



The Ethiopian Herald

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Exemplary taxpayers urge peer companies to follow suit

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Awardees of the fifth National Best Taxpayers recognition program urged peer companies and citizens to contribute their share for nation's socioeconomic development through paying taxes properly.

The Ministry of Revenues and Ethiopian Customs Commission awarded about 500 best taxpayers during the fifth National Best Taxpayers Award at the presence of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) at the National Palace on Oct 12, 2023.

Among the 50 platinum rank taxpayers, East African Holdings was one of the companies that have received the award from the Premier.

Fitsum Nigusse, Representative from East African Holdings, said the company has received platinum, gold as well as silver level awards through its five subsidiary companies including national cement factory that won the platinum rank.

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Team to finalize gathering inputs for TJ soon

BY MENGESHA AMARE

ADDIS ABABA - Transitional Justice (TJ) experts' team announced that the task of harvesting inputs for the policy draft of TJ is expected to be completed at the end of this month.

Transitional justice team member Kalkidan Dereje told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that a lot has been garnered out of the freely circulating ideas as a number of society members reflected what they thought is good for achieving national consensus through conducting transitional justice.

So far, some 49 National Dialogue forms have been conducted in states and city administrations while the remaining ones will be conducted in Addis Ababa with various

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Ethiopia best place to invest in construction industry: Italian investor

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA- An Italian investor who involves in construction industry stated that investing in Ethiopia is so fascinating as the country is blessed with best business opportunities with this end.

Talking to *The Ethiopian Herald*, the Italian investor Eng. Agostino Siccardi said that he is an East African Area Manager of Ez Group Building Equipment that engages in construction business.

Now his company is taking part in the 17th international construction exhibition in the metropolis that lasts until October 15, 2023.

He said that: "Our Company believes in Ethiopian and African market. Ethiopia does have very interesting market and also the idea of investing here is interesting, but the problem is foreign currency shortage. "I have a plan to invest in Ethiopia if things are facilitated and the atmosphere is conducive. This is my second time to participate in such exhibition."

He said: "Ethiopia owns large market together with excessive labor force. There is high need of construction materials to



Eng. Agostino Siccardi

build houses as well. For Italian company like ours, there is a big market opportunity but the problem is the presence of network interruption for investors, and I think this would be overcome soon."

He urged the government to solve the problems in connection with foreign currency shortage as it hampers the

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UNDP lauds Ethiopia's attempt to foster lasting peace

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has commended Ethiopia's effort to achieve lasting peace through national dialogue, transitional justice and national rehabilitation - with active participation of all citizens.

The UN-Agency also pledged continued support to the success of these activities considering their necessity to the sustainability of the second most populous African nation.

UNDP-Ethiopia Resident Representative Turhan Saleh stated that UNDP supports the national dialogue, national rehabilitation and other peace efforts including the demobilization of ex-combatants, in its ambition to see a sustainable Ethiopia.

Currently, the country has the world's largest ex-combatants amounting more than 370,000 which need to be demobilized, he said, while appreciating the progress made by National Rehabilitation Commission (NRC) to this end.



Turhan Saleh

"We are grateful to the government of Ethiopia for requesting the UN to assist the national dialogue commission and the NRC

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News

Tourists flock to Harar after beautification works

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- The number of tourists flowing into Harar town has been increased following the beautification works conducted in the surroundings of Jugol Wall, so said Harari State Heritage, Culture and Tourism Bureau.

Speaking to Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Bureau Heritage Director Muhammad Mahdi said that renovation and beautification works that have been carried out by the regional government around Jugol Wall which is UNESCO's heritage, has risen the number of tourists that was declining for some time.

In the beautification process, Muhammad's bureau has taken measures and sanitized all unpleasant structures surrounding the heritage that attract a high number of visitors.

Nonfunctional structures including



sewerage canals have also been restored, he added.

"All these measures have been taken

after consultations held with public and government officials. Residents of the town are now benefiting from the beautification

work that decorated the area with green and captivating appearance," he expressed.

He, however said that the wall has still unrestored fractures resulted from the already resolved problems and long age.

"This year, our prior task will be restoring the wall. Otherwise, it will face bad situation as we are running out of time," he indicated.

Tourism Director of the Bureau, Sami Abdullwasi on his part said that the Jugol Wall is the major source of tourism earnings and icon of the town, so that the government will continue to preserve the heritage.

According to Sami, the bureau has seen a 125 percent increment in foreign tourists inflow and 24 percent increase in the number of domestic visitors.

The region has a plan of generating its 50 percent revenue from tourism in ten years. The ongoing tourism development works are also a part of the ten year plan, he disclosed.

Ethiopia upholds refugee socio-economic inclusion: RRS

• Hosts over 1 mln. refugees, asylum seekers

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopia is making significant progress to enhance refugees' self-reliance through heightened socio-economic inclusion, so said Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS).

In her remarks at the 74th Session of the UNHCR Executive Committee meeting (ExCom), RRS Director-General Teyiba Hassen said that Ethiopia is home to over 1 million refugees and asylum seekers who need international protection as the government has been making a significant progress to enhance the self-reliance of refugees by promoting socio-economic inclusion, and progresses are made on the inclusion of refugees in secondary and TVET schools.

She further remarked that the country is integrating refugee education data in the national education information management system and education sector development plan.

"Over 140 refugees' children have been attending primary education. Besides, Ethiopia along with partners is delivering continuous basic healthcare services for refugees in the 2022/23 academic year," she noted.

She said, "We have implemented various development-oriented projects in agriculture and livestock sectors which have a huge positive impact on the lives of refugees."

Moreover, refugees are included in civil registration and vital statistics systems improvement strategy and strategic action plan of the country, as the digitization of the civil registration system has commenced to facilitate integration of refugees' data into the national civil registration system.

It was also indicated that Ethiopia has



Teyiba Hassen

commenced integration of refugees into the national digital ID program to strengthen refugee's social protection, improve access to financial and other related services.

Prioritizing refugees' response programing, the government is exerting utmost efforts to mitigate the impact of climate action and resilience via green initiative as it is hosting a substantial numbers of refugees, close to a million from Lassa nod, Somalia and South Sudan where access to clean energy in host community remains very low, she added.

Having said Ethiopia is hosting a large number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) particularly climate change induced, she affirmed that the nation stands firm to make new and bold commitments towards climate action, urbanization of refugee camps, refugee's national systems inclusion and economic empowerment among others.

"Ethiopia has been taking various measures by putting well-functioning legal and policy frameworks with clear plan budget operational capacity to comprehensively address noted challenges thereby enabling many IDPs to return their homes, however, it requires enhanced development assistance and rehabilitation support," she pinpointed.

She has called on donors to provide refugees with timely financial assistance to save their lives, protect rights and fulfill basic services.



Commission, CSOC ink accord to advance rehabilitation, reintegration initiatives

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA- The Ethiopian National Rehabilitation Commission (NRC) and the Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council (ECSOC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on various rehabilitation and reintegration initiatives.

NRC and ECSOC agreed to collaborate on areas of awareness-raising activities, capacity building, research and knowledge sharing, resource mobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration.

The agreement was signed by Ambassador-designate Teshome Toga, Commissioner of the National Rehabilitation Commission, and Council of Civil Society Organizations, Director General, Hana WoldeGabriel.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Amb. Teshome Toga emphasized that the task of returning ex-combatants to their former lives requires the cooperation of all parties.

He said, "The agreement made today is a big start and it will be of great benefit in bringing about lasting peace in various areas."

Hana WoldeGabriel confirmed that the council will play its role in making the process of returning ex-combatants to their former lives a success.

The two sides are also expected to collaborate in other related issues align with efforts of Demobilization, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (DRR) of ex-combatants to join the society and lead a sustainable and peaceful life.

