



Gov't

renews call for rules-based access to Red Sea

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia has no intention of threatening the sovereignty of any nation but would like rules-based access to the Red Sea, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) said, calling stakeholders for discussions.

The PM made the above remark yesterday while addressing the 3rd year 4th Regular Session of the House of People's Representatives.

Speaking at the occasion, Abiy expressed Ethiopia's desire to a principle-based access to the Red Sea that will not harm the rights and benefits of any of its coastal neighbors. "Ethiopia has no intention to violate or harm others' sovereignty and needs to make a business law to resolve the issue.

"Ethiopia's neighbors are expected to take its pursuit for sea access positively as the country could not manage such a large population without reaching an agreement on port use. Ethiopia called coastal neighbors just for discussion, not for conflict and if the situation is not managed by discussion, no one will be able to control what would happen next."

He also firmly rejected some groups' rumors about political conspiracy that associates Ethiopia's aspiration to sea

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Premier urges citizens not to miss Nat'l Dialogue's opportunity

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – The Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) has urged Ethiopians not to miss the National Dialogue opportunity since it provides immense benefits to address the current problems.

The premier made the remark while responding to the queries of MPs yesterday.

Apart from losing several opportunities to correct the political mistakes on various occasions during the past times, Ethiopia's challenges have been piled up for many years, PM Abiy said adding that all fellow Ethiopians must effectively use the National Dialogue opportunity as much as possible.

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Ethiopia's GDP doubles in 5 years: Premier

• Sectors' auspicious performance shores up

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA – The Homegrown Economic Reform has been bringing remarkable results in doubling Ethiopia's GDP and per capita income levels within five years and adjusting the dysfunctional

and imbalanced economy, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) said.

Addressing the queries of the MPs during the 3rd year 4th Regular Session of the House of People's Representatives yesterday, the Premier noted that the reform has played a critical role in adjusting the

macro-economic imbalance and sustaining Ethiopia's rapid progress.

"The International Monetary Fund (IMF) testified the current government's ability to expand Ethiopia's GDP by two-fold from 84

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Ministry working to bring private sector forefront in water access

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA- The Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE) said it is working tirelessly to help the private sector to

take the lead in water and sanitation development programs and make drinking water accessible to all.

Speaking to the journalists yesterday, MoWE Minister Habtamu Itefa (PhD)

stated that consolidated efforts are underway to enhance the role and contribution of the private sector in water

See Ministry working ...page 3



News

Ethiopian orders Boeing 787 Dreamliner, MAX 737 Airplanes

ADDIS ABABA (ENA) - Ethiopian Airlines and Boeing announced yesterday that the carrier has agreed to order 11 Boeing 787 Dreamliner and 20 MAX 737 airplanes.

The agreement, signed by Ethiopia's national carrier at the Dubai Airshow, represents the largest-ever purchase of Boeing airplanes in African history.

Ethiopian Airlines Group CEO Mesfin Tasew said that: "We are pleased to announce that Ethiopian Airlines has reached a deal with Boeing to place a firm order for 31 ultra-modern airplanes, with the opportunity for 36 additional jets."

This order will enable us to modernize and increase our fleet in support of Ethiopian Airlines' growth plan and our Vision 2035 strategy, he said, adding that through this deal, the airline has solidified a decades-old exemplary business partnership with Boeing.

The 787 Dreamliner and 737 MAX demonstrate Ethiopian Airlines' environmentally conscious decisions and its commitment to serve passengers with the latest technologically advanced airplanes.

Ethiopia is ordering the 787-9 variant, part of the Dreamliner family, which reduces fuel use and emissions by 25 percent compared to the airplanes it replaces.



The carrier is also adding the 737-8 model, which reduces fuel use and emissions by 20 percent and creates a 50 percent smaller noise footprint compared to the airplanes it replaces. Both families bring better environmental performance and passenger comfort to their respective markets.

The new commitment positions Ethiopian

Airlines to further strengthen and diversify its fleet, which currently includes more than 80 Boeing jets.

Ethiopian operates Africa's largest Dreamliner fleet with a mix of 787-8s and 787-9s.

The new 737 MAX order, which will grow

the airline's backlog for the fuel-efficient jet to 50, will be posted on Boeing's Orders and Deliveries website when finalized.

Moreover, Ethiopian Airlines and Boeing also agreed to work together to provide cabin modification services for the carrier's existing 787 Dreamliners.

The comprehensive retrofit will enhance the passenger experience with advanced in-flight entertainment and new seats in all cabins, including lie-flat business-class seats from Boeing joint venture Adient Aerospace, it was learned.

Boeing Commercial Sales and Marketing Senior Vice President, Brad McMullen said on the occasion that "Ethiopian Airlines continues its leadership as one of Africa's preeminent airlines with this landmark commitment to expand their 787 and 737 MAX fleets."

Ethiopian was the first African airline to take delivery of the 787, and the Dreamliner family continues to play an integral role in its long-haul fleet.

With their decades of experience operating our single-aisle and wide-body jets, the senior vice president stated that Boeing appreciates Ethiopian Airlines' confidence in its products and the strength of the relationship after more than 75 years of collaboration.

Korea pledges to back Ethiopian nuclear power dev't

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA -The Republic of Korea (RoK) has pledged to provide Ethiopia with support in due course of developing civilian nuclear power.

The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Ethiopia, Kang Seokhee made this commitment during a recent seminar held at Korea Embassy here.

According to FBC, the seminar was attended by officials from Addis Ababa Science and Technology University (AASTU), Adama Science and Technology University (ASTU), Ministry of Innovation and Energy (MoIE), and Ministry of Education (MoE.)

Speaking at the seminar, representatives of universities highlighted the importance of focusing on the production of manpower and the need to collaborate with developed countries in developing and establishing a nuclear science and technology center.

Amb. Kang Seokhee assured that the Republic of Korea would provide the necessary support to Ethiopia in its efforts to develop civil nuclear power.

The Ambassador said: "The support from the Republic of Korea will include assistance in human resources development, technology transfer, resource provision, and other related sectors. Republic of



Amb. Kang Seokhee

Korea is willing to share its experience with Ethiopia in development of nuclear science and technology centers in the latter."

It is known that Ethiopia is venturing to establish nuclear science and technology center in order to harness the benefits of nuclear power for peaceful purposes.

By the same token, previously, Ethiopia inked Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Russian Nuclear power company, Rosatom on nuclear energy. The agreement will help make strong cooperation on nuclear energy between the two countries. The cooperation agreement is designed to train experts and academicians, and enhance the public's understanding the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Consortium says working to advance women holistic welfare

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

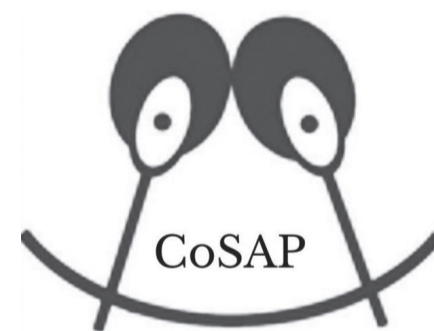
ADDIS ABABA- Consortium of Self Help Group Approach Promoters (COSAP) has been striving for promoting economic advantage, human rights, and women's social, gender equality, and political inclusion.

The 10th annual learning and sharing event organized by COSAP in collaboration with *Kinder Not Hilfe* will take place for three days as of November 14, 2023.

COSAP Board Chairperson Mulugeta Geberu on the occasion said that it has been working to promote economic benefit, human rights, and women's social, gender equality and political inclusion by implementing a strategy of organizing women's self- help group. COSAAP is an organization that is coordinating about 33 women's self- help groups in the country.

