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Ethiopia welcomes Africa-centered initiatives, investment plans: Premier

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia has fully welcomed Africa-centered initiatives and investment plans in harmony with country's development strategy, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) said.

Speaking at the 10th anniversary of China's Belt and Road Initiative, Premier Abiy said "Africa-centered initiatives and investment plans build a bridge to the Africa we want. Ethiopia fully welcomes these plans and initiatives in harmony with our development strategy of the Ten Years Perspective Development Plan to diversify our economy and forge our path to holistic

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The 2nd ATIS Summit on Dec 4th 2023, Promo

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Addis to host Africa Trade, Investment Summit

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia will host the second Africa Trade and Investment Summit (ATIS) on 4th December 2023.

According to a press release sent to ENA by the Investment Center of Africa (ICOA), the summit aims to showcase success stories and best practices from entrepreneurs and investors that are making a positive impact in Africa.

The summit will also serve as a source of inspiration, demonstrating the immense potential for growth and success in the African market.

Furthermore, it will help explore the immense trade and investment

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Ethiopia's pursuit to sea outlet legitimate, unrestricted: Lawyer, MPs

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopia's pursuit for sea access is a legitimate move that has not violated any of the agreements that the country has so far signed with its coastal neighbors, a noted lawyer and members of parliament said.

Speaking to FBC, Lawyer and Human Rights Advocate Wondimu Ibsa stated that the harm Ethiopia sustained owing to losing ports is much more severe than of issues circulated in [international] courts these days. "It is very easy to judge the issue using the usual law. Nevertheless, the issue is still undermined... There is no legal framework that could restrict the claim."

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Experts push for regulatory measures to counter hate speech

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- The implementation of regulatory measures is required to curtail the alarming misuse of digital platforms by social media actors involved in the dissemination of hate speech and fake news, experts suggested.

From Addis Ababa University Journalism and Communication School, Anteneh

Tsegaye (PhD) told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the expansion of the media landscape not only allowed people to entertain diverse views, but also opened the door for groups and individuals to instigate unrest.

The fact that the majority of false information is well planned and targeted and the negative effect it has on the public is devastating, he said adding that

false information is widely shared due to the nature of the platforms regardless of Ethiopia's limited internet penetration.

"As to the study conducted by Addis Ababa University, over 85 % of the social media content is political," he noted.

Emphasizing the destructive role of manipulative social media contents in inciting the unrest in different parts of the

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Accessing to sea port: Decisive for Ethiopia's economy

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A symbolic representation of Nation's resilience, hope and pride

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Joint efforts to ensure quality education!

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Photo: Gebabo Gebrite

Institute prepares to set quality standards

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA—The Institute of Ethiopian Standards (IES) announced that it is working to set standards for products as it helps to come up with competitive domestic products in the world market and facilitate technology transfer.

The Institute held a consultation forum yesterday with local producers, exporters and stakeholders taking advantage of World Standards celebration day.

At the event, IES Director General Meseret Bekele (PhD) said that the government has been providing concerned bodies with training and technical supports for the implementation of standards of products during production process.

“As a member of world standard by implementing principles, we will create competitive market environment in the world. We need to make the standards accessible everywhere and set standard products to contribute a lot to the national economy,” she added.

According to Meseret, standards are basic parameters needed to supply quality products that help to keep the health of the community and contribute to the national economy.

She added that standards play a great role in improving domestic products to be globally competitive, facilitating technology transfer in the nation.

As to her, the nation should implement proper policy that stipulated quality standards for domestic products since it touch all human life and consumer products help to achieve development goals.

Standards play a great role in bringing about smart production, delivering competitiveness, quality and standard products and services. They are also used for facilitating trade, ensuring food security, and solving human challenges by improving the quality, safety and compatibility of products and services, as to the Director General.

This year's World Standards day was celebrated under the theme: "Shared Vision for a Better World."

Promotion missing link in Ethiopia's tourism industry: Stakeholders

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA – Lack of adequate destination information and guideline to domestic and foreign visitors hampering Ethiopia's potential to reap from the tourism industry, actors in the sector said.

The National Tourism and Hospitality Fair, which is aimed to promote Ethiopia's tourism potentials, is taking place at the Science Museum.

Approached by the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Kuriftu Resort Marketing Manager Yustena Aschalew said that inadequate information about tourist attraction sites and other related facilities hinder the country from utilizing the sector's potential. “Despite this, the country's tourism and hospitality sector is making significant progress.”

According to her, the active involvement of relevant stakeholders in tourism promotion related activities help the country amass substantial benefits out of the industry.

Currently, the state-of-the-art Kuriftu African Village Lodge, which is under construction, and the availability of other star-designated hotels are believed to elevate the service sector.

“Up on completion, the lodge, which is



Photo: Dugne ubera

Yustena Aschalew

equipped with 54 rooms, would have a paramount importance in representing African dining and other cultures. Besides, it is important to promote Ethiopia's hospitality sector progress to the rest of the world,” Yustena remarked.

Afar State Culture and Tourism Bureau Heritage Preservation Chief Expert Ahmed Mohammed for his part stated that the state's noble tourism attraction sites have not been sufficiently promoted. “Although Afar is endowed with Erta Ale and Dallol Depression, it has the lower and limited access to the sector due to lack of promotion. Therefore, it is critical for investors and other actors to strengthen the promotion and development activities in the area.”



Ahmed Mohammed

The Ethiopian Culture and Tourism Journalists Association member Solomon Girma said journalists that are serving in the sector need to develop the required skill and knowledge to facilitate awareness creation platforms. The fair helps to curb hassles that tourists have been facing in attraction sites.

Commending the exhibition's outcomes for visitors, a participant Yibeltal Assefa stated that the platform helps to provide information under one roof.

In addition, the event would be a platform to identify areas that would be explored and developed in the future. This kind of exhibition should be expanded to promote more tourist attraction sites to both domestic and international visitors, he added.

Ministry strives to create 20 mln. jobs

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA - Ministry of Labor and Skills (MoLS) expressed that it is working hard in collaborating with various stakeholders to create some 20 million jobs in 2030.

The two day National Career expo that connected employers and employees was opened yesterday at the Millennium Hall by MoLS in collaboration with Dereja.com, and the Mastercard Foundation.

Speaking at the expo, MoLS State Minister Nigusu Tilahun said that the Ministry is striving a lot to achieve the sustainable development goals by creating some 20 million jobs via more consolidated efforts.

As to him, the main objective of this expo is to connect over 20,000 fresh graduates and 3,000 level academy graduates with about 200 employers.

He further stated that the ministry is working on avoiding backward market system, increasing stakeholders' participation, widening finance accessibility, preparing enabled legal frameworks, developing the training system, and encouraging all-inclusive involvement to succeed the national ambition towards jobs in 2030.

Over the past years, the Ministry has been



Photo: Eyob Teferi

able to create job opportunities for hundreds of thousands of citizens in cooperation with Dereja.com, he stated.

Mastercard Foundation Country Director, Samuel Yalew on his part said his company which is operating in Africa and Canada has planned to create 30 million jobs in the African continent in 2030.

The finance and other related issues will be providing to facilitate jobs in Ethiopia, he said, adding that working in collaboration would bring about a significant impact in addressing job challenges across Ethiopia.

Kerchanshe Group Employment Transmission Department Head, Gediown Atomesa said, “Our company is mainly exporting quality coffee commodity to different countries and we have over 10,000 employees across the country.”

Gediown added that his company is willing to recruiting and staffing 50 up to 60 fresh graduate students from this expo. Such expo has dual significance in getting jobs for the graduate students and the company gained quality applicants who deserve the right position, he noted.

CITA requests Africa to set vehicle inspection standards

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

ADDIS ABABA - The International Motor Vehicle Inspection Committee (CITA) requested African countries to set the minimum standard of vehicle inspection in order to reduce carbon emissions.

In an exclusive interview with The Ethiopian Herald, CITA President Gerhard Müller expressed that over 25 % of African countries are without a vehicle inspection system. "I would be happy if every country would have a vehicle inspection system and they could agree on the minimum level."

Indicating that CITA's goal is to improve road

safety and emission behavior of vehicles, the president said, "So, we want to help African countries improve road safety with better vehicles and reduce emissions from vehicles."

