



# The Ethiopian Herald

Vol LXXX No 062 22 NOVEMBER 2023 - HIDAR 12, 2016

Wednesday

Price Birr 10.00



## Childcare, nat'l initiatives benefit over 760,000 children in metropolis

• Nation marks 18<sup>th</sup> World Children's Day

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDIS ABABA** - The various childcare programs and human-center national initiatives that have been carried out in the current fiscal year benefited 766,621 children in the metropolis, the Addis Ababa Women, Children and Social Affairs Bureau announced.

The World Children's Day was marked yesterday for 34<sup>th</sup> time globally and for 18<sup>th</sup> time nationally. The bureau celebrated this year's event under the theme 'Let us pass Love and Kindness for today's children.'

Speaking at the occasion, Bureau Head Woineshet Zerihun stated that various supports are being provided through five alternative childcare and support programs. Accordingly, around 3,500 children are beneficiaries of the *TesfaBirhan* feeding centers and another 731,000 are embraced in school feeding programs.

Another 26,797 children have benefitted through community-

See *Childcare, nat'l...*page 3



## Premier Abiy confers with French President

**ADDIS ABABA** - Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) held talks on Monday with French President Emanuel Macron on issues of mutual concerns at the sidelines of Compact with Africa (CwA) Summit in Berlin, Germany.

"Pleased to meet my good brother President Emmanuel Macron on the sidelines of the Compact with Africa Summit," Abiy said in his social media post.

He added, "Our strengthened relations and multifaceted cooperation continues to be

anchored in trust and mutual interests for sustained development."

The Premier attended the CwA Summit was launched under the German G20 Presidency

See *Premier Abiy...*page 3



Gebremeskel Chala

## Ministry makes policy intervention to widen oilseeds market destinations

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA** - The Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration (MoTRI) has formulated a trade policy and export

See *Ministry makes...*page 3

## Freeman appeals to HoA leaders to weigh Ethiopia's sea access outcomes

BY STAFF REPORTER

**ADDIS ABABA**- The Horn of Africa (HoA) leaders are expected to make a serious discussion on Ethiopia's appeal to access the seaport as the latter could offer immense bargaining options, a noted political analyst said.

Speaking to EBC World, a Political-Economic Analyst for Africa Lawrence Freeman stated that, leaders of Ethiopia's coastal neighbors should negotiate on the latter's aspiration to a long-term lease agreement and in infrastructural investment in sea ports.

The analyst believed that, the HoA would be a model for economic integration and

See *Freeman appeals...*page 3



# News



Melaku Alebel

## Let Ethiopia produces put manufacturing industries in lenders priority:

Ministry

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADAMA-** The national manufacturing movement, *Let Ethiopia produce* is instrumental in enabling manufacturing industries to gain special provisions from financial and logistics service providers, the Ministry of Industry said.

Speaking about quarter year achievements of the campaign, Industry Minister Melaku Alebel said the movement has been significantly enhanced the capacity of the manufacturing industries thereby boosting the confidence of lending institutions. Owing to the movement, the productivity of textile and furniture industries' has been boosted and the FDI inflow to the manufacturing sector is also in the rise.

The movement is not only for domestic manufacturers, the government is providing all incentives to both local and foreign manufacturers. The government is providing financial support for these manufacturing industries, he said.

Over the past quarter year, 366 million USD (foreign currency) has already been saved by import substitution initiated by the campaign. The manufacturing capacity of industries has also upgraded to 55.79 % from 48 % in quarter year.

The *Let Ethiopia produce* movement gives special incentives to leather, textile, furniture, chemical manufacturers to boost import substitution, he indicated.

He further noticed that, the government would continue supporting manufacturing industries to make them operational. The strategic plan adopted since the first quarter of this year also aimed to create capable manufacturers and attract more investment to the sector.

Manufacturing infrastructural development plans are also getting operational. The ministry is working with researchers and regional governments to make all resources accessible, *The Ethiopian Herald* learnt.

## UNIDO delivers 430,000- Euros slaughterhouse machine to beneficiaries

• Ethiopia marks 2023 African Industrialization Day (AID)

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

**ADDIS ABABA** - The UNIDO-LISEC initiative handed over slaughterhouse tools and equipment, worth over 430,000 Euros to selected beneficiaries in a bid to promote nation's hide and skin product.

AID-2023 was celebrated yesterday under the theme "Accelerating African's Industrialization through the Employment of African Women in Processing for an integrated Market."

At the handing over ceremony, Manufacturing Industry Development Institute General-Director Milkessa Jagema (PhD) said that as the theme of the AID-2023 implies, any industrial development agenda should be inclusive of women and the youth as any industrialization process cannot be sustainable and productive without integrating women with the local and global markets.

He further remarked that, though the Ethiopian leather industry is one of the pioneer manufacturing industries in the country, it is not prominently utilized efficiently.

"As there are limited value addition practices in the country, the government along with development partners like UNIDO, is exerting its utmost efforts to utilize these resources."

"The government and partners are working to realize the national strategic plans through capacitating the private and public sectors,



including the leather subsector. This state-of-the-art slaughterhouse tools and equipment is believed to enhance the quality of the raw hide and skin to the local and global markets," he added.

UNIDO Representative and Director of the Regional Hub in Ethiopia, Aurelia Calabro on her part said that, for the ongoing Leather Initiative for Sustainable Employment Creation, the initiative is striving to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, decent work for all through leather value chain development and business promotion targeting unemployed youth and women.

She said, "These slaughterhouse machines and tools to four abattoirs would be valuable on the production of quality hides and skins. Besides, it would support our effort to address the quality of hide and skin continuously reported by the leather sector along the value chain."

The director reaffirmed UNIDO's support the industrialization and the building of an inclusive, resilient, peaceful and prosperous societies in Africa.

It was learnt that, AID was established in 1989 at the OAU 25<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa.

## Icipe launches project to control harmful fruit insects

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA** – The International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe) has launched Integrated Pest Management (IPM) project to control harmful fruit insects in Eastern Africa.

The icipe launched the IPM project yesterday to implement agro-ecological-based technologies to enhance safe fruit production in three trans-boundary countries such as Kenya, Ethiopia and Tanzania.

Speaking at the launching ceremony, the icipe Principal Scientist and Head of the Social Sciences and Impact Assessment Unit Menale Kassie (PhD) said that currently, harmful flies or insects have been resulting in reduction of production and productivity. Mainly the white mango scale has been greatly affecting mango productivity. The project aimed to address these fruit sector challenges by scaling proven agro ecological-based IPM approaches and good agricultural practices especially to control white mango scale.

It focuses on establishing sites and gender-inclusive capacity building of all segments of the beneficiaries using digital and non-digital platforms as well as training of young African scientists from the target countries



at the post graduate level, he said.

"Today, we have launched a project that would contribute to controlling the harmful insects that affect the productivity of fruits, specifically Banana, Citrus, Mangoes, Avocados, Oranges and others. Currently, white mango scale has been highly affecting Ethiopian farmers economically. As a result, some of the farmers are cutting down mango trees. Its productivity has been reduced by 30%."

The project is ready to assist the farmers and government controlling the white mango scale. Mango is the second yielding fruit in Ethiopia following

Banana (nearly 14% yielding). It is a source of foreign currency generation. The project would apply technologies like natural enemies for fruits, he said.

For her part, icipe Senior Plant Scientist Semira Mohamed (PhD) stressed that the project would tackle three major devastating pests such as fruit flies, fruit causing moths and white mango scale on key high value crops.

Africa is estimated to lose two billion USD annually due to white mango scale pests. Addressing these challenges ensures food security, income generation, reduces unemployment, poverty reduction and others, she noted.

# News

## Raxio inaugurates new Data Center here

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA** – Raxio's Data Center has launched its newest facility in Addis Ababa aimed at enhancing digital inclusion, extending the country's ICT infrastructure network, improving access to resources, and providing a reliable and secured environment for local enterprises.

During the inauguration ceremony held yesterday, Raxio Ethiopia General Manager Bewket Taffere said that, Raxio's data center in Ethiopia is expected to significantly improve digital inclusion, expanding the country's ICT infrastructure network and improving access to educational, social, and business resources.

"The launch of our flagship facility in Addis Ababa represents a major milestone in the journey at Raxio, and for the country. We anticipate that this facility will be a catalyst for increased economic development in Ethiopia, supporting local businesses and government agencies, as well as attracting regional and international service and content providers into Ethiopia," he said.

The Tier III certification is testament to the caliber of solutions the company is



providing, and delivers the customers with the assurances they require that their equipment is in the best possible hands, Bewket added.

For Robert Mullins, CEO of Raxio Group, the launch of a new facility is the culmination of a long, arduous journey of dedication, hard work which brings all the

collective expertise at Raxio.

"We are extremely proud to deliver such unique, first-of-its kind vital infrastructure to Ethiopia, and are convinced that it will support Ethiopia's ambitious goals for its continued digital transformation and digital inclusion initiatives," he said.

