



# The Ethiopian Herald

Vol LXXX No 020 4 OCTOBER 2023 - MESKEREM 23, 2016

Wednesday

Price Birr 10.00



## Ethiopia, EU

### launch 650 mln Euro multi-annual indicative program

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

**ADDIS ABABA** – Ethiopia and European Union (EU) commenced 650 million Euro cooperation programs towards restructuring Ethiopia's peace building, accelerating reconstruction and green transition.

During the launching ceremony, Ethiopia's Finance Minister Ahmed Shide yesterday remarked that this partnership framework,

the Multi Annual Indicative program (MIP) comes at the juncture as the country is facing multiple challenges and the government of Ethiopia stands committed to implementing the program jointly.

He further stated that this 650 million Euro envelope is a scaled up support which aligns with Ethiopia's development aspirations and a platform that spurs the two sides' strategic alliance.

He said: "Our partnership has benefitted from 40 years of cooperation in socio-economic development with the aim of improving Ethiopian livelihoods. Besides, it signifies the normalization of our development partnership."

"This partnership prioritizes green deal, human development and governance and

*See Ethiopia, EU..page 3*

## IGAD pitches for Horn of Africa's borderlands roadmap

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA**- Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) stated that developing the Horn of Africa (HoA) borderlands roadmap is instrumental towards making prosperous and stable region and beyond.

The 18th Horn of Africa Initiative Ministerial meeting was held yesterday in the Addis Ababa focusing on borderlands and private sector investments in Ethiopia as European Union and nations supporting the process are keen to address common global challenges.

Speaking at the meeting, IGAD Executive Secretary Workneh Gebeyehu (PhD) stated that the roadmap is of paramount importance in accelerating development of the HoA and in buttressing a common vision and strategy for the development of the

*See IGAD pitches..page 3*

## Scholars weigh Abbay Dam's regional integration roles

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA** - The installation of Abbay Dam's five turbines gives impetus to country's economy and the region apart from flickering hope for millions of Ethiopians who do not have access to electricity, said water resource researchers.

*See Scholars weigh...page 3*

## Upcoming Nat'l Dialogue promises to be important milestone: Premier

**ADDIS ABABA (ENA)** - Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) said the upcoming National Dialogue promises to be an important milestone in the country's collective efforts to bring about understanding on contested issues.

The National Dialogue Commission presented a status report to the Prime Minister and high level government officials yesterday.

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**Exploring the belly of the earth for the satisfying return**

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# News



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MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

## Ethiopia strongly condemns terrorist attack on Türkiye Interior Ministry

BY STAFF REOPRTER

**ADDIS ABABA** - The Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) has strongly condemned the terrorist attack on the Türkiye Interior Ministry in Ankara.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to the victims and their bereaved families during this difficult time," the Ministry said in a statement yesterday.

"There is no justification for such senseless act of violence. Terrorism has no place in our society, and we stand united in condemning these atrocious acts," it added.

MoFA has also expressed solidarity with the People and Government of Türkiye.

It is to be recalled that two terrorists carried out bomb attack on Sunday in front of the General Directorate of Security in the city, according to Anadolu.

## RDF vital to accelerate digital transformation, achieve SDGs: State Minister

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDIS ABABA** - International Telecommunication Union's (ITU)'s Regional Development Forum (RDF) is crucial in accelerating digital transformation and achieving sustainable development goals in Africa.

Innovation and Technology National ICT and Digital Economy Sector State Minister Huria Ali, made the above remark while addressing the fifth ITU Regional Development Forum for Africa (RDF-AFR) which is being hosted by Ethiopia from 3 to 5 October, 2023.

She mentioned that the event which is held under the theme: 'Digital Transformation for Sustainable and Equitable Digital Future in Africa,' brings together important stakeholders across the region to discuss and collaborate on ways to accelerate digital transformation and achieve the sustainable development goal.

Digital technologies can play a vital role in helping to overcome global challenges such as climate change and build a more sustainable and equitable future for all.

"Africa is a young and dynamic continent with a rapid growing population. We have a unique opportunity to leapfrog traditional development process and inverse digital technologies to create a better future for our people. However, number of challenges, for instance, only 43% has access to internet."

Hence, she stressed the need to invest in infrastructure and skill development to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate on digital economy as well as make sure that digital technologies are used in a way that is sustainable and equitable, she said.

She also indicated that priority should be



Photo: Eyob Teferi

given to protecting people's privacy and security and ensure digital benefits are shared widely across the continent.

Similarly, she highlighted that Ethiopia is committed to digital transformation and has made significant progress in recent years including enacting digital transformation strategy, liberalizing telecom sector, launching digital ID system and digital payment and promoting growth of e-commerce, among others.

"Despite the efforts put, there is much to be done in the sector. Thus, we are committed to work with our partners across Africa and the world to achieve a sustainable and equitable digital future for all," she stressed.

Moreover, the State Minister called up on government, CSOs and other concerned bodies together to invest in infrastructure, and skill development to ensure that everyone has that access to Internet and digital technologies. Promote the development and use of innovation digital solutions to address Africa's challenges in areas such as

healthcare, education, agriculture and climate change.

ITU Director Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava mentioned that the regional development forum is one of the key forums that ITU launch in which the idea is bringing all like-minded people together to brainstorm, exchange ideas but most importantly, he underlined that this year's forum is unique in the sense that they are engaging in matchmaking exercise.

Digital is now the center and catalyst for attainment of SDGs. Africa need to use the existing tools that it has. Artificial intelligence, for instance, is an enabler despite the challenges. We also have big data that can contribute to data analysis of better public policy decision making, he added.

He further emphasized that the need to double effort to make sure that people in the African continent to have equal access to digital transformation and to contribute to Africa's strategic agenda by tapping into its potentials.

## Authority aspires sharp rise in coffee export earnings

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

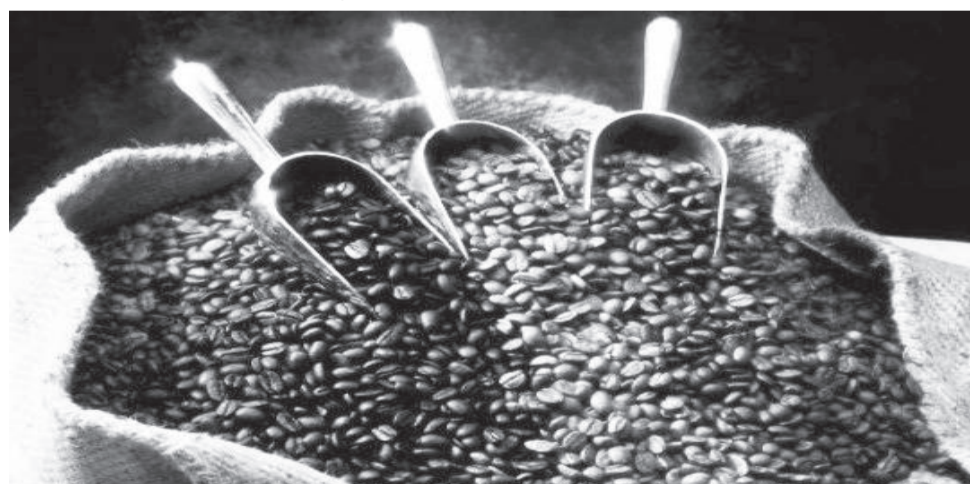
**ADDIS ABABA** - The Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority disclosed that promotional and capacity building activities are well underway to improve quality coffee production and increase export revenue.