He stated that his organization is recommending vehicle inspection procedures to prove requirements so that vehicles will have safety and safe emission standard throughout their entire lifecycle. "So that they will not pollute much more than they are allowed to," he noted.

If vehicles are not inspected properly, nobody cares about the emissions they release that's why countries need enforcement, clear descriptions, and educated inspectors, the

president added.

Noting that electric vehicles save emissions so that they have a huge impact when compared to combustion engine vehicles, he said, "I really would like to encourage African countries to make it possible that more electric vehicles will be registered in the future. But you also need the infrastructure—the charging point. You should try to become zero-emission vehicles as well as make sure that combustion engine vehicles do not emit more than they should."

CITA helps build such a system because it has many members who have been rocking in this field for decades. So they can share experiences, and the committee can point out



recommendations. CITA also has experiences that African countries can learn a lot about how to build up a vehicle inspection system, according to Gerhard Müller.

Experts push for...

country, the academician stressed that the trend has pushed the country to pay unnecessary price.

According to Anteneh, the absence of effective social media regulation that ensures the accountability of violators has aggravated the problem. "The hate speech and disinformation law gives protection to public figures, and politicians, among others. Nonetheless, mostly these are the ones who are spreading disinformation."

Similarly, Hawassa University Research and Technology Director Gebrekristos Nuriye (PhD) said some social media actors and their devotees are the main instrument of misinformation in digital platforms.

Social media actors have largely encouraged disseminating false information to get more likes, shares, and increase followers, he

stated while suggesting "Government's disclosure of timely and accurate information as an instrument to curtail the spread of fake news on social media."

Anteneh also mentioned a system dubbed 'linguistic' which enables individuals to be accountable by tracking their social media posts and images as well as tracks hate speeches.

He further stated that Ethiopia is undertaking several activities to put the system in place. The government's close partnership with owners of social media platforms including Facebook and YouTube is also beneficial to hold individuals involved in disinformation and hate speech accountable.

"Institutions, on the one hand, should introduce and promote their official social media accounts as well as must be alert in

unveiling false information. Moreover, activities that could enhance the public's media literacy must be carried out through the involvement of public figures, religious institutions, and higher education institutions," he indicated.

The expert added, "How we are using social media as a society indicates that we are detaching from our long cherished values of respect, unity and tolerance. To this effect, more attention should be given in reviving those essential values to our system by means of education and media campaigns."

Ethiopia's hate speech and disinformation prevention proclamation, which took effect on 23 March 2020, stipulated that disseminating hate speech or false information by means of broadcasting, print or social media using text, image, audio or video is prohibited.

Addis to host Africa...

potential of Africa, the release added.

ATIS is the only African business summit connecting influential decision-makers to forge new partnerships and collaborations with stakeholders.

The summit also offers a unique opportunity to delve into Africa's emerging markets and sectors, gaining valuable insights from industry experts and practitioners.

During the summit, the participants will have the chance to learn experiences from experts who will share their expertise by navigating the regulatory and policy landscape in Africa.

ATIS is expected to leverage digital technologies and innovation to drive trade and investment growth, the release stated, adding that strategies for building sustainable and inclusive business models that contribute to Africa's socio-economic development will also be presented.

The event is expected to bring together more than 300 participants, including government officials, investors, policy makers, entrepreneurs and diplomatic corps from Africa and around the world.

The summit will feature high-level speakers who will shed light on key topics and trends shaping Africa's socio-economic landscape.

Recall that the first Africa Trade and Investment Summit was also held in Addis Ababa in June 2023 with the aim of promoting trade and investment opportunities in Ethiopia in particular and in the continent in general.

Ethiopia's pursuit to sea...

All international laws accommodate issues of access to the sea and national security, as well as port ownership of populous countries. Ethiopia's sovereignty is now determined by the access to the sea. It is becoming a matter of survival, the lawyer emphasized.

Mentioning Ethiopia's becoming the 11th most populous country in the world, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) told members of the House of People's Representatives last week that survival without access to sea while having such a population will no longer be possible.

Wondimu shared Abiy's statement. "The United Nations charters adopted since 1942 and the African Union charters also accommodate the right to have access to the sea of most populous landlocked countries." Despite the historical, cultural, societal and

economical rights, Ethiopia lost access to the sea just because of illegal decisions. Now the Ethiopian government is claiming the right thing and its intention is not to harm neighboring countries.

About the Assab Port, the Ethiopian government has called up its Eritrean counterpart for cooperation and for mutual benefit, not to conquer the port, he added. "The Eritrean side should also consider Ethiopia's pursuit of sea access as legitimate."

A member of the House of Peoples Representatives, Ambassador Tofik Abdulahi also told the same media that Ethiopia is spending billions of USD to get port services annually. "The inability to access the sea for free restricts our competence in the global market. Politically, Ethiopia is the center of the Red Sea geopolitics. So, it should have

direct engagement on the geopolitical issue to preserve its national interest."

Another MP Zekarias Erkola also claimed that Ethiopia has the right to access the sea as the international law declares equitable utilization of sea. The Red Sea is just becoming a playing ground for many countries, and global powers are taking center stage. Accordingly, Ethiopia should not be abstained from its own region.

The misinformation and malformation, which some media disseminate about 'the war-triggering aspect' of the issue is baseless and peaceful mechanisms that could benefit all sides (Ethiopia and its coastal neighbors) are still available, Zekarias remarked.

Ethiopia is a landlocked country with 120 million population.

Ethiopia welcomes Afri...

prosperity."

He also expressed his support to the eight-point vision proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping which mainly focuses on investing both in people and the planet to achieve prosperity.

China-Africa ties today have grown exponentially characterized by a commitment to mutually beneficial cooperation and respect for sovereignty. Belt and Road Initiative has been delivering infrastructural development across the continent as well as improving trade exchanges between China and Africa, Abiy stated.

The premier believed that the initiative has been facilitating economic integration and sustainable growth as large scale investments in infrastructure strengthened commercial ties that have boosted the continent's economic development.

With the rapidly growing population, the continent is in high demand of sustainable development. "We are confronted with climate problems, structural shift and global insecurity concerted the collaborative efforts to address our common challenges that have often helped us remain resilient," he noted.

The African continent with a thriving youth

population is propelling to become a global economic power house, he indicated.

Due to infrastructural investments, many jobs were created that improved livelihoods while road and railway projects linked previously unconnected places. People to people relations are also being enhanced both within and across the country, according to the premier.

Prime Minister Abiy also stated that the principles of connectivity and inherent MBI have offered African countries with alternative sources of capital, technology and skills needed for the modernization

agenda.

Ethiopia serves as an important gateway to Africa, the Middle East and wider Asia. Ethiopia's Belt and Road Initiative accomplishment is the construction of Africa's longest electric trans-national railway which runs from Ethiopia all the way to Djibouti, he elaborated.

The Ethio-Djibouti railway line is revitalizing the local and regional economies as it plays a critical role in connecting people and enhancing efficiency in the logistics and value chain along the strategic Ethio-Djibouti corridor, he underlined.

Opinion

Key elements of the right to development

BY GETACHEW MINAS

Human being is the central subject, participant and beneficiary of development. Ethiopian government recognizes this right in its development policy, program and projects. The goal of economic and social development of the country is aimed at improving the living standards of the people. This guarantees the well-being of the entire population on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development. They are also entitled to a fair distribution of benefits.

Participation is a crucial factor of the right to development and transformation. Among the factors of economic transformation is the availability of land, labor and capital. Skilled labor combined with the other factors contributes to the advancement of economic and social development. In the long-run, the path of development leads to a situation where labor will dominate and even own land and capital. Developing countries, including Ethiopia, will have to come out of social strife following this path of future development.

At the end of the path the advanced countries of the world will democratically ensure the fair distribution of economic benefits. These benefits result from the proper use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) that substitutes human labor at all levels of skills, with the exception of a few. That will be the day when the working people of the world reap the benefits of their labor. As the real owners of the factors of production, they are bound to live blissfully. This prediction will bear fruit when fairness between generations is embedded in the concept of sustainable development.

Africans, including Ethiopians, have to recognize the importance of inter-generational equity for ensuring sustainability. This linkage is strengthened by the younger generation which is totally devoted to equity, equality and fairness in the development and sharing of the wealth of Ethiopia. This wealth is located below and above the ground which has to be identified and explored. Ethiopians have to abandon hatred, detestation and extreme dislike imported from abroad as a precondition for their economic, social and political development.

