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Ethiopia to welcome 2nd generation Diaspora with open arms

ADDIS ABABA (ENA) - Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has called on the second-generation foreigners of Ethiopian origin to come home. The premier made the call while

inaugurating the Chebera Churchura Elephant Paw Lodge yesterday. Abiy invited the second generation of Ethiopian Diaspora to come to in three-rounds from 30th December 2023 to

the end of September 2024. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, he said the first-round homecoming under the motto

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Scientist suggests establishing science hubs for rapid economic dev't

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA -Ethiopia requires establishing and developing science and technology institutions to expedite economic development, so suggested NASA scientist.

See Scientist suggests ... page 4



Abdulrahman Ahmed (PhD)

Ethiopia's quest for sea access align with int'l norms: Expert

BY SEMERAY KAHSSAI

ADDIS ABABA- International law gives Ethiopia and other landlocked countries the right to sea outlet, which Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) recently touched upon, international relations expert said,

See Ethiopia's quest for ... page 4

Egypt's defiance against upper riparian equality hindering dam's talks

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- Egypt's stubborn reliance on the colonial- era accord that ignores the right of upper riparian countries is hindering the progress of the bilateral and trilateral negotiations on the Abbay Dam, experts in the issue said.

Former member of the Abbay Dam Negotiating Team and Senior Nile and Middle East Hydro-Politics Expert YacobArsano (PhD) stated that Egypt's possessive stance on the Nile waters is the root cause for the round of talks that would not bring the desired outcomes.

"Egypt always wants to ensure its hegemony on the Nile waters and decide how much water should flow into its Aswan Dam and

See Egypt's defiance against... page 4



National dairy development strategy to harness livestock potential, empower women

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Closed ranks earth and sky

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Cultivating peace with indigenous values!

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News

USAID, FCDO put national disaster risk management policy to ratification

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) disclosed the finalization of the national disaster risk management policy for Ethiopia.

Speaking to *The Ethiopian Herald*, Oxford Policy Management Building Resilience in Ethiopia Project Deputy Team Leader Girma Kassa (PhD) said the project has been supporting the government to develop the systems of resilience to climate change and humanitarian shocks as well as ensure accountability. “The USAID and FCDO performed capacity building activities for states to build resilience and response systems.”

The government should give priority to different natural and manmade disasters in a bid to build national capacity. As a result, the sector requires national disaster risk management policy and its legal framework to lead and coordinate, he added.

As to Girma, the improper response of the crisis would highly cost the country. Delayed response to the crisis would also consume more resources and divert development.

Oxford Policy Management Building Resilience in Ethiopia Senior Disaster Risk Management Coordinator Samuel Tefera (PhD) for his part said that the two agencies have been supporting the government to build resilience and prepare and respond to disasters.

“Through demand-driven technical assistance, USAID and FCDO have been working with the Ministry of Health, Finance, Agriculture and National Disaster Risk Management Commission to consider disaster reduction in their plans, build capacity, increase preparedness and response and build resilience.”

The approval of the policy and its legal framework would contribute to overcome the current sector challenges and ensure better disaster risk response and the draft policy was sent to the Council of Ministers for approval. The policy also developed a legal framework to support its implementation, Samuel elaborated.

“We have been executing policy related activities thus far in a bid to address policy gaps in this sector. Strengthening the systems and resilience of communities, households and others is critical for maintaining growth and stability.”

The two agencies have been working to build long term capacity with the government to manage climate change and humanitarian shocks that Ethiopia experiences.

The endorsement of the emergency reduction policy and its legal framework ensures the accountability of institutions, individuals and others. It would also contribute to reducing disaster risks and building a resilient social and economic system, he stated.

Initiative boosts nation's food production

BY TAMERU REGASA

ADDIS ABABA - Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) announced that *Yelemat Tirufat* initiative has brought a significant change in boosting food production.

MoA State Minister's Advisor Yohannes Girma (PhD) told Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that *Yelemat Tirufat* Initiative that was launched by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) in 2022 for dietary abundance is bearing fruit as it has increased livestock production.

Accordingly, the initiative has enabled the country to produce 5.7 billion liters of milk, 3.1 billion eggs, 328,000 tons of meat, 88,000 tons of poultry meat, 38,000 tons of fish and 96,000 tons of honey in the past five months, he said.

Therefore, the initiative has been aimed at improving livestock production, ensuring food self-sufficiency and nutritional



Yohannes Girma (PhD)

opulence has brought many tangible results since it has been launched, he stated.

The Advisor attributed the success for leadership commitment, natural resource endowment, sufficient and efficient human resource and the presence of high number of research institutions engaged with livestock sector.

Technical and financial support is being

provided to those engaged in livestock breeding, poultry farming, production of honey and fish to enable the initiative achieve more success, Yohannes said.

He also mentioned that his ministry has distributed 29 million one-day old chickens in the past five months.

Health and Animal feed are crucial for the success of the initiative, he said, adding that 84 million animals have been vaccinated against animal diseases and 92 million tons of animal feed have been produced.

The advisor expressed that 315 thousand modern bees hive have been distributed to the producers in the sector to achieve the planned honey production.

He also said that the extension support for the entities engaged in the whole source products is being named as Dairy village, poultry village, and honey village to ease the provision of supports through organizing entities under the villages.

Parliament working on addressing public queries

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – The House of Peoples Representatives (HoPR) announced that efforts are being exerted to make sure that public voices regarding economic development and good governance are being heard properly.

HoPR Speaker, Tadesse Chafo told The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the government is working hard to address the public queries and ensure good governance and development.

As the core functions of the parliament are enacting laws, monitoring and controlling activities of the executive and judicial bodies, the Speaker said, the house is striving to realize public interest through inspecting whether the voices are heard.

Members of the parliament should supervise development activities to make sure that the public requests are getting the appropriate response; he said adding that the house will take strong measures and ensure accountability.

“A lot needs to be changed. Therefore, it is necessary to create an environment where the appointee take office in the area where he is elected, listens closely to the voter, consults with executives and house members,” he added.



Tadesse Chafo

Tadesse recalled that the house attempted to facilitate the aforementioned setup during the six round national election.

The parliament would ensure the sustainability of such activities by drawing lesson from the international experiences, he indicated.

