



# The Ethiopian Herald

Vol. LXXX 042 29 October 2023 - Tikimt 18, 2016

SUNDAY EDITION

Price Birr 10.00



## Premier launches Lee Palm Spring Lodge project

• Pays visit Bentonite Mineral Mining , Production Factory

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA – As part of the ‘Dine For Generations’ initiative, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed launched the Niin Lee Palm Spring Lodge project in Afar State.

The project is one of seven tourism destinations to be built through the third ‘Dine’ Prime Ministerial initiative , it was learnt.

In the second tour of development initiatives in the Afar State, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) also visited the Afar Bentonite Mineral Mining and Production Factory in Warseso woreda yesterday.

Bentonite is a natural mineral considered a “miracle mud” and “clay of a thousand uses,” with its application in the making of ceramics, paint and other uses.

It is to be recalled that the Premier , alongside his delegation, arrived in Afar state yesterday’s morning to review development initiatives and to officially launch summer wheat production.

It was learnt that in Dubti Woreda, the community is getting prepared to cultivate summer wheat on 8,000 hectares of land.

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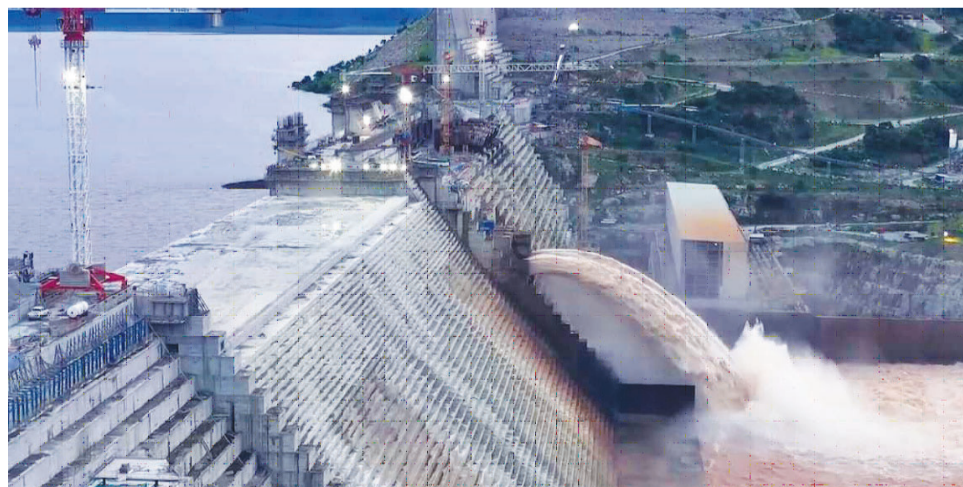
## Abbay Dam instrumental to preserve lower riparian’s biodiversity: EBI

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Apart from being the engine of the country’s industrialization, the Abbay Dam would play an immense role in preserving the biodiversity of Nile lower riparian states, the Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute(EBI) said.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), EBI Genetic Resources Access and Benefit Sharing Research Lead Executive Officer Abiyot Birhanu (PhD) stated that the dam would be of paramount significance in tackling climate change. “Given the fact that climate change is not limited to a single country, the dam would maintain a balanced climate

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**Medhin Decor**

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## Ministry to address information gaps in manufacturing industries

BY MENGESHA AMARE

ADDIS ABABA- Close partnership has been formed with the Ethiopian Statistical Service to address the absence of well-organized data in the manufacturing industries and to foster the sector’s growth, the Industry Minister said.

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## CSOs playing part towards inclusive, transparent Nat’l Dialogue

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# News

## CSOs playing part towards inclusive, transparent Nat'l Dialogue

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA** – Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) said that they are playing due role for an inclusive and transparent National Dialogue thereby solving the nation's multifaceted problems as planned.

Ethiopia's National Dialogue is designed to ensure public consensus on various national issues that have been a serious bone of contention so that it requires inclusiveness and transparency which inspired CSOs to play part in creating awareness and promoting inclusion.

New Life Charitable Organization Manager and Lawyer Helen Tilahun told The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the organization has been contributing fair share to make the dialogue more inclusive through mobilizing persons with disability, elderly, street persons and others that have not been addressed.

As to her, the organization is especially working on discussing with community representatives as scheduled by the National Dialogue Commission (NDC).

She further stated that Ethiopia is capable of realizing the national consensus as the country has drawn important lesson from Rwanda, and being ready for forgiveness and close talks which help the process to be inclusive and rewarding.

Egna Legna Youth Health Development Chartable Organization Founder and Manager, Fetlework Mitiku on her part said that her organization is working hard on awareness creation among the society about the significances of National Dialogue in Shashemene town.



FetleworkMitiku



TsedaleKinfu

"We have been able to involve more than 200 young volunteers in this matter, and much more is expected," she said.

For New Bright Community Development Center Manager, Tsedale Kinfu, "There is an attitude among the majority of the society



Helen Tilahun

that the participation at the individual level does not make any difference."

This assumption should be corrected immediately, she said, adding "We have taken a valuable training from the NDC that helps to create awareness among the community."

Tsedale's center identified youth members in collaboration with other similar charitable organizations to help the national dialogue commission hit the target.

She also stressed on the need to evaluating the NDC activities since the inception phase, and drawing lesson from other countries as it is significant to realize the expected outcome.

"We will also continue working on the matter to draw vital experiences about national consensus, reconciliation, and similar issues from other countries," she said.

## University stresses promoting researches for sustainable livelihoods

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

**ADDIS ABABA** – Well-researched and tested innovations are highly required to accelerate the adoption and scaling up of technologies in Ethiopia to bring about sustainable livelihoods, Wollo University President said.

Speaking at the validation workshop recently, University's President Mengesha Ayene (PhD) said that tested-innovations are highly needed to make delivery of aid more efficient and effective to contribute towards improved sustainable livelihoods and strengthen resilience of vulnerable communities.

He further emphasized that the university is aggressively working focusing on value addition innovation projects for household income improvement and contributing livelihoods and building the resilience of smallholders include access to clean energy, animal feed, climate smart agriculture and sustainable production and job creation upstream the value chain.

"Innovation for development is widely recognized in both developed and developing countries and to help this, RESET has implemented various innovation projects in different parts of the country," he noted. Lauding the unreserved financial support of the European Union and CORDAID for its great role in facilitating the grant and coordinating activities, the president elucidated that the project would have a significant and lasting impact on the lives of smallholder farmers.

Therefore, collaboration between universities and donors is crucial to accelerate the adoption and scaling up of technologies in Ethiopia, he said, adding the findings of this research can be used to develop policies and programs that support the adoption and scalability of innovation.

Wollo University Rural Development and Agriculture Extension Department Teacher and Lead Researcher Asrat Mulat for his part said partners have been implementing the RESET Plus innovation fund initiative funded by the European Union in a bid to ensure sustainable livelihoods and strengthen resilience of vulnerable communities.

The researcher stated that the International and National NGOs have been implementing a project targeting about 1,820 women clients in which half of them are drawn 910 from Boloso Sore while the rest 910 incorporated from Damote-Pulasaworedas of Woliata Zone in the past two years.

As to him, the study analyzed the innovative practices in production, processing and marketing of Enset and helps beneficiaries perceive the introduced practices are innovative that significantly reduces the workload and improves productivity. "Through implementing the project, the community has managed to produce value added products such as bags, fibers used for decor among others," he said.

Moreover, Asrat noted the project created inclusive livelihood mechanisms such as adopting innovative production, facilitating the marketing of products made from the plant linking the local, regional, national and international market-chains.

The study also confirmed that the value addition innovation in Enset is a pillar on making business in the future. Besides, it is vital to upturn the benefits of Enset value addition innovation through disease tolerant varieties, he emphasized.

## Central Ethiopia state officially formed

BY TSEGAYETILAHUN

**HOSSANA** - The Central Ethiopia State officially became the 13th constituent member of the country at the ceremony held in its capital, Hosanna yesterday in the presence of high-level federal and state officials.

Speaking at the occasion, Central Ethiopia State Chief Administrator Endashew Tassew said the federal government has taken bold steps to address the public's longstanding self-administration and good governance quests as part of the ongoing reform. Such measures would enable the public to focus on sustainable peace and stability as well as to foster development.

The Chief Administrator further noted that his administration would give priority to maintain the society's age-old peaceful co-existence and exploit the area's untapped resource potential.

Endashaew invited potential investors to explore the state's wider business opportunities; affirming his



administration's unwavering support for such endeavors.

For his part, Prosperity Party Vice President Adam Farah stated that the formation of new states is the manifestation of reform agendas that aim to address the long-geld aspirations to self-administration and statehood. Addressing such public demands aim to create a peaceful and

prosperous Ethiopia in years to come. Adem urged state leaders to build a strong administration that will change the livelihoods of their people. Recently, Fatie Serme lowas selected as speaker of the Central Ethiopia State Council. Various state chief administrators and business persons also pledged over 399 million Birr for the newly-established state.

# Editorial

# Opinion

## Peaceful Ethiopia in peace buttressing role across the globe

It is a foregone conclusion that the topography of Ethiopia and its population density make it one of the overarching countries in East Africa. The fact that Ethiopia basks under the aura of invincibility and it is a country unbroken by the inadvertent adventure of colonizers allows it to walk with a square shoulder.

Following its military prowess in Adwa, Ethiopia has turned a source of pride to Africa. In an emulative move of the example of freedom and independence Ethiopia set, many countries in Africa had managed to break off the chain of colonization taking Ethiopians a fortress society.

Infused in the soul of every Ethiopian are found bravery, wariness and sense of freedom. This could not be gainsaid. These virtues entitle Ethiopia a shoulderhigh walk among the crowd of countries often nominated for peace keeping task.

Moreover, the country has a highly disciplined army that discharges entrusted task efficiently. It is also one that distanced itself from activities that undermine human rights issues. Not only that, it boasts of an army that engages in development ventures parallel to the peace keeping task. What else peace thirsted countries could ask for?

All who took note of the aforementioned assets of the country put Ethiopia atop the short list of countries marked for international peace keeping mission. The robust army imbued with conviction has demonstrated its mettle coming up with flying colors in all of its deployments. As such, acid tested, it has won a widespread acceptance.

