the knowledge, innovation, and technology needed for effective climate information services and climate-smart agriculture in Ethiopia.

So far, the project benefited 420,076 smallholder farmers in the country, Dawit remarked.

AICCRA is a project that helps to deliver a climate-smart African future driven by science and innovation in agriculture. It is led by the Alliance of Biodiversity and CIAT and supported by a grant from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank, it was learned.

# Opinion

## Fostering Ethio-China relations to strengthen bilateral collaboration

BY HIZKEL HAILU

China and Ethiopia have developed a multifaceted and robust relationship over the years, characterized by close diplomatic ties, economic cooperation, and cultural exchanges. The relationship between the two countries has been growing steadily, with China emerging as one of the Ethiopia's largest trading partners and a significant source of investment and development assistance.

China has played a pivotal role in Ethiopia's economic development. Chinese investments have been instrumental in various sectors, including infrastructure, manufacturing, agriculture, and energy. China's involvement in Ethiopia's infrastructure development, such as roads, railways, and industrial parks, has significantly contributed in enhancing connectivity and driving the economic growth.

Also, China is one of Ethiopia's major trading partners. Bilateral trade between the two countries has witnessed significant growth, with a focus on commodities, including coffee, minerals, and textiles. The expansion of trade ties has been facilitated by the signing of various agreements and the establishment of trade promotion mechanisms. China has provided substantial investment and development assistance to Ethiopia. Chinese companies that have invested in the sectors such as telecommunications, manufacturing, construction, and agriculture testify the reality on the ground in this regard. These investments have contributed a lot in job creation, technology transfer, and capacity building in Ethiopia.

Moreover, China's involvement in Ethiopia's infrastructure development is notable. Projects such as the Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway and the Hawassa Industrial Park have been implemented with the support of Chinese government. These infrastructure development initiatives have enhanced connectivity, stimulated economic growth, and promoted regional integration.

By the same token, cultural exchanges between China and Ethiopia have played pivotal role in fostering people-to-people relations. Cultural events, academic exchanges, and scholarships have facilitated mutual understanding and strengthened cultural ties between the two nations. China's emphasis on green development and Ethiopia's commitment to environmental conservation through the Green Legacy initiative that received china's appreciation and commitment to its sustainability have also provided more opportunities for the cooperation. The relationship between China and Ethiopia has been characterized by mutual benefit and a shared vision for economic development and cooperation.

On top of this, the Official State Visit paid by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) to China accompanied by a delegation of high officials this week, added strength to the

existing relations between the two countries. Office of The Prime Minister announced that the Prime Minister attended the 3rd Belt and Road Forum.

The visit of the Premier to China showcased the importance that both countries placed on their bilateral ties and the potential for further collaboration across various sectors.

As Ethiopia strives to achieve its ambitious growth objectives and China seeks to foster regional and global partnerships, the synergy between the two countries can unlock immense opportunities for both economies. By leveraging each other's strengths, resources, and expertise, Ethiopia and China can forge a path towards shared success, benefiting not only their respective nations but also the broader global community.

During his visit to China, Prime Minister Abiy discussed with the Chinese Prime Minister Li Qiang on issues that are marked as significant milestone for the strong relations between the two nations. The discussion demonstrated the commitment of both leaders to enhance economic cooperation and foster mutual growth. With a focus on expanding trade partnerships and signing multiple of cooperation agreements, Ethiopia and China are poised to embark on a journey of shared prosperity.

Premier Li Qiang acknowledged the shared characteristics of China and Ethiopia as developing and emerging economies. He emphasized the importance of seeking ways to grow together, leveraging each other's strengths and resources. This recognition of mutual growth potential paves the way for a deeper economic cooperation that can bring about tangible benefits to both nations.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, on his part, highlighted the multifaceted growth objectives of the Ethiopian government and the remarkable development achievements gained so far. Acknowledging the pivotal role of Chinese investments in Ethiopia's economy, the Premier also called investors for further investments in key sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, ICT, mining and tourism. This call for increased Chinese investments reflects the trust and confidence Ethiopia has placed in China as a reliable partner for its economic development.

Moreover both leaders underscored the need to expand trade partnerships between Ethiopia and China. With China being one of the world's largest economies and Ethiopia's growing potential as an emerging market, there is a ripe opportunity for increased bilateral trade. Both countries can benefit from enhanced market access, increased export opportunities, and the exchange of goods and service through strengthening trade ties.

The signing of 12 cooperative agreements and 2 letters of intent between Ethiopia and China further solidifies the commitment to expanding trade relations. These agreements span various fields, including infrastructure development, energy generation, technology

transfer, and cultural exchanges. Such broad-based cooperation signifies a comprehensive approach to bilateral engagement, ensuring that both countries can reap the rewards of a diversified partnership.

Meanwhile, Premier Abiy Ahmed also held a bilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall together with their respective delegations. During their meeting, President Xi Jinping commended Ethiopia's achievements through the Green Legacy initiative, which aims to combat deforestation and promote reforestation efforts across the country. This initiative aligns with China's own green development policy, emphasizing environmental sustainability and ecological conservation. President Xi affirmed the Green Legacy program's significance, stating that it would be an integral part of a green Belt and Road Initiative, further integrating Ethiopia into China's ambitious vision for global sustainable development.

The recognition of Ethiopia's environmental protection efforts by China highlights the importance of shared values and cooperation on global environmental issues. As climate change poses significant challenges to both nations and the world at large, collaboration in green initiatives can pave the way for a greener, sustainable future.

The bilateral meetings between Ethiopian Premier and Chinese Premier as well as the President respectively have set the stage for an even stronger partnership between Ethiopia and China. With a focus on enhancing economic cooperation; expanding trade partnerships and promoting sustainable development; both nations are poised to achieve mutual growth and prosperity. The signing of multiple cooperation agreements on various sectors showcases the depth and breadth of their commitment to collaboration.

The meetings further marked a significant moment in the strong and growing relationship between Ethiopia and China. The discussions focused on enhancing economic cooperation, expanding trade partnerships, and exploring avenues for mutual growth and prosperity.

