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Ethiopia, Türkiye commit to enhancing cooperation

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA– Ethiopia and Türkiye have exchanged words of appreciation and commitment to further cementing bilateral ties in various areas.

The two countries reiterated to deepen ties following Ethiopia’s congratulatory message on the 100th anniversary of the

See Ethiopia, Türkiye ... page 3

College aiming for aircraft manufacturing, assembling

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA- Apart from injecting new blood in aviation industry, the National Aviation College has been also working to embark on manufacturing and assembling aircrafts, National

See College aiming ... page 3

Photo: Gebabo Gebrie



Ethiopia, Ireland usher ‘new era’ in relations

- Ink 8 mln. Euros grant agreement

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA – Marking a new era of reinforcing economic ties, Ethiopia and the Republic of Ireland signed 8 million Euros financing agreements.

During the signing ceremony yesterday, the Ethiopian Finance Minister Ahmed Shide said that the two sides have a long time diplomatic ties and both have been registering various

achievements in several fields.

The minister also remarked that both countries are now renewing and revitalizing their economic cooperation in a new spirit which has expanded during the last two decades and has grown in trade, tourism, education and investment.

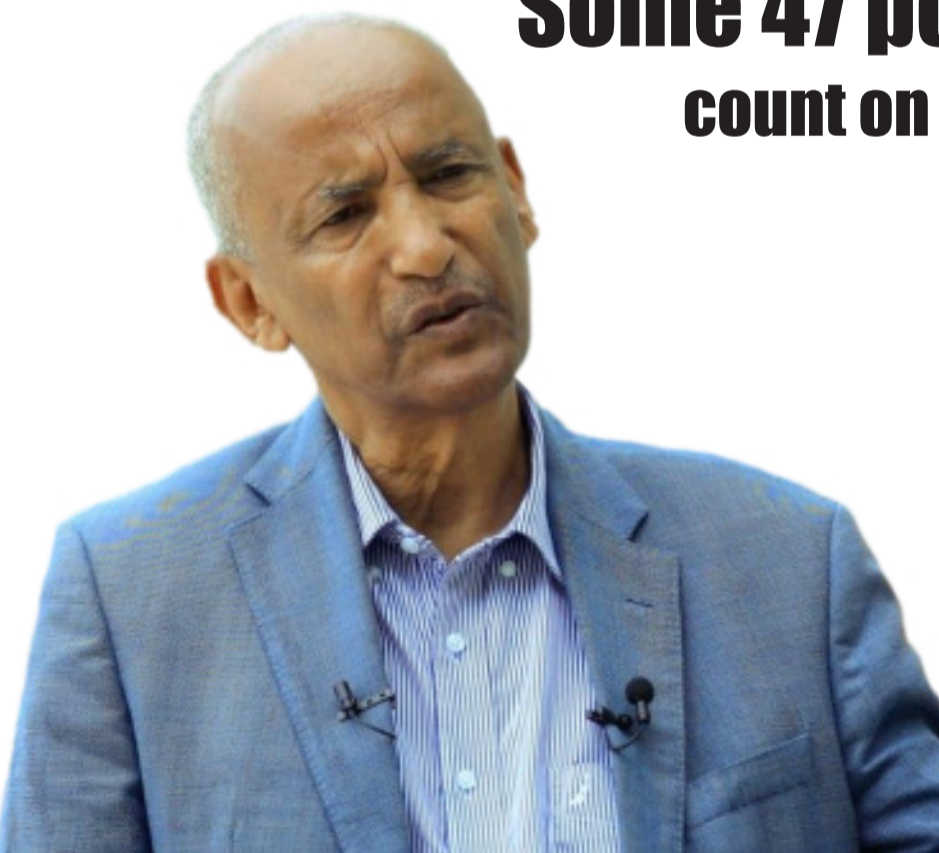
The signing of financing agreement is set to support the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP), the Health Sustainable Development

Goals, and the Homegrown Economic Reform agenda, the Minister elaborated.

As to the minister, these three agreements are in line with Ethiopia’s priorities to be delivered through a multi donor trust fund scheme as instruments to ensure coordination, partnership and synergies among stakeholders and thereby, avoid duplication of efforts.

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Photo Berehun Tadese



Prof. Mesfin Araya

Some 47 political parties count on Nat’l Dialogue

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- Some 47 political parties agreed to cooperate for the success of the National Dialogue with a view to solving various political, economic and social issues, National Dialogue Commission (NDC) announced.

In an exclusive interview with Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), NDC Chief Commissioner, Prof. Mesfin Araya said that most of political parties are supporting the ongoing preparation for the National Dialogue.

“We have not signed agreement only with

See Some 47 political ... page 3

News

Institute endorses NFCS to regional level

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADAMA- Structuring and mainstreaming the use of climate information and services at all levels is highly commendable for the effective implementation of National Framework on Climate Service (NFCS), the Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE) said.

Briefing the media, Water and Energy Minister Habtamu Itefa (Dr. Eng.) said that it is highly important to organize institutional structures from federal to lower levels and work cooperatively to successfully implement the framework to overcome the climate crisis at national and global level.

Citing the multifaceted global impacts of climate change, the minister further remarked that Ethiopia has been facing various natural calamities due to inefficient utilization of information and prediction, so this structural framework would be of significant importance to utilize the early warning information system effectively in an organized manner.

“The ministry has been implementing



Habtamu Itefa (Dr. Eng.)

water allocation projects via water balance schemes to distribute water for irrigation, power and other purposes. By doing so, it was managed to overcome the flood occurrences in some parts of the country through organized taskforces nationally and enabled it to successfully fill the Abaay Dam in an accelerated way,” he noted.

The Ethiopian Metrology Institute (EMI)

Director-General FeteneTeshome on his part said that the institute’s main focus areas are weather forecast and early warning system in short, middle and long range forecast services via various outlets such as TV, radio, media websites and newspaper platforms.

Moreover, in line with its 10-Year strategic plan, the institute is offering short, medium and long term trainings at various levels, expanding branch offices in various areas of meteorology service centers to offer efficient services from the centers cooperatively that help increase production and productivity thereby realizing the common goal, he pinpointed.

Citing Ethiopia’s great role towards the global framework implementation, the Director General said, adding that the institute along with various ministries has been implementing the global, national frameworks and has endorsed to regional level.

The NFCS, which was launched in 2021, is approved by various stakeholders to be operate at federal, regional, zonal and worda levels, it was learnt.



Agency says working on multifaceted projects • Deploys some 140 mln USD fund

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA- Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has been supporting 20 projects with 140 million USD fund in Ethiopia that focusing on manufacturing, business, health care, climate change response and peace building.

KOICA Ethiopia Office Country Director Hon Deog Cho told the Ethiopian Press Agency(EPA) that KOICA is supporting approximately 20 projects pumping approximately 140 million USD in Ethiopia to foster manufacturing, business, health care, climate change response and peace building.

Korea has been privileged to contribute Ethiopia's progress through various initiatives including capacity building programs, infrastructure development and knowledge sharing platforms.

Currently, Korea and Ethiopia are also developing their relationship through the official development assistance programs based on their special historical relationship. KOICA is functioning on managing the manufacturing capacities, improving the manufacturing capacities of the Ethiopian industry.

“Furthermore, KOICA is toiling on climate-responsive rural development. And it is also striving on peace -building. We are working on the four main pillars, and we will definitely work in the four pillars. In terms of capacity building, providing infrastructure and equipment, and also providing some consultations on the policies and changes, how we should bring the changes, those kinds of things that are our main activities,” he stated.

He further said that they are going to provide the public with consultations and managing skills.“We are also going to build capacities in innovation through the higher education development programs on which we are working on are KOICA’s main activities, too. We are also working on the dairy production, improvements.”