He further stated that the house has prepared documents that ease efforts to achieve the house tasks.

The HPR made supervising and controlling manual aiming at helping run the activities effectively focusing on public interest and reducing time wastage.

Expert anticipates rosy Ethio-Türkiye economic partnership

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopia and Türkiye have a robust economic partnership that could be much expanded from textile and garment industries to the most advanced manufacturing areas, a noted economist said.

During his stay with Deik International, an Economist and CEO of Fairfax Africa Zemedeneh Negatu stated that the two countries also have strong trade relations

and Ethiopia is among Türkiye's leading business partners in Africa. Over the last several years, many Turkish companies have heavily invested in the East African nation.

Mentioning Ethiopia's ties with Western major aircraft manufacturers including Boeing, Zemedeneh expressed optimism that similar would happen with potential Turkish companies with the desired technology and expertise. “By creating strong relations between Africa and Türkiye in the aviation industry, both sides could

benefit their people and economies.”

“Currently, over 85 percent of Africa's air transport is handled by foreign carriers which manifest the huge gap that African airlines have to fill.”

In this regard, Türkiye could greatly benefit by taking its aviation technology into Africa and also building the infrastructure because the continent is deprived of large aviation facilities including airports, and developing its aviation ecosystem, the economist remarked.

Editorial

Topnotch service with commensurate price awaits participants in ever-glowing Addis

Addis Ababa is not only the capital city of Africa but also a seat of international organizations such as the Organization of African Union (OAU) and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) that is under the United Nations, among others. As such, Addis has managed to get itself in the short list of great diplomatic cities next to New York and Geneva.

Though there are many reasons ascribable for the aforementioned preference Addis enjoyed, prominent from the list is the cordiality of its people. Inhabitants of Addis, as it is true of citizens elsewhere in the country, are hospitable in a peculiar way as they accord guests special treatment.

Owing to the abovementioned virtues, before the COVID-19 Pandemic, Addis was a sought-after city for a multitude of international conferences of great interest. It discharged entrusted duties efficiently. Even during the pandemic exercising caution it had hosted some conferences of lesser magnitude.

Currently, establishing a national committee that sees to the successful conduct of the forth coming 37th AU's head of States Summit and 47 Ordinary Meeting of Executives to be held from Feb 15 to 19, Ethiopia is bracing up to live up to expectations.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Sport and Culture have just deliberated with hotel and tourism service-rendering organizations on ways of delivering topnotch services. Nowadays, modernization is taking effect at a fabulous rate. To stand shoulder high in the red-hot global competition, sticking out in quality is obligatory. Otherwise, a meltdown is what greets vying bodies. Hence, to go ahead striking a balance between customers' demand and quality service, which is commensurate with the former, is essential.

To ensure the all-rounded comfort of summit participants not only the active role of stakeholders is needed but also the usual cooperation of every citizen. In case of traffic jamming, residents of Addis must demonstrate again preferential treatment to guests.

Efforts are underway to turn Addis Ababa, which literary means a new flower, beautiful true to its name. It is becoming tourists-destination gem as never before. Tourism-oriented projects are afoot. Inviting participants to visit the projects prolonging their stay thereby to generate much-needed hard currency is possible. These amounts to killing two birds with stone — letting guests have a comfy and memorable stay as well as generating additional foreign currency.

At this juncture it is important to note that, it is fatuous not to assume there will not be quarters that attend Addis' ever glowing diplomatic city image with a raised brow. To foil evil intents, hotels and other service delivering institutions must handle tasks taking into account a hallmark of hospitality and tourism is the image of tranquil and resilient Ethiopia. Rolling sleeves to this effect is mandatory.

Based on feedbacks, a major complaint during previous meeting was the gap between exorbitant prices and contenting services. To do away with this problem, asking the right price for the right service must be made a point.

The tourism infrastructural facilities expansion work like Koysha, Wonchi, Gorgora and Chaka need be visited by guests. Carrying out promotional works in advance so that these facilities get well visited by guests is wise.

Keeping its time-old culture of cordiality intact and flexing its service-delivery muscle, Ethiopia is eagerly looking forward welcoming its esteemed guests, whom await service insulated from any form of hustle. Guests must be rest assured on this score.

Coming to Ethiopia is tantamount to coming home, for Ethiopia is home-away-from-home as many agree.

Here, as a backdrop, it is important to reflect that currently Ethiopia is fully back on world diplomatic stage, unlike the past years Ethiopia's relationship with almost all countries is picking up steam, Ethiopia has joined BRICS setting the tone for Africa, Ethiopia has anchor role in IGAD as exemplified by its peace-brokering role in Sudan and east Africa, Ethiopia has become trendsetter in global interactions, Ethiopia pushes green legacy for deliberation on the global arena, Ethiopia demands Africa's representation in UN's security Council, Ethiopia has played quite a role for Africa to get a seat in G20, Ethiopia has become a standard bearer birthing GERD key for regional industrialization.

Opinion

How is Addis preparing to welcome Africans on February?

BY GIRMICHEW GASHAW

From urban to rural areas, the people residing in Ethiopia have a wonderful, hospitable culture for visitors. If you are an alien, the rural community demonstrates the respect they have for you in different ways. First, they invited you to enter their home and asked you to sit down in a place convenient for you. Then after, they come up with water to sponge down your legs and rub down your legs to get relief from fatigue before they invite you to a meal.

Ethiopians have high regard for strangers, even if you go to urban areas where civilized people are assumed to be there. This is one factor that makes Ethiopia preferable in the eyes of international event organizers to conduct any sort of meeting. Among many reasons, this seems to be the one for Addis Ababa to be chosen as the seat of the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. Now, Addis Ababa is a diplomatic city next to New York and Geneva.

The reputation that the city built throughout the years enabled it to attract various international summits just before the COVID-19 pandemic. Even during the pandemic, some international meetings were carried out with a limited number of participants who applied great care. However, it could not compare with pre-COVID time, as the city was smothered with various international conventions.

Addis Ababa is now preparing itself to host the 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the AU and the 44th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council from February 15–19, 2024. To get the satisfaction of the leaders and other participants, the capital of Africa is now making overall preparations to show good gestures for its visitors.