The discussions also touched upon the importance of expanding trade partnerships between Ethiopia and China, with both leaders recognizing the potential benefits of increased bilateral trade. To solidify these commitments, 12 cooperation agreements and 2 letters of intent were signed between the two countries, covering various areas of cooperation such as infrastructure development, energy, technology transfer, and cultural exchanges.

The visit of Ethiopian Premier with his delegation to China holds several political advantages for Ethiopia. This visit reinforces the diplomatic relations between the two countries. It demonstrates Ethiopia's commitment to maintaining strong ties with China, a global power and influential player in the international affairs. Strengthening diplomatic relations can lead to increased political support for Ethiopia on regional and

global platforms.

As China is one of the major global players, close relations with it can enhance Ethiopia's geopolitical influence. By cultivating a strong partnership with China, Ethiopia can potentially leverage this relationship to gain support for its political interests, increase its influence in regional organizations, and strengthen its position in international decision-making processes.

China's advanced technology and expertise in various sectors can benefit Ethiopia. Through cooperation agreements and technology transfers, Ethiopian industries can gain access to state-of-the-art technology and knowledge, which can drive innovation, boost productivity, and enhance competitiveness. This access to resources and technology can have positive political implications, as it can strengthen the government's ability to stick on its promises and meet the needs of its population.

A strong partnership with a global power like China can also enhance Ethiopia's international reputation and recognition. It encodes a message to the international community that Ethiopia is a key player in the regional and global affairs, capable of attracting significant investments and engaging in meaningful partnerships. This can lead to increased respect and recognition for Ethiopia's political leadership on the international stage.

Thus, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's visit to China provides Ethiopia with political advantages that include strengthening diplomatic relations, enhancing geopolitical influence, promoting economic cooperation and development, accessing resources and technology, and gaining international reputation and recognition. These benefits can contribute to the political stability, economic growth, and overall development of Ethiopia.

All in all, the bilateral talks undergone as the result of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's visit to China signify the deepening of economic cooperation, the strengthening of trade relations, and the exploration of new avenues for collaboration. The meetings between the leaders of both nations reflect the desire to foster mutual growth and prosperity.

It also acknowledges the importance of environmental sustainability through initiatives like Ethiopia's Green Legacy program, which aligns with China's green development policy. Moreover, this visit serves as a testament to the significant and multifaceted partnership between Ethiopia and China, paving the way for a stronger and more fruitful relationship in the years to come.

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

# Editorial

## Excelling relations to maximize benefits

Ethiopia and China have been enjoying a positive diplomatic relation for several decades. This ever-growing diplomatic relation has continued its momentum till these days; advantageously, it has taken multifaceted stage that surely maximizes the benefits of the peoples of both nations. For instance, as the friendship is forged through socio-economic cooperation, the praiseworthy contribution of the Chinese investment to Ethiopia's development takes the lion's share in strengthening the bilateral relation.

Profitably, the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership which has recently elevated into "All Weather Strategic Cooperation Partnership" shall indisputably increase the benefits of the peoples of the two countries. Furthermore, as countries with more than half a century of diplomatic ties, both nations continue enjoying mutual understanding and support on issues of respective core interests and major concerns, independent foreign policy, and opposing foreign intervention.

Interestingly, over recent years the two countries' cooperation has reached a new level where both sides displayed interests in multilateral matters and addressed global challenges. For instance, China has expressed its position in backing Ethiopia's territorial integrity, affirming the importance of upholding national sovereignty and respecting the borders of nations. Indeed, as a consistent advocate for respecting the sovereignty of nations, China has expressed its support for Ethiopia's territorial integrity in the face of any challenges or disputes and it has also maintained a principled stance and historic engagement in supporting Ethiopia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, particularly in the northern region.

As part of this historical diplomatic relationship Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) and his delegates are attending the 3rd Road and Belt Initiative forum. Prime Minister Abiy has indicated the importance of Chinese investments in Ethiopia's economy and encouraged more investments in five key pillars: agriculture, manufacturing, ICT, mining and tourism.

During his discussion with Chinese President Xi Jinping Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said, "All Weather Strategic Cooperation Partnership" has elevated the two countries' relationship from the previous Enduring Strategic Cooperative Partnership to a new level where China continues to be a critical partner for Ethiopia.

Certainly, China and Ethiopia have longstanding economic relations. Besides the various infrastructural projects that are being carried out by Chinese companies, the economic and trade cooperation, corporate social responsibilities, humanitarian assistance including the fight to prevent COVID-19 undertaken by these companies in Ethiopia are the manifestations of the depth of bilateral relations between the two countries.

What is more, Ethiopia's accession to BRICS is also a good indication how the two countries share a common goal to achieve economic prosperity and decided to work aggressively for the good of their peoples.

Moreover, Ethiopia's achievement through the Green Legacy Program citing its alignment with China's development policy is another area where the two countries share a common goal to mitigate climate change and ensure carbon neutral society.

As Ethiopia exerts its efforts to boost economic progress, China is also showing unreserved backing to Ethiopia's endeavors by providing all the necessary support.

Certainly, China has been actively supporting Ethiopia's efforts to boost economic progress. China has provided extensive support in various forms, including financial assistance, technical expertise, skilled manpower, and the like. Through these forms of support, China has demonstrated its commitment to assisting Ethiopia in its economic progress and development goals. This is the clearest indication that the strong bilateral relations and partnership between the two countries will continue increasing to maximize the benefits of their peoples.

# Opinion

## What did African Ministers propose about IMF/ WB at Marrakech?

BY STAFF REPORTER

African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development have called for key reforms of the Bretton Woods Institutions at the 2023 Annual Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund.

The call for reforms was made during a meeting of the Africa High-level Working Group on the Global Financial Architecture on the margins of the Annual Meetings in Marrakech, Morocco.

Coordinated by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the High-level Working Group comprises African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, the African Union, the African Development Bank, Afreximbank, and the World Bank, and includes the participation of IMF staff and Executive Directors. The Group serves as a forum to develop reform proposals for the global financial architecture and strengthen the African voice on the global stage.