Yeshurun Alemayehu, State Minister of ICT and Digital Economy at the Ministry of Innovation and Technology in his opening remark said that, Ethiopia is working on a digital transformation strategy with the aim of digitizing Ethiopia by 2025.

The establishment of the Raxio Data Centre facility marks a significant milestone on Ethiopia's journey towards digital transformation. It serves as a testament to Ethiopian government visionary leadership, the private sectors, innovation and entrepreneurship, he noted.

Established in 2018, Raxio Group is a leading Tier III Data Centre operator in Africa, offering industry-standard facilities and services. With a presence in Uganda, Ethiopia, Congo, Tanzania, Mozambique, and Angola, Raxio plans to expand its network.

## Freeman...

cooperation in the continent once the countries peacefully settle Ethiopia's quest to access the sea. "In this regard, leaders, engineers, planners and economists of the East African countries should discuss the matter and bargaining options."

According to him, the East African leaders should also identify efficient means to utilize and maximize the Red Sea benefits for improved trade and economic cooperation given the kilometers of travel, the port capacity, and production capabilities.

"Ethiopia is a growing economy and if we can merge its potentials with neighboring states, East Africa will be a model for economic development on the continent. Also, Ethiopia, Eritrea and other countries in the Horn can serve as a development model if they look for development, peace and cooperation."

The analyst expressed his belief that, Ethiopia could transfer shares in strategic companies including ethio telecom and Ethiopian Airlines to coastal neighbors to materialize its quest for seaports in Eritrea, Somalia or Kenya. Furthermore, Ethiopia's growing light manufacturing and enormous agricultural potential coupled with Abay Dam's 5,150 MW of electricity makes the country ideal for satisfying neighboring state's energy demand.

Ethiopia might not have a coastline or kilometers away from the Red Sea, but it has the largest growing economy in the region and permitting the country's quest for sea access sustains its rapid economic progress. This would also help to change the livelihoods of East African people and enhance intra-regional trade.

"If Ethiopia improves its manufacturing and agricultural capabilities, then having a corridor that gives access to Red Sea ports is imperative," Freeman said, adding this is a positive, win-win option for the entire East Africa. "We should find a solution and this peaceful solution for economic growth of the region could be found in everybody's self-interest."

Ethiopia plays a very central role in the HoA as it houses the largest population and widespread economic growth for the past decades. Ethiopia's population is now approximately 120 million and expected to reach about 150 million in a short period. It is hard to continue without access to seaport to the most populated landlocked country since landlocked countries have more difficulties and have 15 to 20% less growth than their coastal counterparts, the analyst remarked.

## Childcare, nat'l initiatives benefit...

based childcare and sponsorship programs of civil servants and investors. On the other hand, 2,505 children have been reunited and reintegrated with their families in the same year, while 35 and 60 children were taken to foster care and local adoption programs respectively.

While four bureau-affiliated institutions have supported 500 children, different NGOs have embraced 2208 children.

Mentioning the Bureau's awareness creation programs for over 80,000 members of the community drawn from each district, the Head emphasized the commendable activities have been carried out in partnership with pertinent stakeholders including Justice

Bureau, Federal Police, among others.

As part of the City Administration's human-centered projects, including early child development (ECD), the government has budgeted 259million Birr for this budget year. So far, 17,000 pregnant and lactating women with low income and children below the age of three have received direct nutritious food support.

With regard to onsite daycare, about 86centers have been opened which serves 1,249children and the plan is to make it 272 in the coming years. Two community-based daycare are also serving children in Ayat and Summit condominium sites. Similarly, Government funded community based

daycare is currently hosting 50children, Woineshet elaborated.

The Bureau has trained and certified 79mothers recruited from 11 districts under Day Mother Daycare program and will provide them the necessary material. A plan is set to open 230daycare centers in this budget year.

The Bureau called on the government to exert its responsibility in ensuring the implementation of laws and regulations regarding the rights of children. It has also urged NGOs and media to take the lion share in mainstreaming children's issues in their activities as well as sensitizing societies through their programs, she remarked.

## Ministry makes policy intervention...

promotion strategy that is believed to enhance the quality of Ethiopia's pulses, oilseeds and spices and widen market destination.

The above was disclosed yesterday when the Ethiopian Pulses, Oilseeds and Spices Processors Exporters Association (EPOSPEA) organized the 12th International Conference on Pulses and Oilseeds in collaboration with MoTRI. The conference was held the theme "Ethiopia, Sustainable Source for Your Agro-Commodity Demand."

Speaking at the conference, MoTRI Minister Gebremeskel Challa stated that Ethiopia is highly gifted with pulses and oilseeds that are produced in considerable quantity and quality. Hence, the ministry has formulated a trade quality policy and export promotion strategy in a bid to enhance quality level and tap sector's immense market potential.

This international trade conference favors

all business sectors such as commerce, manufacturing, agriculture, agro-processors, and technology and here partners exchange best practices and the expertise of new business. This event also significantly contributes to the government effort in strengthening regional economic cooperation among states in the Horn of Africa, and AfCFTA, the minister emphasized.

Briefing the media yesterday, EPOSPEA President SisayAsmare stated that the conference is expected to create a favorable environment to revive the country's investment opportunities, tourism industry, and other developmental activities. Also, the conference contributes a lot to expand pulses, oil seeds and spices market destinations in Middle East, Africa and Europe.

In the 2022/ 23 fiscal year, the total merchandise export value earned at national

level was 3.64 Billion USD, out of which the agricultural sector contribution was 2.89 billion USD followed by manufacturing 397.4 million USD and mining 225.79 million USD respectively.

According to Sisay, the share of pulse and oilseed from the total national export value in the reported period was 571.44 million USD (15 percent). "As part of encouraging Ethiopia's trade and investment undertakings, the government supplements the association's efforts in encouraging the business community's involvement in the sub-sector."

Ethiopian exporters and suppliers of agriculture machinery and international buyers from various countries are participating in the two-day conference. Besides, high-level government officials, diplomats, and commercial attaches are taking part in the event.

## Premier Abiy...

in 2017. The CwA has become a platform for dialogue and cooperation between reform-oriented African countries, G20 partners and beyond.

PM Abiy participated in a session focused on economic cooperation and enhancing private sector participation.

On the sidelines of the Summit, the Premier also held talks with the leaders of various countries and international organizations, it was learned.

# Opinion

## Better to nurture seeds of peace for real change

BY MENGESA AMARE

'Arguing over thoughts instead of killing one another using Dollars,' is the telling potential expression that exactly fits the time when Ethiopia finds itself at present to signify that the conflict undertaken in some parts of the country severely incurs the country with immense cost as artilleries here and there have highly demanded Dollars to be procured; sucking the scarce recourses of the nation.

In the era of 21st century when disagreements, skirmishes and even rivalries between two nations, be they are neighboring or cross border locations, have been resolved in a peaceful way let alone sons and daughters of the same nation, how on earth Ethiopians have so far failed to do so.

It is crystal clear that peace is the processes social asset equaled by none, nothing in the world as every drop of action in whatever form highly and absolutely depends on it. The truth is Ethiopians have an entrenched peace-loving spirit by their very nature as good manner, amicability, fraternity, hospitality, among other have been cascaded from the senior citizens to the generation to come from time to time since time immemorial. Hence, such an audacious culture has to be well nurtured, taken care of and cultivated all the time.

Agreements, accords or being abided by governing ideas are to be well entertained via avoiding the destructive spirit of 'my way or no way,' as such a diabolic spirit would bear destruction, not construction, messes not bounties, hostiles not amicable fashion and confrontation not cooperation.

One can argue against the idea that states peace as the viable components like security, tranquility, a sigh of relief, common growth, economic development, sustainable progress, among others, are born to it. Yes, even healthy business environment is important for change and in conflict-ridden communities could hardly run any business operation, and the unreliable social services and the prevalence of social problems such as poverty, hunger and inequality are attributable to lack of peace.

True, peace acknowledges that ending conflict is not enough and that true peace requires a more holistic approach. The vital pillars of lasting peace strengthen a society from within by creating an environment that nurtures communities and supports enterprise. A society that can support businesses is a society able to provide basic social services and livelihood opportunities, resulting in peace as well as sustainable as well as reliable development.

In a society where peace and serenity

prevails, all sectors help bring about the positive economic, political and social factors that lead to workable progress. When peace is secured, workers can afford basic needs allowing them to become more productive and responsible, too.

Promoting peace and sustainable development reduces poverty and prevents conflict, translating to a healthier business environment that allows for a more effective delivery of products and services. Besides, companies' and manufacturing industries' outcomes help ensure greater profitability for enterprises in the future thereby helping the nation enlist itself in the category of middle income countries within the shortest time possible.

The underlying factor for all these remarkable moves is the prevalence of peace and tranquility as nothing could be run without it. Another child of peace, social cohesion, is the process of increasingly harmonious coexistence in a given society between individuals, groups and the institutions.