Approached by the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Authority Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Mohammed Shemsu stated that the nation has put emphasis on promotional activities in business-to-business and business-to-government conventions in the global arena.

Accordingly, he said, the authority is striving to utilize crucial platforms such as Cup of Excellence, Women in Coffee Conventions, African Fine Coffee Association to promote Ethiopia's coffee product to the global market.

"Our coffee products reach close to 70 countries of potential buyers in the condition of variability," he noted.

The CEO said, "Currently, our products with varieties of flavors are penetrating to East



Asian, Arabian countries of which China and Korea are at the forefront. Similarly, we are streamlining an online market platform with some specialty coffees in the global market."

The authority also engaged in organizing various events since renewing and rebranding coffee species are the major focus areas of the sector, he indicated.

Besides, it has graduated students taking short and long term trainings in two rounds in its center which is the first in East Africa for being equipped with state-of-the-art

technologies of brewing and roasting, and sensory laboratories among other facilities, he mentioned.

The center has been nurturing professionals equipped with international knowledge and skills in post-harvest activities such as coffee cupping, grading, roasting, grinding, brewing, and packaging and marketing, according to Mohammed.

Moreover, universities situated in coffee growing areas are delivering trainings with the aim of supporting the private sector and

creating decent jobs, he stated.

"We are working to expand coffee export centers thereby launching processing and inspection centers dawn to Jimma and Hawassa cities in a bid to facilitate a direct export of the commodity," he remarked.

The expansion of coffee inspection and export terminals in the country halts the occurrence of inconveniences during transportation and transaction periods, he added.

Citing that coffee takes the highest shares in the agriculture sector, the CEO called on the government and other stakeholders to practice and ensure healthy market competition by tackling contraband and any illegal trading.

Mohammed point out that multifaceted initiatives are being implemented to enhance coffee production through expanding cluster and irrigation farming by taking lesson Honduras and Brazil.

The authority has been announced that efforts are well underway to generate over 1.7 billion USD from 350,000 tons of coffee export this Ethiopian fiscal year.

# News

## Irreechaa promoting untapped Oromo culture: *Bureau*

### • Officially opens bazaar, exhibition

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA** – Irreechaa, Thanks giving festival among Oromo people would further enhance activities to promote untapped Oromo culture in a better way, said Oromia Culture and Tourism Bureau.

Irreechaa 2023 Bazaar and Exhibition officially opened yesterday in Oromo Cultural Center.

Speaking at the occasion, Oromia Culture and Tourism Bureau Head Hussein Feyisso said that Irreechaa festival is celebrated under the values of Geda system without religion and other differences and limitations among the Oromo people. They celebrate it to ensure peace, unity, reconciliation and facilitate development.

The Irreechaa Bazaar and Exhibition have high share in promoting Oromo culture and costumes. So far, various preparations have been well underway to celebrate Irreechaa 2023 festival colorfully and peacefully this coming Saturday, he said.



Furthermore, a public forum and carnival would be held in Addis in the coming days engaging scholars, elites, and other segments of the people. He called on the public to play a crucial role in the peaceful celebration of the festival.

Hussein indicated that the Irreechaa festival is celebrated twice a year in autumn and spring.

For his part, Abdulhakim Mulu, Social Cluster Coordination Head with the rank of Deputy Chief Administrator of the state said that the

festival has a special contribution to promote state tourism resources, strengthen unity, share culture and others. Specifically, the state has been performing various activities to promote tourism resources.

“Irreechaa celebration reflects peace, unity, reconciliation, brotherhood and thanksgiving. This and the next generation should play its role in magnifying its culture and strengthening as well as utilizing its culture for economic values.”

## IGAD pitches for...

region.

“The development of the borderland areas is not merely a matter of local consent as it is critical for coming up with prosperity, stability and advancement of the entire region and beyond. Not only is this trend a testimony for our commitment to multilateral but it is also a button significant for marginalized communities,” he noted.

“Ensuring peace in borderland is vital for smoothing the day to day activities and commitment to develop a roadmap as the

area is marking a bilateral step towards the realization of more inclusive and prosperous future.”

As to him, as borderland is the transit and interaction of trade in the HoA, the shared history of socio cultural affiliation and common natural resources has to be a central idea for the future of political, social and economic line of the region.

“To achieve the objective of outline roadmap, we must work in partnership targeting at expanding infrastructure improvement

towards promoting sustainable livelihood, peace and collective ambition for regional borderlands development. The partnership is also of instrumental in tribal regional integration and ensuring what is long aspired,” he opined.

On the occasion, European Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen and Minister of Finance Ahmed Shide also discussed the issues of macroeconomic, ongoing reforms and the reconstruction process in Ethiopia.

## Upcoming Nat'l Dialogue...

The session included an update on the works undertaken by the National Dialogue Commission thus far.

Institution building, stakeholder's engagement, crafting a dialogue process, identifying dialogue participants as well as pending tasks and challenges requiring assistance for a successful dialogue process are among the works so far undertaken.

During the occasion, Prime Minister Abiy said the upcoming National Dialogue

promises to be an important milestone in our collective efforts to bring about understanding on contested issues.

The Commission Chairperson Prof. Mesfin Araya stated that the commission has so far identified participants of the dialogue in five states and two city administrations noting that similar activities will further be strengthened.

The National Dialogue Commission with eleven members came into effect since

February 23, 2022 with the main objective of facilitating consultations among various segments of the society on fundamental issues of the country by identifying the root causes of existing differences through dialogue.

It is also aimed at laying strong social and political foundations on the basis of which the current problems of the country will be solved in a sustainable manner and ensure lasting peace.

## Ethiopia, EU launch 650 mln Euro ...

peace building aligning with nation's development plans including the second home-grown agenda and our recovery and reconstruction framework as well,” the minister noted.

Moreover, he emphasized that: “We are eyeing to enhanced resource mobilization commensurate with the nation's needs towards peace consolidation, macro-economic stability and other segments of the development.”

European Commissioner for International

Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen on her part said that the signing of Pretoria Cession of Hostilities Agreement has put the country on the road to peace and reconstruction.

The commissioner indicated that the stabilization in Tigray is underway; however, the situation remains complex and fragile including in several other regions in the country.

She said: “We share the difficulties the Ethiopian government is facing and consolidating peace and civic cohesion in

Ethiopia.”

Amid a challenging economic situation and recurrent natural disasters and wide spread food insecurity and recurrent natural disasters, as partners of Ethiopia, we are committed to support this efforts.

Therefore, it is high time to normalize relations and rebuild a mutual reinforcing partnership with Ethiopia.

This launched partnership is a concert first step towards normalization and

## Scholars weigh...

In an interview with Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), the hydro-politics researcher, who is also the member of Abbay Dam negotiating team, Yacob Arsano (PhD) said that the five turbines that are being installed at the Abbay Dam have immense benefit to boost power supply locally and to the international market.

The already operating two turbines are also supporting the national grid to satisfy a large number of citizens who are in dire need of electricity, he added.

The national effort to operate seven turbines this fiscal year is an inspiring move to deal with power dearth in rural areas and increase energy supply to industries, he noted.

