



The Ethiopian Herald

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Party urges Ethiopians to back Nat'l Dialogue

BY MENGESHA AMARE

ADDIS ABABA –All Ethiopians need to contribute fair share to ensure stability through supporting the National Dialogue that designed to overcome political and economic discords of the country, so said Chairperson of Ethiopian Social Democratic Party.

The majority of the society is in favor of the dialogue, he said, while urging the Diaspora community to make a significant contribution to the successfulness of the National Dialogue as it is an indispensable

See Party urges ... Page 3

Koysha power project honing Ethiopians workers' knowledge, skills

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

KONTA- Koysha Hydroelectric Power Plant workers expressed immense benefit of the project for knowledge transfer along with wide ranging job creation activities.

Workers who have left lasting prints on the ongoing construction of the Koysha hydroelectric power plant told *The Ethiopian Herald* that participating in such large project has given them the opportunity to develop their capabilities.

Over the past fifteen years, Ethiopians have been participating in the construction of hydroelectric power projects such as the Abbay Dam, Gilgel Gibe III and now in

See Koysha power ... Page 3

EU vows to empower youth

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA—The European Union (EU) reaffirmed commitment to empower the youth in Ethiopia centering education, job creation and other youth-sensitive spheres.

EU Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen, during her visit to Creative Hub Ethiopia yesterday, said that as a major development partner, the EU is very keen and committed to supporting Ethiopian youth in the efforts of creating equal opportunities to access education, labor market.

The commissioner further remarked that key priorities for EU youth engagements in Ethiopia are raising employability and skills

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NDRMC rushing emergency aids to four mln citizens

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Hassan Mohamed

Ministry urges stakeholders to galvanize support for 'Let Ethiopia Produce'

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – The Ministry of Industry has urged all stakeholders to contribute their share to the national campaign of 'Let Ethiopia Produce' in a bid to boost production and productivity of industries.

The Ministry of Industry held a discussion yesterday with its stakeholders on salt demand and supply as well as market linkage among salt suppliers and organizations.

Speaking at the occasion, Industry State Minister Hassan Mohamed said that although Ethiopia has a huge salt potential which covers the country's annual demand; it has its own drawbacks to supply surplus products particularly in implementing proclamations and principles.

As a result, challenges of the salt sector have resulted in a negative impact on investment expansion, job creation, increasing production and productivity, foreign exchange earnings and import substitution.

Annual demand of manufacturing industries is some 26, 353, 846 quintal of salt, input for processing and preservation, but the supply is less than 50%. The difference between demand and supply is due to limitation of coordination works among institutions, improper implementation of proclamations and regulations, lack of strong supply and demand linkage and others are the main challenges, he added.

Specifically, payment of low cost for salt producers or suppliers challenged to get sufficient salt products in the market especially for manufacturing industries. Less than 50% of salt, an input for manufacturing industries, has been penetrating into the market. Some industries are producing under their capacity due to shortage of salt input. The effort requires creating a sustainable input supply chain.

Contrarily, the 'Let Ethiopia Produce' campaign has been boosting production and productivity. He urged all stakeholders to contribute for production and productivity.

For his part, Afar Trade and unequal production costs and selling prices caused to supply less than 50% of manufacturing industries' demand that use salt as an input. It requires an increase in salt production in the country.

According to discussion attendees, the effort further needs strengthening monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and fixing production costs. Hence, Ethiopia should transfer to salt export since it has a sufficient deposit.

University endeavoring for better education, quality teaching

• commences new transformation chapter

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA—Kotebe University of Education (KUE) established as new chapter of transformation with a view to achieving its set target.

Speaking at the event to launch new chapter of change, Kotebe University of Education President, Berhanemeskel Tena (PhD) stated that the university has been smoothly running the teaching learning process thereby contributing to education progress and producing competent and productive educators that can transform the sector in the country working for the last sixty years.

He said: "The nation needs committed teachers that hatch good citizens and transform the generation to make real change. True, renewed commitment is of paramount importance in providing the generation with good education thereby creating responsible, productive, competent citizenry. We have tried to create and establish the university that can transform the generation and confident to swim into new chapter nurturing the trend of diversification."

The University is dedicated with a renewed commitment aiming at providing the youth with quality education and creating good learning atmosphere aligned with educational development, innovation and



Photo Eyob Teferi

knowledge transfer among the Ethiopian community, he added.

Three research papers were presented that assessed university's challenges, prospects as well as the journey it has trekked so far reflecting the whence and whereto of KUE.

"We are happy about inaugurating the new journey in the University to commence a renewed step for further transformation upon parliament approval as Kotebe University of education."

Administration and Basic Affairs Chief

Executive Officer with the Ministry of Education, Solomon Abreha (PhD) on his part said that the quality of education in Ethiopia is found at low level, and this needs to be improved taking the ever increasing quality education demand of the into account.

For the last many decades The Kotebe University of Education has been leaving remarkable footstep towards generation formation through education that can confidently transform academic specialization across the nation.



Engineer Endeshaw Ketema



The Chinese government's riverside development at Afnocho Ber the mosque area

Admin says Entoto Friendship Park riverside dev't well underway

• Works to complete projects within eight months

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA— Addis Ababa City Administration Urban Beauty and Green Development Office (AACAU BGDO) announced that the river side development of Entoto Friendship Park is expected to be completed within eight months.

According to AACAU BGDO, Engineer Endeshaw Ketema told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the riverside development project of Entoto Friendship Park will be completed in the next eight months.

He said: "Some 600 meters of river side development of Entoto Friendship Park has been completed in Addis Ababa City. The construction of project is being carried out from the road near the river and covers about 5.5 kilometers, which passes through Ras Mekonon Bridge in the area of Afnocho Ber

Mosque, to the back of Arada Sub City."

Urban Beauty and Green Development and the Prime Minister's Office are jointly managing the project. The Ethiopian government is investing in improving development of Addis Ababa City, one of world diplomatic centers.

He pointed out that it is possible to reduce unemployment by using such a rewarding project, and the projects have to be completed with a view to benefiting citizens.

Therefore, riverside development of Sheger has started and is being carried out mainly on two main rivers in the city. At the draft level, it reaches 56 kilometers and starts from the "Bante-Yiqetu" river and meets with the Qebena River near Peacock. When these join together up to Aqaki, it will be 56 kilometers.

At the same time, the work of beautifying the river bank of 2.5 kilometers by the Italian

government has been started on the Qebena River in the capital riverside development Project, in which the city administration is involved. This is from the Italian Embassy to the German Embassy.

Operated by Korean government funder KOICA; the study of the 11.4 kilometer master plan, which connects the French Embassy to the German Embassy, This pilot project has reached the phase where the 1.8 kilometer master plan is completed and implemented.

He also pointed out that the Office of Urban Beauty and Green Development is implementing projects in coordination with other stakeholders from sub-city to district levels. Addis Ababa has more than 600 kilometers of rivers including tributaries. The development of the river bank that reaches Entoto to Akaki started four years ago.

NDRMC rushing emergency aids to four mln citizens

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDISABABA—The National Disaster and Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) announced that it is distributing emergency aids to four million citizens.

These citizens are in dire need of humanitarian support because of drought, flood and conflict happened in various parts of the country, it was learnt.

The commission also stated that the termination of international aiders has exacerbated the shortage of food in areas where the people were receiving aid over the past years.

In an exclusive interview with Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), NDRMC Senior Communication Expert, Atalele Abahuay said that drought and flood disasters are still happening in several parts of the country.

In Amhara state, for instance, Wag Hemra, North Wollo and North Gondar zones are victims of drought this time, he mentioned.

However, European and American



humanitarian organizations have terminated their donations. To bridge this gap, the government has been working

with special emergency response plans aiming to upsurge the supply budgeted to humanitarian response, he said.

The government is almost taking the entire burden of aiding. So, it has been working to sustain its capacity of emergency aid reserve. However, the intensity of disasters may be more severe, so, international humanitarian organizations should resume their aids to support the government, he urged.

“Distributions will be continued to reach the people in need in all corners. Recently, we distributed emergency aid to four million citizens. Now, the second round of the emergency aid is also being administered and reached at final distribution areas so it will be given to the affected people within a few days,” he added

Over 150 heavy trucks loaded with 610,000 quintals of wheat, maize and flour have already been headed to the area. Moreover, 54,000 quintal of nutritious food has also been dispatched specifically to mothers and children, according to Atalele.