KOICA was established with a view of fighting global poverty and supporting sustainable socio-economic development in developing countries by sharing Korean’s development experiences

INSA underscores intensifying efforts against cyber attacks

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA –Information Network Security Administration (INSA) stated that it is high time to exert combined effort in the fight against cyber security attacks and it has combated 97.73 cyber-attacks over the 1st quarter of this fiscal year.

Speaking at the 4th National Cyber Security Month commemorated yesterday with under the theme: “Resilient Cyber Capability for National Sovereignty,” Administration Director General Solomon Soka said that the number of cyber-attacks on various institutions and citizens is increasing and becomes complicated from time to time.

As to him, some 2,556 cyber-attacks were attempted on Ethiopia in the first quarter of this fiscal year on various targeted areas for cyber-attacks such as website, which has taken the lion’s share, hosting some 764 trials. Next to website, a distributed denial-of-service, destruction of infrastructure, and survey of infrastructure have shared the sufferings. For instance, via pass has shared 669 attacks. Compared with the past similar period, website attacks do not exceed from 258 and via pass was only 139. However, some areas like a distributed denial-of-service attacks and survey of infrastructure were reduced by cyber-attacks from 590 to 41 and from 700 to 01 respectively. However, in the country, some 97.73 attacks were prevented.



According to the international, 80% up 90% of cyber-attack is caused by the lack of awareness among the people. The administration has been working on increasing information dissemination through developed a legal framework and well flowed procedure.

He pointed out that all concerned bodies particularly the media should play a crucial part in disseminating the relevant information to the public, increasing the knowledge of the people on cyber issues, and the likes with a view to realizing national interests.

Government Communication Service (GCS) Minister Legese Tulu (PhD) on his part said that countries that have been using technology and improving the level of cyber security are ensuring their national interest and safeguard

their citizens. Therefore, Ethiopia needs to work hard on widening cyber security space through an integrated manner.

Legese added that the government has been working in close collaboration with INSA, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and the likes to ensure the holistic security of the nation. Therefore, producing proficient citizens in the filed by modernizing the service from the grass root level is crucial to bring the expected outcome in cyber security arena.

Supporting the above idea, Ethiopian Mass Media Authority Director General Mohammed Indris said :“The media should disseminate trustworthy information to the people to help ensure the economic, social, and political interests of the country.”

News

Restitution of African cultural assets needs closer collaboration

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

ADDIS ABABA –African countries ought to stand together to restitute their cultural heritages by opening dialogue with countries holding the treasures, so said Morocco Ambassador Nezha Alaoui M'hammdi.

UNESCO, Organization de la Francophonie and Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco jointly organized a roundtable discussion with the theme "Cultural and creative industries and the restitution of Africa's cultural heritage."

"African cultural heritage is not only a mirror of our identity, it is a fundamental pillar for building common future. The restitution of these heritages is not a matter of recovering art objects but it aims preserving and translating our history, values and culture to future generations." Ambassador Nezha said on the event.

Indicating the importance of enhancing and preserving African heritage, especially the classical African art works which are still located outside the continent, she pointed out that this enables Africa's culture to be shining throughout the world.

"In this regard Africans are invited to world together towards the common goal which is the development of continental and national policies aimed at protecting and enhancing their cultural heritage especially educating young generation about its knowledge and preservation," the Ambassador noted.



Preserving and fostering an appreciation for cultural heritage entails a concentration on monuments, artistic works, and cultural practices and traditions that mirror the identity of a society or human community, so said Rita Bissoonauth, UNESCO's Liaison Office to the AU and ECADirector.

Rita underlined that cultural heritage is one of the five UNESCO flagship projects in Africa.

She further said that facilitating the return and restitution of cultural properties under the intergovernmental committee for promoting the right of cultural property to the country of origin is the objective of the flagship on cultural heritage

to support African Union member states.

Social Anthropologist Alula Pankhurst (PhD) on his part said that restitution takes a long time of negotiation. For example, the Axum obelisk which was in Rome was returned to Ethiopia after 68 years.

The restitution should be focusing on important culturally relevant, secret historical objects, he said, adding inter-African cooperation and the role of the AU, is important to provide training in heritage management.

Experts estimate that 80-90% of Africa's cultural heritage can be found in European museums, or rather in their storage.

Some 47...

few political parties. In fact, the commission is still urging all to cooperate for the rest of preparations," he said.

Almost all parties are now becoming a part of the dialogue process which used to be supported by a few parties during the preliminary stage, he indicated.

Taking the advantage, he also called upon parties engaging in armed conflicts to negotiate their interests peacefully.

"They may have [political] reasons to fight against each other. Both the government and armed groups should prioritize peaceful means." The commission is also working with neutral principles to make negotiation and discussion events easy," he said.

Speaking about preparations, he added that preliminary discussions with community representatives are being held.

Representatives from more than 1,400 woredas are needed in the dialogue. So far, the commission has discussed with most of woreda representatives on preliminary issues, he noted.

In spite of some security challenges in Amhara, Oromia, Somali and in some other states, preparations in several states and city administrations are progressing well. Nevertheless, the commission cannot set a deadline for the final discussion, he stated.

Political party representatives, civil societies, scholars, religious leaders, opinion leaders, community leaders, trainers of trainees, and facilitators of the dialogue are now receiving orientations, the Chief Commissioner said.

The commission has also started high level discussions with Tigray Interim Administration officials and some positive developments have been seen during the discussions. However, Prof. Mesfin said, it needs more agreements to launch tasks at grass-root level.

Internally displaced people and Diaspora community will be also taking part in the National Dialogue, so that preparations considering these community segments are being carried out, he elaborated.

Participants of the preliminary discussion are expected to set agendas to be debated in the major National Dialogue, *The Ethiopian Herald* learnt.

Ethiopia, Ireland usher...

"The grant agreement would support programs in addressing specific challenges, 5 million Euros for chronic food insecurity and provide assistance, 3 million Euros would be used for the Health Sustainable Development Goals in the Second Health Sector Transformation Plan covering the period between 2020 and 2025," he remarked.

Emphasizing the his government's commitment to fight hunger and inequality as a prior policy for international development, Ireland's State Minister for International Development and the Diaspora of Republic of Ireland Sean Fleming said that the government of Ethiopia is undertaking

a remarkable progress in strengthening social protection and healthcare via these flagship programs and post conflict recovery.

The state minister also noted the ongoing economic reforms in Ethiopia and highlighted the potential of competition and market led growth driving the national development.

He said: "I am delighted to recommit my country to support this strategic national program to ensure social protection, and healthcare services to the Ethiopian people especially women and children."

They reaffirmed their shared commitment to further strengthening social protection, food security and health care systems apart from renewing commitment to engage in the development of strong business and cultural bonds.

In the Irish Aid program, it was managed to develop and support a wide range of partners working in health, nutrition, governance, social protection, resilience and humanitarian assistance for these programs with over 200 million Euros, it was learnt.

Ethiopia, Türkiye...

foundation of the Republic of Türkiye.

Ethiopia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) expressed "warmest congratulations to the People and Government of the Republic of Türkiye on the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the Republic of Türkiye".

MoFA wrote on its official Facebook page that Ethiopia appreciates Türkiye for the strong partnership and enduring friendship exhibited throughout the years.

It also underlined that Ethiopia is committed to further strengthening "the already strong cooperation even further."

Commenting on Ethiopia's pledge, Turkish Embassy in Addis Ababa affirmed commitment to cement the bilateral cooperation.

In a statement wrote on social media Sunday, the Embassy said, "We are also committed to further strengthen our partnership and cooperation in all fields."

It also appreciated Ethiopia for the congratulatory message: "We thank The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia for this kind congratulatory post," the Embassy wrote.

In recent meetings, officials from Ethiopia and Türkiye have been reiterated to work together on various issues by drawing lesson from the long-term relations and cooperation between the two nations.

On October 23, 2023, Minister of Peace, BanalfAndualem, had discussed with BerkBaran, Ambassador of the Embassy of the

Republic of Türkiye to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union, on issues of mutual concerns.