In addition, it also boosts the Ethiopia's capacity to export a relatively high amount of energy to neighboring countries, according to Yacob.

“Djibouti and Sudan demand more power from Ethiopia. Kenya, Somalia and South Sudan are also other countries that are approving their demand to import electricity. One of the significance of the construction of the dam is for this purpose, he said adding that “I think, the operation of the five turbines will benefit all these countries as well,” he indicated.

Water Resource Researcher at Addis Ababa University, Prof. Admasu Gebeyehu on his part expressed that the operation of the five turbines is almost equivalent to one-third of the full operation of the dam.

He believed that the turbines installation and operation is a great move as it helps to address power shortage in the manufacturing sector.

Prof. Admasu considers this progress as a signal that shows the project doesn't cause a significant harm in a way that has been complained by lower riparian countries.

A report issued by Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP) indicates that the national power generation capacity reached 5,200 MW which is far less than the demand of millions of Ethiopians.

To meet the demand, the government has been working with a ten-year plan to develop hydro, wind and geothermal power generating plants while realizing the full operationalization of Abbay dam is also one of major plans, according to EEP.

renews EU's commitment to work with its member states to contribute both post conflict reconstruction and macro-economic recovery.

Ethiopia is currently engaged in peace process, transitional justice and reform. And this multi annual indicative program for 2024- 2027 reaffirms the EU's readiness to mobilize resources for Ethiopia's stability, both post conflict reconstruction and macro-economic recovery.

# Opinion

## Green Legacy Initiative's role in improving livelihood of the people

BY GETACHEW MINAS

It is estimated that Africa's forests and woodlands cover about a quarter of the overall land area of the continent. Hundreds of millions of people in the continent rely on forests for their survival. These resources also provide food, energy, and income. They are a safety-net during hard times (FAO). Forests and forest resources play a major role in the livelihood of the people in the developing countries, including Ethiopia.

Moreover, studies reveal that forests and forest-based systems serve in maintaining the source of revenue of the people. Forests also protect the environment, sources of water supply, and maintain biodiversity. Moreover, forests provide cultural benefits to the local people. Nevertheless, deforestation and forest degradation have become serious problems in many African countries. Africa had the highest net loss of forest area in 2010–2020, with a loss of 3.94 million hectares per year (FAO and UNEP, 2020). However, records show that the net loss of forest area has decreased substantially due to the implementation of forestry programs in Africa, including Ethiopia.

Ethiopia's forest coverage has been around forty percent of its total land area at the beginning of 20th century and it declined to three percent towards the end of the century. In recent years, the country has been able to increase its forest cover to about sixteen percent according to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MEFCC, 2018). Studies show that the net deforestation rate is, on average, around 72,000 ha per annum. This makes rehabilitation of degraded lands through reforestation activities crucial to the country.

The main causes of deforestation and forest degradation in Ethiopia are conversion of land for agriculture activities. One of the causes for this is the rapid growth rate of population. The rural population needs more land for its survival. Both rural and urban population use fuel wood and charcoal that require cutting of trees. Moreover, the construction sector demands timber for building residential houses, factories and other facilities. Forest degradation is also caused by grazing and wild fire.

Frequent changes and restructuring of institutions constitute the challenges in the agricultural/forestry sector. Institutional changes imply revision of goals, objectives, strategies, programs, projects and activities in the sector or subsector. These changes demand new skills and technologies that call for skilled manpower to conduct various activities. In some cases, the application of new technologies requires studies on the relevance of the technology. Recognizing the problem of the forest sector, the Ethiopian government has put tremendous efforts to reverse the situation and enhance

the role of forests in the social, economic, and environment of the country.

The forest sector goals, objectives, policies and strategies are designed to identify the factors responsible for forest degradation and rectify it. In this regard, the National Forest Sector Development Program shows that the various factors responsible for the degradation need to be addressed and reverse the ecological challenges. As part of these efforts, the Green Legacy Initiative (GLI) was launched by the PM of Ethiopia in May 2019. It has the aim of tackling deforestation and climate change by planting trees. The Green Legacy Initiative planted over 20 billion seedlings by 2022. The Ethiopian government distributed about one billion seedlings to the neighboring countries of Djibouti and South Sudan as part of the regional effort to fight climate change.

The GLI provides several opportunities that mitigate the impacts of climate change. It protects ecosystems that contribute to environmental sustainability. The GLI fulfills its commitment related to the climate of Ethiopia by achieving the goals of environmental protection and sustainability. However, this commitment requires a close periodic monitoring and evaluation on a planned manner. This periodic follow up helps to identify the challenges and successes that would help achieve the objectives set by the GLI.

The other environmental factor is improving crop and livestock production practices for enhancing food security and farmers' income. Another major factor is expanding electricity generation from renewable sources of energy for domestic and regional markets. The application of electricity in rural households reduces deforestation for fuel wood and charcoal production. Also, the introduction of modern and energy-efficient technologies in transport, industrial sectors, and buildings reduces forest degradation in Ethiopia.

Studies reveal that forests play a significant role in the livelihood of the people. They serve as a buffer in maintaining livelihoods, provide environmental protection and provide social or cultural benefits to the people. However, the contribution of forests to the economy of the country is estimated to be very low. Though several direct and indirect drivers of deforestation and forest degradation have been identified, there has not been significant progress in reversing the situation.

Restoring degraded lands increases the forest cover and reduces the negative effect of climate change. Reversing this trend requires studies of forestry development in Ethiopia. These studies need to assess efforts and achievements made by the government. There is also a need to assess the socioeconomic impacts of forestry programs and projects implemented in the

recent past. Real success is measured by the level of participation and commitment of the local communities at all levels.

The role of communities in green development is of the essence. It helps in the assessment of the green growth in the regions of the country thereby identifying challenges of implementation and remedial actions. It also helps in identifying future opportunities in developing and managing natural resources of Ethiopia. It is useful to identify the results of performance during planting periods and check if they are achieved beyond the target. The assessment may show if there are regional and sub-regional variations in terms of program implementation. It may also show which zones have better performance in tree plantation and maintenance. These zones may have relatively better facility, including resources and expertise to raise and plant seedlings. In addition, the suitability of agro-climatic zone contributes to the success of the GLI in the regions.

The political instability and the conflict that occurred in the different parts of the country may negatively affect the performance of tree plantation program. This may be true in the northern part of the country. The situation in these regions would make it difficult to mobilize the local people and facilitate the overall coordination of the tree planting programs. A study has found out that the local communities are well aware of the political and socioeconomic and environmental impacts on forestry.

On the other hand, it is important to capitalize on the benefits of trees while promoting tree planting campaign to mobilize large number of people. The forecast of future results shows that the number of trees owned by farm households will have socioeconomic impacts. This is based on the education, family size, land size, number of livestock owned, and access to infrastructure. It is also affected by distance to markets and roads, social capital, membership in agricultural producer group, and tenure security.

Success cannot be achieved if tree planting on farmers' plots are not supported by local agricultural agencies. It is absolutely necessary to encourage farmers to plant and own trees. Consequently, there is a need to remove barriers that negatively affect tree planting culture and inculcate positive attitude at household levels.