Emergency aids are being distributed to those who are in dire need of food for different reasons, according to the commission.

Party urges Ethiopians ...

mechanism to create a stable nation in the Eastern Africa region.

The party Chairperson Prof. Beyene Petros, who is also Policy Research Institute General Director, stated that the country would never miss the opportunity of National Dialogue.

He said: “We all have to work hard not to miss this opportunity under the guise of the sporadic insecurity witnessed in some parts of the nation.”

Conducting the National Dialogue would help the nation get the roots of skirmishes here and there dried, he noted.

The world like to see a secured and stable Ethiopia so that no country in the globe has stood against the country as the latter is a famous and historical republic, Prof. Beyene indicated.

Hence, every country would like to establish either a bilateral or multilateral ties with it, he added.

He said, “Not only is Ethiopia a very important and geopolitically strategic Horn nation but it is also globally highly preferable nation.

According to the Chairperson, the recent selection of Ethiopia to join BRICS implies that working in partnership with Ethiopia is the interest of the world. That could be another reason for which the world needs to support Ethiopia’s efforts to solve its problems.

EU vows ...

among the youth and creating decent jobs for the unemployed, underemployed and new labor-market entrants.

“Over 70% of the population in Ethiopia is below 30 years of age, and it is pivotal to have engagements with the youth in any intervention. Besides, human development, including the youth, is an intrinsic part of EU’s substantial support to Ethiopia,” Jutta pinpointed.

On the sidelines of her visit, the Commissioner held a discussion with members of the EU Youth Sounding Board (YSB), which was established, following her last visit to Ethiopia in 2021.

She said: “The EU Youth Sounding Board in Ethiopia is part of a broader global initiative that includes a Global Youth Sounding Board, which advises the EU Commissioner for International Partnerships on various youth-related topics such as education, employment, climate change and human rights, among others.”

She emphasized that such engagements would help heighten actions on more youth-sensitive and provide the youth with a platform to get their voices heard loud as the latter has played a crucial role in expanding inclusive development.

Moreover, the Creative Hub has been designed with the intent to foster innovation and economic development by promoting creativity, digitalization, and knowledge transfer, among others.

Creative Hub Ethiopia was established in 2021 with a view to supporting creative innovators, designers and business startups in various fields by deepening understanding of global design and industrial concepts, it was learnt.

Koyssha power project honing Ethiopians...

Koyssha, said Muluken Tekestebirhan, 33, a Safety Supervisor at the Koyssha project.

He noted that his participation in such project has enabled him to gain knowledge and skills as well as economic benefits simultaneously contributing to the development of his beloved country.

“Now I’m a safety professional. I have gained the knowledge to work not only in the country but also Abroad. The Company that employ me will send me to work abroad since I have worked with it for a long time. I am bound to benefit from this opportunity with the knowledge and experience.”

Mohammad Delwana has been worked as a carpenter and crane assistant in the project for the past five consecutive years. He expressed that he is lucky enough to have participated in the project.

“At first, I was jobless and spent my whole time in different places, but now I am a

professional and I work on my own. He said that receiving monthly salary is a big change in itself.”

Nazeef Abameka, 28, said that participating in the Koyssha project has enabled him to improve his own and his family’s life.

“Using the experience I gained in the project, I have an idea to run my own business in the future in partnership with my friends,” he disclosed.

Koyssha power plant Geology Inspector Bezawit Hailu, on her part said she has learned from the knowledge of experienced local and foreign experts who took part in the project.

“Being able to get this kind of knowledge and skill will not only help us practice the knowledge we have gained in theory but also allow us to play our role in other similar power generation projects implemented in our country.”

According to Eng. Eugenio Zoppis, the chief engineer of the project contractor, the Koyssha power project has created jobs for 5,000 Ethiopians.

The project also enabled the employees to improve their knowledge and experience in addition to get job and salary growth, he added.

“This kind of capacity building work will contribute greatly to the projects that the country will build on its own, and we are proud of it,” he said.

He stated that many of the employees have started from a low level of work position and have become professionals in their respective tasks. The total construction work of the Koyssha Hydroelectric Power Project, being built in Konta Zone of South West Ethiopia State, has reached 61 %, and it will generate 1,800 megawatts of electricity once it get operational in its full capacity.

Opinion

Promoting indigenous cultures and scaling up best practices: A global imperative

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

To promote the best experiences and indigenous culture and scale up best practices for Africa and humanity around the world, politicians and traditional leaders are expected to take several important actions. Certainly, the contribution of indigenous values, such as Irreecha, can play a crucial role in sustaining coexistence in Ethiopia.

Irreecha is an annual thanksgiving festival celebrated by the Oromo people, the largest ethnic group in Ethiopia. It is deeply rooted in their cultural heritage and carries significant spiritual, social, and environmental significance. Irreecha and indigenous values can contribute to sustaining coexistence in Ethiopia in many ways.

It provides an opportunity for different ethnic groups and communities to come together, fostering cultural understanding and appreciation. By participating in each other's festivals and rituals, people can learn about and respect the diverse traditions, beliefs, and practices of different indigenous groups in Ethiopia. This understanding can help build bridges between communities and promote coexistence.

Irreecha is closely linked to nature and the environment. The festival is usually celebrated in areas of natural significance, such as riverbanks or sacred forests. Indigenous values often emphasize the interconnectedness of humans with the natural world and the need for its protection. By embracing these values and incorporating them into sustainable practices, such as reforestation efforts and conservation initiatives, communities can work together to preserve the environment and its resources for future generations, promoting coexistence with nature.

It is a time of communal gathering and reconciliation, where people come together to express gratitude, seek forgiveness, and reinforce social bonds. This emphasis on forgiveness, unity, and inclusivity can be extended beyond the festival itself to promote social harmony in everyday life. By embracing indigenous values of respect, empathy, and cooperation, communities can foster an environment of mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence.

The Oromo Abba Gadas said that, they are ready to celebrate the Irreecha festival, which will be celebrated on September 26 and 27, 2016 local calendar, together with other brother nations and peoples. According to the secretary of the Oromo Abba Gada Union, Abba Gada Gobena Hala; Preparations have been made to celebrate the festival, which is a manifestation of reconciliation and peace, together with other neighboring and brotherly peoples.

According to him, Irreecha festival will be celebrated on September 26th in Addis Ababa, Hora Finfinne and September 27th in Bishoftu, Hora Arsade, preserving Oromo culture and values.

He said, "We will celebrate this year's Irreecha together with Sidama, Benishangul, Amhara, Somali, Afar, Tigray and other brother peoples."

According to Ali Mohammad Surur, Irreecha is a festival of reconciliation, peace and unity where the Oromo people show their beauty and praise the creator, so it is celebrated with a sense of empathy. It is a festival that unites nations and invites everyone who wants to participate in the festival. He invited the participants to wear their traditional clothes and celebrate together with the Oromo people.

He pointed out that, Irreecha is a traditional system where the Oromo people meet in one place. It is a festival to thank the creator who passed the winter and moved to September. The festival is celebrated under the guidance of Gada fathers and Malka fathers according to the Oromo people's system. It is a festival that fathers, mothers, male and female youth celebrate with respect and with green grass in a non-political spirit.

Abba Gada Workneh Teresa, a member of the Oromo Abba Gadas Union, on his part said that, since it is a festival where the Oromo people get together every year in a way that respects their culture and values, they celebrate it with their brothers and sisters. Before going out to celebrate Irreecha, peace and reconciliation starts with one's family and neighbors. Everyone celebrates the festival by apologizing for the past and expressing hope for the future.

He mentioned that, the Oromo people are intelligent and have values of solidarity. The festival does not violate any faith, gender, identity, ethnicity and political views. All those who come to attend the festival should celebrate it with love, unity and peace by wearing their traditional clothes and holding their Gada symbols.

Indigenous cultures and traditions are rich reservoirs of wisdom, knowledge, and diversity that have evolved over centuries. They hold the key to sustainable living, environmental stewardship, and harmonious coexistence with the natural world. However, in today's rapidly changing global landscape, indigenous cultures face numerous challenges, including cultural erosion, marginalization, and the loss of ancestral lands. Politicians and traditional leaders play vital role in promoting indigenous cultures and scaling up best practices, not only for Africa but also for the betterment of humanity worldwide.