In the meeting set to be conducted in February, many delegates from 55 African countries and international organizations will attend. For the successful accomplishment of the summit, the Ethiopian government, together with the Africa Union Commission, has been doing various tasks, including establishing a national committee drawn from concerned bodies.

Apart from reconstructing older pedestrian pathways, Addis Ababa is now constructing new optional asphalt roads. National tourist-related projects such as Koysha, Wonchi, Gorgora, and Chaka are now well underway with a vision of elongating the stay of Africa Union summit participants in Ethiopia.

The security institutions have also been doing their customary work more than ever before to make the stay of meeting participants safer. Service-provider institutions are now discussing ways to satisfy their customers differently.

In the meeting that was held on Thursday, for instance, concerned authorities from

To complete the meeting successfully, the service provided to participants should be in a way that builds a positive image of the country

foreign affairs and tourism ministries requested that service-provider institutions make a warm welcome for the participants in a way that builds the image of the country. This was disclosed during the meeting that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Tourism ministers held with hotel owners and other service-providing institutions in Addis Ababa.

Over the past five years, as part of the reform activities, the tourism ministry has been doing various tasks to promote the sector. The reform has given a special place to the tourism sector and enabled it to contribute its share to the national economy. A lot of tasks have been carried out to expand the tourist destination areas, increase hotel service quality, and build the capacity of human power.

As usual, concerning the Africa Union Summit, hotels will be booked and endowed with services for high-level government officials who come here to participate in the meeting. However, considering the ever-changing hotel industry, service-providing institutions need to update themselves and improve the quality of service they offer. It is time to alleviate challenges observed in the hospitality industry to provide better service to their customers.

Indeed, the sector was highly cooled down as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the absence of peace in some parts of the country. To bring the sector back to its former place, actors in the hospitality industry should work hand and glove.

Previously, when African leaders came to Ethiopia for a meeting, one of the grievances that always arose was the imbalance between hotel service quality and price hikes. Considering that these will negatively affect the image of the country, service-providing institutions make themselves ready to provide high-quality service at a reasonable price.

To complete the meeting successfully, the service provided to participants should be in a way that builds a positive image of the country. The service-provider institutions should offer the service as per Ethiopia's cultural values and ethics, giving high respect to our guests and maintaining their security.

For long, Ethiopia has been serving as a seat for the Africa Union and UNECA; indeed, it deserved to be. To sustain Addis Ababa as a seat for these international organizations, in this regard, much is expected of the service-providing institutions.

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



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News



Ethiopia, Switzerland agree to further bolster trade, investment ties

ADDIS ABABA /ENA/- Ethiopia and Switzerland have agreed to further enhance trade and investment ties between the two countries.

According to Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), the 6th Ethio-Switzerland joint political consultation was held on Thursday in Bern, Switzerland, with the view of further enhancing the long-standing bilateral relations between the two nations.

Ambassador Mesganu Arga, State Minister of Foreign Affairs and Ambassador Philipp Stalder, Assistant State Secretary, Head of Africa Division at Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, chaired the consultation.

The consultation covered bilateral, regional, and multilateral issues of shared interest.

The two sides exchanged views on bilateral relations and explored new areas of cooperation.

They evaluated the implementation of agreements and agreed to further enhance trade and investment ties between the two countries.

Prior to the commencement of the consultations, State Minister Mesganu paid a courtesy call on Ambassador Alexander Fasel, State Secretary of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

Scientist suggests establishing...

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), NASA scientist and Bright Generation Diaspora Program Coordinator, Berhanu T. Bulcha (PhD) said that cutting-edge science and technology institutions should be established and well developed to support the farming community and ensure the country's economic development.

The coordinator further remarked that the establishment of curricular activities and Diaspora professional's involvement in schools would have a significant importance to fetch meaningful research based disciplines at the required level.

He said, "Research, science and technology institutes are engines of innovation in which ideas are conceived and transformed into solutions that address multifaceted challenges of the community."

Under their program, he stated they have established 35 hubs in all parts of the country to offer problem solving researches. Besides, preparations are made to establish a science and technology research institute with the involvements of Diaspora communities.

As to him, educations which streamline technological driven and problem solving innovations are instrumental for regional as well as continental

economic development endeavors.

So far, the students have conducted over 35 researches and innovated problem solving mechanized farming tools and local fertilizer in their respective schools.

Moreover, students are expected to utilize their home grown knowledge to solve the problems of their respective communities' problems accordingly, he opined.

He also recommended for enhanced and framed professional diaspora's participation which focus on research based institutions to establish strong scientific and technological research institutes to ensure national development.



Photo: Gebabo Gebrie

Berhanu T. Bulcha (PhD)

Egypt's defiance against...

its desire for Ethiopia to sign a binding agreement emanated from this possessive gesture."

Ethiopia, in its unparalleled defiance against downstream hegemony, is pursuing a just cause and it claims to have an inalienable right to benefit from the river in which most of the water is discharged from its highlands.

Egypt, on the other hand, rejects Ethiopia's quest to equitable utilization of cross-border resources and wants to maintain its out-of-date hegemony, the scholar elaborated.

Yacob further stressed that an agreement that would enshrine Egypt's illogical "historical right" claim will never bring lasting solutions and it is unacceptable by

Ethiopians.

Water Resource Management Advisor Feki Ahmed Negash also said that Egyptians are trying to force Ethiopia to recognize the colonial agreement that only preserve the downstream countries' benefit. "Ethiopia, as a provider of the water, had been ignored by the British-made colonial accord."

Egyptians requested Ethiopia to adopt an agreement that forced the latter to discharge a high amount of water even during the times of drought. By doing this, they are attempting to tighten Ethiopia with such kind of unjust law. If Ethiopia embraces such a greedy request, it would be forced to get Egypt's permission for each drop of water, the expert emphasized.

Ethiopia's quest for...

mentioned the non-coastal nations' security challenge.

The expert Abdulrahman Ahmed (PhD) told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that seaport is crucial from both economic and security standpoint and Ethiopia's aspiration to access the Red Sea or Indian Ocean by all peaceful means is justifiable.

From an economic standpoint, Ethiopia can benefit from export trade because of the strategic location close to Babel-Mandeb, the Red Sea, and the Indian Ocean. Having enjoyed an important geographical location, the country's direct access to sea outlets is also crucial to maintain its peace and stability and preserve national interests.