Following a series of discussions held by the Commission and the Council previously, the two sides have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), recognizing that the collaboration will play a major role in establishing a cooperative relationship for effective rehabilitation and reintegration of ensure a lasting peace.

Some of the objectives of the MoU include NRC and ECSOC collaborative efforts in sensitization and awareness creation on DRR and sustainable peace, capacity building on DRR and peace building to NRC's head office and branch offices staffs, and relevant stakeholders taking advocacy works regarding issues such as gender sensitive DRR, diversity and inclusion among others, into account.

In addition to this, the MoU highlighted the significant role civil society organizations can play in the process of demobilizing, rehabilitating and reintegrating ex-combatants as they would bring an end to their involvement in armed forces and lead life among the society.

News

Belgium to continue supporting Ethiopia's Nat'l Dialogue

ADDIS ABABA /ENA/ - Belgium will continue its support for the success of Ethiopia's National Dialogue, Belgium Ambassador to Ethiopia, Stefaan Thijs said.

Talking to ENA, Ambassador Thijs expressed his government's commitment to supporting the national dialogue commission to realize its efforts.

"I think there are two ways... for us as Belgium and as the European Union. That is the financial support we can give," he said.

I know that the European Union has already provided financial support to the National Dialogue Commission, he stated.

The ambassador added that there is another way of helping the commission in sharing expertise that our countries have, and maybe we can share expertise with your country.

Moreover, Ambassador Thijs said "We put our hope in the big success of this National Dialogue Commission" for Ethiopian people

and also for the international community."

He recalled the speech that President Sahle-Work had delivered at the joint opening session of the House of Peoples' Representatives and House of Federation called for peace and reconciliation among Ethiopians.

The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission was established with 11 Commissioners by the House of People's Representatives to lead an independent, inclusive, and transparent national dialogue across the country.

The main objective of the commission is to facilitate consultations among various segments of the society on fundamental issues of the country by identifying the root causes of existing differences through dialogue.

Since its establishment, the commission has been carrying out various activities, engaging numerous stakeholders at federal and regional levels.



Amb. Stefaan Thijs

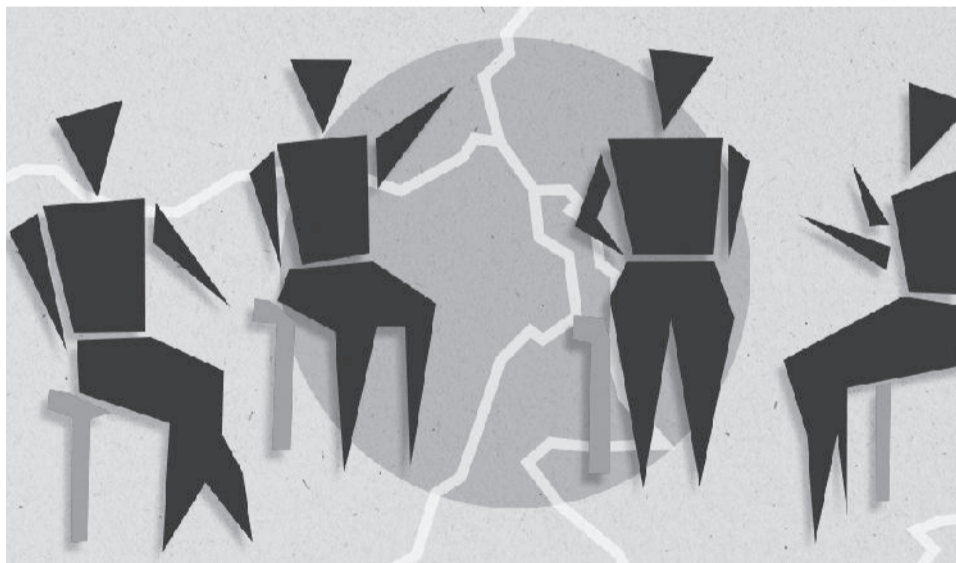
Ethiopia best...

country's investment sector.

"We are working in Ethiopia in many sectors not only in construction sector but also we import construction inputs from Italia and sell here. We are here to develop our business network, to get good opportunity and expand the business

through this exhibition and eager to increase our profit."

However, he added, currently, there is business fluctuation not only in Ethiopia but also in every country of the world due to many reasons such as war.



Team to finalize...

stakeholders and community representatives, she said.

Segments of the society in states and city administrations have also been provided with awareness about transitional justice apart from holding consultative forums, she added.

Of the many factors that can confirm the success of the transitional justice is its approach of being victim-centered that's why the inputs collecting process has given 60% priority to affected segments of the society during participant selection, Kalkidan noted.

According to her, the process of inputs

collection for the draft policy has been carried out without any interference and other related problems.

Mentioning the process of coming up with encouraging outcomes in due course of preparing the draft policy, the Expert informed the affected ones about the process of input petitioning as it has been done in collaboration with various international organizations in Semera, Bahir Dar and Mekele cities.

As to her, the input assembling process was conducted centering women and other segments of the society which were prime victims of the northern conflict.

UNDP lauds...

-which is a sign of trust and confidence," he noted.

Over the last nine months, the UNDP has been providing financial, technical and material support. "The biggest guarantee for us is to have peace and stability in Ethiopia. Then, we will continue investing with more confidence," the Representative said.

He underlined the inseparable bond between peace and development, saying "there is no development without peace and vice-versa."

UNDP backs the implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) and the national dialogue as these processes enable the nation solve its problems in a non-violent means than any other option, he stated.

The national dialogue is exceptionally important and unprecedented in the Ethiopian history, he said, adding that it brings an opportunity in which Ethiopians from all walks of life come together to

discuss and find solutions to their problems.

He hoped that the national dialogue will be concluded in success in a way Ethiopia gets a defined solution that works for all citizens.

"We really hope it (the national dialogue) will succeed. UNDP and the UN will provide everything possible to help the effort," he stressed.

He also appreciated government's effort for the realization of transitional justice that currently is under input gathering process for policy draft.

UNDP stands by Ethiopia's side to achieve democracy through supporting institutions like the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, the National Electoral Board, House of People's Representative and House of Federation among others, he capitalized.

Exemplary...

The company, which has created jobs for some 7000 citizens, has paid over one billion Birr tax in 2022/23, he stated.

"Our companies consider paying tax as a way of paying it forward to the community. We are long known by our companies' obedience to the tax laws. Apart from obeying our duty, we believe that paying tax is crucial for the overall economic development of the country," he underscored.

By the same token, Director-General of Commercial Nominees, Commander Tilahun Tsegaye, on his part mentioned that it is through the tax that companies and citizens pay that everyone can contribute to the socioeconomic development of the nation in the building of road, health, power and other infrastructures.

Reminding that they have received the National Best Taxpayers Award previously, he indicated that the company has taken three platinum and two gold awards.

Established by the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia and Construction & Business Bank in 1965, Commercial Nominees has employed over 42,000 citizens across the nation having 33 branches and delivering 13 types of services.

During the award, some 50 platinum, 150 gold and 300 silver level companies were awarded that were screened under 12 criteria.

Ethio telecom, Commercial Bank of Ethiopia, Ethiopian Petroleum Supply Enterprise, Dangote Cement Ethiopian Private Limited Company, East Africa Bottling Share Company, were said to be amongst the 14 companies that received unique recognition for their consistent performance.

The Ministry of Revenues and Ethiopian Customs Commission has collected over 442 billion Birr revenue which is 98.2% of its plan during last fiscal year and it has set a plan to generate 529 billion Birr this year.