At the heart of any effort to promote indigenous cultures lies recognition and respect. Politicians and traditional leaders have the responsibility to acknowledge and honor the value of indigenous cultures. This entails embracing the diversity of indigenous practices, beliefs, and languages, and recognizing their contributions to society, history, and the environment. By doing so, they can help preserve and promote indigenous cultures as vibrant and essential components of our global cultural tapestry.

A crucial aspect of recognition and respect is to actively engage with indigenous communities. Leaders should initiate dialogue and establish meaningful relationships with indigenous leaders and representatives. By fostering these connections, they can gain insights into the unique challenges faced by indigenous communities and work collaboratively to address them.

To truly promote indigenous cultures, politicians and traditional leaders must strive towards inclusive governance. This means actively involving indigenous leaders in decision-making processes, policy formulation, and implementation. By incorporating indigenous perspectives, knowledge, and practices into the governance framework, policymakers can ensure that indigenous communities have a say in matters that directly impact their lives.

Inclusive governance should extend beyond mere representation. It should involve genuine participation, where indigenous communities are empowered to shape policies and programs that impact them. By fostering a sense of ownership and agency, politicians and traditional leaders can help bridge the gap between indigenous communities and mainstream society, promoting cultural diversity, inclusivity, and coexistence.

Politicians and traditional leaders have a critical role to play in advocating for the legal protection of indigenous rights. Indigenous communities often face challenges related to land rights, resource extraction, and cultural appropriation. It is the duty of politicians and traditional leaders to champion the cause of indigenous rights, both at the national and international levels.

By recognizing and upholding the rights of indigenous peoples to their lands, resources, and cultural practices, politicians and traditional leaders can ensure the preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage. They should actively support the implementation of national and international laws and conventions that protect indigenous rights, addressing historical injustices and promoting social justice.

Promoting education and awareness about indigenous cultures is vital for their preservation and promotion. Politicians and traditional leaders should support initiatives that integrate indigenous knowledge into educational curricula, organize cultural events, and raise awareness about the importance of indigenous heritage.

Education plays a pivotal role in nurturing cultural roots and fostering a sense of pride and understanding in one's own culture. By incorporating indigenous perspectives, histories, and practices into mainstream education, politicians and traditional leaders can ensure that future generations are equipped with the knowledge and respect necessary to appreciate and preserve indigenous cultures.

Furthermore, awareness campaigns and cultural events can serve as powerful platforms to showcase the richness and diversity of indigenous cultures. By highlighting the contributions of indigenous communities to various fields like arts, sciences, and sustainable practices, politicians and traditional leaders can challenge stereotypes and foster greater appreciation for indigenous cultures among the wider population.

They should actively collaborate with indigenous communities, academics, civil society organizations, and international partners to promote best practices and scale up successful initiatives. By forming partnerships, they can share knowledge, exchange experiences, and develop sustainable

strategies for preserving and promoting indigenous cultures.

Collaboration allows for the sharing of best practices that have proven successful in preserving indigenous cultures and promoting sustainable development. It facilitates the transfer of knowledge across regions and communities, enabling policymakers to adapt and implement approaches that have worked elsewhere. Through these collaborative efforts, politicians and traditional leaders can enhance the capacity of indigenous communities to address challenges such as poverty, discrimination, and environmental degradation.

They must prioritize sustainable development that respects indigenous cultures and practices. Sustainable development should go hand in hand with the preservation and promotion of indigenous cultures, rather than undermining them.

By integrating indigenous knowledge and wisdom into development policies and practices, politicians and traditional leaders can ensure that projects align with the values and aspirations of indigenous communities. This requires an understanding of the intricate connections between culture, environment, and livelihoods. Projects should be designed in consultation with indigenous communities, taking into account their traditional practices, ecological knowledge, and sustainable resource management systems.

Additionally, the leaders should promote economic opportunities that preserve indigenous traditions, crafts, and livelihoods. This can be achieved through supporting local entrepreneurship, fair trade initiatives, and cultural tourism that respects indigenous values and benefits the communities directly. By empowering indigenous communities to participate in sustainable economic activities, politicians and traditional leaders can help create a balance between cultural preservation and socio-economic progress.

They should actively engage in global forums, conferences, and organizations to raise awareness about the importance of indigenous cultures and advocate for policies that support their preservation and promotion.

International advocacy involves amplifying indigenous voices on the global stage and advocating for the rights, needs, and aspirations of indigenous communities. This includes addressing issues of cultural appropriation, environmental degradation, and social injustice faced by indigenous peoples worldwide. They can leverage their positions to influence global discourse, policies, and frameworks to ensure indigenous perspectives are considered and integrated into international agendas.

Through recognition and respect, inclusive governance, legal protection and rights, education and awareness, collaboration and partnerships, sustainable development, and international advocacy, they can create an environment that nurtures and celebrates indigenous cultures.

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

Editorial

Time to beef up solidarity against terrorism

The long standing and sleepless enemy of human beings, terrorism is once again striking countries one at a time. Lurching somewhere and waiting for the right time and suitable situation for its evil deeds it is causing death, destruction, fear and obstruction of the day to day activities of people in the stricken areas.

But how much are countries teaming up and working together to fend of this dangerous act that has the possibility of causing unbearable destruction on human society tantamount to climate change, epidemic outbreak and other natural disasters?

The world has actually been fighting terrorist for long. Still it thrives as a problem. It is a problem for everyone everywhere. It is a matter of time until it knocks everyone's door. It doesn't choose between countries. All of us are on the same boat. When one is stricken everyone must shout. It needs collaboration efforts. It is important for the world to stop and think more about suppressing this ever spreading threat to human existence before it goes out of control.

Countries of the world must join hands more than ever to cut short the existence of terrorism which has become an everlasting headache to the world.

At least recently it has shown up itself in two brutal attacks. The first one was the terrorist attack by the long ingrained well versed terrorist group Al Shabaab against Ethiopia. The other attack was perpetrated in Turkiye.

Al shabaabs attack comes at a time when Ethiopia is struggling to ensure peace and stability after the sporadic conflict that occurred in some parts of it. Anyone can conclude that Al Shabaabs attack comes at this special moment to divert Ethiopian to divert Ethiopia from its burning domestic issues, hamper its role of keeping peace, security and economic development in the region.

It is known that Ethiopia has been working strenuously for decades to maintain peace and stability in the region which is admired by international community.

This was a big set back to the terrorist group. Now it has to do a life and death attempt to avenge Ethiopia for its anti-terrorist stance. But seen from a wider perspective Ethiopia is not the only target of the terrorists. Ethiopia not being attacked for any other reason but that it fought terrorism that is a problem for every one everywhere. Therefore all those peace loving people across the world should share the pain and react equally.

As a gesture of solidarity at time of adversity, the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued statement condemning the terrorist attack in Turkey. It also expressed solidarity with the people and government of Turkey. This is a good step in reinforcing solidarity against the evil that is disturbing our world.

Yet countries, whether those directly affected or others should give it due attention and take all the necessary actions in the same way as they take actions against global threats like climate change, HIV, Malaria, Covid and natural disasters.

Their actions should go further than condemnations, researches ... etc. Practical actions and coalitions must be encouraged to preempt the alarming steps of terrorists that we are witnessing.



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Opinion

Africa should harness its rich mineral resources to advance clean energy transition

BY STAFF REPORTER

The harmful consequences of climate change are the worst threats facing humanity across the world especially Africa. And one of the solutions mentioned along with the problem is the diversification of clean energy means. Still African needs the necessary financial and technological support to introduce clean energy for its development.

Yet Africa is the major source of all the ingredients required for generating clean energy like nuclear power and the production of lithium battery that is used for electric vehicles. Therefore due attention should be given to enable the developing continent take advantage of its rich mineral resources to advance its usage of clean energy.

Africa must fully exploit its abundant critical mineral resources to accelerate sustainable industrialization and clean energy transition, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Acting Executive Secretary, Antonio Pedro, has urged leaders at a business summit on the side-lines of the United National General Assembly in New York.

Speaking at a panel discussion on "Extractives, Batteries, Electric Cars: Powering Tomorrow, Today" hosted by the Global Africa Business Initiative (GABI) Mr. Pedro noted that Africa should benefit from its critical mineral resources through fair value creation to ensure that "our resources are used to promote resource driven industrialization to create jobs and enable countries to go up the value chain."

GABI's Unstoppable Africa is an African private sector-led platform that aims to galvanize leaders across key sectors to invest in Africa - bridging the gap between global investors and Africa's vibrant, emerging sectors. The two-day event is co-convoked by the United Nations Deputy Secretary General, Amina J. Mohamed and the Chairperson of the African Union, Moussa Faki Mahamat on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. The event brings together Heads of State, Ministers, investors and UN leaders, joined by stars in music, sport and film for an exclusive two-day forum on Africa's future.