Amidst the polycrisis, Ministers underscored the urgency of increasing access to liquidity and bolstering the global financial safety net. Specifically, they stressed the importance of securing adequate loan and subsidy resources for the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT) to ensure a minimum lending capacity of at least SDR 3 billion per year from 2025.

It was noted that additional funding could be secured through three key avenues. Firstly, by increasing funding pledges from donor countries to the PRGT. Secondly, by permanently terminating the PRGT Administrative Cost Reimbursement. Thirdly, by selling parts of the IMF's gold reserves in the medium term.

Ministers welcomed the IMF Executive Board decision from March 2023 to temporarily raise annual access limits for the General Resource Account (GRA) to 200 percent of quota and the cumulative access limit to 600 percent of quota. They called for making these increased access limits permanent and for aligning the PRGT's access limits with those of the GRA.

Ministers also highlighted a pressing need for further resource mobilization for the Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST) to ensure that more countries can access IMF lending with extended maturities to build their long-term resilience.

It was acknowledged that IMF surcharges, which represent an additional interest payment due on large outstanding GRA loans, are placing an unnecessary burden on countries. Ministers called for suspending/waiving IMF surcharges for two to three years and for reviewing to the IMF's surcharge policy.

Furthermore, Ministers called for reforming the Special Drawing Rights (SDR) system. Ministers urged enabling the rechanneling of SDRs to Multilateral Development Banks, including the African Development Bank. Additionally, the SDR allocation formula should be reformed to consider not only IMF quotas but also countries' liquidity needs. There were also appeals to make SDR allocation decisions in a more rule-based, analytical manner to reduce the discretionary and political nature of the allocation process, including by clarifying the "Unexpected Major Developments" provision.

Ministers also discussed the need to reform the G20 Common Framework to make it more effective, time-bound, and transparent. Proposals included a suspension of debt service for all countries entering Common Framework restructurings and an expansion of eligibility for the Framework to

middle-income countries. Additionally, there were calls for making bolder use of the IMF Lending into Arrears policies to reduce the leverage of holdout creditors. Furthermore, a strong call was made for the inclusion of climate-resilient debt clauses in all new sovereign debt issuances, which would allow countries to pause debt service payments in the event of climate-related disasters.

Finally, Ministers issued a resounding call to strengthen Africa's voice and representation on the global stage. While welcoming a general IMF quota increase, they emphasized the further need to reform the IMF's quota formula to increase Africa's quota share.

Ministers also expressed support for the establishment of an additional chair to represent African countries at the IMF Executive Board to amplify the region's voice and representation. There was a consensus that given the enormous challenges facing Africa, the additional chair is needed for the IMF's timely and effective response.

Ministers also discussed reform proposals for the World Bank building on the ongoing World Bank evolution process. They asked that a better funded and more effective World Bank dedicates adequate attention to the specific needs and priorities of African countries, including regional integration, infrastructure development, and structural transformation.

Additionally, Ministers underscored the importance of scaling up both concessional and non-concessional financing from the World Bank to enable the institution to effectively fulfill its expanded vision and mission, while safeguarding the principle of additionality. To provide more financing through the International Development Association (IDA), Ministers advocated for increased donor pledges to the IDA20 Crisis Response Window Plus and emphasized the need for an ambitious replenishment for IDA 21, aligning with the objective to triple IDA by 2030. For the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), there were calls to continue with the implementation of balance sheet optimization measures while also seeking a capital increase.

Ministers called for leveraging more effectively existing resources and transforming the World Bank's approach to project delivery. This includes strengthening the crisis response including through rapid and greater access to the Crisis Response Window, enhanced contingent financing, collaboration with the insurance industry, and the creation of new market instruments. Additionally, it was stressed that conducting thorough cost-benefit analyses for projects with public good elements, especially those related to climate, is crucial.

Furthermore, Ministers highlighted the importance of a One World Bank approach to cut transaction costs and duplication. The need for effective collaboration with other Multilateral Development Banks, such as the African Development Bank, was also underscored.

There was a strong emphasis on the need for the World Bank to expand the use of guarantees to reduce borrowing costs for developing countries. One effective measure could be the development of joint guarantee products supported by all World Bank Group institutions. To crowd in the private sector "de-risking" techniques and "blended finance" vehicles could be used.

Lastly, Ministers emphasized that vulnerabilities beyond a country's income status should be considered to determine eligibility for concessional financing.

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



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The Ethiopian Herald

# Business & Economy

## Exploiting available opportunities to attain the aspired economic growth

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

For centuries, Ethiopia had been ruled by monarchies and people were subjected to the harsh rule of the governors. The feudal economic system reigned for centuries hampered economic progress and left farmers to live in hand to mouth condition. Exploitation and operation left the society simmering waited for change.

The abolishment of the archive imperial system in 1974 by popular revolution had brought hope for political development and economic progress but it was derailed by the military group and later the nation immersed in civil war for 17 years. Though the downfall of the Derg regime in 1991 brought hope, the defunct EPRDF regime ruled the nation undemocratically with the iron fist for 27 years and was dethroned by public resentment in 2018.

Yared Hailemeskel, an economist, working in several organizations based in London, recently talked to local media on various issues of the nation's economy.

As to him, Ethiopians had remained entrenched in a monarchical system for a long period with decision-making and enforcement consistently concentrated in the authoritarian rulers. Consequently, an inherent power dynamics detached from public needs and aspirations became culturally normalized in Ethiopian politics.

Despite its controversial policies under the EPRDF administration, it had witnessed notable economic improvements through some beneficial measures. Particularly, from 1991-1995, the party embarked on liberalizing the financial system and privatizing some state owned institutions and reversed the previous socialist economic doctrines.

However, these policies lacked public consent. Similar to any system, limitations existed. Ethiopia has reached a point where challenges overshadowed economic gains, putting the system's sustainability under question.

In this context, the lack of political plurality and the repression of opposition parties can be seen as obstacles that contributed to the downfall of the EPRDF.

He also said that regardless of the philosophical framework a government adheres to, it should always evolve, address the needs of the general population, and be responsive to the changing times.