The right of citizens to development should not allow distinction along race, ethnic and religious lines. Racial discrimination is any bigotry or intolerance against any persons on the basis of their skin color, race or ethnic origin. A person may discriminate by refusing to do anything with or socialize with, or share resources with persons of a certain group. This is an infringement on the rights of others. The Rights of people to development is normally protected by

laws and regulations that emanate from the Constitution of a country.

Moreover, the people have also the right to determine what they need, including full sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources. These resources should come under the supervision of representatives of the people. They should, however, be careful in selecting their spokespersons at all levels. This ensures proper representation in the development of resources for the satisfaction of their basic needs. There is, therefore, a requirement for compromise on the types of needs to be addressed in the interest of the people at large.

Collective efforts of Ethiopians at national and international levels, including development institutions promote economic growth at country level. However, the representatives of the country at these levels should be well-versed with issues of resource allocation. It is observed that some developing countries are more favored than others in the allotment and delivery of foreign aid.

The criteria of aid allotment and delivery are obscure. Those countries, like Ethiopia, that suffer from harvest failure, and shortage of food are given lesser or no attention. Consequently, thousands of Ethiopians have died in the drought affected areas. The farming community used to be food self-sufficient and the farmers have been providing food grain to the urban people. As mentioned earlier, these people have the right to development as suppliers of food to both the local and external markets. Most of these farmers produced exportable farm produces in times of good harvest that fully depended on regular rain and good weather conditions.

Ethiopian farmers have the right to development that is appropriate to their way of life. There is, therefore, a need to promote awareness among farmers using information, education and communication (IEC) techniques. Research work is not enough as it requires communication with the rural community.

The objective of communication is to spread the findings in a manner that introduces changes in traditional, but unproductive practices. This act introduces modern techniques of farming that enhance productivity and income. But, this depends on availability or shortage of seasonal rainfall in the rural areas. To combat this, the professional agronomists have to devise ways and means of accessing water. One way is to conserve water. This is easier said than done. However, the right of the rural farmers to access modern farming techniques should not be subject to evasion. As taxpayers, they have right to modern development through consultation.

The specific objectives of communication include promotion of understanding and

implementation of the right to development among members of communities and other stakeholders. It is useful to create platforms for discussing and reflecting on the benefits of using the right to development. This promotes the realization of the major objectives consultation.

Discussions familiarize participants on their right to implement programs and projects that lead to enhance their standard of living. Once people are on the path to development they will be in a position to identify pathways to the triple nexus: human rights; peace and security; and development.

Development planners tend to agree on critical strategies that will enable the implementation of economic and social development. The plan addresses challenges to development such as poverty, low income, and unemployment. These issues have to be dealt with in an integrated, coherent, and holistic manner. Poverty reduction programs in Ethiopia, for example, have to be designed in a realistic manner in consultation with stakeholders, including the rural people and farmers. These stakeholders have to be involved for the purpose of identifying and using scarce resources in an efficient and effective manner.

Proper use of scarce resources contributes to growth of output with efficient use of inputs. These inputs are essentially land, labor and capital. In Ethiopia, the rural area mainly lacks capital for the purchase of inputs such as agricultural tools, fertilizers, improved seeds, stores, transport facilities, sales and marketing.

Rural authorities in Ethiopia are expected to solicit commitments and pledges from higher officials for advancing the nexus between development, peace and security. Farmers engage in developing their farms only when they are guaranteed peace and security in their community.

The evolution from traditional mode of production to an advanced one has to be preceded by change of attitude toward modern tech. In some sections of the society there may exist reactionary forces that impede progress to secure their survival in the midst of irreversible changes.

It may be necessary to solicit pledges from global forces on how modern tech can be used to facilitate the right of people to development. The application of modern tech is of the essence.

The right to development of an individual has to be guaranteed by law. A discriminatory approach to distribute resources to the citizens is a major cause of social unrest. It creates distrust among communities that are marginalized by ethnic, tribal, language and religion. This only leads to skirmishes rather than cooperation in the effort to eliminate poverty, hunger and conflicts.

The Federal and States' governments of Ethiopia have always been trying to reduce and eliminate social conflicts that hamper growth and development in the country. But, alien forces have always been alert to divert such efforts of the governments and keep the country in abject poverty. These inimical, hostile and detrimental forces are there to provide food aid to the poverty stricken people as long as they are weak and unable to exploit their own natural resources for development. They keep the poor people addicted to aid as a result of which they become dependent on handouts.

Those who depend on aid become allergic to hard labor. It is only hard work that ensures their existence as the natural and legal owners of the resources. But, the alien forces make sure that these precious resources are exploited by foreign firms that are given protection by local authorities. The latter become shareholders in these firms to ensure legal protection to illegal alien elements. They put local governments in a limbo or indeterminate state to take actions that favor the poor people of the country.

The elites of poor countries find themselves at crossroads, faced with demands of people to be free from poverty in the land of plenty. In the past five decades, the students, teachers and professors in Ethiopian schools and universities had unity of purpose when they declared "land to the tiller" in unison. They wanted the landless farmer to own the land he tills.

It was believed that this measure would liberate millions of Ethiopian peasants from poverty, hunger, dependency and craving. The civilian advisors and technicians of the military government encouraged it to nationalize land from the landlords and distribute it to the landless. This advice was taken halfheartedly.

The State owned the rural land and urban land and extra houses. The peasants had only usufruct right to use and benefit from the land, but they were not owners until today. The peasant who enjoys the usufruct is called the usufructuary. Peasants were not allowed to own land as the State wanted to own the land so that the farmers could be treated as disposable elements.

Thus, the peasants were subdued to the wills of local district authorities and to the governments to this date. The same is true with urban dwellers. This status of both the rural and urban people discounts them as irrelevant in developments that affect their lives. They are, therefore, denied of their rights to development.

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

Editorial

Credible potential for dev't

Recently, IMF has predicted significant economic growth for Ethiopia. The various challenges that surround the country and the economic environment may cast shadow on the possibility of the forecast becoming a reality.

It is undeniable that Ethiopia has passed through conflict and drought that have formidable on economic activity. Indeed, it has impacted the economy as it can be clearly observable on the inflation that baffles the sector. Yet some factors retain the bright hope that it is not the time to have a gloomy outlook of Ethiopia's economic performance because of the surrounding challenges. There are more opportunities or enabling factors for a positive outlook than those factors that can drag the economy.

Regardless of the figures put by international financial and economic institutions like IMF, some new developments in the country can tell more about the possibility of the economy's possibility to see a positive trend.

For instance, if we look at the latest news about the flow of investment to the country, three Chinese companies have signed a memorandum of understanding to invest in pharmaceuticals and agro processing sector. The agreement was signed between the companies and the Ethiopian Investment Commission which is part of the Ethiopian Government delegation led by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) who is attending the third Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) summit in Beijing.

Moreover, we find the launching of the Ethiopian Security Exchange (ESX) couple of weeks ago. The exchange is hoped to bring together the country's economic actors that are both in need of investment as well as those in need of an investment opportunity. The coming of the exchange in to the country's economy can help avail local financing for investment both by government as well as private companies.

The government is also expanding the economic development sectors to new industries that have untapped potential to attract huge sum of foreign currency. One of such developments is the series of mega projects that are being executed through the Prime Minister's Dine for Nation and Dine for Generation initiatives. Under such initiatives the government has so far built and inaugurated various parks and resorts that have a mesmerizing power of attracting tourists both from home and abroad. The expansion of such tourist infrastructure is a big deal for the country's economic development for many reasons. Ethiopia has a varied natural beauty in all corners with a potential to develop the tourism industry if properly harnessed. The already completed resorts and parks like Entoto Park and Halala Keela resorts have shown that the ongoing similar projects as well as the planned ones have a promising prospect.

Furthermore, the growth of tourism in the country can add momentum to all other sectors as it can help generate foreign currency, create jobs and foster market linkage.

Ethiopia is also streamlining to maximize its economic benefit from the export of electric power to neighboring countries. While the country is already obtaining revenue from the power export, the plan to increase the foreign currency earning is viable as the country is expediting the development of hydroelectric power.

