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'Let Ethiopia produce' revitalizes industries' productivity: Ministry

Finalizes import substitution export policy

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - "Let Ethiopia Produce" movement has revitalized the productivity of manufacturing industries by overcoming their

See 'Let Ethiopia produce'... page 3



Seleshi Girma, State Minister of Tourism

Ministry to earn one bln USD from int'l tourists

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA - Nation expects to generate over one billion USD

See Ministry to earn ... page 3

Ethiopia's inclusive diplomacy to win hearts, minds in world

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopia has to retain inclusive diplomatic approach to achieve its national interests while partnering with China and global west countries, so suggested an International Relations Scholar.

As China and African leaders celebrate the ten year old infrastructural development Project of Belt and Road Initiative which is benefiting African countries including Ethiopia, Haramaya University Political Science and International Relations lecturer Emiru Gemechu (PhD) suggested the diplomatic approach that Ethiopia has with China should not compromise its diplomatic

benefits from the global west.

In an interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, he said that Ethiopia should reinforce its inclusive diplomacy as the growing China-West rivalry poses threat on Africa's own interest.

During the reign of Emperor Haileselassie I,

See Ethiopia's inclusive... page 3

Ethiopia marks 16th Nat'l Flag Day

BY MESERET BEHAILU

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

Speaking at the celebration of the 16th National Flag Day held jointly by the House of People's Representatives and House of

See Ethiopia marks 16th... page 3



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YOUR SCHOOL
OPERATIONS

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Nurturing Like The River

News



HERZ Company to open factory in Ethiopia

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA---Austrian based HERZ Company said that it has an interest to open manufacturing plant in Ethiopia.

The company participated in 17th international construction exhibition held at Addis on last week.

During that exhibition, *The Ethiopian Herald* talked company's Regional Director of Herz Middle East F.Z.E, Srdan Vezmar.

He said that his company has special interest to invest in Ethiopia and open factory as well as expand construction companies in the future.

He suggested that everybody needs to come here and try all their best to invest in Ethiopia in all areas.

As to him, Addis Ababa is a big city and a lot of construction is being carried out all the time and other things are as appealing as possible.

"The country is also expanding business, has big market opportunity with good potential and now we just come here to touch the market, meet potential clients and interact with the people and to see potential heights then we have a plan to make production in Ethiopia," he noted.

After the exhibition on the future, we will also have some distributing center, he said.

HERZ is Austrian company based in Vienna, Austria and working internationally in many other European nations, as to him.

"We are importing from Dubai and distributing to other nations like Ethiopia and Egypt, we started market in Africa ten years ago. HERZ is leading manufacturers of valves, fittings, circuit regulating valves, dynamic control fittings and valves for domestic installations for heating, air conditioning and sanitary."

Ministry finalizes Nat'l consultation forums on TJ

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – The Ministry of Justice announced the finalization of national consultation on Transitional Justice(TJ) policy options.

In its press release, the Ministry of Justice said that the Transitional Justice Working Group of Experts (TJWGE) drawing from 14 members of academia, CSOs, legal practice, and policy drafting has concluded the nationwide consultations.

The TJWGE pursued its tasks building on earlier initiatives on the subject, specific recommendations of the Joint Investigation Report of the EHRC/OHCHR (November 2021), and stipulations of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (2 November 2022). The TJWGE's endeavor was assisted by 216 law school professors engaged from 36 universities in the regions; they were critical



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MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

in facilitating the identification and selection of participants, organization of local events, and the provision of interpretation services, it said.

It held 47 regional and 8 national consultations, and further organized 9 more tailored workshops jointly with various offices of the UN (UNHCR, UN Women and OHCHR-EARO), the African Union, IGAD, and CSOs. Since March 2023, covering 12 states and 2 City Administrations, and reaching thousands of persons from various sections of the society.

The process provided an unprecedented space for in-depth collaboration with several multilateral and bilateral agencies and international experts - without compromising a vital principle that it also remains a nationally driven and locally owned undertaking, and aligns with the aspirations of all sections of the Ethiopian people, it added.

It included those that are the most marginalized - such as refugees (including refugees residing in Ethiopia), IDPs, persons with disability, women, and children. Other targeted participants of the consultations process included religious and community leaders, youth, civil societies, media, academics, opposition political parties, activists and opinion influencers, business community members, labor, the elderly, and national and international experts on transitional justice, it was learnt.



Ethiopia focuses on enhancing rice production

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopia is striving to expand rice production to ensure food security and generate foreign currency albeit to forex and related challenges, the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research said.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Institute Crops Research Director Taye Tadesse (PhD) said that Ethiopia's rice production is showing a promising result towards ensuring food security and generating foreign exchange in a bid to boost its economy and curb forex glitches.

Citing a huge amount of money spent for importation, the director noted that the country has given due emphasis to the expansion of crops farming especially rice since the last three years.

As to him, urbanization causes the higher demand, ranging from 70% to 80%, of rice consumption.

He said, "Joint efforts are needed to substitute the rice imports at the national level and it is highly important to provide the necessary inputs including harvesting machines and other facilities," he stressed.

Moreover, it is essential to work with various stakeholders to jointly fetch a higher product and create market linkages by integrating the value chain for the benefit of the farming community, he added.

Bahir Dar University Agri College Teacher and Blue Economy Center of Excellence Director Alayu Yalew (Asst. Prof.) on his part recommended that the country needs to give priority to crops like rice to ensure food safety more than ever.

As to him, Ethiopia's weather conditions and soils are favorable for this crop and it is commendable to utilize the resources with improved seeds to enhance production and productivity.

Sharing the above rationale, Fogera Rice Research and Training Center Director Fiseha Worede (PhD) said that a huge amount of yield is projected to collect in this harvesting season as there was enough rain in the country.

In addition to ensuring food security, the director stated that it would also of paramount importance in supporting the food industry and boosting the nation's economy at large.

"The country has about 5.6 million hectare of land which is convenient for crops, and over 3.9 ha. of land could be developed through irrigation," he mentioned.

Stating the higher amount of yield from which 65 quintal on average obtained in the center, he said it has showcased that the nation has the potential to export this crop as shortly as possible.

News

Dalberg Advisors eyeing continued partnership with Africa

• Appoints Lillian Kidane as New Regional Director for Africa

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA – Dalberg Advisors expressed commitment to continue working with Ethiopia and other African countries in various development programs as it has appointed Lillian Kidane as the New Regional Director for Africa.

In a press statement sent to The Ethiopian Herald, Dalberg Advisors indicated that it is devoted to continue partnering in development programs with Ethiopia and other African nations providing a technical leadership role under the ownership and direction of Ministerial leaders.