According to Yared, in the early years of the EPRDF's rule, its political ideology enjoyed widespread acceptance. However, through time, the political system lost its integrity, leaving the people longing for change.

This dissatisfaction stems from the ruling government's policies and philosophies, which bear resemblance to both the monarchical era and the Derg dictatorship. These policies have shown resistance to



considering diverse perspectives, while political repression and economic control have become concentrated within the government and its affiliated groups.

The situation began to deteriorate following the announcement of the 2010 election results, in which the EPRDF secured nearly all seats in the parliament. This led to the emergence of resentment from various parts of the country, triggering massive demonstrations that ultimately resulted in the downfall of the regime.

Seizing this opportunity, an internal political transition took place, instilling newfound hope among the public. As a result, Ethiopia has undergone significant political reforms. While these reforms brought about positive changes and expanded political freedoms, conflicts have arisen here and there.

However, in relation to the assumption of power by reformist team, there were expectations for the cessation of both political repression and excessive economic control. These hopes were based on two specific aspirations. Firstly, there was a strong desire to put an end to polarized ethnic politics that had plagued the nation. Secondly, there was hopeful anticipation for a reduction in the government's influence over the economy. At the very least, these were reforms that the incoming administration intended to prioritize and implement.

While notable developments have taken place in terms of political reforms and the opening up of political spaces, it can be argued that significant economic reforms have yet to be implemented, particularly when compared to the extensive legislative measures undertaken by the EPRDF during its tenure.

According to Yared, during the Derg regime, Ethiopians had been prohibited from establishing banks or owning private businesses worth high capital, and public-owned entities were entirely controlled by the government. However, under EPRDF's reign, significant reforms were introduced, leading to the abolition of

these restrictions.

As a result, Ethiopians were given the opportunity to participate in the private banking sector, and some government-owned entities were privatized partially and fully. Substantial reforms implemented by the previous government also resumed.

However, it is reasonable to assume that the current government may have a different approach when it comes to liberalizing or privatizing the telecom service and opening up the financial sector to foreign investment.

The country was compelled to adopt the World Bank's structural adjustment policy, which includes economic liberalization as one of its pillars. It is important to note that privatization was already among the agenda of the previous government, and the incumbent acknowledged the necessity of implementing the adjustment policy as a means to initiate the process of opening up these sectors.

As to Yared, Ethiopia's socio economic woes are deep rooted, decades of authoritarian rule and the historical legacy of ethnic divisions and grievances, along with issues such as land disputes, marginalization, and perceived inequalities, have significantly contributed to the prevailing tensions in Ethiopia.

In addition, the reforms on the economic front have been limited or nonexistent in certain areas, particularly regarding land rights.

In Ethiopia, farmers, without securing land ownership, find themselves in uncertain circumstances that put them in a disadvantageous position and perpetuating a cycle of inequality. This persistent issue has played a prominent role in perpetuating the recurring challenges the country faced.

Based on his observations in England, Yared said that various investment groups and investors initially showed interest in Ethiopia following the political transition, assuming that the country was open for business. However, they encountered significant barriers in the bureaucratic process, ultimately leading

them to withdraw their investment plans. This bureaucratic hurdle has become a deterrent, impeding the potential inflow of investments into the country.

While the previous government had an operational system in place despite its bureaucratic policies and favored investment, the current government inherited various political, economic and woes which require time and resoluteness.

It tried its level best to address the past mistakes and attain economic progress and to that end, it has taken various measures. But the war broke out in the northern part of Ethiopia brought a deterrent effect on the witnessed economic achievements.

Currently, the nation faced various challenges in the economic front and among others, negative trade balance, shortage of foreign currency, illegal trade, inflation and corruption. In addition, the conflicts flared in various parts of the country hamper trade and business.

Abduction of citizens when moving from place to place posed fears on drivers and made transaction cost of agricultural products very expensive. Besides, it affects value chains of supplying of agricultural inputs to farmers.

According to the recent study findings, the absence of peace and security in some areas of the country created good opportunity to the illegal traders to smuggle cattle and agricultural products to the neighboring countries which again put pressure on the economy.

As to him, Ethiopia has a potential to register economic growth through exploiting its abundant natural resources such as arable lands, productive labor force, water, mine, energy and tourism but without bringing political stability realizing development goals is impossible.

Many countries all over the world passed through political ups and downs, but through time, they could able to stabilize their countries and resolve conflicts through dialogue. Therefore, Ethiopia can attain peace and stability through drawing lessons from other countries. The ongoing efforts exerted by the National Dialogue Commission to prepare platform for conducting dialogue among various political and interest groups should be supported by all stakeholders.

The political differences currently created rift among groups are not created today and most of them are inherited from the past. Therefore, resolving the problems needs conducting dialogue heartedly.

As mentioned above, Ethiopia missed various opportunities in the past and now it is time to embark on the path to peace and stability through reconciliation and pardon.

The appalling poverty witnessed in the country is worrisome and it is time to stop conflict and exerting energy to achieving economic progress.

# Art & Culture



## The aura of invincibility

BY ALEM HAILU G/KRISTOS

Without fail  
 Fighting tooth and nail  
 And repelling invaders  
 With gluttonous, predatory  
 Farfetched ambitions diverse,  
 Forbearers  
 Proving heroes and heroines  
 Of the land portrayed capable  
 Blatant aggressions,  
 Trigger-happy encroachments  
 To annihilate, to reverse  
 They laid the foundation for  
 The unhampered hoisting high,  
 The unflagging hovering high  
 Of our flag that magnify  
 National unity, sovereignty  
 In ways description that defy.