Ethiopia's peace preserving task starts from 1951. Female and male members of the army marching to Korea had played an invaluable role towards the required goal. In Korea, 1951 to 1954 about 6000 Ethiopian soldiers were dispatched to Korea.

In Congo too, in 1960, heading there, along with peace keepers from other nations Ethiopia has effectively handled the assignment it was given by the United Nations (UN). In its second a UN-led, blue helmet operation, Ethiopia has deployed three brigades consisting of 10,000 personnel to Congo.

In 2010 following the call of UN for support, dispatching five helicopters it has become a reason for the same evacuation of civilians caught in the crossfire in Darfur. Ethiopia is the foremost volunteer country in sending 8,300 soldiers to Darfur to arrest violence. Hence it has spared a multitude of civilians from the catastrophe that was to be fall on them.

As a founding member of the United Nations, Ethiopia has been dispatching soldiers up on request. It is ever ready to assist the Security Council. In South Sudan, in 2017 it has helped in letting conflicting parties see to reason and forestall bad omen that marked civilians. Here it is important to note that Ethiopia has set a new record for the UN peace keeping operation by supplying almost the entire component of Abiye, comprising over 4400 personnel.

All in all, extending a peace maintaining and helping hand in Korea, Congo, Ivory Coast, Rwanda, Burundi, Liberia, Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia Ethiopia has played quite a role in creating stability in the global arena.

Specially in reversing the cardinal terrorist agenda of Alshebab and ISIS Ethiopia's Defense Forces (ENDF) takes the lion's share. It has played an unmatched role. It is still doing so.

This week PM Abiy Ahmed who attended the 116 ENDF day has just noted that restructuring itself and undergoing through overhauling programs ENDF has turned robust. He underlined the significance of all-rounded self-strengthening task. Ethiopia must go on ensuring the safe flight of the dove of peace over the global sky. Ethiopia was peaceful and shall remain so.

## The geopolitical influence of red sea in region and world politics

BY MAHLET GASHAW

The Red Sea has fast become the subject of new geopolitical intrigue, as unprecedented engagement between Gulf States and the Horn of Africa reframes politics, economics, and security astride one of the world's most heavily trafficked waterways.

Friends and foes have converged in this increasingly crowded neighborhood as the Red Sea and its environs are infused with greater strategic import. Opportunities and risks abound, and as in any emerging frontier, the rules of the game are yet to be written.

Charles W. Dunne he is political analyst at horn of Africa and he says in the coming decades, the Red Sea is expected to play a bigger role as a crucial economic artery. In terms of geopolitics, it should be viewed as more deserving of cohesive policy attention on its own, possibly even more so than the conventional and inclusive Middle East focus of American and European policy-makers. Each year, more than 10% of the world's trade travels through the Red Sea, passing through two of the ten most important waterways in the world:

In addition he points the nations bordering the Red Sea on Africa's northeastern coast, as well as the Arabian Peninsula, have enormous growth potential. By the early 2050s, it is anticipated that there would be a population increase of roughly 620 million to almost 1.3 billion, and a corresponding increase in GDP of \$1.8 trillion to \$6.1 trillion. But because to a lack of infrastructure and substantial deep water commercial ports, the area's African coast is now significantly underdeveloped. Political, economic, and military interest in the Red Sea region is increasing as the region's potential becomes clear, as is armed conflict and political instability.

Furthermore he pointed military participation has significantly increased as tensions in the Middle East have shifted towards the Red Sea. In order to conduct naval and aerial attacks against Houthi troops in Yemen, the United Arab Emirates built a facility in the port of Assab in Eritrea in 2015. Despite the UAE's cancellation of plans to construct a second military base in Berbera in breakaway Somaliland in 2020, this base, along with numerous other port access and development agreements in the region, have significantly increased Emirati presence in the Red Sea and brought about a variety of military and economic implications.

Each of these countries has participated in international anti-piracy operations and continues to maintain a presence there largely for that purpose, although the United States and China also have their eyes on broader strategic interests. Djibouti has become a key node for foreign military presence, hosting naval facilities of the United States, France, Italy, Japan, and China.

Lastly China has maintained a continuous naval presence in the region since it joined

anti-piracy operations in 2008, at one time deploying upwards of 26,000 personnel there. In 2017, China's People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) established a logistics base in Djibouti, which is intended to support Chinese naval and peacekeeping operations in the Horn of Africa as well as possible contingency operations, such as emergency evacuations (Beijing evacuated Chinese nationals from Libya in 2011 and Yemen in 2015). China's Djibouti presence is also intended to support potential counter terrorism operations as well as intelligence gathering.

The history of the Gulf and Horn can be understood partly in dichotomy, contrasted by notions of the Red Sea as a feature of union or division. The cultures, economies, and people of each sub-region have indeed been informed by generations of engagement astride this narrow waterway, for better and worse.

Trade, migration, linguistic heritage, and religious affinity all feature, as do slavery, conflict, and religious mistrust. Projections of power and ideology including Cold War jockeying have animated relations, as have asymmetries arising from the rapid accumulation of Gulf wealth. At the same time, the import of this geographic proximity is sometimes overstated; yielding invocations of shared culture, kinship, and opportunity that sometimes outstrip historical realities or belie fundamental differences of state and society.

The flurry of new activity raises the prospect of political cooperation and economic integration across the emerging Red Sea arena. But as regional rivals vie for access and influence, a narrative of contest has so far prevailed. No clear hegemon exists, and the competition among aspirants is characterized by projections of influence across ever-greater swathes of land and sea.

For those inside and outside the region, freedom of navigation is at stake, as is the protection of maritime trade and control of a major strategic choke point at the southern gate of the Red

Sea: the Bab-al-Mandab. Geo-economics also inform these new dynamics, as do ideology, political transitions, and energy and infrastructure development.

As states with different cultures, models of government, and styles of diplomacy attempt to shape a new multilateral collective, obstacles abound. But the potential dividends of integration, development, and conflict prevention merit the effort.

A Red Sea forum will not deliver shared prosperity or cure all ills, but it can offer this diverse set of actors a venue to shape the emergent trans-regional order, maximizing opportunity and minimizing risk, in what might otherwise become a dangerously chaotic arena.

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



## The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays  
By The Ethiopian Press Agency

Office of the CEO  
Tel. 011-126-42-22  
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# News

## Aviation College graduates over 940 students

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA-** The National Aviation College graduated yesterday 943 students in certificate, first degree and masters programs.

It was indicated during the occasion that the college started providing courses in aviation maintenance technicians, flight operation, ticketing and reservation and cabin crew in new form.

Congratulating the graduates, National Aviation College President, Prof. Derbew Belew said that the college is providing competent and skilled personnel for Ethiopia's aviation, hotel and tourism industries and to international clients. The college is offering courses in hotel



management, accounting and finance, marketing and cabin crew, and hospitality management programs.

"It is one of the private sector actors in Ethiopia's aviation industry and it has

been rendering passengers and cargo air transport service in the nation."

The National Aviation College is a member of the national investment group and sister company of national airways.

The president further highlighted that the college commenced providing training in aviation maintenance and expanding training in nursing and pharmacy programs.

Eba Mijena (PhD) CEO for Academic Affairs of the Ministry of Education, who mentioned the need for competent hotel and tourism industry experts, applauded the college's contribution in filling the gap witnessed in the sector. "To eradicate poverty from Ethiopia, we need an educated and skilled labor force and advance technological penetration."

Eba noted the college is also maintaining quality of education by teaching students in good manners and recruiting competent teachers.

## Ethio telecom safeguards cyber security, digital banking space

• Transacts 1.3 trillion Birr in two years

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA -** Ethio telecom said that it is working with Information Network Security Agency (INSA) to protect national security and digital banking spaces amid the rapid rise in transaction and subscription.

The state-owned telecom service provider has been transacting over 1.3 trillion Birr over the last two years on fuel related payments while witnessing a 38 million rapid rise in the subscription of Telebirr, a mobile money which facilitates the delivery of cashless transactions.

Approached by Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Ethio telecom Chief Information Security Officer, Tsegaye Emmanueldisclosed that the number of people who are using digital technology service is rising rapidly, which came up with an adverse effect of an increase in cyber-attack and money fraud.

Accordingly, the Officer expressed that Ethio telecom is applying latest digital



technology to protect customer's money and privacy, regulate digital banking and minimize money fraud at banks and financial institutions nationally.

"Companies like Ethio telecom and other financial institutions are expected to first ensure their security and fill the gap seen in the financial sector," he said.

According to Tsegaye, the Ethio telecom

is working with banks to fix vulnerability emanating from unknown place by implementing the recommendation from INSA.

"Vulnerability of cyber-attack and money fraud is highly increasing in many ways like using internet access, and this in turn discourages customers' confidence. Hence, we had better create collaborative environment to minimize and control mobile money fraud, account takeovers thereby improving customer trust, and establish effective control mechanisms in digital bank industry," he stressed.

As to the Officer, Ethiopia is ensuring digital transformation and facing cyber-attack on customers of financial sector at the same time.

Therefore, he pointed out that the issue of combating such dangers should not be left only to Ethio telecom as the fight against all these challenges highly require the integrated effort of all.

## Premier launches ...

It is indicated that the country is gearing up to cultivate over 3 million hectares of summer wheat this Ethiopian year.

Commonly known for pastoralism and prior sidelined in provision of agricultural inputs, the Afar state is now progressing greatly in national agricultural productivity of wheat, cotton, bananas and many other goods, according to the Office of the Prime Minister (PMO).

## Abbay Dam ...

in the Nile riparian countries."

The filling of the dam would not only enable it to deal with the rise in temperature but it would also play a major role in managing floods that could damage the area's biodiversity.

Similarly, the filling would help Nile downstream countries to access clean water throughout the year, the head added.

"Climate change, drought and biodiversity are unbounded. The fact that the surrounding of the dam is green and well developed; it would play an undeniable role for conservation of biodiversity resources. Also, it would tackle the degradation witnessed in the neighboring countries."

When the humidity in the area becomes regular, it would allow plants to grow and the dam would support fishery development, which is one of biodiversity resources.

More importantly, the species would increase better in lakes, and plenty of birds and different animals will follow the fishery development, Birhanu elaborated.

The expert further noted that the dam would serve as a habitat for different bird species gathered from all over the world.