Editorial

Blurred sight leads to erroneous conclusion

Few days ago, the International Commission of Human Rights Experts issued a report on the humanitarian situation in Ethiopia. But Ethiopia has announced in a statement issued by the Permanent Envoy of Ethiopia to the United Nations that it would not accept the report. Indeed, Ethiopia rejected the report with good reasons.

According to the Ethiopian government, the charges in the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia (ICHREE) study has not been properly investigated on the ground, and the data was assembled remotely from unreliable sources. As a result, the report's findings are no longer accurate statement on the situation in Ethiopia.

The commission did not follow the proper investigation process and did not consider the current situation on the ground in Ethiopia. The statement, which recalled the signing of the Pretoria Agreement in South Africa to end the war in the northern part of the country, raised the possibility that silenced the guns in that area.

Truthfully, the government has been committed to the implementation of the Pretoria Agreement and has been taking steps to ensure transparency and accountability. Current situations in Tigray are very far from the content of the report. Activities in the region are resuming to normalcy. Interim administration is already established and carrying out various duties to restore situations in the region.

As a result, many service providing institutions are reorganized and began day to day activities. Among the activities totally ceased as the result of the war are agriculture, health service, education, banking, power supply, and telecommunication services among others. These services have been resumed gradually step by step and the aspiration and efforts of the federal government and the interim administration of Tigray are to realize the services in full package.

Besides, the Ethiopian government is diligently working on the supply of aid to the internally displaced people though it is beyond the capacity of it and appealing to the international community to provide relief for the needy.

It is not fair to give deaf ear and blind eye to these efforts of the government and issuing such report is good for nothing except to harm the reputation of the government. Rather, it is trustworthy valuing the right deeds underway by the government in law enforcement and sustaining peace across the country despite conflicts in some parts.

Moreover, the government's endeavor regarding conflicts in Amhara and Oromia regions is to come to the solution in a peaceful way through discussions for the benefit of the entire people. To this end, the government has started practical activities through the National Consultative Commission and is in the final phase of preparing a transitional justice policy and putting it into operation.

The information from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs indicated that the government has been obliged to condemn the wrong report that they issued in a way that is contrary to the work of establishing peace in Ethiopia.

On the contrary, it is time to silence voices that disseminate hatreds among the peoples especially those reside in the overseas. They are adding fuel to the fire by reporting unfounded news. In keeping up their destructive way, they can do nothing beneficial except aggravating death, loss of property and pain of the people.

The Ethiopian government is striving to ensure the nation's prosperity via exerting its maximum effort in all spheres getting rid of the vicious conflict so that everyone needs to contribute his/her share. And the international community; including ICHREE should value this effort and stand by the government.

Opinion

Viable Avenue for serving common interest

BY MENGESHA AMARE

In a globalized world where the world has become a small village entertaining communication and technological advancement, establishing smooth rapport for common growth or gluing bilateral or trilateral and even multilateral ties is quite inevitable.

Taking the pivotal advantage of cementing relations and establishing affinity with one another or each other, Ethiopia has been in a state of reinvigorating mutual relations with a number of world countries employing color blind diplomacy and evenly treating both the western and eastern blocs.

The works of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia has been a living proof in this regard. For instance, state Minister Ambassador Mesganu Arga, held talks with the Ambassador of Italy, Agostino Palese, the Ambassador of Germany, Stephan Auer, and Ambassador of France, Remi Marechaux discuss to a range of issues.

The cooperation between Ethiopia and those countries on bilateral and multilateral platforms is worth citing, indeed! The ambassadors highlighted the importance of the Ethiopian Government's economic reform process, the Transitional Justice Mechanism aimed at addressing human rights issues, and the national dialogue process.

As far as the major issues senior officials raised are concerned, Ethiopia's key role in the region has been underscored and the commitment of their respective governments to collaborate with Ethiopia on issues of mutual interest is a telling one.

Many countries have these days developed firm commitment to closely work with Ethiopia—the east African strategic geopolitically icon nation—to further boost common benefit in all aspects.

Undeniably, Ethiopia's role in peacekeeping missions and regional integration in the Horn of Africa and beyond has provided it with great prestige and acknowledgement worldwide. This trajectory has to be further bolstered thereby helping the country bring about a difference.

As learnt from the bilateral and multilateral relations Ethiopia has been entertaining so far, many countries of the world such as the aforesaid ones and the not yet cited, the European Union as well as other international organizations have started translating rhetorically concluded relations into practical and tangible interventions to help Ethiopia bring about real change.

Over 3000 years have passed with important milestones and achievements in Ethiopia as the country has been establishing fruitful diplomatic ties between/among a number of world countries. The abovementioned countries relationship with Ethiopia can be cited as a model for bilateral relations because of its openness, effectiveness, and sincerity. The fruitful achievements in various fields of bilateral and multilateral cooperation have been reflected in numbers

and tangible triumphs.

Unequivocally, Ethiopia's relationship with these countries and others has transitioned to a new important stage from giving and taking relationship to an equal one following a win-win fashion. Over the past years when Ethiopia was struggling with conflicts and repercussions of the aftermath, many countries kindly lent it a helping hand and still continue supporting the nation to get the right track in terms of rehabilitating citizens and recording remarkable development outcomes in all aspects. At the time when Ethiopia rose to a developing country with middle income status and enhanced international integration, the bilateral and multilateral relationship it has entertained helps it enter a new phase of equal cooperation and mutual benefit.

Interestingly, the Ethiopian other African or world countries relations have always been developing and making new progresses as the former is all the time willing to boost smooth relations with many countries of the world. Yes, Ethiopia and its allies have great opportunities to cooperate, especially stemming from the similarities of quenching common interests, bolstering social economic and even political spheres as well as dealing with climate change and natural tests. In so doing, Ethiopia and many countries of the world including the aforesaid ones are becoming strategic partners in a number of fields as economic reform, poverty reduction, climate change adaptation, water management, sustainable agriculture and food security, among others, have come to the forefront.

As diplomatic missions are the main permanent structure for bilateral relations, many countries conduct bilateral diplomacy through non-resident ambassadors or missions in multilateral centers and maintain their bilateral relations.

Recognizing that effective network and relations is a prime asset in bolstering home coordination aspects and efforts for growth and change, Ethiopia has always attached due emphasis to win-win ties with countries.

As far as my understanding is concerned, bilateral and multilateral partners must work together, focusing on the need for more effort to address emerging challenges—including persistent poverty, increasing inequality, climate change mitigation and adaptation hurdles, disaster resilience as well as gender inequality, rapid urbanization and lack of quality infrastructure using new technologies and inventions. Countries should thus aim to incorporate advanced technologies and knowhow, pay attention to infrastructure maintenance, integrate environmental and social considerations, build resilience against natural hazards and the likes.

Besides, they have to pursue policy and institutional reforms, and it is necessary to enhance coordination and cooperation among countries and bilateral and multilateral partners via well-designed bilateral/multilateral ties.

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



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Opinion

Convergence and divergence of national and continental interests in the G21

BY MELAKU MULUALEM K

On September 26, 1999 the G20 or Group of 20 was established to address the Asian financial crises and to discuss the global economic and financial issues. It had been an intergovernmental forum comprising 19 sovereign countries and the European Union. In establishing the G20 there was a discussion on African representation. Then, they agreed to make South Africa as one of the permanent members in the G20. One research account says, "South Africa was invited to join the new forum because of its systemic importance, both globally and regionally. One consideration in this decision was the important focus of the new Group on financial stability rather than on development issues."

G20 is an informal forum, without a charter and voting structure i.e. no veto power in the bloc. Members are interacting as equal to reach consensus. Their decision is not also legally binding. Moreover, G20 has "no permanent secretariat or staff. Secretariat services are provided by the chair country". But this doesn't mean serious decisions will not pass by the bloc. In implementing the decision, there can be differences among the members based on their economy, political situation and influences.