The two have discussed on the peace building process in Ethiopia and ways to help former militants from different parts of the country to peacefully disarm and join the society, the information obtained from the Ministry of Peace indicated.

During the meeting, the ambassador commended Ethiopia's effort to solve its problems through conducting a national consultation, and expressed his wish to the effectiveness of the process.

Documents show that the bilateral cooperation between Ethiopia and Türkiye has seen a significant improvement and the Turkish

investment in Ethiopia surpassed 2.5 billion USD.

The inauguration of Turkish Airlines' direct flights to Addis Ababa as of April 2006 and Ethiopian Airlines' direct flight to Istanbul as of April 2017 has a significant impact in boosting the trade relations between the two countries, according to MoFA.

Diplomatic relations between Türkiye and Ethiopia started in 1896 with the exchange of delegations during the rule of Sultan Abdülhamid II and Emperor Menelik II. Following the opening of the first Ottoman-Turkish Consulate General in Harar, in 1912, the first Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye's in Sub-Saharan Africa was opened in Addis Ababa, in 1926.

College aiming for...

Airways Ethiopia CEO disclosed.

Speaking to *The Ethiopian Herald*, CEO Captain Abera Lemi said that: "First we are expected to create skillful and competent aviation experts who have a passion, and we will develop this the culture of assembling and manufacturing of great aviation industry in Africa."

As to him, the college is one of the private sectors working on aviation industry and has started training in aviation maintenance technicians and flight operation since it was authorized by Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority to do so.

"Thus, we will develop into higher level by applying aeronautical engineering. They are

relentlessly working to produce many experts in aviation training industry of Ethiopia and create overseas opportunities for those experts as well."

"As Ethiopia has dynamic people, they have to be given chance, be motivated to develop the industry into higher level; this is our mission to achieve and make our country prestigious. We should not focus on the problems, but solutions when providing trainees with training and universal knowledge so as to make them fit

with international aviation sector," he said.

"What is expected of us is to achieve the national plan by giving special attention to students and make them productive, competent, responsible and patriotic ones in the years to come."

National Aviation College has secured international qualification certificate from International Air Transport Association (IATA) and International Commercial Management (ICM), it was learnt.

Opinion

Equitable utilization of the Abbay River water resource

BY GETACHEW MINAS

Equitable and reasonable utilization of the Abbay River and its expansive riparian habitat is a natural right of countries, including Ethiopia, that border the river basin. The Abbay Basin has, however, been full of challenges leading to a water allocation stalemate.

To overcome the stalemate, hydrologists have tried to use methods for defining new strategies. They have also developed various water allocation methods. These strategies and methods have been used for comparing and contrasting water policy and relevant factors to determine equitable and reasonable utilization in the Nile basin.

However, all of these possible water resources allocation methods have not satisfied the requirements of assessing equitable and reasonable utilization. Thus, alternative allocation methods have been tested. These included: a group-based distribution; a value-based distribution; and a consensus-based distribution. Even these methods could not address current and potential uses of the Abbay River.

A core question in distributive policy is determining how to share water resources equitably and reasonably. The UN Watercourses Convention (UNWC) defines equitable and reasonable utilization as: "Watercourse States shall in their respective territories utilize an international watercourse in an equitable and reasonable manner." An international watercourse, in particular, shall be used and developed by watercourse States with a view to attaining the optimal and sustainable utilization thereof and benefits there from. This should take into account the interests of the watercourse States concerned, consistent with the adequate protection of the watercourse. The UNWC lists seven relevant factors and circumstances that the Basin States should take into account when determining an equitable water allocation.

These factors are: 1) geographic, hydrographic, hydrological, climatic, ecological and other factors of a natural character; 2) the social and economic needs of the watercourse States concerned; 3) the population dependent on the watercourse in each watercourse State; 4) the effects of the use or uses of the watercourses in one watercourse State on other watercourse States; 5) existing and potential uses of the watercourse; 6) conservation, protection, development, and economy of use of the water resources of the watercourse and the costs of measures taken to that effect; and 7) the availability of alternatives, of comparable value, to a particular planned or existing use.

According to P. Wouters (*International Law-Facilitating Trans-boundary Water Cooperation*; Global Water Partnership: Stockholm, Sweden) equitable and reasonable utilization is a fundamental principle of water allocation. Most of the international water law agreements contain the principle of equitable and reasonable utilization. A convenient application of the equitable and reasonable utilization principle

to resolve a water allocation dispute is a significant challenge.

Water experts argue that the equitable and reasonable utilization definition is "vague" and not applicable to specific water conflicts. Yet, the finalization of the UNWC took more than twenty years, due to difficulties in combining the legal and hydrologic factors. These experts explained that the principle is defined in "general" terms, and is, therefore, prone to subjective interpretation. They stressed the need to develop more precise and relevant criteria.

It is argued that this principle is misleading to riparian states, such as Ethiopia. Actually, the difficulty is aggravated by not having a hierarchy of the factors relevant to equitable and reasonable utilization of the Nile River basin. Neither of the factors, nor the water uses, have priority over others. In support of the equitable and reasonable principle, experts argue that engineers and hydrologists sometimes see the list shown above as a poorly stated equation. One could calculate a State's share of the water without reference to other variables.

The vagueness of the "equitable and reasonable" principle has caused the dialogues of the deaf among Nile water experts. This dialogue took place when policy makers of concerned countries were "unable" to resolve controversial issues related to the Nile River issues. Those engaged in the dialogue do not listen to one another because all of the positions are well-known. Those engaged in the discussion know what the other discussants think before they begin to talk. There is no input to the debate because the arguments are well developed and cannot be refuted. However, the deadlock may paralyze water allocation processes because no deliberations will result in any change. The negative aspects of a "dialogue of the deaf" in public policy are "paralysis" in which the positions constantly swing from one extreme to another. The inability to make decisions undermines arguments that are irrefutable regarding the Nile.

The leading cause of tensions is competing views on the principle of equitable and reasonable utilization of the Nile Basin. The major issue is how to allocate the water resources among the concerned countries. To determine the allocation of water, a transitional institution known as the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) was created to develop the basin cooperatively, share the benefits, and promote peace and security.

The official NBI membership is determined by first having a part of the country in the basin, and second by being a member of the NBI. The NBI comprises member countries and one observer. The major mandates of the NBI were to initiate and facilitate a decision-making process. This would lead to the development of a cooperative framework agreement (CFA) and its institutional setup. There are many Nile Basin water agreements. The primary agreements include: the 1929 Exchange of Notes between Egypt and Great Britain (on

behalf of its East African colonies); the 1959 Nile water agreement between Egypt and Sudan and the CFA (2009).

A historical background of the Nile water agreements gives a brief explanation of the current position. In 1929, there was an Exchange of Notes between Egypt and Great Britain on Nile water use for irrigation purposes. Great Britain signed the agreement on behalf of its colonies in East African and Sudan.

The 1929 agreement grants Egypt water rights over the Nile, and other countries are not permitted to unilaterally initiate water infrastructure projects that reduce the Nile water quantity, water level, or the water arrival date, without prior permission from Egypt. The agreement also adds that Great Britain acknowledges Egypt's "natural and historical rights". In 1959, Egypt and Sudan signed a bilateral agreement to divide the then-84 billion cubic meters of Nile waters. According to the 1959 agreement, the Nile waters were divided as follows: 55.5 billion cubic meters to Egypt, 18.5 billion cubic meters to Sudan, and 10 billion cubic meters to account for evaporation and seepage. Also, the 1959 agreement provides that any increase in the Nile water flows will be shared equally.

The attitude of the signatories of the 1929 and 1959 agreements is supportive of the view of Egypt's "natural and historical rights" over the Nile. Egypt has consistently held the opinion that the Nile riparian states are perpetually bound by the agreements signed by Great Britain on their behalf. The successor states are bound because the two agreements have not been abrogated through consent. Egypt's belief in their "natural and historical" rights were recognized and supported by Sudan and Great Britain's actions and their local usage of the Nile for centuries.