Likewise, the humidity would create favorable condition for insects and reptiles, which makes the area to become the second crocodile breeding area next to Arba Minch. "The role of biodiversity for eco-tourism is also worth mentioning."

## Ministry to address information...

Speaking to FBC, Industry Minister Melaku Alebel stated that lack of comprehensive data has been hindering the government's efforts to promote the manufacturing industries.

The emerging manufacturing industry is seriously impacted by lack of well-organized and systematically filed data and it is becoming difficult to know what kind of industries Ethiopia has and to realize their production capacity. It is also troublesome to identify what kind of infrastructure and input do the industries need.

Systematic data collection is crucial to identify the type of infrastructure, supply and market linkages demand of each industry and to understand the number of jobs that are being created in the facilities, Melaku added.

Ethiopian Textiles and Apparels Producers Association Secretary General Agazi Gebreyesus for his part said that manufacturing industries are working to create direct producer-to-producer linkage and foster

production. "However, there are a number of information gaps that need to be bridged along this line."

Beverage Industries Association Manager Ahenafi Meried said, "Manufacturing industries, for instance, can get foreign currency through National Bank, but the latter doesn't have full information about them."

Afar State Trade and Industry Bureau Head Muhammed Humed indicated that the bureau has also been challenged to lead the industry using a knowledge based approach as a result of the information gap. Even, he said, most of the industries are not well known at what level they are operating, what kind of input they need, and their general status due to lack of information.

Amhara State Industry and Investment Bureau Head Idris Abdu also mentioned a similar problem of knowledge and information gap to lead the industry as properly and profitably as possible. As the result of this, it is unable

to identify challenges that the manufacturing industries have been encountering and devising possible solutions.

To address such a challenge, the Ministry of Industry inked accord with the Ethiopian Statistics Service and the latter vowed to keep proper records of manufacturing industries and others accordingly.

According to the Minister, such a bold step helps to solve problems of industries and enables them to boost production and productivity via recording full information and the Service will know all aspects of industries upon keeping records.

"Keeping records in an organized manner would be of paramount importance in helping to identify for whom we would provide land and to supervise whether activities are being carried out per plan. Besides, reliable and timely information fosters the manufacturing industry's general growth," he remarked.

# Opinion

## Healing the past wound through implementing transitional justice

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

In its modern history, Ethiopia has passed through political upside downs and it is still can be categorized as a country with weak institutions unable to bring stability. Because it did not witnessed political continuity and the past regimes did not obtain legitimacy and the nation still indulged to in to cycle of violence.

Some argue that, the root cause of the political instability related to the modern nation formation project began in the last quarter of the 19th century by Emperor Menelik II.

The emperor, with his generals, expedited militarily towards the east, south and south-western parts of the country to implement nation formation and for various purposes. According to historians, the emperor, while he was king of Shewa, in order to pay tribute imposed by the king of kings, emperor Yohannes IV, which was beyond his paying capacity; he expedited towards the above-mentioned regions to subdue them and obtain sufficient resources.

He also claimed that the territories were historically part of the ancient Ethiopia so that campaigned to incorporate to the empire. The other factor was to preempt the colonial powers that had an ambition to annex territories before they reached to the hinterland of the country.

While consolidating his power, the emperor had not denied the regional kings rights to rule their own territory as long as they pay tributes to him.

The recognition of regional king's authority by Menelik helped their culture and languages to be intact. Some historians agreed that emperor Menelik Pursued traditional type of federalism by letting regional kings to exercise their power autonomously.

King Abajifar of Jima, Ras Hailu Teklehaimanot of Gojam, Dejach Jote Tulu and Dejach Kumssa Moreda of Wolega, King Micheal of Wollo and Tigray governors can be cited in these regard. He established his cabinet with eight ministers and state apparatus in 1908.

To modernize the country, he established educational institutions and hospitals, installed telephone station. He also stretched rail way by providing concession to the French company which connected Addis Ababa with port of Djibouti and in return he leased Djibouti to be ruled for 99 years by France.

The political system similar to the past was remained more of spiritualized rather than secularized and the church had the upper hand over the earthly politics. The traditionalists critically opposed the expansion of secular education and accused the venture as if it had been against the religion.

Unlike Menilik, his heir emperor Hailasilasie I exerted efforts to establish a centralized government and eroded the

autonomy of the regional kings and lords and appointed governors from the center. The emperor for the first time introduced the constitution in 1931 and established a by-bicameral legislative body and his cabinet but the constitution gave absolute power to the emperor.

During the occupation of Ethiopia by Fascists from 1936 to 1941 the emperor stayed exiled in London and after the liberation, he came back and continued his power consolidation schema and modernizing the country. He established modern institutions such as Ethio-telecom, Ethiopian air- line and defense force and various educational institutions including University of Hailasilasie I.

But the monarchial system had no showed interest to accept the outcome of education.

The then intellectuals beginning from the late 1950s demanded change of old monarchial system by modern governance which empowered citizens through recognizing their freedom of expression and association but the response of the statuesque was deaf ear.

20 years later, after he returned from exile, in 1960, the emperor faced a critical challenge that risked his very power while he was on a visit in Brazil. The coup -detect carried out by the Neway Brothers. Their objectives were to ensure the century's old demands, such as land to be given to the tiller, establishing a political system led by an elected president and expanding education. Negotiations took place between the coup leaders and government officials, but they were unable to reach an agreement. Angered by the response given by government officials regarding his demand, General Mengistu Neway gave order to his soldiers and killed 16 officials of the emperor's cabinet members.

Later the supporters of the government such as General Merid Mengehsha, Jagema Kelo and Tadesse Biru used their military muscle and contain the coup and stabilized the situation.

Following the coup many were arrested and confined in jail and the leader of the coup was sentenced to death.

The then student movement which was moderate before the military coup, changed in to radical one and put question on the very establishment of the country both politically and narratively.

One of the student movement leader asserted that Ethiopia was a prison of nation, nationalities and peoples and dominated by one culture. Therefore, their question must be resolved by implementing the right to "Self- determination up to secession".

The other student leader on his part rejected the ancient history of Ethiopia which many claimed for centuries that kings ruled the country were descendant of queen Sheba and King Solomon of Judah and blatantly labeled it as false narratives.

According to historians, these radical stances paved the way for the emergence of

ethno nationalist movements and the current constitution is prepared based on such left wing utopian socialist ideology.

13 years later after the attempted military coup, the old monarchial system was overthrown by unconstitutional means by the Dergue.

The new military regime in its formative years pledge to restore law and order, to introduce democratic system and to respect freedom of expression and justice.

But months later it ruthlessly killed 60 of the arrested imperial officials without due process of law.

In the following years until its demise, it continued to treat his opponents harshly with no tolerance. The aspiration to attain justice requested for generations remained night mare. The Dergue introduced socialist ideology but instead of solving socio-economic and political problems by bringing justice, it made the country to indulge in civil war for 17 years.

The victim families of the atrocities committed by the name of red terror and others who were killed by the opponents of the Dergue still did not get justice and they should obtain justice through the transitional justice system which will be conducted sooner.

Similar to the monarchial regime, the fate of the Dergue was removed from power unceremoniously by un- constitutional means in 1991. The EPRDF regime which overthrew the Dergue arrested the officials but instead of bringing justice, it and sentenced them by unfair trial and the legal system which was subjected to its manipulation.

Though the new regime introduced new constitution and pledged to protect both citizens and group rights, it failed to do so.

Hence, extrajudicial killing, arrest and abduction of political opponents continued to be the order of the day. These crimes committed in the era of EPRDF also must be treated by the transitional justice system.

Recently, the Ministry of Justice announced that, it is making extensive preparations to implement Transitional Justice Policy with a view to realizing strong unity and bring sustainable peace in the country.

Recalled that transitional justice policy document which is believed to contribute to sustainable peace, reconciliation and justice in Ethiopia has been developed.

Justice Minister Gedeon Timothiwos explained the current progress of policy options for Transitional Justice in Ethiopia to Legal, Justice and Democracy Affairs Standing Committee of the House of Peoples' Representatives.

During the occasion, the minister said transitional justice is crucial for nation building and bring sustainable peace in the country.

He pointed out that there is ample evidence of transitional justice practice in many countries of Latin America and Africa. The experiences enabled the identification of a

range of activities and processes that are used to implement transitional justice and consolidate democracy.

Ethiopia had attempted to apply certain components of transitional justice on different occasion however; the absence of a holistic transitional justice framework rendered its efforts ineffective, incoherent, and largely fragmented.

Therefore, he said in order to consolidate democracy and ensure sustainable peace, it is imperative for the country to develop a comprehensive transitional justice policy based on its current realities and socio-political context, and by drawing on lessons from national and international levels.

Dealing effectively with past violations using transitional justice mechanisms contributes to the advancement of rule of law and sustainable peace. The document on Policy Options for Transitional Justice in Ethiopia is developed based on the findings of a study conducted by experts and is aimed at soliciting inputs from relevant stakeholders.

Over 200 law lecturers of 33 universities have been participated in the preparation of policy option and some 47 discussions were held at national and regional level. The minister said transitional justice is a process that seeks to build a system of sustainable peace, reconciliation, stability and rule of law by breaking with a past culture of atrocities and injustices.

He pointed out that the first phase of the transitional justice policy framework process is nearing completion and the implementation of the international and continental laws that Ethiopia has agreed upon will not allow forgiveness and amnesty on serious and international crimes.

In the meantime, Gideon gave explanation to the standing committee regarding the status of justice sector transformation program.

According to the minister, the program is designed to resolve complaints against the justice system by taking the grievances of the public as a starting point.

A special intervention is needed to improve the current judicial system; he said, adding that it will bring fundamental changes to ensure service satisfaction in the justice sector.

Members of the standing committee said if the plan is put into operation, it will realize the huge demand of justice from the society and in this regard they are tasked to inspect and monitor the minister to achieve its plan.

To that end reforming legal institutions and appointing professionals with strong integrity is essential. Side by side with these, building of strong and independent institution helps to bring sustainable justice.

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

# Business & Economy

## Embarking on manufacturing - the engine of growth, change

BY MENGESH AMARE

Needless to state, manufacturing sector or industry is of paramount importance in fueling economic development and social dynamics as well as growth trajectories of developing countries such as Ethiopia.