Ethiopia's admission to the BRICS recently is also likely to open up more opportunities that can help the economic development.

A bottom line issue for the effectiveness of the economic endeavor in the country is the prevalence of peace and stability. Following the clinching of the deadly conflict in the north through the Pretoria Agreement, the government is working strenuously to ensure peace and stability in all corners which is proving effective.

All in all, since the government has continued investing in different sectors that can certainly reinforce the intended national development, there are the development potential that support the IMF's prediction. Hence, Ethiopia has a promising future in terms of economic development and diplomacy.

Opinion

Auspicious drive for common growth

BY MENGESHA AMARE

A number of countries can have ample opportunities to enjoy growing and tapping resources via utilizing multifarious means thereby coming up with economically well developed and sovereign nation. Yes, as witnessed in the realization of most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Ethiopia is strongly committed to contribute to the continental as well as global socio-economic achievements.

The country has now been in a state of effectively exploiting its untapped resources and lucrative means to properly use the potential of a number of sectors such as investment in agro-processing and pharmaceutical sectors.

Hence, favorable conditions have to be well adjusted with a view to investing in Ethiopia. These promising and remarkable moves have to be focused on improving economic infrastructure, building and expanding industries thereby increasing the power of production.

Besides, growing road and rail way networks which have potentially been connecting national and regional markets has to come to the forefront. True, a number of nations and companies have now been eyeing on investing a range of sectors to garner a win-win benefit and common good. For example, three companies recently signed memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ethiopian Investment Commission to invest in Ethiopia.

The agreement peculiarly focused on expanding pharmaceutical and agro-processing sectors. These companies have shown keen interest to invest in Ethiopia. Investors have been discussing investment potential in pharmaceutical, agro-processing, manufacturing and other priority sectors.

Such an accord would be of paramount importance in boosting Ethiopia's economy and in helping the owner countries to which these companies are born. Two Pharmaceutical and one agro-processing enterprise from China have shown determination to invest in Ethiopia, too. Foreign investment in these two productive sectors can also unlock opportunities to increase exports to regional and global markets, and better serve the local market, while contributing a lot to Ethiopia's development program.

No doubt, investors need to implement more inclusive and sustainable social, environmental and labor practices to make the effort geared towards ensuring progress and growth a success. With the aim of promoting sustainable investment practices in Ethiopia, this accord provides investing companies, nominees with guidance on how to comply with legal requirements and presents additional practices concerning environmental and social sustainability that has to be considered throughout business operations in Ethiopia.

Yes, China has joined the insights of various investors, and other stakeholders with the trade expertise and support of the pharmaceutical

and agro-processing sectors. Hopefully, the agreement provides the aforesaid companies with useful tool for expanding investment in Ethiopia.

As far as attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) to help grow Ethiopia's economy is concerned, the Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC) needs to integrate the principle of sustainable and responsible investments into every investment agreement that it signs with foreign or local investors and interested companies.

In due course of running investment activities, it has to be well known that social and environmental protection laws and regulations, as well as international standards and best practices have to be well focused on and practically translated into actions. The very important point that has to be taken into account in this regard is investors, be they are foreign or local ones, are going to benefit from the investment scenario.

Investments in the healthcare sector in Ethiopia can range from private hospital and outpatient care to nutrition services have also been run specialists. Pharmaceutical companies, diagnostic laboratories, among others, have undoubtedly required different conditions for functioning.

Yes, foreign or local investments in healthcare in Ethiopia are instrumental in bolstering both the act of producing healthy generation and economically developed nation. It is said that three of the firms that inked the MoU are all set to invest in Ethiopia, and Ethiopia and China are keen to elevate bilateral ties at a comprehensive and enduring strategic cooperative partnership level to an All Weather Strategic Cooperation Partnership level.

True, the importance of Chinese investments in Ethiopia's economy and encouraging more investments into pharmaceutical and agro-processing sectors is quite immense. Chinese companies expressed that China continues to be a critical partner for Ethiopia. Besides, Ethiopia's accession to BRICS and the elevation of partnership between the two countries would definitely add value to the already commenced fraternity.

Unequivocally, Ethiopia's achievements through various sectors and programs like the Green Legacy one and its alignment with China's green development policy needs to be well capitalized on so as to promote all rounded development and inclusive sovereignty on both sides.

Most importantly, Chinese investors are now eyeing on pharmaceutical and agro-processing. This is categorically a bold move and promising aspect to help the two sisterly countries grow together and bring about development.

From this one can simply deduce that the sectors which were held by Indian companies are now attracting others like Chinese ones. Besides, Ethiopia has continued to attract more FDI utilizing various potential means, and these initiatives have been promising avenues for quenching common interests.

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



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Business & Economy

Accessing to sea port: Decisive for Ethiopia's economy

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

In today's world where most economic activities are done by freights, the question of accessing to sea is the main priority to any landlocked nation. Numerous documents disclosed the importance and tremendous advantages of having a sea port and also the huge blow that a given country faces if it does not have a sea breath.

In many books and articles, scholars try to explain the advantages of having a sea port and again, they discuss on the danger that a landlocked nation may encounter. The economic and political dominance of a nation could be affected in many ways in relation to possession of sea port. Landlocked nations have been trying to avert such challenges in many directions by crafting a number of strategies.

One of the most important geopolitical regions in the world is the Red Sea area. Nations in the Horn of Africa, Middle East, and Europe share the region. Besides, other super powers of the world also have interest in the region to stay being dominant and keep power balance in the world's economic and political arena.

Ethiopia's immemorial history teaches how the nation used to be prominent in the world's political, economic, and religious activities of the region when it owned ports. Besides, the country used to control most of the red sea and administer it as it was its legitimate territory.

Unfortunately, following the independence of Eritrea in 1993, Ethiopia could no longer access the sea port and became a landlocked country. The reality of becoming a landlocked nation like Ethiopia with more than 120 million people is a nightmare for any government that aspires to realize economic and political transformation.

In good truth, Ethiopia has been living with this reality using other nation's port. It is the fact that Ethiopia is the nation that is very much closer to a sea but does not have a port. Besides, documents reveal that 95% of the nation's import and export activities are performed by ports, especially through the Port Djibouti. Ethiopia is also using other nearby ports such as Port Sudan, Berbera, and Mombasa.

Recently, Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia held a discussion with members of the parliament on a draft document. The document entitled "Ethiopia's National Interest: Principles and Content," was prepared by Ministry of Peace aimed to endorse Ethiopia's strategic and economic national interests in the Red Sea. The notion is a long waited.

"Ethiopia should engage with other countries in the area to ensure its access to the ports and be able to overcome geostrategic impediments in this respect, the draft document noted, before such actions start to impede the development of the region," the document stated according



to local media. The government and people of Ethiopia have been affected for the past three decades due to becoming a landlocked nation.

In similar vein, Prime Minister Abiy stated that the grand Ethiopian strategies to this and the coming generation in the first place are peace and unity. "Peace is the foundation of all, and we must also be united. Together, we become powerful and weak when we become scattered," Abiy said. The second strategy is comprehensive prosperity by bringing together economic, social, and value advancements. On top of that, as to the Premier, understanding the geopolitics is crucial.

The issue of the Red Sea, Nile, and the Horn are vital points that need discussion and work on. Talking about the relationship between Ethiopia and water, as to the Prime Minister, the country is like an island surrounded by water but also yearning for water. The neighboring nations have calculated possession on both the Red Sea and Nile River, but not Ethiopia. "The Red Sea and Abbay (Nile) are the two pillars that determine and define Ethiopia's future," Abiy noted.

Prime Minister Abiy said it is quite absurd for Ethiopians and the parliament being silent not to raise the issue of the Red Sea while other countries get the rights to discuss about Ethiopia's GERD and other trans-boundary rivers for mutual benefits.

To this end, the UN Charter agreement expresses that Ethiopia has a legitimate right for adequate access to sea due to "its geographical proximity, historical background, population size, and economic reasons. It is better to see this agreement," Abiy said.

The population was just 50 million at that time, and now it is going to be 150 million by 2030. It is unable to imprison 150 million people. It will blast sooner or later unless allowed access to sea. Therefore, it is better to bring the issue to the table and discuss it centering mutual benefit. It seems easy to live a life as a landlocked nation for thirty years, but when the time goes, it will be unable to continue this way. That is why it is better to discuss the issue sooner than later.