In the 2023 Summit the G20 has decided to make the African Union as one of the permanent members. Thus G20 updated itself to be G-twenty first (G21) in the twenty first century. This reform is the first of its kind in the G20. The AU and the EU are not national entities. Thus, currently the G21 has two continental organizations as members i.e. the European Union and the African Union. In my previous piece I raised the following question-Can it be a precedence to make the African Union permanent member in the United Nations Security Council in the future? Of course it is too early to predict in advance, but there is a possibility.

South Africa has also the advantage of discussing the agenda of G21 in both at the AU level and at the G21 level. African countries should appreciate South Africa for transforming itself quickly from being victim of apartheid to be one of the strongest African countries and joining big blocs of G20 and BRICS. In this situation South Africa has also become voice to the rest of African countries in these big blocs. Now, the situation is being changed i.e. Ethiopia and Egypt have joined BRICS Bloc, and the African Union has joined the G20 Bloc. This will minimize the burden of South Africa in working for the interests of other African countries.

The G21 has put South Africa and the African Union on equal footing since

both are permanent members to the bloc. This is to mean that South Africa has the right to support or oppose the agenda of the African Union in the G21 forum. Similarly, France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom are members to both G21 and the European Union. If there is convergence between the national and continental interests, there is no problem to pass decisions in the G21 forum. What if there is a divergence position between the two interests?

Some critical agendas of the G21 can be dangerous for the member states to speak in one voice. For example, if the United Nations wanted to give one seat for Africa as permanent member in the Security Council and if both the continental organization (AU) and South Africa wanted to be permanent member, what would happen? Similarly, if Germany and the European Union wanted to be permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, what would happen?

Nowadays, the five permanent members of the Security Council are voicing for the reform of the Council and to increase the number of members. UN Secretary-General António Guterres has made proposals to reform the UN just after he came to office in January 2017 saying "to align them with the realities of today's world." Recently, the USA and others are also saying that Africa should be represented in the Security Council as permanent member. I am not sure whether it is just lip service or genuine voice to make the UNSC inclusive and solve the legitimacy crisis of global governances. If we believe them as true, the agenda can also spark conflict of interests.

In the 2023 Declaration of BRICS, Article 7 Says

"We support a comprehensive reform of the UN, including its Security Council... and support the legitimate aspirations of emerging and developing countries from Africa, Asia and Latin America, including Brazil, India and South Africa, to play a greater role in international affairs, in particular in the United Nations, including its Security Council."

From the above BRICS decision it is clear that South Africa has ambition to be one of the permanent members of the UNSC. Now, Egypt and Ethiopia have also become members of BRICS. Can the bloc also give similar support to Ethiopia and Egypt to be permanent member in the UNSC? Will South Africa oppose the additional nomination of African countries in the BRICS bloc? Who is to nominate member to the UNSC that can represent Africa? Is it BRICS or the African Union? Whose decision overrides the other? Will BRICS oppose the African Union if it needs to be permanent member of the

UNSC? So, the devil is in the details.

It is well known that when Britain was part of the European Union, there was divergence position in using Euro as currency i.e. Britain wanted to continue using its own Pound than Euro. This is an example of divergence between national interest and continental interest. In the later period Brexit happened because of divergence interests between them on multifaceted issues.

According to Britain, Brexit (leaving the European Union) has various benefits that includes controlling of their own money, the freedom to regulate their own business, protecting their values, as sovereign country to defend their own national interests, improving their rights and choices as consumers, establishing security and defense partnerships with key allies around the world, conducting new trade deals and strategic partnership with others and the like.

In my personal opinion, this practical example of Brexit is a possible scenario for the future relationships between South Africa and the African Union in running for permanent membership in the Security Council. In Africa it is not uncommon to see divergence interest between member states and continental organization that may lead to leave from membership. Morocco is an example to leave the Organization of African Unity/OAU (the later the African Union) because of divergence position of the continental organization and Morocco. Morocco left OAU in 1984, protesting on the body's recognition of the Western Sahara. Morocco rejoined the continental organization after 33 years of absence.

Those European countries, which are member in both the G20 and the EU have strong influences in the continent. Even they can put pressure on the EU through the G20. One research stated that, "The largest European countries, which are also the most powerful within the EU's decision-making, are the only EU Member States directly represented at the G20... When these countries cannot get their preferred policies within the European Council, they may try to push through their policies independently at the G20 level." South Africa can also get this chance to influence the African Union by her decision role in the G21.

Who will impact more-AU on G21 or G21 on AU? In my opinion, because of the presence of great powers in the G21, the latter will be more pronounced i.e. G21 will have more impact on the AU than the reverse. But to minimize the impact and to work with great powers, the AU should exploit and apply its comparative and competitive advantages properly and wisely. G21 has made the former colonial

powers and colonized Africans to seat together. It is a paradigm shift to make Africa part of the decision making process in the global governance. It is a move from "Scramble for Africa to scramble for global agendas".

In explaining about the role of the EU in the G20 a research stated that, "The EU has been one of the best students of the G20 class in following up on G20 decisions." Now, the AU and EU will be in the same class of G21. So what will be the rank of the AU in the G21 class? Will the AU be as good as the EU or there will be challenges? In my opinion, the EU can be successful in the bloc because of the presence of foreign policy of the continent as well as the presence of 300 common positions of member states in the European Union that have been ratified by the Council of the continental organization.

When we come to the African Union, we do not find both continental foreign policy and hundreds of common positions ratified by the concerned body of the AU. The Pan African Parliament has only an advisory role than legislative role like that of the European Parliament. Because of these challenges African Union will face problem of generating common positions on various agendas of the G21. This shows that the AU should upgrade itself so as to be a good student in the G21 class. Otherwise the old abusing term that says "White Man's Burden" will come again with a new brand.

Joining the G20 means the Agendas of the bloc will directly or indirectly be the agendas of the African Union. Similarly some of the agendas of the African Union will be the agendas of the bloc. This is because, as permanent member of the G21, the AU also has the right to table its own agendas. This may force the AU to consult its member states to come up with common positions on the agenda of the G21. But can the AU get common positions always? Or the AU will remain on the abstain positions in the G21 decisions? Will the AU be flooded by the agendas of the G21 that may put more burdens on member states and the continental organization? Will Africa's conflict and problems overcrowd the agenda of G21? Can we see "G21 Solution to African Problem?" We will cross the river when we get there.

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

Law & Politics

Ethiopia's emergence as a key player in providing support to refugees

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Over the years, Ethiopia has emerged as a key player in offering crucial support and resources to a significant number of individuals who have been displaced from their homes or forced to seek refuge due to various reasons. This commendable humanitarian effort undertaken by Ethiopia stands as one of the most extensive and impactful initiatives throughout the African continent.

By actively engaging with the multifaceted and intricate nature of human migration, Ethiopia is steadfast in addressing the diverse challenges encountered by those fleeing their homes.

Ethiopia's pivotal role can be attributed to its commitment in providing shelter and assistance to individuals affected by displacement and seeking refuge within its borders. The country has established itself as a safe haven for those escaping conflict, persecution, or economic instability in their home countries. Its geographical location serves as a gateway acting as a connecting point for numerous migration routes rendering Ethiopia a natural destination for many in search of safety and stability.

Recognizing the enormity of the challenge at hand, Ethiopia has taken proactive measures to establish refugee camps and settlements across different regions within the country. These designated sites serve as temporary homes, providing basic amenities and access to vital services. Collaborating closely with international organizations and partners, the Ethiopian government diligently ensures that refugees are adequately protected and supported throughout their stay in these camps.