The session, organized with the aim of elevating Africa's prominence in the global economy and positioning the continent as the premier destination for business, trade, and investment, explored Africa's pivotal role in the burgeoning landscape of electric cars and sustainable energy and discussed the continent's capability for innovation and leadership in these sectors. Despite Africa being endowed with an array of minerals from copper, magnesium, nickel and cobalt, the continent has not been able to make energy transition.

Mr. Pedro said that enabling policies and incentives are important in boosting investment in the value addition of critical minerals.

Ms. Oluranti Doherty, Director of Export Development at the Afreximbank said that African countries need to take ownership and leadership in the development of their mineral resources.

Underlying Afreximbank's commitment to promoting an inclusive battery and electric vehicle value chain, Ms. Doherty said the bank is promoting industrialization on the continent and is facilitating the development of Special Economic Zones in Zambia and the DRC.

"Following the signing of the framework agreement between the DRC, Zambia, ECA and Afreximbank for financial and technical assistance, we have put together USD1 million to support the preparation of the prefeasibility study for the creation of special economic zones in these countries," Ms. Doherty said.

A study by BloombergNEF identifies DRC as an attractive location for the manufacturing of sustainable battery precursors as it has abundant cobalt resources and hydroelectric power.

The study promoted by the ECA, Afreximbank, the African Development Bank, the Africa Finance Corporation, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), the African Legal Support Facility (ALSF), and the UN Global Compact, noted that the battery precursors to be produced in the DRC would be cheaper, environmentally sustainable and competitive than material produced in China.

According to M. Pedro, the value addition of critical minerals and the boom in electric vehicle demand currently represent a \$7 trillion market up to 2030 and \$46 trillion by 2050. The DRC produces over 70% of the world's cobalt. Together with Zambia, it also supplies 10% of global copper. Moving the DRC one step up on the electric battery value chain could increase the \$11 billion in mining proceeds to \$270 billion.

Speaking at the same panel, Brian Menell, Chair and CEO, TechMet Ltd noted that Africa has a massive opportunity to be at the forefront of the critical minerals supply for the energy transition and Africa's development.

"Africa has the mineral resources for local beneficiation and with the value addition benefiting local communities, investors are keen to forge partnerships with African governments to enable competitiveness of what is produced, ensuring high standards on sustainability, governance and transparency", he said.

The United States is advancing critical minerals partnerships in Africa and is supportive of value addition as a shift from the extractive model of the past. In December 2022, the US signed a MoU with the governments of the DRC and Zambia for the value chain development in critical minerals through processing and manufacturing.

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

Business & Economy

Capitalizing on Homegrown Economy for sustainable prosperity

BY EYUEL KIFLU

Ethiopia has been diligently working on its Homegrown Economic Reform (HGER) agenda, with significant achievements made in infrastructure and human capital development over the past decade. Building upon these foundations, the country is now focused on leveraging these platforms to foster private sector growth, generate high-quality jobs, sustain economic growth, and create fiscal space for further investments in infrastructure, human capital, and institutional development.

Recently, it was announced that HGER 1.0 concluded successfully, paving the way for the launch of HGER 2.0. This new phase of the reform agenda reflects Ethiopia's commitment to continuous improvement and progress, as it seeks to address economic challenges, seize opportunities, and propel the country towards sustainable prosperity.

HGER 2.0 encompasses a comprehensive set of objectives, including the maintenance of macroeconomic stability to sustain rapid economic growth, rebalancing the roles of the public and private sectors in the economy, and unlocking new and existing growth potentials. The agenda recognizes emerging challenges that need to be overcome and transformed into opportunities, such as addressing macroeconomic imbalances, alleviating structural bottlenecks, and creating new sources of growth. To achieve these goals, policy and institutional frameworks need to be upgraded, facilitating the development of a modern and stable financial system and ensuring the efficiency and transparency of institutions that support Ethiopia's aspirations of building a modern economy.

In a recent video message, Eyob Tekalign (PhD), State Minister of Finance, emphasized the necessity of launching Homegrown Economic Reform (HGER) 2.0 to consolidate and build upon the achievements of the previous phase. The 10-year development plan set by Ethiopia requires significant effort and reform to accomplish its ambitious goals. HGER 1.0 successfully sustained economic growth in the face of global challenges, yet serious gaps remain, necessitating a new set of reforms to ensure the realization of the 10-year plan.

Eyob acknowledged that HGER 1.0 brought about a fundamental change in Ethiopia's approach to the economy, implementing major reforms in both macro and sectoral areas. The introduction of modern monetary, financial, and fiscal policies marked a significant shift, leading to the establishment of a vibrant Treasury Bill market that facilitated government financing and created diverse investment opportunities. Agriculture also received substantial attention, with initiatives like



Eyob Tekalign (PhD), State Minister of Finance

cluster farming, duty-free privileges, and improved access to water pumps fostering a change in mindset regarding agricultural productivity.

Recognizing the untapped potential of Ethiopia's tourist resources, HGER 1.0 highlighted the importance of tourism as a source of growth. Efforts in this sector have yielded significant progress, but further reforms are required.

HGER 2.0 focuses on four key pillars: macro stability, improving the business and investment climate, enhancing productivity and competitiveness in sectors, and civil service reform. The reform also incorporates cross-cutting issues such as climate resilience, adaptation, and inclusivity. Clear goals have been set, including achieving food security, self-sufficiency, and reducing dependency. The State Minister emphasized the importance of individual capability, advocating for a change in approach to productivity, food security, and safety nets.

Productivity and competitiveness take center stage in HGER 2.0, with the aim of nurturing vibrant and competitive domestic enterprises that can compete regionally and globally. The reform also places emphasis on entrepreneurship, Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and startups, envisioning Ethiopia as a recognized startup nation. The role of the state is redefined, with an entrepreneurial approach that invests in innovation,

research and development, and aims to enhance the nation's productive capability for the country's prosperity.

Civil service reform occupies a significant position within HGER 2.0, as it became evident in HGER 1.0 that overhauling civil service capability and capacity is essential for effective implementation. Lessons learned from the previous phase have guided the development of HGER 2.0, including the need to anticipate potential risks and implement measures to mitigate them. Alternative financing plans and expanded partnerships are included to ensure continuity in the event of expected financial resources not materializing, as well as to address unforeseen natural disasters or conflicts.

Dr. Eyob highlighted the inclusive nature of the reform process, involving various stakeholders through a systematic consultative approach. Inputs and viewpoints from sectoral ministers, the private sector, and partners have been incorporated, making HGER 2.0 a more inclusive and participatory endeavor compared to its predecessor, HGER 1.0.

Institutions like the Ethiopian Economics Association (EEA) and the Policy Studies Institute (PSI) have expressed their readiness to support Ethiopia's path to economic growth and the HGER agenda. The PSI, in particular, has announced its preparedness to conduct research aimed at

supporting the second phase of Ethiopia's Homegrown Economic Reform Agenda, which will be implemented from 2024 to 2026.

According to a report from the Ministry of Finance, the ongoing reform agenda is expected to have a significant impact on Ethiopia's macroeconomic outlook. The reforms aim to sustain rapid economic growth through intensified efforts to finalize ongoing public investment projects and increased private sector investment facilitated by the reform agenda.

Also, the sources of growth will be rebalanced and diversified, leading to a stronger and more resilient economy. While the strong recovery in imports may temporarily widen the current account deficit, the report anticipates a reversal in the medium term as exports pick up, reflecting the positive impacts of the reform agenda.

The implementation of prudent monetary policy will play a crucial role in controlling inflation, ensuring price stability, and supporting overall macroeconomic stability. Additionally, public sector reforms will focus on ensuring debt sustainability while continuing to support economic growth.

Looking ahead, the report outlines the developmental goals for the next 10 years. These goals include sustaining rapid economic growth and building a resilient and diversified middle-income economy. Key strategies to achieve these goals involve raising agricultural productivity and improving incomes for small-scale farmers, promoting diversification, technological upgrading, and innovation, fostering inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and nurturing an inclusive digital economy.