The management consultancy has been assisting Ethiopia's development endeavors working with various ministries in supporting the development of organizational strategy and operational plans, promoting high-potential sectors for economic growth, collaborating

for the improvement of the delivery of primary health care services, and partnering in the development and application of a new curriculum for secondary schools, the press release indicated.

It stated that the firm has also been working with the private sectors to invest in renewable energy and other sustainable development projects

Dalberg Advisors has been supporting three major policy pieces over the past four years including the development of the National Digital Ethiopia 2025 strategy and National Export Strategy, and the revision of Industrial Policy and Sectoral Priorities, it was learnt.

Beyond Ethiopia, it has done and continue to do similar work with government leaders across 48 countries in Africa to-date with similar value, the statement says.

Recently, the consultancy has appointed new Regional Director for its Africa region named

Lillian Kidane.

Dalberg said in the statement that Lilian Kidane is a Partner affiliated with Dalberg's office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and brings a rich portfolio of expertise in sustainable and impact-based philanthropic and commercial strategies for emerging markets.

It was mentioned that Lilian has two decades of experience working with governments, foundations, corporates, and NGOs both on the continent and from the United States to support systems transformation and access to medicines in Africa.

"As an adult, I've witnessed the incredible potential of this continent firsthand. I have been lucky enough to spend nearly two decades engaging in topics that impact the lives of populations such as public health, climate, trade, and digital transformation and in doing so, I have developed relationships with inspiring



change makers across the continent," Lilian said in the statement.

Started its operations in Africa in 2007 in South Africa and quickly expanded across West and East Africa, Dalberg Advisors covers over 1,100 engagements across the continent working with various government ministries, regional bodies, local and global nonprofits, investors, foundations and companies among others, it was learnt.

from one million foreign tourists during this fiscal year, disclosed the Ministry of Tourism.

The Ministry has set a plan to earn the stated amount of revenues from the one million foreign tourists that are expected to pay visit to Ethiopia this year.

Speaking with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Tourism State Minister Seleshi Girma stated that the utmost effort is being put to attract one billion foreign tourists and collect one billion USD.

Last budget year, some 30 million local tourists visited several tourist attractions and similar number of tourists are expected to pay visit to various destinations this fiscal year, as to him.

The State Minister further stated that different

Ministry to earn ...

tourist destination development activities would be performed as well as Ambassador's forum would be held to enhance tourist inflow.

"The lifting of travel restrictions that had been put due to outbreak of COVID 19 and unrests would be significant in building a positive image," he noted.

The soon to be inaugurated community lodge located in Senkele Swayne's Hartebeest Sanctuary, is amongst the tourism development activities, said Seleshi.

In addition to the current tourism information center, around three new information centers would be made ready this year. Moreover, the nation would take part in different international tourism exhibitions and hospitality forums to introduce its untapped

tourism potentials, he added.

He indicated that the promotion activity that used to be carried out mainly in North America and Europe countries have now widen to different Middle East countries. Similarly, the Ministry has given due emphasis to promote domestic tourism.

Mentioning that it has been over five years since the standard of several hotels and lodges have been rated, Seleshi mentioned that rating hotels as per to their standard would positively add to the tourism market development.

The hotels standard's report that has been carried out for the past six months would be released soon, according to the State Minister.

Let Ethiopia produce'...

bottlenecks, said the Ministry of Industry.

'Let Ethiopia Produce' Movement Project Office Coordinator at the Ministry of Industry, Ayana Zewdie (PhD) told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the movement enabled some 744 local and foreign investors to invest in the manufacturing sector during the just concluded Ethiopian fiscal year.

The manufacturing industry has not been contributing fair share to the economy due to various problems. Accordingly, solving the bottlenecks of the sector, increasing its contribution to the economy, boosting productivity and international competitiveness are the main goals of the movement, he said.

Ayana elaborated that efforts have been made to create awareness, establish a coordinated system, create market and resource linkages, and encourage national production since the announcement of the movement.

The coordination mechanisms formed by the movement created a conducive environment for producers overcoming financial, resource and infrastructural challenges, he indicated.

As to him, due attention has been given to create a society that is proud of its country's products.

To this end, government institutions are giving priority to purchase from local manufacturers while industries are also trying to improve

their product quality, the Coordinator said, adding that this has increased the domestic market share of manufacturing industries from 30% to 38%.

Furthermore, the country substituted the uniforms of students and the security forces that were imported from abroad which enabled the nation to save 37 and 49.4 million USD respectively, he capitalized.

To overcome sector bottlenecks, the Ministry of Industry finalized the import substitution and export policy to implement soon. Some 14 strategies have been also prepared and ready to implement in a bid to boost the capacity of the manufacturing industries, he stated.

Ethiopia marks 16th...

Federation, President SahleWork Zewde said: "Our flag is a symbol of struggle, independence, sovereignty and sacrifice of our forefathers/ mothers."

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

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

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

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

Ethiopia's inclusive...

Ethiopia was good friend of both the Eastern and Western World. However, he said, the Derg regime was very inclined to the Socialist global-east that resulted in polarization that made Ethiopia battle of the two groups at that time.

"If Africans managed it well, the nature of partnership with China and Western countries by itself cannot be source of conflict," according to him.

China is more on economic and infrastructural development role whereas the west is more inclined to political diplomacy. The demand of Africans from the two sides is also quite different - economic development from China and humanitarian intervention from the west, according to him.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) and his delegation arrived in Beijing to attend the 3rd the Road and Belt Initiative

forum yesterday.

Abiy discussed with the Chinese Prime Minister, Li Qiangon bilateral issues where they agreed on ways of enhancing economic cooperation between Ethiopia and China, Office of the Prime Minister (PMO) announced.

"Premier Li Qiang highlighted that both countries are developing and emerging

economies that can seek ways of growing together. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed on his part shared the multifaceted growth objectives of the government and development achievements gained thus far. He further emphasized the need to expand trade partnership with China," PMO stated.

They also "presided over the signing of 12 cooperation agreements and 2 letters of intent in various fields," it was learnt.

Opinion

Exerting positive energy for attaining better future

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Ethiopia is among few countries with their own ancient civilizations and governance system. Archeological findings, historical literatures and documents prove these.

Its material civilizations are manifested by the Axum obelisks, the Lalibela rock hewn churches, the Harar wall, the Gondar Castles, the monuments in the Guraghe zone and others.

Looking none material aspects of its culture both the monolithic religions of Christianity and Muslim introduced in 4th and 7th century respectively can be explained.