Similarly, several factors that affect the number of trees/seedlings have to be identified using agricultural techniques. These factors include age, sex, family size, education, land size and access to infrastructure. Also, other factors include distance to the nearest main road and markets. All these contribute to the number of seedlings to be prepared and planted.

The willingness of rural households to

maintain tree planting program determines the success of the community. Studies suggest that rural households place a certain amount of money or resources to keep the GLI program for the coming years. In this regard, it is good to identify those households in the community that are more capable of supporting the tree planting program.

The specific socioeconomic and livelihood condition of the local community has to be considered during the initial stage of the tree planting period. The various groups of the society such as the youth and elderly, male and female, literate and illiterate, and others are all involved during the past tree planting campaigns. Studies have found that the role of certain facilities, schools, sports and other public facilities have limited contributions to plant, manage and maintain trees. They need to be properly planned and implemented by the relevant government organization.

Successful implementation of the GLI significantly contributes to the achievement of the green growth target of the country. The people largely depend on forests for fire wood, medicinal plants, wild coffee, honey, spices, etc. Also, forests store carbon dioxide and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Studies indicate that if resources are available and all the necessary post-planting activities are conducted properly, then the contributions of the plantation in mitigating the effect of climate change will be significant.

It is useful to recognize the potential of trees in urban areas in absorbing carbon from the atmosphere. In line with this, it is necessary to work on developing clear rules and guidelines. Researchers have identified several implementation challenges that need to be addressed to enhance the contribution of the GLI to the economic, social and environmental goals of the country.

Various elements including institutional, technical and biological factors do influence the success of reforestation projects. However, the policy and institutional issues include land use policy and plan, tenure insecurity, lack of political stability in some regions, challenges related to forest implementation guidelines, and poor institutional arrangements. The socioeconomic negative impacts include lack of sufficient budget, poor provision of nursery equipment and materials, lack of adequate transport, lack of appropriate incentive mechanisms, and markets. It is, therefore, advisable that the responsible agency should take measures to mitigate probable negative impacts on GLI.

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

# Editorial

## Heighten relations to advance international cooperation

The long standing relations between Ethiopia and the European Union (EU) are improving from time to time.

The Union has been working with Ethiopia on multi-faceted areas such as social and economic development, trade and investment, human rights, democracy and rule of law, regional peace and security matters, countering terrorism and violent radicalism as well as climate change.

The Union has also been backing the efforts exerted by the government of Ethiopia financially and technically in order to ensure lasting peace and stability across the country.

Just to mention, three months ago – in July, 2023- the Union joining hands with its member States, granted 7 million Euros- that is equivalent to 385 million Birr - to support the activities carried out by the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) to bring lasting peace and reconciliation to Ethiopia.

The Union has continued its strategic engagement with Ethiopia and is working closely with the government bearing in mind the commitment that the government has shown to maintain peace and stability across the country, the determination to implement the peace agreement signed in Pretoria through national dialogue and transitional justice.

And currently the two parties are undertaking a number of activities to heighten the level of partnership and step their cooperation forward.

Consequently, merely in the current year, 2023, the EU has allocated a total of 82.5 million Euros to humanitarian projects to support conflict- and drought-affected populations.

In her recent discussion with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Demeke Mekonnen, on the sidelines of the 78th the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), EU Commissioner for International Partnership, Jutta Urpilainen also expressed Union's appreciation on Ethiopia's peace efforts, its commitment and the progress that has been witnessed so far in consolidating peace in Ethiopia.

She also reaffirmed the EU's commitment to further strengthening its diplomatic relations with Ethiopia. "As a strategic partner, the European Union attaches special value to its cooperation with Ethiopia and appreciates the huge political commitment of the Ethiopian government," she reiterated.

And as part of this cooperation and partnership, the EU yesterday launched a 650 million Euros Multi-Annual Indicative Program that will be used to assist the people of Ethiopia and the efforts made to consolidate peace. The priorities of the 650 million Euros Multi-Annual Indicative Program, 2024-2027 for Ethiopia, as it was stated, are green growth, inclusive human development, governance and peace building.

In actual fact, Ethiopia is one of the EU's important strategic partners on the African continent with strong partnership; and the EU is a strategic development partner for Ethiopia through backing its overall peace and development endeavors.

As Ethiopia is striving to beat its social, economic, peace and security challenges, the longstanding relations with the EU and other development partners should be further strengthened in all areas; be it financially and technically.

# Opinion

## GERD should be viewed beyond mere power plant

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

GERD is indeed a living symbol for fraternity, mutual cooperation in development among African countries and a tool for promoting peace in the Horn of Africa. This dam has nothing to do with politics is not a diplomatic bandwagon for any level of confrontation with Egypt and Sudan.

The current political nihilism that is being fanned on Ethiopia forgets the fact that these countries are here to live together as neighbors and it would be unfair to transmit a spirit of animosity to the current and future generation of the three countries.

Hence, Egypt and Sudan should work hard to promoting GERD as a vital instrument to promoting peace, cooperation and economic development as the project aims at providing benefits not only for Ethiopia but also to other countries in the region including Egypt and Sudan. In order to settle the ongoing dispute as early as possible.

Second, the potential for peace cannot be seen in isolation from the growing drivers for economic cooperation in the region, which will raise the bar to finding common interests and priorities. In particular, the centrality of Ethiopia to the region cannot be understated - in both physical and metaphorical terms. Stability in the region is increasingly a primordial concern for Ethiopia, due to the danger of overflows into Ethiopia near Somalia and South Sudan, but also in relation to its investments in the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), energy agreements and its expanding railway networks to overcome its landlocked status. Ethiopia has already begun supplying neighboring countries with energy from hydroelectric power, gaining the moniker the 'water tower of East Africa' (Bruce Byiers and Sophie Desmidt: 2016).

Finally, the author takes GERD as a conveyor belt of knowledge and technology transfer. What does this actually mean?

Third, technology transfer, also called transfer of technology, is the process of transferring technology from the person or organization that owns or holds it to another person or organization, in an attempt to transform inventions and scientific outcomes into new products and services that benefit society.

It is worth noting that those who were directly involved in the process of building GERD over the last 12 years have gained two sets of advantages. The first is the fact that they are making history along the people and government of Ethiopia. Second, they have been gaining unfathomable level of practical knowledge that no university across the world can provide. On the other hand, they have continued to access the outputs of modern technology in hydro engineering. They are accumulating a huge amount of knowledge that can be readily

be replicated to other similar projects in Ethiopia and the Africa region.

Along with the transfer of technology and knowledge, GERD is expected to be a learning spot for future hydrology and engineering students and researcher from universities in the country and from abroad. It will be a center for the exchange of knowledge and knowhow that fresh graduates will badly need. They will have the opportunity to blend their theoretical knowledge with practical and empirical knowledge.

Fourth, in terms of social services, the lake to be created by GERD will be an international center for rowing sports and competitions as well as surfing games introducing new forms of sports that will bring together all sportspersons across the world. This will help to promote peace not only among the sportspersons but also among the peoples of the world they will represent. It will be an excellent opportunity to lure thousands of tourists into the country each year. The establishment of other recreational facilities within ultra-modern hotels to be built on the sides of the lake and on the islands created on the lake will help the hospitality industry to make more investments in the sector.

This would mean that the dam will be one of the epicenters of national integrated eco-tourism projects the country is currently actively developing.