Essential qualities of cohesive societies include high levels of trust, a shared vision for a common future, and responsive and legitimate governance institutions, which actively support inclusive economic development. Such a viable measure helps prevent socio-political polarization by tapping into the local peace building networks which can manage and interrupt conflict forming dynamics, and provide space for new forms of political consensus, culture of entertaining close talks, round table discussions, to the extent that can create a viable avenue to hold national dialog. What matters here is how can Ethiopians how can social exclusion, polarization, extreme inequalities, disputes over natural resources and shortcomings in governance undermine social cohesion, contribute to conditions that pave leeway to conflicts, clashes, rivalries and the myriads of manifestations of lack of peace.

Unequivocally, strengthening social cohesion, spirit of fraternity, peaceful-coexistence and heartiest forgiveness support societal resilience through investment in inclusive and sustainable development, lasting peace and cultivating culture of working for common good. Yes, for Ethiopia it is an incomparable step to make conditions apt for addressing inequalities and exclusion, making institutions more inclusive, and preventing the fraying of the social fabric that could erupt into crisis.

The efforts exerted to come up with consensus and reliable agreement have to be well capitalized on as these steps help the nation develop local capacities and resources to promote lasting peace through strengthening social cohesion and fostering a sense of living in a firm harmonious way.

True, peaceful co-existence and social cohesion has reflected through societal relations would undoubtedly support civic loyalty and citizens' trust and confidence in state actors, institutions and processes, endowing the state with broad legitimate powers to govern a peaceful society.

Hence, Ethiopia has to well attach due emphasis to such a reliable remedy for healing itself from which the country and its people are suffering at present. It has also entertained reconciliation, agreement, as well as dialoging since these processes would led it to the boulevard for restoring social cohesion among societies damaged by conflict, wrong narrations, distorted ideologies and mere rivalries, which are prettily cancerous to the comprehensive change of the nation.

These ways involve leveraging the full range of socio-psychological, economic and political assets required to address the root causes of grievance, which drives the conflict cycle and the entrenched rivalry installed among/between citizens of the country residing at every corner of it.

No doubt, all citizens have to work with one another or with partners to identify the most effective community assets for strengthening resilience against conflict forming dynamics and proposing measures, based on evidence that can interrupt processes which have the potential to trigger violent conflict. This in turn helps create conditions for nurturing social cohesion, communal values, and precious societal assets both as a means to prevent conflict and skirmishes thereby consolidating durable peace.

The national dialog, for instance, would potentially create an open space for political parties, warring bodies, those who have shouldered reservations and the like to discuss the future of the nation with leaders, senior government officials, concerned bodies, the public at large, to mention but a few.

Heads of the commission, for instance, have been eager to find ways to encourage inter-communal relations as a way to improve the social climate for the negotiation process. The case for restorative justice and national healing is strongly believed to be strengthened by the commission.

The peace-loving trend of the commission is playing a pivotal role in exploring consensus building opportunities around different forms of justice and identifying appropriate mechanisms for national healing. Yes, it is time to do so!

Human history has proven time and again that without peace, development will be like water without source; without security, prosperity will be like trees without roots.

Building on the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and

sustainable security, the national dialog commission seeks to promote the establishment of balanced, effective and sustainable security architecture. It thus offers a new approach to eliminating the root causes of national conflicts and achieving durable stability and security in the country.

This major initiative has targeted at meeting the common aspirations of all citizens to uphold peaceful coexistence, diversity and firm solidarity. So long as the commission is belied to be rooted in true multinational. It advocates the win-win mindset to address the complex and intertwined security challenges, and champions the spirit of solidarity to adapt to the profoundly changing national scenario.

In a nutshell, the country has to be an anchor for world peace, a powerhouse for continental as well as global growth and a new pace setter for continental and international cooperation.

All citizens must build a model of security for Ethiopia featuring mutual respect, openness and integration that takes into account the diversity of citizens in terms of language, culture, and living style, among others, incorporating cultural values and accommodating the aspirations and interests of all citizens.

We must firmly oppose any attempt to divide the nation, and we must firmly uphold national dialog commission certainly in regional architecture, advocate....

All Ethiopians can definitely reach high and go far by following the trend of history and taking the right path. Yes, Ethiopia has all the time stood ready to work with all peace-loving citizens at home and countries which would like to see Ethiopia's prosperity and real growth. All have to be well committed to ensure lasting peace, progress and sustainable development thereby coming up with durable peace and security across the nation.

True, opening up a broad path toward lasting peace and universal security, and forging a strong synergy to build a community with a shared future for mankind is the part and parcel of the effort of the nation through the national dialog and other concerned bodies. Let the torch of peace be passed on from generation to generation and the sound of peace echo throughout the nation, east African region, continentally and across the globe at large.

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

# Editorial

## Ethio-German relation: Historic alliance

The diplomatic relationship between Ethiopia and Germany has a long and positive history, dating back to the late 19th century when German explorers and missionaries visited the Horn region. Over the years, the two countries have maintained strong relations through reciprocal high-level visits and mutual interests.

In recent years, the diplomatic relationship between Ethiopia and Germany has reached new heights. Notable visits, such as Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's visit to Berlin in 2018, Foreign Affairs Demeke Mekonnen's visit to Germany in November 2020, and the recent visit of Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz to Ethiopia in May 2023, highlight the growing interest and commitment from both sides.

This ever-growing diplomatic relationship has solidified through economic cooperation. At the recent G20 Compact with Africa Summit, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Chancellor Olaf Scholz discussed ways to enhance the diplomatic relations between the two nations in various spheres. Ambassador Taye Atske Selassie, Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister, emphasized that such meetings contribute to strengthening the amicable relations based on mutual understanding and respect.

Trade cooperation is a key area of focus for Ethiopia and Germany. The historical ties between the two countries provide a strong foundation for positive trade exchange. Ethiopia's diverse economy presents attractive opportunities for German investors, particularly in sectors such as energy and fertilizer production. Likewise, Ethiopia can benefit from Germany's advanced economy by gaining access to machinery, industrial inputs, chemicals, and related outputs.

Ethiopia's primary agricultural products, including coffee, cut flowers, and textile products, offer excellent investment opportunities for German investors. On the other hand, Ethiopia can leverage Germany's advanced economy to enhance its own industrial capabilities.

In addition to economic cooperation, Ethiopia and Germany have fruitful discussions on regional peace and stability, particularly with regard to the Sudan conflict. This demonstrates their shared commitment to regional security and stability.

Ethiopia's dedication to achieving economic prosperity, peace, and stability extends far beyond its national boundaries. The country's efforts to resolve conflicts in the northern region through peaceful means and its aspirations for regional economic growth are clear demonstrations of its commitment.

Ethiopia is investing considerable energy in pursuing its ambitious inclusive economic goals while also playing a mediation role among conflicting groups in the region, with the aim of bringing about peace through diplomatic channels.

In addition to its domestic endeavors, Ethiopia's diplomatic relationships with various regions of the world further exemplify its global role and engagement. Its partnerships in the East with Russia, in the Far East with China, in the Middle East with the UAE, and in the West with countries such as the U.S., Germany, and France highlight Ethiopia's active involvement in international affairs.

While maintaining diplomatic ties with a diverse range of countries, Ethiopia remains dedicated to its own economic development and the preservation of political stability at the local, regional, and global levels. The country's commitment to pursuing economic growth is not only beneficial for its own citizens but also contributes to regional stability and fosters a secure global environment.

Ethiopia's multifaceted approach, encompassing diplomatic relationships, economic development, and political stability, showcases its determination to promote peace, stability, and prosperity both within its borders and beyond. By actively engaging with the international community, Ethiopia is making a significant contribution to regional and global security.

Overall, the diplomatic relationship between Ethiopia and Germany is characterized by mutual understanding, cooperation, and support on issues of core interests and major concerns. The alliance between these two countries continues to strengthen, driven by shared interests, economic cooperation, and a commitment to regional stability.

# Opinion

## Towards the next decade of interconnectivity

BY WORKU BELACHEW

On the 3rd Belt and Road Forum (BRI) for International Cooperation held last October 2023 in Beijing, China, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (Ph.D.) brought witness to the practicality of the BRI initiative when he highlighted the benefits of the initiative translated into interconnecting people and markets in the Horn region.

He had this to say: "Africa's longest transnational electric-powered railway runs through Ethiopia all the way to Djibouti. The line has revitalized local and regional economies. It is playing a critical role in connecting people and enhancing the efficiency of the logistics value chain along the strategic Ethio-Djibouti corridor".

The initiative, conceived by Chinese President Xi Jinping and introduced on September 7, 2013, at the Central Asian hub, Kazakhstan, marked its 10th anniversary this year. Inclusive development and creating a fairer world is said to have been central to the initiative. President Xi in his book, XI Jinping: Governance of China argued that "The BRI has vitalized global connectivity and common development, improving global economic governance and promoting healthy development of economic globalization."

Since its inception, the subject has become an integral part of countries' development plans. Most, if not all, regarded the BRI as one that came at the right time. Particularly, emerging countries along the BRI corridor are able to accelerate their development by getting connected to global and regional economies.

Studies carried out by reputable organizations have proven the above argument true.