"Ethiopia had broad influence in the historically important region and its ability to acquire a seaport would enable its voice to be heard at the regional and

international levels and would also have a positive impact on the country's relation with the rest of the world."

The expert further noted that Ethiopia's large population which currently stands at approximately 120 million is also another factor to its port aspiration. "The increasing population requires Ethiopia to have a sea port, and this sea port will foster the country's international trade. As society's life is highly dependent on import-export activity, there will be an urgent need for a seaport."

Ethiopia aspires to achieve economic growth by enhancing export trade, and the country will not be able to achieve the intended goal by using Djibouti ports alone. Therefore, it needs a sovereign access to ports that would facilitate its international trade because Djibouti ports alone are not sufficient to handle

the entire cargo and caused delays that could sometimes span for a week or two, Abdulrahman elaborated.

"The cost incurred to rent Djibouti ports represents approximately a quarter of Ethiopia's national GDP, amounting to more than 2.5 to three billion USD, and this is a very large number from the state budget and the national economy."

Ethiopia needs ports to protect its national security and foster economic growth, and this will enhance cooperation, economic integration, and political and security stability among the Horn of Africa countries.

The Ethiopian government is also expected to utilize diplomatic channels to communicate with neighboring countries and encourage them to join its aspiration to ensure mutual growth in the Horn of Africa, he pleaded.

Ethiopia to welcome...

"Connect to Your Culture" begins from 30 December 2023 to 29 January 2024.

The Diaspora members who come home during that period will celebrate various festivals, including Christmas.

And the second round homecoming dubbed "Connect to Your History" will be during the African Union annual summit in Addis Ababa, the premier said.

Premier said the third round will be from the upcoming rainy season to 30 September 2024 under the motto "Leave Your Legacy."

Members of the Diaspora who come during this period will participate in planting seedlings and other activities, he stated.

Members of the Diaspora who come to their country will get special discounts by the Ethiopian Airlines and Ethiopian hotels.

Opinion

Expanding irrigation farms to boost agriculture production

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Small-scale irrigation in Ethiopia has the potential to alleviate poverty, stabilize agricultural production, mitigate the adverse effects of rainfall variability and create employment for millions of youths and women. While the country has over 11 million hectares of irrigable land, only a fraction of it (approximately 10%) is in use.

According to the Ministry of plan, the Ethiopian Ten Years Development Plan which named as a path way to prosperity in 2021 places emphasis on freeing agricultural production from rain dependency, facilitating agricultural mechanization and irrigation technology, enhancing innovations and improving the role and participation of the private sector in agriculture. However, Small-Scale Irrigation (SSI) development and management in Ethiopia is challenged by a growing demand of irrigation and high inefficiency, even by sub-Saharan African standards.

Gaps in areas including scheme design, planning and construction, operation and management, financing and cost recovery, as well as traditional methods of service delivery, continue to hamper its development. These persistent challenges indicate that the public sector alone will not suffice to meet the existing and growing needs for SSI in an efficient and sustainable manner. Public-private partnerships (PPPs) have been envisaged as a game changer in addressing the irrigation challenges faced by small-scale farmers. Global experiences, with limitations and conditions, shows that PPPs can be utilized to introduce new technology and innovation, increase efficiency and service quality, as well as improve performance and financial sustainability in the water and irrigation sectors.

Ethiopia introduced the first national policy on public private partnership in 2017, and subsequent PPP Proclamation No. 1076 (2018), PPP Directive (2018) and PPP Guidelines (2019) in commendable attempts to create the policy and legal framework to govern such partnerships. The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and stakeholders have drafted an Implementation Strategy for Public-Private Partnerships for SSI Development and Management (2021) to guide PPP in irrigation to help address some of the existing gaps and challenges in irrigation.

The government has been working with and promoting private sector involvement in irrigation, particularly through the innovation for small irrigation and Africa raising projects. The research conducted in 2023 for development projects have

demonstrated that finance, as well as the supply and scalability of innovation, technology and related services, can be enhanced the private sector. The government organized a multi-stakeholder dialogue to facilitate Ethiopia's PPP Strategy Development for Small-Scale Irrigation Development and Management.

Key stakeholders, including representatives from various Ministries (Agriculture, Finance, Irrigation and Lowlands, Water and Energy), research institutes, development partners and private sectors, convened and discuss the draft PPP strategy.

The dialogue was unique as PPP specialists introduced the PPP process cycle and legal and policy frameworks, while stakeholders investigated the relatively new arena of PPP for SSI in Ethiopia.

Private sector experience in scaling solar-based irrigation (from Togo), multiple country experiences of the World Bank Group (from Zambia, Malawi and Republic of South Africa) and local experiences of the energy sector by Ethiopian Electric Power have provided crucial insights.

The implementation can be a challenging endeavor because there are conceptual and structural issues to be resolved. Collaboration in strategy development is required to ensure alignment with the wider legal and policy frameworks and synergy with the national PPP structures. This would enable developing shared goals, mobilizing resources and expertise for strategy development, assessing and identifying strategic partners and establishing investment strategies, and identifying entry points for the private sector. Additionally, setting priorities for irrigation PPP is necessary as local experience is limited, and a gradual approach starting with testing potential projects for partnership can make a difference in the success of the endeavor.

Ethiopia has great potential of fertile agricultural land, untapped water resource, varied climatic conditions and rich biodiversity suitable for diverse agricultural activities to ensure food self-sufficiency, supply adequate raw materials to domestic factories and industries and increase export earnings. Despite, these potential resources available, agriculture has remained underdeveloped and recurrent drought has become a common phenomenon, which has compelled the country to depend on foreign food aid. Irrigation is one of the potential means to modernize Ethiopia's agriculture based subsistence economy dominated by smallholder farmers. However, the irrigation subsector is confronted with different constraints and challenges.

These include inadequate resources (financial, human and logistical), technical know-how (skill & research information)

and a management system. The existing irrigation development in Ethiopia, as compared to the resources the country has, is not significant. In order to ensure food security at household level for the fast growing population of the country the irrigation potential has to be developed to ensure optimum productivity of irrigated agriculture. Such development could also generate externally marketable surpluses that could contribute to earn the required foreign exchange and provide required raw materials to the local industries. To this effect, the situation calls for the unreserved dedication and commitment of the relevant institutions to work towards creating enabling environment for the planning and implementation of efficient and sustainable irrigation system.