"Many women have changed themselves and their families by organizing in the self-help groups. Nationally, self-help organized women are mobilizing a capital of more than 320 million birr. As a result, 600,000 children are able to get food and health care," Mulugeta said.

Civil Society Organizations Authority Deputy Director Abduri Ahmed on his part said that the authority is ready more than ever before to provide COSAP member



organizations with the required support.

The Civil Society Organizations Authority has a mandate to ensure that civil society organizations provide maximum benefit to their users, members and the general public. They are also expected to be effective development partners in the construction of a democratic system in the country. The authority appreciates the way in which women are organized in self-help groups to help themselves.

Abduri said, "COSAP members should help those who are in trouble, injured and displaced due to the lack of peace. The organizations are to help bridge the gaps witnessed on the side of the government via reinvigorating coordination."

Kinder Not Hilfe (KNH) CEO, Katrin Weidemann said on the occasion that KNH is helping women and children in Ethiopia and focuses on education, vocational training, nutrition and health care, child labor, health, gender equality, among others.

News

Huawei's trainings helping students gain industry knowledge: *Ministry*

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA - Trainings like Huawei Seeds for the Future are helping students gain industry knowledge, Ministry of Labor and Skills (MoLS) said.

MoLS State Minister Nigusu Tilahun made the above remark said during the closing ceremony of Trainings like Huawei Seeds for the Future program yesterday.

Huawei Seeds for the Future 2023 program which runs from October 30 to November 6, 2023, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, certified 106 students from 14 Universities.

Nigusu Tilahun said that: "Our Ministry will coordinate entrepreneurship and skill development and create opportunities for the private investor to serve as an engine for it. An example of this is to invite international institutions that bring technology, such as Huawei, to create a favorable environment and solve unemployment. As a result, one of the government's primary priority areas is the field of training in which you are trained."

On the other hand, the Ministry of Education Chief Executive Officer for ICT and Digital Education Zelalem Assefa (PhD) mentioned



Nigusu Tilahun

that the ministry is working with industries to ensure that the students graduate with skills that can be used in the industry. He added, "One of these is to open ICT academies in all universities. We have opened an ICT academy together with other well-known companies in technology, including Huawei."

The director acknowledged Huawei for bridging, cutting-edge ICT skills, and Ethiopian students. He said these are the students who are going to join the telecom, finance, and banking industries.

Huawei Sub-Regional Public Relations Director Zhang Bowen expressed the

company's continuous contribution to cultivating talents. "Seeds for the Future is among many programs that Huawei provides for young generations." Zhang highlighted cyber security courses in the program, "The training will develop our capability to defend against cyber threats. Huawei will always put cyber security above its commercial interests and remains committed to technological innovation and collaboration with stakeholders across the industry to jointly improve privacy protection."

Kaleab Mezgebu, Minab ICT Solutions founder and CEO of Hahu Jobs, an Ethiopian young ICT entrepreneur, also shared his expertise with the trainees in his remarks.

This year's Seeds for the Future program included 13 public universities and one private university. In total, 120 students participated in the program, with 106 (32 females and 74 males) passing the exam after completing the course. In addition, 34 students received 100% marks in all of the key courses, which included digital power, cloud computing, AI, and 5G. Furthermore, Future of ICT, AI, and Green Digital Skills for Green Business trainings were provided by engineers and researchers with experience in these disciplines, Huawei Ethiopia said.

Premier...

He, moreover, underlined the importance of bringing balance to Ethiopians' historical lenses since it seems to occupy citizens the most.

"What we seek to accomplish as nation requires clarity of thought and hard work on a daily basis. Although there are many issues contributing to our challenges, particularly negative narratives, do not build a nation."

As to him, emotion ridden and conspiracy based problems analysis cannot help Ethiopians to achieve sustainable solutions. It rather pushes Ethiopians away further from the truth.

Taking about the existence of instability in some parts of the county, the premier said that the government has been thwarting continuously the attacks of those groups who aim to weaken this nation at every turn.

"Over the past years, the government has neither initiated nor planned any attacks against any group."

On the occasion, he also expressed the government's readiness to hold peace talks with any given party to ensure peace and stability across the country.

Regarding the status of country's media outlets, he noted that the media practice in Ethiopia is only at the beginning stages and requires care.

Gov't renews ...

access with a plan to grab another country's land by force.

"Ethiopia demands not what has been circulated on some media and our real demand is what I am telling you now... in addition, I would like to recall again all countries concerned with the issue that Ethiopia was the owner of two ports around 30 years ago. During that time, the country had 46 or 47 million people and its GDP was around 10-13 billion USD. Then, it lost its ownership status and became a commercial user of Assab and Djibouti ports. Because of the war with Eritrea, Ethiopia remains reliant on one port."

The people and the government of Ethiopia value the contribution of Djiboutian brothers and sisters and it has no risk or threat from the Djibouti government and people. However, if global powers enter into war, Ethiopia's sole status would be threatened. "That is why we are saying Ethiopia should not be over dependent on Djibouti ports any longer."

Ethiopia is now in risk of losing its primary sea access more than any other country due the global powers' rivalry. The goodwill of Djibouti might not be guardian of Ethiopia's interest if war broke out by countries' having military bases in the region, the PM emphasized.

"Moreover, many countries far away from the region are deploying military personnel across the Red Sea coastline. So, why does it become so strange and wrong when Ethiopia requests the same thing? Some others are also considering our appeal to shift the public attention and this is also duly wrong," the Premier emphasized.

Ministry working to bring

and sanitation development. To this end, the ministry is revising the water development policy and facilitating conditions to bring the private sector to the forefront.

Habtmu added that the Wash Program, which is being practiced in Ethiopia, is productive and the effectiveness of the program will help mobilize additional resources for water and sanitation.

"We will also take lessons from other nations in this summit. The private sector needs to invest in development of water and sanitation since the gap can be filled by investors' participation. We are revising the water policy development to bring the private sector in the water and sanitation development program forthwith."

Speaking at WASH Leadership Summit of Eastern and Southern African nations on the

same day, Finance Minister Ahmed Shide said that the concept of the Sustainable Development Goals is to transform the world and to end poverty, inequality, protect the planet, and ensure inclusive prosperity.

The summit brings together finance and water ministers, development partners and leaders of the private sector in Eastern and Southern Africa for in-depth discussion on Wash access.

"My government believes that access to Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) is a basic right of all people, and today in Ethiopia 60 million people lack access to basic water supply, 112 million lack access to improved sanitation, and 22 million are still practicing open defecation."

The absolute access gap in Sub-Saharan Africa is rising due to the high population growth rate although access rates to improved water and

sanitation are increasing. Frequent droughts and floods, driven by climate change, further exacerbate the situation.

The minister added, "Out of the 22 countries in East and Southern Africa, Ethiopia has the largest access gap amid achievements. We as Africans have our commitment to the Africa Water Vision for 2025 and Africa Agenda 2063, which will help us realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals and to meet universal WASH access."

Huge access gaps on WASH require strong leadership from finance and water ministers to ensure better and faster delivery of the service. In this regard, the Ethiopian government has created a national program platform for sustainable and universal WASH, bringing together four sector ministers (Water, Health, Education and Finance) as well development partners, Ahmed remarked.

Ethiopia's GDP doubles...

billion USD to 164 billion USD within five years. The per capita income of citizens also witnessed a two-fold increment from 882 USD to 1,549 USD in the reported period."

According to him, the reform is also of paramount importance in keeping the performance of the economy that has been challenged by domestic and international factors. During the past five years, the reform has played a significant role in enhancing economic efficiency, boosting flow of business and investment and enhancing institutional capacities thereby propelling holistic development.

"We have been working to build the capacity of institutions, boost the execution capacity of the civil service sector with a view to transforming Ethiopia's 'grey' economy to 'green' urbanization."