Furthermore, the reform agenda aims to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, with a target to reduce the proportion of people living in poverty by half. It also seeks to provide universal access to affordable healthcare and ensure quality secondary education for all school-age children. Access to safe drinking water, affordable and reliable energy, and efficient transportation services are essential components of the agenda. In addition, building a modern policy and institutional framework aligned with emerging market economy standards and a well-functioning financial market system that provides affordable access to finance for investors and consumers are prioritized.

The Ministry of Finance's report highlights the comprehensive nature of the reform agenda, encompassing various sectors and focusing on both economic growth and social development. The successful implementation of these reforms is expected to drive Ethiopia's progress towards becoming a resilient, diversified, and prosperous nation.

Art & Culture

A walk through a touristic jewel

BY SENAIT G/HIWOT

The Natural History Museum is a touristic spot found at Arat Killo on the premise of Addis Ababa University. Recently, this writer had dropped in to know firsthand what are there in display. Inquisitive by nature, she talked with the curators. Let her afford readers an insight via her eyes.

* The zoological section

The museum has different classes. The first class is the information room. It has a dives-array of pictures of different animals.

In the second class in display are seen animals that don't have backbones except the Waliya Ibex, which is an endemic animal found around the Semien mountains. Some of the invertebrates were collected when Red Sea was under Ethiopia's control. Others like shells, insects etc. were collected from Ethiopia.



Also other preserved animals like wolf, fox, rat, and rabbit are portrayed.

The Gelada Baboon and the bale monkey in preserved form are only found in Ethiopia.

There are other carnivorous animals like the Dega Anbessa.

Eye catching is an animal called *tiring* (civet cat) which is helpful in producing perfumes.

The Endemic animals found include Mounyain Nyala, Gelada Baboon, Semien Korkey, Menelik Dekula.

Entailed in the museum's display are also found elephant's skull, Ivory and bone as well as a leopard.

In the other section there is a room where different animals' skins are dried and preserved.

In this room a preserved cheetah, which runs 120km/hr. while alive, greets the eye.

A skull of a hippopotamus, different species of birds are found in Ethiopia. Some of them are small in size and dwell in the environs of lakes. Some of the birds are carnivorous



and others are herbivorous, which feed on grain. These birds are found around lakes like Abiyata.

Among these some are endemic like the Gagano.

A preserved crocodile which is found in areas like Arbaminch also greets the eye.

Zebras like the Grevy Zebra and Burchells Zebra are among the scenes in the museum.

Tikliku Agazen is another mammal that inhabits the Omo Park... it is also found in Tanzania and Kenya.



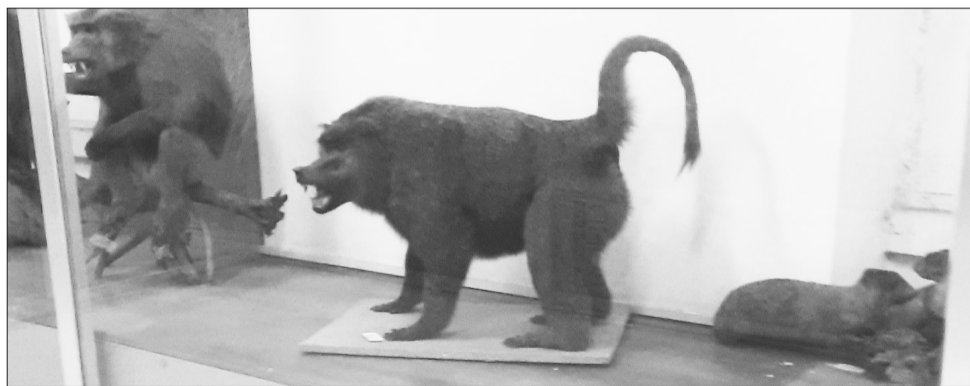
The third room houses vertebrates and amphibians like frogs, snakes as well as reptiles.

The fourth and fifth rooms have different mammal's skins, skulls and horns.

The sixth room is comprised of different birds and crocodiles. The animals are preserved by a process called taxidermy which involves a process where dead animals are preserved but look alive. Their inner flesh is removed and replaced by a man-made substance... their eyes are replaced with a resembling glass-like substance.

There are also spectrums of insects found in various parts of Ethiopia that are dried and mounted for portrayal... via a process of preserving their bodies after they die...

Skulls of ancient human beings until modern Homosapiens are also present.



* The botanic section

There are two plant divisions in this section called the monocote and dycote.

Monocot plants are marked by seeds with a single cotyledon.

The dicots have two embryonic leaves or cotyledons.

Cotyledon is an embryonic leaf in seed-bearing plants, one or more of which are the first leaves to appear from a germinating seed.

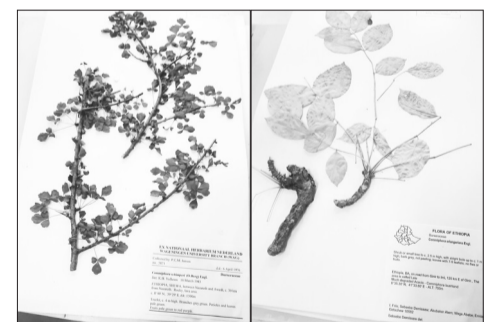
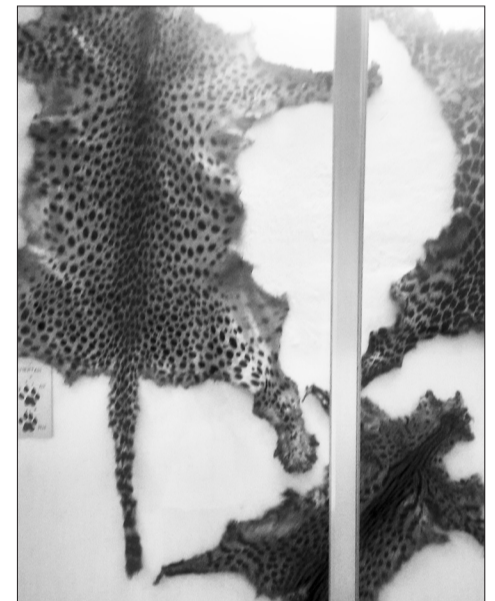
The plants are mounted by collecting them from the field and after they have dried they will be ready for showcasing.

On the monograph the plant species will be specified.

The flora is catalogued in a form of a book that incorporates different plants according to their section.

There are indigenous plants in Ethiopia. Also plants that are borrowed or exotic are mounted.

These plants found and collected at different time periods amount to close to 100,000 in number.



Is being famous worth it?

BY SENAIT G/HIWOT

Live a simple life without being recognized or live a complicated life being recognized...? It all comes down to prestige.

Some people really want to be admired and looked up to while others don't want the attention.

People who love attention will be satisfied once they are in the public eye but they will

be crushed when the crowd does not agree with them.

To be recognized in the public eye comes at a cost of losing your freedom or privacy but it comes with a gain of prestige, wealth and so on.

Some people will be burnt out by all the attention they are getting and wish they were not known at all while some others handle the pressure wisely.



Indepth

BRICS, G20 focus on Africa as new force of attraction

BY MELAKU MULUALEM K.

In 2023 BRICS and G20 have conducted their historical Summits in South Africa and India respectively. In August's Summit, BRICS increased the number of member states from six to eleven. Similarly, in September of the same year, G20 increased its permanent member and became G21. Both Summits have given wider attention to Africa. The theme of BRICS was "BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism". The theme of the G20 Summit of 2023 was "One Earth, One Family, One Future".

Both BRICS and G20 are not organized based on a single ideology or religious sect. For instance, China is following Socialist ideology, whereas Western countries are following Capitalist ideology. But both are in the Group of the G20. In the religious aspect, Muslim countries such as Saudi Arabia, U.A.E, and Iran have just joined BRICS. Whereas India, which is a member of BRICS is dominated by the Hindu religion. Many other members are also dominated by Christian religious followers. Because of this background, we can say that both BRICS and G20 are organized based on common political and economic interests rather than ideology and religious similarities.

Out of the six newly admitted members in the BRICS, two of them are from African countries i.e. Ethiopia and Egypt. Similarly, the African Union has become one of the permanent members of the G20. Sources show that the African Union applied for membership in G20 seven years ago. At the BRICS Summit, it was said that the bloc would support the African Union's desire for membership in the G20. President Putin didn't attend the 2023 Summits of BRICS and G20. President Xi Jinping attended the 2023 BRICS Summit but not the G20 Summit.