Also, Egypt considers any reduction of the Nile water quantity level and time of arrival as a national security issue. Some writers affirm the legitimacy of the 1929 water agreement. A few experts think that this agreement was regarded as permanent because it would bind all of the successor states for ever. However, Ethiopia and Tanzania have been consistent in stating that the Nile water agreements do "not" bind them.

The 1929 and 1959 water allocation methods have been challenged as void by some Nile Basin States. Riparian states that are not a party to such a distribution perceive it as discriminatory. The upstream countries have challenged the legal status of the 1929 and 1959 agreements.

Historical evidence reveals that before the independence of the British East African territories, Great Britain articulated its concern suggesting revising the agreements to incorporate the rights of other riparian states. In 1956, Sudan challenged the validity of the 1929 agreement, leading to the negotiation and final signing of the 1959 agreement.

Later on, other riparian countries also

challenged the validity of the two water agreements. They declared their refusal to be bound by these agreements. The Nile Basin riparian states started a consensus-based decision-making process. But, after 10 years of negotiations, the consensus-based process collapsed. The collapse of the CFA consensus-based process was due to the provision that required all of the Nile Basin States to jointly manage the Nile water resources in a manner that ensures and sustains water security.

Egypt and Sudan were not satisfied with the provisions and requested the addition of a specific provision that obliged riparian states "not" to negatively affect the water security and current uses and rights of any other Nile Basin State. Their proposal was not accepted by the other Basin States, because they felt that it disregarded equitable and reasonable utilization.

The Basin States could not agree on the notification concept that was proposed by Egypt and Sudan. Upper riparian countries had entered into the consensus decision-making process with the aim of revoking existing Nile agreements (the 1929 and 1959 agreements). They wanted to replace them with a new basin-wide CFA.

Finally, when the deadlock persisted, the upper riparian stopped the consensus-based process. Upstream countries maintained the position that they need a new special consideration that upholds the principle of equitable and reasonable utilization. Downstream countries (Egypt and Sudan) maintain the argument that the new agreement should recognize past agreements, namely the 1929 and 1959 Nile water agreements.

Finally, water experts propose to ensure that all of the interventions focus on the population living in the Nile Basin states. The expansion will provide better chances for the economic development of Ethiopia. This includes the use of both fresh and saline water resources. Both surface and groundwater resources will also be exploited with other water sources that can be recycled and reused. This process demands the broadening of the decision-making process to strive for consensus-based distribution.

Since consensus-based distribution is a complicated process, there needs to be a shift in the policy-making process from the rational decision-making model toward political reasoning. This demands a shift from the voting model toward consensus based decision-making. The strength of this system of decision making is the transparent and straightforward, making it easy for decision-makers and politicians to understand, appreciate, and apply it. In this process, riparian states, including Ethiopia, should stand for equitable utilization of the Nile River to enhance their economic development.

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

Editorial

Praiseworthy move towards exploring agricultural potentials

Not only does the agriculture sector in Ethiopia aspire to bring about food self-sufficiency but it also targets at penetrating the international market by leveraging the national full potential to become a large exporter of agricultural products such as wheat.

It is also well recognized that a number of economic reforms have been initiated by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) like 'Dine for Sheger,' 'Dine for the nation,' and 'Dine for generation,' and they have started bearing fruits.

As part of the 'Dine for Generations' initiative, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed recently launched the Niin Lee Palm Spring Lodge Project in Afar State, and laid the cornerstone for the project as one of the seven tourism destinations to be built.

Unequivocally, the Ethiopian government has rigorously been working to boost nation's economy especially the wheat production via devising a range of mechanisms to help the nation and beyond promote export. What is being done in Afar state, Dubti woreda, regarding summer wheat is a case in point in this regard. The community is getting prepared to cultivate summer wheat on a wide acre of hectares of land this summer in the stated district.

Commonly known for pastoralism and prior sidelined in provision of agricultural inputs, the Afar state is now momentarily progressing in national agricultural productivity of wheat, cotton, bananas and many other goods. It is really a good beginning! Besides, the country is preparing itself to cultivate over three million hectares of summer wheat this Ethiopian year.

The development of small and large-scale irrigation infrastructure in the Ethiopian lowlands has also recently been given due attention by the government couple with contributing factors like improved seeds, fertilizer supply, and use of mechanization on the clustered wheat farms.

As Ethiopia has managed to realize its vision of becoming wheat export, the irrigation-based summer cultivation helped it the country produce many more quintals of wheat. It is also quite important for the government to fulfill the demands of citizens and make Ethiopia's wheat export dream a reality.

The production, which has helped attain import substitution, has to be well acknowledged and given due focus. The government is now expected to step up its export offer and has already secured wheat exporting contracts with many neighboring nations.

True, a lot has been done to double the total harvest safeguarded last summer and produce much more wheat production across the nation. Ethiopia has been exporting wheat to boost its dwindling foreign currency reserves, raise concerns by which it could deepen a looming food crisis. The country is among a number of nations in the Horn of Africa and interventions include improving seed quality, ensuring a steady supply of fertilizers, promoting mechanization on clustered wheat farms, and developing irrigation infrastructure in the lowland areas of Ethiopia are widely exercised to boost production and productivity.

Addressing the food crisis and the threats conflict and unrest posed to national food security, Ethiopia has been exerting efforts and making significant strides in vast development areas including agriculture. Wheat production is regarded as one of such remarkable milestones.

In sum, Ethiopia has made a substantial investment in intensifying summer wheat production through irrigation, and farmers have been able to control and manage production factors to maximize yields using irrigation. These efforts are generating great results and contributing a lot to national food security and self-sufficiency, despite the prevalence of climate variability. Besides, Home-Grown Economic Reform Plan has been special attention and properly implemented to intensify cluster farming and irrigation-based lowland wheat production such as what is happening in Afar state.



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The Ethiopian Herald

Opinion

Ethiopia's emerging capital market's potential to assist finance sectors growth

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

It is true that government owned and private banks have been disbursing loans to investors' primarily domestic ones. However, capital markets can raise money from external sources and also from Ethiopians who just keep their money sitting in the banks as saving accounts. They can invest it and get higher dividend from capital market.

The introduction of the capital markets in Ethiopia will enable domestic companies that want to raise capital in the international stock market to have their prospects of profit making so that investors can buy from anywhere in the world without the need to come to Ethiopia and get investment license. Increased capital mobilization in the agriculture sector through capital markets through banks, treasury bonds and stock exchange markets will not only support the agriculture transformation but will also help to promote agro-industries, industrial parks and other investment sectors.

Efforts are underway to develop Ethiopia's financial market as the government prepares to launch its first-ever securities exchange in 2024. ESX is a "game-changer for Ethiopia in giving due importance to inclusivity, sustainability, and connectivity to harness the platform's full potential.

The ESX will serve as a key part of a functioning Ethiopian capital market ecosystem. ECMA was committed to supporting the launch of the ESX and will work closely with the ESX team as it becomes a full-fledged securities exchange over the next year. As a pioneer securities exchange ESX will play a critical role in the development and growth of the Ethiopian capital markets. ESX will deploy a state-of-the-art electronic trading platform for the equity and fixed-income markets as well as an innovative alternative capital market that caters specifically to up-and-coming small and medium enterprises.

Ethiopian capital market will require the full support of valuable development partners to realize the catalytic development impact of a modern securities exchange.

The Ethiopian Investment Holdings is a wholly state-owned company created under Proclamation No. 1263/2021 and Regulation No. 487/2022 as a strategic investment entity of Ethiopia to serve the strategic needs of its economy and build multi-generational wealth. EIH aims to achieve its purposes by bringing together public assets under a professional management structure and investing judiciously on a diversified range of strategic investment targets. EIH is operated as a private business organization

with a view to driving performance of public assets using modern management practices, corporate governance standards, and systemic mechanisms to ensure the protection of shareholder's interests.