Supported by the reform; Ethiopia has remained among the few world countries with rapid economic progress amidst pressing manmade and natural challenges.

Abiy further revealed the plan to cover 22 million hectare of land with various crops and obtain 800 million quintal yield in the current fiscal year. Similarly, Ethiopia planned to cover three million hectares of land in the summer wheat program.

Under the 'Let Ethiopia Produce' campaign, the country has managed to boost its industrial production volume from 47 percent to 55, though much work is needed in this sector. In addition, the industry sector has grown by 6.9 percent and the electricity, and construction sectors have shown a 12 and 7.1 percent increase in the reported period respectively.

Similarly, the manufacturing and service sectors have grown by 7 and 7.9 percent whilst the country witnessed strong expansion in the transport and communication sub-sectors. "Ethiopia managed to generate 407 billion Birr from exports last year and it is projected to hit 520 billion this year."

Ethiopia's thriving financial sector keeps its auspicious progress and currently about 100 firms are operating in the country which necessitates strong regulation for the furtherance of the industry, PM Abiy remarked.

It was learned that arresting the rampant inflation and stabilizing the market are among the core tasks of the government in the current fiscal year.

Opinion

Towards reaping regional integration rewards

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Recognizing the fact that countries which have a common concern for shared progress would all the time prefer growing together to being rivalries and spend time attacking one another/each other east the African region is now connecting and enjoying regional integration. True, Ethiopia and countries of the Horn have now well capitalized on nurturing regional integration and planning for common prosperity.

No doubt, regional integration holds tremendous promise for Africa. Regional integration helps countries overcome divisions that impede the flow of goods, services, capital, people and ideas. These divisions are a constraint to economic growth, especially in developing countries like ours. Hence, all countries of the globe have to promote regional integration through common physical and institutional infrastructure.

It is also well recognized that divisions, which created by geography, poor infrastructure and inefficient policies between/among countries are impediments to economic growth. But there is a remedy to address these divisions. Regional integration allows countries to overcome these costly divisions by integrating goods, services and markets' linkages thereby facilitating the flow of trade, capital, energy, people and ideas.

Regional integration allows countries to overcome these costly divisions integrating goods, services and factors' markets, thus facilitating the flow of trade, capital, energy, people and ideas.

There are a number of indicators in this regard. A number of nations in Africa are now well aware of the myriads of benefits integration holds. Let alone for countries which have accommodated a number of people in their circumferential territory, integration or amicable way of running activities is of paramount importance in making lives of individuals happy in due course of their interaction.

Yes, integration pays off as it ensures that all systems work together and in harmony to increase production and productivity. It also aims at resolving the complexity associated with increased communication between systems among nations of the continent.

Bringing together nations of the continent in general and those which are situated in the Horn of Africa in particular is of significantly useful in equipping them to be competent with other nations of the universe. As stated time and again, and as the course of interaction among countries have portrayed, organizations rely on several applications to assist them with specific functions.

Integration itself is regarded as a process by which different independent units are brought together or united to form a new larger unit. Specifically, regional integration requires cooperation between/among countries in terms of trade, investment and

domestic regulation, Transport, ICT and energy infrastructure, macroeconomic and financial policy as well as the provision of other common public goods like shared natural resources, security, health, education and other related factors.

Cooperation in these areas has taken different institutional forms, with different levels of policy commitments and shared sovereignty, and has had different priorities in different nations. True, countries can integrate their economies, or elements of their thriftiness. They can also integrate themselves socially, economically, politically, culturally and even militarily. When countries embark on a process of regional integration, they agree to limit their constitutional authority or responsibility in the functions they are integrating.

In the era of globalization and working together for meeting global challenges, unless countries integrate themselves with neighboring ones or even following cross border and trans boundary fashion. Countries can without a shadow of doubt modernize their infrastructure, economy, social integration and cultural values by connecting themselves with others utilizing several spheres at the disposal of such a viable manner. It would thus help nations draw important lessons from those which have recorded remarkable return out of integration and working together.

Yes, regional integration plays a pivotal role in thriving the socio-economic trajectory of countries and bridging the gap witnessed among/between different states.

Regional integration is a process of uniting a region so that the countries of the realm can work together for their common advancement. It allows the participating states to perform functions that can be more effectively carried out if they are undertaken together rather than by individual states. Joint or cooperative action by a group of states, through regional integration, allows these states to provide common services to their citizens with greater efficiency and at reduced costs since their resources are pooled and well amalgamated.

Interestingly, when countries embark on regional economic integration, they create a larger market or economic space for the production and sale of the goods and services they produce and for the movement of other resources like capital and their people. This larger market and the free circulation of goods and other economic resources of the countries within it, results in greater trade, business, and economic opportunities in the countries and in their general economic advancement.

Countries that are engaged in regional integration arrangements obtain a wider, more diverse pool of physical and human resources with which their economies and societies can be well synchronized. Countries therefore embark on regional integration because, essentially, regional integration is about working and building together for the

good of all and to the disadvantage of none.

A strong regional integration grouping leads to peace and stability between the member countries and provides them with greater visibility and weight internationally as they face the world as one, rather than speaking and negotiating as separate, single-handed with weaker voices. As a regional group they are better able to compete internationally and come up with influential power.

The issue of regional integration has been well acknowledged as a result of its economic and other related benefits. It is traditionally understood as a way to encourage trade flow between member states, to facilitate more efficient allocation of resources by stimulating competition and increasing the capacity of the internal market.

That is expected to result in faster economic growth and, consequently, increased per capita income. Actually, economic benefits truly are the main driving force of regional integration. With this goal in mind, Ethiopia has always worked to foster regional integration addendum and attempted to reinvigorate its economy, investment flow, people-to-people ties and cross-regional as well as cross-continental dynamism with the Horn and beyond.

Undeniably, economic gain is not an imminent property of regional integration as it does not occur at all stages of the process and is neither its primary goal nor its driving force. Instead, regional integration aims to respond to the changing global order, which means helping member states strengthen their international position and protect themselves from undesirable external influence. Most importantly, Africa's integration is no longer a matter of choice. Against an international backdrop of changing political and economic priorities, Africa must plot a new course for its industrialization and economic development using the momentum of regional integration since it is a feasible means real yummy fruits.

For Ethiopia, which has housed over 120 million people, not only is integration a considerable potential but it is also instrumental in promoting equitable economic growth through markets as well as reducing conflict and enhancing trade liberalization.

The very point here is development economists, policymakers, researchers and other crucial personalities in Ethiopia and those of nations of the Horn and beyond are expected to discuss the shape and future of continental integration and common growth thereby making it globally competent, too. Yes, exploring potentials and untapped resources has to receive due attention for enhancing the broad and inclusive integration of African economies.

Needless to state, countries of the African continent do have a range of means to associate themselves for working together and become much stronger. Of the many ways to integrate Africa, the African Continental Free Trade Agreement can be cited as a very good example. It has sought to bring Africa into

the global trade environment as one continent instead of acting as individual countries.

Yes, the AfCFTA agreement has brought together the largest number of countries within a free trade area in the world. Some 44 countries signed the pact and it proposes to create a single market for goods and services, with free movement of people and investments across all countries of the continent. This will redefine trade relations among African states and promises to promote trade liberalization and improves interactions within the existing regional economic assemblage.

The priority of economic integration must be balanced by those of social, cultural and political integration to accelerate the already commenced socioeconomic integration. The preponderance of bilateral and multilateral agreements between African states and the international community should also be reviewed to ensure that existing and future trade and investment set up align with regional and continental integration.

Another key concern is that integration must be people-centered, with stronger citizens' partnerships, especially among Africa's burgeoning youth population, private sector players and civil society institutions, in order to ensure sustainable development.

