



# The Ethiopian Herald

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## Diplomat blasts media's misrepresentation of Ethiopia's port aspiration

• *Commends gov't meticulous approach*

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA** - Some corporate media have been engaging in destructive attempts to sensationalize Ethiopia's aspiration to sea access, a carrier diplomat said.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Ambassador Dina Mufti stated that some corporate media have deliberately communicated false information about Ethiopia's genuine aspiration to seaports and misleading

*See Diplomat blasts... page 3*

## Kenya, South Sudan show solidarity with South Ethiopia

• *South Ethiopia officially becomes Ethiopia's 12th state*

BY STAFF REPORTER

**ADDIS ABABA** – Kenyan and South Sudanese representatives who attended the inaugural ceremony of the establishment of Ethiopia's 12th state, South Ethiopia have expressed commitment to strengthening social and economic relations.

South Ethiopia state has been officially established yesterday in Wolaita Sodo city in the presence of government officials,

*See Kenya, South ... page 3*



## ATI, partners ink MoUs to agri digitization

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

**ADDIS ABABA** - The Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI) signed Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with Kifiya Financial Technology PLC, Mercy Corps and Party for Feed the Future Transforming Agriculture Activity to supplement the agriculture sector in digital solutions.

Speaking at the occasion yesterday, ATI CEO Mandefro Nigussie (PhD) said that the engagement of high stakeholders in digitalizing the agriculture sector is crucial to address the undersupply of animal-sourced foods and improve the lives of pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities.

He pointed out that the agreement with Kifiya Financial Technology PLC helped to enhance the manual Input Voucher

*See ATI, partners ... page 3*

## Silt'e zone to generate 3 mln. USD exporting rosemary

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDIS ABABA** - Silt'e Zone's Agriculture Department said it has planned to generate three million USD from rosemary export.

Zone's Deputy Administrator and Head of Agriculture Department, Mursel Aman told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the Zone plans to harvest 75,000 quintals of rosemary which is being cultivated on 3000 hectares of land this crop year.

He said of the 75,000 quintal of rosemary production, over 20,000 quintal is planned



to be exported to generate some three million USD.

Mentioning that rosemary crop is being

vastly produced in the Zone, he highlighted that Arab and Asian countries are the main export destinations.

Utmost effort is being exerted to commence exporting rosemary to European countries, he added.

As to the Head, several activities are being undertaken to ensure quality in the production, drying and preparation process so as to export the product to the European market.

*See Silt'e zone to ... page 3*





## Policy revision entails Diaspora's improved role, catch dynamics

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA** - The Ethiopian Diaspora Service (EDS) said efforts are underway to revise the Diaspora Policy that would help to catch the current dynamic and enhance the Diaspora's role towards development.

Wollo University and the EDS in collaboration with Jimma, Hawassa, and Jigjiga universities launched yesterday a research titled "evaluate and analysis Ethiopian Diaspora Policy and Practice that

Speaking at the occasion, EDS Director General Mohammed Endris (PhD) said the Diaspora Policy that has been in use for the last ten years has been implemented without a strategic plan. "By studying the policy and its implementation, preparations are being made to formulate a policy reform and a strategic system that takes into account the time and the participation of the Diaspora."

Noting the implementation of Ethiopia's Diaspora Policy for the past ten years, Mohammed indicated an agreement has been reached with Wollo University to identify what the implementation of this policy looks like, the gaps and the challenges it has faced.

"Wollo University will carry out research activities regarding the policy and its implementation and we are also working in collaboration with Jimma Hawassa and Jigjiga universities."

A lecturer and researcher at Wollo University Assistant Prof. Sebsib Hadis on his part emphasized the need to prepare a Diaspora Policy and implementation based on international condition. This will help to further enhance the contribution of the diaspora in national agenda.

The academician further called for the preparation and implementation of policies so that the Diaspora can develop and benefit from their home country and the country can benefit from the resources and values of the Diaspora. "The study would increase the participation of the Diaspora and help to adjust the sector's shortcomings."

The Diaspora Policy study is expected to be completed within eight months and will cost eight million Birr, he noted.

## AACCSA commits to creating jobs, boosting domestic production

BY EYUEL KIFLU

**ADDIS ABABA** - The Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations (AACCSA) has expressed commitment to create more job opportunities for small enterprises and large industries in addition to its effort to promote domestic production, import substitution, and technology transfer.

The Association hosted a panel discussion in collaboration with CIPE under the theme "Competitive Manufacturing Industry for Sustainable Development", yesterday.

The event marked the chamber's 20th anniversary and aimed to address opportunities and challenges in the manufacturing sector.

AACCSA President, Fasikaw Sisay, emphasized the association's commitment to generating job opportunities for small enterprises and large industries as well as promoting domestic production, import-export substitution, and technology transfer.

However, a lot remain to be done to curb challenges related to securing suitable production locations, he mentioned.

The Chamber acts as a bridge between the government and the private sector, providing policy recommendations and fostering collaboration. They actively participate in domestic and international events and host exhibitions to enhance member competitiveness, he said.

Collaboration with the trade and revenue bureaus on tax matters, as well as working with the National Dialogue Commission, demonstrates the chamber's commitment to security and well-being in the manufacturing sector, Fasikaw added.

Partnerships with GIZ, CIPE, and Initiative

Africa focus on capacity building, improving financial accessibility, and addressing other relevant issues, he said.

State Minister of Industry Hassan Mohammed on his part emphasized the importance of collaboration between the government and the private sector for the manufacturing industry's growth.

Creating a favourable environment for the private sector is crucial for replicating past successes, he indicated.

Overcoming challenges such as inputs, infrastructure, and financial constraints has led to a 55% increase in productivity for more than 300 industries, he added.

During the discussion, panellists deliberated on various issues concerning the manufacturing sector. These included the *Let Ethiopia Produce* Movement, improving coordination systems, effective organizational management, and potential sectorial opportunities.

Key challenges highlighted encompassed coordination issues, limited understanding of productivity and competitiveness, finance gaps, bureaucracy, foreign currency shortages, and low market share for domestic manufacturers.

To tackle these challenges, the AACCSA is actively working with stakeholders. With over 7,000 members, the chamber collaborates closely with the government and manufacturing sector to address taxation, facility, and licensing issues. Policy options were also discussed during the panel, as presented in a documentary film.

Panellist Genebe Abebe (PhD) highlighted the mismatch between the industry sector and TVET colleges. He advised industry owners to support and collaborate with the TVET educational system to ensure a skilled workforce that meets industry demands.

## Association embarks on traditional medicines' legalization

BY FIKADU BELAY

**ADDIS ABABA** - Addis Ababa City Administration Traditional Medicine Physicians Association stated that it is supporting the development of traditional medicines to help them pass all legal requirements and enter into the market.

Drug Registration and Licensing Director with the Food and Drug Authority of Ethiopia, Habitamu Beyene told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that efforts are being exerted to make traditional medicines and treatments legalized.

He said, "The goal is to ensure that both modern and traditional medications undergo the necessary legal formalities and are available at the market. The authority has undertaken activities based on scientific evidence thereby establishing a framework for the registration and commercialization of traditional medications through conducting research and strengthening traditional medicine practices."

Addis Ababa City Administration Traditional Medicine Physicians Association President,

Megabi Tibebe Mengistu Desta, on his part emphasized the need for careful cultivation of plants used in traditional medicine, and efforts are being made to identify indigenous species to utilize them for treatment purposes.

He also mentioned that the significance of addressing societal low level of awareness about the essence of traditional medicine has to be nurtured to help the society know the field well and encourage them to play their part via contributing considerable effort.