As it is understood Ethiopia is endowed in surface and underground water and in addition it obtains sufficient amount of rain water during the wet season. It has also vast swaths of land that can be cultivated through irrigation but due to the technological, finance, technical and skilled man power deficit, the resource is not fully exploited. According to studies out of the available water resources only Five percent of is utilized for irrigation farm.

In Ethiopia cultivating irrigation farm in small scale level had been a century old practice but it is not transformed in to the higher level technology intensive large scale farm.

Modern Irrigation farm was introduced in Ethiopia in the late 1950s by the Netherlands /Dutch/ company in the rift valley regions of the country in the bank of River Awash. There are vast areas suitable for the cultivation of irrigation farm. Particularly, in the upper, middle and lower Awash valley. Crops cultivates in the irrigated farm were cotton, sugar, fruits and vegetables.

Sugar is planted to be used as inputs for the agro industry installed there and the industry is still continued its production and supply its products to the local market. The cotton plantations cultivated in the lower awash valley served by the supplying their products to the local textile industries.

The agro-industries and plantations created job opportunities to hundreds of thousands and contributed for the flourishing of urban centers adjacent to the Ethio- Djibouti rail way.

The other irrigation farms were cultivated in the north western part of the country in Humera town. The farms produced oil seeds such as nigger, sesame and others. The products mainly produced for export and play vital role in garnering foreign currency to the country.

In the last two decades and a half the past

and the current governments tried their level best to expand small irrigation farms particularly in the high land parts of the country where suitable for irrigation farms. The government provided to farmers technical experts and extension services to develop irrigation farms. It also provided pumps and financial credits. Sofar, several farms in various regions are cultivated. However, due to lack of spare parts and damaging of irrigation pipes and the outbreak of diseases in the area hampered the full fledged development of irrigation farm.

The ongoing dry season irrigation farm cultivating farm in various regions such as Oromia, Amhara, Southern Nation and Nationalities and Somali regions proved that the country has huge potential in boosting agriculture production.

The sector supports the nation efforts to ensure food security, liberate the sector from rain dependency and boost export. The wheat irrigation farm is conducted with unskilled labor, low technology and less investment therefore, it could play pivotal role in poverty reduction.

Recently, Ethiopia's Ministry of Irrigation and Lowlands has signed contract agreement with South Korea's Hansol Paper Co. Ltd for the construction of Ada'a Becho Groundwater Irrigation Development and Rural Development Projects with an outlay of 91.7 Million USD.

State Minister of Irrigation and Lowlands, Birhanu Lenjiso, and David Do Hyun, Kim, Hansol Division leader of South Korea's Hansol Paper Co.Ltd signed the agreement. The projects will be executed in Oromia region, in Eastern Shewa and Southwest Shewa zones, in Ada'a and Becho plains over the coming five years.

The works include the construction of ground water development for irrigation, irrigation facility installation, drinking water supply, agricultural training center and auxiliary facilities.

Agro- processing plant, pilot smart water management system, agricultural machinery and vehicles supply, community support, test operation for agricultural training center and agro- processing plants are also parts of works to be executed as per the agreement.

The starting date of project will be January 2024, and its completion date will be December 2028, ministry Irrigation and Lowlands indicated.

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

Business & Economy

National dairy development strategy to harness livestock potential, empower women

BY BIRHANU SETEGNE

Ethiopia boasts a rich and diverse livestock sector, which plays a vital role in the country's economy, culture, and livelihoods. Livestock production is deeply ingrained in Ethiopian society, with millions of smallholder farmers relying on livestock for their sustenance and income.

The country is home to a wide range of livestock species, including cattle, sheep, goats, camels, and poultry. These animals are well adapted to the local environmental conditions, such as the highlands, lowlands, and pastoral areas, making them resilient to various challenges.

Livestock in Ethiopia serve multiple purposes beyond production. They provide dairy products, such as milk and cheese, which are important components of the Ethiopian diet. Furthermore, livestock play a crucial role in providing draft power for agricultural activities, transportation, and as a source of manure for fertilizing crops.

Ethiopia's livestock sector offers significant opportunities for economic growth and poverty reduction. It contributes to food security and nutrition by providing a source of protein-rich food products. Additionally, livestock and livestock products contribute to export earnings, boosting the country's foreign exchange reserves.

However, despite its immense potential, the Ethiopian livestock sector faces various challenges. These include limited access to improved breeds, veterinary services, and quality animal feed. Inadequate infrastructure, such as animal health facilities and market linkages, also pose obstacles to the sector's development.

Ethiopia is known by abundant animal resource which ranks among the leading countries in Africa and the world but it has not met the needs of the community in terms of quality and quantity of milk yet. Due to this, the per capita milk consumption of the nation does not exceed 66 liters and even the purity of the milk is getting declined.

To address these challenges and harness the full potential of the livestock sector, the Ethiopian government especially Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), in collaboration with international partners, has implemented initiatives and strategies. These initiatives aim to improve livestock productivity, enhance animal health services, promote market-oriented production, and strengthen the resilience of livestock-based livelihoods.

Efforts are also being made to integrate gender-responsive approaches in the livestock sector, recognizing the important role of women in livestock production and value chains.

In fact, Ethiopia's livestock sector holds



Ethiopia: Land of Lucrative Dairy Investment – photo google

Ethiopia's livestock sector offers significant opportunities for economic growth and poverty reduction

great promise for sustainable development, poverty reduction, and food security. With continued investments in research, infrastructure, and policy support, Ethiopia can unlock the full potential of its livestock resources, benefiting both rural communities and the national economy.

In a major step towards realizing the untapped potential of its livestock resources, Ethiopia has unveiled the National Dairy Development Strategy.

Namukolo Covic (PhD), the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) Director General's Representative to Ethiopia, delivered the speech titled "Tracking Evidence and Informing Policy to Rebuild Livestock-Based Livelihoods and Empower Women in Conflict-Affected Areas of Ethiopia."