If this generation internalizes  
 Our flag is a symbol  
 Of struggle, independence,  
 Sovereignty and sacrifice  
 It is on the ball.  
 The flag is  
 A emblem of martyrdom  
 "Keep the legacy" is  
 What it drives home.  
 As a broad daylight

*It must be stark  
 The flag is Ethiopia's  
 Independence, persistence  
 Love and unity hallmark.  
 Also perseverance  
 Resilience, love of nation  
 It does advance.*

*By the same token, it urges  
 Multipronged development  
 To proceed afoot  
 And conviction to the same effect  
 To put down root.*

*By and by  
 To kiss poverty goodbye  
 Resource utilization efficient  
 It advises us to take as a must.*

*The flag conjures up in  
 Our mind  
 The feelings for one another  
 To be considerate  
 And kind;  
 What is more, the stamina  
 To jump over a pitfall  
 In a bid looked-forward  
 Mega projects, parks, export trade..  
 Aggressively roll.  
 Above all, on respecting  
 Public interest  
 And the rule of law*



*Much we must invest.  
 To see Ethiopia better  
 Let's parry gambits  
 That put us asunder.  
 The aura of invincibility  
 The trend-setter beauty*

*That emanates from our unity  
 Must keep on to be our identity;  
 That is what the flag  
 Speaks out loud  
 Of a nation though developing  
 That is proud.*

## Towards efficiency

BY SENAIT G/HIWOT

According to Lila Landowski, a neuroscientist and lecturer at the University of Tasmania there are things we can do to learn faster and more efficiently.

For us to learn neuroplasticity needs to happen which is the brain's ability to physically change in response to experiences. Inability to learn quickly usually stems from the disconnection of synapses in the brain... so for them to reconnect we have to

1. Pay attention: we have the ability to choose how much attention we pay to things. Don't use your phones too much it makes you less attentive. Exercise and meditation help.
2. Alertness: while chronic stress has the ability to diminish your alertness normal bits of

stress help improve alertness by increasing adrenaline. Exercise, breathing, and cold shower, caffeine also help. Eating big meals usually switches off our alertness.... sleep is crucial for alertness.

3. Repetition: It is key when it comes to learning. By neuroplasticity you are making brand new connections, and it is done by repetition.
4. Breaks: Are really important for learning by giving a chance to replay the information afterwards. Take a 10-20 min break after you finish learning.
5. Mistakes: Mistakes increase the level of anxiety which serves a really important purpose by saying Hey! You need to be more efficient and open the window for neuroplasticity. Don't wait everything to be perfect.



# Global Affairs

## Ethiopia's role as a key player in regional, global affairs

BY STAFF REPORTER

Through active participation in diplomatic activities, Ethiopia has a platform to contribute to discussions on various global issues and share its unique perspectives with other nations, thus helping to create a more diverse and inclusive global community. By engaging with other nations through diplomatic channels, Ethiopia not only gains valuable insights but also garners support for its own development endeavors including projects aimed at addressing poverty, inequality and social justice issues within its borders.

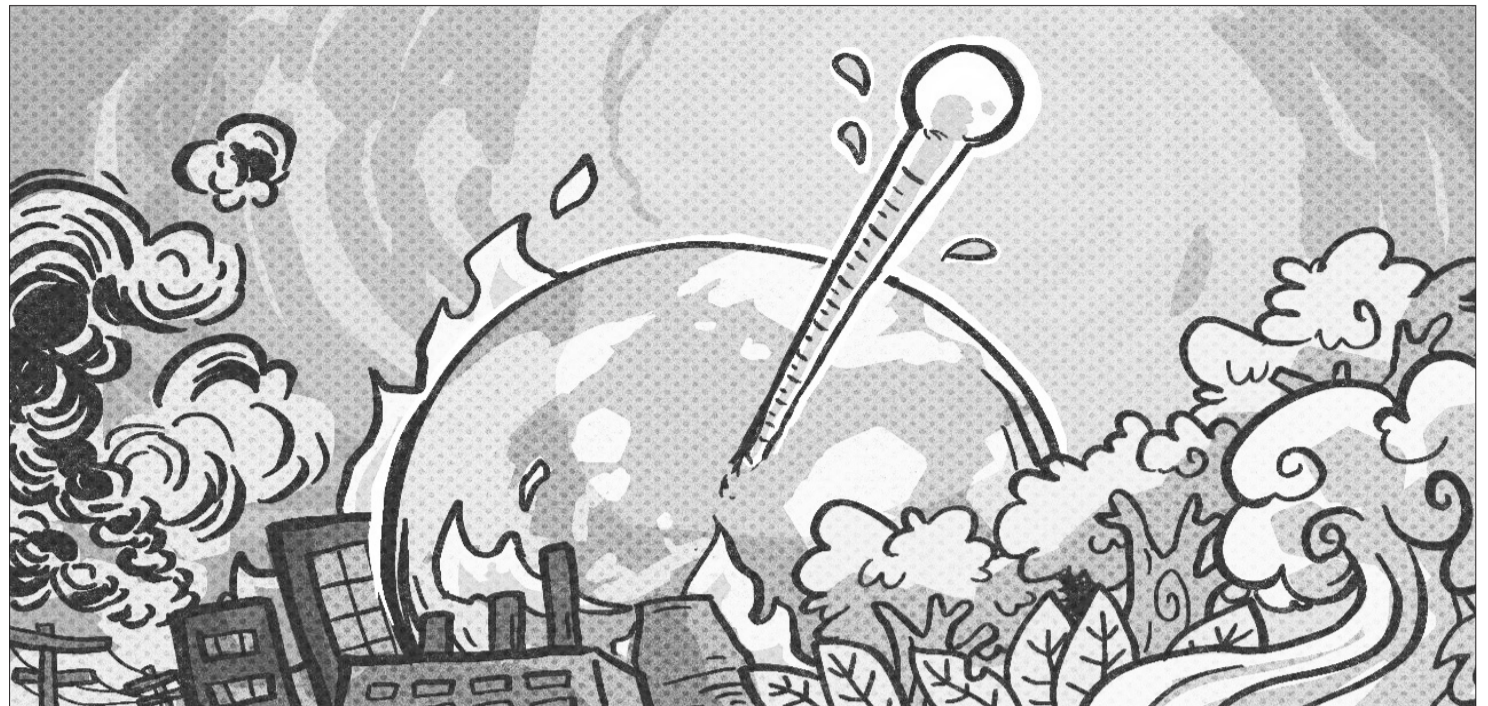
One key benefit of Ethiopia's involvement in diplomatic activities is the opportunity to actively participate in discussions and negotiations on global issues. As an active member of the international community, Ethiopia can lend its voice to important conversations offering its perspectives and solutions to challenges such as climate change, sustainable development, and human rights. By sharing its experiences and best practices, Ethiopia can contribute to a collective understanding and help shape policies that promote global well-being.