The Ethiopian Securities Exchange (ESX) is being established in line with the Capital Markets Proclamation (No. 1248/2021). Article 31 of the Proclamation provides that ESX shall be established as a share company by the government in partnership with the private sector, including foreign investors. The Government of Ethiopia is expected to hold a minority share in the establishment of ESX. The establishment of ESX is primarily led by EIH with the support of Financial Sector Deepening Africa (FSD Africa).

The author of this article wishes to mention several challenges and opportunities that the Ethiopian Capital Market could encounter in the short run and over time.

Lack of finance, fraud among potential participants, irregularities and loopholes in financial policies and regulations that are not updated, low level of financial digitalization, widespread money laundering and clandestine printing of counterfeit banknotes, financial embezzlements, tax fraud and other fiscal irregularities in implementation could be mentioned.

However, the fact that Ethiopia has now become member of BRRICS and has continued to maintain amicable relations with IMF and the World Bank, better diplomatic relations with partners and major countries of the world, growing FDI provide better opportunities for the promotion of multiple sets and forms of capital markets.

With the introduction of strong capital market, Ethiopia can enjoy higher level of capital acquisition to further develop her import substitution programs particularly in the manufacturing sector and capital intensive projects run both by the government and the private sector and through joint ventures. Ethiopia will also be able to enhance further development of industrial parks and can provide employment opportunities for the unemployed youth trained in various skills.

Further development of the financial markets here and at overseas will reduce heavy dependence on foreign aid and loans that could affect the GDP and general development goals of the country. As Ethiopia is a beginner in the area of capital markets, it is important to look into the standards and levels of the nation's fiscal and financial policies and guidelines and their compatibility with global and regional capital markets and systems

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

Business & Economy

Ethiopia:

The big chap in global floriculture industry development

BY MEKONNEN SOLOMON

These days, the flower industry is becoming highly dynamic and vastly an international business undertaking. Substantial development has been achieved during the past few decades. Flower Trade is dominated by Europe, Middle East and North-America, the world's largest consumer markets, while the producing countries are situated close to the equator. For the past ten years, the leading flower exporting countries have been the Netherlands, Colombia, Kenya, Ecuador and Israel. Since a few years, Ethiopia has become the world's five top exporters while Israel's position has weakened.

The astonishing growth of flower production in these countries, however, was not gradual, and certainly not automatic. Producers were hit hard by the Global Energy crisis, Covid-19 Pandemic, irregularity of Flora Holland selling Price there is a general feeling that the industry faces a period of dramatic changes as it responds to the challenges posed by economic conditions.

Market demand is stagnating, while the supply of flowers is abundant. In the medium and long term, a moderate growth of only 2 to 4 percent annually is expected in Western Europe's cut flower markets. In addition, consumer demands, and subsequently trade requirements, are becoming more demanding and increasingly differentiated. The demand for sustainable produced and distributed products is rising.

As a result, margins are under pressure and playing rules are changing significantly in the flower industry. The industry is evolving towards lean and transparent supply chains. Direct trade channels, bypassing the auction system, are growing. An acceleration of technology and knowledge development is witnessed, not only in cultivation, but particularly in the way flowers are traded.

Transactions are increasingly handled by means of computer systems. More than 60 percent of the roses traded at the Flora Holland auction are sold through the remote buying system 'KOA'. European wholesalers offer products in their own online web shop, where customers (wholesalers and retailers) can buy directly from stocks. Trade becomes virtual making accurate exchange of information critical.

Another important trend that can be noticed is the increasing relevance of social and environmental standards in the European flower trade. New patterns of consumption, media pressure, and campaigns by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have generated consumer interest in the conditions under which flowers are produced in the developing countries.



Ethiopia becomes Africa's second largest flower exporter – Africa Business Networking

The flower sector is now becoming the second top foreign currency earnings next to Coffee. The growth of floriculture industry however, has not always come easily. For the last few years, the sector was confronted lack of adequate land for expansions and for new developments

Nowadays, the market is characterized by the existence of a multitude of standards in the form of certification schemes, codes of practice and a handful of consumer labels. One of the reasons for this large number of co-existing certificates is the fact that retailers tend to adopt those standards which best meet their needs. There is even a strong trend among large retailers to set up their own private standards. So, although fragmented, the importance of standards in the European flower is increasing.

It is expected that high-tech developments and ever stricter requirements for suppliers continue in the future and will increasingly determine who is allowed to participate in these chains. Further growth of flower cultivation in East Africa will depend for a large part on the ability to adapt to these changing conditions.

The five leading global flower exporters in terms of export value of this moment are the Netherlands, Colombia, Ecuador, Kenya, and Ethiopia. These countries are competing with each other on the same Markets in Europe, in Russia (Pre-War), and Middle East North-America, and competition is getting tenser every year. This increased rivalry is partly due to stagnating demand, but also as a result of the growing number of large-flowered roses grown in Africa and the generally improving quality of the African products.

Ecuador, and to a lesser extent Colombia, are exporting more flowers to Europe and Russia (in prewar time than a few years ago. Eastern Europe has already become an important market for Ecuador. Colombia is also increasingly targeting niche markets, which traditionally are supplied by Dutch and African flowers. Kenya and Ethiopia have good enough to supply the Russian

market in prewar time as well.

Competition on the North-American market is also increasing. Ecuador is looking to increase its market share in the coming years. Kenya is still struggling to develop its exports to the USA, despite the absence of import duties. US airlines and the Kenyan government are discussing possibilities of opening up direct flights between the two countries.

A new comer among the big boys of global floriculture is Ethiopia. Ethiopian flower industry has grown tremendously since 2004. In 2004, production area was an estimated 840 hectares with about 46 thousand tons of flowers being exported. In 2022/23, the sector had already grown to 1,600 hectares. Now, there are about 1,600 hectares of flowers (greenhouse and outdoors) with 291,000 tons of flowers exported last year. In 2011/12 the total foreign currency earing of flower sector was 196 million USD and reach to 627 Million USD in 2022/23. Ethiopia grows mainly roses, carnations, statice, alstroemeria, liliun and a variety of summer flowers.

The flower sector is now becoming the second top foreign currency earnings next to Coffee. The growth of floriculture industry however, has not always come easily. For the last few years, the sector was confronted lack of adequate land for expansions and for new developments. Lack of access to land eventually limited the opportunity of existing and new investor to demonstrate their potentials to enhance production which could be supplied to Global Market, and thus effort has to be made to support the floriculture industry for the time to come.

NB: The writer is a horticulture export coordinator at the Ministry of Agriculture

In the Sphere of Diplomacy

Historical ties rejuvenated by airline connection

BY EYUEL KIFLU

The diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Algeria have a long and rich history. These two African nations, separated by a considerable distance, have established a bond that is rooted in shared values, historical ties and a common vision in continental matters. Over the years, bilateral cooperation between Addis Ababa and Algiers has deepened, covering various sectors ranging from politics and trade to culture and regional security.

The countries have enjoyed a historical connection that dates back decades. Both nations have rich cultural heritage and a deep sense of national pride. The historical connections between the two peoples have been forged through trade, religion, and cultural exchanges, contributing to a sense of mutual understanding and respect.

Also, in the political arena, the countries have maintained a strong partnership. Both countries are committed to promoting regional stability and have collaborated closely on various issues of mutual concern. They have worked together within the African Union (AU) and other regional organizations to address conflicts and promote peace in the continent.

The economic cooperation between both nations has also witnessed significant growth in recent years. Both countries recognize the importance of economic development for the well-being of their people and have actively sought to enhance trade and investment ties. Algeria has shown a keen interest in Ethiopia's fast-growing economy and has made substantial investments in sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and construction. Moreover, the exchange of expertise and technology has been a crucial component of their economic cooperation, fostering innovation and knowledge-sharing.