This speech emphasized the importance of rebuilding livelihoods and empowering women in regions affected by conflict. The initiative was led by the CGIAR in collaboration with Ethiopian organizations and institutions, working together to achieve a shared vision.

Dr.Covic highlighted the significance of integrating post-conflict Ethiopia's food systems into the overall development of the livestock sector. Their vision entails

a holistic approach from production to consumption, with a focus on enhancing food safety, nutrition, livelihoods, land preservation, restoration, and resilience to shocks and stresses.

Key attention was given to land preservation and restoration, addressing the challenges faced by the National Policies and Strategies initiative.

Ethiopia is going bold steps to rebuild livestock-based livelihoods and empower women in Conflict-Affected Areas. The role of women in post-conflict recovery should align perfectly with Ethiopia's food systems transformation vision. Women's livelihoods were recognized as vital for rebuilding communities and improving resilience, Covic said.

The National Dairy Development Strategy emphasized the importance of the six food groups outlined in Ethiopia's food-based dietary guidelines. Of particular relevance was the inclusion of milk, dairy foods, meat, fish, and eggs. This food group plays a crucial role in promoting a healthy and nutrient-dense food basket, as exemplified by the "Yelemat Tirufat" initiative, which focuses on livestock livelihoods, Covic sated.

Dr.Covic's speech shed light on the critical work being done to rebuild livestock-based livelihoods and empower women in conflict-affected areas of Ethiopia. The findings of the study and the collaborative efforts of the CGIAR NPS initiative and its partners will contribute to the transformation of Ethiopia's food systems, fostering resilience, improving nutrition, and enhancing the overall well-being of the population.

Fikeru Regassa (PhD), the State Minister of Agriculture on his part said that the National Dairy Development Strategy aims to leverage the potential of livestock-based livelihoods to aid in post-conflict and drought recovery and empower women.

For years, Ethiopia's livestock sector received limited investment, hindering its ability to contribute fully to the country's development. However, the government has now recognized the immense value of livestock-based livelihoods, job creation, income generation, and foreign currency earnings. Livestock resources are seen as crucial assets for building resilient communities, Fikeru stated.

Under the initiative called "Yelemat Tiurfat," the government of Ethiopia is actively supporting a new livestock revolution. This revolution seeks to improve nutrition outcomes for the Ethiopian population and meet the growing demand for animal-derived food products such as milk, meat, eggs, honey, and fisheries, Fikeru added.

The dairy sector, which plays a vital role in the livelihoods of millions of smallholder farmers across various settings, is a focal point of this revolution, the state minister mentioned. Despite the immense genetic diversity and potential for dairy development in Ethiopia, the current contribution of the dairy sector to the national economy and livelihoods is below its capacity, Fikeru pointed out.

To address these challenges, the Ministry of Agriculture has developed a Ten-Year Development Plan and associated programs, including the Ten-in-Ten development initiative and "Yelemat Tirufat." These interventions aim to transform the dairy sector through import substitution, increased exports, job creation, and improved access to quality animal-source food, as to the State Minister.

According to Fikeru, The National Dairy Development Strategy provides a clear roadmap for the development of the dairy sub-sector. It aligns with the Ten-Year Perspective Plan, the Ten-in-Ten initiative, and "Yelemat Tirufat."

The strategy focuses on organized, rationalized, scientific, and sustainable development programs, facilitating knowledge and technology transfer, and enhancing institutional service delivery, the State Minister pointed out.

The launched National Dairy Development Strategy is particularly significant, as it recognizes the potential of dairy in the post-conflict and drought recovery process. Therefore, the strategy aims to empower women, who are its primary target, by creating opportunities for their participation and benefit in dairy sector, Fikeru said.

With the implementation of the National Dairy Development Strategy, Ethiopia is poised to unlock the full potential of its livestock resources, enhance livelihoods, and promote the empowerment of women. The strategy will guide the future development of the dairy sub-sector, ensuring a more organized, efficient, and sustainable approach to dairy production and value chain management, Fikeru concluded.

Planet Earth

Green Legacy Initiative: Key to meet the Paris Agreement

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Climate change is a global crisis that transcends national boundaries. It is a problem that needs global collaboration and coordinated responses at all levels. On December 12, 2015, world leaders met in Paris for the United Nations Climate Change Conference, often known as COP 21, to address climate change and its harmful consequences. This pact is commonly referred to as the Paris Agreement.

The Agreement sets long-term goals for all nations, including significantly reducing global greenhouse gas emissions to keep global temperature rise to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and pursuing efforts to keep it to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change.

It also evaluates the collective progress toward attaining the aim of this agreement and its long-term goals regularly. It gives funding to developing nations to prevent climate change, boost resilience, and improve their ability to adapt to climate consequences.

The Agreement is a legally binding international treaty. It entered into force on 4 November 2016. The Paris Agreement now has 194 signatories (including the European Union (EU)). The Agreement includes pledges from all nations to decrease emissions and collaborate to adapt to the effects of climate change, as well as a call for governments to enhance their commitments over time. The Agreement creates a framework for transparent monitoring and reporting of countries' climate targets, as well as a mechanism for rich nations to assist poor nations in their climate mitigation and adaptation efforts.

The Agreement establishes a long-term framework that will guide the global effort for decades to come. It is the first step toward a future with zero emissions. The Agreement's implementation is also critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. This agreement demonstrates that a country's development should include at least three complimentary goals: supporting economic development and growth, reducing and avoiding future emissions, and building resistance to climate change.

Because, within the framework of the Agreement's temperature objective, the agreement sets a worldwide goal on adaptation that aims to build resilience, increase adaptive capacity, and decrease susceptibility to climate change. The objective is to considerably enhance domestic adaptation endeavors, including assistance and global collaboration. It acknowledges that adaptation is a universal difficulty that everyone must encounter. In addition to creating and carrying out national adaptation plans, all



parties involved in the adaptation process should submit and update an adaptation communication detailing their goals, requirements, plans, and course of action regularly. It is important to acknowledge the adaptation efforts made by developing nations.

Despite the agreement, Ethiopia's successive governments have worked to balance the effects of climate change with growth to reach lower-middle-income status. To achieve this aim, they also adopted various economy-wide sustainable developments, green, and climate-resilient initiatives, and policies.