The moral and the cultural values existed from the ancient time also served as tools in binding peoples together. The diversified geographical areas and climatic zones defined by low land, temperate and high lands played pivotal role in shaping the cultural life of the peoples.

People residing in the lowland parts of the country, regardless of their ethnic and religious backgrounds, share common economic engagement of cattle rearing, culture of wearing light clothes, staying naked that goes in line with the arid environment and building shelter to protect them from the hotness.

On the other hand, people residing in the highland parts of the country share similar economic activities such as practicing sedentary farm, they wear similar clothes which prepared to protect them from cold, the types of their houses and their eating habits are common. The dancing and singing culture, the funeral ceremony and the gathering during grief time also have more or less similarity.

Market places both in the low and highland parts bring opportunity for peoples' acquaintance. In the rural parts market is mostly conducted once in a week and these days, peoples in the surrounding areas with different cultural, linguistics and religious background come together and exchanges their products.

At the same time, they practice the vernacular language which is spoken by various groups. These again create bi- and multi-lingual population. The establishment of religious institutions such as mosques and churches further creates opportunity for peoples' mutual understandings.

When people come together for religious rituals know and understand each other which paves the way for interaction and intermarriage between people with different ethnic backgrounds. As religion is cross cutting of ethnic and cultural identity, inter-communal cohesiveness will be flourished and multi lingual society will be developed.

Towns such as Fiche in Selalie area in Oromia region, Wolkait Tsegede in north Gonder, Babile in the Eastern Haraghe zones can be mentioned as the case in point for the creation of the multi lingual society.

According to historians, Fiche town was established as the result of people

interaction from the surrounding areas for market purposes. Since long ago, Both Oromifa and Amharic speaking population exchange commodities in the market and through time bilingual community could be developed. The expansion of Christianity also further strengthened the society bond and intermarriage. People with different ethnic backgrounds share similar culture and way of life and engaged in sedentary farming.

In the Babile town in eastern Haraghe zone, both Somali and Oromo ethnic groups cohabited together. Both adhered to Muslim religion, engaged in trade, sedentary farm and pastoral life. Both Oromifa and Somali languages are equally spoken. Utilizing bilingual in the daily base and intermarriage is also a common practice.

Wolkaite Tsegede which is located in the northern Gonder is one of the places where multi-lingual society is flourished. Amharic and Tigrigna and also Arabic are languages used by the community.

They engaged on sedentary farming, trade and cattle rearing. Christianity and Muslim religions are widely practiced. Intermarriage between people with different ethnic and language backgrounds is common.

Cultural cohesiveness and intermarriage is a common phenomenon particularly in the urban centers, it is a norm rather than an exception. Such interaction and cultural assimilation inspired people to stand together and defend the nation from foreign aggressions.

In the century's old monarchical system, the people suffered from injustice, class operation and exploitation.

When war breaks out between land lords because of internal power struggle, farmers in addition to paying tribute to the land lords were used to serve as cannon fodder. When their suffering is reached its climax stage, they run away from their place to get rid of the pain and surrendered to the other lord to live there as servant and in such appalling situation they had lived for centuries.

Nevertheless, though they used to live in such socio economic stagnation, they respected kings and regarded them as they had been appointed by God and whatever grievance they came across, they took praying to God as a way out instead of resisting the statuesque.

In their long history, though there had been conflicts among groups, they had given positive response to the call of the kings to defend the nation's territorial integrity when foreign intruders attempted to invade.

Setting aside the earlier attempts of foreign aggressors, from the 16 century onwards, Ethiopians, by disregarding their ethnic and religious differences, defended their country from foreign invaders such as Turkish, Dervishes, British and Italians.

Most of the time, the wars were commanded by the kings and this again clearly shows how the ordinary people were loyal to the kings.

Ethiopia is among few countries with their own ancient civilizations and governance system. Archeological findings, historical literatures and documents prove these

The Adwa victory clearly proved this. Regional kings and lords with their own army under the leadership of Emperor Menelik II joined the Adwa campaign and defeated the Italian invasion forces in 1896.

However, even though Ethiopia has a long history of government and civilization, Ethiopians failed to establish a government and a constitution based on the public consensus in its modern history.

Similar to other countries, the nation building endeavor in the dawn of the 20 century was realized by force and subjugating the peoples. Following emperor Menelik, the successive leaders and governments failed to establish the political system which protects citizens and group rights and most of the current contentious political stalemates originated from the past state formation project approach.

If there is a will, it is possible to heal the past wound and establish a political system based on consensus.

Recently, on the occasion of the opening ceremony of the joint meeting of the House of Federation and the House of Peoples Representatives, President Sahlework Zewde urged Ethiopians to diligently work for a common narrative, repair the fractures and narrow differences to put the country on solid foundation.

The president highlighted the directions and plans which the government will implement in socioeconomic, political, and diplomatic spheres during this Ethiopian fiscal year.

In the speech she delivered, President Sahlework said that Ethiopia needs to craft a shared grand narrative to foster nation building, which has faced multitudes of challenges.

She also stressed the need for Ethiopians to reach common understanding on major national issues to build a prosperous country.

According to the president, Ethiopia has now embarked on a far-reaching reforms and prosperity journey that will ensure the benefits of the entire people. Looking back at the history of the country, Sahlework

recalled that Ethiopians in unison have registered notable victories.

Through the unity of its peoples, Ethiopia managed to overcome many difficulties encountered in the past and ensured its survival, she said.

Together, Ethiopians overcame many difficulties and survived. They have crossed a long way for centuries in solidarity with each other and stood together and defended the enemies. She also said that Ethiopia has made a lot of contribution to humanity.

Most importantly, Ethiopia has served as the symbol of independence through its spirit of patriotism, igniting the black people across the world to rally for independence.

The extreme views and lack of reconciliation the nation experienced resulted in conflicts and an irreplaceable price which the country has paid as a nation, the president said, adding; "we are still paying dearly."

Noting that Ethiopia is endowed with untapped natural resources, the president urged Ethiopians to utilize the nation's resources for development.

Drawing lessons from developed nations that have realized their growth through compromising their differences, Ethiopia's past should not be an obstacle for the prosperity and development ambition that it pursues. Interest groups have to be open for reconciliation, the President said, urging fellow Ethiopians to strengthen the multinational unity and strive for common destiny of Ethiopia.

Ethiopians lived together for centuries and in addition to defending their country from foreign aggression in the modern time, they scored impressive achievements in various fields and among others, participating in athletics competition in the world champions proved their bravery.