Africa must industrialize to diversify away from natural resources and create jobs for its fast-growing young population. And by boosting continental trade, consumption, and investment, regional integration can be a strong vector for improving productivity, building manufacturing powerhouses, and developing credible African brands.

In sum, regional integration is decisive to maximize the benefits of globalization and to stimulate development in countries by improving productive capacity and encouraging investments which hold the most economic potential. It can also be promoted through common physical and institutional infrastructure.

Regional integration can lead to substantial economic gains as it allows countries to, among others, improve market efficiency, share the costs of public goods or large infrastructure projects, reap other non-economic benefits, such as peace and security. Hence, countries must reconcile their different preferences on priorities for regional integration, economic geography, or preferences for sovereignty in specific areas. They should be committed to expand trade and investment flows, allocation of economic activity, growth, income distribution, and address lack of adequate complementary policies and institutions that may lead to inefficient outcomes. In so doing, Africa can reap satisfactory returns out of regional integration.

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

Editorial

Gov't's unwavering stance has maintained peace

Though the Ethiopian has consistently been demonstrating relentless efforts to eliminate any possible conflicts, the last couple of years have been marred by some conflicts and unrest unfolding in different parts of the country. Regardless of these circumstances, the incumbent was able to revive the cash-strapped economy and reverse a grave danger. Indeed, the government has been able to take the country on a different path of healing and national consensus against all odds.

On the heels of the 2018 reform, the government has been taking different steps to make sure development projects are finalized on time. Besides improving the implementation of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and other previous projects, the government has been launching and executing other significant projects that have immense socio-economic contributions.

Various projects including Unity and Friendship parks have been built and the construction of various similar development projects is also ongoing well. Likewise, the country, despite some minor incidents, staged a democratic poll in its history compared to previous ones. In general, there have been positive developments in the country. Equally, the years have not been without challenges. The conflict in Tigray and violence in different parts of the country have resulted in huge human and property loss while triggering a dire humanitarian crisis and sparking unwarranted external pressure.

Although the government has never been the aggressor, it has been striking peace deals with other sides to ensure peace and tranquility in the country. Suffice it to mention the landmark Pretoria Peace Accord that ended two years of devastating conflict in the northern part of the country. "We have neither planned nor started any conflict. Our priority has been to tear down the wall of hatred and build a bridge of love," said Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed in his appearance before lawmakers yesterday.

Moreover, the government has reaffirmed its resolve time and time again to resolving other conflicts through peaceful negotiations. In many instances, the incumbent vowed to sit with other armed forces and end conflicts unfolding in different pockets of the country. And, to ensure lasting peace, the nation is working on transitional justice and national dialogue. Hence, Ethiopians should support the efforts of the National Dialogue Commission to realize its plan. "We must seize the opportunity. If this opportunity is wasted, it may take us several years to find similar moments," Abiy said.

By encouraging public discussion, the dialogue is anticipated to bring significant national issues to a consensus and identify common ground on the main points of controversy. Naturally, national discourse facilitates the raising of significant issues and concerns that impact people with diverse origins and experiences.

Past experiences have shown, however, that national dialogue can break or make a moment for countries at times. In some countries, failed national dialogues ended up creating failed states, Yemen and Congo to mention a few. But in countries like South Africa and Tunisia, national dialogues have helped the countries to create consensus and settle hostilities. Drawing international experience and combining it with local values is imperative to stage a successful national dialogue.

In sum, the government continues demonstrating its relentless efforts to sustain peace across the country through taking helpful measures like inviting any party for peaceful discussion and supporting the endeavors of the forthcoming national dialogue. Expectantly, as the current positive circumstances continuous, Ethiopia's prosperity is soon realized.



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Opinion

The plight of refugees across the world needs to be urgently addressed

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

Over the last several years millions of people in Africa who have fled their homes in the East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region due to conflict, climate-related events and political violence are facing worsening situation in 2023. The global economic downturn, repercussions from the Ukraine war and the pandemic, and floods and droughts stoked by climate change have exacerbated existing difficulties in finding livelihood activities, feeding families and educating children.

According to the UNHCR there is a growing need for cooperation in nine of the region's 11 countries, especially Burundi, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan. Low funding would preclude all but the most vital life-saving support, while full funding would mean those forced to flee will not merely survive but have a chance to return to full and productive lives.

According to reports from Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) for 2023, more than one million refugees from 26 countries including Eritrea, South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia and Kenya are being hosted in refugee camps in various parts of the country through coordination offices in Assosa, Gambela, Alem Wach, Semera, Jigjiga, Melka Dida and Moyale. RRS provides services in these branch offices which include registration, water and sanitation, food and non-food provisions, shelter, livelihood support, health services, education and supply of energy. Apart from the refugees, the government also caters to more than 5 million IDPs that are sheltered in various centers across the country.

A couple of weeks back, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) held a three-day workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to review and validate the regional bloc's Policy Framework on Refugee Protection. The policy aims to provide a common mechanism for refugee management in the IGAD region, which encompasses eight countries in East Africa.

The IGAD region, encompassing such countries as Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda, is home to millions of forcibly displaced people due to a range of interrelated factors that compelled them to move. A Review and Validation Workshop of the IGAD Policy Framework on Refugee Protection is happening in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Therefore, it is high time to have a regional policy framework to address fresh and renewed armed conflicts, climate catastrophes and events seriously disturbing public order that trigger new and secondary displacements.

In this respect, the IGAD Policy Framework on Refugee Protection is believed to address multiple and interlinked concerns resulted from the complex displacement situation in the region.

It is to be recalled that the Government of Ethiopia has ratified and enacted one of the most progressive refugee proclamations in the continent of Africa. The Proclamation has clearly outlined the admission, registration, documentation, status determination of refugees and asylum seekers.

The refugee program in Ethiopia is the most organized program operating in the context of international standards with various refugee centered projects based on local needs. Several years back the author of this article has made a working and consultancy project for refugees from South Sudan in Sherhole Refugee Camp in Benishangul Gumuz State. The refugees from

Maban ethnic group had no written materials and books in their own language. For the first time in their life, the refugees were supported to translate basic development related materials in their own language. They were very excited by the project which was sponsored by a UNHCR affiliated international NGO based in Holland.

Moreover, RRS works on creating a smooth relationship with host communities through systematic integration that is based on respect for the refugees and their rights to move from place to place in their respective host communities.

As the proliferation of wars has continued unabated and as ethnic conflicts are already multiplying across the world, the issue of refugees is already a global issue that deserves close attention. Refugees are not migrating to the next country not only because of wars and conflicts. Natural disasters like irruption of volcanoes, floods take their toll every year across the globe.

One of the most tragic challenges that refugees in Africa face is the trauma that is created on them due to uncertainties about the future. As they usually lose most of their belongings upon departure, they are not sure of what will happen upon their repatriation.

Refugees being hosted in Ethiopia are putting a lot of pressure on the environment because they lack the necessary energy resources for their daily life. One of the most important programs that RRS is doing in Ethiopia focuses on providing alternative sources of energy for the refugees in order to reduce their heavy dependence on fuel wood from local forest areas.

What is to be done to ease the plight of these refugees? The author of this contribution would like to make some short and long term solutions for reducing the number of refugees across the world.

First, it is important to verify the types of refugees as opposed to those who migrate to other apparently well developed countries in search of employment or to meet their financial needs. This would help to develop diverse strategies by host countries to address their needs in a manner that is compatible with their livelihood needs. In this context, it is necessary to devise gender sensitive programs that focus on female headed families, abandoned children and those refugees with larger families.

Second, the UNHCR and other humanitarian global and local and regional organizations need to focus on safeguarding the safety and security of refugees with special emphasis on gender violence, rape and other crimes committed on the refugees.