Collaboration of a range of institutes and specialists is also crucial to conduct meaningful research on traditional medicine and maximize the potential of indigenous medical drugs, Habitamu remarked.

Currently, the Association has 108 individual members, Mengistu urged individuals offering illegal traditional treatment services to refrain from their deeds.

When practiced appropriately, not only do traditional medicines benefit the medical field but they also contribute a lot to secure foreign exchange, promote investment, and create job opportunities, it was learnt.



Dereje Engida (PhD)

## University eyes on quality to excel science, technology

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA** - Addis Ababa Science and Technology University (AASTU) disclosed that it is striving for realizing the national economic development through providing the science and technology sector with standardized education and training.

University yesterday celebrated the 2022 academic year of Quality Day under the theme: "Exceeding Expectation, Inspiring Quality."

Speaking at the event organized to mark the 2022 academic year of Quality Day, AASTU President Dereje Engida (PhD) said that the university has been working hard on making the university as hub of science and technology in Africa in the years to come.

As to him, conducting problem solving researches, adopting knowledge and technology, building capacity and national science and technology center are among the priority missions of AASTU.

AASTU has a strong stance to reinforce universities-industry linkages thereby boosting technology and innovation. Besides, quality should be focused to realize the ambition of the university and the nation at large.

"Among others, artificial intelligence and robotics, biotechnology and bio-processing, construction quality, mining exploration, and sustainable renewable energy are among the areas to be made centers of excellence," he added.

He further stated that the university is working on quality management system to ensure world class competitive institutions in various areas such as producing competitive employees at the international level.

The university is also eyeing on laboratory facilities for making industries and other areas competitive and helps them bring fundamental change in science and technology sectors.

"The university has been awarding and providing employees, who serve the university in the past ten years, with thanksgiving program. Capitalizing on science and technology would be the viable means thereby provoking eagerness to another mission and realizing national ambition in science and technology sectors keeping better quality, Dereje underlined.



## Kenya, South Sudan...

diplomats and other esteemed guests.

Speaking at the program, Representative of Kenyan delegation, Lucas Ngasike expressed commitment to playing part in strengthening the bond and cordial relation between South Ethiopia state and Kenya's Turkana County.

"I would like to assure Turkana County's unwavering support to chief administrator of the newly established state and people of the South Ethiopia State. We look forward to a future marked by shared prosperity increased collaboration and realization of our common goals," he said.

He perceived the establishment of the new state as "a testament to power decentralization and empowerment of local communities to shape their destinies."

He also stated that the establishment of the South Ethiopia state will pave the way for enhanced service delivery and accelerated development for the benefit of its people.

Ethiopia and particularly South Omo zone have been close partners with Kenya in fostering cross-border peace and development. "I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation for the continued collaboration in addressing cross-border conflicts and shared efforts towards peaceful coexistence," he said.

According to the Representative, the Turkana community shares ancestral ties with the communities in the region. "We

have shared heritages that makes us not only just neighbors, but also brothers. We are committed to nurturing peace, coexistence and fostering cross-border trade for mutual development of our region."

South Sudan Government Representative and Governor of Eastern Equatoria state, General Louis Lobong Lojore, on his part expressed commitment to strengthening cooperation with Ethiopia in general and the newly established South Ethiopia state in particular, in development, security and peaceful coexistence.

"I would like to assure you of our commitment and political will to continue to pursue the historic bilateral relation between the Federal Republic of Ethiopia and the Republic of South Sudan," he said.

For him, the time is now to strengthen bilateral relations and make it a reality as the people of South Sudan and Ethiopians are enjoying sharing resources.

"As your neighbor Mr. Chief Administrator of the new state, we are committed to ensuring that cooperation in time of development and security for a sustainable peaceful coexistence," he said.

He also told the People of South Ethiopia regional state that members of his community are pastoralists and sometimes they move from place to place looking for green pasture and water crossing the borders.

The Governor also appealed to the administrations of South Ethiopia and Eastern Equatoria state of his nation to work together to find solutions for challenges facing communities along the border of the two nations especially when sharing available services such as veterinary, health and education.

On the occasion, Tiahun Kebede, chief administrator of the newly established South Ethiopia state, said that the establishment of the 12th state showcases the commitment and successful performance of the reformist administration in responding to the people's claim to self-administration.

He mentioned that South Ethiopia state is home to various nationalities with their unique cultures, customs and norms.

The people of South Ethiopia is known for its culture of tolerance, peaceful coexistence so that it would work hard to achieve sustainable peace and prosperity, he noted.

He also called on the people of the state to develop strong unity, create working environment for every citizen, and make the state peaceful, suitable which realized fair distribution of wealth.

On the ceremony, chief administrators of various states made a congratulatory remarks and showed solidarity to work together with the new state for development and mutual benefit. The leaders also granted the new state with financial support.

## ATI, partners...

System (IVS) and to connect smallholder farmers with microfinance institutions and cooperatives. The system would facilitate credit access to farmers that would mean to purchase agricultural input and transaction proposes.

Kifiya Financial Technology PLC, CEO Munir Duri on his part stated that the company is significantly contributing to the digitization of the agriculture value chain by enabling smallholder farmers to access different agricultural value chain products and services.

According to him, the eVoucher system also helps to alleviate the inefficiencies of the manual IVS and to facilitate the tracking of transactions and provide real-time reporting. The e-voucher solution is part of Kifiya's broader rural financial infrastructure innovations, which provide payment rails for connecting rural households, government services, private sector actors and financial institutions.

Munir said, "Kifiya remains committed to pioneering technology solutions that enhance agriculture sustainability, optimize resource utilization, and revolutionize the way agriculture inputs are obtained and utilized."

The Party for Feed the Future Transforming Agriculture Activity Chief Ian Chesterman stated that the livestock sector has immense potential to improve access to nutritious food through increased availability of animal-source foods, improving households' income and value addition. Food processing and meat exports are also part of it.

The integration of livestock data into the National Market Information System (NMIS) would enhance market links and inclusivity for thousands of smallholders and pastoralist communities thereby enhancing resilience and economic growth, he added.

The MoU focuses on upgrading the NMIS platform through private service providers, capacitating data enumerators and creating awareness for regional stakeholders. It also aims to collect and validate livestock market data using the digital platform and disseminating information via 6077 short-code and other online platforms.

Mercy Corps Country Director Edwin Kuria said that the inability of livestock herders and traders to obtain timely, accurate and relevant market information makes it difficult to build market connections and increase off take rates mainly in pastoral regions.

At the event, the signatory partners vowed to leverage digital technologies in transforming the Ethiopian livestock sector through upgrading and integrating the NMIS to accommodate market information and marketplaces.

It was stated that these collaborative efforts would have a paramount importance to benefit the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities, microfinance institutions, cooperatives and livestock market operators among others.

## Silt'e zone to generate 3 mln. ...

Last year, the Zone managed to collect around 2.6 million USD from 13,800 quintals of rosemary export. During the stated year, the Zone had produced about 50,000 quintals of rosemary, it was learnt.

Currently, around five districts and Werabe city Administration have joined the Zone in rosemary production, Mursel said, adding that activities are underway to cultivate it

in highland areas since aromatic crops like rosemary are mostly suitable in those areas.

Close to 12,000 farmers are actively engaged in rosemary production where they are economically benefitted. Moreover, the production is benefitting the farmers through minimizing soil acidity in highland, lowland and other areas in the districts, he stated.

Besides creating market linkage and providing market information, the Head said there are ongoing activities to organize farmers in cooperatives.