The recent announcement of the start of flight by Air Algeria flight to Ethiopia could ramp up the country's long-lasting historical relations. A delegation led by the Minister of Transport of Algeria launched the first direct flight between Ethiopia and Algeria recently. This air connection would be the hope of the two countries' relations and lead to a new path. It may also play a huge role in connecting northern Africa to the East and others. This historical incident connects the North African country to Ethiopian air, which is the beacon and pride of Africa.

It was learned during the opening ceremony of the flight that the first direct flight between Algiers and Addis was an important step for the two countries. Also, it was said that this historical occurrence



is the result of the agreement reached a year ago in Algeria between the heads of states of the two countries. And, it was also disclosed that the beginning of the flight will be important to boost economic activity, speed up trade, and facilitate the movement of people, transportation of goods.

Yacine Benslimane, the General Director of Air Algeria, expressed his enthusiasm during the opening ceremony, stating that it was his first time setting foot on Ethiopian soil. Like many Algerians, he had always dreamt of visiting this beautiful country, which he regarded as a cradle of humanity. Benslimane felt fortunate not only to explore Ethiopia and engage with its people but also to inaugurate the first air link between the two nations, bridging North Africa and East Africa. He believed that this connection would strengthen the ties between the countries, benefiting the region as well.

Benslimane said that Air Algeria's 46th international connection in Africa, scheduled to commence operations on December 15th, would feature two weekly frequencies: departing from Algiers on Mondays and Fridays and departing from Addis Ababa on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Benslimane announced that ticket sales for this flight would begin on September 23rd.

Mesfin Tasew Bekele, the CEO of Ethiopian Airlines, said on his part Ethiopian Airlines had long aspired to establish air connectivity with Algeria, linking Addis Ababa to the two countries. Mesfin commended Air Algeria for taking the historic step, stating that it marked a significant moment for both nations. He emphasized that air connectivity fostered stronger relationships, promoting

trade, tourism, and people-to-people connections. Mesfin expressed Ethiopian Airlines' readiness to partner with Air Algeria in connecting Algeria to Eastern Africa using Addis Ababa as a hub, with the aim of enhancing frequencies and connectivity.

In an exclusive interview with The Ethiopian Herald, Algerian Ambassador to Ethiopia Salah Francis Elhamdi expressed his delight at witnessing the commencement of the flight. As the ambassador for Algeria for the past ten years, he highlighted the significance of this achievement. Elhamdi emphasized the already high level of political and diplomatic relations between the two countries, dating back to 1962. He acknowledged Ethiopia's historical support during Algeria's struggle for liberation and expressed gratitude for the amicable gestures received from the Ethiopian authorities throughout history. Elhamdi considered it natural for Ethiopia to be one of Algeria's closest allies after gaining independence.

Regarding the flight's impact, Ambassador Elhamdi believed that it would bring economic prosperity, as it opened opportunities for companies from both countries to engage in business ventures. He emphasized the mutual benefits that this connection would bring and expressed hope that Ethiopian Airlines would eventually launch its own flights on this route.

In addition, Nebiat Getachew, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia to Algeria stated at the launching ceremony the bilateral relation between the two countries has been focused in the field of politics and diplomacy. Also, it has been working on the country's bilateral and multilateral relations with

Algeria has shown a keen interest in Ethiopia's fast-growing economy and has made substantial investments in sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and construction

Algeria; it is still being worked on.

The ambassador said that the economy and trade that should have been developed in their long-term diplomatic relationship, has not been developed accordingly. In order to improve this, starting a direct flight between Algiers and Addis was an important mission, he explained.

According to the ambassador, Ethiopia and Algeria have a long history of bilateral relations. In the year since the independence of Algeria in 1962, the two countries have established diplomatic relations and have successfully maintained bilateral relations.

A year ago, when Ethiopian President Sahlework Zewde and Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (Ph.D.) paid an official visit to Algeria, they discussed with the Algerian President to start a direct flight between the two countries. He said that Air Algeria has carried out the first direct flight from Algiers to Addis Ababa by carrying out a series of activities aimed at enhancing trade and people-to-people relations.

He also said that Ethiopian Airlines will make its own arrangements to make a similar connection. The direct flight, apart from its historical significance, will raise the relations between the two countries to a higher level. Overall, the relationship between Ethiopia and Algeria is a testament to the importance of cooperation and the power of shared values. With a strong historical bond, political alignment, and growing economic ties, the partnership between these two nations continues to flourish. As they look to the future, Ethiopia and Algeria are poised to deepen their collaboration further, contributing to peace, stability, and development in Africa.

Law & Politics

Building a reliable national defense force

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

Many experts say that the best deterrent against aggression or war is the existence of a strong and reliable defense force that is capable of foiling any ambition of attack by any force be it from within or from outside. Defense capabilities discourage any potential aggression and this is very well understood by any government.

The Ethiopian National Defense Forces were established officially during the reign of Emperor Menelik on October 25, 1900 according to Ethiopian Calendar. Hence the 116th National Army Day, that is the anniversary of the formation of the army was celebrated on the same day in 2016 E.C with a military parade at Meskel Square in Addis Ababa, with great participation of the members of the defense forces, and a huge presence of the public that inundated the huge square. The day was marked as well throughout the country with various events, including exhibitions and panel discussions around the role and status of the army.

In Addis Ababa the day was celebrated with maximum enthusiasm of the public in the presence of the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Abiy Ahmed, the Chief of Staff Field Marshal Berhanu Jula, Deputy Chief of Staff General Abebaw Tadesse and the Speaker of the House of People's Representatives Tagesse Chafo, along with army chiefs of various African countries and several other invited dignitaries.

It was stated on the occasion that the day is observed to renew commitment and dedication of the gallant army in ensuring peace and stability of the country and to demonstrate the military preparedness as well as sustain the legacy of the army. It is also to commemorate those who paid the maximum sacrifice while contributing to the maintenance of the peace, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country.

Ethiopia's geopolitical position at the crossroads of three continents and the vicinity of a crucial international trade route obliges it to be always ready to be in a position to foil any potential threat that may come from any force.

The Horn of Africa is reputedly a region where there are several interests of foreign forces including extremist ones with their own ideologies and creeds. One cannot exclude thus that Ethiopia, being a huge country with more than one hundred twenty million people and the cradle of mankind among other remarkable features with its multiple nations and nationalities, could constitute an attractive place where to exert some kind of influence using their not only peaceful communications tools but also aggressive posture.

Hence Ethiopia should always show that it is highly vigilant and ready to counter

such foreign influences that could have a crucial impact on the way people live or think. It should show that it is capable of defending its national sovereignty and dignity in the words of the Commander in Chief Abiy Ahmed who made a speech on the celebrative occasion.

The Ethiopian Defense Forces have a long history of bravery, patriotism and indomitable mentality that have managed to conserve the integrity and sovereignty of the country for years.

In fact before the official formation of the national defense, the country used to rely on forces that were composed of patriots who would present themselves to fight for the country when called by their leaders for a specific mission. Those forces did not have national training nor avail of government provided arms and ammunitions. When it was determined that an official and permanent defense force which can be in standby for any eventuality of defense of the country should be available, the Emperor Menelik II founded the national army. This army has been growing and developing along the years irrespective of the changes of regime to reach the current days of excellence and strength.

Today the Ethiopian Defense Force is reputed to be one of the strongest in Africa and has demonstrated that it can carry out any mission when it is called for it. At the ceremony of marking the Army Day the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Abiy Ahmed was heard saying that Ethiopia's defense forces have never lost a battle and are a reliable body on which Ethiopians have full trust and confidence.