Third, access to higher education scholarships, training and professional opportunities for refugees is essential. Yet, just one percent of refugees attend university compared to 34 percent of people globally.

Fourth, refugees are human resources that are displaced due to the political squabbling among government across the world. Unfortunately, they are considered as liabilities. Large numbers of them are already stateless and such process has continued unabated. This issue needs to be addressed in the context of international law and UN conventions.

Proper and adequate international funding needs to be earmarked to at least give a better life for refugees residing in host countries. The world will certainly be flooded with more refugees over the coming years. A viable solution needs to be put in place before it is too late to worry.

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

Business & Economy

Nation's economy on progress amidst challenges

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) presented at the House of People's Representatives (HPR) regular session yesterday to address the questions raised by the members on various issues. On the 6th HPR, 3rd Year, 4th regular session the House of People's Representatives of the FDRE have raised a number of questions on government's plans and current issues that need the Prime Minister's response.

According to the Prime Minister, Ethiopia has crafted a home grown economic agenda to achieve major economic goals. Among the pillars of the agenda; fixing the nation's broken macro economy and balancing it; advancing the investment and trade environment; and uplifting the government capacity are the spectacular ones.

"The government is working on transforming the economy from grey to green," the Prime Minister said, elaborating the idea by saying the economy should not only be building concretes rather it should have greenery to some extent.

The Prime Minister highlighted that the world is passing through major economic tides such as war in different parts and Covid-19 that resulted in price hiking of basic goods. On the contrary, for the first time in its history, "Ethiopia is able to double its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the past five years."

When his government assumed the power five years ago, the nation's GDP was only 84 billion USD Abiy said referring the IMF report. But now, the figure is accelerated to 164 billion USD. Besides, citizens' per capita income is also increased from 882 USD to 1549 USD. This shows that the nation is at the top list in achieving fast economic growth in the world.

The Premier highlighted the major sectors registered their great accomplishments. As to him, the agriculture sector scored 6.3 percent overall increments in the last fiscal years. Some 20 million hectares of land was covered with crops and harvested 600 million quintals.

This year, Abiy noted that the nation has planned to cultivate more than 22 million hectares of land and expects to harvest 800 million quintals of crops which shows two million hectares more land when compared with last year. In addition, it has planned to cover 3 million hectares with irrigation and summer wheat production.

According to last year's reports, the premier added that the industry sector has scored 6.9% increase; especially the power generation sector hit the highest increment which is 12%. The construction and manufacturing sector also registered 7.1 and 7% growth respectively.

'Let Ethiopia Produce' movement played a vital role for the success of the manufacturing sector. As a nation, the capacity of all factories found in the country is 47%, and this figure is increased by 8% to be 55%.

Other sectors have also registered notable growth in their production capacity in the past years. To list some: in textile 63%, leather 58%, technology 35%, and chemical industries 68% growth of production were registered. The premiere further elucidated that with the factories operational at the moment; the country can increase its production capacity without adding more.

Regarding the import substitution, the nation produced 30% of the local demand, and now the figure goes to 38%. The nation was able to stop importing products like coal and malt barley and fully substitute them with local products.

Similarly, the service sector, in general, registered some 7.9% of growth. Especially, the transport and telecom sects have showed a 12% growth. The hotel sector also hit 10% percent growth.

Regarding government's income and expenditure, as to the Premier, it has shown successive increment since 2018. The government had 235 billion Birr income in 2018 and 407 billion Birr last year. This year's plan is to hit 520 billion Birr. To this end, in the first quarter of this fiscal year, more than one hundred billion Birr has already been generated. The figure shows a 12% rise compared with last year's similar period. Regarding the expenditure, the government spent 141 billion Birr in the last three months. This has a 20% increase over the previous year.

Speaking on the finance sector, the premier said that the nation has got over 100 finance service providers of which, 31 of them are commercial banks, 48 are small finance institutions, 6 are payment service companies, 6 are on capital commodity import companies, and 7 mobile wallet service companies.

Accordingly, the National Bank of Ethiopia is monitoring huge number of financial institutions. Not only that, the government has taken some reform on the bank by assigning new officials and introducing new systems. The reality on the ground shows that more monitoring capacity will be needed. In the past 5 years, the finance sector scored 20% growth.

In relation to loans, the rate of loan is getting higher from time to time. Just last year, as to Abiy, 547 billion Birr was used for loans. Out of this, 86% was allocated for the private sector. Besides, farmers' loan rate was grown up to 15%.

Ethiopian banks in general could not give loan for half a million people. Only mobile money services can loan over 7



billion Birr for 3 million people. Some thousands of people are only enjoying the chance. The government will work on curbing such challenges and set in a more inclusive system in the coming years.

On the other part, the capacities of getting hundreds of millions of Birr loan this time become easy and the private sector needs even in billions. Previously, only the government could build industrial parks, but now, individuals have started building their own industrial parks. This shows the uplifted demand regarding loans.

Talking about debt, the premier elaborated that the total debt of Sub-Saharan African countries reached 55% and their foreign debt hit 25%. Ethiopia's total debt including the local touches 31%. Interestingly, its foreign debt decreased to 14.8%.

It is the fact that foreign currency crunch is Ethiopia's long lasted problem. Elaborating the foreign exchange inflow, the Prime Minister listed that the nation gets 702 billion USD from the service sector, 6.8 billion USD from money order, and 3.4 billion from foreign direct investment. The total foreign currency inflow in 2021/22 was 21.9 billion USD. In 2022/23, it was 23.7 billion USD. This year, the nation has set to increase the figure to 25%.

Regarding coffee, the premier expressed it as the back bone of the country's economy. Coffee in Ethiopia has advanced market system compared with other commodities. The major problem in the market system is individuals working on the market chain. Numerous mechanisms have been used to curb the problem. The incumbent allows farmers to export their products by themselves as a part of the solution.

According to the Premier, inflation is

currently a major challenge for every nation across the world; it even gets worse to countries like Ethiopia. The government has taken actions to lower the inflation rate from 37 to 28%. In order to lessen the burden from low-income citizens, the government has tried to use bonds and treasury bonds coupled with increasing productivity. Moreover, the government has not ceased subsidizing basic commodities like fertilizer, fuel, and edible oil by spending billions of Dollar. In good truth, challenges are everywhere and imminent, so that the only option is to prepare and face them to lessen their impact.

Similarly, the government is working with the responsible bodies to create job opportunities for citizens. In this fiscal year alone, it has planned to create 3.9 million new jobs. Up to this time, half a million jobs have already been created including 100 thousand jobs in foreign countries.

It is the fact that the purchase of fertilizer was a challenge last year. In order to reverse the previous challenge, the government has bought necessary amount of fertilizer in advance and the shipment has already started.

"We all know that corruption is a cancer that steals ideas from people's mind. We need to tackle this challenge. To this end, transforming services to automation system will highly help to fight the disease," the Prime Minister said.

Again, stock market will be started soon. It is a platform that helps to meet the one with the capital and the other with the idea, and the institution they need. It will help to boost the nation's economy as well, he noted.

Art & Culture

The wrath of the cuckold



(Short Story)

BY ALEM HAILU G/KRISTOS

Sunday takes the salient segment of my prayer calendar. When the story I'm going to relate to you took place I was heading to Saint UrIel church just downhill Kazan chis.

A tall and slim girl in the early twenties was walking in front of me on the pedestrian walk. Suddenly she got on her knees and snaked her arms around a middle-aged man with disheveled hair and mud greased suit sitting on a stone amidst the sick and demented who rent lodgings around churches pursuant of the sprinkling of holy waters by priests.

Averse to sentimentality, the man was trying to hide his face ducking his head.