He further indicated that apart from its economic benefit, the production of rosemary is essential for tackling soil acidity, degradation and deforestation.

## Diplomat blasts...

the international community. "The Ethiopian government's resolute approach in the issue is commendable."

"I think the history between the Horn of African countries is misleading these media and the international community. In fact, the Government of Ethiopia has announced nothing that could cause aggression. Weapon manufacturers are also using the same approaches and trying to create markets that could help them to maximize profit."

The government also assured that it would never use destructive approaches and pursued diplomatic appeals. Ethiopia's coastal neighbors are expected to consider the request not the misinformation as the former's access to the Red Sea would pave the way for regional integration and ensure mutual benefits, Ambassador Dina

emphasized.

According to him, the significance of sea outlets is that coastal countries are more integrated with the rest of the world than their landlocked counterparts. "Being landlocked is synonymous with staying at home and no one can ensure its security while staying in."

Despite being one of the fastest growing population and economy, Ethiopia has no single port or sea outlet this time. As the government said, there are many peaceful mechanisms on the table to materialize the country's long-held quest for sea access. "We should appreciate the government as all of its points are fully peaceful and cooperative."

The senior diplomat further highlighted that Ethiopia's request needs swift and

negotiable response from neighbors as sea outlet is becoming a matter of existence for the country. "If Ethiopia enters into a crisis, no one will be safe... [] Ethiopia's and its neighbors' interests are much intertwined."

"The terrorism in Somalia is not only the agenda of the Somali people. Why all neighboring countries in Somalia with the mission of fighting terrorism? Because, all regional countries could not be safe if Somalia continues under the situation."

Same is true for South Sudan and Sudan and the security of a given country could not be restricted within its borders. Ethiopia has special resources that neighbors lack and its neighbors have long coastlines that Ethiopia is in dire need of. This is a great opportunity for mutual development and cooperation, Dina emphasized.

# Opinion

## Empowering women to upgrade their role in international arena

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Women account for half of the population of the 120 million people in Ethiopia and the world as well. These sections of the population have numerous responsibilities, including giving birth to children and nurturing them up to adulthood, beyond taking care of household chores in most societies. The responsibility for bringing up children, giving care, feeding, clothing and sending them to school by fulfilling the requirements rely on the shoulder of women.

In contrast, they are abstained from attending formal education, especially in rural areas, due to the absence of educational institutions coupled with cultural imposition that prefers marriage to learning. As a result, they would remain in a disadvantageous position without getting a chance to change their lives for the better. These again leave them to be dependent on their husbands.

Women contribute a lot to the wellbeing of the family. Among others, on top of managing indoor chores that include fetching water from a distance spending up to 8 hours a day, they take part in outdoor activities to support their husbands during the plowing and preparing farm before sowing seeds and caring for the seedlings by removing herbs. They also engage in harvesting crops and transporting by caring the products on their back to the traditional warehouses.

However, unfortunately, their labor is none monetized and no one considers their contribution for the sustaining of the family's livelihood.

Unlike in the rural part, women have a better opportunity in the urban areas to change their living condition to the better. The expansion of schools and higher educational institutions enhanced the women's chance for school enrolment. They get access to education and some reach to the higher educational level and graduate from universities by various fields. They have chance to get employment and enjoy better income.

Currently, looking educated women assumed in higher public and private institutions has been common. There are managers of companies and engineers engaged in high standard constructions and designing buildings. There are also medical professionals and university lecturers.

Since long ago, women's rights have been recognized at the national and international level. The United Nations played pivotal role in these regard and through its conventions stipulated countries to adhere to the rules of the conventions which demand the protection of women's rights.

In both the previous and the current Ethiopian constitutions, some articles explain about women's rights including the right to organize both by gender identity and by their professions.

For the first time, the Ethiopian Women organization known as the "Revolutionary Ethiopia Women Association" had been

established by the Derg regime in 1975 and waged struggle for the protection of their rights.

However, as the association was under the control of the ruling party known as "Ethiopians Workers Party", it did not bring meaningful change in protecting women's rights and when the political system was collapsed it was also mate its own ill fate.

The EPRDF regime also recognized women's rights and enshrined articles in the constitution but similar to the past, the women were organized under the shadow of the party structure. As a result, they spent their time in vain instead of protecting their rights and their association served to control the members to stay loyal only to the interests of the ruling party.

The Current regime on the contrary is dedicated to the women's empowerment and has taken various measures up giving them half seat in the Council of Ministers.

There are many elected women in the House of Peoples Representatives. There are also women who lead none governmental institutions and some manage their own business and create job opportunities to citizens. There are also women activists who show their concern with regard to protecting women rights.

However, in rural parts of the country women are still vulnerable to various social and natural ills. For example, when the agriculture, health and education sectors are affected due to climate change and unrest, women along with their children suffer from the brunt of the effect of drought and flood. They would be displaced and become vulnerable to shortage of food and diseases that resulted from the extreme weather conditions.

Climate induced global warming posed by emission of gas from industries of the economically advanced countries for the last 150 years made the earth inconvenient for the existence of creatures. Poor countries which have no role in releasing gas to the environment have been exercising adverse effect of gas emission.

Besides, their economic mainstay, agriculture, which is climate sensitive, is critically affected. Water points dried up due to warming and the volume of rivers' water is deducted. On the other extreme, due to heavy rain and flood, human as well as animal lives have been endangered and infrastructure also is demolished. Such catastrophic phenomena also hampered their struggle to reduce poverty.

About sixty years ago, drought in Ethiopia used to occur once in a decade but currently, experiencing drought and flood has become a yearly phenomenon. In the last four years the south eastern part of the country has been critically affected and both the pastoral and sedentary farmers' communities have been suffering from the impact of climate change and global warming.

Understanding the negative effect of climate

change earlier, scientists sat for discussion in Sweden, in 1972 and underlined the vitality of negotiation among the developed and developing countries to protect the environment from danger. Since then, under the auspicious of the United Nations, countries of the world have continued discussion on the matter.

Countries have sent delegates to the climate negotiation platforms which include women scientists both from rich and poor countries. Based on the agreements, rich countries are required to reduce their gas released from their industries which pollutes the environment.

On the other hand, poor countries are required to pursue green economic development and to continue their effort to forestation, proper land management and protecting soil from erosion. Side by side with these, they are required to boost the utilization of carbon free energy sources such as hydropower, solar, geothermal and wind.

Cognizant of the catastrophic effect of climate change and global warming, women activists are emerging all over the world. They have aired their views and asserted that unless the agreements reached on put into practice, to enable countries withstand the negative impact of climate change, the situation might be worsen up to making the earth inhabitable to human beings.

There are also none governmental organizations which promote environmental protection led by women. They advocate peoples' rights to live in places free from pollution.

The late Wangari Maathai, a Kenyan environmental activist, used to fight for the protection of environment from natural calamities and global warming. She, with the members of her organization, called the Kenyan Parliament to enact laws with regard to protecting peoples' rights to live in a safe place from pollution and she succeeded in her endeavor.

In line with this, Recently, Misganu Arga, State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia said that ensuring the participation of women is pivotal in addressing the impact of climate change worldwide as they are the key players in community resilience.

Addressing a half-day seminar organized by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNESCO and Embassy of UAE in Ethiopia with the theme "Empowering Women the Public Sphere and Climate Spaces" Ambassador Misganu said that climate change is an existential threat.

Empowering women in the face of climate change means recognizing their unique knowledge and contribution to sustainable development. Ensuring participation of women in climate adaptation and mitigation efforts is pivotal as women play a crucial role in conservation, sustainable agriculture and community resilience, the state minister pointed out.