To cite, the World Bank has attempted to analyze the pros and cons of the initiative. If we see the findings of the WB, for instance, its 2018 research project, which focused on 71 economies along the BRI corridor that of course included China itself, shows BRI transport projects would be responsible for "reducing travel times along economic corridors by 12%, increasing trade between 2.7% and 9.7%, raising income by up to 3.4%, and lifting 7.6 million people from extreme poverty, provided its successful completion."

For Ethiopia, the initiative is a tremendous opportunity. It has enabled the country to access capital for critical infrastructural projects and to adopt new technology and skills.

As the premier told participants at the same event, which also marked the 10th anniversary of BRI, Ethiopia is a gateway to Africa, Asia, and Europe. For one of the fastest-growing economies, which are home to 120 million people, diversifying and modernizing infrastructural interconnection

would definitely do the trick to lure more FDI to the expanding industrial parks, just to say nothing of its significance in improving the livelihood standards of citizens.

If we see the dividends of the Chinese-built Ethio-Djibouti railway that connects Ethiopia, a land-locked country at the current stature, to the Red Sea Djibouti Port, the previous 72-hour travel to and from Djibouti to Addis has been trimmed to less than 12-hour travel.

The next BRI decade is expected to further integrate Ethiopia's economy with the rest of the world. Ethiopia has a huge ambition that includes owning a sea port.

The BRI seeks to connect economies and peoples in Asia, Europe, and Africa by rail, road, and maritime means. In a recent press conference, Chinese Assistant Minister of Commerce Chen Chunjiang said that from 2013 to 2022, the volume of goods trade between my country and countries along the "Belt and Road" expanded from 1.04 trillion USD to 2.07 trillion USD, spurring an average annual growth rate of 8%. He indicated that, investment among China and countries participating in BRI steadily increased. Infrastructural connectivity expanded, and industrial and supply chains strengthened in those countries.

Ethiopia, through its 10-year perspective plan, envisions improving the transport sector. The national plan and that of the BRI in this regard can feed on each other. There is a huge demand for capital, technology, and skills here. And investing in Ethiopia is so lucrative because it is a huge market and is rich in all kinds of resources, including the availability of easily trainable human capital.

The relations between Ethiopia and China have recently taken a new height, and an all-weather strategic cooperative partnership would guarantee further cooperation in the transport interconnectivity area. Over the coming years, Ethiopia's economy would not only benefit itself, but its neighbors could also use Ethiopia's potential to augment their economies.

There is a huge need in Ethiopia for infrastructural expansion.

Most places in Ethiopia that have profound national and regional significance need to be accessible by all means, such as by rail and road. These demand that the country pump a great deal of finance into such projects. If we see the 10-year Ethiopian perspective plan, for instance, there is a goal to build 102,000 km of new roads, thereby raising the overall national road network from 144,000 km to 246,000 km.

Similarly, the length of the railway is expected to grow from 902 km to 4,199 km. What is more, the country's global ranking

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### Corrigendum

In yesterday's article entitled, "A new destination, a new chapter in the UK-Ethiopia relations," the note, "The author of this article is Ambassador of China..." was erroneously used; it should have been "The author of this article is UK's Ambassador to Ethiopia and Permanent Rep. to AU." The error is highly regrettable. (*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

Fax. 251-011-156-98-62

email- [epa@press.et](mailto:epa@press.et)

Advertisement and Dist.

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The Ethiopian Herald

# Business & Economy

## The Expo intended to promote mineral resources, expand investment options

BY BACHA ZEWDIE

Ethiopia is blessed with mineral wealth. It has potential mineral resources like gold, marble, coal, and precious stones like opal, tantalum, gypsum, limestone, and natural gas. These are few resources identified among the country's potential. More recently, minerals such as lithium have been discovered. However, the data indicates that most of the country's mineral resources are still unexplored and unknown.

Out of the mineral resources that have been identified in the study, attention has not been given except for gold, marble, and jasper. And the mining of these minerals is not supported by technology and has mostly been carried out in a traditional way.

Experts in the field suggest that mineral wealth can provide a great service as a source of income, job creation and foreign exchange. Considering this, the government is working extensively in the sector. In the last five years, this wealth has been studied and developed to increase the country's economy. Mining is being developed as one of the five sectors identified as the main pillars of the economy in the ten-year master plan for homegrown economic reform.

Since the Ministry of Mines was established independently, it has been striving to energize the sector, promote the country's mineral resources, expand investment opportunities and create market linkages for the parties involved in the sector. Besides, structures at every level of regional states, where the mining sector is organized independently, are created. They are working to develop the mineral resources of each region by studying and identifying them.

Following this, there are indications of encouraging beginnings. Many citizens have been organized and engaged in the development of gold, opal and coal minerals. Companies are also engaged into the development. The ministry organizes expos to promote the country's mineral resources, expand investment options and attract investors to the sector. The "Mining and Technology Expo" that started last year is one of the examples of this. The expo will be held this year from 24-28, November, 2023 for the second time.

Awoke Tesfahun, Head of Communications and Public Relations of the Ministry of Mines, said that the Mining and Technology Expo is designed to further stimulate the mining sector. The main purpose of this year's Mining and Technology Expo, which is known as "Mine Tech", is to promote Ethiopia's mineral resources so that they can be used properly.



*Newly Discovered Gemstones Generate Millions of Dollars for Ethiopia – Ezega.com*

"The fact that the country has many mineral resources is worthless if we do not develop and use properly," Awoke said. This year's expo is prepared to promote the use of this resource and will be attended by foreign companies and large-scale organizations engaged in the sector.

This year's "Mine Tech's/Mining and Technology" Expo will be held at the Millennium Hall under the theme of "Our mineral resources, our hope for tomorrow". As last year's "Main Tech Expo" was held for the first time, there were gaps in preparation and presentation. Based on the experience gained, arrangements have been made to hold this year's expo in a different manner.

Awoke mentioned that panel discussions were not held at the last year's expo, but this year's is different, as three panel discussions will be held alongside the expo. Discussions will be held with relevant stakeholders on the issues: what the activities being carried out in the mining sector in the panel discussions are; what the sector looks like; the challenges are; the prospects; and how to develop the mining sector. In the consultation forum, experts in the field, companies, government bodies and actors at all levels, and concerned bodies in the field will participate.

The parties participating in the expo include mining companies at the federal and state levels, small producers and any other mining companies. It is expected that others who produce minerals and supply them to the foreign market, receive minerals from producers and supply them to the foreign market, as well as mineral users (those who use precious minerals and other mineral products, organizations that supply and produce large technologies

in the mining sector, investors, financial institutions and academics) are expected to participate.

Awoke also announced that, more than 100 international organizations and investors from Australia, Canada, Norway and other countries will participate in the expo. Countries like Tanzania, Ghana and South Africa will also participate and share their experiences. More than 80 local organizations will take a place at the expo and introduce themselves, and many other entities involved in the sector are expected to participate.

One of the gaps in last year's expo was the inability to involve international organizations. Efforts are being made to reverse that situation in this year's expo. It is expected that machinery suppliers to industry, energy source, jewelry, iron and steel and construction minerals sector will be presented at the expo.

Awoke recalled that in last year's expo, the producer and the buyer had created a market connection. This year, apart from expanding access to the mining sector, conditions will be created for better market linkages. He pointed out that this year's expo is unique in that there will be a panel discussion and that international institutions will participate widely.

According to the head of public relations; different ideas will be discussed in the three panel discussions that will be held this year. In the first forum; Ethiopia's mineral investment options, activities related to exploration and the problems they are facing in Ethiopia as well as in Africa will be discussed. In the second stage, what the international, African and Ethiopian experiences look like in terms of sector policies will be discussed by concerned

bodies with the aim of stimulating the sector and creating awareness. Moreover, the sector's contribution to the economy will be checked in the third stage.

As to Awoke, it is believed that this expo will bring many opportunities for the sector. One of them is to promote opportunities in mineral investment and attract investors. The second as the experience of other countries shows, the sector will be very important to stimulate the tourism sector in addition to generating income from mining. The current experience shows that there is a good beginning.

When an investor comes to participate in the expo, he will bring Dollars, and this will benefit the tourism sector. The expo will not only stimulate the city's tourism activities, but also benefits those who are engaged in the service sector. In order for this year's expo to be better prepared and successful, it is necessary to make the relevant stakeholders pay attention, participate and visit it.

Coordination and joint participation of all parties is needed to better understand and know the best practices and challenges of the sector, technologies and all the activities and potentials of the sector. The Ministry will not handle the matter alone. Regions, security agencies and many other parties involved in the sector must do their part, he said.

Awoke further said that if the mining sector works well, it will generate high economic income. Despite what is being done now, the way to benefit from the sector more in the future will be discussed at the forum. The expo and the panel discussions will show the gaps in the sector and enable to do better work in the future. Participation of the relevant parties is important and the benefits are many.

"In our country's mining sector, there is a wealth of resources that have not yet been touched and used, and that have not been worked on much," Awoke said. In order for the expo to be successful, media should promote the mineral resources and create awareness. He mentioned that both the government bodies working in the sector, the private sector and other relevant bodies at every level must fulfill their responsibilities.