In the 1960s, Abebe bikila scored a great achievement and won two successive marathon rallies in the Rome Olympics running barefoot and four years later in the Tokyo Olympics. Mamo Woldie replicated the victory in the Mexico Olympics. That time, the world renowned media such as BBC, New York Times and others gave wide coverage to the Ethiopian Athletes' achievements.

Since 1990s, the new generation of athletics such as the famous Haile Gebreslasie, Derartu Tulu, Kenenisa Bekele, Tirunesh Dibaba, Meseret Defar and Genzebe Dibaba among others uplifted and hoisted the Ethiopian flag in the Olympics platforms. The narration of such kind of achievement should be scaled up. There are also celebrity Ethiopian scientists working for various companies including NASA and teach in Europe and USA Universities and contribute in terms of knowledge and finance for their country's development endeavor.

Hence, Ethiopians instead of focusing on their minor differences, they should emphasize on their togetherness, common achievements and exert their energy to lift up their country out of poverty.

Editorial

National flag: A symbol of unity, freedom

What a common pride and defined identity for a given nation in the world is their respective national flags. Ethiopia is not exceptional in this regard as it does have a tri-color national emblem be continentally and globally well recognized.

Every year on October 16, Ethiopia celebrates Flag Day, a special occasion that honors the emblem of the nation. Far beyond being a mere commemoration of the tri color-symbol, Flag Day serves as a powerful reminder of the values and ideals that make Ethiopia incomparable and never be colonized. It represents the unity, courage and unwavering commitment to freedom that have defined Ethiopia since its coming into being. Marking the national Flag Day is of paramount importance in exploring Ethiopia's tri-color flag historical significance, symbolic representation, and the profound impact it has had in reflecting Ethiopia and Ethiopians' identity.

The nation has undoubtedly housed over 120 million population with a varied lifestyle, ethnicity, language, cultural identity, among others, leading life in harmonious way fastened by a single glue—a national flag. Unequivocally, a flag is an emblem symbolizing Ethiopia. National Flag Day celebrated every year is observed as a national holiday and is hoisted to cement unity and an infringed identity of all Ethiopians.

A national flag is a symbol of solidarity and the union or fellowship born to common responsibilities and interests, and it represents the collective dreams of a community, a regional states or the nation at large.

Obviously, the flag remains a symbol of patriotism and nationalism, and it has, for Ethiopia, been a beacon of freedom as the nation has never been tested the tyrannous times of the colonial era.

Rightly, Ethiopia's national flag is not just a piece of cloth with three different colors, but has a rich history behind it. The green color represents wealth and affluence, the yellow stands for the bright hope for people and the red patch represents bravery and sacrifice to keep Ethiopia the ever sovereign nation via gallantry and patriotism.

Yes, the nation celebrates National Flag Day as it commemorates the unity, togetherness and harmonious way of living. The day is a very historical moment to be marked with pride and humble distinction as the flag has provided the nation with a timeless pride and dedication for change.

The rationale behind the annual observance of national Flag Day in Ethiopia is promoting patriotism, respect for the flag, fellow citizens and the nation at large.

The national flag is an important authentic component of Ethiopia's allegory. The Day is an opportunity for Ethiopians to express their patriotic passion and pride for their country. In addition to the proceedings, observances and merriments organized on this specific day, citizens use this opportunity to express their support for their respected nation and to those who have fought for its everlasting independence.

All in all, the national flag of Ethiopia is of great importance and symbolizes the unity, strength and peace of the nation. It unites all citizens regardless of sex, religion, social strata, and political beliefs, among others. It also reminds citizens of their rich history, ancestral bravery and significant achievements of the nation in its lifetime. Taking advantage of the national Flag Day celebration, Ethiopians express their love and devotion to this beloved Motherland—Ethiopia. This symbol of unity should always remind us of our common goal – the prosperity and well-being of Ethiopia and its people. Hence, the national flag always remains a symbol of the nation and a reminder of citizens' historical roots and values.

Opinion

Nurturing the capital market to revamp Ethiopia's economic development

BY STAFF REPORTER

Ethiopia's economy is one of the largest in sub-Saharan Africa and also among the fastest growing in the continent. Despite this the country still has to work more on speeding up the development of the economy to ensure quality growth, create equitable distribution of wealth among citizens as well as to ensure continuous and sustainable development, among others.

It is to be recalled by the country became able to build this economy after almost two decades of command economy during the Derg regime, i.e. 1974 -1991. After the introduction of the free market economy, the country has passed through a path of economic growth that saw the gradual increase in the role of the private sector. Furthermore, foreign direct investment has also been growing time to time contributing to the active functioning of the economy.

Yet the country's economy still faces various challenges. For instance one of the sectors in the country's economy, the finance sector was relatively new for the private sector as it started along with the opening up of the country's economy for private operators under the free market economy, i.e not more than three decades. Though the number of the finance sector operators is increasing, they have to work more on becoming competent enough to withstand the challenge from international banks that would possibly be allowed in the future when the country opens up the sector to foreign banks.

The other important element that the country's economy was lacking so far is the capital market. Even though many countries are working on it regardless of the effectiveness, Ethiopia has yet remained closed to the operation of capital market.

An exchange market is an organized marketplace, licensed by a relevant regulatory body, where ownership stakes in companies are listed and traded. Listing happens in the so-called 'primary market', where a portion of a company's shares are made available to the public.

Recently, the government has launched the Ethiopian Security Exchange (ESX) after months of preparatory works. Leader of the ESX Project Tilahun Esmael says the exchange came at the right time when the country needs it. "Both the public and the private sector need around 20 trillion birr in the next ten years to fulfill the several objectives. So what does it mean by public sector? it means for government to build roads, for government to build schools, or provide typical state services, police force and this and that, we need 20 trillion in the next 10 to 20 years.

This section builds on the theoretical overview set out in the previous section, by explaining practically how modern-day stock exchanges may contribute to economic

development. Essentially, exchanges enhance the ability of entrepreneurs, as well as more established corporations with expansion plans, to access the capital they need to grow their businesses.

The source of funds is the savings of domestic investors who are looking for investment growth. Stock markets are able to perform this 'savings mobilization' function for a number of reasons.

Stock markets provide investors with a comparatively easy means of exiting their investment, in that the shares listed on a stock exchange can be sold in the secondary market. Investors do not have to identify a specific buyer for their securities nor do they have to negotiate the terms of the sale as these are determined by the rules of the market. This reduces the risk for investors (savers) in putting money into an investment with different time horizons than their own investment horizons.

Through the initial listings and ongoing disclosure requirements, exchanges reduce the costs that investors would otherwise incur in finding out the information they would need for investment decisions. This also helps to address the 'information asymmetry' problem where company insiders necessarily have more information about the company than outsiders.