In addition to merely offering shelter, Ethiopia's approach encompasses fostering social cohesion between the host communities and the refugee populations. The country actively implements initiatives that encourage peaceful coexistence, cultural exchange, and economic integration, promoting an inclusive environment where refugees can rebuild their lives and contribute positively to their newfound communities.

Ethiopia collaborates with neighboring states, regional bodies like the African Union, and international organizations to coordinate efforts, exchange best practices, and advocate for global solutions to the challenges presented by forced displacement and migration. Engaging in these discussions showcases Ethiopia's drive to play an active role in shaping policies and actions that address the complexities surrounding migration.

Despite the remarkable efforts made by the Ethiopian government and its partners, there remain inherent challenges associated with hosting such significant numbers of displaced people and refugees.

Limited resources, insufficient funding, and the continual arrival of new refugees pose ongoing obstacles. Nevertheless, Ethiopia remains resilient tirelessly working to overcome these challenges and identify sustainable solutions through partnerships,



innovative approaches, and active engagement with the international community.

It is important to acknowledge the geographical location of Ethiopia which serves as a crossroads for multiple migration routes. Its proximity to countries like Somalia, Eritrea, Sudan, South Sudan, and Djibouti makes it an accessible destination for individuals seeking safety and stability. As a result, Ethiopia has become a significant host country for those fleeing conflict or economic hardships in their home nations.

To address the needs of these displaced populations, Ethiopia has established various refugee camps and settlements across the country. These sites provide temporary shelter, basic amenities, and access to essential services. In collaboration with international organizations and partners, the Ethiopian government works tirelessly to ensure that refugees are protected and supported during their time in the camps.

The country strives to promote social cohesion between host communities and refugees by implementing initiatives that encourage peaceful coexistence, cultural exchange, and economic integration. This helps to create an environment where refugees can rebuild their lives and contribute positively to their new communities.

Despite the commendable efforts made by the Ethiopian government and its partners, there are inherent challenges associated with hosting large numbers of displaced people and refugees. Limited resources, inadequate funding, and the constant influx of new arrivals pose ongoing difficulties. However, Ethiopia remains resilient working diligently to address these challenges and seek sustainable solutions through partnerships, innovative approaches, and engagement with the international community.

There is no gainsaying the fact that since a long time ago, Ethiopia has been a safe haven for people fleeing from various neighboring countries. The country serves as a humanitarian hub for international agencies and local organizations providing support for refugees. The influx of displaced people and refugees has had both positive and negative impacts on Ethiopia.

The government could work to integrate

refugees into society by providing opportunities for citizenship, access to public services, and other social programs. However, there are also challenges to implementing sustainable solutions for displaced people and refugees. One such challenge is the lack of funding for long-term support. Many organizations are unable to sustain their support due to limited funding which can lead to gaps in assistance.

By the same token, Ethiopia recognizes the importance of international support in addressing the refugee crisis. The government is involved in various partnerships with international organizations to provide assistance to refugees and work towards sustainable solutions. However, these partnerships should be strengthened to ensure comprehensive and long-term solutions are implemented.

Ethiopia continues to host an increasing number of displaced people and refugees. While this has brought both positive and negative impacts, the government has been working towards providing assistance and support to them.

The African continent has been experiencing a significant wave of migration, with millions of people seeking refuge from conflicts, poverty, and other challenges. In light of this situation, it is essential that nations prioritize engaging with Africa to help address the pressing issue of migration.

Ethiopia's emergence as a key player in offering vital support and resources to displaced individuals and refugees is a testament to its remarkable efforts and impact. Its commitment to this humanitarian endeavor stands as one of the most extensive and influential initiatives on the African continent contributing to the well-being and stability of affected communities while setting an inspiring example for others.

The commendable work undertaken by Ethiopia not only supports and protects individuals who have been forcibly displaced but also contributes to fostering stability, resilience, and hope among affected communities. By taking on this responsibility and actively engaging in such a significant way Ethiopia exemplifies the values of compassion, empathy, and solidarity setting a remarkable example for other countries to

follow.

The new Director-General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Amy E. Pope said that a multifaceted engagement with Ethiopia is a priority where the country serves as the seat for the African Union, according to information obtained from Ethiopian News Agency.

The director-general, who took office on the first of October 2023, told the media that the work of the International Organization for Migration really needs to prioritize engaging in Africa where migration is a pressing issue for the continent.

Over 80 % of migration occurs in the continent and across the continent, she revealed, adding that it is not to Europe or to the Gulf states. "Throughout my work on issues of migration, it has been clear that the challenges that exist here on the continent are significant. When you look at conflict, poverty, uneven development, and increasingly as we see the impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities, it is clear that the challenges are enormous," Pope elaborated.

In this case, engaging with Ethiopia is multifaceted, and the African Union here is the best place to reinforce migration affairs as the country is the seat of this continental organ. Noting that Ethiopia itself is a mission that has been with the International Organization for Migration since 1995, the organization has been engaging with the Government of Ethiopia.

Ethiopia has been hosting quite significant displaced people and refugees, the director-general noted. "It is one of our largest missions in Africa, faces all facets of the human migration experience... There are nearly 4.4 million right now who are displaced, whether it is people who are leaving Ethiopia to go, live and work elsewhere."

Moreover, the director-general indicated that Ethiopia is also serving as transiting for many people who are on their way elsewhere and arriving to remain in Ethiopia. Therefore, the needs are diverse and possibilities for engagement are tremendous, she stated, adding that "so for me, this (Ethiopia) was a natural place to start the conversation."

South West Ethiopia is evergreen due to the commitment of the people for environmental protection

- Fantahun Blatie

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

Today's guest, Fantahun Blatie, is Culture, Tourism, and Sport Bureau Head for the South West Ethiopia State. The Ethiopia Herald made a brief stay with him to learn about Gebeta Lehager (Dine for Nation), Gebeta Letiweled (Dine for Generation) projects, the overall attractions found, the infrastructural development activities that are being developed in the state, and other issues. Have a nice read!

Would you please tell us about the potential tourist attractions found in the state?

The region is known for its 13 existing nationals. The diversity of the people by themselves is an attraction. The life style, dressing style, dancing and chanting, and other untold cultural activities of these nations' nationalities and peoples are also considered attractions.

On the other hand, plenty of wildlife and natural resources are available in the state. This makes the state peculiar. Of the various types of natural attractions, caves, waterfalls, and both natural and manmade lakes are listed. Kefa and Sheka, the two biosphere reserves, are registered on the UNESCO list.

In addition to this, the state is known for its two giant national parks. Chebera Churchura Park is the place where many wildlife species, such as African elephants, buffalo, endemic birds, and some plants exist. African elephants are rarely found on the African continent, but one can see more than 1000 in the park situated in the north-west part of Ethiopia. Some studies indicated that 2/3 of this kind of African elephant is only found in Ethiopia, which makes the park unique.

Due to the lakes that flow from year to year, the park is home to a number of wild animals. Within Chebera Churchura Park, there are six small lakes. One of the lakes is known for its endemic fish, called Gara Chebera. The park is located between the Dawro and Konta zones, and these resources created a strong bond between the peoples of the two zones. Indeed, parks are national treasures, and do not belong only to the peoples of the two nations or nationalities. But these people who are at the grass-roots level are at the forefront to the protection of the park which is a national resource. If it is developed well, it will be the wealth of the international community.

Omo National Park is the other attraction found in the new state. It is one of the oldest parks in Ethiopia. A number of wild animals, such as the endemic Wedinbi,



elephant, and buffalo, are commonly found in the park. The green scenery of the landscape makes your stay unforgettable.