In fact the force has even traveled outside Ethiopia in service in conflict zones and for multiple international peace keeping missions under the auspices of the United Nations beginning from the early 1950s in the Korean Conflict to the latest in South Sudan and Somalia under the auspices of the African Union where it has earned a splendid reputation for its resolve, bravery and ethical professionalism and discipline deserving various awards and recognitions for its contribution to world peace.

In fact the UN says that Ethiopia is one of the largest contributors of peace keeping forces to the UN in the world and the integrity of its armed forces has been widely acknowledged by the countries where it was in mission and international bodies.

Today the armed forces of Ethiopia avail the latest technologically advanced tools and armaments and the troops are well trained with the latest knowhow and capabilities that are a guarantee for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country. During the past few years it has undergone radical transformation in its structure in a non-partisan manner and

is well equipped with infantry, air force, marine corps and cyber spheres which is expected to be effective in deterring any form of threat both from abroad as well as internally. It is said that a strong army is a strong deterrent against any aggression and in fact military experts are fond of saying 'if you want peace, be prepared for war'.

The army is also an instrument of peace and development because it takes part in the various social activities of the nation such as construction, harvesting and other campaigns as required. Dismissing certain speculations aired in some corners that Ethiopia is preparing itself for an aggression on some foreign country, the Commander in Chief reiterated that Ethiopia's first and foremost priority is maintaining peace and that there are no ambitions of seeking an incursion on other nations. He added the army will be a major peace force nationally, regionally and globally.

The Commander in Chief further added Ethiopia has never given in to foreign aggressions and its history of assistance to African countries while they were fighting for their independence is one feature in the history of the Ethiopia defense forces. They have paid the utmost sacrifice in those peace keeping missions around the world and no one can doubt that as history books have witnessed it. The army has never taken part in any unprovoked combat. It has never invaded any country nor will it ever do so the Commander in Chief stressed. It is the pride of the country and the continent.

At the same time with its various peace time activities such as building schools, health centers, helping in the seasonal harvesting activities of crops for farmers the army has demonstrated its being a symbol of unity and peace for the country. Along the years the army has thrived and stood up to challenging circumstances and this will help it grow even further reassuring citizens that it is up to the task of defending efficiently the sovereignty of the country at any time when the need arises and the danger looms.

In the words of the Commander in Chief, the armed forces are a pride of Ethiopia, and the greater East Africa at large by maintaining its commitment to safeguard peace and stability across the region. Keeping in mind the changing circumstances and uncertainties in the region Abiy called on members of the army to pursue knowledge, become innovative and keep in standby for any mission in line with any eventuality. The premier said Ethiopia is a great nation and we are working to pass on a peaceful and prosperous nation to generations to come and called all Ethiopians to stand in unison to this end. "Our defense forces are symbols of peace wherever they go", the premier pointed out.

Today the armed forces of Ethiopia avail the latest technologically advanced tools and armaments and the troops are well trained with the latest knowhow and capabilities that are a guarantee for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country

Society

Breast cancer early detection matters the most



BY MENGESHA AMARE

Of the over 120 million population Ethiopia has housed, half plus of them constitute women as it is recurrently heralded. As far as public health in general and that of women in particular is concerned, the most common malignancy in Ethiopia has been breast cancer.

Although disparities exist in breast cancer survival between women living in rural and urban areas, patients in the former are more likely to present with locally advanced breast cancer.

Efforts to improve breast cancer detection and treatment have been exerted in an integrated manner at national level despite shortcomings and the long journey to be trekked. It would be quite important to raise public awareness at a larger scale to dramatically mitigate the impact of breast abnormalities and to diagnose women well.

As part of the effort to keep women healthy and sustainably maintain their wellbeing, Ministry of Health in collaboration with a number of stakeholders especially with Clinton Health Access Initiative recently organized media orientation program about breast cancer early detection, prevention and communication and other related aspects under the theme, 'Breast cancer early detection saves life.'

The program is of paramount importance in raising public awareness about breast cancer, its detection and the way how breast cancer is communicated and latest updates can be shared.

Speaking at the event, Kunuz Abdella (MD) said that breast cancer is a type of cancer that originates in the breast tissue, primarily the ducts or lobules. It occurs when abnormal cells in the breast multiply uncontrollably forming a tumor or lump.

It is caused by the disposition of a given cell to another location in which it is not assigned to serve since every cell does have its own function to discharge in the whole anatomical system of the body, he added.

Early detection of cancer and prompt medical attention are key in addressing health concerns effectively. The most common symptoms of breast cancer, he said, first the lump in the breast—the most prevalent early sign of breast cancer is the presence of a painless lump or thickening in the breast or underarm area. It is essential to get them examined promptly although not



Screenings for Breast Cancer in Ethiopia on the Rise

all lumps are cancerous.

Second, changes in breast size or shape—unexplained changes in breast size or shape could be an indicator of breast cancer. This may include swelling, dimpling, or asymmetry.

Third, skin change—redness, warmth, puckering, or skin dimpling on the breast's surface may be a sign of an underlying issue.

He said, "Early and accurate diagnosis plays a crucial role in determining the most effective treatment of breast cancer. Yes, early detection includes doing monthly breast self-exams, scheduling regular clinical breast exams and mammograms. Such a bold move has to be well expanded, and the media have to well prepare themselves for in-depth reporting on breast cancer."

According to Dr. Kunuz, it is possible to improve the overall survival with early detection of malignancy or identification of precancerous conditions. This would be made real through increasing awareness of the individual at risk of the early signs and symptoms of the specific disease, setting up of screening programs and a routine periodic clinical examination of apparently healthy individuals.

As to him, early detection is the very rewarding means to know the status of the breast in advance and take actions quite soon. This helps women address the severe

disorder born to the cancer following breast disorder thereby helping women and girls lead a happy life.

Dr. Kunuz further elucidated that although breast cancer is more commonly diagnosed in women, it is essential to recognize that men can also develop this condition despite it accounts for a minimal rate.

Early detection of cancer or a precursor can result in less radical treatment and improved prognosis of some cancers. The role of social determinants of health in breast cancer disparities requires greater attention to how risk factors for breast cancer unfold over the life course, he added.

The early onset and severity of breast cancer and poorer survival among women in developing countries like ours he said must be understood within the context of an emerging body of scientific evidence.

According to Dr. Kunuz, the majority of women in Ethiopia could hardly expose themselves and get treated as early as possible as the disease itself is regarded as a societal curse. This backward attitude has to be tackled via raising public awareness and teaching the community well. This role needs to be well played by active involvement of the media be they are broadcast, print or social media platforms.

The goal of screening exams for early breast cancer detection is to identify breast abnormalities as early as possible.

If breast cancer is found early, there are more treatment options and a better chance for survival. Women whose breast cancer is detected at an early stage have a highly likely chance of being cured.

He said, "It is important for women of all ages to frequently perform their own breast exams, and when they are being in a state of administering their own breast exam, they may discover a new lump earlier than when their annual mammography may be due. If this is so, they should follow up with their health care provider as soon as possible."

Adama Hospital Medical College Senior Oncologist, Dr. Biniyam Tefera (Ast. Prof.) on his part said survivors' experience needs to be revealed to well the women community and the public at large since the disease is not preventable, but detectable. Besides, he said women have to make self-examination a culture and whenever they come across a strange thing, they are advised to visit health professionals.

The contribution of survivor-provided social support on psychosocial adjustment of newly diagnosed patients to the effort geared toward treating breast cancer. Compared with newly diagnosed patients, breast cancer survivors provided more emotional and informational support. Receiving emotional support from survivors would also contribute a lot to an improvement in the quality of life and mitigation of the depression of patients.

As to him, breast cancer survivors who are willing to speak publically about their experience can play a vital role in reducing stigma, dispelling damaging myths and misconceptions and changing beliefs and perceptions.

As to him, a breast cancer diagnosis leaves women with questions, decisions, and anxiety. Patients can be referred by their physician or they can contact a breast cancer navigator for a self-referral. He said clinic assessments give patients what they need to help them make informed decisions about their treatment.