Some people said that the year 2023 is time for Africa as the famous singer Shakira said "Waka Waka" (This Time for Africa). It is indeed the time for Africa to join the blocs of great powers and become part of the game changer. Both the BRICS and the G20 Summits show that Africa has become the center of gravity for the current international political and economic rivalries.

The G20 was established in 1999 and had its first Summit in 2008. It was established for global responses to the Asian financial crisis. On the other hand, BRIC (later BRICS, and BRICS+) was established in 2009 as a strategic alliance to address the interests of developing and emerging market countries. There are overlapping memberships in both



blocs. China, Russia, Brazil, India, South Africa, Argentina, and Saudi Arabia are members of both blocs. African countries are also represented in both blocs.

China is a glue to BRICS since its economic relations with many of them are very strong. For instance, China has become "the first trading partner of Russia, Brazil, and South Africa and the second trading partner of India. China is the first major export market of Brazil and South Africa, the third major export market of India".

There are many reasons why Africa has become the center of gravity for both BRICS and G20. To begin with, Africa has vast natural resources which can benefit the member states through trade and manufacturing. There is big energy potential in oil, wind, solar, thermal, and hydropower energy. There are also about 1.4 billion population in Africa. It is also estimated that by 2050 the population number will be 2.5 billion. The present number and the projections show that Africa can be a large market for the products of member states. Out of this large population, more than 60% of them are under the age of 25. This is an ample workforce for the present and future time. On the other hand population of the well-developed countries is dominated by aged people. Thus Africa will fill the gap of shortage of manpower for their industries, agriculture, and other sectors.

The other reason is that Africa's economy will likely continue to grow in the coming years. Currently, Africa's GDP is estimated to be three trillion USD. Moreover, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) which was established in 2018 will also be one of the world's largest free trade areas. These can be considered as opportunities to the two blocs.

Making Africa as part of their bloc will increase the voting support in various multilateral forums. For instance, BRICS plus members or G20 plus members can come up with one position for critical international issues in the United Nations

General Assembly. Taking this assumption into consideration, the G20 can secure an additional 55 supporting votes from the African Union.

If Africa speaks with one voice in the G20 it can influence in global issues. But, can the African Union come up with one voice of the total 55 countries? This will be the future challenge in working with G20. The trend, however, shows that African countries hold different positions on one issue. For instance at the time of the UNGA, out of the 55 countries of Africa 16 African countries abstained on the issue of Russia-Ukraine. Eritrea voted against the resolution that denounced Russia. Significant numbers of African countries were in favor of the resolution.

Even the three "A"s i.e. the non-permanent members of Africa in the United Nations Security Council have no unity in voting on one issue. From this sample voting structure, it is clear that the African Union will face great challenges in speaking as one voice. Thus, to use the opportunity at hand Africa's attempt to speak with one voice must be strengthened.

As a continental organization, the African Union is the second to be a permanent member of the G20 next to the European Union (EU). The EU has developed more than 300 common positions approved by the European Union Council and the European Parliament. Members of the European Union have also given some of their sovereignty rights to the continental organization. Thus the decision of the EU can be implemented in member states equally.

Unlike the African Union, the European Union has a continental foreign policy. This is also a binding factor for the European Union. The African Union should also develop a common position on important issues. The Pan-African Parliament should upscale its function from the advisory role to the legislative role for the continent. Otherwise, the African Union will not be effective in representing the continental

organization's interest in the G20 bloc.

As mentioned above, even if both the European Union and the African Union are continental organizations, they have become permanent members of the G20 bloc. Can this be an exemplary precedent for making the African Union to be a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council? It can be a lesson for the great powers to think about it and make this world inclusive in making decisions in the international arena.

Africa has a lot of challenges to be solved. Joining such influential blocs can help to solve the problems of the continent. Africa is getting about 65% of its budget from foreign support. In 2022 Africa's total public debt reached about 1.8 trillion dollars, since 2020 about seven coup d'état have been conducted, corruption is extremely very high, human rights violation is rampant, poverty is public news in Africa, terrorism, piracy, illegal migration, illicit flow (finance, arms, drug), dictatorship governance, high unemployment, the impact of climate change, intra and interstate wars, large number of internally displaced people are some of the challenges that exist in Africa. To be a good partner to G20, there is a need to work on the above challenges. If African countries can properly do their homework, developed countries can also chip in to solve some of the challenges of Africa.

G20 works on trade, finance, health, education, culture, energy, climate, digital economy, and artificial intelligence. It is also concerned about corruption, terrorism, money laundering, and other negative factors for human development. These agendas can also be agendas of the African countries. Thus African Union should use this opportunity to get partners in solving problems. If Africa can solve its internal challenges properly, it can get a chance to negotiate in the global order. Otherwise, its membership will support the national interests of developed countries by being a rubber stamp in multilateral forums.

To sum up, joining BRICS and G20 is a good opportunity for African countries to get a voice in the global arena. Being a member of these influential blocs is one thing, to contribute and to get benefit is another thing. Africa should solve its internal problems and be a good partner to BRICS Plus and G21. Historically Africa has often been excluded from making decisions on global issues. Now it is time to say "Waka Waka".

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

Law & Politics

Collaborative approach to ensure regional stability in Horn of Africa

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

The countries within the Horn of Africa region must come together and establish a collective front in the fight against terrorism. This approach will help to pool resources, implement cross-border intelligence sharing, and provide a common front in the fight against terror. It will also enhance security coordination and technological transfer which will boost the ability of security forces to combat terror activities.

The Horn of Africa has long been plagued by terrorism and extremism. These issues have destabilized the region and hindered its development. Therefore, it is essential for the countries within the Horn of Africa to unite and collaborate in their fight against terrorism.

The volatile situation in the Horn of Africa requires an urgent course correction as the proliferation of militant activities and the establishment of global terrorist networks could destabilize the region. The spillover effects of terror attacks and the infiltration of the terror network has created a palpable sense of fear and anxiety among the people of the region.

The rampant growth of terrorism in the Horn of Africa is posing significant security risks to not only the region but also the global community. The region has become a fertile ground for recruitment of terrorists with young people being brainwashed into believing in radical ideologies. These young people are then used as pawns in the terror machinery and perpetrate despicable acts that threaten the safety and security of the entire region.

The Horn of Africa is currently experiencing unbridled extremism, militant activities and a robust terrorist network leading to heavy militarization of the region. This phenomenon has become a cause of concern for international bodies as it may lead the region towards the unknown. With numerous terror factions and extremist groups sprouting up from different countries in the region it has become difficult for the governments of these nations to combat the threat of terrorism effectively.

The region can no longer shoulder this burden alone as there are serious implications if it is not addressed. The international community, the media, and the governments within the region must adopt a multi-pronged approach to address the root causes of terrorism and extremism and promote a peaceful and prosperous Horn of Africa.

It is common knowledge that terrorism is a global issue that requires a collective response from the international community. The Horn of Africa is facing an increasing threat from terrorist groups requiring concerted efforts from all member states to mitigate this danger and ensure a peaceful existence for the region's inhabitants.

Terrorism is not an entirely new phenomenon in the Horn of Africa as the region has been prone to sporadic attacks from different terror groups. However, the scale, speed, and intensity of the attacks have increased



exponentially. This spike in the terror threat level has exposed the vulnerability of the region and its need for stronger coordinated approaches in fighting against terrorist activities.

All the countries within the Horn of Africa region must come together and establish a collective front against terrorism. They must share intelligence, resources, and expertise to counter the threat of terrorism effectively. The countries must also address the root causes of terrorism which include poverty, inequality and lack of opportunities. This will help prevent the recruitment of vulnerable individuals by extremist groups.

It is important for all member states in the Horn of Africa to learn from Ethiopia's effective strategies and embrace a collaborative approach in countering terrorism and maintaining regional stability. By working together, sharing intelligence and implementing joint military operations, the member states can significantly enhance their capacity to combat the terrorist activities of groups like Al-Shabab.

There is no gainsaying the fact that in order to ensure a peaceful existence in the Horn region, all member states should collaborate closely in order to counter the growing threat posed by terrorist groups. By the same token, the region must strengthen its borders to prevent the movement of terrorists and illicit goods. The countries must also work with international partners to mobilize resources and support for their counter-terrorism efforts.

Without such collaboration, the ability to lead a peaceful life would be extremely challenging. The terrorist groups sensing their vulnerability in the absence of conflict are fully committed to dismantling strategic locations and advancing the agenda of their benefactors.