In a similar vein, active engagement in diplomacy allows Ethiopia to build partnerships and alliances with other nations who share similar goals and values. Through diplomatic channels, Ethiopia can establish cooperation agreements and mutual commitments with like-minded countries creating opportunities for joint initiatives and collaborations. Such alliances can provide the necessary support and resources to implement development projects aimed at poverty reduction, education improvement, healthcare access, and social justice reforms.

The country's diplomatic involvement also enhances its reputation and credibility on the global stage. By actively participating in diplomatic activities, the country can showcase its commitment to international peace, stability, and cooperation. This can lead to increased trust and understanding among nations improving Ethiopia's standing in diplomatic negotiations and attracting potential partners for trade, investments and development assistance.

What's more, diplomatic engagements provide Ethiopia with a platform to advocate for its national interests and priorities. By effectively communicating its needs and aspirations, Ethiopia can seek support for its own development endeavors. Through diplomatic negotiations, Ethiopia can secure assistance, funding, and technical expertise to implement projects that address poverty, inequality, and social justice issues within its borders. This support can accelerate the achievement of Ethiopia's national development goals and improve the well-being of its citizens.

Besides, diplomatic interactions enable Ethiopia to learn from the experiences of other nations and adopt best practices that align with its own development needs. Through bilateral and multilateral engagements, Ethiopia can gain insights into successful strategies for poverty alleviation, education reform, healthcare delivery, and social empowerment. This knowledge exchange can aid in the



formulation and implementation of effective policies and interventions to tackle domestic challenges.

The country's active involvement in diplomacy can also help to foster regional integration and cooperation. By engaging with neighboring countries and regional organizations, Ethiopia can contribute to peace building efforts, conflict resolution and economic cooperation. Through diplomatic channels, Ethiopia can champion regional initiatives that promote stability, security and collaboration leading to shared prosperity in the region.

It is common knowledge that Ethiopia's participation in diplomatic activities can inspire and motivate citizens to actively engage in global affairs. By witnessing Ethiopia's meaningful contributions to global discussions and initiatives, young Ethiopians can be encouraged to pursue careers in diplomacy, international relations, and global governance. This can ultimately contribute to the development of a skilled and knowledgeable workforce equipped to navigate the complexities of the global arena.

By actively participating in international diplomacy, Ethiopia gains access to a broader range of opportunities for trade, investment, and technology transfer. Engaging with other nations at a diplomatic level allows Ethiopia to attract foreign direct investment which can contribute to the country's economic progress and development. Furthermore, it opens doors for technological advancements and expertise from across the globe enabling Ethiopia to leverage these resources to enhance various sectors and industries.

Participation in international diplomacy provides a platform for Ethiopia to address pressing global issues and advocate for its national interests and priorities. The country can align its foreign policy with global trends and work collaboratively with other nations to address challenges such as climate change, terrorism, migration, and peace building. Through diplomatic negotiations and engagements, Ethiopia can contribute to shaping global policies and promoting its own perspectives and values.

Ethiopia with its vibrant cultural heritage and captivating history continues to inspire and be a source of hope for many. The nation has

faced numerous challenges throughout its past but it has always maintained its determination to emerge as a prominent country in Africa and on the global stage. As a result, Ethiopia has garnered significant attention and has become a central hub for diplomatic activities.

Ethiopia's role as a diplomatic center extends beyond hosting international organizations. The country actively participates in diplomatic efforts to resolve conflicts and promote peace in the region. It has played a crucial role in mediating disputes in neighboring countries.

Ethiopia's success in various sectors has inspired other African nations facing similar challenges. Its achievements in agriculture, industry, and technology serve as a model for sustainable development and economic transformation in the continent. By sharing its experiences and lessons learned, Ethiopia has become a source of inspiration and a catalyst for positive change throughout Africa. Ethiopia's resilience, commitment to development, and contributions to regional peace and stability have garnered international attention.

One of the key areas where Ethiopia has played an instrumental role is in peacekeeping in Africa. The country has contributed troops to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) which is working to stabilize the situation in Somalia and help create a peaceful and stable environment for the country's people.

Ethiopia's diplomatic activities have contributed significantly to regional and global governance and economic growth. The country has been a key player in peacekeeping, economic integration, climate change, counterterrorism, women's rights, regional stability, education, migration, and other related aspects. Ethiopia has been a vocal advocate for gender equality including the prevention of gender-based violence, the promotion of women's economic empowerment, and the participation of women in political decision-making.

The country's emergence as a key player on the world stage is a testament to the country's leadership and its commitment to promoting mutual beneficial partnerships. The future prospects for Ethiopia's diplomatic activities are positive as the country continues to work

towards consolidating peace and stability in the region and fostering mutually beneficial relationships with the rest of the world.

Ethiopia has carried out remarkable diplomatic activities in bilateral and multilateral spheres in the first quarter of current fiscal year, according to the Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, according to information obtained from Ethiopian News Agency.

Foreign Affairs Spokesperson Meles Alem briefed the media on the various diplomatic activities that took place over the past three months.

The Spokesperson said the ministry has planned to diversify the diplomatic activities with a view to ensuring the national interest of Ethiopia during this budget year.

Accordingly, Meles mentioned that the diplomatic engagement carried out with USA, EU, G77+China, UN and other organizations over the past three months has brought fruitful results.

He further explained that, discussion has been underway with the US government to further bolster trade, investment and development cooperation.

In addition, UK and Ireland are reactivating their bilateral relations with Ethiopia.

The fruitful bilateral and multilateral diplomatic activities with various countries, international organizations and institutions are among the victories registered over the state period.

He also stated that, the European Union's financial support to Ethiopia is a demonstration of diplomatic success recorded during the quarter year.