Unequivocally, manufacturing is the engine of growth and the subsector in Ethiopia is fueling poverty reduction strategies as well as contributing some degree of competitiveness to the continental and global markets. The sector offers special opportunities for industrial progress and it is highly intertwined with other sectors such as the service one.

Keeping the myriads of benefits of the sector for national advancement, The Ethiopian Herald had a stay with Segni Bekele, an industrial engineer graduated from Bahir Dar University in Engineering, to harvest a piece of information about industrial economic contribution and manufacturing sector paybacks for economic advancement.

He said, “Revitalizing the manufacturing—an industry that has been witnessed a beating heart of the country’s economy—could be fundamental to resolving a range of inequities via driving sustainable, inclusive growth. The capital goods that are employed in other sectors are produced in the manufacturing sector, and manufacturing has been witnessed to be a key part of the solution to economic problems.”

According to Segni, the manufacturing sector is full of companies driving significant shareholder value. Investors and capital markets should start paying attention as the sector is a viable means to bring about change.

He further stated that recommencing capital stock in manufacturing sector could help the industry realize its full potential and get billions of investment flow. Not only does this bold move serve to modernize and digitize manufacturing infrastructure but it also triggers a virtuous cycle of increased economic activity among the societies across the nation.

Strengthening investments in this sector could also play a major role in tackling place-based inequalities from corner to corner, especially in communities left out of the prosperous tech and finance industries, he opined.

Amalgamating the manufacturing sector with those of service, construction and others would definitely pay off.

True, he said, manufacturing is the main economic engine and primary employer of thousands of millions of citizens across the nation such as in various industrial parks in the case of Ethiopia, for instance. In those industrial parks, the industry employs a broader swath of the overall population, and it is being run in a more inclusive manner. If, truly speaking, he added, Ethiopia attaches



*Amalgamating the manufacturing sector with those of service, construction and others would definitely pay off.*

due emphasis to the manufacturing sector, it will definitely bring about a blueprint for success within the shortest time possible, via ensuring lasting peace across the nation as some sporadic skirmishes have given the smooth operation of manufacturing sector hard time especially these days.

He said, “Reviving the manufacturing sector could also add up to thousands of millions of jobs, particularly among middle-skill workers, helping recalibrate the labor market and bolster the middle class economy throughout the nation.”

As to Segni, revitalizing manufacturing means revitalizing the society, and realizing the benefits of a dynamic manufacturing industry will require a dual focus on modernization and workforce development.

The industry highly attracts innovation and active involvement of the young workforce across the economy to deliver lucrative businesses the people and capital they need to thrive. Hence, private and public sector leaders can play a great role in modernizing smaller manufacturing operations by providing them with financial programs and targeted business areas.

According to Segni, companies are expected to engage with universities, colleges, schools as well as communities through conglomerates so as to boost industry’s innovations and it would this time provide workers with a number of job opportunities and gratifying engagements.

Here, he said, the public and private sectors are increasingly resolved to shore up the industry under discussion that has long been a pillar of the country’s economic fabric despite its sluggish pace compared to what the nation has been endowed.

“The government and other stakeholders must focus their collective energy on urging investors and capital markets to turn their attention to manufacturing, enticing new talent and training the workforce for tomorrow’s jobs, and updating and digitizing the manufacturing infrastructure in the country as the manufacturing sector is primed to resume its position as a

powerhouse of the economy.”

If the manufacturing industry capitalizes on multifarious opportunities by investing in innovation and workforce development, the gains will propel sustainable and inclusive growth as well as simultaneously fueling Ethiopia’s competitiveness on the continental as well as global stage since the country does have numerous avenues to come to the forefront regarding the manufacturing sector, he accentuated.

The very point that has to be well comprehended in this regard is that said Segni globalization of the manufacturing ecosystem has driven more changes and impacted the prosperity of more companies, nations and people than at any time since the dawn of the Industrial Revolution.

That is why nations around the world have been taking part in and benefited out of the rapid globalization of industry and expansion of manufacturing, he added.

Undoubtedly, globalization of manufacturing has been a key driver of higher-value job creation and a rising standard of living for the growing middle class in emerging nation economies like Ethiopia. A significant change in geopolitical relations between East and West, the widespread growth of digital information, physical and financial infrastructure, computerized manufacturing technologies, and the proliferation of bilateral and multilateral trade agreements have been unquestionably attributable to the ever-rapid globalization scenario, Segni underscored.

Such decisive factors have been profoundly reshaping manufacturing supply chains over the coming several decades he said adding that this reshaping will also be influenced by complex macroeconomic and geopolitical challenges such as exposure to currency volatility, sovereign debt pressures and emerging protectionist policies of many countries to gain access to emerging and prosperous new markets. In one way or another, all of these factors are driving more localized manufacturing supply chains.

As learnt from Segni, investing in effective

infrastructure has been essential for emerging nations such as Ethiopia to be included as a potential location by multinationals and thus participate in the benefits derived from the globalization of manufacturing.

He said, “The manufacturing industry is of great interest to investors and business leaders hoping to take advantage of the opportunities presented by rapid globalization and the significant growth of the middle class in emerging markets, as well as serving high-value customers in developed markets with innovative new products and services.”

As manufacturing is indeed the foundation for building economic prosperity in industrialized nations, developing nations have to draw important lessons from the promising trend the former have been through with a view to bringing about real change in all aspects, he opined.

What is practically happening in Ethiopia today is technology and innovation drive growth within the sector and spurs a constant upgrading of its capabilities despite trying hurdles that need to be well addressed to help the nation garner the benefit it deserves from the potentially untapped sector.

Yes, he elucidates, the manufacturing sector evolves through global economic dynamics, as well as advanced equipment and processing technologies, to produce more diverse and sophisticated products. Thus, it opens the door not only for employment that requires higher skill levels at higher wages, but also for a greater convergence of skills and expertise.

Generally, Segni wrapped up his idea saying that the link between a thriving manufacturing sector and economic growth is a direct and significant one. Such a rewarding association particularly regarding employment and industries those themselves are linked, and the manufacturing sector has the largest multiplier effect of any economic zone. Thence, understanding the changes in manufacturing will help nations establish their own capabilities to innovate and set new development opportunities regarding all potential spheres.

# Planet Earth

## Green Legacy embraces Ethio- Czech bonds through climate diplomacy

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

The Ethiopian Green Legacy Initiative is a countrywide environmental initiative initiated in 2019 by Ethiopian Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed. The effort attempts to address deforestation and climate change by planting billions of trees across the country.

The Ethiopian government has set a goal of planting four billion trees during the rainy season in 2019 under the Initiative. This goal was met, with over 350 million trees planted in just one day. The effort was extended in subsequent years, with the goal of planting 20 billion trees by 2022.

The government also inaugurated the second phase of the Green Legacy Initiative, with the theme “Let’s plant our future today.” The first phase of the Green Legacy Initiative was a success, with Ethiopia planting 25 billion plants. As a result, the country has set a goal of planting another 25 billion seedlings in the second phase of the Green Legacy Initiative. The program is a grassroots strategy for combating climate change and environmental damage. It is one method of creating job opportunities and ensuring food security by planting edible seedlings.

Furthermore, the Initiative is considered a response to Ethiopia’s environmental concerns, such as deforestation, soil erosion and climate change. Over the years, the country has seen extensive deforestation, resulting in biodiversity loss, soil degradation, and increased vulnerability to droughts and floods.

The Green Legacy Initiative is not simply a national endeavor, but it also welcomes participation from individuals, communities, and organizations in Ethiopia and around the world. It encourages a sense of environmental responsibility in people and motivates them to take action to conserve and restore the environment. As a result, the program has earned international recognition and support, with other countries showing interest in replicating the approach.

Particularly, the Czech Republic, taking the Green Legacy initiative’s benefits for climate change mitigation into consideration, has been actively participating in and supporting the initiative since 2019. The Czech Republic has expressed support for Ethiopia’s Green Legacy Initiative, which aims to mitigate deforestation and promote reforestation in the country.

Since the launch of the initiative the staff members of the embassy have been planting tree seedlings, mainly of endemic tree varieties of Ethiopia, and fruit seedlings have been planted on the premises of the Embassy of Czech. Former Czech Republic Ambassador to Ethiopia Ambassador Pavel Mikeš said that the embassy has been taking part in the Green Legacy initiative not only to mitigate climate change but also to make Addis Ababa a green, cleaner, quieter, and more beautiful diplomatic capital.

Thousands of tree seedlings, in particular, have been planted by embassy staff members during the first phase of the Green Legacy



Ambassador Miroslav Kosek

**The Ethiopian Green Legacy Initiative, in particular, demonstrates a tremendous commitment on the part of the Ethiopian government and citizenry to solve environmental concerns and promote sustainable development**

measures of climate change, and challenges connected to climate resilience in Ethiopia.

On the occasion, the Czech Republic Ambassador to Ethiopia Ambassador Miroslav Kosek stated the Czech Republic reaffirmed its commitment to assisting Ethiopia in its efforts to strengthen climate resilience.

Ethiopia has been working to reduce the effects of climate change and establish a climate-resilient environment. One of the most significant and prominent successes to date in this regard is the Green Legacy Initiative, which has resulted in the planting of billions of tree seedlings around the country, he noted.

According to him, the topic of climate resilience is a subject that transcends borders, affecting the lives of people in every corner of the planet. Climate change is not a distant threat; it is a reality that is already impacting the lives of millions.

Furthermore, the ambassador highlighted that Ethiopia, with its diversified ecosystems and particular vulnerabilities, is not immune to this grim truth. Climate change’s effects, ranging from lengthy droughts to irregular rainfall patterns and catastrophic weather events, represent a substantial threat to the country’s long-term growth and people’s well-being.

“Climate resilience is not just about adapting to the changes that are already upon us; it’s about building a sustainable future for generations to come. These challenges underscore the urgency of our collective efforts to address climate resilience-related issues,” he underlined.

As a result, the ambassador reaffirmed that the Czech Republic is dedicated to assisting Ethiopia in its efforts to enhance climate resilience in the spirit of cooperation. “Our development cooperation with Ethiopia dates back many decades.” We are committed to assisting and enabling Ethiopia’s economic potential, with the goal of achieving sustainable and inclusive economic progress.”