The media has a crucial role in raising awareness about the issue of organized crime and exposing the activities of these criminal syndicates. The media should

work with stakeholders to inform the public on the dangers posed by these criminal organizations and provide critical information to combat their activities.

All stakeholders should work together to counter the malicious and destructive agendas of these groups. Building resilience, fostering social cohesion, promoting good governance, and empowering the youth and education are all essential for combating terrorism and ensuring a stable, prosperous Horn of Africa. The criminal syndicates in the Horn of Africa have become more sophisticated in their activities operating in the shadows and with a level of organization that puts them beyond the reach of law enforcement agencies in the region.

Ethiopia's participation demonstrates their unwavering commitment to combating terrorism and protecting the lives of its citizens and the wider Horn of Africa community. It is essential to recognize the challenges faced by Ethiopia in this ongoing fight against terrorism. Despite their successes, they continue to confront various obstacles and risks. Nonetheless, Ethiopia remains resolute in its determination to overcome these challenges and ensure a safer and more secure region for all.

Al-Shabab has been increasingly active in the horn of Africa. Ethiopia which is well-known for its relentless efforts in combating terrorism in the Horn of Africa has been undertaking a wide range of effective measures to ensure peace and stability. Ethiopia's commitment to eradicate the criminal enterprise is evident in its deployment of highly skilled and experienced troops to Somalia showcasing their profound military expertise and dedication to achieving the desired objectives.

The targeted attacks on civilians and infrastructure by terrorist groups have caused widespread suffering and harm to the affected communities. The destruction of critical infrastructure such as roads, hospitals, and schools has had devastating

effects on the lives of the people in the region. The presence of terrorist groups in the Horn of Africa has had significant implications for regional security as well. The instability caused by these groups has created a breeding ground for militant activities and has emboldened other radical groups.

The media should be responsible in reporting security issues in the region and present them in a manner that provides the necessary information to the public without creating panic. Furthermore, media outlets should collaborate with other stakeholders to promote positive narratives that foster peace building and promote social cohesion. They should also endeavor to report objectively on issues that concern the people of the region and avoid sensationalizing news around terrorism-related incidents as it can create unnecessary panic and anxiety. Additionally, the media can use its platform to strengthen the bonds of community among the people of the region and promote a sense of belonging and unity.

There is a need to mobilize international support to fight organized crime in the Horn of Africa. This can be achieved through multilateral cooperation, technical assistance and the provision of resources to help strengthen the institutional capacity of member states.

The criminal syndicates in the Horn of Africa pose a significant threat to regional security and stability. To counter their activities, there is a need for a comprehensive approach focused on the root causes of the problem. Collaboration between member states, institutional capacity-building and international support is critical to defeating the criminal syndicates in the Horn of Africa.

The Horn of Africa can only achieve lasting peace and stability by working together to eliminate the threat of terrorism. It is time for the countries within the region to overcome their differences and put aside their rivalries to come together for the greater good of their people and the region as a whole.

Women in Focus

Empowering women, break chains of poverty

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

She is the Executive Director of Women Economic Empowerment Africa (WEEA). As a young Ethiopian who knows most of the challenges African women are passing through, she uses every opportunity to be the voice for voiceless women. Recently, *The Ethiopian Herald* had a chance to interview Mahlet Zeleke, to hear her reflections concerning women's empowerment.

Excerpts:

Please tell us about yourself and how did the idea of creating Women Economic Empowerment Africa and advocating the right of African women, come to your mind?

I am Mahlet Zeleke, born in Modjo and raised in Jimma and Addis Ababa. I am Executive Director of Women Economic Empowerment Africa (WEEA). I am a passionate woman who cares and advocates women's economic rights. My upbringing shaped my perception towards humanity. This is especially true to stand for the right of women. All the paths I came through have taught me the value of women economic empowerment.

The genesis of Women Economic Right Advocate Africa traces back to my early Pan-Africanist spirit, envisioning a community where women share equal opportunities with their male counterparts.

Fueled by a mission to empower women and girls through integrated economic interventions, the organization was born with the motto "Helping to improve African Women livelihood through economic empowerment, gives the Continent opportunity!" This vision materialized as I delved into studies on debt's impact on African economic growth and became acutely aware of period poverty. The commitment to address these obstacles and advocate for the economic rights of African women laid the foundation for Women Economic Right Advocate Africa, a platform dedicated to fostering a world where women thrive through economic empowerment. **How do you define Ethiopian women, mothers and daughters?**

Have you seen a bird feeding her babies? Birds feed their babies from their mouths, ensuring they eat before satisfying their own hunger. "The black Bird!" Ethiopian women, mothers and daughters embody the nurturing spirit of that black bird. They symbolize strength, resilience, and a vibrant cultural heritage. In my role as a Women and Youth human and economic rights advocate, I view Ethiopian women as integral pillars within their communities, making significant contributions to the nation's social and economic fabric.



Mahlet Zeleke

Mothers in Ethiopia hold a pivotal role, passing on values of perseverance and determination, gracefully navigating challenges, and positively impacting the broader community. They are like the black bird ensuring their offspring are nourished with not just sustenance but also with the essential qualities for life. Daughters inherit a legacy of tenacity, breaking barriers in education, entrepreneurship, and various fields, becoming embodiments of progress. As young women and future leaders, we contribute fresh perspectives, steering Ethiopia towards a more inclusive and equitable future.

Recognizing the multifaceted roles Ethiopian women play is crucial, not just within families but also as contributors to economic growth. Empowering women economically is not merely a matter of rights but a strategic investment in national development. By providing opportunities for education, entrepreneurship, and leadership, we unlock the full potential of Ethiopian women, fostering a society thriving on diversity and equality. As a young woman advocating for these rights, I draw inspiration from the stories of Ethiopian women overcoming challenges, reflecting the collective spirit of a nation progressing towards gender equality and equity. What is more, as a participant of 2023 World Bank Youth Summit and UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development Goals youth delegate, I am pushing for women's equal participation and tackling

period poverty as a global issue.

How do you evaluate the progresses made so far to promote the social, economic and political rights of women in Ethiopia?

The progress made in promoting the social, economic, and political rights of women in Ethiopia is commendable, yet challenges persist, and let's talk about period poverty—it is a screaming issue that needs urgent attention.

Political engagement is a key to unlock almost all the challenges every woman face. Respecting our natural rights means access to education, healthcare, and resources.

What are the successes and the challenges you encountered while working on women?

The successes in advocating for women's rights are evident in increased awareness and strides against issues like period poverty. Empowering youth women to be decision-makers is a win, but the uphill battle persists. Challenges loom large, demanding more than just rhetoric. The struggle to bridge the gender gap in politics and the economy remains real. It is frustrating to witness promises without tangible actions. The key lies in dismantling systemic barriers, implementing concrete policies, and fostering an environment where women truly thrive. It is a journey filled with both triumphs and exasperating roadblocks,

emphasizing the pressing need for sustained, meaningful change.

Despite all the efforts made by the government or some international organizations, most Ethiopian women are still suffering from poverty, illegal migration, early marriage, rape, school dropouts and other challenges. What do you think is the problem? And what should be done to curb the challenges?

Like other African countries Ethiopian women are drowning in poverty, facing illegal migration, early marriage, rape, school dropouts and period poverty. These are not insurmountable issues, and the solutions are not rocket science or do not need a magic. Implement real, actionable policies! Tackle societal norms that perpetuate these horrors, invest in education, and empower women economically. Having sound policy is one step; but there must be a genuine commitment to execution.

Illegal migration can only be curbed by creating sustainable livelihoods at home. Efforts should focus on dismantling societal norms that perpetuate early marriages. Addressing rape requires stringent legal measures and a cultural shift that does not tolerate such heinous acts.

The battle against school dropouts necessitates targeted initiatives, ensuring girls have equal access to education and creating an environment that supports their academic journey. As a frustrated youth women's rights advocate, the call is for tangible action, not just lip service. The roadmap to change involves implementing and enforcing policies that protect and empower women, leaving no room for the continuation of these distressing challenges.

And what should women themselves do to enjoy their rights on an equal footing with their counterparts?

As women, we need to stop waiting for invitations to the table; we must demand our seats in policy and decision-making spaces. Privileged women with access to resources and education should take the initiative to share opportunities with fellow women. Believing in the potential of every woman and ensuring equal opportunities empowers us to achieve anything we set our minds to. It is about actively shaping our narrative and collectively paving the way for a future where gender equality is not just a goal but a lived reality.