In connection with Halala Keela, you can find an artificial lake that was created due to the presence of Gibe III Hydroelectric Power Dam. The lake makes the scenery eye-catching, and now it has become an amazing tourist attraction. The 175 kms long Halala Keela Defense Wall, is also another magnificent tourist attraction in the region. It may be taken as the world's second longest defense wall. Now, it is already registered as national heritage, and efforts have been made to inscribe the heritage on the UNESCO list.

The high-end class, which was built on the initiative of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, adds another beauty to the area. He farsightedly saw that the untapped potential of the area could be a source of wealth. He understood that the heritage, together with man-made lakes, can be one thing that makes the area famous. He builds the Halala Keela resort on his own initiative, following the artificial lake and the heritage. The resort takes its name from its heritage.

We also find plenty of tourist attractions when we go to Bench Sheko and Mizan Aman towns. In this area, there is a lake called Denbi. Following the flow of the lake, the government has proposed to construct the Gebeta Letiwled project. This

is also historic and eye-catching scenery in the state. The region has six zones each with a number of cultural, historical, natural and man-made resources.

Previously, there was the absence of tourist facilities. The limitations of infrastructure such as roads, electricity and telecom services were also another bottleneck for the area to benefit from the tourism sector. The regional government, together with the federal government, is now working to overcome the aforementioned challenges. For these to happen, the projects carried out by the initiative of the prime minister served as a springboard. The regional government and the people at large are committed to doing so.

Given that the southwest Ethiopian State is endowed with all these natural tourist attractions how are you trying to further promote the tourism and hospitality industries?

The region can generate income by promoting green tourism, adding hospitality facilities, and implementing infrastructure development. If we create a green revolution in the area, the place can serve as a tourist magnet as it has a number of tangible and intangible resources. If we invest some resources, we can generate a huge amount of foreign currency. If you take the Halala resort, for instance, it is busy throughout the year. No one can find a bed after arriving here, as most of the tourists book their rooms months ahead while they are still in Europe.

If we were investing in the area earlier, we would definitely generate a huge amount of income. We regret the opportunity that we have missed so far. If we open our eyes and see our resources, Ethiopia is not only equivalent to Dubai; it would rather be greater than the latter. Here in Ethiopia, we are looking at the natural resources but not the manmade ones as we find in Dubai. As their natural environment is highly degraded, international tourists are highly interested in visiting Ethiopia, particularly this area. We will obtain a lot of benefits by only protecting our natural resource potential. By exerting a tiny amount of effort, we can change the history of our country.

Could you say a few words about the community's green culture in a bid to conserve and protect the natural resources as they are and transfer them to posterity?

The natural resources found in the region have not been protected and transferred to posterity on their own. Here, we can perceive cultural attachment between people and natural resources. Before every individual goes to cut a tree, he or she



The natural resources found in the region have not been protected and transferred to posterity on their own. Here, we can perceive cultural attachment between people and natural resources. Before every individual goes to cut a tree, he or she needs to plant three trees and make sure that they have taken roots

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needs to plant three trees and make sure that they have taken roots. This is an age-old cultural strategy of the people. The people's lifestyle is highly intertwined with protection of forest. Children also highly value the community's green culture. The area is evergreen due to the commitment of the people to environmental protection. The youth are now given high respect for this culture. Apart from protecting the existing ones, the community and regional government are working together to plant more tree seedlings as part of the national green initiative programs.

The same is true in terms of protecting the heritage. The Dawro community had been ruled by kings. King Halala, for instance, ruled Dawro from 1782–1822 (E.C). As a versatile king, he had accomplished various tasks worthy of passing down from generation to generation, or the annals of history.

The predominant task of King Halala was the construction of a great wall called 'Kawo Halala'. The building work on the wall started several years before Halala came to power. The construction of the wall saw completion during his reign.

Dawros are among the nationals whose history has been shrouded in mystery for ages. As a result, the history and accomplishments of this community didn't get an opportunity to be passed down to posterity.

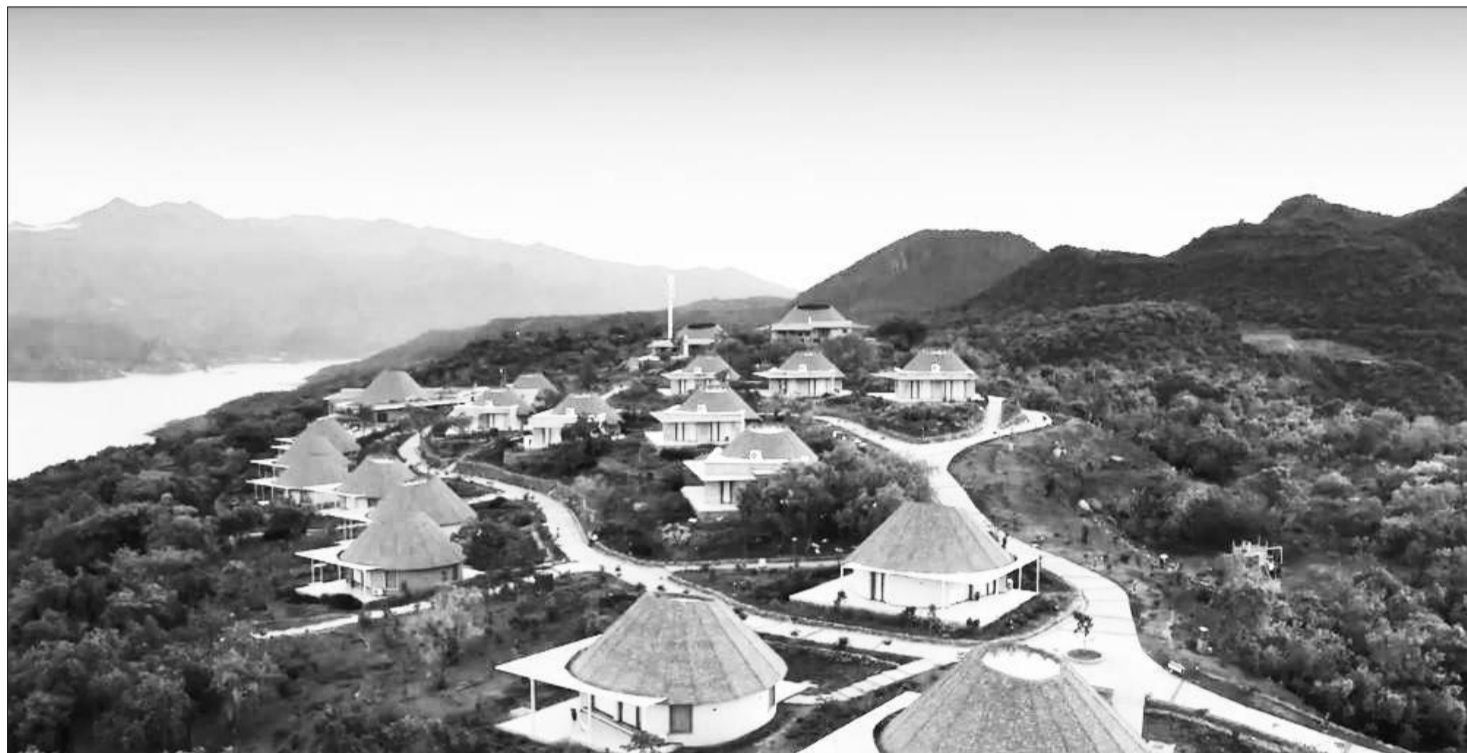
In this regard, conducting research and documenting facts about communities like Dawro has a pivotal role for society in particular and the country in general. With respect to this, the state culture, tourism, and sport bureau, together with the Dawro Zone Administration, is ardently studying the history and tradition of the community in a bid to preserve and transfer them for generations to come.