On the other hand, the ambassador stated that Czech promotes comprehensive rural development, including agriculture, focusing on ensuring food security for the population, while protecting the landscape and managing land and forests sustainability. It also focuses on the sustainable management of natural resources, particularly water, and ensuring access to safe and affordable drinking water, adequate sanitation, and hygiene and facilities.

In general, Ethiopia and the Czech Republic have maintained a cooperative, economic, and cultural relationship. The Ethiopian Green Legacy Initiative, in particular, demonstrates a tremendous commitment on the part of the Ethiopian government and citizenry to solve environmental concerns and promote sustainable development. By focusing on tree planting and reforestation, the initiative helps worldwide efforts to prevent climate change and conserve ecosystems. Supporting these endeavors improves the two countries’ bonds even more.

Initiative. In collaboration with Czech projects in the Sidama and SNNP regions, the embassy has also planted tens of thousands of tree seedlings. From its two nurseries in Hawassa and Arbaminch, the embassy has also been producing its own plants for the Green Legacy Campaign, he added.

Indeed, the Czech government has been offering technical assistance and knowledge in areas such as sustainable forest management and afforestation. It has been involved in Ethiopian development cooperation initiatives concentrating on healthcare, education and infrastructure.

More importantly, the Czech Republic’s support for the Green Legacy Initiative and renewable energy development indicates a common commitment to environmental sustainability and climate change mitigation. This collaboration promotes the bilateral relationship between the two countries.

First Deputy Minister of Czech Republic Foreign Affairs Iri Kozak once told local media that the Czech Republic wants to have economic relations aimed at building a long-term partnership with Ethiopia. The country is desirous to further strengthen bilateral relations with Ethiopia in the potential fields of cooperation such as security, economy, education as well as scientific and research cooperation.

Hence, “We are now reviewing our programs for the next period and we are preparing programs; for example, in the areas of water treatment, and agriculture, these are the areas which are important for us, but we have discussed with local authorities, national authorities about what can be done in the future and how the development programs should look like,” he explained.

More significantly, this week in Addis Ababa, a panel discussion on Ethiopia’s climate resilience took place. The Czech Republic Development Cooperation and the Austrian Development Cooperation hosted the panel, which covered topics like policy approaches, programming, adoption and mitigation

# Art & Culture

## Heartening culture of cordiality

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

Wednesday, September 26, 2023- it was a day Ethiopians mark the Demera festival. I woke up early in the morning to join the team led by the Ministry of Government Communication Services, consisting of experts drawn from 11 media institutions.

The destination of the trip was South-West Ethiopia region. The trip aimed at visiting destination's potential as well as infrastructural development activities that are being carried out by the government and investors to inform educate and entertain the society.

As the team's vehicle was to pass by my residential neighborhood found in Zenebework, I waited it there than heading to the starting point.

Celebrants from the Gurage and other ethnic groups from the south with assortment of fully filled backpacks were hitting the road with so many buses. Whether it was to visit friends or relatives, or celebrate a holiday with their respective family; with jubilant mood, all were just on their way to home sweet home in the rural parts of the country.

My cell phone buzzed. Answering the phone I realized a camera woman from my Agency was among the team. "Get into the Coaster car ahead," she said. I hoped up into the car and sought a seat to my left. All media professionals were reclining here and there like hens hit by some sort of epidemic. Indeed, it was not difficult to figure out that all of them stayed awake from 3:00 o'clock at night, snatching a sleep with one eye and waiting for the herd with the other eye. As darkness gave way to dawn; everyone who slept woke up. A group of journalists used to eating junk or fast foods; had no better choice than to travel with mouthful of cakes and water. The logo of the coaster read Jimma's Travel Line.

The sky darkened. The gloom released from heaven to earth seemed to be an impotent curtain was a rare sight to behold. We arrived at a mild rural town called Tefki. The asphalt was flanked on both sides by a lot of water. It made the place look like a tarred snow.

As the clock ticks on; we were roving forward. Soon the Gibe Desert drew close. At that juncture video and camera professionals began to capture the beautiful natural scenery through the right and left windows. Gibe desert is still in its former glory. The trip went well except that we were forced to change the route due to asphalt maintenance works at some spots. We also relaxed marveling the wonderful natural beauty.

From a tiring journey, we reached Jimma town at half past three. Even after taking lunch, every traveler got out of the car to taste what was found at the stopover place to further satisfy their hunger with delicacies and fruits. Jimma, which is known as the city of love, like other parts of Ethiopia, was simultaneously celebrating the Demera and Mawlid holidays on that day.

"You can be a follower of any religion but when you live in Jimma, religion is a reason

**The division of labor and cooperation among the media professionals to conduct the interviews were wonderful methods that allowed us to complete our work on time**

to strengthen social interaction and love, but not a cause for conflict," said a young man who was eating meal in a hotel where I stayed for lunch. We team members reunited in the car after an hour.

In the evening concluding our stay in Jimma we started to hit the road to Ameya. The road from Jimma to Amaya was difficult to pierce by a coaster car. Although there are indications that the road is under construction, it is evident that the delay in the road work has cost a lot.

Darkness was enveloping the surrounding. Then a dense forest, reverberating with insect's movements and at times the howling of wild animals, made the journey terrifying. As such no one could imagine what might happen next. We were frozen with fear. All of us were observing everything out of the window helped by the headlights of the car. A car at times might get off the track around hairpin turns to go up and clatter down. This is one epitome of a difficult journey at night.

It was ten o'clock, in the middle of our journey, a shocking incident happened. Our car started emitting a different noise from behind. The driver who had already understood the difficulty of the road was already complaining. Soon his tone and facial color changed. The shock of the driver shocked us too. The car screeched to a halt on the side of the road. Everything went dark. We all fell silent. Nothing can be heard except the Sounds of insects moving on and under the leaves and grasses. The driver lit up the pitch black rainy night with a battery to check what happened around the back wheel of the car.

When the driver hopped on his seat, everyone asked, "What is it?" "The car's leaf spring are broken," he replied. His clothes were drenched by the down pour. We had to close the car door and wait for the car behind us.

After a moment; the second car tagging behind arrived. After the other driver understood the problem, as a Samaritan from unexpected corner in style said; "Hop up into my car. The damaged car could come slowly," he said. After a long travel both awake and asleep, we arrived at a small rural town called Ameya. The warm welcoming ceremony accorded to us by Ameya people, who were eagerly waiting for our arrival, was special. As soon as we unpacked our bags we were served a mouth-watering dinner. Some who thought that they were suffering from the long journey voiced complaint that; "our eyes are not

open for food, but for sleep."

However, after eighteen hours of travel, our fleshes, which had been exhausted by many labors, at long last found comfort. We slept from dawn to dusk. On the morrow, it was the children of the village who nudged us from our sleep to open our eyes and wake up from the bed we fell on. They give a special place to the Demera festival; the founding of the true cross. They eagerly awaits it as they get it once in a year.

Lining up in rows about ten children on top of their voice in the Konta language began to sing. They chanted over and over again saying "hio... hio beaale... hio." It means that the Almighty has allowed us to witness this festival. Glory to the Almighty! They chant this over and over again heading door to door. In response; some give them money or invites them into the saloon to offer them cultural dishes. In connection with the celebration, slaughtering of oxen and sheep according to economic status, take place at the doorsteps of dignitaries of the locality. When the distribution of meat is conducted, the poorer segment of the society is taken into consideration.

There is a common belief that everyone should be happy. No one is expected to harbor a sad feeling during the festival. When a member of the community is invited for coffee, it is seen a shameful act to go to that house without carrying a flower. When celebrants arrive at the door, they chant saying "hio... hio beaale... hio." Then they dine and drink together with the relatives who came home.

Siliso, Sulso, Usta, Kutokubwa and other dishes lends grace to the festival. Culaculo, Borde and similar drinks also accentuate the festival.

We finished our stay in Ameya and went to Koysa. In our journey, we talked about the wonderful natural beauty of the area; the wild animals that emerge here and there from the forest to immediately disappear out of sight. We roved 13 kilometers and entered into Koysa. Although this small rural town was bustling with people, it seemed to be overpopulated. The livelihood of the inhabitants of the town is its being a trading center for pure honey, butter and fruits. Anyone who passes by or a stranger to the place is bound to buy and carry honey with them. And team members agreed that we will buy honey up on our return journey.

At last, we arrived at Koysa hydroelectric power plant. A cordoned checkpoint awaited us. Just showing a letter of permission is not enough to pass through the checkpoint. Checking and registering a laptop and camera is a must. After meeting all the requirements, we were allowed to enter. Guided by the security staff of the project, we headed to the place where accommodation had been arranged for us.

Near the power plant project, on a mountainous area, sleeping quarters for workers are seen. The quality of the quarters was better than a mid-level hotel, but not less. For guests who come to the project, they offer free turndown service. We also received the keys to the guestrooms and unloaded our bags from the car. Each

accommodation unit has bedrooms and bathroom. After the shower we headed to the meal hall.

The dining hall, which is modernly built in the shape of a hut on the top of a mountain, is foregrounded by the beautiful and attractive mountain ranges. These mountains, wearing a green carpet, are covered with a dense forest. What make the mountain ranges special are the plains at their base. We captured its beauty with our mobile phones and cameras. As soon as we helped ourselves to the cuisines; we received work instructions. As it is important to work with a new spirit free from fatigue, we went to our rooms and rested.

On the morrow, we woke up and had a delicious breakfast at dining hall. The next destination of our trip was the Koysa Hydroelectric Dam, so we headed there. The coaster minibuses that we had come with before could not go down the winding and steep road down to the dam, so they were compelled to stay where they were.

Divided in to groups, we got into small cars that are ideal for this route. After a short walk, we reached a tower, from where one can see all the works of the dam unobstructed. Many Ethiopians are paying huge sacrifices to make the dam a reality. They strive for 24/7. In the few minutes we stopped for an interview; sweat trickled down our backs. Our tongues dried as hell. If we were in their shoes; how could we perform day and night coping with the heat? I could not get answer to my question which was attended by conscience nag.

We got at the place where the civil and mechanical works of the dam are being carried out and saw everything closely.

The power generation project, on Omo River, has continued its progress to become both food and electricity. The dam is also serving as a knowledge and technology transfer center for Ethiopians. Currently, the project has created job opportunities for 5000 Ethiopians.