"The mining sector is an untapped resource. We must promote it well. It is a resource that can create job opportunities for many and change the lives of many if we promote it. In addition to generating income in the future, it is a resource that can create another tourism movement," Awoke said.

## Art & Culture

# From a second best to a cherished husband

(Short Story)

BY ALEM HAILU G/KRISTOS

A knock at the door nudged Samuel out of his harrowing contemplation to pen down his harsh decision that he is fully responsible for his action and no body must be held accountable for any harm that could befall him.

Sitting on a chair before a computer-bearing table, he was scribbling a letter on a white paper to serve a posthumous declaration of self-inflicted death.

Tying a ligature on the horizontally projected water pipeline of a shower, beneath which a stool is seen, he was about to take his life into his hands.

That week he was hearing too much of a news about suicide on the social media—"about 30 people have committed suicide within a month".

The ever-escalating global inflation pricing the likes of him out of market and worldwide unrest attended by adverse repercussions conspiring with bashed hope arising from rejection by his love object recently had created on him a daunting feeling that is challenging to bottle up.

Contradicting views pertaining to suicide were vying to take the upper hand in his mind echoing diametrically opposite voices.

*"Let it be known that I, the undersigned, committed suicide as I couldn't get any medicine capable to mellow the bitterness of life that ill-treated me almost A to Z.*

*Though I tried my best to emerge a victor in the fight against the adversities on the stage of life, I tragically drew a blank. I think fate has marked me the culprit that must be meted out with failing streaks.*

*After all the lacerating pain of life full of toil is not worth the candle.*

*I hope my family members and relatives get consolation from the march of time."* The letter is signed Samuel Aron.

It was on a newly rented condo house, with a wide salon having shower and kitchen, he was living. Advised by friends he had made recourse to prayer and reading the bible.

Whenever alone, specially at nights, he hears the voices and regurgitates the tidbits he got from colloques and psychology books.

"Do not fail to vest your hope on the Omniscient, Omnipotent and Omnipresent God! The mountain you make from your minor problems is just a mole hill to Him.

He can easily troubleshoot it, for nothing is impossible to God. Keep on praying,"

"My friend, do not worry. He breaks us to pieces to remold us anew in the process."

"You see maturity and patience comes with a little pain."

"A Christian never gives up hope."

As king David said "God even if I pass through the valley of death I will not be Afraid as long as You are with me and I hold Your hand."

"Have you imagined the unbearable pain you inflict on your close ones too?"

Though at long last Samuel managed to beat the odds of life full of twists and turns, instead of counting his blessings he was regretting and reliving the starvation, thirst, sickness and slavish way of life he underwent from early childhood as an orphan.

Reverting back to the gruesome past he spent he was suffering from a lacerating pain that arises from self-pity. The feeling was tantamount to sitting on the horns of a dilemma of committing suicide or chasing away the excruciating mental pain. He got himself on the roller coaster of emotion. It was at that climactic moment he had to make a fate-sealing decision the door knocks transported him back to his normal self. This way he sat put mum lacking the energy and also the interest to answer the door. But when he heard the soft voice of Marta, a girl he endeared himself to the past couple of years, with a knee-jerk action, he sprang to the door akin the minute needle of a wristwatch pinched on its head.

Opening the door he saw his love object standing on the threshold. He thought it must be a phantom. Unable to believe his eyes "Martha is that you?" he said dubbing her face with both hands as the blind sense a statue with their hands.

Unzipping her thin and tiny lips that veiled snow white and well-arrayed teeth she said

"My dear Samuel you can welcome your wife!"

\*\*\*

"No" was the answer she gave him when he asked her

"Martha will you marry me?"

Then as Samuel was her second best she was hesitant to outright respond. Rather she opted to buy time creating lame pretexts.

That dialogue is still embedded in his head "Though I feel flattered, I appreciate the proposal you raised. Marriage is a blessed

idea," she nodded her head up and down.

"Sure, what else could a man ask for if blessed with a marital bliss?" he tried to solidify his argument with hand gestures.

"But I'm not ready to tie the knot as our extended family has heavily leaned on me. I'm one of the few bread winners of the family. Besides, I want to pursue postgraduate program. I hope you will understand me. I'm sure you will get a girl that deserves you."

\*\*\*

"My God, what is the reason for the bruise around your arm?" Samuel pointed towards the red spots on her right arm.

"That God damn Joseph, along with his friends, was about to rape me," she bit her lower lip with her front teeth.

"What? I will kill him! How dare he? As if you were a sex machine!"

"Do not worry I've reported the case to police. I told them my silly boyfriend, whom I trusted duped by his striking physical appearance, tried to get me gang raped conniving with addict friends of his."

"How dare he?" Samuel punched the wall.

"Why didn't you call me? Didn't you carry your phone?"

"Along with his friends he was chewing 'Chat', drinking draught beer laced with local gin Sport. All were tipsy. Stunned by the strange setting of the house and the presence of his friends I was showing hesitancy to get inside. They offered me a chair. Soon the one beside me began fondling my breast barefacedly."

"How dare he?"

"I slapped him on the face," she showed the magnitude of the slap swinging her right arm.

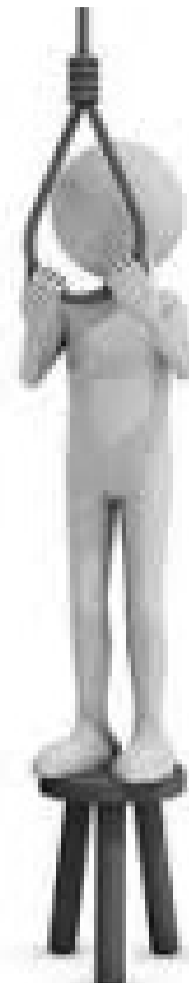
"The other one dragged me to bed. 'What? How come?' Samuel punched the wall once more.

At that point I shouted at the top of my voice "Help me please they are to rape me!" To my rescue a lady next door came to the door.

"You criminals stop if you respect the law!" the lady waved her pointing finger. Soon all family members of hers came to the door. Her daughters also began echoing my shout while her sons were carrying brooms and sticks.

Neighbors gathered in no time. Two armed policemen from a nearby station also came to the scene following a phone call to take the culprits to the police station.

"My dear Martha I did tell you appearance is deceptive. As we discussed Yoseph was



lacking in character."

"Now I have understood everything. I was on a wild goose chase. Currently, there is nothing that could stand between you and me if you entertain the same feeling towards me."

"As you are a bit wise I hope you will not take even!"

"No Martha I do not take even. I'm dreaming a happy hereafter. Had you not knocked this door today I would end up in the graveyard," he pointed his finger to the rope in the shower leading her by the hand. Crossing her face trice and grabbing her head with both hands "Is it because the response I gave on the negative?" tears welled up in her eyes.

"No that was the last straw to break the camel's back!" he smiled wide opening his arm to show her there is a wide chance for herb to nurse his scarred heart back to shape. She immediately rested her head on his neck and chest. He gathered her into his arms.

Juxtaposed both wept for hours on end. It was a call from his sister and her husband that wakened them up.

"Samuel how are you doing? We brought you a sheep as an inauguration ceremony of the new condo house."

"Really!"

"We are to slay it in the shade on the premise of the block. Come down with a rope if you have one. Your nephew is also with us," said her husband.

Unknotting the ligature "Martha wait for me here. We shall mark the occasion. You shall help my sister to fry a sheep meat," he said

"Sure thing! But don't tell them about the rope" she replied.

## I suffer eclipse

BY ALEM HAILU G/KRISTOS

Lovely,  
As you were absent  
For a while,

No other lass  
Could my heart beguile?  
I suffer mood eclipse  
Whenever you I miss.



## Global Affairs

## Record-breaking global migration

On 14 June, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) issued his flagship annual report, *Global Trends: Forced Displacement 2022*. It states that by the end of 2022, the number of people displaced by war, persecution, violence and human rights abuse had dramatically increased by 19.1 million — the biggest increase on record — reaching a total of 108.4 million.

This record-breaking displacement resulted mainly from the war in Ukraine and the eruption of conflict in Sudan. Ongoing conflicts in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, in Africa's Sahel region and elsewhere also contributed, as did prominent natural disasters related to climate change.

### Rush to conflict, slow to solution

In the report, High Commissioner Filippo Grandi was right to blame this tragedy on people who “are far too quick to rush to conflict, and way too slow to find solutions,” leading to such “devastation, displacement and anguish for each of the millions of people forcibly uprooted from their homes.”

Yet, to blame the perpetrators of such conflicts is not to absolve the rest of the world for responding so appallingly to such displacements. This is inevitably irregular or illegal migration. On the day that the UN report was released, as many as 600 men, women and children perished needlessly when a human smuggler's boat, *Adriana*, capsized off the coast of Greece.

In the following month of July, news photographs showed 27 bodies of African migrants along with dozens of inebriated figures stranded along the Libya-Tunisia border. A few weeks later on 21 August, Human Rights Watch reported that border guards of an important Middle Eastern country had carried out “widespread and systematic” abuse of hundreds of African migrants and asylum seekers trying to cross its border between March 2022 and June 2023.