Since the dawn of history, mankind has utilized stones for a multitude of things. Predominantly, stones were employed for inscribing messages, constructing pyramids, building churches, fencing off compounds, and making layers of stone walls.

Some of the heritages had won worldwide fame. For instance, the great wall of China and Babylon, the pyramid of Egypt, the stone wall of Zimbabwe, the obelisk of Aksum, the Lalibela rock-hewn churches, and the wall of Harare are but a few of the exemplary ones.

Unlike the aforementioned heritages, for lack of promotion, the historical wall of 'Kawo Halala' had not come to the limelight of the world community. The wall of 'Halala' was built for defending enemies. The wall has three to seven rows.

Each row has 175 km of length. On average, the width falls between 2.5 and 5 meters, while the height falls between 2.5 and 3.8 meters. The walls, which have seven doors, are built in the ancient way of forming



Halala Keela resort

fortresses for defending one's community.

To be honest, the art the Dawros employed to put the wall in place is stunning. Unless one sees it for oneself, it may prove hard to visualize. The wall, named after King 'Kawo Halala', took, on average, 20–25 years to build.

According to some elderly people, the building of the wall was started by the ancient kings of Dawro, who lived around a place called Qoga. Namely, they are: King Susangiya Kawo Moha, King Sukute Zutuma Kawo Ubano, and King Zalinsa Kawuka Dino Moha, respectively. Kalsiya Gawo Jano was also among the inhabitants of the area. He had played quite a role in the construction of the wall.

Some facts indicate that to ward off possible attacks by enemies, the wall fences off Omo and Gojeb rivers to demonstrate the significance of the wall. Some Dawro researchers in their native language say, "Abo Dadadan Gumya Halala Dawro" which means "The wall we built is an emblem of our freedom. It is a stamp for the rights of our community." Walayita, Gamo Gofa, Hadiya, Dawuro and Kambata Tembaro zones boarder river Omo. The river Gojeb is sandwiched between the Oromia and Dawro borders.

Despite the presence of such strategically advantageous natural borders, the Dawro community has built a great wall to defend their community from enemies. A history text book entitled 'Dawro Community up to 1983 'E.C.' indicates that Dawro people were heroes potent enough to maintain their freedom.

From the 15th to the 19th centuries, the Dawro community was run by a monarchical system. In the course of this period, 14 kings came to power. These kings ruled seven towns in Dawro, maintaining its unity.

Unlike the Aksum obelisk, it is difficult to



Halala Keela wall

transfer the wall to other places intact. Since the stones are layered one on the other, care must be taken, for it would be difficult to manage if a portion was dislodged out of it. So, the task of preserving a sample or part of the wall to be dislodged had been conducted in a safe manner.

Moreover, though the task of introducing the great wall of 'Kawo Halala' commenced a long time ago, due to various hindrances, the accomplishment is far from satisfactory. Nevertheless, like the wall of Harar and the stele of Tiya, this wall too needs to be preserved.

Though King Halala finalized the wall, the seven kings had consecutively laid their footprints on the construction of the wall. Most of the kings constructed the wall to safeguard the territorial integrity of the community. This heritage has been

constructed for the past 200 years. This heritage has seven doors. By the way, number seven and the Dawro people have special attachments.

If you want to add any more points, please take a chance.

Our region is known for its natural, cultural, or man-made resources. It is gifted for tourism attractions. However, much remains to be done in terms of developing and exploiting the resources at hand. For those national and international investors who aspire to come and invest, our door is opened, and we facilitate everything possible. Come and visit this tourist attraction! Together, we can develop and change the area for our benefit. We lend our hands to you.

Thank you very much.

It is my pleasure.

Society

Looking beyond academic learning

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

Schools are not merely places where students acclimatize themselves to a learning environment and equip themselves with academic knowledge. Rather, they are also platforms where they grasp a wide range of skills, understand their surroundings and the external world; develop the skills to adapt and navigate with the ever changing world confidently, build their cognitive and character fortitudes aside from academic knowledge.

In this regard, concurrent to the usual classroom learning setups, designing mechanisms that engage students in practical works is of greater importance. Especially, in this dynamic world where things are changing constantly, being a well-rounded person and having a diverse set of all knowledge and skills is of critical importance to increase their employment probability, be competitive, fit in the job market and to let them have a successful life.

In view of this, the Addis Ababa Education Bureau revealed a plan to make schools workshops where practical works are given side by side to academic learning.

Bureau Head Zelalem Mulatu (PhD) told ENA that emphasis has been given to make schools in Addis Ababa workshops where students gain practical knowledge and skills on education which they have learned theoretically.

Activities are ongoing to help students understand their environment, especially to learn about the fruits and vegetables they eat, and to grow them in the school garden, and care for them.

He also mentioned that through agriculture education that is provided by high school students for work are carried out to upgrade their knowledge and skills and advance the growth of the sector. Schools are also implementing action-oriented agriculture education and this will continue in a more strengthened manner.

According to the Head, some schools that are operating in the capital and become successful in urban agriculture, have started supplying produce to the community. Not only that; but due attention has also been provided to let students scale up the experiences they gained at school to their homes and surroundings.

What is more, a system is designed in a way that urban agriculture supplies food resources for the school feeding program and the surrounding community grows vegetables in schools' gardens. Equally, platforms that allow model schools in urban agriculture to share good practices and expand their experiences have been arranged.

Dejzmach Wondirad Preparatory School is also carrying out various activities in urban agriculture and growing vegetables and fattening oxen.

As School's Principal Kassu Tumssa told ENA, the urban agricultural education that



Photo - ENA

is being conducted in the school is part of the new curriculum that supports the theoretical lessons that students learned in the classrooms in practice.

According to him, in order to make students well equipped citizens in their performance, in addition to the agriculture lesson they are taught theoretically, they will practically grasp the required knowledge and skills through urban agriculture that is carried out at the school.

He said that the school, apart from cultivating gardens in seven areas of the school premises, has started fattening cattle with seven oxen. The urban agriculture program is also benefiting the school community, the surrounding people and students as well, Kassu indicated.

In similar manner, Public Relations and Communications Directorate Director at the Addis Ababa Education Bureau Abebe Chernet also told *The Ethiopian Herald* that the Bureau is working along with pertinent stakeholders to provide students with hands-on practices through extracurricular clubs.

"Exercising practical teaching is underway at all schools in Addis Ababa. The program is believed to enhance the skills and knowledge of the students," he remarked.

According to him, the Addis Ababa Education Bureau is committed to support schools that are engaged in practical experiences side by side with theoretical learning. The Bureau engages students with extracurricular activity and it is a great

way to enrich students' classroom learning with practical experiences and skills. Realizing the program creates opportunity for students to gain lessons and discover the extracurricular options available that fit them.

Dej.Wondirad Primary School Principal Solomon Kibe on his part said that the school is growing various types of vegetables in its urban agriculture and is fattening oxen.

As to him, over six thousand students are attending their education in the school.

"The school is now engaged in providing practical lessons to its students through applying urban agriculture; and there are over one thousand two hundred hens, forty milk cows and seven beehives. Likewise, in its piece of land, a variety of vegetables are growing and contributing its share in stabilizing the supply demand in the market," he added.

According to him, the school is also engaged in afforestation activity at a land mass of 1500 hectare and working on producing seedlings that could serve in beautifying the city.

"The school community and families of the students are also participating in the activity; we have also integrated the activity with the school feeding program and students who face malnutrition will be provided with food items that are produced at school."

Pointing out students' happiness to take part in the program, the Principal said that they

a system is designed in a way that urban agriculture supplies food resources for the school feeding program and the surrounding community grows vegetables in schools' gardens

are getting hands-on training, managing practical works and making money. They are also developing the culture of conserving their surroundings and the environment.