The rules of the exchange, combined with relevant securities market regulation and associated settlement infrastructures address or at least mitigate contract enforceability risks where investors might not otherwise be sure that they would receive the benefits of the investment they have bought.

By bringing together a large and diverse set of investors, markets reduce the size of an individual investment. This allows investors to manage the extent of the risk they take on and thereby the risk to which an individual investor is exposed.

These 'risk mitigation', 'risk spreading and 'risk transformation' features of stock exchanges serve both to reduce the cost of the capital for firms, and to obtain financing for larger and/or riskier ventures than they might be able to finance otherwise. This can be seen for example in the financing of mining and exploration companies or technology companies.

In providing investors with access to a range of investment opportunities, stock markets enable investors to reduce their risk of income volatility by diversifying their investment portfolios. This, together with positive investment returns enhances consumption and future investment opportunities for investors – thereby generating further funds to finance growth and expansion.

The private sector should do their best to both create opportunities as well as to exploit the opportunities created by the exchange market and revamp the growth of the country's economy.

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



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Editor-in-Chief: Worku Belachew
email- workubelachew@press.et
Address- Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-city
Woreda - 05, House No----
Tel- +251 111 26 41 98

Managing Editor: Wakuman Kudama
Email: wakuma220@gmail.com

Deputy Editors-in-Chief:
Alem Hailu
Elizabeth Mengistu
Zekarias Woldemariam
Desta Geberehiwot
Daniel Beyene

Website: www.press.et
email: ethiopianherald@press.et
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The Ethiopian Herald

Business & Economy

Manufacturing industry: Economic growth gateway

BY MENGESHA AMARE

It is well recognized that Ethiopia has planned to transform itself to an industrialized economy and increase the per capita income of its citizens to middle-income levels in the years to come. The country must make changes on economic progress via reinvigorating industrial engagements, boosting public private partnership, improving taxation system, trade as well as financing rules and enlightening basic services such as electricity to support the manufacturing industry and local business thereby attracting new investment though great progress has been witnessed so far.

Having this in mind, *The Ethiopian Herald* had recently a stay with Worku Demena, an industrial engineer graduated from Addis Ababa University, to have ample information about the immense contribution of manufacturing industry to sustainable national economic growth.

He said, “The government has to well embark on the industry thereby sustainably boosting economy of the country as well as to know how important manufacturing industry to the economic development of Ethiopia is.”

Yes, he said, manufacturing sector has been playing a significant role in fostering economic growth in many developing countries such as Ethiopia. Since the manufacturing sector is very important to the growth of economy, knowledge of its relationship with the macroeconomic aspects is quite crucial. Ethiopia’s manufacturers account for an immense contribution to national economy though not sufficient.

According to Worku, in this competitive world, Ethiopia has to recognize that manufacturing is a major driver of its economy. Ethiopians think that sustaining and stimulation of the growth of the manufacturing sector is critical to the economy after learning the contribution of the sector. Yes, it is important for the economy to manufacture more value-added products at home instead of exporting raw materials.

He said, “Ethiopia wants to bolster the manufacturing industry as it is vital for economic growth and job creation. Besides, strong manufacturing industry means a strong economy. That is why it is repeatedly said that manufacturing strategy is useful in coming up with reliable economic advancement.”

Ethiopia has to modernize its tax system to boost investment, exports, and economic productivity. Besides, manufacturing industry is pivotal in creating an emissions-reduction fund to help industrial companies further improve their environmental performance, he opined.

Since addressing the challenges to a flourishing manufacturing industry will expand benefits to more Ethiopians, the country has systematically planned to become a manufacturing powerhouse, he added.

As to Worku, improving trade logistics, customs procedures and properly applying trade regulations, which primarily impact large exporting manufacturing firms, would be of significantly useful in bolstering the national economic growth. Simplifying



Manufacturing industry’s crucial role in job creation is vibrant enough



business related regulations and processes has to be expanded to facilitate the smooth entry and exit of manufacturing industry that will support a dynamic and thriving manufacturing industrial sector.

“In the exploration of world development experience, industrialization is found to be the pillar for the strength, the engine for the speed and the main way of the struggle against poverty and towards economic development process. Ethiopia, a typical agrarian less industrialized country, has been struggling towards the promising economic transformation or industrialization since long back,” he opined.

The Ethiopian economy has been characterized by its agrarian ubiquity up to the present. It contributes the largest share of GDP and employs the overwhelming portion of population followed by the service sector. However, its industrial wing is disproportionately at low level in all aspects of contribution.

The main weakness of the Ethiopian industry lies on its reliance on imports for its production. The weak backward and forward linkages within the sector and among different sectors of the economy are at the core of its vulnerability for external shocks on one hand and unable to support other sectors of the economy on the other hand. As the Ethiopian industrialization could be characterized by its tortoise nature, it has to move to the move of rabbit in the years to come by overcoming a range of pitfalls.

He said more seriously, manufacturing sector

had been damaged by a number of factors and the nationalization and expansion of public private partnership needs to be the main policy instrument to make a difference. Besides, the private sector has to be provided with new manufacturing plants and tempting environment for manufacturing industry.

As to Worku, since manufacturing is a cornerstone of our modern economy, the sector has to be made modernized; manufacturers have to become innovative and high-tech relying on a highly skilled and knowledgeable workforce that includes designers, researchers, programmers, engineers, technicians and trade’s people.

A vibrant manufacturing community encourages industrial clusters that develop skills, knowledge and technology. Success breeds success, he said, when Ethiopia’s manufacturers grow and compete, they act as magnets for new investment and for new young people wanting to be part of this great industry, making the products of tomorrow.

Fostering rapid globalization of markets, lowering of trade barriers and increasing global demand have led to both growing competition and new opportunities for manufacturers. Strong science base and strong existing clusters, knowledge-and technology-intensive manufacturing industries, including niche manufacturers, have to be strengthened to boost the most strategic opportunity for the future of the domestic manufacturing sector, he stated.

He further stated that from horticulture and agricultural products export to clean energy, to

telecom sector, the old and the new, and from mined materials to final product, Ethiopia has the ability to co-ordinate its supply chains to produce the goods necessary for a clean and advanced economy.

As far as the national manufacturing industry is concerned, the government should describe the entire supply chain and the broad manufacturing has to include life cycle analysis and environment impact assessment of manufacturing, mining and other related productions and energy use, he opined.

A manufacturing strategy must also require analysis of community impact, including the jobs and multiplier effects of restoring supply chains and of public investments. Employers need to invest in the skills of their workforce, rather than shirking responsibility while complaining about skills gaps.