"We continue to strive to ensure the inclusion of women within every aspect of our efforts,

creating an enabling environment for women led climate action."

Director of UNESCO Liaison Office to AUC and UNECA and Country Representative to Ethiopia Rita Bissoonauth for her part said that women play a pivotal role in climate adaptation and mitigation efforts not only in Africa but worldwide.

Highlighting that women's knowledge and potential can significantly contribute to climate solution and sustainable development, she said yet women often find themselves under-represented in decision making spaces related to climate change.

"As UNESCO we strongly support and recognize the pivotal role of women as agent of change in climate change." She added that women's involvement enhances creativity and introduces diverse perspective resulting in more inclusive and effective climate policies and actions.

Similarly, Charged' Affairs at the Embassy of UAE in Ethiopia Suood Al Taniji said the UAE believes in the important role of women in addressing the climate crisis. Stressing that promoting gender equality is important; he affirmed the UAE has always been committed to the empowerment of women.

Cognizant of the impact of climate change and global warming on environment and human beings at large, the Ethiopian government launched program in 2015 focused on the building of Climate Resilient Green Economy. For the implementation of the program, it introduced adaptation and mitigation mechanism.

Adaptation mechanism mainly focuses on constructing infrastructures such as roads, clinics, schools and other facilities in the rural parts of the country. It intends to reach particularly women and children through dispatching aids during the adversity due to climate impact. In case displacement occurs due to drought, the roads can serve to dispatch food and medicines to reach the victims so that saving life can be possible.

With regard to mitigating climate change since long ago, the government strived to develop none carbon based energy sources. It has constructed various hydropower dams and currently the country is endeavoring to meet the local energy demand. When accomplished, the Abbay Dam in addition to satisfying the local energy demand, it can export energy and garner foreign currency. Side by side with these, it can generate energy from solar and wind farms. The exploitation of geothermal energy is also underway.

Hence, to fight global warming side by side with developing climate resilient economy, empowering women should be strengthened because they are the immediate victim of climate change impact.

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



# Editorial

## Ethiopia's refugee friendly-gesture deserves support!

Recurrent conflicts and natural menaces have been making the IGAD region an epicenter of the refugee crisis. Millions of people have been displaced and livelihoods have been destroyed. There is also a higher rate of interstate migration creating a dire humanitarian situation in the region. Prolonged droughts and conflicts have resulted in the exodus of millions of people making it hard for the international community to meet the burgeoning need for humanitarian assistance.

With regional countries going through unrest and communal conflicts, this year also saw a high rate of interstate migration. And, with international support remaining far from enough, countries like Ethiopia that serve as a refuge for the displaced and persecuted are increasingly finding it hard to cope with the massive influx of refugees crossing their borders. Yet, Ethiopia continues to lead regional efforts in hosting over one million refugees who fled and extending refugee-friendly services. Known for its decent treatment of refugees, the country also continues to lead by example in taking concrete actions to support refugees. The country is the third African country to host refugee students following Uganda and Sudan. South Sudanese, Somalis, and Eritrean students take the largest number of refugee students in Ethiopia.

Refugees do enjoy similar rights in the country. Over the years, the country whose name bubbled up in various sacred books for its good gesture towards outsiders entered international agreements and nationally legislated refugee-friendly laws that contribute to the decent treatment of refugees. It is no exaggeration that since time immemorial Ethiopia has been a safe haven to refugees fleeing persecution.

Separately and collectively, the country has been implementing various projects in an effort to create jobs for refugees. And, this longtime commitment and practice have earned the country a good reputation worldwide. The United Nations and humanitarian agencies have at various times hailed the nation for not only opening the door but also extending human treatment to the community. And, refugees mostly flock to the nation in need of protection. And, the diverse nature of the refugees speaks volumes about Ethiopia's welcoming gesture towards refugees. The country has taken a Comprehensive Plan of Action that grants refugees to learn and work with freedom. As per of the effort, more than 168,000 refugee students are attending school in the country.

In total, 168,269 refugees are attending formal education in 65 preschools, 53 primary and 11 secondary schools. In addition, some public schools nearby in refugee camps are also delivering services. Public universities are also receiving and providing scholarships to refugees without any special requirement and any refugee who has a passing mark in the university entrance exam is also being treated equally.

Refugees Affairs Senior Communication Officer Engize Ketema (Ph.D.) said that the Ministry of Education in collaboration with aid organizations is providing education services to refugees. Children near refugee camps are also learning with the refugees.

In spite of Ethiopia's efforts, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) recently announced that about 4.5 million refugees require international support. With the number on the rise, the crisis in the region requires a comprehensive refugee response framework and vital intervention. Besides scaling up Ethiopia's experience somewhere else to give a better future for refugees, international community ought to support Ethiopia's endeavor to in this regard.



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# Opinion

## Bilateral ties for bolstering common advantage

BY MENGESHA AMARE

In a globalized world where every activity requires amalgamation of efforts, consultation on various economic, political and social circumstances thereby consolidating the bilateral or multilateral ties among/ between nations, almost all nations of the world have been well entertaining amicable gesture, viable association and even firm relations.

Such a sacred move can be carried out by a range of schemes including close talks, holding feasible diplomatic dealings and conducting a number of country-to-country and people-to-people kindred. What Ethiopia and Cuba are doing these days regarding reinvigorating their bilateral ties is a case in point in this regard.

Cognizant of the fact that closely discussing a number of respective national issues is of paramount importance in dealing with crucial agenda for bolstering common good, Ethiopia and Cuba are capitalizing on discussing issues for furthering bilateral relations. For instance, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) recently held talks with the visiting Cuban Vice President, Salvador Valdes Mesa.

The two crucial personalities of the respective nations dealt with the bilateral, regional, and international issues of mutual concern.

The parties discussed ways of bolstering Ethio-Cuban cooperation in the medical sector, tourism services, and education and sugar industries.

It is quite significant all the time to remember the longstanding bilateral tie between Cuba and Ethiopia as they have had historical and blood-bound through their beloved sons and daughters. The firm tie the two countries established has been flourishing from time to time since its inception. Besides, the bilateral relation between the two countries has been constantly developing in various fields.

Undeniably, alliances between nations, companies, organizations or individual persons are facts of life in the overwhelming association of them particularly in this modern world. Being a good partner has become a key corporate asset for bringing about change in all aspects. In the global economy, a well-developed ability to create and sustain fruitful collaborations and amicable dealings gives countries a significant competitive leg up.

Basically, common good which is born to the spirit of establishing bilateral ties has reflected the advantage of everyone and is the good of the countries together with the virtuous of each one.

The bilateral ties between counties have been contributes to more effective engagement between countries in various contexts in a number of ways. Social economic and technological relations like between Cuba and Ethiopia, can help them keep channels of communication open with each other.

Unequivocally, the relationships between Ethiopia and Cuba have all been instrumental in maintaining people-to-people connections

and creating opportunities for positive bilateral engagement between governments and their respective citizens.

Such a sacred activity keeps doors open for dialogue and co-operation on mutually valued and well nurtured sectors like the aforesaid ones. As the two countries have also focused on education issues, when students have direct experience of traveling or studying, or having a deeper understanding of the culture, language and society of the host country, this helps create trust between and respective peoples, too.

Yes, building mutual trust, understanding and collaboration through socio-cultural, economic and educational programs can help cultivate popular support for the wider relationship in both countries, Cuba and Ethiopia.

If firm relations are able to promote respect for countries and/or different ways of organizing society and respect, understanding and some empathy, it is much more likely that lucrative, good and co-operative relations between Cuba and Ethiopia will enjoy public support.