Abiy further explained that every Ethiopian Neighbor receives water from Ethiopia. For Djibouti, in particular, Ethiopia installed a pipe line and paying for the electricity to supply fresh water. No neighboring country gives a drop of water to Ethiopia. While those nations have the right to receive water from Ethiopia but ignore the idea of discussing about accessing to sea, it is not right. Thinking about living together through sharing resources must be implemented in a balanced and peaceful manner, the premier underlined.

Prime Minister Abiy also cited the saying of Alula Abba Nega, one of Ethiopia's most renowned generals and politicians; "The Red Sea is the natural boundary of Ethiopia and will live to be." The Ethiopian Aksumite Kingdom also administered the Red Sea in its time. Ethiopia's proximity to the Red Sea determines the power and dominance of the nation. The historical aspect of accessing the sea is a fact.

"In addition, the demography also matters. There are ethnic societies like the Afar tribe with similar cultural and religious values but lives in three different countries: Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Djibouti. Again, Somali tribe mainly lives in Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya and Somalia. Somalis in the neighboring countries can access either the Red Sea or Indian Ocean, so why are the Ethiopian Somalis denied accessing the sea?," the Premier asked.

Furthermore, Abiy elaborated, "There are 44 landlocked countries in the world. Of these, there is no country closer to Ethiopia with larger number of population. It is hard to accept that a country with 120 million populations is landlocked." Seventeen of those landlocked nations are from Africa including Ethiopia, and Ethiopia accounts one third of the population of these countries combined. In this regard, the notion of accessing to the sea is the question of existence for Ethiopia.

Many nations like Turkey, UAE, and others have invested on the region; so, why not Ethiopia? "If other questions appear, then we are okay to do business by our mega resources such as GERD, Ethiopian Airlines, and telecom to give some percent of share and get a sea access in one of the

Prime Minister Abiy said it is quite absurd for Ethiopians and the parliament being silent not to raise the issue of the Red Sea while other countries get the rights to discuss about Ethiopia's GERD and other trans-boundary rivers for mutual benefits

ports in the Red Sea in return. It should be a win-win approach."

"A United Nation's study shows that 25-30 percent of a nation's GDP is port," Abiy said. There is no country that is close enough to the sea and still landlocked. Leaders of the nations, thus, should sit down and think for the generations to come in order to live in harmony.

Economically, as to the Premier, a person called Tim Marshal said that being a geography prisoner is like accepting poverty. Ethiopia has every potential to be powerful in the region. The nation has the population, resource, and skilled manpower to be powerful." However, being a landlocked country hinders the nation's progress to become African superpower. Zeila, Djibouti, Adulis, Assab, and Massawa ports could be Ethiopia's option for accessing to the sea.

Having a sea port brings blessing to the nation. To get the sought objective, peaceful negotiation is the ultimate tool. The choices could be establishing federation or confederation, or giving something in substitution. Ethiopians should also get prepared for talking on the narrations, diplomacy, and in psychology. "If we do not do it now, we will leave hard homework to our children," the premier stressed.

Art & Culture

What a window into Kazakhstan's soul!

BY ALEM HAILU G/KRISTOS

“What an event of cultural performance, exhibitions and film shows that affords a window into the soul of Kazakhstan a land of bounty and diversity. It transported me to Kazakhstan still on my chair here in the hall. The country abounds in cultural heritages. Such events must be scaled up so that people across the globe better know one another and harness beauty in diversity to create a fertile ground for world peace. These way bilateral ties such as trade and investment could also thrive for better understanding and clicking among partnering nations.

The country's pioneering move to kick start global dialogue on cultural heritages deserves a pat on the back. The occasion calls for probing research for detail insight into the country.” said one celebrant by my right at the conclusion of a cultural event.

The one by my left cut in and added “Not only that shedding light on the commonalities of the cultures of Kazakhstan and Ethiopia, the event showed to me the parallel that connects the cultures of the two countries.

The country has another version of *Kirar*, *Masingo* and *Washent*. *Gebeta* is also a famous pass time to them as it is to ours especially in the rural parts of the country.

The event allowed us to know Kazakhstan's popular individuals. We are introduced with popular public figures like a gold medalist's boxer and singers with a melodious voice.”

Earlier, in the middle of the event a lady I met during the cocktail reception did note that “The Kazakhstan and Ethiopian dishes arrayed in the event are also a showcase of the cultural and people-to-people diplomacy intended to crystalize between the two nations. Participants might go for both dishes and experience new discoveries. Exchanging cultural activities through conducting festivals, both here and in the friend nation, pays off.

The activities could be reflected by performing art—music & dances—staging exhibitions of antiques, artefacts and traditional huts. Preparing sport tournaments is quite possible,” she noted and posed the question “How did you get their cordiality and sense of decorum?”

“Superb I responded. The costumes they love to put on too tell on the cultural similarity.” “What did impress you personally,” she eyed me. “Oh, I think I saw the ancient Kazakhstan Map that refers Africa by the name Ethiopia.” “Yes, we have a sun burnt face true to the name Ethiopia. It testifies the then influencing power of ancient Ethiopia.”

The above sideway discourses were held on a recent event— when a seminar on cultural heritage of Kazakhstan organized by the embassy here last Saturday in connection with the eves of the Republic Day, slated to be marked on October 25, was colourfully celebrated in Hilton Hotel in the presence of ambassadors, ministers, parliamentarians, former Ethiopian students who pursued education in Kazakhstan, invited guests and journalists, among others. The occasion was also graced by Dr.Rita Bissoo Director of



UNESCO's office in Ethiopia.

In a welcoming remark while highlighting the significance of cultural heritages and also diplomacy ambassador of Kazakhstan B.Sadykov noted People inhabit different corners of the world as such they live in a diverse world. Hence cultural heritage of each nation is unique. It represents a country's history, language, religion, values and many more. A cultural heritage influences a nation's identity and even internal and external policy.

He further noted, in this regard cultural diplomacy is instrumental in cementing cooperation among nations by enhancing mutual understanding and trust. Exposure to cultural diversity adds bricks to international relations and can be critical to fostering peace and stability.

“Being located in the centre of the Eurasian continent, the people of Kazakhstan which is diverse ethnically and by religious denominations have absorbed the spirit of good neighbourliness, peace and tolerance to other people and cultures. Today, after more than five and a half centuries since the formation of the first Kazakh state, the principle of respect for diversity of cultures and tolerance has become one of the foundations and strengths of Kazakh society.

Kazakhstan stands for promotion of intercultural and interreligious dialogue and organizes triennial Summits of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions and Conferences on different aspects of culture by the International Centre for the Rapprochement of Cultures, under the auspices of UNESCO established in Kazakhstan,” he spotlighted.

Kazakhstan which practically demonstrated the significance of unity in diversity, of its own initiation, had drawn the attention of the international community towards the respect



of cultural diversity and dialogue towards collective peace.

Pertaining to this he said “UN International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures 2012-2022 initiated by Kazakhstan was aimed to demonstrate the benefits of promoting respect for cultural diversity and importance of intercultural and interreligious dialogue in combating new manifestations of racism, discrimination, intolerance, extremism and radicalism, thereby strengthening ties between countries and peoples thus contributing to peace.”

Hammering home the significance of multifaceted dialogue the ambassador further said, it is important that the United Nations, UNESCO, regional organizations make a huge contribution to the preservation and development of cultural heritages, strengthening intercultural and interreligious dialogue at the national, regional and global levels. The development of culture,

intercultural and interreligious dialogue as one of priority is included in the long-term Development Agenda of Africa until 2063.

“Organization of Turkic States consisting of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Türkiye, Uzbekistan and observers Hungary, Turkmenistan, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus which have common history, language and culture is dedicated to strengthening peace and stability, promoting wide-ranging cooperation in areas such as economy, science, education, tourism and other fields. This November Kazakhstan as the Chair of the Organization will host Summit of Heads of State of OTS in Astana.”

Alluding to Ethiopia's role to the case in point he said Ethiopia, with its unique and rich cultural heritages, has made a huge contribution to the development of world culture. “I would like particularly to note Ethiopia's contribution to the adoption of resolution 2347 (2017), the first UN Security Council resolution devoted exclusively to the preservation of cultural heritage.”