Private-sector investment is also an important component of a manufacturing strategy. However, the private sector has not been making the capital investments necessary to move towards a greener economy nor to bolster the skills of the country’s workforce. This needs to be well addressed.

The federal government also plays an important role in investment in research and development, as well as co-ordination and marketing and it could also be a buyer. This is particularly important for manufacturing industry’s development for the public good. Investments should also play a strong role in the development and dissemination of clean technology and more energy-efficient technology for manufacturing and mining. Investments are also essential for strengthening telecommunications infrastructure and expanding access, Worku stated.

When it comes to ensuring markets for goods produced in Ethiopia, one of the most promising means of augmenting demand for domestically manufactured products is to tie in sustainability goals into procurement policies. Targeting investments in sectors with high potential for economic stimulation, job creation and environmental transformation government purchasing and procurement contracts must be one of the first mechanisms used towards the goal of revitalizing manufacturing industries in Ethiopia.

A revitalized manufacturing sector can play a key role in Ethiopia’s post-conflict recovery, too. However, Ethiopia cannot rely on the old mechanisms, such as offshoring or ever-expanding export markets, for the goods it does produce. This requires a change in thinking about the role of the state and of workers in stimulating manufacturing in the nation and, ultimately, directed policies that promote good jobs thereby benefiting communities across the country out of the bounties of the manufacturing industry.

Worku wrapped up his idea saying that nations around the African continent and beyond have been rethinking the place of manufacturing in their domestic economic strategies to ensure access to essential goods and bolster decent employment as well as secure sustainable economic progress. If Ethiopia does not use this opportunity to rethink the role of manufacturing industry in its economy, it would be left behind the ever-changing international economic order.

Law & Politics

Joining forces to tackle multifaceted security challenges in Red Sea

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

The Red Sea region in recent years has encountered a growing level of intricacy and unpredictability which has presented significant obstacles in maintaining security and stability. This knowledge is widely recognized in various contexts as the region grapples with a multitude of concerns that have further complicated the security environment. Among these challenges are the persistent threats of terrorism, piracy and smuggling which together contribute to the overall complexity of the situation.

Besides, the presence of extremist organizations perpetuates a sense of insecurity and poses a constant risk to the region's stability. Acts of terrorism can result in loss of life, destruction of infrastructure and psychological distress further undermining efforts to maintain security.

Safeguarding the Red Sea region requires a multi-dimensional approach that encompasses diplomatic, military, economic, and social efforts. Diplomatically, engagement and dialogue among regional stakeholders can foster trust, facilitate information sharing and enhance cooperation in combating terrorism, piracy, and smuggling. Militarily, the presence of naval forces from various countries can help deter illicit activities and provide a rapid response to incidents.

In addition to terrorism, piracy remains a pressing issue in the Red Sea region. The waters surrounding the region are strategically important for global trade making them attractive targets for pirates who aim to hijack vessels and extort ransom. The prevalence of piracy not only disrupts maritime activities but also imposes significant economic costs and poses a danger to the safety of seafarers.

By working together countries in the Red Sea region can pool their knowledge, experiences and best practices in addressing common challenges. This exchange of information enables a better understanding of the complex issues at hand leading to more informed decision-making and the identification of effective solutions. As each country brings its unique perspective to the table, regional cooperation fosters a holistic approach that takes into account the diverse realities and needs of the states.

Through regular dialogue, joint exercises and cooperative initiatives, countries in the Red Sea region can develop personal relationships and establish professional networks. This interpersonal connection is essential in fostering trust, improving communication and cultivating a sense of shared responsibility.

By aligning their efforts and resources countries can enhance regional trade, investment and connectivity. The development of joint infrastructure projects such as ports, transport networks, and energy pipelines can lead to improved economic integration. What's more, a more stable and secure environment resulting from regional cooperation can significantly boost investor confidence and attract foreign direct investment to the region providing additional economic benefits.



In a similar vein, by embracing collaboration, countries can leverage their combined knowledge, resources, and expertise to develop comprehensive strategies and solutions. Regional cooperation fosters trust, enhances collective decision-making and promotes the sharing of best practices. Moreover, it contributes to economic prosperity, capacity building and the establishment of long-term stability.

Regional cooperation allows for the sharing of resources including financial, technical and human resources. Some challenges such as counterterrorism operations or maritime security patrols require significant investments of both financial and human capital.

The evolving security landscape in the Red Sea region is primarily shaped by the imminent danger posed by non-state actors. Dealing with this threat necessitates the establishment of strong collaborative efforts and open lines of communication among the states bordering the Red Sea and their international partners. This cooperation is crucial in order to effectively counter and mitigate the risks associated with these non-state actors.

The presence of non-state actors in the Red Sea region highlights the need for increased coordination and collaboration between the neighboring states. By working together these states can share intelligence information, exchange expertise and develop joint strategies to prevent and respond to potential threats. The exchange of intelligence and information is particularly crucial in identifying the activities, networks, and modus operandi of non-state actors enabling a proactive approach in countering their presence.

Regional cooperation provides an opportunity for countries in the Red Sea region to jointly negotiate and advocate for their shared interests on the international stage. By presenting a united front these countries can amplify their voices and increase their influence in global decision-making processes. This collective advocacy strengthens their position and enables them to better address the root causes of the challenges they face.

Given the shared interest in maintaining security and stability, collaboration between the bordering states and international actors is essential. International partners can provide support in terms of resources,

technology, training and expertise which can significantly enhance the capabilities of the regional states in combating these threats. This collaboration also fosters a sense of shared responsibility and burden-sharing among the international community.

Moreover, close cooperation and dialogue among the states bordering the Red Sea region are essential in developing a comprehensive and coordinated response to the challenges posed by non-state actors. This includes the establishment of joint border control measures, intelligence-sharing mechanisms, maritime security operations and other related aspects. Furthermore, collaboration in countering non-state actors can extend beyond traditional security measures.

It can involve diplomatic efforts to address the political, economic, and social factors that contribute to the emergence and proliferation of these actors. By promoting good governance, economic development, and social inclusion, the states can undermine the appeal of non-state actors and provide alternative pathways for marginalized communities.

Needless to say, regional cooperation fosters a sense of collective ownership and responsibility over the security and stability of the Red Sea region. Rather than tackling challenges individually countries recognize that the interconnected nature of these issues necessitates a joint effort. This shared responsibility encourages a long-term commitment to addressing challenges and contributes to sustainable solutions. It also helps avoid any potential blame game or finger-pointing between countries as they are all actively involved in finding common ground and shared solutions.