A range of institutions are expected to provide peoples from both sides with important connections and sources of expertise for guiding citizens to engage more effectively in education, economic sources, social associations as well as business.

Kith and kin is, of course, is a key building block of international relations, covering associations between the home country and individual foreign states, one at a time. It is the very core of managing foreign relations, too. The cooperation between Cuba and Ethiopia is basically based on consent and within the norms of international law. Their bilateral tie differs from multilateral diplomacy, and it is a principal task of foreign ministries, embassies, and consulates.

Yes, bilateral ties are essential for any country to engage directly with other countries, whether they are in their immediate neighborhood or beyond. As a result of these engagements, states strengthen association and remarkable relation. Furthermore, bilateral discretion lays the foundation for constructing coalitions of interests in regional and multilateral forums. Besides, promoting friendly relations and amicable ways between Ethiopia and Cuba has been attested fruitful in developing their economic, social, cultural and scientific advancements.

True, establishment of bilateral ties has brought about economic and technological cooperation, resulting in steady progress in the economic and trade relations between Cuba and Ethiopia. As establishment of diplomatic relations between the two sovereign states, Ethiopia and Cuba, is a matter of mutual consent, it can consist of the political, economic, or tourism, education and other decisive relations between the two.

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

# Business & Economy

## The Ethiopian Airlines:

# A big- dream chaser, flag carrier

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

Being a flag carrier, Ethiopian Airlines has always been on the right track in terms of delivering aviation services and acquainting Ethiopia around the world. The Airlines has also been proud of not only the people of Ethiopia but also the continent of Africa in general. It is still showing its potential to be one of the most complete providers of aviation services and can compete with any other aviation across the world.

Though the Ethiopian Airlines is fully owned by the government, the company is performing independently as an entity that can autonomously pass numerous decisions when it comes to its services. To this end, the Airlines has been showing steadfast improvements ever since it spreads its wings in the sky.

In a number of occasions, the Ethiopian Airlines has shown its unwavering commitment in relation to supporting and working with other aviation companies especially Africans. To this extent, the Airlines has been working with African aviation companies such as Guinea Airways, Malawi Airlines, Nigeria Air with a 49% share.

The Airlines has also been one of the biggest contributors for the nation's economy. The company has been generating billions of USD year to year and getting profits. Such means of generating income highly support the nation as the country is struggling with foreign exchange crunches.

In good truth, the flag carrier company has planned a number of goals in order to stretch its hands even further to provide the service that customers need and expect from it. From the very little of creating jobs for citizens both local and international scenarios to empowering itself, Ethiopian Airlines is striving to meet its highest self in order to become the powerhouse of aviation in the African continent and becoming strong competitor in the world.

In the past decades, Ethiopian Airlines has raised its brand to make itself known for its exclusive services. Achieving the sought-after goals, the flagship company has signed agreements with international aviation suppliers like Boeing and Airbus so as to order numerous airplanes and work together in appliance providing.

The Ethiopian Airlines has recently signed different agreements to order a total of 84 Boeing and Airbus passenger aircrafts to expand its services and meet its strategic goals set to meet in 2035. According to The Ethiopian Airlines CEO, Mesfin Tasew, huge agreements that have great importance for the company and entire nation have been made.

The CEO stated that the decision made to expand the number of the airlines' passenger carriers is directly related with the company's vision of the 2035 Strategic Roadmap that



targets to transform the airline into a global aviation powerhouse.

The Airlines, as to Mesfin, has ordered some 84 passenger aircrafts to increase its fleet, route, and replace the old ones in order to achieve its growth strategy. The newly ordered aircrafts, 67 Boeing airplanes and 17 Airbus, will have crucial role and advantage regarding the need to expand Ethiopian's network, enhancing operational efficiency, and replacing the aging ones.

Adding 84 more aircrafts to the existing 140 passenger airplanes is a milestone decision that will significantly contribute to the strategic growth of the airlines, according to the CEO.

"Ethiopian Airlines decided to make this order to continue its growth strategy in line with its Vision 2035 Strategic Roadmap," he added.

The CEO further stated, "So it is in line with our long-term strategy. We are just ordering these airplanes to enhance our fleet size and at the same time to replace some of the air planes that are getting old. Our vision 2035 is a fast growth strategy. It requires us to operate more aircrafts to open new routes throughout the world and to expand our operation. That is what we are doing and as we grow, it means we become more competitive in the global air transport industry. So, that is why we wanted to grow."

Based on the strategy of the company, the Airlines targets to reach a flight of 271 aircrafts of different sizes after 13 years.

In a similar vein, an economist and Global Chairman of Fairfax Africa Fund, Zemedeneh Nigatu, while staying with Nigeria's TV 360 said that ordering 67 aircrafts is the largest aircraft order in Africa's aviation history. Such kinds of decision are historic moves in order to strengthen Ethiopian Airlines' leading status and enhance its partnership with the aerospace company.

As to the economist, such huge aircraft order has also a significant contribution for providing jobs to the U.S. citizens.

**E**thiopian Airlines is striving to meet its highest self in order to become the powerhouse of aviation in the African continent and becoming strong competitor in the world

According to a study, for every one billion USD worth of order to Boeing, 11,000 American jobs are created or retained.

It is clear how significant these 67 aircrafts are in creating or keeping a large number of jobs in the US. Furthermore, the move strengthened the relationship between Boeing and its largest African customer Ethiopian Airlines and contributed to the advancement of the Ethio-U.S. relations, Zemedeneh elaborated.

The economist further stated, "It is very historic and also for Africa, this is a telling story that Africans could achieve big things if they focus, if they can execute their strategies and if they can collaborate. Today Ethiopian Airlines is not just a standalone carrier, it has equity and ownership of several African carriers and it is building up the capacity of airlines across Africa. By adding these flights, Ethiopian could expand not only its networks but also partner airlines that are spreading across Africa."

Despite being 100 percent state-owned, as to Zemedeneh, the Ethiopian Airlines is the only profitable large carrier in Africa. The airline operates independently, with no state interference or support and it employs professionals with aviation knowledge.

By the same token, United Kingdom Ambassador to Ethiopia and Permanent Rep. to the AU, Darren Welch on his article written on *The Ethiopian Herald* remembered the two nations' relations that go more than 50 years. "UK-Ethiopia relations go beyond our shared history; they are also forward-looking."

"Ethiopian Airlines prepares to receive its first Airbus A350-1000 aircraft. It is powered exclusively by the Rolls-Royce Trent XWB, the world's most efficient large aircraft engine. Beyond their proven efficiency, Airbus and Rolls-Royce are leading the way when it comes to reducing emissions. Both our countries have made ambitious goals to cut emissions; the UK's Jet Zero strategy sets out how we will achieve net zero aviation by 2050" the Ambassador noted.



# Art & Culture

## Filling a gap

BY NAOL GIRMA

The development of Ethiopia requires addressing the equality of disabled groups. These are citizens who are living with physical and mental impairments and who need special treatment. Schools, workplaces, shops, hotels, transportation services and even roads need to be constructed to handle them. Communities should give attention to the disabled members to support them. They deserve special attention because they are part of society to be sympathized with and cared for. They have a right to be able to access the same things as those who are able-bodied.

Moges has some visual impairment. He founded two Braille libraries for the visually impaired at Yekatit 12 and Tekur Anbesa School in Addis Ababa many years ago. He significantly benefited blind children from ninth to twelfth grades in this manner. He is a father of three. He is currently running his own company, writing different children's book, and making a significant effort to provide book preparation.