That country has rejected the allegation as false. If the evidence proves otherwise, then we could consider this an extreme example of “a kind of grim and tragic monotony,” the phrase used by the American Quaker humanitarian Louis W. Schneider in 1954 to characterize the world's aggressive attitude toward unwanted migrants.

### Secure borders, safe passages

Perhaps more pernicious, because more subtle and more easily replicable elsewhere, is the growing practice by wealthy countries of providing training, logistical coordination and other high-tech support to poorer countries so that those poorer countries can forcibly prevent migration to the rich ones.

Linked to such pernicious support and coordination is the recent migrant boat tragedy off the coast of West Africa, after patrol boats chased a fishing boat carrying migrants. Maneuvering in pitch darkness to escape, the migrant boat lost its way and struck rocks off a popular beachfront in Dakar, Senegal, killing at least 16 people.

No doubt those countries have legitimate, and probably even humane, reasons for their robust efforts to stop this kind of irregular and dangerous migration: thousands of young Africans have died over the years trying this perilous route. And state sovereignty requires secure borders.

Still, it is hard to shake off the impression that staunching illegal migrant flows is a greater priority than helping desperate young people — often displaced by conflict and ecological disasters — to more secure and prosperous destinations.

The issue is not just a matter of moral consideration. It is a hugely complex problem, clearly one of the great global challenges of our unequal world, and one without an easy fix. Even so, the world must find a more humane and effective way of addressing it.

### Humane management of migration

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) was founded in 1951 to “help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.”

The vision is ennobling, and IOM takes its mission seriously. The organization is currently made up of 175 member states, operating in 180 countries around the world (including my own, Sierra Leone). It employs thousands of people from diverse backgrounds in fulfilling this mission.

In March this year, as chair of the governing council of IOM, I visited two African countries where IOM has a significant presence. My first stop was Morocco — Rabat and Casablanca — where, during two days in March this year, I met with migrants, staff of IOM, senior government officials, diplomats and civil society organizations working with migrants.

Morocco is a critical migration hub — a source country, a transit point, and



On Monday 15 May 2023, the Member States of IOM elected Ms. Amy Pope as its new Director General

increasingly, a destination country for migrants. It combines border security arrangements with richer countries to its north with its own efforts to accommodate migrants, though perhaps with a lopsided provision of resources between the two.

Because of Morocco's strategic location, the African Union in 2020 established the African Migration Observatory (AMO) in Rabat. Headed by an Egyptian diplomat, Ambassador Amira Elfadi, the observatory could potentially assist in monitoring events such as the tragedy at the Tunisia-Libya border. But when I met Ms. Elfadi, she had no staff yet. The AMO needs support for operations as extensive and energetic as those in Kenya.

### The most effective combination

I had wide-ranging conversations with IOM staff in both countries, in town halls organised by local IOM leaders. Passion for the work of the organisation was very strong. Passion combined with strong technical knowledge and an eagerness to engage with migrant communities and local authorities at all levels — which I found stronger in Kenya — makes for greater effectiveness.

In May, by resounding vote and unanimous acclamation, IOM elected Amy Pope as its director general. She is a resourceful and energetic American who embodies this combination of passion, knowledge, and enthusiasm for engaging with staff at all levels, with all governments and local

authorities, and with migrant communities.

A veteran migrant defender, Ms. Pope is the first woman to head this important organization since its founding 72 years ago. In her vision statement, she committed to a “people-centred” approach, defining this as a commitment to “the migrants, vulnerable people, and the communities IOM serves, IOM's member states and its workforce.”

Since becoming deputy director of IOM over two years ago, Ms. Pope has consistently pursued this vision with a passion rare in the staid corridors of Geneva power offices. She is now one of a handful of pioneering women to lead important international organizations in Geneva, which hosts a few dozen. All of them assumed their positions within the past four years. It has been a refreshing change.

A novel leadership of a global organization grappling with a large global challenge tends to come with high expectations. It is both the attraction and a pitfall of progressive change. Either way, it will not detract from Ms. Pope's commitment to posit that she will be as successful only in so far as the world wants her to succeed.

With the extraordinarily grim developments heralding her tenure, the world must embrace her “people-centred” approach. A failure to do so could mean unending calamities like the ones described above.

(Source: Inter Press Service)



## Law & Politics

# Promoting democratic values to create lasting peace, harmony

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Fostering democratic values plays a crucial role in achieving lasting peace and redressing conflicts for the whole continent. It is tantamount to planting the seeds of freedom and fairness, which will eventually grow into harmony and success.

It is comparable to sowing the seeds of liberty and justice, which will later bloom into magnificent flowers of harmony and accomplishment. It is akin to planting the seeds of freedom and equality which, will flourish into a garden of unity and success.

It is common knowledge that when individuals possess the freedom to express their thoughts and have the right to choose their leaders, it is virtually the same as fueling the fire of progress and expansion. Nurturing democratic values has a significant impact on establishing lasting peace and happiness throughout the entire continent.

On top of that, nurturing democratic values plays a crucial part in attaining enduring tranquility and joy for the whole continent. Promoting democratic values holds the key to achieving long-term harmony and bliss across the entire continent.

When individuals are granted the freedom to openly express their thoughts and opinions, it can be compared to igniting a powerful fire that propels progress and fosters growth.

The establishment of democratic values is crucial as it gives voice and power to the people. It ensures that individuals have the opportunity to actively participate in decision-making processes and shape the direction of their societies. This freedom of expression acts as a catalyst paving the way for diverse perspectives and ideas to come to the forefront.

Fostering democratic values fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility among citizens. When individuals have the ability to actively participate in the decision-making processes of their society, they develop a sense of belonging and investment in the well-being of their communities. Through open conversations, people can better understand each other and become more accepting and tolerant.

The act of fostering democratic values holds great importance as it contributes to the creation of a society that experiences enduring peace and genuine unity. When people believe that their opinions matter and that the democratic process is fair, they have more confidence in their leaders and institutions. When democracy is deeply rooted in a society, it encourages diplomatic relations based on mutual respect and cooperation.

By actively promoting democratic values, societies can create an environment that



# MAKE PEACE HAPPEN

supports the well-being of the continent as a whole.

Developing a culture of democracy in Africa is crucial for achieving sustainable peace and development in the continent. This entails nurturing values such as equality and freedom among citizens promoting active citizen participation in decision-making processes fostering political stability, and ensuring inclusive governance. When people believe that their voices are heard and their votes count, they are more likely to have a sense of belonging and work together towards common goals.

Democracies tend to have stronger diplomatic ties and engage in peaceful resolution of disputes contributing to regional stability, economic cooperation, and at the end of the day, leading to sustainable peace and development.

By championing democratic values, we are actively contributing to the creation of a society where true peace and unending happiness can flourish benefiting not just a few individuals but the entire community. The significance of encouraging democratic values cannot be exaggerated as it serves as a catalyst for the establishment of lasting peace and genuine happiness enriching the lives of everyone in our society. Democracy promotes fairness by ensuring that everyone is treated equally, regardless of their background or status. This means that all individuals have equal access to opportunities, resources, and benefits smoothing the path of fostering a more balanced and just society. By encouraging open dialogue, mutual respect, and peaceful conflict resolution, a democratic culture helps foster a harmonious environment. This paves the way for cooperation, understanding, and unity among diverse individuals and communities.

Democracy creates a framework for resolving conflicts through peaceful means, such as dialogue, negotiation, and compromise. It establishes institutions and practices that contribute to stability reducing the likelihood of violence or upheaval. Democracy empowers

individuals to actively participate in the decision-making processes that shape their lives. This involvement fosters a sense of ownership and agency allowing individuals to contribute to shaping a better future for themselves and their communities.

Fostering democracy provides hope for a brighter future. It instills the belief that positive change is possible igniting aspirations and motivating individuals to work collectively towards a better Africa for generations to come.

Democratic societies prioritize the well-being and rights of individuals leading to a sense of security and a higher quality of life for everyone. Additionally, democratic values foster open communication and collaboration among citizens reducing conflict and promoting understanding. In general, the promotion of democratic values contributes greatly to the establishment of enduring peace and happiness across the entire continent.

Speaker of the House of People's Representatives, Tadesse Chaffo highlighted at the Pan African Parliament's Standing committees meeting the crucial role of fostering democratic values in achieving lasting peace and prosperity across the continent, according to information obtained from Ethiopian News Agency.

The Pan African Parliament's Standing Committees convened for a joint meeting in Addis Ababa to mark the commencement of a crucial dialogue on Africa's pressing challenges and pathways to a brighter future.

In his opening address, Speaker of the House of People's Representatives Tadesse Chaffo highlighted the detrimental impact of unconstitutional power shifts and illegal migration on Africa's unity and progress.

The Speaker has also stressed the importance of developing a culture of democracy in Africa to achieve sustainable peace and development.

He emphasized the need for unwavering collaboration among Pan African Parliament member countries to tackle these obstacles.