Economic empowerment is not a buzzword; it is a lifeline. Allocate resources to uplift women economically, providing opportunities and breaking the chains of poverty. It is time to move beyond discussions and witness real, impactful change on the ground.

Society

Halting illegal migration via coordinated efforts

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

Curbing human trafficking has become increasingly complex and challenging for countries due to various pushing and pulling factors. The international community is also striving to develop a working system to eliminate human trafficking worldwide, ensuring dignity and humility for all individuals involved.

Recent incidents in routes such as the Mediterranean Sea, Red Sea, and Lampedusa in Italy, where numerous lives were lost, serve as a stark reminder of the urgent need for more robust measures to combat trafficking and protect migrants on dangerous migration pathways.

According to documented statistics, millions of men, women, and children worldwide fall victim to human trafficking, facing sexual exploitation, forced labor, and other forms of exploitation. The human and economic costs of this heinous crime have a profound impact on individuals and communities.

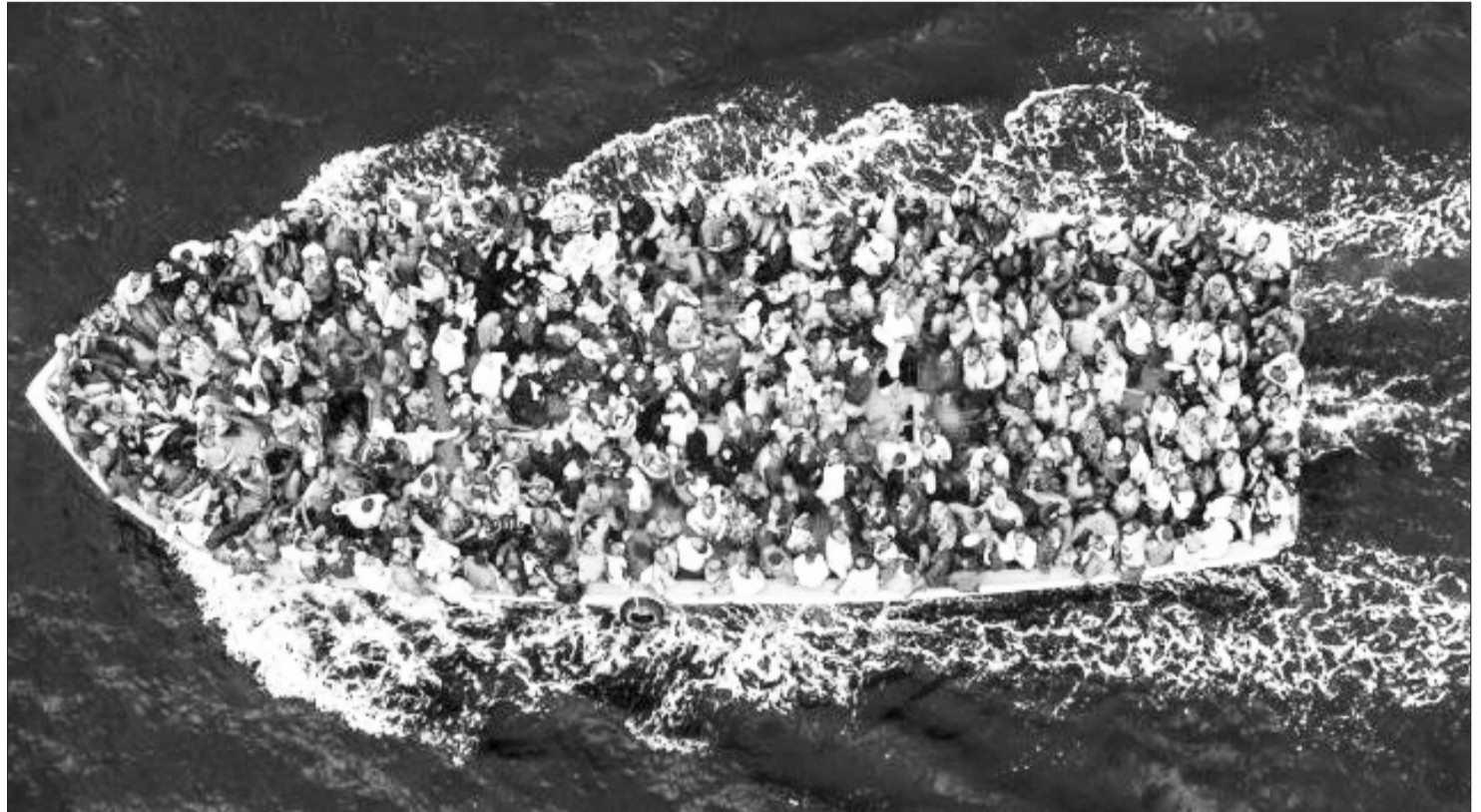
Conservative estimates suggest that the cost of trafficking, including underpayment of wages and recruiting fees exceeds \$20 billion. The true costs to human capital are likely impossible to quantify. Human trafficking intersects with various development issues, from poverty to social inclusion, justice, and the rule of law, making it a relevant concern for practitioners across the development community.

In line with these perspectives, Ethiopia has been actively working with stakeholders to curb human trafficking and collaborating with countries of destination and transit. Most recently, the Ethiopian Delegation, led by Minister of Peace, Benalf Andualem, participated in the 20th Palermo Convention, focused on discussing trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, held in Palermo, Italy.

During the convention, Benalf expressed Ethiopia's unwavering commitment to collaborate with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in countering the illegal trafficking of persons and smuggling of migrants.

Benalf highlighted on the Convention that the policy frameworks, institutional arrangements, and corrective measures that Ethiopia has been implementing to control trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. As a country situated in the Horn of Africa, Ethiopia serves as an origin, transit, and destination for migrants, underscoring the importance of comprehensive efforts to address these issues.

Ethiopia recognizes human trafficking as a significant challenge and a violation of human rights. The country has made concerted efforts to combat this crime, striving to protect the well-being and rights



Partial view of horrors of illegal migration



Illegal migrants crossing fence

of individuals affected.

Curbing human trafficking requires collaborative efforts at local, national, and international levels. Ethiopia's commitment to working with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, along with its policy frameworks and corrective measures, demonstrates its dedication to combating human trafficking and promoting the dignity and rights of all individuals.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, Demise Gebermichael, an expert in Leadership, Good governance and Development Studies working at the Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, Ethics and Anti-Corruption team leader, highlighted that in today's complex and interconnected world, no single country can tackle this issue alone. He emphasized the need for a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach to curb human trafficking.

According to him, Ethiopia has taken significant steps to address human trafficking by enacting laws to criminalize it. The 2014

job creation to address the growing demand for work both locally and abroad through legal means.

While Ethiopia has conducted awareness campaigns targeting communities in different regions, vulnerable groups, and potential victims, it appears that the outcomes have not been as effective as desired, as migration continues.

Demise believes that these awareness campaigns should be tailored to specific communities and calls for better collaboration among civil society organizations to ensure a more organized approach.

In addition to awareness, Demise emphasizes the need to strengthen the skills of law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, judges, and other stakeholders involved in combating human trafficking. Improving victim identification, investigation techniques, and legal procedures are vital aspects of the fight against trafficking.

Demise also highlights the importance of a comprehensive approach involving legal frameworks, coordination mechanisms, awareness campaigns, job creation, and capacity building to effectively curb human trafficking. Ethiopia's efforts in these areas demonstrate its commitment to addressing this issue, but further collaboration and strengthening of initiatives are necessary to combat human trafficking more effectively.

Since population migrations may have a big impact on local political, social, economic, and ecological systems in both sending and receiving nations, illegal migration is a major issue for all governments. In order to solve the issue, it is crucial that parents, families, the legal system, and the community as a whole actively participate.

Anti-Trafficking in Persons Proclamation, for example, criminalizes all forms of trafficking, both internal and transnational. This law includes penalties for traffickers and provisions for the protection of victims.

To effectively combat human trafficking, Ethiopia has established national coordination mechanisms. The National Council to Combat Human Trafficking, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister, Demeke Mekonnen, serves as the focal point for coordinating anti-trafficking efforts among various government agencies and stakeholders. This demonstrates Ethiopia's commitment to addressing human trafficking with great concern.

However, Demise suggests that, efforts to raise awareness about human trafficking need to be further strengthened. Many people fall victim to human traffickers due to lack of awareness about the risks involved. He recommends implementing sustainable awareness campaigns across the nation and emphasizes the importance of