Recently, a children's book called "Wubetwa Ethiopia Lelejoch" (Beautiful Ethiopia for Children) has hit book centres. To let children grow up ethically, to know their environment and the history, culture and heritage of their country, it has been divided into four chapters with very fantastic pictures suitable for children. The book includes the story of Ethiopia being the birthplace of mankind, the history of great people who introduced Ethiopia to the world and patriots.

Apart from this, the tourist destinations in Ethiopia are presented in detail. "The purpose of the book is to make children know and love their surroundings and to read other books alongside their regular education to develop their reading skills." He has an early understanding of the importance of Braille, especially for blind children to read. It enables them to get educational information through literature; he has prepared the book "Beautiful Ethiopia for Children," which is also suitable for reading in Braille.

Understanding the limitations of Braille books, Moges has prepared the book in Braille as an example to others, but he says that the work is very challenging. Noting that the cost of converting the book to Braille is also very challenging, if he will get support from others, he plans to make the book



widely accessible to young blind students by going to different boarding schools. As Moges explains, Blind people want to read, but they do not have this opportunity because most of the printed materials are not prepared in Braille.

It makes them dependent on listening rather than reading. In addition to this, realizing that the rising cost of paper and related problems are an obstacle to creating a generation of readers; it is necessary to work on the problem. Moges explained that the expensiveness of Braille paper, and the wide and extensive content poses a challenge. When libraries are opened, he suggests that making libraries suitable for the blind would ease the problem

Hunelegn Melke was one of his students and now a friend of Moges. He said that if different writers do their part by finding people who can support them and doing exemplary works, it helps blind people to read their desired literary works.

Hunelegn added that in 1989, Moges formed the Osis Blind Helping Association with the intention of assisting blind people via education. He established libraries for the blind in Tekur Anbesa and Yekatit 12 schools, and he himself used the libraries. In addition, he spearheaded numerous life skills training programmes for the blind students.

According to Hunelegn, The life of blind people in Ethiopia is terrible. The problem is felt widespread in education and elsewhere. The problem is widely seen in literary works. But in our country, there is a section



of society that authors or artists often forget.

If there is something left out or forgotten it is not complete in itself or it is odd. Being able to print the book in Braille is a sign in itself. Hunelegn remembers that when he was seven years old, he found books printed in Braille and it was difficult to read. He said that people like Moges and who are trying to help blind children and teenagers to read should be encouraged and praised.

Moges on the other hand, says the government should provide the necessary support and cooperation. "Of course, it is not satisfactory in the workplace or in the school environment, but it can be said that there is a contribution from the government he explains. The effort being made to hire assistants for blind workers to work in

government jobs is essential that should be encouraged. "Works for the blind and disabled should be considered as a citizen's right."

Therefore, he explains that he should work on children in order to preserve Ethiopia of tomorrow. Moges has planned to publish the next part of "Beautiful Ethiopia for Children" this year. His idea of publishing the next book in Braille was decided he says. "Parents think that they have fulfilled their responsibilities by feeding, dressing, and sending their children to school. Instead, by giving time to their children, they should be close to them and work on their future life. By opening a social network page of connection, parents are providing information about books and other information that they should read to their children.

### If once more you try

BY ALEM HAILU G/KRISTOS

Expectant success  
Will consummate  
Your bashing hope,  
Resort not  
To a rope;

Why?  
Because,  
However high  
Attain it  
You may  
If once more  
You try!

**NEVER  
SAY  DIE**



# Science & Technology

## Necessity is the mother of invention

“As I can’t afford to purchase a mobile phone, I produced my own” -*Kibrom Hagos*

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

Inspired by technological products he saw for the first time while he visited his nearest town when he was ten, Kibrom Hagos created his own mobile phone. Now he is using his own hand-made mobile for communication purpose. Kibrom, 18 years old now, is a tenth grader. He is attending his secondary education trekking for hours from his remote village. As to him, until for the first time, a ten year boy, he visited his nearest town, a three hour walking distance from his remote village, he didn’t have any inkling about what electricity and mobile phone mean.

He was surprised to see the odd things for the first time. “When for the first time I saw people communicating using mobile phones with others far away from them, I took it as a miracle,” Kibrom said, adding that upon returning home, he could never stop thinking about the technological products he saw.

“I asked people about the names, functions and operation of the technological products I saw for the first time. Though the people I was asking have no detailed knowledge about the products, they briefed me about what they know,” Kibrom noted, adding that “after I understood the products are artificial gadgets, becoming an innovator of technological products took shape in my mind. It became my ambition and hobby. But I don’t know how,” he stated. Though Kibrom was attracted by the technological products and inspired to become an innovator, there was no opportunity for him to know how to make the products but also to scrutinize the products as his family didn’t have these products.

Since then, though it seems difficult to realize his vision, Kibrom’s passion and hobby was to become an innovator, inventor and technologist. Fired with this passion from his early childhood, Kibrom is now using his own hand-made mobile phone for communication purposes. He produced them from wood and used materials.

Kibrom Hagos lives in a remote rural village in Tigray Regional State, Emba Alaje district of Gezeme kebele. His village is located a three-hour-wak away from the administrative seat of the Emba Alaje district, Adi Shehu rural town.

His village has no road infrastructure, access to electricity and even accesses to networks in most areas. It is foreign to all modern livelihoods and technological products. Despite the fact that Kibrom lives in a remote rural village that has no access to energy, network and other basic services, he

decided to focus on technological inventions and innovations parallel to attending school.

“Yes, I have no mobile phones. There is no electricity, there is no internet and I don’t even know computer to search about the products I want to produce. Still, I continued fixing things from wood and used metals. I also repair them. I tried my best to create something using the materials and resources at hand to apply my knowledge and to realize the dreams I want to achieve,” Kibrom reiterated.

At that time, of all things that excited him were mobile phones, which he badly wanted to have. Mobile phones were luxury gadgets for the rural people and his family didn’t have the economic capacity to buy a mobile phone for him. He decided to own that and thanks to his effort and creative knack, now, he owns a mobile phone that provides a full telephone service.

One day, while he was using his hand-made mobile and a radio produced by him in his rural village, travelers from urban areas passing through his village met him. And they wondered what type of products he was using as they saw him using a wood-made telephone and a similar radio. He briefed them about the products he was using telling them that it was he himself who made the gadgets. They became surprised and asked him how he managed to do so.

He briefed them that the products are his own inventions and he produced them initiated by the mobile phones he saw in towns. They took him to Adi Shehu town and introduced him to the office of Youth Affairs of Emba Alajae Woreda Administration. The Youth Affairs Office of the Woreda helped him to keep in touch with Tigray Regional State Bureau of Youth Affairs. Through that chain he got registered to compete at “Medeb Medayb” a television show that focused on innovational competition aired on Tigray Television.

Kibrom told the Tigray TV that he has a lot of inventions and he is trying to change them to innovation or products for mass usage with the available resources and materials in his rural village.

Still, his village is out of electricity and other basic services and he is repairing and assembling the products using odds and ends. “I used wood, metals and other simple products to change my ideas in to products,” he said.

“If you decide to achieve something, it is possible to realize it. I realized my dream of owning a mobile phone without buying from the market. The only thing I bought to

communicate is the SIM card and mobile cards,” Kibrom stated adding there are also other innovations that he is using right now. A hand-made radio, speaker, plane that can fly using remote control are among his inventions.