A collective effort in countering non-state actors sends a strong message of unity and determination to these groups. It demonstrates that the international community together with the states bordering the Red Sea region stands united against any threats to peace and security. This unified front acts as a deterrent and reduces the appeal and influence of non-state actors.

The threat posed by non-state actors in the Red Sea region necessitates collaborative efforts and dialogue between the states bordering the region and their international partners. Cooperation allows for the exchange of intelligence, joint strategies and enhanced capabilities in countering these threats.

Regional cooperation is imperative to

enhance security interdependence among states bordering the Red Sea as the region has become increasingly complex and unpredictable, Institute of Foreign Affairs Deputy Executive Director Mesafint said, according to information obtained from Ethiopian News Agency.

Speaking at the First Annual Regional Consultative Forum on Red Sea Security Dynamics, Mesafint Tefera said recently the security landscape of the Red Sea region has been enormously reshaped for the last few years.

This is due to various factors such as economic projections, military rivalries, competition over resources, the spread of protest movements and the potential confrontation between regional and international players, he added.

In addition to this, the deputy executive director said that there is also a looming threat from non-state actors including traffickers, pirates, cross-border criminals, extremists, and terrorists making the need for regional dialogue and cooperation crucial.

Considering the complex and unpredictable security situation in the Red Sea region, the Institute of Foreign Affairs organized the consultative forum aimed at raising awareness.

"This regional consultative forum is organized with the objectives of raising awareness about the mounting security threats the region is facing and continues to face in the near future in an assumption to effectively address them."

It also seeks to engage in discussions or regional cooperation platforms that can enhance security interdependence among states bordering the Red Sea, with the view to enhancing the influence of think tanks in shaping regional platforms and promote among them to develop innovative solutions to security challenges.

According to Mesafint, the forum is expected to produce well informed policy makers, research oriented policy and eventually shape public opinion towards peace through research, advocacy, and outreach services.

"By achieving these outcomes we can contribute to the establishment of the Red Sea region forum that is both secure and prosperous, characterized by peace and stability. We have the ability to foster an atmosphere that encourages effective governance, cooperation and inventive ideas by leveraging knowledge and collaboration."

Society

Photo: Ministry of Women and Social Affairs



NYCS: To enhance youths' role in development, peace, security efforts

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

It is an indisputable fact that the young people play an incalculable role in advancing any countries' social and economic development. As they are agents of change and represent the future of that nation, they have indispensable contributions in nation building, sustaining peace and shaping the future of the country. Scholars, in the field of social science, underline that any nation that undermines the potentials that the young people holds, and fails to support and provide the necessary enabling environment to realize their full energy; participate in nation building processes, miss these enormous potential for growth because the youths are the foundation of any society. Their energies, resources, character and orientation define the pace of development and security of a nation. True, a country through the youth creative talents and labor makes giant strides in economic development and sociopolitical attainments.

To this end and increase the involvement of the youths in national development efforts, instill the values of nationalism, patriotism, belongingness and reinforce unity, and help them to gain real experience about the world and ensure that they play constructive role being at the fore front thereby reap the fruits, a number of countries ratified National Youth Citizenship Service (NYCS) or endorsed youth policy in a bid to build strength in youth dreams, hopes and energies.

According to documents, NYCS is practiced in a number of countries including various countries, including in Latin America and African countries like Kenya, Nigeria, as well as Singapore and others.

Last week, The Federation Council of Ethiopia also with one accord approved the National Youth Citizenship Service Bill to be endorsed by the House of Representatives (HoR).

The Federation Council in its 6th Parliamentary term, 3rd year of office 1st regular meeting of 2016 E.C. (2023/24) fiscal year, thoroughly discussed the draft

“I want to urge Ethiopians youth to step out; to face new experiences, gain real-world experience and celebrate humanity at their early ages,” he underlined

law of the National Youth Citizenship Service Bill proposed by the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs to be passed into law.

Women and Social Affairs Minister Ergoge Tesfaye (PhD) explained the importance of enacting the National Youth Citizenship Service and its contribution to the development of national unity and national understanding.

The Minister said that young people have a pivotal role in the development of Ethiopia. Considering this fact, efforts are being made to respond to their interests and increase their benefits.

In this regard, preparing a legal framework which enables the young people- ranging between the ages of 18 and 35- can provide national service with their own free will is needed.

“The National Youth Citizenship Service has the potential to build a common economic and political society, can promote and ensure democracy and accelerate

economic and social development.”

According to her, if the National Youth Citizenship Service Bill is enriched with additional inputs, presented and approved by the House of Representatives (HoF), it will play a major role in nation building.

Having the youth who are equipped with the necessary and adequate training and letting them partake in the National Youth Citizenship Service will not only enable to produce well-educated, disciplined civic-minded youths that have the desired knowledge and skills, but also it also enables them to be patriots and actively participate in their country's affairs, she added.

It has been stated that the National Youth Citizenship Service Bill will be presented and approved by the House of Representatives after the necessary resources are included and will play a major role in the construction of the country's government.

Endeshaw Tassew, Member of the Parliament and the current Chief Administrator of the newly formed Central Ethiopia State, mentioned that the proposed bill, if enacted, can answer the long-overdue appeals and demands of the youth.

Whereas, Ashadli Hassan, Member of the Parliament and Chief Administrator of the Benishangul-Gumuz State, and Awol Jemato (MP) said that upon its implementation, the bill will be of great national importance.

Getahun Abdissa, Deputy Chairman of the Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Relations, Democratic Unity and Constitutional Doctrine at HoF, said that the youths will play their instrumental role by providing community-wide services across the country.

The Ethiopia Herald approached Adane Megist, Citizenship instructor at AYB Academy to know his reflection and perception regarding the benefits of ratifying the NYCS bill.

As to him, enacting NYCS is a commendable step because it fosters civic engagement, promotes national unity and creates a sense of patriotism among young people.

“To ensure productive accomplishment of the program there must be high commitment among stakeholders, abided by the values of rule and regulations of universal human rights.”

According to him, NYCS is very vital because it lets youth provide community services through engaging in wide ranging volunteering activities and contribute to the betterment of their communities.

“In my view, this experience fosters a sense of responsibility towards others and a desire to make a positive impact. It also helps young people develop empathy, compassion, to have understanding about societal challenges in the country and have real-world experiences.”

According to him, as Ethiopia is a multinational country, endorsing NYCS could bring together young people from diverse backgrounds, create opportunities for networking and build social capital. It is clear; through engaging the youth in various areas can support establish networks with peers, mentors, and community leaders, which can be valuable for their future personal and professional endeavors.