Today Ethiopia has more than any other country in Africa nominations inscribed in the World Cultural and Natural Heritage List. “We congratulate our Ethiopian friends with last month inscription in the List by UNESCO of Ethiopia's Bale Mountains National Park, Gedeo Cultural Landscape.”

“As for Kazakhstan there are 3 cultural and 3 natural properties inscribed by UNESCO so far. In September this year 2 sites – Kazakhstan's Altyn Emel National Park and the Barsakelmes Nature Reserve – have been added to the List of UNESCO, as part of the transnational nomination Cold Winter Deserts of Turan, jointly prepared by Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.”

I also met a journalist friend of mine Girmachew Gashaw on our way out of Hilton Hotel. I asked him about his take of the cultural seminar. Girmachew has this to say “Till to date I never have never known Kazakhstan. Thanks to the Embassy now I have a glimpse of that country. From the event I did witness the characteristic features that liken the two countries. The dulcet music titillating my heart had created an uplifting mood in me. The musical instruments show a match in many ways than one. That has also surprised me. I also saw a lady attired in traditional cloth, which showed conservativeness like ours, singing, dancing and playing an instrument that looks like Kirar. That has created a mesmerizing feeling on me. Such cultural clicking must keep on going. Journalists of the two countries could do something to promote the cultures of the two countries. Also, researchers on ethnography have to leave their footprint.”

Girmachew further added “the film presented at the end of the program affords a peek into how Kazakhstan stood on its feet as a nation passing through so many ups and downs as well as twists and turns. Kazakhstan could be taken a standard-bearer how a country with a multitude of Ethnic groups demonstrate a peaceful coexistence and affluence.”

Ethiopia and Kazakhstan that are landlocked with wealth of natural resource could cross-pollinate their knowledge to beat similar odds confronting them.

Indepth

Repatriating colonial-looted artifacts through Global Civilization Initiative

BY MELAKU MULUALEM K.

In ancient times, people lived in the prehistoric and pre-civilized way of life. The people were living like any other wild animals in bushes and forests. Through time people innovated tools and fire that helped them to be advanced than other animals. In the later period, people started writing systems that led them to move to the historic period and civilization era. In different parts of the world, there were various civilizations. Mesopotamia is regarded as the first place of civilization in human history. In the later period, however, civilization could spread to different parts of the world.

The word civilization is derived from the Latin word civites which means a city. There are different definitions of the word "civilization". The Cambridge Dictionary defines civilization as "human society with its well-developed social organizations, or the culture and way of life of a society or country at a particular period in time". Civilization is a driver in shaping the history of a nation. In broader terms, civilization can be divided into ancient and modern civilizations.

Ancient civilization refers "to the first settled and stable communities that became the basis for later states, nations, and empires". Modern civilization is characterized by noteworthy progress in technology, science, and industry in the recent era of human civilization. The modern one covers the period from the Industrial Revolution in the late 18th century to the present day. Other scholars categorize civilizations into three stages: the preagricultural (hunting and gathering) stage, the agricultural stage, and the industrial stage. Others categorize civilizations as Stone Age, Bronze Age, Iron Age civilization, and the like.

China has taken various global initiatives focusing on the improvement of global governance, economic development, and the prevalence of peace and security for the betterment of the people of the world. These initiatives can reinforce one another. The focus of this piece is on the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) which was forwarded by President Xi Jinping in March 2023. GCI promotes dialogues among civilizations to avert a "clash of civilizations". It is a reflection of the foreign policy of China that emphasizes on peaceful resolution of international disputes. It also promotes civilized discussion, negotiation among nations, and inclusiveness to avert conflicts and wars.

According to the president, GCI will focus on four fundamental issues that include "advocate the respect for the diversity of civilizations, advocate the common values of humanity, advocate the importance of inheritance and innovation of civilizations, advocate robust international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation".

Unlike the colonial period, which believes there was only one Western Civilization, scholars have identified many civilizations in the world. Recognizing the presence of many civilizations and rendering respect to the diversity of civilizations will help peace and security in the world. GCI promotes these fundamental issues. To accommodate



the diversity of civilization there is a need to recognize, tolerate, accept, and live in harmony with other civilizations.

Parallel to this, promoting the common values of human beings including peace, development, equity, justice, and freedom are fundamental to tolerance. Dialogues and communications among various civilizations through forums can solve challenges and disagreements among nations. Such communication should not be done only by the leadership circles. At the grassroots level people to people relations are crucial to accommodate differences. Colonialism had various negative impacts on colonized people including death of people, loss of independence and freedom, loss of resources, labor exploitation, hindering economic, political, and cultural developments, and the like.

Many colonized countries have lost their artifacts because of European colonizers. Colonized people call the artifacts taken by the colonizers as they are looted artifacts however, colonial powers call them treasury. Colonizers are proud of getting artifacts after victory. Colonized people call them looters.

So, whose history is the plundered artifacts? The one who got them by force or the one who made them and later lost them by force? Who should display the artifacts in a museum? The people who produced it or who plundered it?

Colonial powers should not be proud of the looting of art, artifacts, and other cultural property. According to a source this looting of artifacts "may be an opportunistic criminal act or maybe a more organized case of unlawful or unethical pillage by the victor of a conflict." War and conflict are one of the factors for the crash of civilization. Because of this, civilization could rise and fall through time and space. Some countries in the world have continued civilizations for a long time.

Advocating the importance of inheritance and innovation of civilization is directly linked with the repatriation of ancient artifacts to the people who crafted them. Repatriation of artifacts will help countries to fill gaps in their history and culture appropriately. GCI should denounce colonial-era and cultural theft and facilitate their return to their original place. China's Global Civilization Initiative is aligned with UNESCO's mandate. Article one of

the UNESCO states about the purposes and functions of the organization. One of them is "conservation and protection of the world's inheritance".

Civilizations contribute to the well-being of human beings and society in the world. They are not the outcome of one specific people and nation. Many countries have contributed to the civilizations of this world. For instance, the Chinese created the skill of paper making and the use of the compass. Others had also created something very important to human beings. Similarly, Ethiopia is one of the oldest civilizations in the world. It's also the cradle of mankind. Ethiopian ancient civilization is noticed in "writing, urbanism, foreign trade, metallurgy, plow-agriculture, monumental architecture".

Artifacts have their own stories to tell about civilizations of the period in a specific area of a country. Detaching them from their original place will create a gap and vacuum in the history of the people of the owner. Artifacts are firsthand information or evidence for research on civilizations. It is also good to mention the return of some artifacts to the original place. The obelisk of Aksum can be regarded as a case in point.

The obelisk was taken by the Italian colonial power from Ethiopia in 1937 and returned in 2005. We have to appreciate such measures. Similarly, Germany has sent back 22 bronze-made artifacts to Nigeria. So far, however, Ethiopia could not get back many of her artifacts taken at the time of the invasion of British forces during Emperor Tewodros II and the invasion of Italian colonial power in the 19th and 20th Centuries respectively. The same is true for many other African and Asian countries.

As mentioned above, artifacts are firsthand information or evidence for research on civilizations. Especially, archaeologists use them to learn how people lived in specific places and times. So far, African archaeologists and historians are traveling to the former colonizers' museum to study their history and civilization. They have to pay for their travel, accommodation, and museum entrance. This is one of the injustices in this world. In particular, British and French Museums have accumulated many looted artifacts and heritages of the people of the world. From the visit of tourists in their museum, they are collecting a significant amount of money.

Currently, about six million people visit the British Museum each year. Some part of this income should have been the income of the former colonized people.

Museum expert Elaine Gurian stated that "artifacts provide us a way into history." Thus, artifacts are very important to trace historical events, so we can recall and learn about their civilizations. Moreover, artifacts hold symbolic cultural roots in their creations. The former European colonial powers must repatriate them to "honour those roots and the people who have evolved from them".

It can be easy to trace the origin of artifacts that are displayed in Museums. On the other hand, some artifacts have no specific places to get them. This is because of the presence of an "antiquities market" where anyone can buy and sell them to any buyers. Because of this, one artifact can move from country to country through selling and buying processes.

Artifacts and heritages are symbols of ancient civilizations. They are creative products of the people of the area. They had been taken away from them by force of arms. This has created damage to their history and culture. If the artifacts were with them, they could generate income by displaying them in museums. It is distressing to know that the former colonial powers are dragging their feet to return the plundered artifacts. Rather they preferred to put them in their museums forever.