The project is not only allowed these workers to increase their knowledge and experience, but also increase their job and salary. Many serve as a living billboard of rising from menial jobs to professional ones. It is not difficult to imagine that this type of own capacity building work will contribute greatly to the country's muscle to build similar projects in the future.

Koysa hydroelectric power generation project has now reached 61 percent of the total construction work and will be completed after three or four years. We also learned from the visit that it will generate 1800 megawatts of electricity into the country's power grid. We gathered the information that we thought would be useful for our work and rode to our lodgings.

The division of labor and cooperation among the media professionals to conduct the interviews were wonderful methods that allowed us to complete our work on time. After dispatching our news to our media outlets, we headed to the dining halls for dinner. The menu was full of traditional dishes of the Konta nation. Let us delicious and taste the buttery food.



# Society

## National ID Program: Aspiring to enhance socio-economic development in Ethiopia

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Agricultural digitization which applies the use of digital technologies and data in the agricultural sector has a key role to improve productivity, efficiency, and sustainability. The technology involves the integration of digital tools, such as sensors, drones, and data analytics, into various aspects of farming and agricultural practices. For this reason, it plays a significant role to increase efficiency, agriculture precision, data driven decision making, supply chain management, access to information and others. Seeing the socioeconomic role of the system the Ethiopian government is working aggressively to benefit the society from the system.

Ethiopia being home to the second largest African population is undertaking various measures to transform its economy and improve the lives of the society. The country has been given due attention to the agriculture sector. It is among the five pillars of the economy. Efforts are underway to modernize the sector and improve the lives of numerous smallholder farmers.

However, there are challenges that hinder the implementation of agricultural digitalization and the sector's modernization. Recently, the country announced the issuance of a national ID that aims to help the society to access services and products without limitation throughout the country.

Recently, the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR Climate Research for Africa (AICCRA) host a forum on a national strategy to boost climate-smart agriculture in Ethiopia at the ILRI campus under the theme "Shaping Agriculture for Greater Impact in Ethiopia" from 15-20 October 2023.

On the occasion, Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Institute Deputy, CEO Yifru Tafesse (PhD) said that the Ethiopian government has been taking various measures to digitize the agriculture sector and improve the lives of smallholder farmers across the country.

In this regard, the effective implementation of national ID program is important to synchronize digital agricultural services and improve the role of technology in the agricultural sector.

"The national ID will have paramount importance in the financial, health, education, agriculture, and other sectors. The national ID program said expedites agricultural digitization and promotes the national socio-economic development endeavors."

The expert underscored that the ongoing national ID program being implemented by the government sought to expedite the country's agricultural digitization process.

Accordingly, farmers are now accessing latest agricultural experts' recommendations through hotline and other digital instruments on different queries regarding their agricultural practices. Thus, if the national ID program is fully implemented in the rural areas of the country, the farmers will have the opportunity to access agricultural inputs timely, experts' advice, and meteorological forecasts, among others easily on their mobile phones.

According to him, it is predicted that there are more than 19 million household level farmers in Ethiopia. In the neighboring country Kenya, there are six million farmers and they are digitized and geo-referenced with their available land resources and other assets through integrating with latest agricultural technologies. Transforming Kenyan farmers to access digital agricultural information is possible through applying national ID and connecting them with digital platforms.

Therefore, the implementation of national ID integrated with digital instruments immensely contributed to the socio-economic development of farmers. In doing so, the country's agricultural mechanization, production and productivity have shown a promising progress and able to export various agricultural products to other countries. Therefore, pertinent stakeholders should work jointly to expedite agricultural digitization and the national ID program in the country, he noted.

Moreover, having integrated partnerships is fundamental to transform the sector, he said. On her part, AICCRA Program Director Ana Maria Loboguerrero (PhD) said that AICCRA stands for accelerating the impact of CGIAR climate research for Africa.

The main objective of AICCRA is to enhance access of climate-smart agricultural technologies and climate information services in Africa, she reiterated.

Currently, AICCRA is working focusing on six African countries: Ethiopia, Senegal, Mali, Ghana, Zambia, and Kenya. In addition, it also extends its services at regional level in west and south eastern Africa, she said.

She highlighted the great importance of supporting the AICCRA project through integrated partnerships among stakeholders to reach the CGIAR scientists' innovations to the smallholders African farmers and benefit them from latest technologies.

AICCRA Ethiopia Country Coordinator, Dawit Solomon (PhD), emphasized that Private-Public-Partnership (PPP) is crucial to transform the livelihoods of the smallholder farmers in the country.



*Digital ID to further ease and develop socio-economic progress*

**The country announced the issuance of a national ID that aims to help the society to access services and products without limitation throughout the country**

As to him, AICCRA projects forge groundbreaking partnerships to deploy the knowledge, innovation, and technology needed for effective climate information services and climate-smart agriculture in Ethiopia. So far, the project benefited 420,076 smallholder farmers in the country.

Accordingly, AICCRA is a project that helps to deliver a climate-smart African future driven by science and innovation in agriculture. It is led by the Alliance of Biodiversity and CIAT and supported by a grant from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank.

The draft Digital Identity Proclamation has been ratified by the House of Peoples' Representatives with the aim of establishing a uniform and reliable identity registration system in Ethiopia. After receiving approval from the Council of Ministers, the proclamation was referred to the Parliament in August of the previous year.

It is expected that the digital identification system would play a significant role in facilitating various Government and private services. The National ID Program, which aims at issuing Digital IDs to over 70 million citizens and residents of Ethiopia by the end of 2025, has already signed an agreement with the Ministry of Revenues (MoR) to link tax identification numbers (TIN) with national IDs. This is expected to enable the MoR to save the foreign exchange that it uses to purchase systems for the issuance of TIN.

Accordingly, the Digital ID program has launched a pilot test of the ID platform called Fayda and currently has registered more than 1.4 million residents. According to the program's latest updates, the Digital ID pilot program is currently registering an average of 5,250 registrations per day.

# Law & Politics

## ENDF as major pacifying force in the Horn of Africa

BY STAFF REPORTER

For centuries, valor and patriotism have been in the DNA of Ethiopians, with its people even paying the ultimate price to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of their country. It was a well-known fact that Ethiopians were the only African country that was never colonized and the people were the first black community to defeat a white invading force for the first time. These virtues have been instilled in the soul of the country's army and demonstrated in many instances. The army has been a positive force, contributing to the peace and stability of the Horn of Africa and beyond. In this regard, the army has earned a good reputation and recognition from neighboring countries, where it has also helped restore stability in war-torn places.

This week, in the nation's capital, Addis Ababa, Ethiopians celebrated the 116th National Army Day with various special events. Members of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) organized a large rally and parade, showcasing their manpower and weaponry. The celebration honors the Ethiopian army's decades-long bravery and sacrifice in defending the nation's sovereignty and the dignity of its citizens.

The bravery of the Ethiopian National Army has earned it admiration outside of the nation. Ethiopia's army's bravery in several peacekeeping operations has led to its continued status as the main pacifying force in the Horn of Africa and beyond. The nation's peacekeeping forces deployed in the Korean peninsula, the Congo, Rwanda, Sudan, Somalia, and other nations successfully and morally carried out their duties. The Ethiopian army revered by Ethiopians, and the areas in which it served as a victor and moral-filled force restored peace and security to surrounding countries, inspiring fear in the faces of its fiercest adversaries. The world community acknowledges this harsh fact.

The Ethiopian army is renowned among its own people for its unshakable dedication and growing capacity to thwart planned terrorist assaults brought on by adversaries both domestic and foreign. The army at different periods drove back invading powers who tried to encroach on the sovereignty of the country. The army also put an end to violent crimes that endangered the nation's territorial integrity and interests.

Furthermore, the reform government has been modernizing the nation's security bodies, especially the National Defense Forces, during the last few years, and this year's celebration follows suit. It is reasonable to argue that the nation's security agencies are among the sectors that have experienced successful reform efforts. The government has been fully supporting the reform of the army in a number of areas since the 2018 reform.

The incumbent has placed a great deal of emphasis on strengthening the nation's offensive and defensive capabilities because they recognize the importance of a strong



**Ethiopia's army's bravery in several peacekeeping operations has led to its continued status as the main pacifying force in the Horn of Africa and beyond**

army in attaining the socioeconomic development of the country. The army was restructured to become a force of the people. The Ethiopian army will continue to be a staunch force in the efforts to maintain national, regional, and world peace, so said Prime Minister and Commander in Chief of the Army of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Abiy Ahmed (Ph.D.) speaking at the National Army Day held in Addis Ababa.

The Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) has always deterred several foreign

aggressions and maintained the unity and sovereignty of the nation, the Prime Minister noted, reiterating the army's readiness to ensure peace, and stability and defend the nation's interests towards development and prosperity.

The reform activities the ENDF has so far implemented have helped to realize a well-structured non-partisan military equipped with modern arms and technologies. The army is well equipped in the infantry, air force, and cyber spheres which the premier said is crucial to effectively deter any threat.

"Maintaining peace remains the top priority for the Ethiopian Defense Forces", the Premier said. The Premier stressed: "Ethiopia has no any intention to seek incursion into any country; rather it will continue as a major peace force nationally, regionally, and globally."

"History proves that Ethiopia has never been defeated by any external force and has never invaded any country, and the army has never taken part in any unprovoked combat. Because safeguarding peace remains our top priority," he said. Saying that the time is full of uncertainty, Abiy called on members of the army to pursue knowledge, become innovative, and keep on standby for any mission in line with the changing circumstances.

With the addition of a naval force wing to the nation's defense forces, the security structure has undergone a number of adjustments. The national defense forces' capacity has been established. The army now has highly skilled personnel and modern technology at its disposal. The army's ability to neutralize air and ground threats has also been strengthened. At least for the past few years, that is what has been observed. The army has not wavered in countering challenges to the country from both the inside and the outside.

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But there are still a lot of threats facing the unstable Horn of Africa. The peace and stability of the region are still in danger due to growing terrorist networks, illicit arms trafficking, and increased militarization. Millions of people in the Horn will suffer greatly if the situation in the region, which has struggled with numerous national disasters, is not resisted collectively. Countries in the region must thus strengthen their security cooperation and give the issue careful consideration.

Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) is more capable than ever to defend national sovereignty and dignity of the country, Field Marshal Birhanu Jula, ENDF Chief of Staff. The reforms carried out over the past few years have exponentially strengthened ENDF's executing capability in various ways, according to ENA.

Field Marshal Birhanu assured that ENDF is ready with a much greater capability to defend the sovereignty and dignity of the country that it received from its heroic forefathers.

He warned foreign elements to refrain from attempts of destructive acts to destabilize Ethiopia by orchestrating internal conflicts. Field Marshal Birhanu said any attempt aimed at grabbing political power by force is absolutely unacceptable and intolerable as it is an act of dismantling a nation. The 116th National Army Day was celebrated with a variety of special events across the nation.

The day is observed to renew the commitment and dedication of the gallant army in ensuring peace and stability of the country and to demonstrate military preparedness as well as sustain the legacy of the army. It is also to commemorate those who have paid dearly in maintaining the peace and sovereignty of the country.



Ephrem Endale  
Contributor

# Between you & me

## Trains to Nowhere!

Is there anything more frustrating than being misunderstood? Especially in these difficult times for all humanity being misunderstood is that last thing you want to happen to you. It is not nice that all your good intentions, all your words and actions are more than a few times decoded wrongly. In fact, as things are out on the open for all to see there is no need for decoding the simplest of words, actions and intentions. I mean when you're faced with more than your share of being misunderstood you start sliding back to the furthest corner of solitary existence.

Now, talking of misunderstandings it is not because the issue in question is so complicated that others fail to see the real picture. It's not about us being the worthless who are yet a few decades behind the times. No. Some of us are just so ensnared in all the coils of suspicion that nothing it as it sounds to be.

"Hey, how are you doing?"

"Fine."

"You look exhausted as if you've been walking nonstop from Bole to Gullele. Is everything all right?"

"Everything is alright. I had been very busy the past few days and feel tired."

Now that's the logical answer you'd expect wouldn't you say? But that doesn't always happen. Had the world been that nice much of the global mess are witnessing see now wouldn't have happened. Well that might sound a little hasty conclusion to make. But the fact of the matter is that behind much of the crisis mankind is embroiled there is that curse of misunderstanding. Misunderstanding

caused not because the issue at hand is complicated and difficult to understand on but because saying "We understanding;" doesn't go well with our specific interests as individuals, groups or even nations. Yes, you're right; it's all about politics.

Look around you and there are numerous accounts of us deliberately acting as we don't understand one thing or another despite the issue at hand is the simplest of issues even a toddler barely able to walk would have some idea of what it's all about.

It is not that we're to this would be either confirming that something is wrong with you or saying that everything in your life was nice and dandy.

I mean you're conversing in the same language and yet the simplest issue you raise fail to make any impression on the other side. "Life is so tough yet some of us are throwing away hard-earned money on drinks." Now I can tell you that few statements could be as true as this one. Day in and day out we witness quite a number of people acting such irresponsibly that really bugs us is the question where those people get all that 'free money' to throw around. In fact we've even heard of households which have been turned into war zones. So when you say one thing and people hear a completely different narrative that is tough to take. You saying something and others are hearing a completely another thing isn't anyone's idea of heart-to-heart conversation.

"You know how gorgeous you look today! Your face like the sun, the moon and all the stars are shining on you." Now that is some

comment any straight thinking lady would like to be blessed with. You can just imagine how illuminated that lady looks. But if you think that would always win you another good friend well I advise you to have ready some cold milk to nurse the ulcers or some gastro-something. Because that might be what you'll be getting rather than a passionate hug or even worm peck or two on the cheeks. What happens? I'll tell you what happens. The lady's decoding machine has decoded the statement as "You face always looks so drab as if it was dealt with flour someone discovered after years as they were trying to do away with all the old stuff. (Where the hell am I getting all that!) Ha!

With some people, you should be very careful about the things you say or the gestures you display. Since there are quite many of us who are obsessed with digging out the negative (Even when there's no 'negative' so to say;) with everything innocent words and kindhearted gestures could see friendships slipping down the drain faster than the fastest missiles all 'the big guys' seem to be boasting about. If you bite us, that's what you have done, bitten us!

There used to be this lady who presently lives across the oceans and who had real hard time to make her husband understand her words and actions while she was still here. There was no debate as to her being a genuine person not many of whom you see these days. Even having been married for the most part of a decade her hubby still twisted everything she said and does so badly that in later years she refrained from making any comments. Was

he jealous? Well that would have been some explanation for such irrational behaviors; but, she herself would tell you he was the last man standing when it comes to jealousy. Does he have any mental issue which make him such a godforsaken pessimist in everything? He doesn't have any mental issue she is aware of. But, that was him; turning his back on what is there and go searching for what isn't.

His behavior practically shredded the fabrics holding the marriage and finally she decided to walk out and did so. Here too she'd herself tell you theirs was the fastest divorce his answer to her "I want a divorce;" question was a loud "I agree." Of course after the divorce at times she had these nagging thoughts that maybe he never liked her and maybe they were the wrong couple to tie the knot.

Maybe since we have decided we're in one the messiest and most unbecoming of ages we tend to say "Nay!" that "Yes!" These days for some reason or in fact for uncountable reasons many of which we haven't yet discovered it's easy to be misunderstood. All that has been transpiring over the years in every corner of the globe seem to have eroded our mental machinery to the level that we take nothing at face value. Not that taking everything at face value is advisable; but in the event of misunderstanding every greeting and every innocent comment or action and when there is no reason at all to think otherwise, interpreting "How do you do?" as "Go to hell!" is the most reliable litmus test of much of mankind having boarded the wrong trains; the wrong trains to nowhere!

## "We're Sorry this Happened"

About five six months back this friend of mine buys a 55 inch flat screen TV, It was a sort of milestone in his life in that he really went the length to have that flat screen 'toy' in his house as his better half and two children having put quite a pressure on him never stopped from urging him to do so. What they didn't know he borrowed more than half of the sixty-odd thousand birr. He jokes; "there might come a time when I'll personally go on the social media and gather support for my loans to be cancelled!" Wow! Wouldn't that be nice? I mean imagine if you were able to borrow thousands from individuals, friends or no friends, and then gather some social media mob asking your lenders to write off every cent they gave you! There is this local pun which says, "Don't be afraid to borrow money. Either the lender or borrower would die." And many of us seem to have taken it at heart.

Anyways I was telling you this flat screen TV owner. An English Premiere League fan at least his family was seeing more of him as he has stopped going out to one bar or hotel to watch the weekend matches until a couple of months late the TV started going practically berserk! At first they were minor tracking and things like that; but lately things worsened so quickly they had to revert to their old 21 inch TV. Since the shop where he bought the set from had given him the one year warranty card he returned with the sixty-plus thousand piece of 'toy' in tow. He wasn't happy at the initial reception as the fellows tried to reason

maybe someone in the house had damaged it and excuses like that. Later as he practically flew off the handle and things were trying into some spectacle they promised to fix it and he is still waiting for delivery of the set.

From experience and all the things we've been witnessing over the years those one-year warranty cards are no more than some sugar-coating to convince you to buy the products. Don't get me wrong, I'm not about the exceptions and the rules. But with you bleeding tens of thousands of birr there can't be 'little exceptions.'

"Look, we're sorry, that this happened. We will do our best to put it back in its original form. "Wouldn't that be just great? I mean there is no price the merchants would have to pay for saying "We're sorry."

And while this isn't an everyday happening there are actions of very effective salesmanship. A year and a few months back a friend's flat screen developed colors which haven't been given any name and they've probably not been yet discovered. (Ha!). The problem is his warranty card has expired a couple of months back. Still he takes the TV to the company for repair. He was told the warranty had expired. He said he knew that and he was willing to pay for the repairs. With that he returns home and the next day he gets a call from the company. Being impressed at the speed with which they did the repairs he heads to the place. Arriving there he was told to go to the manager's office.

The manager receives him with cordiality he never expected.

"We're sorry this happened," the manager says. The friend of mine mumbles things like "Oh, it's alright;" "Such things happen," and the like. It was then the news that would have knocked him out cold in normal circumstances came. The manager says, "The Company has decided to give you a new fifty-five inch TV." What! Certain good gestures are so unexpected that you wouldn't know how to react. That was what happened to my friend. Later, he says he thanked them for several minutes until the manager rose from his chair walked around and hugged him. By the way his original set was a fifty inch set.

Now carpet-bombing the names and reputations of all businesspeople for the mistakes and greed of some percentages of that particular crowd isn't only unacceptable but also flies in the face of genuine no-strings-attached comments or complaints.

Look, I don't usually dine out. But the few times I do aren't always good experiences. I remember someone inviting me lunch (of course, shuro!) and I didn't go more than a few bites before an unexpected virtual volcano comes rushing up and I rushed the rest room with Usain Bolt's legs! This is sure to draw a few chuckles. The fact is that my favorite local dish is not raw meat, not kitfo, not any other dish but shuro! Yes, I mean the same good, old shuro. If you think preparing this particular

dish is easy stuff then you probably haven't yet taste shuro. (Do you think the shuro bet craze in the city is for nothing? No it isn't.) Anyway talking about dining out maybe, just maybe it might be a good idea if owner of hotels and restaurants put up notices like, "In case the food you ordered isn't well prepared, don't worry. You're insured. You'll be compensated with five free lunches!" Ha!

While we're at it, this happened some time back. A group of guys go to a kitfo house for lunch and while they were in the process of eating, the waitress poured so much butter that they were surprised. How can the lady owner profit giving away so much butter? Well the real news came later. After emptying their dishes they go to the washing room. However, despite using more than the usual amount of soap the 'butter' that stuck on their fingers refused to wash off. So one of them asks for a candle. The owner asked why. The guy says, "So that we will melt away the butter from our fingers." That does it; the owner was so furious she chased them into the street wielding a broom. What a scene that would have been for a sitcom!

So, what I was trying to say is that the one-year warranty card they give you could many times be nothing but only a piece of paper. A simple, "We're sorry this happened," could go a long way in soothing the nerves of those with complaints of broken down machines or other items with defects.

# GENERAL PROCUREMENT NOTICE

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) represented by the Ethiopian Roads Administration (ERA) has planned to procure construction works and related supervision services from eligible firms who are capable of constructing or supervising the following road projects in the 2016 Ethiopian Fiscal Year. The procurement process of the projects will commence soon. The details of the works are presented in the following table !