Sobbing the girl kept on showering him with kisses. It doesn't take a crystal ball to tell his being her father. The strange incident took the better of me and I wanted to figure out what was going on. Leaning on a close by telephone poll, I summoned a shoeshine boy to take care of my shoe in a bid to cover up my interest to the movie in real life. But I was eaves dropping all ears.

"Dad we love you. You have to return back,"she kept on sobbing.

The man buried his head between his knees sealing his ears with his hands

"Please Dad come back home. Worried we have stopped going to school. Daniel and Mary weep daylong. Daniel couldn't understand the situation. He is asking 'what wrong did I do? Is it because I asked Dad to buy me a new shoe for my birthday? Why did Dad failed to appear for my birthday? He must have hated me.' He is blaming himself."

Lifting his head and eying the girl the man shed some tears.

"Helen I'm sorry. Overcame by irk, Daniel's birthday escaped my mind."

"Absent minded in the classroom Mary is suspended from school for constantly not tackling her homework. 'It was Daddy who was helping me out.' she is regretting the unfolding. Dad she is backpedaling in her performance?"

"I'm sorry. Is it this year she is going to take grade 8 National Examination?"

"Yes. I walk all the way to college as no one gives me pocket money. Also disturbed I couldn't concentrate when I attend lectures and study in the library. Dad I know fornication hits hard the victim. But as mom confided to me she is regretful for the one nightstand affair you found out from SMS message. She is crying her eyes out all days long. It is me handling the domestic chores. Please Dad if you forgive mom our cozy home regains its normalcy."

"How dare she cuckold me? The knowledge that I'm cuckolded is creating a lacerating pain on me. I was working myself to the bone to cater for every family member's demand. Was it a picture perfect marriage we were leading? Your mom broke our marital vow and my heart. I spent a fortnight wandering around the city talking to my self like one demented. I was sleeping by the gate of churches," he punched the ground.

"What a pity dad. Obviously you were not eating."

"Nor drinking. Faithfulness is what I learnt from my parents. Devotion to close ones is long instilled in me. How could I be otherwise?"

"Besides nowadays communicable diseases are rampant."

"Mom is willing to repay you with added love and care. I heard her saying I learnt how my marriage is important to me."

"How could she cheat on me? What was she lacking?"

"Dad as you spent the whole day at work place including Saturday and holidays you two are not going out occasionally. Some men could use such weakness to wander into the romantic life of bored women and offer them some refreshment and alcoholic drinks to the extent the women feel they owe the predators gratitude. I think that is how mother fell into such pitfall. So dad

better fight back and salvage your marriage and win back you loving wife who made a mistake. Above all your children need the family."

The man in his turn took the girl into his arms and weeping said "Helen, my first born. How wise you are. I didn't realize your pain was as much as mine if not more!"

"Dad shall we go back home?"

"If your mother behaves and if she is willing to stop sexting I could take her back."

"I reaffirm to you she is regretful and willing to cut any relationship with the sinful man that exploits the Achilles heel of women. Besides we have to arrange program for you to take out mom for romantic nights. We must not be burdens on you."

"My children are my jewels. You cannot be burdens," The man started to get on his feet supporting his daughter to follow suit. She was bubbling with laughter.

"Let us walk up to Kazan chis then we will take a taxi to Shero meda home sweet home."

"It is mom who advised me to go to churches to trace you,"he goes to churches when he is angry,"

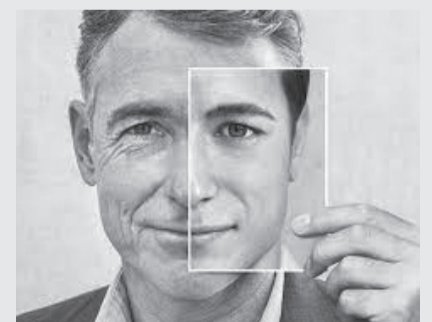
"Give a call to Mary and Daniel also to your mother that we are coming,"

When I heard Helen saying "I didn't have my phone with me," I offered her mine.

The turn of page entailed in age

BY ALEM HAILU G/
KRISTOS

Populated graying hair	That dipped its mouth	A gait	Owing to reality's
Where	In a bowl of milk.	To extrapolate	Gravity rope.
Dark, straight ones		The drawing nigh	
Were there.	Curly mug	On my life's horizon	A regret
	A soaked rug	The sunset.	To the befallen fate.
A temple	Burrows and furrows		
For white grass	Did dare	A push	A desire to take
An example.	To plow it	To the peripheries	The clock back
	Without care.	Of the romance market	By elixir-like luck.
A beard		Feeble, budding flower	But a consolation
That conjures up	A curved back	To date.	From accumulated skill,
In mind	Metaphoric of		Knowledge
A black cat,	Ill-filled sack.	The bashing of	To command
With furs dark silk,		Soaring hope	Respect, attention.



Global Affairs

Smallholder farmers gain least from International Climate Funding

Smallholder farmers from the Global South benefit from a grossly disproportionate 0.3% of international climate finance despite producing a third of the world's food and despite holding the key to climate-proofing food systems.

The family farmers and rural communities received around USD 2 billion from both public and private international climate funds out of the USD 8.4 billion that went to the agriculture sector in 2021, even as over 2.5 billion people globally depended on the farms for their livelihoods.

The USD 8.4 billion was almost half of the USD 16 billion that was availed for the energy sector and is only a fraction of the estimated USD 300-350 billion needed annually to “create more sustainable and resilient food systems,” a new report has found.

The amount was also quite different from the USD 170 billion that smallholder farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa alone would require per year, the study on global public finance for climate mitigation and adaptation conducted by Dutch climate advisory company Climate Focus has found.

The low level of climate finance for agriculture, forestry, and fishing is of concern, given the impact of climate change on food production and the extent to which food and agriculture are fueling the climate and biodiversity crisis.

Agricultural productivity has declined by 21 percent due to climate change, while the food and agriculture sector as a whole is responsible for 29 percent of greenhouse gas emissions and 80 percent of global deforestation, the study explains.

The farmers have been sidelined by global climate funders and locked out of decision-making processes on food and climate despite being the engines of rural economic growth. This is especially so in Sub-Saharan Africa, where up to 80 percent of agriculture is by smallholder farmers and where 23 percent of regional GDP is attributable to the sector.

It reveals that 80 percent of international public climate finance spent on the agri-food sector is channeled through governments and donor country NGOs, making it hard for smallholder farmers' organizations to access it. This is because of complex eligibility rules and application processes and a lack of information on how and where to apply.

Many family farmers also lack the infrastructure, technology, and resources to adapt to climate impacts, with serious implications for global food security and rural economies as well, it notes.

The study ‘Untapped Potential: An analysis of international public climate finance flows to sustainable agriculture and family farmers,’ published on 14 November, laments that only a fifth of international public climate finance for food and agriculture supports sustainable practice. The money mainly goes to the Global North, even as agriculture becomes the third biggest source of global emissions. and the main driver of biodiversity loss.

“Climate change is hitting harvests and driving up food prices across the globe. It has helped push 122 million people into hunger since 2019. We need to create more sustainable and resilient food systems that can feed people in a



changing climate, but we can't do this without family farmers,” the report compiled on behalf of ten farmer organizations in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Pacific says.

“Family farmers are also key to climate adaptation. They are at the forefront of the shift to more diverse, nature-friendly food systems, which the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says is needed to safeguard food security in a changing climate,” it further notes.

The groups are led by the World Rural Forum and include African groups—the Eastern Africa Farmers Federation, Eastern and Southern Africa small-scale Farmers Forum, the Regional Platform of Farmers' Organisations in Central Africa, and the Network of West African Farmers' and Producers' Organisations. Also part of the group is Northern Africa's Maghreb and North African Farmers Union.

The Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development, the Pacific Island Farmers Organization Network, the Confederation of Family Producers' Organizations of Greater Mercosur, and the Regional Rural Dialogue Programme are also represented in the study.

Many of the farmers are already practicing climate-resilient agriculture, including approaches such as agroecology, which implies a wider variety of crops, including traditional ones, mixing crops, livestock, forestry, and fisheries, while reducing agrochemical use, and building strong connections to local markets.

The study by the new alliance of farmer networks representing over 35 million smallholder producers ahead of COP28, which is set to agree on a Global Goal for Adaptation, is concerned that since 2012, overall, only 11% of international public climate finance has been targeted at agriculture, forestry, and fishing, which amounts to an average of USD 7 billion a year.

In 2021, the World Bank, Germany, the Green Climate Fund, and European Union institutions contributed around half—54 percent, amounting to USD 4 billion collectively, while Nigeria, India, and Ethiopia were the top recipients, receiving a combined USD 1.8 billion. Notably, some of the world's most food

insecure countries, including Sudan, Sierra Leone, and Zambia, each received less than USD 20 million, it discloses.

“As the climate crisis pushes the global food system ever closer to collapse, it is vital that governments recognize family farmers as powerful partners in the fight against climate change,” it warns.

Hakim Baliriane, Chair of the Eastern and Southern Africa small-scale Farmers Forum, observed: “Climate change has helped push 122 million people into hunger since 2019. Reversing this trend will not be possible if governments continue to tie the hands of millions of family farmers.”

The study defines small-scale family farms as those of less than two hectares, mainly in developing countries.

On the other hand, international climate finance broadly refers to finance channeled to “activities that have a stated objective to mitigate climate change or support adaptation. These include multilateral flows in and outside the (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, as well as bilateral flows at national and regional levels, including the Global Environment Facility, Adaptation Fund, and Green Climate Fund, and are usually disbursed as grants and concessional loans

The study finds that family farms are also the backbone of rural economies, supporting over 2.5 billion people globally who depend on family farms for their livelihoods. It says that in Sub-Saharan Africa, where up to 80 percent of farming is done by smallholder farmers, agriculture contributes 23 percent to regional Gross Domestic Product.

Family farmers are also key to climate adaptation in that they are at the forefront of the shift to more “diverse, nature-friendly food systems,” which, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), are critical in safeguarding food security in a changing climate.

It finds that millions of smallholder farmers are already practicing climate-resilient agriculture, including approaches such as agroecology—growing a wider variety of crops, including

traditional crops, mixing crops, livestock, forestry, and fisheries, reducing agrochemicals use while building “strong connections to local markets.”

It concludes that governments must ensure that available climate finance for sustainable climate-resilient practices is increased, including that of agroecological approaches.

It explains: “This means funds to support diverse, nature-friendly approaches and to create community-based solutions that build on traditional expertise and experience.

It recommends that small-scale family farmers ought to have direct access to more climate finance and that financing mechanisms and funds should be developed with the participation of farmers' organizations to meet their needs.

In addition, efforts should be made to ensure longer-term, flexible funding so that communities can determine their own priorities.

The role of the farmers as powerful catalysts for climate action, food system transformation, and the protection of biodiversity should be acknowledged and given a “real say” in decision-making on food and climate at the local, national, regional, and international levels. This should include decisions on land reform and agricultural subsidies.

The COP28 in Dubai later this month has food systems as a big part of the agenda.

An August report by the UK's ActionAid has found that climate adaptation and green transition initiatives in the Global South received 20 times less financing when compared to main global emitters, fossil fuels, and intensive agriculture sectors in the last seven years.

It found that leading banking multinationals funded the emitters' activities in the southern hemisphere to the tune of USD 3.2 trillion since 2015 when the Paris Agreement on Climate was adopted. German agrochemical giant Bayer was the biggest recipient of the financing, receiving an estimated USD 20.6 billion since 2016.

(SOURCE: INTER PRESS SERVICE)

Law & Politics

“A grand and unifying narrative foster cohesion, collective purpose” *Prime Minister Abiy*

• *Ethiopia follows a win-win approach towards the Red Sea*

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed appeared before lawmakers yesterday to respond to various questions raised by MPs. The Q and A session mostly revolved around various and current socioeconomic and political matters.

The lawmakers also put forth wide ranges of issues of internal and regional affairs including diplomacy and regional cooperation. The interactive session allowed MPs to seek information directly from the Prime Minister and gain insights into the government's plans and actions.

The premier addressed questions raised during the session by highlighting the critical importance of avoiding any form of conflict. To underscore this point, he emphasized that refraining from engaging in conflicts can prevent suffering, ruin, and promote overall prosperity.

Highlighting the essential beliefs upheld by the Prosperity Party (PP), such as love, forgiveness, unity, and progress, the leader urged everyone to fully embrace the quest for peace. This appeal serves as a powerful reminder to prioritize, treasure, and actively encourage the values that foster peaceful coexistence.

Underscoring the paramount importance of resolving any grievances through peaceful means, the premier emphasized the need for engaging in dialogue and open discussions. Additionally, he highlighted the unique aspect of the Prosperity Party (PP) by highlighting its inclusive nature. Unlike any other party in the country's history, the PP has actively sought to integrate members from opposition parties into its cabinet, further solidifying its commitment to collaboration and constructive engagement.

The premier firmly reiterated that the government is fully dedicated and determined to engage in peaceful dialogue with political parties reaffirming that there are no obstacles that can impede such discussions. This steadfast commitment to open communication reflects the government's unwavering dedication to fostering unity and seeking resolutions through peaceful means.

In his response to questions posed by the members of the house, he emphasized the detrimental impact of the divisive narrative prevailing in the country. He firmly believed that this narrative is destructive and harmful to the unity and progress of the nation. Instead, he advocated for a grand and unifying narrative that would bring people together, fostering a sense of cohesion and collective purpose. By promoting a narrative that transcends divisions, he believed that the country can overcome its challenges and thrive as a united and harmonious society.

Apart from the divisive narrative, the current problems faced by the country can also be



attributed to the prevalence of conspiracy theories and emotions among the people. The Prime Minister highlighted the importance of not allowing our perspectives on these issues to be swayed solely by emotion and unfounded conspiracy theories.

Instead, he emphasized the need to approach these problems with a sense of common understanding and rationality. Acknowledging that Ethiopia's fate is intricately linked to the collective efforts and contributions of its citizens, he called for unity and collaboration to pave the way for a prosperous future. By working together, Ethiopia can overcome its challenges and establish a harmonious society where every individual can thrive.

By merging our ideas harmoniously, akin to the converging tributary rivers that form the mighty Nile, it is essential to construct a narrative that fosters peace, progress, and the betterment of humanity as a whole. The Prime Minister emphasized the significance of moving away from extreme ideologies and embracing a more balanced and thoughtful approach, which is imperative for Ethiopia in the present moment.

In order to realize the aspirations of the nation, every citizen is expected and required to contribute to this collective endeavor by promoting tolerance, inclusivity, and a spirit of compromise. Only through this collective effort can Ethiopia overcome challenges and embark on a path of sustained growth, development, and shared prosperity.

The Prime Minister highlighted that constructing a nation necessitates more than just a singular narrative. He emphasized the significance of collaboration and working towards a shared goal, where individuals actively engage in empathetic listening and mutual respect.

By acknowledging and embracing diverse perspectives, Ethiopia can foster unity and create a harmonious society. The Prime

Minister underlined that a strong foundation can only be established by valuing and appreciating each other's opinions, ensuring that the collective efforts of all citizens bring about meaningful and lasting change. Through this inclusive approach, Ethiopia can effectively tackle challenges and build a prosperous future for all its inhabitants.