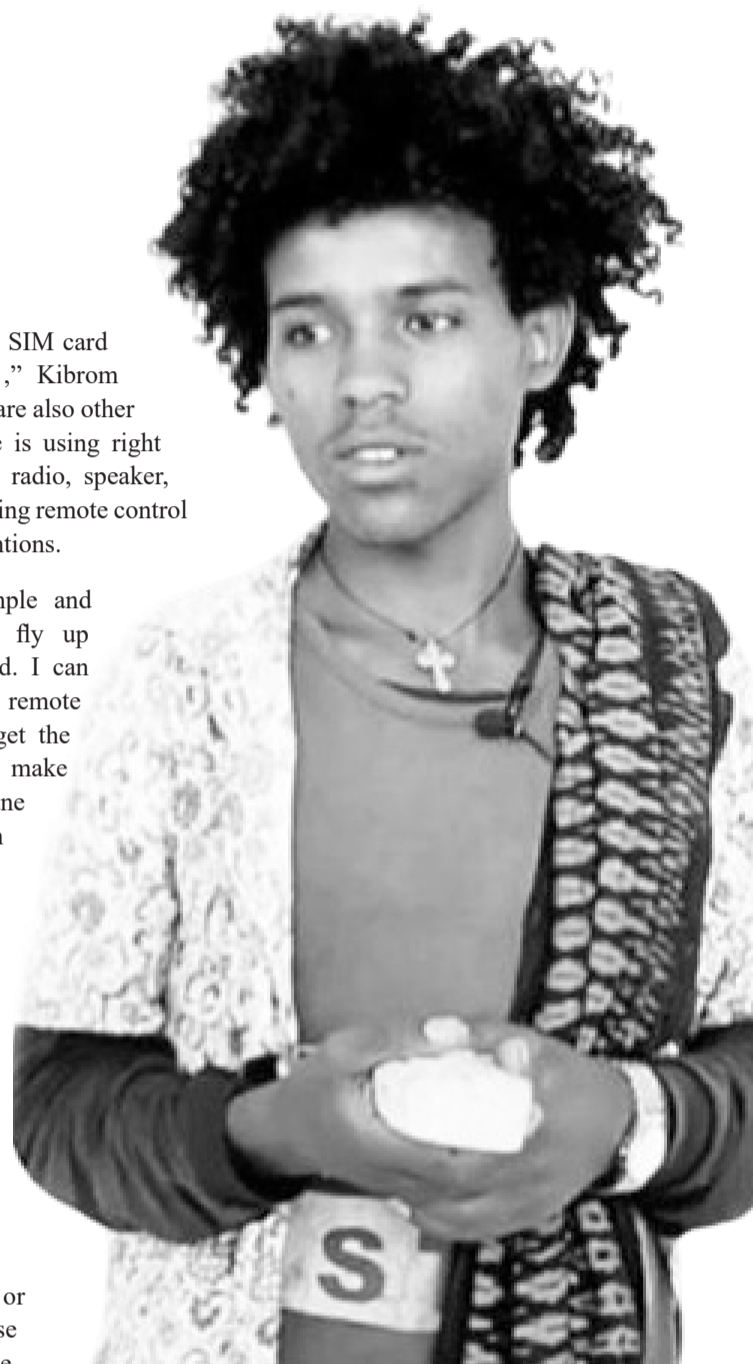
“The plane is simple and small, but it can fly up for an hour on end. I can control it using a remote control. But, if I get the opportunity, I can make a functional plane for transportation purpose,” Kibrom enthusiastically said.

“By the way, after I have seen a lot of cars in towns, I asked people whether a car manufacturing factory is available in Tigray or not. It was a surprise to know that all the cars thronging the towns are imported,”

Kibrom expressed surprise. “Why we remain outpaced though we all are God-gifted human beings” Kibrom poses a question. If I get access to modern education and workshops, I can come up with troubleshooting and meaningful technological products. And he said there are talented and gifted minds that can invent and innovate technological products at home.

As it is demanding for him to produce additional products due to lack of inputs, he is using the products only for himself. His idea is to produce additional items for his family and villagers. “If I find necessary materials, workshops and lab facilities, I have ideas that can be easily changed to products that help to solve the problems of the society. Now, I am using the phone I made only for myself, if I do have resources, I can make additional phones for my village inhabitants.”

Kibrom never waited until he got opportunities to realize his vision; he produced his own products using the available resource at hand. “My long term vision is to produce plane at home,” Kibrom stated that he has a lot of innovational ideas on paper. For Kibrom, the biggest challenge in invention is to change the ideas in mind to products for



the first time. If the idea has changed to product, it is easy to develop and modify it, as to him.

Tesfay Hadush, an expert at Tigray Youth Affairs Bureau, was surprised by the invention, efforts and passion of Kibrom. “It is nothing short of a miracle to see a youth from remote rural village producing his own mobile phone and using it for communication,” he said. For him, Kibrom has a creative mind, potential and ability to invent and produce something. “Medeb Medayb” Innovation Competition Director, Tesfa Fitsum for his part noted that he had experienced a difused feeling when he saw Kibrom’s innovations.

“It is a surprise to witness such invention from a youth from the far flung corner of the country. Happiness and surprise are what I feel. Still, it hurts to see this talented youths are struggling to produce things with odds and ends at hand for want of appropriate inputs and research facilities. He has a creative mind, unique potential and full capacity,” he said.

Both experts recommend extending support to talented youths of this type so as to promote technological developments and innovations at home.



# Society

## Translating human centered initiatives

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

Experts encourage government and development institutions to adopt this approach to address the demands of communities in a more inclusive manner. Social workers particularly favor this approach due to its significant returns in building resilience. The human-centric approach is a style that prioritizes the needs and perspectives of human beings, and it has been recognized by social science experts as having long-lasting benefits.

Taking into account the importance of the human-centric initiative, the Addis Ababa Women, Children, and Social Affairs Bureau is actively working to implement it and provide benefits to 766,621 vulnerable children through various childcare programs in the metropolis.

During a press briefing on Universal Child Day Administration celebration and the Bureau's performance in implementing the initiative, Woineshet Zerihun, the Head of the Addis Ababa Women, Children, and Social Affairs Bureau, emphasized that the Bureau is dedicated to addressing the challenges faced by vulnerable communities at the grassroots level through diverse approaches.

She highlighted that support is being provided through five alternative childcare and support programs. Specifically, around 3,500 children are benefiting from the Tesfa Birhan feeding centers, while an additional 731,000 children are enrolled in school feeding programs. Furthermore, 26,797 children have benefited from community-based childcare and sponsorship programs facilitated by civil servants and investors. In the same year, 2,505 children were successfully reunited and reintegrated with their families, while 35 and 60 children were placed in foster care and local adoption programs, respectively.

In addition to the support provided by the Bureau-affiliated institutions to 500 children, different NGOs have embraced 2,208 children, further contributing to their well-being. The Head of the Bureau also highlighted the extensive awareness creation programs conducted in partnership with relevant stakeholders, including the Justice Bureau and Federal Police. These programs have reached over 80,000 members of the community, representing each district.

As part of the City Administration's commitment to human-centered projects, including Early Child Development (ECD), a budget of 259 million Birr has been allocated for this fiscal year. Notably, 17,000 pregnant and lactating women with low incomes, as well as children below the age of three, have already received direct nutritious food support.

In terms of onsite daycare facilities, the Administration has opened approximately 86 centers, catering to 1,249 children. The plan is to expand this number to 272 centers in the coming years. Additionally, two community-based daycare centers are serving children in Ayat and Summit condominium sites. Furthermore, a



government-funded community-based daycare center is currently accommodating 50 children, as explained by the Bureau Head.

To enhance the quality of childcare, the Bureau has trained and certified 79 mothers recruited from 11 districts under the Day Mother Daycare program. These mothers will be provided with the necessary materials to effectively carry out their responsibilities. Additionally, there is a plan to open 230 daycare centers during this budget year.