GERD will be a huge source of employment for the youth in Benishangul Gumuz and the rest of Ethiopia. As more investments are conducted in the area, unemployed youth will have ample opportunities to generate income instead of joining anti-peace forces in the region who are engaged in human and infrastructural destruction in the name of liberation fronts.

Fifth, GERD is expected to reduce political tensions among the countries of the Nile basin. This is important because stability and peace in the region is a major precondition for each country and the entire region at large. The dam will cause the prevalence of positively enforced locus of peace which will help to transform the status of peaceful diplomacy among the nations of the region. In a region ridden by the proliferation of terrorist organizations and multiple sets of conspiracies by the western powers, prevalence of peace is a question of the maintenance of the livelihood of the peoples of the region.

GERD would finally help to boost economic and cultural pan Africanism as it falls within the major strategies of Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063. It is one single sign for the promotion of the economic and political independence of Africa and would set an example for the rest of the less developed countries.

Ethiopia is also developing other hydroelectric power sources one of which is the Koisha Hydroelectric Dam in the southern part of the country.

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## The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays  
By The Ethiopian Press Agency

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Advertisement and Dist.

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The Ethiopian Herald

# Business & Economy

## Exploring the belly of the earth for the satisfying return

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

Ethiopia is in the early stages of developing its lithium resources, and the full commercial production and contribution of lithium mining to the country's economy may not have been fully realized yet. However, if Ethiopia successfully develops its lithium resources, it has the potential to experience several contributions to its economy.

Lithium is a crucial element used in the production of batteries for various industries, including electric vehicles, renewable energy storage systems, and portable electronic devices. As global demand for lithium-ion batteries continues to rise, countries with significant lithium reserves have the potential to benefit economically from lithium mining and production.

If Ethiopia successfully develops its lithium resources, it could potentially experience several contributions.

Lithium mining can generate export revenues for a country by selling raw lithium or lithium compounds to other companies. Ethiopia could earn foreign currency through the export of lithium, contributing to its overall economic growth.

The establishment of lithium mines requires a workforce for exploration, extraction, processing, and other related activities. This can create employment opportunities for the local population, leading to income generation and poverty reduction.

Developing lithium mining operations may require the construction of infrastructure such as roads, power supply systems, and processing facilities. This infrastructure development can have positive effects on the local economy and contribute to overall regional development.

Lithium mining and processing operations often involve the use of advanced technologies and methods. This can lead to knowledge transfer, skills development, and the adoption of advanced technologies in the host country, fostering technological progress and innovation.

It's important to note that the successful development of lithium mining depends on various factors, including geological feasibility, infrastructure development, environmental considerations, and regulatory frameworks. Additionally, the long-term benefits for a country's economy may vary depending on global lithium demand, market prices, and competition from other lithium-producing countries.

Kenticha Mining Factory, an 80 billion Birr project, is currently importing different modes of machinery to commence trial production this year, according to the company's general manager, Bruce Tiny. He stated that the firm has been making significant efforts to import various machineries to facilitate and commence lithium production in Ethiopia. The project is expected to have a significant impact on attracting foreign investors and contributing to the nation's economic development.

As part of its social responsibility, the company engages in various interventions such as skills transfer and the development of schools, health centers, and infrastructure for the surrounding communities. The major shareholder of the company, Sheik Ali Hussien, mentioned that the firm is striving to



First large-scale lithium mine in Ethiopia

become the first lithium mine producer from East Africa and has imported state-of-the-art lithium-producing machinery worth over 1.9 billion Birr. The company processes lithium products, adds value, and supplies the output to the international market.

It's worth noting that Ethiopia has significant mining potentials and a diverse range of mineral resources that hold economic value. The country is known for its deposits of gold, tantalum, platinum, potash, natural gas, and various industrial minerals. Additionally, Ethiopia has been exploring its potential for mining rare earth elements, including lithium.

The mining sector in Ethiopia has been experiencing growth and attracting investment in recent years. The government has taken steps to encourage mining activities, such as implementing favorable mining laws, offering incentives to investors, and establishing institutions to regulate and promote the sector.

Mining resources, particularly precious metals like gold, can contribute significantly to export earnings. Ethiopia's gold exports have been increasing, and the country has the potential to further develop its gold mining industry.

Mining operations require a workforce across various stages, from exploration to extraction and processing. The sector can create job opportunities and provide income for workers, thereby reducing unemployment and poverty.

Mining activities often necessitate the development of infrastructure such as roads, railways, power supply systems, and ports. This infrastructure development can have a positive impact on the overall economy, improving connectivity and facilitating trade.

The mining sector can attract foreign investment, which brings capital, expertise, and advanced technologies. This can lead to knowledge transfer, skill development, and the adoption of modern mining techniques and practices.

The effort to develop the mining sector can contribute to economic diversification, reducing dependence on traditional sectors, and opening up new avenues for growth and development.

However, it's important to note that realizing the full economic potential of Ethiopia's mining resources requires addressing various challenges. These challenges include infrastructure limitations, regulatory

frameworks, environmental concerns, social impact assessments, and the need for skilled labor and technical expertise.

Overall, with proper planning, investment, and sustainable practices, Ethiopia's mining sector, including the development of lithium resources, has the potential to contribute to the country's economy through export revenues, job creation, infrastructure development, technological advancements, and economic diversification. However, the successful development of the mining sector depends on various factors, and the long-term benefits may be influenced by global demand and market conditions.

Certainly! Here's a crafted piece about the mining potential of Ethiopia and its bright future for currency earnings:

Ethiopia, a country blessed with abundant mineral resources, is poised to harness its mining potential and pave the way for substantial currency earnings and economic growth. With diverse mineral deposits, including gold, tantalum, platinum, potash, natural gas, and rare earth elements like lithium, Ethiopia stands at the threshold of a prosperous future driven by its mining sector.

Ethiopia's gold reserves hold immense promise for currency earnings. The country has a rich history of gold mining, and recent explorations have unveiled significant deposits. By leveraging advanced mining techniques and attracting investments, Ethiopia can bolster its gold production, tap into international markets, and generate substantial foreign exchange.

Ethiopia possesses substantial reserves of tantalum and platinum, both highly sought-after minerals in global markets. Tantalum is a valuable component in electronic devices, while platinum finds extensive use in various industries, including automotive and jewelry. By developing efficient mining operations and establishing processing facilities, Ethiopia can capitalize on these resources, attracting foreign investment and earning valuable currency.

Ethiopia's vast potash reserves represent a significant opportunity for currency earnings and agricultural development. Potash is a critical ingredient in fertilizers, fostering increased crop yields and food security. By investing in potash mining and production, Ethiopia can not only contribute to its own agricultural sector but also become a

major exporter, earning substantial foreign exchange.

The global demand for rare earth elements, particularly lithium, is skyrocketing due to their crucial role in renewable energy storage and electric vehicle production. Ethiopia's exploration efforts have revealed the presence of lithium reserves, positioning the country at the forefront of the green revolution. By harnessing these resources, Ethiopia can attract international investors, establish lithium mining and processing operations, and secure a significant share of the growing lithium market, leading to substantial currency earnings.