Any problem we face today has deeper origins and cannot solely be attributed to the present. Thus, in order to find a solution, it is crucial to comprehend and address the root causes of these issues. The primary concern lies in ensuring a shared and comprehensive understanding of our problems, as it is through this collective comprehension that we can progress towards resolution. Without a mutual agreement on the problems at hand, any potential solutions will be ineffective in bringing about meaningful change.

The law of the Prosperity Party embodies principles of participation, inclusivity, and national pride. It promotes the idea that we can collectively thrive and prosper by coexisting harmoniously. It is essential for us to diligently contribute to various sectors in order to advance the prosperity of our nation.

In order to lead our country towards prosperity, it is crucial that we prioritize peace and open communication. While Ethiopia faces numerous challenges, the primary issue lies in the harmful practice of one-sided communication. It is essential to recognize that a nation divided and fragmented yields negative outcomes. A compelling narrative has the power to bring people together, whereas a singular narrative only serves to create divisions among them.

Ethiopia possesses not just a political past, but also rich cultural beliefs and various narratives. Therefore, it would be beneficial if we concentrate on areas of agreement rather than disagreement.

The Prime Minister urged the public to rally

behind the National Dialogue Commission in order to advance Ethiopia's best interests. He emphasized the importance of seizing the opportunity that the commission offers. To further emphasize his point, he warned that failing to capitalize on this chance may result in several years of fruitless efforts to find similar opportunities.

Reflecting on past experiences, the Prime Minister highlighted the opportunity to enact change in 1960 that was missed, as well as the failure to capitalize on a similar opportunity in 1990. Thus, he emphasized the need to make the most of the current National Dialogue Commission opportunity stressing that it must be utilized effectively and efficiently.

It is undeniable that history is a specialized discipline, and not everyone possesses an equal understanding of its intricacies. When it comes to discussing and analyzing historical events, individuals do not express themselves with equal proficiency. Similarly, their ability to convey historical knowledge through writing may also vary.

The vision for Ethiopia is to witness a nation where all its citizens regardless of their geographic location can experience equitable living, freedom, and prosperity. The Prime Minister emphasizes that Ethiopia's strength lies in the collective efforts and contributions of each individual. By living in harmony and working together towards a common goal, the nation can thrive as a whole.

In acknowledging the presence of challenges, the Prime Minister underscores the significance of turning these obstacles into chances for progress and development. Emphasizing the need for open and constructive conversations, he emphasizes that a nation cannot be developed solely based on a limited viewpoint. By recognizing their common history and adopting a shared vision, the Prime Minister aims to lead Ethiopia towards a promising future.

Regarding the Red Sea and regional diplomacy Abiy said that our diplomatic approach stems from our foreign policy. And, safeguarding our national interests, sovereignty and keeping geographic advantages are at the helm of our cooperation, prioritizing our neighboring nations. Ethiopia with a population of 46.7 million used to have two ports, and the country's GDP stood 10 to 13 bln USD. Then, it started to use two ports per commercial laws. Later, it only began using one port. Here, I would like to commend the people and government of Djibouti for allowing us to use their port as we wished. But, they should understand that we are only dependent in a single port in Djibouti. Ethiopia has a clear interest along the Red sea, and would face an existential threat if something bad unfolds. We are ready to stick to the principle of give and take, and do business per the norms while dealing with the issue. We will act in line with the laws as well. We have the GERD and our pride, the Ethiopian Airlines.

Planet Earth

Forest Project's role in transforming Addis, its surroundings

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Development projects that are built as a result of a great vision and idea have a greater role in building the country's economy and image. A good example of this is the various mega projects that are being undertaken in Addis Ababa, including the Forest Project.

In particular, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) is the one who came up with the Forest Project that is currently being built. Along with being important for the country's economic growth, building roads and Forest Projects also has the ability to modernize Addis Ababa and provide jobs for inhabitants. To guarantee the nation's sustainable development, they also establish complementary capacities.

More crucially, Ethiopia's Forest Project is a project intended to protect and restore the country's natural forests. The initiative aims to reforest, conserve, and sustainably manage the forest while constructing infrastructures. The project's purpose is to maintain the forest's biodiversity, mitigate climate change, and enhance the livelihoods of residents who rely on the forest for food. The project is part of Ethiopia's larger attempt to prevent deforestation and desertification while also promoting sustainable land management techniques.

Furthermore, the project is significant for Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital city, because it supports the country's attempts to address environmental concerns and promote sustainable urbanization development without affecting the economy. Besides, the Forest Project benefits not just only the local populations and the ecology of Addis Ababa, but also the greater community of the surrounding area.

Because the project includes leisure houses and resort villages that appeal to both domestic and international visitors. According to reports, the Forest Project will include three manmade lakes. Taking these benefits into consideration, the Ethiopian House of People's Representatives (HPR) applauds the administration, particularly Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's (PhD) noble endeavor to bring the project to fruition.

In the presence of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, the HPR held its fourth regular session of the sixth year and third tenure. The House is expected to approve a motion in support of the 2016 Ethiopian fiscal year government plan, which President Sahlework Zewdie presented on 9 October 2023, as the joint session of the House of Peoples' Representatives (HPR) and House of Federation (HoF) began its sixth year and third tenure.



"We have seen that the major developmental projects being built in Addis Ababa, including the Forest Project, have changed the lives of citizens. We have observed that the human-centered and various infrastructure works being built in Addis Ababa city are being carried out rapidly. In particular, the Forest Project and the house renovation work of the needy have been able to change the lives of the citizens," stated members of the House of People's Representatives (HPR).

The Forest Project, which is being built under the initiative of the Prime Minister, will help to speed up the development of Ethiopia beyond the construction of a palace. The project is also imperative to build the image of the country, to use the resources properly, bring economic benefits, to the creation of job opportunities for the youth, and so on, they added.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) addressed yesterday the House of People's Representatives (HPR) regarding the issues raised in President Sahlework Zewde's opening speech to parliament last month. He further stated, "We promised to make Addis Ababa as beautiful and flowery as its name." As a result, "We have tried and completed various development projects such as Friendship Square and Entoto Park." I can assure you that, regardless of what the media says, after a few years, residents of any country who will be driving in Addis Ababa will be able to provide their witness of the beauty of Addis Ababa without the need for anybody to speak."

He assures, "We will make Addis Ababa one of the best cities in Africa. The Forest Project that is being built in the city is a project where at least 100 km of road will be built, stating that 50 km of road has been

built with high quality so far". He pointed out that the project will create a city half the size of the current Addis Ababa.

He also stated that the Forest Project, which will significantly improve Ethiopia's image, is part of the plan to establish a

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satellite city. But there were murmurs three years ago when we declared we'd make Addis Ababa worthy of its name. Indeed, the project is imperative in beautifying Addis Ababa not only for current use but also for the coming generations. Because beautifying Addis Ababa has numerous benefits for its residents and visitors. When a city is well-maintained and aesthetically pleasing, it can have a positive impact on the overall well-being and quality of life of its residents.

Residents are more likely to take pride in their town when their city is beautiful and well-maintained. This can result in a stronger sense of community and civic participation. It also has economic benefits: The beautification of a city can attract more visitors and enterprises, thus boosting the local economy. A city's attractive streetscapes and well-kept public areas might make it more desirable to tourists and potential investors.

It also provides environmental benefits such as tree planting, green space creation, and the implementation of sustainable design methods. These can have a good impact on the environment by enhancing air quality, lowering urban heat islands, and giving wildlife habitat. The forest initiative is also projected to improve societal social cohesiveness by creating possibilities for social engagement and community gatherings. Parks, plazas, and other public areas can serve as community gathering places, encouraging social cohesiveness and a sense of belonging.

In general, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) the Forest Project is important for improving the overall quality of life for its citizens and contributing to a livelier, prosperous city and community.