“I want to urge Ethiopians youth to step out; to face new experiences, gain real-world experience and celebrate humanity at their early ages,” he underlined.

Moreover, partaking in NYCS could let the young people understand the rights, responsibilities, and privileges associated with citizenship. It also promotes a sense of civic duty and instills a deeper understanding of democratic values and the importance of active participation in society.

He finally said that NYCS is instrumental in bringing together young people from diverse backgrounds, states, cultures and beliefs. The gathering creates an opportunity to learn more from one another. This in turn promotes social cohesion and national unity creating a sense of shared identity and common purpose, breaking down barriers and bridging divides among the various ethnic groups.

The National Youth Citizenship Service Proclamation of Ethiopia contains five main parts, it was learnt.

Planet Earth

UNESCO

Inscribes Gedeo Cultural Landscape promotes indigenous knowledge for ecosystem and land protection

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

UNESCO inscribes various sites, customs, and practices to its World Heritage List. Sites that are considered to have exceptional universal importance are included in this list of cultural and natural heritage sites. A site's inclusion on the list recognizes its importance and attempts to safeguard and preserve it for future generations.

The Great Wall of China, the Egyptian Pyramids, and the Taj Mahal are just a few examples of famous sites that have been inscribed. Other natural wonders on the list include the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania and the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. In addition, UNESCO recognizes and preserves intangible cultural heritage components including traditional music, dance, and handicraft.

The World Heritage Committee of UNESCO conducts a thorough review as part of the inscription process. Member states submit nominations for inscription, which are rigorously evaluated to determine their exceptional universal worth. When making decisions, the committee considers elements including historical importance, architectural or natural attractiveness, and cultural significance.

Once a site is listed on the World Heritage List, the World Heritage Convention's worldwide assistance and protection are then available to it. This includes financial support, technical know-how, and the development of community capacity for conservation projects. The promotion of inscribed sites as tourist hotspots aids in both the economic growth of such locations and the maintenance of environmentally responsible tourism.

Taking these facts into consideration, UNESCO has inscribed many tangible and intangible heritage sites in Ethiopia. The Rock-Hewn Churches of Lalibela are among the most noteworthy. These 11 medieval monolithic churches were cut out of solid rock in the 12th century and are considered one of the world's most astonishing architectural wonders.

The Simien National Park: Located in northern Ethiopia, this national park is recognized for its stunning landscapes, which include the Rocky Mountains, deep valleys, and abrupt precipices. It is home to a number of endemic animals, including the Ethiopian wolf and the Walia ibex.

The Konso Cultural Landscape is distinguished by terraced fields, stone-walled communities, and grave markers known as waka. For nearly 400 years, the Konso people have practiced sustainable agriculture and land management approaches.



In Gondar, there is a castle called Fasil. During the 17th and 18th centuries, Ethiopian rulers lived in this stronghold city. It is noted for its distinct architectural style, which incorporates inspirations from several cultures such as Axumite, Arabian, Indian, and European.

The Meskel celebration: This religious celebration honors Queen Helena's finding of the True Cross in the fourth century. It consists of a massive bonfire being lit, religious processions, and songs and dance performances. These are just a few of the tangible and intangible cultural heritages recognized by UNESCO in Ethiopia.

Currently, UNESCO has registered the Gedeo Cultural Landscape in the Gedeo zone in South Ethiopia as a world heritage site. The registration of Gedeo Cultural Landscape was declared at the 45th extended session of the World Heritage Committee, which is now taking place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from September 10 to September 25, 2023, in the presence of Ethiopia's Minister of Tourism delegations. The Gedeo Cultural Landscapes brings Ethiopia's total number of UNESCO-inscribed cultural and natural heritages to ten, making it Africa's 100th.

Ethiopian Ministry of Tourism Minister Ambassador Nasise Chale said that the Gedeo people are engaged in multilayer cultivation of huge trees, grains, and Yirgacheffe coffee, which is well renowned for its exceptional flavor.

The Gedeo people, according to the minister, are an example of indigenous peoples for their expertise on how to preserve the ecosystem and land. Noting that the Gedeo cultural landscape is one of the fantastic tourism attraction resources of the South Ethiopia region, she claimed that one of the elements that make the Gedeo cultural landscape are the ancient megalithic stelae monuments, which are thought to be the oldest in East Africa.

Indeed, the area is home to approximately 6,000 megalithic stelae with fascinating imagery for researchers and tourists from abroad and locally. The forest, which has been preserved for many years, is part of the legacy. The community there engages in multilayer agriculture, which further distinguishes the location. The minister acknowledged that Gedeo's Cultural Landscape legacy demonstrates how people can coexist with nature by housing

numerous birds, animals, and crops in addition to displaying how the community interacts and lives.

Ethiopian Heritages Protection Authority Director General Abebaw Ayalew for his part said that in cooperation with the community, the Ethiopian government has been carrying out a number of initiatives aimed at conserving the heritage.

Members of the UNESCO heritages committee emphasized that the inscription of the Gedeo Cultural landscape by UNESCO will allow the heritage to get long-term protection and that the registration will also help it to be a popular tourist destination.

Twelve years after Konso was added to the list of the world's cultural and natural heritage sites, UNESCO officially recognized the Gedeo Cultural Landscape. On the rocky escarpments of the Ethiopian highlands, it is situated along the Main Ethiopian Rift's eastern margin. Additionally, it is a region of agroforestry, using layered agriculture with enormous trees protecting indigenous enset, the principal food crop, under which grow coffee and other plants.

According to UNESCO, the Gedeo people, whose traditional knowledge supports local forest management, represent a significant portion of the area's population. Along the mountain ridges are dense clusters of megalithic monuments, which the Gedeo learned to revere and which their elders looked after. Sacred forests inside the farmed mountain slopes have historically been used by local communities for ceremonies linked with the Gedeo religion.

Ethiopia benefits in a number of ways from the inscription of tangible and intangible cultural heritages by UNESCO. It benefits the nation economically, fosters internal and external cooperation for the joint development of tourism attractions, and aids in cultural preservation and conservation.

Furthermore, UNESCO's recognition attracts tourists from around the world who are interested in experiencing and learning about the Gedeo Cultural Landscape heritage. This boosts the local economy through increased tourism revenue, job creation, and the development of supporting industries.

It also promotes the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and best practices for maintaining and developing cultural variety, as well as building mutual understanding and tolerance. In general, UNESCO's inscription of Ethiopian tangible and intangible cultural heritages brings numerous benefits that contribute to the preservation, promotion, and appreciation of these valuable aspects of Ethiopian culture in particular, and the Gedeo Cultural Landscape in general which is imperative for future generations.