It is to be recalled that EU has launched 650 million euros multisector support program for Ethiopia recently. It was indicated during the occasion that the launch of the program is a concrete first step towards normalization.

The program will be implemented from 2024 to 2027 focusing on three priority areas: Green Deal, Human Development, and Governance and Peace-building.

The spokesperson also pointed out that countries like Croatia, Colombia and Nicaragua are showing their interest in opening their embassies in Ethiopia.



# Law & Politics

## Sea access as a crucial element in Ethiopia's development agenda

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

In light of Ethiopia's ever-growing population, gaining access to the sea is not a mere luxury but a matter of utmost significance for the country's existence. As the population continues to increase, the demand for various resources and opportunities has also risen exponentially. Therefore, Ethiopia believes that sea access is essential to catering to the needs of its expanding populace and ensuring their survival and well-being.

Ethiopia's quest for a sea port is undeniably justifiable given its landlocked geographical position and the potential benefits that access to a sea port can bring. Being surrounded by landlocked countries, Ethiopia faces significant challenges in terms of importing and exporting goods. Therefore, seeking access to a sea port is a logical step for the country to enhance its economic growth and regional integration.

For Ethiopia, access to the sea is not a luxury but a matter of existence, especially considering the country's growing population. It is essential for addressing resource scarcity, fostering economic growth, enhancing food security, promoting regional development, facilitating global connectivity, improving disaster response capabilities, and other related aspects.

There is no gainsaying the fact that access to a sea port would provide Ethiopia with numerous economic advantages. It would significantly reduce transportation costs as goods could be transported directly by sea rather than relying solely on land-based transportation. This would not only make trade more efficient but also contribute to price reductions for consumers, stimulate foreign investment and foster economic development within the country.

Furthermore, sea access would offer Ethiopia greater connectivity with global markets. It would serve as a gateway for international trade and enable the country to participate in global supply chains. This enhanced connectivity would attract foreign direct investment and facilitate technology transfer leading to the modernization and diversification of Ethiopian industries.

Ethiopia's commitment to peaceful means can be observed through its active participation in regional and international organizations focused on promoting peaceful resolutions. It seeks to engage in diplomatic dialogue, negotiations and cooperative initiatives to find mutually satisfactory solutions that respect the rights and interests of all parties involved.

By having direct access to a sea port, Ethiopia can actively participate in regional economic initiatives and integrate its industries with other countries in the region. This would strengthen economic ties, promote cooperation, and contribute to the overall stability and prosperity of the region.



Ethiopia's quest for a sea port is justified by considering historical precedents.

Many landlocked countries around the world have successfully developed partnerships and agreements to secure access to sea ports.

As a landlocked country access to a sea port would bring numerous economic, strategic and regional integration advantages. By pursuing this goal through diplomatic negotiations respecting the interests of neighboring countries and investing in the necessary infrastructure, Ethiopia can unlock significant opportunities for sustainable development, job creation, and enhanced regional cooperation.

Ethiopia finds itself in a unique position within the Horn of Africa surrounded by neighboring countries but lacking direct access to the oceans and seas. This distinct location has profound implications for the country's economic prospects and overall development. While Ethiopia boasts abundant natural resources and a rapidly growing economy the absence of sea access poses significant hindrances to its full potential.

The country has always been a proud and independent nation with a rich heritage that dates back thousands of years. The country's historical narrative is intertwined with its sense of unity, national identity, and territorial integrity. As a result, Ethiopia views its pursuit of sea access as a legitimate claim rooted in its historical context embodying the aspirations and ambitions of its people.

Considering Ethiopia's geographical, historical and economic circumstances, the nation asserts its rightful claim to seek access to the sea through peaceful methods.

Given its landlocked position and lack of direct coastal access, Ethiopia faces considerable challenges in terms of development and trade. However, the country firmly believes that it should have the opportunity to harness this invaluable natural resource in a manner that is both peaceful and advantageous for all parties involved.

Ethiopia's pursuit of sea access is not driven by aggressive intentions or desires for expansion. Instead, it is rooted in the

principles of peaceful coexistence, mutual benefit and fair access to essential maritime resources. The country understands the importance of engagement and collaboration with its neighboring coastal states in order to achieve a mutually acceptable resolution.

Access to a sea port would facilitate Ethiopia's participation in regional and global trade networks. It could serve as a gateway for Ethiopian goods to reach global markets thereby expanding the country's export potential and promoting international trade. This would create opportunities for economic growth, job creation and technological advancements within different sectors of the Ethiopian economy.

Ethiopia seeks to engage in constructive dialogue with concerned parties to explore peaceful solutions and mutual benefits. The country welcomes multilateral platforms such as regional organizations and international forums to foster discussions and negotiations on sea access. Ethiopia is committed to pursuing diplomatic engagement with all relevant stakeholders to find a just and peaceful resolution that takes into account the interests of all involved.

While Ethiopia is surrounded by waters, it remains landlocked which presents numerous challenges across various sectors. The lack of sea access impacts trade, transportation, economic opportunities, diplomacy, security, resource availability and cultural exchange. Addressing this issue and obtaining sea access would provide Ethiopia with new opportunities for economic growth, development and regional integration benefiting the country and its people.

Ethiopia also emphasizes its commitment to peace and stability in the region. The country believes that gaining sea access through peaceful means would contribute to regional security and cooperation. By promoting peaceful negotiations, Ethiopia aims to foster a climate of trust and cooperation among neighboring states thus reducing tensions and promoting collective efforts towards shared prosperity.

Ethiopia's desire for sea access is rooted in its economic aspirations. The country aims to transform its economy and achieve sustainable development recognizing that

access to the sea is a crucial element in achieving these goals. Ethiopia envisions utilizing sea access to facilitate international trade, attract foreign investment and boost its export-oriented industries. This, in turn, would contribute to job creation, technology transfer and overall economic prosperity.

The issue of water in general and the concern of the Red Sea in particular are quite important for Ethiopia's development, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) said.