To fully unlock its mining potential and maximize currency earnings, Ethiopia must prioritize several key factors:

Implementing investor-friendly policies, favorable mining laws, streamlined licensing processes, and attractive incentives will attract local and foreign investors, fostering sustainable growth in the sector.

Investing in infrastructure, including transport networks, power supply systems, and ports, will facilitate efficient mining operations and the export of minerals, enabling substantial currency earnings.

Ensuring responsible mining practices, environmental impact assessments, and reclamation efforts will safeguard the environment and maintain the sector's long-term viability.

Promoting skill development programs and knowledge sharing along with technology transfer initiatives will empower the local workforce and facilitate the adoption of advanced mining technologies, enhancing productivity and competitiveness.

Ethiopia's mining potential holds tremendous promise for currency earnings and economic growth. By strategically developing its gold, tantalum, platinum, potash, and rare earth element reserves, particularly lithium, Ethiopia can harness the global demand for these minerals, attract foreign investment, create employment opportunities, and diversify its economy.

Through prudent planning, sustainable practices, and a supportive investment environment, Ethiopia is poised to embark on a bright future fueled by its mining sector, contributing significantly to currency earnings and the nation's overall prosperity.

# Art & Culture

## An Ethiopian Month Packed with Holidays: *Mawlid, Meskel and Irreecha*

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

September is the ninth month on the European calendar and the first Ethiopian month of Ethiopian New Year 2016. The eight-year long gap between the two keeps on recurring indefinitely through times and we have to adjust and readjust our timetable every New Year coming. There is not much to celebrate during the first day of the European New Year, while the first month of the Ethiopian year is filled with diverse celebrations, all of them religious or cultural. Muslims, Christians, non-believers as well as the faithful from non-traditional or non-established denominations celebrate it with joy.

To begin with, the Islamic holiday of Mawlid or the Prophet's holiday is celebrated not only in Ethiopia but also "in almost all Islamic countries and also in other countries that have a significant Muslim population such as India, the United Kingdom, Turkey, Nigeria, Cote D'Ivoire, Morocco, Jordan, Libya, Russia and Canada." Although the social and economic contexts differ from one country to another, the rituals and practices are almost similar in all these countries. The common rituals include, "sharing food, attending lectures about the Prophet's life and virtues, slawat prayer services, participating in marches and reciting the Qur'an litanies and devotional poetry of the Prophet."

Then follow the religious celebrations. The September holidays that are mostly religious or spiritual in nature start with a secular one, i.e. New Year Day which is a big occasion that Ethiopians of all walks of life and religious denominations celebrate in common and according to their respective traditions. The New Year day is sometimes called Kidus Johannes, or Saint John's day. It is also known as Inkutatash, although it has nowadays shed its Christian nature and become a unifying factor since all Ethiopians celebrate it with equal fervor. This first and biggest secular holiday of the year that usually fall on September 11th or 12th on the Gregorian calendar is followed by strictly religious ones

In Ethiopia for instance, groups of young and older devotees and artists presented Islamic songs and devotional poetry and recitations to the followers of the faith. These young people are well-versed in Quran learning and their amazing voices reflected their deep and divinely inspirations as well as their talents for displaying imbued with the spirit of the Prophet's teachings about love, peace, brotherhood and commitment to a life of purity and Islamic virtues. Judging from the performances at the Grand Anwar Mosque here in Addis Ababa, Mawlid was celebrated with the same fervor and devotion that were obvious during previous occasions.

There is a striking coincidence here between Ethiopian New Year and Mawlid because both often fall on the same day, or one following the other. This is not however the result of conscious

calculation or the result of some agreement between the leaders of the two religious denominations. It just happens and naturally without anyone's intervention. And this is taken by the people as a sign of divine blessing. In some other countries, the followers of both Islam and Christianity do not celebrate their holidays on the same day or one following the other. This is however one of the characteristic that make Ethiopia almost a unique place on earth where both religions live in peaceful coexistence and the followers look at one another with love and respect.

A few notes on the Meskel celebrations is in order here. Orthodox Christianity is one of the oldest if not the oldest religions in Ethiopia, that was introduced in the 4th century B.C. As such it enjoys the following of the largest Christian followers and has a long and rich tradition as well as church traditions and celebrations that appealed to its followers all through the centuries. In short, Meskel of the finding of the true cross is considered by Ethiopian orthodox Christians as the ultimate holiday's that is connected with Jesus Christ's crucifixion and the finding of the cross on which he was crucified according to legend.

"Meskel, (Finding of the True Cross) is one of the major Ethiopian orthodox festivals and celebrated for two days. Legend has it that in the year 326, Queen Helena (Empress Helen) the mother of Constantinople the Great, discovered the cross upon which Christ was crucified." How the cross was found and by whom is a long story that is shortly expressed as follows, "Meskel is celebrated as a grand religious occasion among the Ethiopian orthodox believers because it is believed Amba Gishen which itself has a shape of a cross."

Now we are turning to another ancient spiritual festival outside the context of established religions as we described them above. This is a traditional or popular grassroots festival or celebration that is not only an old practice but also established, maintained and developed by the very people whose daily lives are closely linked and fueled by belief as well as worship of the Creator God or Waqa in Afan Oromo, who is considered not only the creator of everything, including nature and the seasons without which human life is impossible.

The difference between the established religions indicated above the Irreecha festival is that the former came from outside the country, Orthodox Christianity back in the 4th century and Islam in the 7th, while the Waqa belief system is entirely indigenous, created and nurtured by the common people whose lives depend on this very belief system. Irreecha is not only a traditional belief system but also a traditional or indigenous interpretation of creation as an act of Waqa whose spirit transcends all human endeavor and is the ultimate power who takes care of human beings.

As such Irreecha is a practice reflecting one



of the oldest African indigenous or traditional philosophies that put God as the creator of the material and non-material world. Irreecha is thus a popular, spiritual practice or ritual that reflects the Oromo and African world view about nature, man, creation and life in general. "Irreecha is an annual festival of the Oromo people, or a "thanksgiving celebrating the need of the winter in Oromia Region of Ethiopia. The Oromo people celebrate Irreecha to thank Waaqa (God) for the blessings and mercies they have received throughout the previous year."

The philosophy or the guiding ideas underpinning Irreecha are best expressed in the leading principles of the Gada system. "Primarily, the Gada system is an ancient philosophy of socio-political system that is responsible for regulating political stability, economic growth, and social services. It also includes cultural commitments', ethical contract of the religious order of the Oromo society and practices of Gada democracy, that require equal participation of both men and women." Gada is no doubt one of the most advanced traditional philosophy and system of human organization in Africa, that was and is practiced long before the concept of modern democracy was not invented. The Gada system of political and economic organization has served as an instrument of peaceful coexistence and survival for a long time although its appeals seems to be fading nowadays due to its marginalization in the face of so-called modern democratic organization which is imported from abroad and lacks originality and has never been applied or tested in practice in the modern political and social context.

Irreecha is therefore one of the biggest festivities that take place annually in Ethiopia. This year's Irreecha will be celebrated both in Addis Ababa

and Bishoftu and in other minor locations and will be attended by millions of people from the Oromia and other regions of the country. In a way, Irreecha is also a unifying festival that is attended by the Oromo people as well as people outside the region and the culture. According to Wikipedia, "Irreecha thanksgiving is celebrated at sacred lakes across Oromia region like the capital Hora Finfinnee and Hora Harsadi in Bishoftu. Once at the lake, festival goers immerse freshly cut green grass and the flowers they are carrying and sprinkle themselves and the places around them with lake water."