The Bureau emphasizes the importance of the government's responsibility in ensuring the implementation of laws and regulations that protect the rights of children. They also urge NGOs and the media to play a significant role in addressing children's issues and raising awareness within society through their programs.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, Director of Children Right Protection and Welfare Directorate at the Addis Ababa Women, Children, and Social Affairs Bureau, Andualem Tafese, highlighted the increasing global attention given to safeguarding children's rights. While progress has been made, there is still much work to be done in addressing the pressing problems faced by children worldwide. The 1959 Declaration of the Rights of the Child is of particular importance in this regard.

Ethiopia is recognized as a pioneer in ratifying and implementing this declaration, further solidifying its commitment to children's rights. Moreover, the nation has enshrined the importance of children's rights in Article 10 of the constitution.

According to Andualem, children deserve protection, empowerment, quality education, healthcare, and safeguarding from any form of abuse or exploitation. It is crucial to prioritize their well-being and ensure they have the necessary support to reach their full potential.

"As we celebrated World Children's Day, the Bureau actively engaged in promoting various messages aimed at protecting

children. This platform provides an inspiring entry point for advocating, promoting, and celebrating children's rights, leading to meaningful dialogues and actions that contribute to building a better world for children. In my perspective, celebrating international day occasions serves as an opportunity to educate the public on critical issues, mobilize political will and resources to address global problems, and celebrate and acknowledge humanity's achievements. The Bureau will continue its efforts in raising awareness and providing assistance in terms of food and education."

It is evident that the government holds the responsibility to establish and enforce laws and policies that safeguard children's rights. This includes legislation against child labor, child abuse, exploitation, and discrimination, as well as policies that ensure access to education, healthcare, and social services.

In this regard, Ethiopia has incorporated Article 36 into its constitution, which focuses on the rights and protection of children. Additionally, the country has endorsed a National Child Policy to be implemented nationwide. This policy emphasizes that both private and public institutions must prioritize the rights and protection of children in the execution of any project, he said.

According to him, the Bureau urges families, schools, and law enforcement bodies to actively monitor children's activities and work towards raising awareness about child rights protection. It is crucial for both the government and families to fulfill their respective responsibilities in safeguarding the rights of children and creating an environment where children can thrive and reach their full potential. Children are vulnerable to various risks, such as child labor, abuse, exploitation, discrimination, and trafficking. The World Children's Day has been globally celebrated for the 34th time and nationally for the 18th time. This year's event was commemorated by the Bureau under the theme "Let us pass Love and Kindness for today's children."

**It is crucial to prioritize their well-being and ensure they have the necessary support to reach their full potential**





# This is Ethiopia



## Great Ethiopian Run key to stimulating tourism

BY TEWODROS KASSA

**E**thiopia, a land brimming with breathtaking natural wonders, a storied past, and a vibrant cultural tapestry, beckons adventurous travelers from far and wide. From the majestic peaks of the Simien National Park to the awe-inspiring rock-hewn churches of Lalibela, this East African gem offers an abundance of attractions and experiences. Amidst this splendor, one event shines brightly, capturing the essence of Ethiopia - the Great Ethiopian Run.

An annual extravaganza held in the bustling capital city of Addis Ababa, the Great Ethiopian Run has evolved into a celebration that seamlessly blends running and tourism. This event plays a pivotal role in promoting Ethiopia as a premier destination for both avid runners and curious explorers.

The impact of the Great Ethiopian Run on tourism cannot be overstated. Every year, thousands of international participants flock to Ethiopia, injecting energy into the local economy. As they fill hotels and dining establishments, visitors not only contribute to the hospitality industry but also engage with the vibrant local culture, lending support to small businesses and artisans. This event has successfully showcased Ethiopia's allure as an adventure tourism hotspot, combining the thrill of running with the captivating beauty of the country's landscapes and the warmth of its people.

Moreover, the Great Ethiopian Run has emerged as a powerful catalyst in raising

global awareness about Ethiopia's illustrious running heritage. With a rich tradition in long-distance running, the nation has produced legendary athletes like Haile Gebrselassie and Kenenisa Bekele. The event serves as a platform to pay homage to these remarkable individuals while also inspiring a new generation of Ethiopian runners. By shining a spotlight on the extraordinary talent and unwavering dedication of its athletes, the Great Ethiopian Run has firmly positioned Ethiopia on the world's running stage. Sports enthusiasts from far and wide are drawn to this remarkable event, eager to witness firsthand the country's indomitable spirit and athletic prowess.

In addition to its impact on tourism and promotion of Ethiopian running culture, the Great Ethiopian Run has also been instrumental in driving social change.

The legendary Ethiopian long-distance runner Athlete Haile Gebrselassie said that the event has grown into one of the largest and most prestigious running races in Africa.

As to him, the Great Ethiopian Run has become an iconic event that successfully combines the worlds of running and tourism. Its inclusive nature, promotion of Ethiopia's rich running heritage, and positive social impact have made it a cherished occasion for both locals and international visitors. As participants and spectators gather in Addis Ababa each year, they are not only engaging in a thrilling race but also immersing themselves in the beauty, history, and culture of Ethiopia. The Great Ethiopian Run truly showcases the country's strengths, making

it a must-visit destination for all running enthusiasts and adventurous travelers alike.

During the 23rd edition of the Great Ethiopian Run, Haile said that the Great Ethiopian Run is a lifeline for athletics, tourism, investment, and the economy in Ethiopia. As the race attracts people from all walks of life as a crucial catalyst for the growth and development of athletics and the economy in Ethiopia.

For him, the effective accomplishment of the Great Ethiopian Run witnesses that the organizers of the race in collaboration with government institutions have the capabilities to organize similar world-class athletics events in the country.

"We are perfect organizers. We can host global athletics events. The event attracts investment for our country. When over 45,000 people run here, it shows how Ethiopia is capable to organizing such a race in Addis Ababa and also attracts foreigners to run or visit as tourists. But I see its importance more in relation to the athletes. We will use the race to develop our athletics," he underlined.

According to him, amidst its vibrant tourist destinations, the Great Ethiopian Run stands tall as a testament to the country's unwavering spirit and unyielding determination. This iconic event, which has been attracting runners and visitors from all corners of the globe for over two decades, plays a pivotal role in showcasing Ethiopia's potential as a burgeoning tourism destination.

Currently, the Great Ethiopian Run has

become Africa's largest road race and one of the most coveted running events in the world. Each year, tens of thousands of participants, ranging from professional athletes to amateur enthusiasts, gather in Addis Ababa, the country's bustling capital, to take part in this extraordinary experience.

Moreover, other foreign participants of the race also expressed their wonder with the divers activities during the event. South African long-distance runner Elana Meyer, who was a guest, commended its role in promoting athletics and economic development.

"It is a very impressive race to see such a strong elite field but then 45,000 participants that came out today to celebrate for Ethiopia. It is unbelievable. I have never been to an event like this and to witness it in my own continent is very special," she said.

In sum, the Ministry of Tourism and other pertinent stakeholders are also expected to work closely and utilize this prominent event for more international tourists attraction.

The significance of the Great Ethiopian Run extends beyond its remarkable athletic achievements. It serves as a powerful catalyst for promoting tourism and harnessing Ethiopia's potential as a global destination. The event has become an essential platform to showcase the country's cultural diversity, scenic beauty, and remarkable hospitality. During the Great Ethiopian Run, participants have the unique opportunity to explore the magnificent landscapes and historical treasures that Ethiopia proudly possesses.