Tadesse underscored the particularly damaging effects of youth emigration, which deprives Africa of its vital productive force and hinders its development trajectory. He stressed the urgency of creating an enabling environment for young people to actively contribute to their continent's growth.

The Speaker reaffirmed Ethiopia's unwavering commitment to the principle of African solutions for African problems. He highlighted Ethiopia's unwavering efforts to foster sustainable peace and development across the continent.

The Speaker further appealed to Pan African Parliament members to uphold the rule of law by diligently addressing the challenges of good governance that plague the continent. He emphasized the transformative power of effective governance in propelling Africa towards a brighter future.

Reiterating Tadesse's concerns, Deputy Speaker of House of Federation, Zahara Humed emphasized the significance of peaceful power transitions in establishing a stable political landscape in Africa.

She urged Pan African Parliament members to advocate for a culture of peaceful power transfer across the continent.

Acting President of the Pan-African Parliament, Dr. Ashebir Woldegiorgis commended the Parliament's invaluable role in facilitating peaceful and democratic elections in various African countries. He highlighted the dedication of the Standing Committees in tackling the continent's most pressing challenges.

Dr. Ashebir mentioned about the efforts to expand the Parliament's global reach by fostering partnerships with international parliamentary organizations, fostering a vibrant exchange of ideas and best practices.

The Pan African Parliament, comprising of 11 standing committees, embarked on a four-day joint meeting to collectively address the continent's critical issues and chart a course towards a prosperous future.

# International News

## World Bank sees \$12 billion support to Kenya over next 3 years

**NAIROBI** - The World Bank said on Monday that it foresaw \$12 billion of support to Kenya over the next three years, potentially a major boost to the East African country's strained finances.

The bank said in a statement that the total amount was subject to the approval of its executive directors and other factors that could influence its lending capacity.

Kenya's public finances have been pressured by the legacy of the COVID-19 pandemic and frequent climate change-induced droughts.

"The World Bank is fully committed to support Kenya in its journey to become an upper-middle-income country by 2030," the statement said.

"Subject to the World Bank Executive Directors approval of new operations, and to factors which may affect the bank's lending capacity, this implies a total financial package of \$12 billion over the three years."

World Bank Country Director Keith Hansen said the \$12 billion comprised money Kenya currently had available from the International Development Association, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Finance Corporation and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, "plus what we expect to provide in the coming three years".

"This will likely include Development Policy Operations as well as new investments in a wide range of sectors such as energy, health,

transport and water," Hansen said.

Kenya has faced acute liquidity challenges caused by uncertainty over its ability to access funding from financial markets before a \$2 billion Eurobond matures next June.

Last week the International Monetary Fund reached a staff-level agreement with Kenya, unlocking immediate access to another \$682 million tranche of funding and boosting its current lending programme by \$938 million.

Hansen said in light of recent government announcements and the IMF staff agreement, the World Bank wanted to "make clear the likely magnitude of resources Kenya can count on". (Reuters)



*The World Bank logo is seen at the 2023 Spring Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund in Washington, U.S., April 13, 2023.*

## South Korea's Busan goes all out in bid for World Expo 2030

**BUSAN, South Korea** - South Korea is making a determined push to win the bid to host World Expo 2030 in the coastal city of Busan, despite deeper-pocketed bids by Italy and Saudi Arabia.

South Korea has allotted \$5.7 billion in government funds to the expo, less than the \$10.9 billion put forward by Italy and \$7.8 billion by Saudi Arabia. Busan is competing against Riyadh and Rome. The successful host of the events that run from May to October 2030 will be elected on Nov. 28 during the general assembly of the Paris-based Bureau International des Expositions.

The centerpiece of Busan's bid is the commercial port area, one of the 10 busiest cargo ports in the world. Hwang Hyun-ki, a member of the team behind Busan's bid, said the city's attempt to hold the expo fits into a long-standing plan to revamp the port area.

"The Expo is our opportunity to create future growth for the city and the people of Busan," Hwang told a group of visiting foreign journalists last week.

The port's cargo handling operations are being relocated roughly 20 kilometers away, where they will be reconstructed with smart technology for quicker, more efficient processing of shipments. The buildings in the port will be turned into facilities such as convention halls and an opera house.

The slogan for Busan's bid is "Transforming Our World, Navigating Toward a Better Future."

"The atmosphere in the city is favorable and we are confident we can win," Hwang said.

He and other officials say they expect Busan's bid and the city's attractive coastal landscape to appeal to voters, even though their campaign's budget is smaller than that of Saudi Arabia's, adding that the site is easily accessible via South Korea's efficient public transit network.

"It's not just a money game," Hwang said.

The government is projecting that the expo would create 50,000 jobs and generate an overall economic effect of 61 trillion won (\$46.1 billion).

Busan, and South Korea as a whole, tells a story of triumph over challenges. The city evolved from a fishing village to a trading port that started operating in 1876. It then grew quickly during and after the 1950-1953 Korean War, when Koreans fled combat in the north.

Busan is the second-largest city in the country after the capital Seoul. It sits on the southeastern corner of the country along a scenic stretch of coast, ringed by mountains and hemmed with sandy beaches.

The next World Expo is scheduled for 2025 in Osaka, where the expense of the event has drawn resentment from locals, while labor shortages and construction delays have presented headaches for organizers.

The Japanese government this month approved a projected 235 billion yen (\$1.55 billion) cost for constructing the Osaka expo venue -- nearly double the organizer's initial estimate. A national poll by public broadcaster NHK published on Tuesday showed that 77% of respondents disapproved of the increased cost.

Hwang drew a distinction between Busan's bid and the situation in Osaka. He emphasized that Busan's plan to host the expo is part of a preexisting revitalization strategy for the port area. Instead of building new structures, the plan is to renovate and update buildings that are in need of refurbishment and modernization, Hwang said.

Hwang declined to answer if the massive allotment of funds will be deemed a waste if Busan is not selected as host, or whether the Expo would generate enough of an economic effect to justify

the investment.

"My role is to prepare this site as well as possible," he said.

Reviving economies in cities beyond the capital has been a key policy challenge for South Korean governments in recent years. The economy has become increasingly centered around Seoul, leading to huge increases in housing prices and competition for places at schools.

Busan's population stood at 3.31 million last year, down from 3.52 million in 2013. The government has spent millions to revive cities that had prospered through industries such as shipbuilding and shipping, but have faltered in recent years.

Tourism has long been an area the local government has touted as a potential growth engine. Moon Young-bae, director of Busan Tourism Organization's global marketing team, said the hope is that the World Expo will raise the city's profile and lead to a sustained increase in overseas tourists.

In addition to its attractive coastline and plethora of seafood restaurants, Moon believes the city also has a powerful story to share, rooted in its history. "Busan is a city that has developed very quickly and has adapted to different eras, from fishing to industry and now to smart city and advanced technology. We can share that experience," Moon said.

Kim Sook-yi has operated a crab restaurant on Busan's northeastern outskirts for the past 22 years. She says her business is still only roughly 30% of what it was before the COVID-19 pandemic.

She is holding out hope that the city's plans to host the World Expo will lead to more large events in the city and more overseas tourists. "The people of Busan are all looking forward to that," she said. (Nikkei Asia)

## Towards the...

for logistics performance is planned to drop from 126th to 40th. All these and many other goals laid out in the perspective plan cannot be achieved singlehandedly. Partnership is indeed the fuel to set the wheel of the plan into accelerated motion.

The next ten years will shape the BRI into a good-looking, 20-year-old young guy. There are hopes that the age brings with it more concrete infrastructural projects both in Ethiopia and in the wider Horn, and even beyond. There are, of course, those that have already matured. It is fair to mention the Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway in Kenya, which connects the major Indian Ocean port city of Mombasa with Nairobi, for instance. Its economic significance would not be confined to Kenyans. There are visible dividends for the region as well.

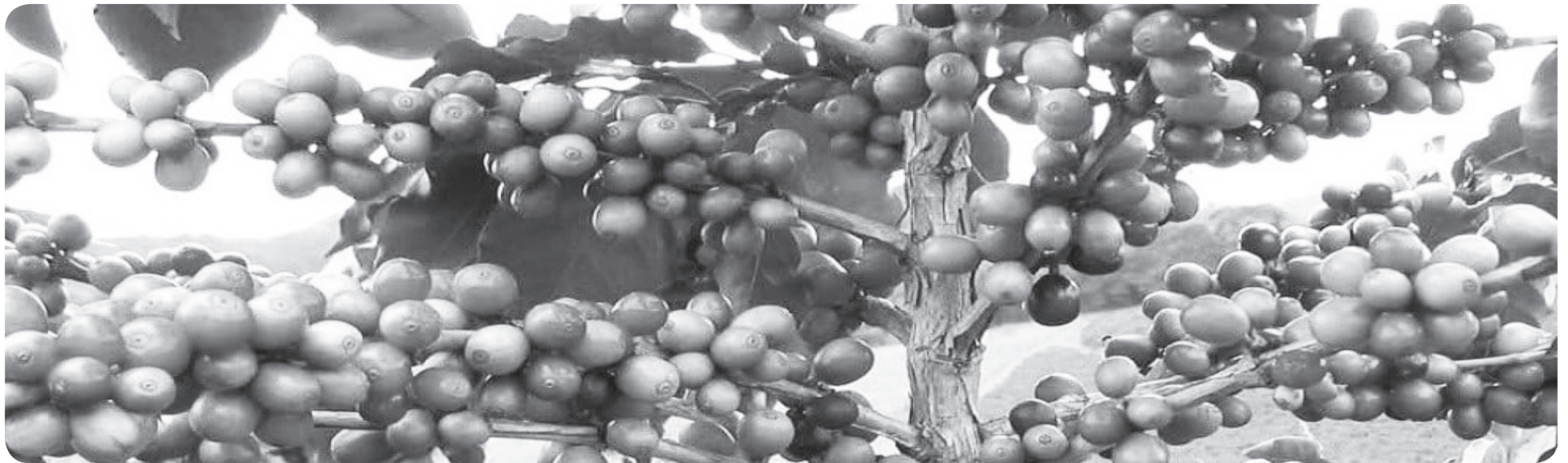
Still, interconnection in the Horn and East African region lags behind other regions, even in Africa. Hence, those schemes on the drawing board should come to fruition.