The country has developed several programs to combat climate change and construct a climate-resilient economy. Greening and farming concerns for sustainable agricultural practice, improving effective water management, and prioritizing investments in renewable energy-based irrigation systems, for example, are critical to supporting eco-friendly and resource-efficient practices.

It has also made significant investments in renewable and green energy resources. Ethiopia can create approximately

60,000 megawatts of sustainable energy by developing hydropower, solar, wind, and geothermal sources, according to studies. Considering this, Ethiopia is trying to increase its present power-generating capacity and double its energy consumption efficiency by 2030. This is critical to achieving universal access to power, reducing reliance on biomass fuel, and allowing enterprises to meet their Net Zero commitments by 2050.

Bold moves have also been made by Ethiopia in the transportation sector. The nation implemented policies to promote the use of electric vehicles to slow down climate change. As a consequence, the number of hybrid and electric vehicles on the road has significantly increased, and the macroeconomic weight of fuel imports has decreased. Ethiopian Airlines is similarly updating its fleet by purchasing new, energy-efficient planes. Moreover, the nation's electrified railroads represent an increasing non-motorized transportation network that is developing into a mass transit system.

Aside from attempting to tackle climate change in various ways, Ethiopia has demonstrated actual examples and is

committed to the Paris Agreement on a national level. Because the country created homegrown solutions and has been using them to reduce emissions and enhance resilience. The current administration has also committed to lessening the harmful effects of climate change through the Green Legacy initiative program, which involves individuals all around the country.

More specifically, the Ethiopian Green Legacy initiative is a powerful natural-based solution introduced in 2019 and executed over the previous five years. The country created 130,000 nurseries around the country, and millions of individuals participate in planting and protecting the seedlings each year. The Green Legacy initiative is a proactive reaction to critical environmental and social-economic concerns. It reduces carbon emissions, preserves our biodiversity, creates jobs, and boosts sectors such as tourism.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (Dr.) stated that "the green legacy initiative has achieved remarkable success by planting 32.5 billion seedlings." Our goal is to reach 15 billion people by 2026. When finished, the endeavor will be the world's largest afforestation project. Because we share tree seedlings with our neighboring nations, the influence of the initiative reaches beyond boundaries. It can also serve as a catalyst throughout Africa, supplementing current programs like the Africa Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative and the Great Green Wall."

He also mentioned that Ethiopia invested in its Green Legacy project year after year. He stated that seedling preparations for the 2024 planting season are underway. Ethiopia has been involved in extensive afforestation efforts under its Green Legacy Initiative, which was inaugurated in 2019. By organizing more than 20 million individuals, the country has been able to plant more than 32.5 billion seedlings nationally. The country intends to plant 50 billion seedlings by 2026. "From year to year, we're investing in our Green Legacy," added the premier. Preparations for next year's planting season have already started."

Indeed, the green legacy efforts not only prevent climate change but also assist the country in transforming its food system, since climate, biodiversity, water, people, and food systems are all interconnected. Furthermore, as part of the Green Legacy effort, the government has greatly extended the production of perennial crops and fruits as well as diversified sectors and encouraged nutrition-sensitive agriculture. Therefore, Ethiopia's Green Legacy program has met the Paris Agreement's goal of achieving collective global action for increased climate mitigation, afforestation, and food security.

Art & Culture

Closed ranks earth and sky

BY ALEM HAILU G/KRISTOS

As modesty,
Another form
Of beauty,
Is God's identity
Christ,
The incarnated word,
The Omnipresent God
Revealed himself
In a human flesh,
Formed from
His breath
And a sod.

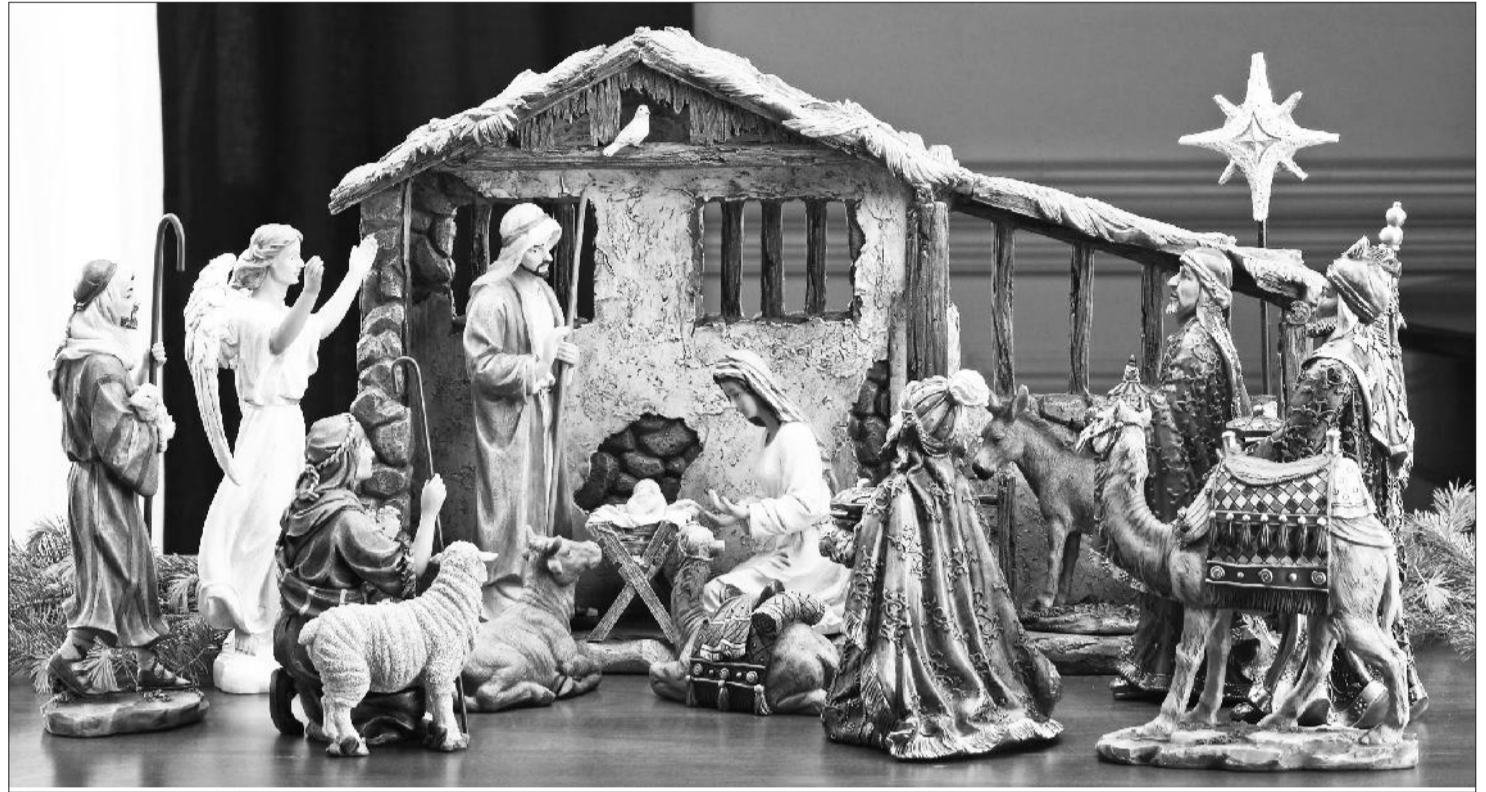
The Omnipotent
Sucked milk
In Saint Mary's hold
Humble, born in a barn
Confined in tiny chest
And small height
Humankind's mold;
What an unmatched
Miracle down
Generation lane
To be told;
Considerate cows
And donkeys
With their breath
Protected Him
From biting cold.