Irreecha is a festival that ushers in the beginning of the harvesting season that follows winter which is generally a time of rainfall, floods and other natural phenomena that make life in the countryside a bit difficult. However, the advent of Irreecha symbolizes the end of the difficulties as winter is known for causing distress because of "the previous harvest that was collected in January is running short while the new harvest is not yet ripe. Nevertheless the temporary food shortage ends during the dry season ushered by Irreecha as many food crops like maize are ripe and families can eat their fill. Other crops like potato and barley will soon be ripe and ready for harvest as the sun continues to shine after Irreecha."

What is also remarkable about the Ethiopian month of September is that is not only packed with festivities but also embraces both the spiritual and material aspects of human life or combine the two in one powerful event that creates hope of a better future and proves once again the continued resilience and endurance of traditions and human lies in the face of many odds, thereby ensuring the continuity of generations and the perpetuation of human existence across many centuries.

# Global Affairs

## Unity in Diversity through Global Civilization Initiative

BY MELAKU MULUALEM K

The birthplace of human civilization has been pinpointed by archaeologists and historians as Mesopotamia—a region where the Tigris and Euphrates rivers meet. Often referred to as the cradle of civilization this area spans across modern day Iraq and parts of Iran, Syria, Kuwait and Turkey. Over time, civilization disseminated to numerous countries worldwide including ancient civilizations like Aksum, China, Egypt, Greece, Rome and others. In later periods, religion emerged as the primary catalyst for building civilizations.

When European colonial powers came to Africa, it was in the name of civilizing the “barbaric and savage” people. This was a cover to exploit the natural resources and labor power of the sons and daughters of Africa. For many years the colonial powers had stolen the wealth of the African people. During this time they believed that there was only one civilization in the world. Therefore, in their writings, they did not say many “civilizations” but only one “civilization”. That civilization was the Western Civilization. This shows that they did not recognize the former ancient civilizations.

During the Cold War, there were two major ideologies i.e. capitalism and socialism. The conflicts and proxy wars of the then period were based on ideology. In 1991 the Cold War stopped to exist just after the crumble of the Soviet Union into many states. Following this grand change in the world, various researchers forwarded their views and theories about the future of the world.

In 1993 Samuel Huntington presented his research saying that in the future there will be a “Clash of Civilizations”. It can be said that this study was an acknowledgment of the existence of many civilizations in the world. According to his study after the Cold War people’s cultural and religious identities will be the main source of conflict. After the time of devastating attacks by Al Qaeda on two American buildings on September 11, 2001, Samuel Huntington’s research was taken as correct and proof of his in-depth analysis. Following this incident, many Muslims were mistreated in different parts of the world.

Setting aside Samuel Huntington’s theory of the “Clash of Civilizations”, a new paradigm shift came up with the notion of the “Alliance of Civilizations”. This means that there will be alliances and cooperation among various civilizations rather than fighting with one another. This notion was accepted by the United Nations and it is being in the working structure of the global organization as of 2005.

In March 2023, China came up with another grand notion of “Global Civilization Initiatives”(GCI). President Xi Jinping proposed the GCI at the CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-level Meeting through video link and delivered a keynote address in Beijing on March 15, 2023. According to his initiative, there are many civilizations in the world and there is a need to establish an international forum and to discuss among themselves.

President Xi has also emphasized that such dialogue and communication among various civilizations is a base for world peace and a



chance to learn from each other. He stressed that tolerance, coexistence, exchanges and mutual learning among different civilizations play an irreplaceable role in advancing humanity’s modernization process. He also underlined that appreciating and understanding the value of different civilizations will allow them to avoid imposing their values or models on others and creating conflicts.

The Global Civilization Initiative focuses on four aspects. The first is to advocate respect for the diversity of civilizations. This aspect focuses on the principles of equality, civilized discussions and inclusiveness, cultural exchanges, learning from each other, and increasing the sense of living together.

The second is to advocate the common values of humanity emphasizing peace, development, equity, justice, democracy, and freedom. Based on this aspect countries should avoid imposing their values or models on others and create conflicts. The third is to advocate the importance of inheritance and innovation of civilizations. This aspect underlines that countries should use and develop their history and culture properly.

The fourth is to advocate robust international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation. In this aspect, countries should create a global network for dialogue and cooperation between civilizations, and expand the ways of cooperation so that there can be mutual understanding and friendship among the people of all countries and jointly promote the development of human civilization.

Considering the above grand notions, a Chinese expert said that through GCI “China is trying to share its wisdom and plans to bring new hope for all nations to consider together on how to escape the trap of the ‘Clash of Civilizations’ and find a path that can help the world sail through the current turbulence”.

A Kenyan expert also said that “The initiative advocates multilateralism. This form of multilateralism is more global in its outlook and is bringing the Northern and

Southern hemispheres together...the notion of a superiority complex regarding other civilizations must be rejected. Therefore, different civilizations can coexist and support each other”.

In explaining GCI Ambassador Zhao Zhiyuan of China in Ethiopia said “Since China and Ethiopia signed an agreement for cultural cooperation in 1988, there have been frequent mutual visits of cultural delegation and art groups...Universities and colleges on both sides have conducted many exchanges. Amharic has been a university major in China, and two Confucius Institutes have been set up in universities and colleges in Ethiopia. Mutual learning of languages brings closer people’s hearts.”

Historically there was a cultural troupe of China that came to Ethiopia in the 1950s even before the establishment of the formal diplomatic relationships between the two in 1970. The Chinese Hubei Art Troupe and the Art Troupe of China Conservatory visited Ethiopia in 2010 and 2011 respectively. Several Ethiopian Art Troupes had also visited China. As the continuation of such cultural relationships between Ethiopia and China, recently, “Zhejiang Wu Opera Performance: Enhancing China-Ethiopia Cultural Exchanges Themed Theatrical Performance” was conducted at the National Theater of Ethiopia on 9 September 2023.

According to GCI different civilizations have different values. There should be respect for one another. GCI is against discrimination and interference against other civilizations by categorizing people as civilized and uncivilized (barbaric/savage). GCI promotes sharing wisdom and learning from one another. Thus GCI is not designed to promote the civilization of China to others, but China also needs to learn from the civilizations of other countries. The successful mediation of China between Saudi Arabia and Iran can be regarded as a fruitful dialogue between various civilizations and interests in solving problems and to move forward.

Similar to China, Ethiopia is also an ancient country with more than three thousand years of history. This will make Ethiopia to be part of the civilization dialogue in the GCI. The powerful Aksumite civilization left behind a great deal of archaeological material in the northern part of the country. Moreover, Ethiopia is the cradle of mankind and uses Geez Script which is the only writing system in Africa. There are also many fascinating UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Ethiopia.

As one account shows, during the fourth Century A.D., there were four great powers in the world. These were China, Rome, Persia, and Aksumite Ethiopia. This account clearly shows that Ethiopia is in the category of ancient civilization. Starting from the second half of the third century up to the beginning of the tenth century twenty-four Aksumite rulers had minted their coins. During this time many countries in the world were exchanging through a barter system. Sources show that the coins issued by the kings of Aksum circulated widely in international trade. The rock-hewn churches, Aksumite obelisks, and other archeological findings show that Ethiopia has so much wisdom that she can share to other countries of the world.