The East African Railway Master Plan, which is part and parcel of the BRI, can be a case in point in this regard. The possibility of the realization of projects under this plan would bring seamless positive change to the region. The plan, if realized, connects Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, Ethiopia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Of course, the implementation of the projects comes through varying stages, and it also depends on the execution capacity of the individual countries.

In addition to improving the efficiency of logistics and transportation services among the countries and fostering people-to-people relations, land-locked countries would get alternative access to sea outlets.

Data shows that intra-African trade is still kept below 15%, which is far behind other continents. Through the BRI, it would be possible to exchange goods and services among African countries. The continent has already launched the African Continental Free Trade Area.

# Planet Earth



## Ethiopia's endeavors to keep its leading position in coffee production

BY FIKADU BELAY

Ethiopia's coffee production is characterized by its extensive cultivation of Arabica coffee, which is highly regarded for its superior quality and complex flavor profiles. Ethiopian coffee has gained widespread recognition and appreciation on the global stage. It is highly prized by coffee professionals and specialty coffee enthusiasts for its exceptional quality, distinct flavors, and rich cultural heritage. The country's coffee industry continues to evolve, with a growing emphasis on sustainability, traceability, and direct trade practices, ensuring that Ethiopian coffee remains a symbol of excellence and a source of pride for the nation.

Speaking to *The Ethiopian Herald* with the Public Relations and Communication of the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority, Director Sahlemariam Gebremedhn said that, it was disclosed that the country's coffee industry is experiencing remarkable growth and prosperity.

He mentioned that in the previous year, an impressive 240 thousand tons of coffee were exported to international markets, generating a staggering 1.34 billion USD in revenue. This outstanding achievement showcases an annual increase in foreign exchange profits, establishing a thriving industry.

According to the report data, the top buyers for the fiscal year include Saudi Arabia, Germany, the United States, Korea, Belgium, Japan, and the United Arab Emirates. In the face of the global coffee market's slowdown and price decrease last year, Ethiopia's coffee industry managed to bridge the gap by offering exceptional-quality coffee, thus affirming its position as a leading player in the international market.

Despite its rich heritage and exceptional coffee offerings, Ethiopia's coffee industry faces several challenges on its path to development. Such limited infrastructure, particularly in remote coffee-growing regions, hampers the efficient transportation and distribution of coffee. Inadequate roads, a lack of processing facilities, and limited access to markets can hinder the industry's growth potential and impact the livelihoods of coffee farmers.

Additionally, empowering small-scale coffee farmers is vital for the sustainable development of Ethiopia's coffee industry. Many farmers face challenges such as limited access to finance, a lack of training,

and difficulties in adopting modern farming techniques.

The Ethiopian coffee industry's remarkable progress is a testament to the country's dedication to excellence, innovation, and environmental stewardship. Through training, technology, and conservation initiatives, Ethiopia is poised to become a global leader in the coffee market, setting a shining example for the rest of the world.

Based on the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority's data, one of the most significant milestones was the establishment of East Africa's first coffee training program. This initiative seeks to bridge the knowledge gap within the industry, focusing on vital aspects such as coffee marketing, quality control, waste management, and taste refinement.

He said that, the program not only benefits local participants but also extends its training to aspiring coffee specialists from other African nations. By equipping individuals with specialized skills, Ethiopia is positioning itself as a leader in coffee expertise. These remarkable advancements aim to address the industry's challenges, enhance quality, reduce waste, and elevate the overall coffee experience.

He mentioned that to further raise coffee product quality and certification services, the Authority has expanded its reach beyond Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa. He also said that in the previous year, the construction of two additional coffee quality and certification centers was initiated in the cities of Jimma and Hawassa. This expansion will continue to spread to more regional parts of the country, ensuring widespread access to essential services, he added.

Technological advancements have also revolutionized the industry, particularly in combating illegal coffee trade practices. He also further stated that, the government has implemented enhanced software and network systems to track coffee from its source to its destination, ensuring strict control and preventing illegal disputes.

This comprehensive approach has significantly curbed the illicit smuggling industry. Collaborative efforts between government institutions, universities, states, and non-governmental organizations are also underway to support farmers in adopting modern coffee production practices, fostering sustainable growth, he said.

Furthermore, to guarantee the highest quality coffee production, close collaboration with research centers and academic institutions

is paramount. Joint efforts focus on understanding the variables that impact coffee quality, providing farmers with improved coffee varieties, and addressing marketing challenges. For instance, Dilla University has prepared an online education program to equip industry participants with essential knowledge on foreign marketing, coffee quality, and related topics, he added.

Expanding market access and adding value to Ethiopian coffee products are crucial for the industry's growth and economic development. While Ethiopia is known for its high-quality coffee beans, there is an opportunity to further diversify and capture more value through processing, branding, and marketing initiatives. Promoting specialty coffees, establishing direct trade relationships, and exploring new markets can help Ethiopian coffee gain recognition and command higher prices.

On the other hand, the coffee industry plays a vital role in safeguarding forest resources and mitigating the effects of climate change. In this sense, Ethiopia is making a significant stride towards environmental conservation. Ethiopia's Green Legacy program is promoting the growth of agroforestry and ecological stability. He further stated that under the Green Legacy Program, an astounding 6.25 billion coffee seedlings have been planted, demonstrating Ethiopia's commitment to sustainable practices. This year's program aims to surpass expectations with an anticipated planting of approximately 1.5 billion coffee seedlings, he added.

Moreover, the reports show that the nation's coffee plantations are adopting irrigation-based systems, ensuring the thriving growth of drought-tolerant coffee species. These plantations contribute to soil and water conservation efforts, further mitigating the impact of climate change. With meticulous care and attention, coffee farmers across the country are cultivating exceptional crops and setting new standards in sustainable agriculture.

Sustainability lies at the heart of Ethiopia's coffee development. Protecting the environment, preserving biodiversity, and promoting fair trade practices are essential elements for the industry's long-term viability. By embracing sustainable farming methods, investing in infrastructure, and fostering partnerships between stakeholders, Ethiopia can achieve inclusive growth that benefits coffee farmers, protects natural resources, and ensures the sustainability of its coffee industry.

According to the authority data, recognizing the importance of empowering coffee producers and expanding their income streams, various initiatives are being undertaken. These include raising awareness, providing assistance, and implementing robust monitoring activities.

By addressing these challenges, empowering farmers, promoting sustainability, and enhancing market opportunities, Ethiopia can continue to solidify its position as a global leader in the coffee industry while preserving its remarkable coffee heritage for generations to come.

He mentioned that, the projections for the 2016 fiscal year are even more promising, with an estimated 350 thousand tons of coffee set to be exported, bringing in a remarkable 1.75 billion dollars in revenue. The Authority is determined to further boost coffee revenue, aiming to surpass the two-billion-dollar mark within the next two years. To achieve this ambitious goal, the authority is actively coordinating with all relevant stakeholders, starting with the growers themselves.

He remarked that providing financial support, access to credit, and technical assistance can enhance productivity, improve coffee quality, and uplift the livelihoods of coffee farming communities.

Coffee producers can enhance their livelihoods while ensuring the sustained excellence of their products. Notably, efforts have been made in recent years to revitalize aged coffees, as they not only compromise quality but also affect production. This movement has yielded positive results, breathing new life into the nation's coffee plantations.

The Ethiopian coffee success story is one of triumph, growth, and resilience. With the joint efforts of the Authority, the government, and industry stakeholders, the future of Ethiopia's coffee industry is incredibly bright. The nation's rich coffee heritage, combined with its commitment to quality and innovation, positions it as a global powerhouse in the coffee market.

He remarked that, the Ethiopian coffee industry's remarkable progress is a testament to the country's dedication to excellence, innovation, and environmental stewardship. Through training, technology, and conservation initiatives, Ethiopia is poised to become a global leader in the coffee market, setting a shining example for the rest of the world.