Ethiopians have to critically think over accessing sea port via negotiating in a bid to feed some 150 million populations in 2030, he added.

Consulting MPs about the issue of the Red Sea, the premier recently said that: "The Red Sea is of paramount importance in boosting Ethiopia's development via entertaining a give and take policy with a view to owning port in the Red Sea. As Ethiopia does have everything to be developed, all citizens should be well aware of the abundant resource of the nation."

According to the Premier, the country needs to be in a position to garner benefits by sharing ethio-telecom, the Grand Abbay Dam, Ethiopian Airlines by analyzing cost benefit analysis.

He further stated that the leaders of Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan, among other, are expected to closely talk about the issue and reach consensus to help Ethiopia access sea port and options to use multiple ports as the country has to meet the demands of the ever increasing population growth.

"When we entertain discussions and hold close talks, we can devise a range of mechanisms to deal with our country's problems. Since port rent has been pulling Ethiopia's growth back, we all are expected to be concerned on the issue and openly discuss instead of being quite as if the issue was an untouchable one," he said.

So long as Ethiopia has the right to use the Red Sea waters both historically and geopolitically, the generation has to capitalize on the major concerns to make the country a well-developed one utilizing water resources in general and that of the Red Sea in particular, the Premier elucidated.

# Planet Earth

## South West Ethiopia- the living ethnographic museum

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

Ethiopia is a country bestowed with natural, historical and cultural attractions. If you go from one end to the other, the diversity of the people looking here and there mesmerizes you. In short, the country is a living ethnographic museum and is the right place for those who want to specialize in that. In today's short piece, we will visit the South West Region of Ethiopia, a home for 13 nationals who have lived in harmony for centuries.

Here in the state, the diversity of the people creates a captivating scene. The lifestyle, dressing style, dancing and chanting, cultural food and drinks, and other untold cultural activities of these nations' nationalities and peoples are also considered tourism attractions.

On the other hand, plenty of wildlife and natural resources are available in the state, which is filled with dense forest. Wherever you throw your eyes, by default they fall into the green area. Of the various types of natural attractions, caves, waterfalls and both natural and manmade lakes give the place a majestic look. Kefa and Sheka, the two biosphere reserves registered on the UNESCO list, are found in the state.

In addition to this, the state is known for its two giant national parks, Chebera Churchura and Omo National Parks. Chebera Churchura is the place where many wildlife species exist, such as African elephants, buffalo, endemic birds, and plant species. African elephants are rarely found on the African continent, but one can see more than 1000 elephants situated in the park. Some studies indicated that 2/3 of this kind of African elephant is only found in Ethiopia, which makes the park unique.

The perennial lakes in the park have also made it home to a number of wild animals. Within Chebera Churchura Park, there are six small lakes. One of the lakes is known for its endemic fish, called Gara Chebera. The park is found between the Dawro and Konta zones, and these resources created a strong bond between the two nationals. Indeed, parks are a national treasure, not only given to nations or nationals. At the grass-roots level, it is the people who contribute to the protection of the park, but it is a national resource. If it is developed well, it will be the wealth of the international community.

The park was established in 2004/2005 at the request of the Konta and Dawuro people. The park covers an area of 1410 km<sup>2</sup>. It is 13 km away from Amaya City, so it is convenient for tourists. The park is located 454 km away from Addis Ababa.

Recently, a crew of journalists visited this Evergreen Park. As part of the Dine for Nation project, the Koyssha project, which includes the Cebera Churchura Park, is now attracting the interest of local and internal investors. Considering the absence of a hospitality industry in the area, they are now

**Plenty of wildlife and natural resources are available in the state, which is filled with dense forest. Wherever you throw your eyes, by default they fall into the green area**

engaging in various tourism facilities.

The people of Konta have aspired to benefit from the Koyssha projects, which were undertaken at the initiative of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

Lieutenant Haile Tadese is working as a security guard in Chebera Churchura Park. Previously, he was a member of the Ethiopian Defense Forces. He sustained physical injury while fighting in one of the battlefields. After recovering from injury, he returned to his village and is working as a security guard at Chebera Churchura Park with a monthly salary of 4000 brr. But the salary he presently earns is not enough to make a living. He hoped that his income would increase as the number of tourists' inflows increased due to the development of new tourist facilities in the park.

Edeno Betla is the coordinator of the scouts at Chebera Churchura Park. It has been 16 years since he was employed as a forest and animal protection worker. He said, "We protect many plants and wild animals in the park from illegal hunters and infiltrators. The presence of wildlife has an immense contribution to the sustainability of the park, which he assumed would bring incalculable benefits for us and the country's economy."

Among the tourist destinations visited by media professionals, infrastructure development activities, including roads, bridges, lodges, and others that were assumed to extend tourist stays, are now being constructed.

Upon completion, the Koyssha projects would create a number of job opportunities for areas with potential tourism resources, such as Chebera Churchura, to stand out and be developed. This has created job opportunities for many youths and other sections of



society, according to the State Minister for Government Communication, Service Ministry, Selamawit Kassa.

Selamawit said that the tourism infrastructure being built by both private and government entities in Chebera Churchura Park will contribute greatly to the development of the sector. The tourism infrastructure being built in Koyssha will greatly contribute to the development of the sector.

Nega Abera is administrator of Konta Zone. He said that since the last few years, there have been activities to stimulate the tourism sector in the zone. Although the zone is bestowed with natural and man-made heritage, it has been deprived of attention in the past years, so the people have not been able to benefit from the sector. He said that there was no tourist aspect before, and now the community has hope as the area has been

embraced for the national project as planned by Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed.

The zone chef, who stated that the area was not visited by media experts, added that the visit will be of great benefit to the area in stimulating local visitors and showing the potential of the area.

He explained that the zone is the owner of various tangible and intangible heritages, and this area, which is one of the projects for the country, entails that it is possible to convert the natural resources into development.

Citing the research conducted so far, he said there are more than 40 large and medium-sized wild animals in the park, except for rhinoceros, African elephant, buffalo, hippopotamus, lion, endemic species of birds and fish, hot springs, waterfalls, caves, and other natural resources.