To sum up, there is no one universal civilization in the world but there are many civilizations. All civilizations are equal. There is a clash of interests than a clash of civilizations. Civilization is all about our past, present, and future. To avoid clashes among different civilizations dialogues, exchange of culture, mutual learning, and respecting the diversity of civilizations is of paramount importance. GCI promotes unity in diversity to make this world safe and secure for all of us living in this world. As one of the oldest countries, Ethiopia also deserves to be part of the forum of civilizations of the world.

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## Law & Politics

# Transforming Ethiopia's economic, industrial prospects through Abbay Dam

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

With its advancement to the fourth filling stage, the Abbay Dam has gained unanimous backing from the Ethiopian populace. The extensive support has made the dam a symbolic national initiative promoting agreement and consensus amongst the Ethiopian people.

Achieving success would not have been possible without the collective efforts, contributions, and unrelenting commitment of every Ethiopian. The project required the participation of every individual in various aspects including mobilization, fundraising, construction work, and logistical support. Every citizen played a vital role in the success of the project, and their contributions were significant in every step of the way.

As a matter of fact, the project's success reaffirmed Ethiopia's commitment to achieving its developmental goals through hard work, resilience, unity, and determination. The magnificent achievement of the Abbay Dam project is a testament to the Ethiopian people's collective spirit, hard work, and commitment to achieving great things in the face of daunting challenges.

The fact that the dam has been able to gather such an enormous level of support among Ethiopians shows that the dam has become a symbol of unity for the country. It has also become an iconic project that represents an entire nation's hopes and ambitions. It has elevated itself beyond a mere structure that fills a reservoir with water. Instead, the dam has become a part of the nation's identity and an embodiment of its aspirations.

The Abbay Dam project's success can also be attributed to the country's leaders who were instrumental in mobilizing the public providing the necessary resources to get the project off the ground and ensuring that construction work continued smoothly. The dam marked a significant achievement for Ethiopia showcasing the nation's capacity and resilience to undertake such a project of massive scale and magnitude.

Ethiopian patriotism and a sense of collective responsibility for the nation and its future generations have been apparent in the nation's prioritization of national interests over personal gains. This national characteristic has been exemplified in the construction process of the Dam. Needless to say, the project is a result of Ethiopia's unwavering determination to develop its energy infrastructure and achieve national self-sufficiency in energy production.

From the initial planning stage through to the construction phase, every Ethiopian played an indispensable role in the Abbay Dam project. The success of the project relied on individuals' willingness



to volunteer their time and resources ranging from financial contributions, labor, and in-kind donations. The project was a collective effort and it reflects the Ethiopian people's commitment to achieving great things together united by a common goal.

The Abbay Dam project brought together the Ethiopian public who donated generously towards the goal of building a dam for the benefit of the Ethiopian nation and future generations.

By rallying around the dam, Ethiopians reaffirm their identity as a single nation united toward a common goal. The dam holds a vital role in Ethiopia's developmental aspirations and it will contribute significantly to the country's ambition to become a middle-income nation. The potential of the project extends beyond that of just providing electricity and water security to the nation. It will lead to infrastructure development, job creation, and sustainable economic growth.

Through its hydro-electric power generation, the dam could provide energy security to Ethiopia and its neighboring countries. It could also offer balance to the region's hydro-political dynamics leading to more equitable use of the Nile River's resources.

The dam is an essential project that has created an unprecedented level of national unity and consensus. It has become a symbol of Ethiopia's aspirations and potential for growth regionally and globally. The successful completion of the dam will lead to infrastructure development, job creation, and sustainable economic growth for the country and its neighbors.

The building of the dam was made possible due to Ethiopians' collective efforts and their willingness to contribute to the construction of the dam. The dam's construction was funded by a contribution from the Ethiopian public which demonstrates the people's willingness to prioritize their nation's prosperity over personal interests. The construction of the dam is an explicit expression of Ethiopia's commitment to transforming its economy through the sustained utilization of its natural resources.

Ethiopian people's demonstration of nationalistic character has also played a significant role in making the Abbay Dam project a success. The dam has stood as a statement of Ethiopia's unrelenting determination to succeed and become self-sufficient when it comes to hydro-energy. Ethiopians have shown an unwavering desire to rise above the circumstances and take their nation to greater heights.

The dam's construction has not only been a significant milestone for Ethiopia but also a source of pride for the Ethiopian people. Ethiopians have seen the dam as a clear reflection of the nation's hope and aspiration for sustainable development and prosperity. The dam has shown that national development is achievable through unity and the harnessing of all available resources to achieve a shared vision.

It has demonstrated that the collective voice of the public backed by the government's support can achieve great things and set a path towards self-sufficiency in various sectors. The success of the Abbay Dam project has created a sense of the possible for Ethiopians a belief in their abilities to achieve what was once thought impossible. It has also helped foster a sense of collective responsibility among Ethiopians highlighting that what is good for the nation is good for its people.

The Abbay Dam has ushered in a new era of prosperity and optimism setting a new trajectory for Ethiopia's sustainable development. It has demonstrated the power of the Ethiopian people's unwavering determination to achieve their nation's prosperity and secure its future.

The Ethiopian people's firm determination and commitment to preserving and advancing their country's national interests have been evident in the construction and commissioning of the dam. Ethiopians have shown that they prioritize the welfare of their nation and future generations above personal interests.

The dam epitomizes the Ethiopian people's desire to exploit and harness their country's abundant hydro-energy potential to fuel their national development goals. Ethiopians acknowledge that harnessing their country's hydro-energy potential holds the key to achieving energy self-

sufficiency which is fundamental to the country's long-term prosperity.

The Ethiopian people's commitment to national interest over personal interest is reflected in the funding of the dam project. Rather than depending solely on foreign investors, Ethiopians recognized the significance of owning and funding such a project on their own. The construction of the dam is an expression of Ethiopia's self-determination and the emphasis placed on the energy sector indicates the Ethiopian government's vision for sustainable industrial and economic development.

The Abbay Dam has brought to the fore the resourcefulness and ingenuity of the Ethiopian people. The success of the project is a testament to the prowess of the country's people in infrastructure development and engineering. The dam also highlights the depths of the Ethiopian people's commitment to developing and advancing the country towards a bright future.

Beyond the obvious benefits of providing energy security, the project also demonstrates the immense economic and financial benefits that hydro-energy power generation can provide. The project has the potential to create employment opportunities whilst transforming livelihoods in Ethiopia and neighboring countries.

The dam's success has shown that national development is achievable through unity and the harnessing of all available resources to achieve a shared vision. It demonstrates that by investing in the country's development rallying together as a people and placing emphasis on national interests rather than personal interests, Ethiopians can achieve great things.

The dam demonstrates the power and efficacy that can be achieved through collective efforts focused on a shared vision. The project highlights the role of the Ethiopian government and people in developing the country's massive hydro-energy potential thereby igniting a bright future for Ethiopia's economic and industrial prospects. The dam stands as a symbol of Ethiopian unity, determination, and resilience, and it positions the country at the forefront of Africa's sustainable development.