In conclusion, the Global Civilization Initiative of China is a good opportunity for Ethiopia and other countries that have ancient history. They have to use this initiative as a dialogue place to request and get back their lost artifacts from the colonial period. The former colonial powers should be willing to return the artifacts to the owners and producers. They should also pay compensation from the income of the museum. Similar to "neo-colonialism", peoples of the world should fight against "neo-civilization" which is still going on in the world.

(This author is a Researcher in International Relations and Diplomacy, Institute of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia melakumul@yahoo.com)

Law & Politics

A symbolic representation of Nation's resilience, hope and pride

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Ethiopian patriots have indeed made immense sacrifices to safeguard the independence and unity of their beloved nation. The Ethiopian flag stands as a powerful symbol of freedom and sacrifice representing the courageous men and women who have selflessly given their all for Ethiopia.

Throughout Ethiopia's history there have been countless individuals who have dedicated their lives to the defense of their nation. These patriots fueled by their unwavering love for Ethiopia have faced unimaginable challenges and risks. From battles fought on the front lines to acts of resistance in the face of oppression, Ethiopian patriots have demonstrated extraordinary bravery and commitment.

The flag ignites a sense of pride and honor among Ethiopians inspiring them to follow in the footsteps of their forefathers and continue the legacy of sacrifice. It serves as a rallying point bringing together Ethiopians from various backgrounds and regions fostering a sense of unity and collective purpose in the face of adversity. Ethiopian patriots irrespective of their gender, ethnicity or socio-economic background have contributed to the nation's struggle for independence and unity.

Many have lost their lives, families and livelihoods in the pursuit of Ethiopia's freedom. Their sacrifices etched forever in the fabric of the Ethiopian flag serve as a constant reminder of the price paid for independence and unity. Furthermore, the Ethiopian flag encourages Ethiopians to recognize the value of sacrifice to embrace the principles of freedom and justice and to work tirelessly towards the betterment of their country.

The Ethiopian flag stands as a testament to the unwavering dedication and sacrifices of Ethiopian patriots. It represents the courage, resilience, and unity that have shaped Ethiopia's history and continues to define its future. As Ethiopians raise their flag high, they honor the brave men and women who have given everything for their nation and renew their pledge to protect and uphold the ideals of freedom, unity and sacrifice.

Throughout history, Ethiopia has been home to countless heroes and heroines who have demonstrated unwavering dedication and bravery in defending the nation's sovereignty. They have fearlessly fought against colonial powers, invaders and aggressors who sought to exploit and oppress Ethiopia.

The flag serves as a source of inspiration for all Ethiopians reminding them of the brave men and women who came before them and fought valiantly for the nation's independence. It instills a sense of pride and honor in every citizen encouraging them to follow in the footsteps of these heroic figures and to be vigilant in protecting Ethiopia's sovereignty.

Besides, the flag is a unifying force that

transcends ethnic, religious, and regional differences. It represents the collective struggle and shared aspirations of the Ethiopian people. When Ethiopians see the national flag waving high, it ignites a sense of unity, solidarity and national identity bringing them together as one people bonded by a common purpose.

The flag not only represents the sacrifices of the past but also serves as an inspiration for present and future generations. It reminds Ethiopians of the responsibility they hold to preserve the hard-fought independence and unity of their nation. It calls upon them to honor the sacrifices made by their forefathers and foremothers by actively working towards a peaceful, prosperous and inclusive Ethiopia.

In raising the Ethiopian flag, Ethiopians pay tribute to the heroes and heroines who sacrificed their lives for the nation's independence and unity. It is a solemn act filled with reverence and gratitude acknowledging the debt owed to these brave individuals. The flag serves as a constant reminder that freedom is not granted easily but is earned through sacrifice and unwavering dedication.

The symbol of the Ethiopian flag holds a special place in the hearts of many Ethiopians. It embodies the spirit of resilience and perseverance that is woven into the fabric of the nation. It serves as a rallying point uniting Ethiopians from diverse backgrounds under a common cause - to protect and preserve the independence and unity of Ethiopia.

The sacrifices made by Ethiopian patriots both past and present should never be forgotten. Their bravery and resilience have shaped the nation and laid the foundation for its progress. The Ethiopian flag remains a powerful symbol continually reminding Ethiopians of the sacrifices made by their heroes and heroines inspiring them to uphold the values of freedom, unity and sacrifice in their daily lives.

The Ethiopian flag holds immense significance as the hallmark of Ethiopian independence, persistence, love of country and invincibility. It serves as a powerful symbol that encapsulates the spirit and identity of the Ethiopian people and their unwavering commitment to their nation.

The Ethiopian flag serves as a constant reminder of the resilience and determination of the Ethiopian people. It symbolizes their unyielding spirit and their refusal to be defeated in the face of adversity. The flag evokes a sense of pride and patriotism instilling a deep love of country within every Ethiopian heart.

The flag has become a rallying point bringing together Ethiopians from diverse backgrounds under a common banner reminding them of their shared history, values, and aspirations. In raising the Ethiopian flag, Ethiopians express their commitment to upholding the ideals of independence, persistence, love of country and invincibility. It is a display of unity as citizens come together to honor their



collective history and forge a path towards a brighter future.

The Ethiopian flag is an enduring symbol of the nation's past, present, and future. It carries the weight of history and the aspirations of a proud people. It is a visual representation of Ethiopia's independence, persistence, love of country and invincibility reminding Ethiopians of their collective strength and inspiring them to continue building a better future for their beloved nation. The Ethiopian flag stands as a powerful symbol of the struggles endured, sacrifices made, and the ultimate triumph over adversity.

In times of celebration, the Ethiopian flag is proudly raised encapsulating the history, heritage, and aspirations of a nation. In times of challenge, it serves as an emblem of resilience and solidarity inspiring Ethiopians to face adversity with courage and determination. The Ethiopian flag a visual representation of struggle, independence, sovereignty, and sacrifice, continues to unite and inspire its people serving as a symbol of hope, resilience and the endless possibilities that lie ahead for Ethiopia.

Ethiopia marked the 16th National Flag Day under the theme, "The Elevation of our Flag is a Guarantee for our National Unity and Sovereignty."

Speaking at the celebration of the 16th

National Flag Day held jointly by the House of People's Representatives and House of Federation, President Sahle-Work Zewde said: "Our flag is a symbol of struggle, independence, sovereignty and sacrifice of our forefathers/ mothers."

The President further stated that Ethiopian patriots sacrificed a lot to safeguard Ethiopia's independence and unity. Therefore, "The Flag is the symbol of freedom and sacrifice of our heroes and heroines."

By the same token, Defense Minister Abraham Belay (PhD) on his part said that the Flag is the hallmark of Ethiopian independence, persistence, love of country, and invincibility.

Various states across the country also celebrated the National Flag Day in a colorful manner and renewed commitment to upholding the country's sovereignty.

Deputy Chief Administrator of Central Ethiopia Endashaw Tassew said: "As we celebrate this year's National Flag Day, we strive to expand the multi-faceted development work we have started in our country and utilize the resources we have for better utilization. This Flag Day celebration creates an opportunity in renewing the promise, respecting others, overcoming difficulties, ensuring the public interest and rule of law thereby transforming Ethiopia."

Women in Focus

One man`s trash is another`s treasure

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

Lensa Mulatu is a self-trained artist and a professional architect. She is the owner of Arba Interiors, where she combines her passion for art and her architectural background. Her desire to create ornaments, interior designs, and artwork from waste materials has been a driving force in her work. Recently, Lensa had the opportunity to share her experiences with The Ethiopian Herald newspaper.

Lensa believes that decorating houses does not always require expensive materials. It simply needs a creative mindset that can transform trash into useful items. For example, many people discard used tuna cans without realizing their potential for house decoration. Lensa sees these mini cans as valuable resources that can be repurposed into unique and functional pieces. As the saying goes, "one man`s junk is another man`s treasure." This holds true when it comes to upcycling. "By embracing upcycling, we not only contribute to waste reduction but also have the opportunity to decorate our homes by planting mini indoor plants in these tuna cans."