He said, "As psychosocial support could play a paramount role in fostering cancer treatment being part of it, supporting groups have to be systematic enough to help the public get treated. The diagnoses and treatment of breast cancer require close collaboration between cancer specialists, who have different areas of expertise, and the general public as this approach helps them make a difference."

Planet Earth

Ethiopia achieving significant strides in REDD+ project implementation

BY FIKADU BELAY

Ethiopia has been actively engaged in reforestation and afforestation efforts to increase its forest cover and reducing toxic gases. After the reform, Ethiopia planted more than 31 billion plants in the green legacy project. This initiative implies combating deforestation and promoting reforestation across the country. It provides to protect biodiversity and essential ecosystem services such as water regulation, soil conservation, and climate regulation. These services contribute to agricultural productivity, water availability, ensuring food security, and overall environmental sustainability, which are vital for the country's economy.

And also, it is encouraging ecotourism and wildlife conservation. Such tourism activities can generate revenue, create employment, and stimulate local economies. Moreover, it can help to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, potentially contributing to international climate change commitments. Despite the fact that Green Legacy primarily focuses on environmental conservation, it also has indirect implications for the Ethiopian economy growth.

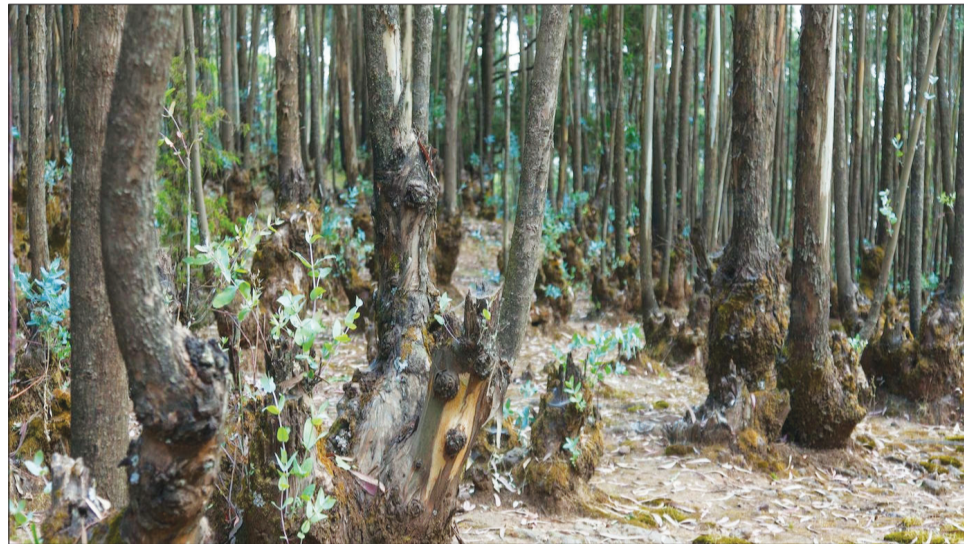
Ethiopia recognizes the importance of addressing climate change and has taken significant steps to reduce its carbon emission. As a developing country with a rapidly growing economy and committed to sustainable development while minimizing the negative impact on the environment.

Not only does it reduce the negative impact of climate change on the environment, but it also generates revenue from carbon trading that can be reinvested in sustainable development projects such as further expanding renewable energy infrastructure, improving agricultural practices, and supporting local communities affected by climate change.

These initiatives assist in the production of carbon credits that are exchangeable on global marketplaces. The practice of purchasing and selling carbon credits as part of Ethiopia's attempts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fight climate change due to carbon trade. In order to lower total emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, countries or organizations can exchange emissions permits through the use of carbon trading, a market-based strategy.

These initiatives involve the creation and exchange of carbon credits, which represent the reduction or removal of one metric ton of carbon dioxide or its equivalent greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. These credits can be bought and sold by organizations or governments on the carbon market.

Ethiopia has been able to generate revenue



from its carbon appropriation efforts through a number of collaborations and initiatives. A prominent initiative that offers financial incentives to nations that effectively decrease deforestation and forest degradation is the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) program. Ethiopia has achieved significant strides in REDD+ project implementation, drawing in foreign money and earning income from carbon credits.

Yitebtu Moges (PhD), the coordinator of the National Red Plus Program under Ethiopian Forest Development, said in the Ethiopian Herald that this financial reward recognizes the significant efforts made by Ethiopia to protect and enhance its forest cover, which effectively reduces carbon emissions. Ethiopia's commitment to the forestry industry is projected to yield more than 100 million USD in revenue from carbon sales by 2030, he said.

He stated that carbon trading is a long-term endeavor influenced by market conditions. Presently, Ethiopia is selling carbon credits to the World Bank; the payment received is determined by the quantity and size of the forest, measured in tons of carbon content. This not only ensures the preservation of ecosystems but also maintains climate balance.

As to him, over the past decade, Ethiopia has generated 150 million USD in revenue through various activities, with support from the World Bank and Norway. And he also mentioned the collaborative efforts with foreign assistance and the recent agreement with the World Bank, which will contribute 40 million euros for forest maintenance in the Oromia region.

The revenue generated from carbon trade has several benefits for the nation. Such as, it serves as a financial incentive for the preservation and sustainable management of its forests, contributing to biodiversity conservation and safeguarding ecosystem services. And also, it can be reinvested in renewable energy projects, climate adaptation measures, and community development programs, fostering

Ethiopia also has difficulties building a strong institutional and legal foundation to support carbon trading programs. The implementation and monitoring of carbon projects are complicated by a lack of clear policies, legal frameworks, technical expertise, project management skills, and standardized methodologies for measuring and verifying emissions reductions

sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction.

Ethiopia's carbon trade activities are primarily focused on sectors such as renewable energy, reforestation, and sustainable land use practices. The country has abundant renewable energy resources, including hydropower, wind, and solar energy, which it seeks to harness and promote. By investing in renewable energy projects, Ethiopia aims to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels and decrease carbon emissions.

This projects involving carbon trading frequently call for large upfront investments, and obtaining funding can be quite difficult.

Access to financing is a major obstacle to the development of carbon projects and related infrastructure, both domestically and internationally.

Ethiopia also has difficulties building a strong institutional and legal foundation to support carbon trading programs. The implementation and monitoring of carbon projects are complicated by a lack of clear policies, legal frameworks, technical expertise, project management skills, and standardized methodologies for measuring and verifying emissions reductions. Limited awareness and understanding of carbon trading mechanisms is another issue.

Ethiopia's commendable work in the forestry industry not only contributes to global climate goals but also creates significant economic opportunities for the nation. By safeguarding its forests and engaging in carbon trading, the country has the ability to dominate the market and generate billions of dollars annually from the carbon trading sector, he added.

He further noted that one million hectares of forest in the Southwest Ethiopia People's Region are being conserved and managed, with assistance provided to the local population. This large-scale initiative aims to enhance income opportunities while prioritizing sustainable forest management practices.

Additionally, Ethiopia's commitment to climate action and sustainable development has positioned it as an attractive partner for international collaborations in carbon trading, further enhancing its revenue-generating potential.

He remarked on the significance of expanding the national-level Green Legacy Program and that the government should allocate additional resources to support the sector, considering the substantial economic potential it holds.

He suggested the establishment of a national carbon center, bringing together domestic and international experts, to help Ethiopia fulfill its commitment to reducing carbon emissions as outlined in the Paris Agreement.

Besides, international organizations involved in climate change mitigation and carbon trading, academic institutions, research organizations, and think tanks focusing on climate change and sustainable development may conduct studies and publish reports on carbon trading and revenue generation.

The Ethiopian government, the private sector, and foreign allies must work together to address these issues. In order to develop an environment that supports carbon trading in the nation, it entails increasing awareness, developing institutional capacity, enhancing data collection and management systems, facilitating access to financing, and streamlining regulatory procedures.