"A billion birr revolving capital is in the program and we sure we will make great strides adding more engagements that could create opportunities for students to get lessons here practically," he concluded.

Art & Culture

Elias Wondimu and TSEHAI Publishers Council Presentation Marked a Milestone Celebration

BY STAFF REPORTER

A momentous occasion unfolded on September 15, 2023 at the Los Angeles City Council, as they recognized Elias Wondimu and TSEHAI Publishers with a special presentation. This event marked the kickoff of a year-long celebration of TSEHAI's 25th anniversary, an extraordinary milestone in the world of literature, culture, and inclusivity. Elias Wondimu, the visionary founder of TSEHAI Publishers, stood before the Los Angeles City Council to accept this prestigious honor. In his acceptance speech, he reflected on the remarkable journey of TSEHAI Publishers, which was born from a vision of inclusivity and intellectual rigor. Los Angeles, a city known for its diversity and creativity, held a unique place in the history of Ethiopian studies. Starting from the 1950s, it became the intellectual hub of Ethiopian studies, contributing significantly to our understanding of Ethiopian languages and culture. It was in this vibrant intellectual ecosystem that TSEHAI Publishers emerged, continuing a legacy of intellectual curiosity and cultural exchange. The Council's recognition of Elias Wondimu and TSEHAI Publishers reaffirmed the power of storytelling and the impact of literature on bridging cultural divides. TSEHAI Publishers had been at



the forefront of providing a platform for underrepresented voices, promoting cross-cultural understanding, and challenging narratives that marginalized communities. The event also marked the beginning of a year-long celebration of TSEHAI's 25th anniversary. This celebration will span different cities, countries, and continents, underscoring the global reach and influence of TSEHAI's mission. Elias Wondimu and TSEHAI Publishers express their

deep gratitude to the Los Angeles City Council for this remarkable honor. Their commitment to inclusivity, diversity, and the transformative power of storytelling continues to illuminate the path toward a brighter and more harmonious future.

TSEHAI Publishers, an institution dedicated to inclusivity and intellectual rigor, has been a leading force in the world of literature and culture for twenty-five years. They have provided a platform for

underrepresented voices, promoted cross-cultural understanding, and challenged narratives that marginalized communities.

Elias Wondimu, the visionary founder of TSEHAI Publishers, has exhibited unwavering dedication to the cause of truth, justice, and understanding through literature and culture. His tireless efforts have been instrumental in bringing diverse voices to the forefront of global conversations.



Why euthanasia shouldn't be an option for psychiatric patients

BY SENAIT G/HIWOT

I was watching a debate on the legalization of euthanasia which is an assisted form dying by physicians and might be helpful to patients with terminal illnesses.

It is accepted in countries like Netherlands, Belgium and Canada.

From my perspective it is a form of suicide for people whose cases might be better in long term treatment. If cases like this weren't an option patients would have no choice but to follow their treatment routine to get the necessary, help.

Euthanasia makes the patients choose the more direct and irreversible approach towards their circumstances which may be improved through time if it weren't an option.

In developing countries the chances of a person to terminate their life cannot by euthanasia. Despite their sufferings psychiatric patients have the capacity to

get well and shouldn't be given the chance to end their life because they will make impaired decisions at that point.

Legalizing euthanasia for children is accepted in some developed countries which is an act of crime. Even if they have unbearable pain or illnesses the decision of mortality should not be up to them because their situation may be quite different given some time.

Life is a precious thing that shouldn't be taken away without perfectly good reasons like terminal illnesses with unbearable pain like cancer.

There are many situations which are treatable and shouldn't just be left to a choice.

People with psychiatric illnesses like depression should not be given the right to decide with their fragile circumstances. The act of euthanasia is not kindness because for some people it takes away their chance to live a better life someday.

Pain illustrates the worst portraits

BY ALEM KIDANE

The artist - God - in the process of making me
saw fit to void normality
carelessly losing sight of any perspective
I desired or deserved.

He abandoned bright shades of happiness
favoring darker hues.
He emphasized circles under down-cast burdened eyes,
while highlighting a timeless frown that falls from a
displeasured smile.

Lines of agony, tracks from suffering
not desired to be seen, mark my face.
They're too much like scars unhealed.
They accentuate affliction on the rough and withered surface.

On his last strokes
he placed black pigment dripping with torture,
and a daunting outlook on life. Just for laughs.

Time neither seems to move nor stop, Just is.

Pain illustrates the worst portraits.

If given the chance, I'll pass on the next life.
The artist and I are not on a friendly basis.

Verbatim and Caption

President Sahle-work presents government's plans of the year

On Monday, October 09 the joint session of the third year and sixth tenure of the House of Peoples' Representatives (HPR) and House of Federation (HoF) was opened. During the opening session of the two houses, President Sahle-work Zewde presented the political, diplomatic, social and economic plans of the government for the 2023/24 fiscal year.



President Sahle-work also highlighted the main achievements of the government during the past fiscal year. During her speech, President Sahle-work called upon all Ethiopians to work for united Ethiopia by building shared narratives. Here are among the key points President Sahle-work highlighted during the session.

Putting Ethiopia on solid foundation

Ethiopians have to diligently work for a common narrative to put the country on solid foundation. We have to repair the fractures and differences. Ethiopians have to promote shared narratives to foster national state building, which currently is facing multifaceted challenges.

It is vital to reach on common consensus on major national issues to build strong and developed country. To reach in to national consensus on major national issues, we have to properly use the National Dialogue Commission. Ethiopia is gifted in natural resources



and the potential is still untapped, we have to exploit our natural resources for development in unison.

Ethiopia is symbol of independence

Ethiopia has made a lot of contributions to humanity. Ethiopia has served as the symbol of independence through its spirit of patriotism, igniting the black people across the world to rally for independence.

Our history shows that Ethiopians in unison have registered notable victories which become a symbol of independence even for others. Together we overcame many difficulties and survived. We have crossed a long way for centuries in solidarity with one another and stood together and defended the enemies that had fought us.

Diplomacy

On its foreign relations, Ethiopia will focus on increasing friendly countries and reducing enmity. It gives due focus on embracing development partners and economic integration with neighbors. Ethiopia will focus on improving the prevailing political relationship with neighboring countries to trade ties so as to develop economic integration of the region.

Ethiopia's diplomatic achievements during the concluded year were magnificent and will be further scaled up during this budget year. Ethiopia becomes member of BRICS, which implies a huge diplomatic success. Ethiopia will enhance the country's acceptance at the international arena.

Economic development

Ethiopian government is implementing policies to fight poverty, to diversify the economy and achieve the 10 year development plan. Ethiopian economy grew by 7.5% during the concluded fiscal year and Ethiopia planned to increase economic growth to 7.9% during this budget year.

During the concluded budget year, Ethiopia has created over 3.5 million new jobs. Over three million jobs will be created in the current fiscal year and Ethiopia also plans to create over 9.1 million jobs in the coming three years.

Our economy is entering a new era of sustained expansion and development emerging from difficulty. The Home Grown Economic Reform plays vital role in turning the challenges that the economy has faced in to opportunities. Agriculture, manufacturing, service finance, investment has played crucial role in supporting the registered encouraging economic development. About 160 new factories opened through the 'Let Ethiopia Produce' initiative.



Construction of GERD



The civil work construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) will be completed this budget year. Ethiopia successfully conducted the final and fourth round filling of GERD during the concluded fiscal year.

Currently, the construction of GERD has reached more than 90% and the civil work construction of the dam is expected to be completed during this budget year. GERD is crucial to achieve Ethiopia's prosperity.