One of the significant challenges Lensa faced in her journey was lack of capital. However, her passion and determination did not allow her to make excuses. With only 2,000 birr, she seized every available opportunity to produce interior decorations using discarded materials and tuna cans for indoor plants. When she showcased her products at bazaars, they attracted the attention of several individuals. This encouraged her to put more effort into her work, leading to an increase in her capital in a short period of time.

Lensa`s true passion for her profession and art is also reflected in transforming discarded glass bottles into art. She firmly believes that with creativity, passion, and effort, glass bottles can also be recycled and used to decorate houses while also serving as a source of income.

Glass bottle craft is a popular form of upcycling where bottles are transformed into unique and decorative pieces. Lensa utilizes discarded glass bottles and the tools she has at hand to create various indoor decorations, including wine bottles that are sold on the streets of Addis Ababa at reasonable prices.

According to Lensa, having a bachelor`s or master`s degree does not always guarantee a secure income. Capitalizing on one`s talent provides an alternative source of income and, most importantly, brings a sense of satisfaction. However, this does not mean that the path is always smooth. Acquiring recycling materials poses a challenge in



Self-trained artist and architect Lensa Mulatu

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By embracing upcycling, we not only contribute to waste reduction but also have the opportunity to decorate our homes by planting mini indoor plants in these tuna cans”

itself, and finding the right market for the products is another hurdle to overcome.

When asked about the difference between art and architecture, Lensa explained that art allows for freedom of expression without constraints. On the other hand, architecture follows design principles such as balance, proportion, scale, and harmony to create visually appealing structures. These principles are often rooted in mathematical and geometric concepts. While art can also incorporate these principles, artists have more flexibility in their creative expression and may choose to challenge or subvert these principles.

In other words, architecture not only follows its own set of rules but also incorporates artistic elements and can be appreciated for its aesthetic qualities. Many architects find ways to incorporate artistic expression and creativity within the functional and technical requirements of their designs, making it a unique fusion of art and functionality.

Lensa`s journey as an artist and architect showcases the power of creativity, passion, and resourcefulness. Through her work, she not only creates beautiful pieces of art

but also contributes to waste reduction and finds innovative ways to generate income.

Another area where Lensa`s hidden talent shines is Mandala art. She attributes her childhood experiences as a significant influence on her current achievements. As a young girl, she found joy in playing with color markers and expressing herself on sheets of paper. Creating various shapes and coloring them with her markers fueled her passion for art. As she grew older, her passion for creating something new using paint continued to grow, leading her to discover and enjoy "Mandala art."

Mandala art is a form of geometric or symmetrical art that originated in ancient cultures, particularly in Hinduism and Buddhism. The word "Mandala" itself means "circle" in Sanskrit. A mandala is a circular design that is often intricate and symmetrical, with patterns and shapes radiating from a central point. It can take various forms, including drawings, paintings, sculptures, or even digital creations. Mandala art often incorporates highly detailed and repetitive patterns and designs, incorporating symbols, geometric shapes, flowers, animals, or other elements that hold symbolic meaning.

Using Mandala art, Lensa is able to create various artworks through framing and decorating circular glass mirrors. Just like her work with discarded tuna cans and glass bottles, the combination of Mandala art with glass mirrors reflected Lensa`s creativity and attracted customers.

Lensa believes that the reasonable prices she sets for her products, combined with their artistic nature, attract customers. This encourages her to produce more and fuels her dream of creating job opportunities for other Ethiopians. She also envisions exporting her products abroad to contribute to earning foreign currency for her country.

When asked what message she has for other Ethiopian youth who are solely dependent on one profession while having untapped talent within them, Lensa emphasizes that everyone has hidden and untapped potential. Failing to capitalize on those talents prevents youth from achieving their goals. She advises youth to be proactive and create opportunities for themselves rather than waiting for others to do it for them. In doing so, they must learn the art of balancing their current profession with the passion they carry in their hearts.

Lensa`s story serves as an inspiration for embracing creativity, exploring hidden talents, and finding ways to merge art with different aspects of life. Her journey showcases the power of passion, resourcefulness, and the ability to create opportunities for oneself.

Society

Joint efforts to ensure quality education!

BY TEWODROS KASSA

According to the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all is a top priority to improve the livelihoods of global society. Access to basic education throughout one's school life is essential for creating competent generations that are responsible, industrious, and ethical. Parents worldwide are increasingly striving to provide better education for their children by investing more in their education.

In recent news, the Educational Assessment and Examinations Service has announced efforts to improve the educational assessment and examination systems from the grassroots level. The service recognizes that improving the examination process, starting from the lower grades, greatly contributes to alleviating the stressful situation of national exams, such as the grade 12 university entrance exam.

The service acknowledges that the current high failure rate of students in the grade 12 exam is mainly due to a lack of proper examination assessment processes in the lower grades. This situation hampers students' understanding of what they should learn at their respective levels, leading to lower performance in the final stage of the grade 12 examination.

To address this issue, the service will focus on enabling students to pass through a competitive assessment process. They will undertake further work to strengthen the grade 8 examinations and other school-level assessment systems. By improving the examinations process starting from the lower grades, the service aims to create a more effective and fair assessment system that supports students' overall educational journey.

These efforts align with the goal of providing inclusive and quality education for all, ensuring that students have the necessary tools and opportunities to succeed academically and contribute positively to society.

Regarding this matter, the Policy Studies Institute (PSI) recently emphasized the importance for the government to focus on enhancing the quality of education, in addition to expanding schools, as it plays a crucial role in producing skilled and competitive citizens.

According to the institute, concerted efforts should be made by all stakeholders in the education sector to ensure the maintenance of quality education in the country. This is vital for nurturing a better generation who values and understands the importance of education. The government is expected to prioritize quality education and give due attention to the education



sector.

During a validation workshop organized by PSI in collaboration with the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), PSI Director General Prof. Beyene Petros, highlighted the institution's emphasis on the need to work on the education sector as a viable solution to overcome challenges. He emphasized that while the government is working on expanding the education sector, equal attention must be given to ensuring the provision of quality education.

In a presentation titled "Investment in Education and the Labor Market Mismatch in Ethiopia," Jemal Mohammed, the Lead Researcher at PSI, emphasized the paramount importance of investing in human capital in driving the country's economy. The government has made significant investments in the education sector, aggressively expanding schools, colleges, universities, TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) institutions, and other training centers. These efforts have had a significant impact on producing skilled labor, thereby driving economic growth.

Jemal further highlighted the significance of coordination between industries and training institutions, as it is crucial for producing effective and efficient practitioners. He emphasized the need to shift the focus of education investment from quantity to quality. Strengthening coordination between industries and training institutions is essential in promoting structural transformation from agriculture to industry.

In another presentation titled "The Economic Wide Impact of Harnessing Human Capital Development in Ethiopia," Alekaw Kebede, Macro-economy Policy Lead Researcher at PSI, emphasized

The government is expected to prioritize quality education and give due attention to the education sector

the importance of appropriate policy measures to stimulate the economy and allocate available resources effectively. Policies aimed at sustaining growth and optimizing the allocation of resources, such as labor, in developing countries should be evaluated considering future developments.

Alekaw noted that it is crucial to align employment and education policies with the demands of the economy and monitor

their effectiveness. Governments should be encouraged to continue investing more in education. Professor Abebe Shimeles, an Economic Advisor at UNECA (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa) and Cape Town University, highlighted the significant improvement in access to education across the country and the continent, emphasizing its potential to make a positive difference.

During the announcement of the 2015 E.C university entrance exam results, Minister of Education Prof. Birhanu Nega highlighted the concerning issue of cheating on exams, which has been improving year after year. Despite this improvement, the number of students scoring above 50% remains similar to previous years.

Out of the 845,099 students who took the exam, only 27,267 students (3.2%) achieved a sufficient score to join higher education. To address this issue, the government will provide remedial opportunities for up to 100,000 students across the country. This remedial program aims to identify students with better competency who can join universities after one year of additional preparation. Students who scored below 50% will be eligible to access the remedial opportunity.

In summary, the minister emphasized that the low number of students scoring above 50% indicates that there is still much work to be done by the relevant stakeholders in the education sector. He emphasized the need for education sector leaders to conduct closer inspections and provide support to bring about tangible change. It is crucial to address the challenges and improve the quality of education in order to increase the number of students achieving higher scores and accessing higher education opportunities.