## A. Construction Projects Financed by the Government of Ethiopia (GOE)

Item No.	Works to be Procured	Length (Km)	Contract Delivery
1	Construction of Remaining Works of Robe - Gasera - Ginir Road Project, Contract 2: Km 60+000 - Km 120+870.41	60.84	DBB
	Construction of Remaining Works of Tercha - Chida	58	DBB
3	Construction of Remaining Works of Wikiro - Atsebi - Konoba	63	DBB
4	Construction of Remaining Works of Mota - Jaragedo	58.22	DBB
5	Construction of Remaining Works of Mekele - Dengolat - Samri - Finariwa	94	DBB
6	Construction of Remaining Works of Gugufu - Wereilu - Degolo	74.41	DBB
7	Construction of Remaining Works of Abomesa - Aseko - Bedeyi - Cheleka Road Project; Contract 2: Dibu River - Cheleleka	44.4	DBB
8	Construction of Remaining Works of Fisehagenet - Kele - Nedele/Soyama -- Km 90	93	DBE
9	Construction of Remaining Works of Diri - Masha Road Project, Lot I: Gimbo - Km 61+960	61.96	DBB
10	Construction of Remaining Works of Tenta Junction - Wegeltena - Kurba (31+500-110+740)	79.24	DBB
11	Construction of Remaining Works of Gode - Hargele, Lot 2: Km 100 - Hargele	116	DBB
12	Construction of Remaining Works of Maichew - Mehoni	17	DBB
13	Construction of Remaining Works Afdera - Irebti Junction - Eritale Junction - Ahmedila Road Project, Lot 2: Km 48+000 - Eritale Junction - Ahmedila	55	DBB
14	Construction Works of Alemgena - Butajira - Hossana - Sodo, Contract I: Alemgena - Butajira	132.7	DBB
15	Construction Works of Addis - Sebeta Road Widening & Sebeta - Holeta	40	DBB
16	Construction of Remaining Works of Metema - Abrajira	117.3	DBB

Further to the abovementioned projects, ERA has also planned to procure heavy overlay and related supervision consultancy services; and periodic maintenance projects financed by the GOE and Road Fund for the following projects:

## B. List of Overlay/Maintenance Projects Financed by the GOE and Road Fund

Item No.	Maintenance Works to be Procured	Length (Km)	Surface Type
1	Awash — Kulibi — Dire Dawa/Harer Overlay Road Project; Contract II: Meiso — Heirna	69	AC
2	Awash — Kulibi — Dire Dawa/Harer Overlay Road Project; Contract III: Hirna — Duse	83	AC
3	Awash — Kulibi — Dire Dawa/Harer Overlay Road Project; Contract IV: Duse — Dengego — Harer & Dengego — Dire Dawa	68	AC
4	Dessie — Waja, Lot I: Dessie — Haik — Wuchale	62	AC
5	Bulehora — Yabelo	95	AC
6	Aposto — Hagere Selam	48	AC
7	Gedo — Nekemet — Mekenajo	127.5	AC
8	Dessie — Waja, Lot II: Wuchale — Woldia — Robit — Waja	127	AC
9	Mekele — Abi adi	60	AC
10	Maitsebri — Dima — Fiyelwiha	75	DBST
11	Seleklaka — Shire	33	AC
12	Wukro — Adigrat	64	AC
13	Azezo — Gorgora	52	DBST
14	<b>Batu</b> — Shashemene — Hawassa: Bulbula- Hawassa	60	AC
15	Mega — Wachile — Bulbul	193	Gravel
16	Turmi — Kelem — Namrapuz	91	DBST
17	Shire — Shiraro	94	AC
18	Jigjiga — Kebridehar	86	DBST

The selection of contractors will be carried out either by International Competitive Biddings (ICB) procedure or National Competitive Biddings (NCB) procedure based on the specific project requirements and conditions. Subsequently, the Specific Procurement Notice for each of the projects will be announced separately, or in a package, through nationally circulating newspaper (*The Ethiopian Herald*), electronic government procurement portal (e-GP), Ethiopian Roads Administration's (ERA's) website ([www.era.gov.et](http://www.era.gov.et)) as well as through Federal Public Procurement and Property Authority (FPPPA's) website ([www.ppa.gov.et](http://www.ppa.gov.et)) and through appropriate publications.

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# ETHIOPIAN ROADS ADMINISTRATION

# Ethiopia celebrates 116<sup>th</sup> National Army Day

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

Ethiopia's National Army was formally established as regular army Ethiopia in 1907 by the then Emperor of Ethiopia, Menilik-II. Ethiopia's Defense Minister was established on October 1907 officially and since then the institution is strengthening itself and building modern and strong national army. Currently, Ethiopia's National Army is called Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF).

Ethiopia celebrates the 116<sup>th</sup> National Army Day (ENDF day) on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2023 to commemorate the formation of the national army, to honor Ethiopian heroes and to renew the commitment of the army in protecting its people and country. The event was celebrated at the Meskel Square in Addis Ababa at national level and Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, Chief of Staff of ENDF, Field Marshal Birhanu Jula, senior military commanders and government officials, military attaches based in Addis Ababa and diplomats were attended the ceremony.

The picture shows senior military and civil officials during the National Army Day celebration's silencing program to honor and remember the fallen heroes of members of the national army while safeguarding their people and country from internal and external aggressors. Commandor-in-Chief of the army Prime Minister and Abiy Ahmed (PhD), Chief of Staff, Field Marshal Birhanu Jula, House of Peoples Representatives (HPR) Speaker, Tagesse Chafo and Defense Minister, Abraham Belay (PhD) are along



Members of the security forces, ENDF and the Federal Police during the National Army Day stand to remember the fallen heroes of the army while safeguarding their country and people.

with other officials in front.

Members of the security forces, ENDF and the Federal Police during the National Army Day stand to remember the fallen heroes of the army while safeguarding their country and people.

Members of the ENDF from all staffs (the

commando, air-born, ground forces, the naval force) and the Federal Police attending the National Army Day at Meskel Square. Members of the ENDF while showing a parade during the day. During the celebration, representatives of the former ENDF forces and the current active forces of ground, naval,

air force, commandos, air-born and other departments shows a military parade during the event.

Military Attaches of different countries based in Addis Ababa attended the 116<sup>th</sup> National Army Day celebration at Meskel Square.

See Ethiopia celebrates ... page 15



## Published bimonthly in collaboration with Addis Ababa Science and Technology University

### Fostering a culture of academic excellence

BY MEKLIT WONDEWOSSEN

Intellectuals are essential in the current context for conducting research work at universities. Addis Ababa University of Science and Technology recognizes the significance of research conducted by scholars in addressing institutional, social, and national challenges. The university follows the "university for industry" principle, aiming to provide practical solutions to real-world problems through its teaching and research activities.

The university's research and excellence center, led by the directorate, takes the lead in driving these initiatives. In the previous fiscal year, the center facilitated numerous research activities with a strong emphasis on innovation and collaboration. Dr. Getachew Adamu, the Director of the Center of Excellence and an Associate Professor of Physical Chemistry, has provided valuable insights on this matter.

Dr. Getachew highlights that many research projects at the institute span over a year, demonstrating their depth and complexity. In 2015, the institution successfully completed 17 studies and research projects, which are still ongoing. These projects are primarily conducted within the center of excellence, utilizing the expertise of the university's faculty members who oversee both the center and the academic processes.

Before commencing research at the institute, scholars are required to submit preliminary essays outlining their intended areas of focus. These



Dr. Getachew Adamu, the Director of the Center of Excellence

proposals undergo a thorough evaluation process to ensure alignment with the university's objectives. Additionally, the institute undertakes research based on requests received from various institutions or industries. For example, in response to a request indicating that the surrounding land near Wonji Sugar Factory has high acidity, making sugarcane cultivation challenging, the institute initiated research to develop sugarcane varieties capable of thriving in such soil conditions. These new varieties are currently being cultivated and tested.

Furthermore, research endeavors are distributed across eight centers of excellence within the university. Adjunct faculty members conduct research in their respective fields of interest and collaborate with graduate students to foster knowledge exchange and mentorship.

In terms of funding, the institute subsidized several research projects in 2015. Notably, research is being conducted to enhance honey production in the country. Despite Ethiopia's potential for high honey production, there has been limited emphasis on modern processing techniques and utilization in the food industry. To address this gap, scholars have formed research groups dedicated to exploring innovative approaches in honey production.

Another significant research project focuses on the development of locally produced artificial tooth implants. Although the necessary resources for this process are currently imported, the country possesses the mineral resources required to manufacture these implants. Consequently, the institute's scientists are collaborating with a Korean hospital to investigate the feasibility of utilizing local resources for the production of artificial teeth.

In addition, research funding in the previous year supported a project aimed at developing alternative construction blocks that do not rely on cement. Furthermore, studies have been conducted on edible plants that are often considered weeds but exhibit high nutritional value. These studies investigate the factors that may influence groundwater quality and made progress in the 2015 fiscal year.

Looking ahead to 2016, the institute received 31 grant applications from scholars seeking funding for their research and studies. The annual budget allocated for research projects ranges from 35 to 40 million birr. Individual applicants may receive up to half a million birr in funding, while group projects can secure up to

three million birr. Moreover, the university plans to sponsor two research projects within each center of excellence.

The university has been successful in engaging in international collaborations and securing foreign grants. Three teachers received foreign grants in the first quarter of 2016, and the university is currently involved in a research partnership with a Japanese company, which secured a \$5 million foreign grant. This particular research endeavor focuses on incorporating natural cellulose into asphalt to prevent cracking.

To further enhance research opportunities, the director emphasizes the importance of training faculty members on securing foreign grants. The university is also in the process of establishing a central laboratory that meets the ISO standard, which will serve as a key resource to support ongoing research activities.

Moreover, the Nuclear Reactor Center of Excellence has played a significant role in designing and implementing various projects. To enhance expertise in this area, the institute has enlisted the assistance of a foreign expert from Korea.

By actively promoting research and innovation, Addis Ababa University of Science and Technology is fostering a culture of academic excellence, collaboration, and problem-solving to benefit both the institution and society at large.

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