Angels felicitated
Shepherds
"A King Child
A Child God
Is born in Bethlehem
True to what prophets
The unfolding told."

Threatened by
Herod's sword
Evacuating the place
Soon
They had to be bold.

Though outside
Awaits them
A blanket of snow
They know
To trekking
The eye-blinding
White road
They couldn't
Say "NO".

Three wise men



Came from far
Led by a
Peculiarly shining
And pointing star.
They came
With myrrh
To draw
Attention to
The Omniscient
Baby's crucifixion
Flogged to death
By those
That proved
Devoid of
Mental health.

The three came with
Frankincense
To show
He is Almighty God
And also with Gold
A precious thing
To show He is a King.

After jealousy-burnt
Herod
Further learnt
From the wise men
Of a Special Child
Ease he couldn't find;
"Wise men
If you want to pay
Homage to
The king child
The same gesture
I have in mind
Come back
This way
Be kind,

For otherwise
The mysterious
Barn how could
I find?"
But the wise men
Took another way
Not believing
Every bit
About what
He has to say.

An angel was urging
Joseph to take
"The child and
The mother far
The child's beheading
By Herod's unsheathed
Brandishing sword
To bar,
Is there anything
Like immigration
Life that mar?
Then
In the absence of car
Began hitting the road
Saint Mary, Christ
On donkey's back
Probably Joseph
And Salome not
Carrying a bite,
Also water in a jar.

As devil
Incarnated in a snake
Duped Eve
To the curse,
Doom of man
Double crossing Satan
By the rule of

His own game
God beat him in
A holy way
Doing the same.

On Christmas
Men and angels
Otherwise asunder
Drew closer
Also sky and earth
Closed ranks
To mark Christ's birth.
Like iron bar and fire
Word and flesh
God and Man
United one
To the
Bafflement of Satan.
The wise men
To Christ
Proffered a gift,
Following suit
We offer gratuities
Many hearts to uplift.

Forgiveness
Modesty, empathy
Peace and love
We have to put
Everything above
Why?
Because
Christ was attracted
From the sky
To the extent
Our identity to buy
So as to mend
God-and-man's
Relation severed.

Society

Cultivating peace with indigenous values!

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Ethiopia is home to numerous ethnic groups, each with its unique cultural heritage and traditions. However, ethnic tensions have often caused divisions and strife. The newly established Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) sought to act as a bridge between these communities, facilitating dialogues that aim to resolve conflicts and promote understanding. By creating an environment conducive to constructive conversations, the commission enables individuals to engage in open and honest exchanges, thereby fostering reconciliation and long-term peace.

In a diverse and multicultural country like Ethiopia, fostering peace and harmony among its various communities is of paramount importance. With a history marred by ethnic tensions and conflicts, the Ethiopian government recognized the need for a dedicated institution to address these issues and promote dialogue. Thus, the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) was established with the primary objective of cultivating peace and unity across the nation. Thus, the ENDC is expected to play a paramount role towards achieving its goals and contribute more in the efforts of building a peaceful, stable, and prosperous Ethiopia.

Following the establishment of the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (NDC) various segments of the society have been expressing optimism that the NDC will play a crucial role in cultivating peace and harmony within the diverse Ethiopian society. Recognizing the significance of peace for the nation's development and prosperity, the NDC embraces indigenous values as a foundation to promote sustainable peace. By fostering national dialogue and leveraging the cultural heritage of Ethiopia, the NDC aims to address conflicts, bridge differences, and build a united and inclusive society.

No doubt, the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission plays a pivotal role in reconciling differences and nurturing understanding among diverse communities. Its functions encompass facilitating constructive dialogues, promoting inclusivity, and coordinating efforts toward peace building. By bringing together individuals from various backgrounds and ideologies, the ENDC serves as a platform for open discussions, fostering greater empathy and mutual respect.

According to the Commission, one of the key responsibilities of the ENDC is to address historical grievances that have engendered conflicts in Ethiopia. By examining past injustices and acknowledging the pain experienced by different communities, the commission provides an avenue for healing and reconciliation. Through its inclusive approach, the ENDC endeavors to ensure that all voices are heard and that marginalized groups receive the acknowledgment they deserve.

Recently, the National Dialogue Commission (NDC) said it has utilized



indigenous conflict resolution mechanisms and values to discharge its mission of bringing lasting solutions to Ethiopia's longstanding and contentious problems.

Approached by the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Commissioner Yonas Adaye (PhD) stated that due attention is given to utilize local actors and traditional community-based conflict-solving mechanisms for the successful conduct of the dialogue. The commission plans to conduct the dialogue in the forthcoming Ethiopian year.

Values, norms, and beliefs practiced by the members of the community are vital for national consensus and the National Dialogue will be held from grass root to higher level and embraces religious fathers, elders and community leaders. "As the saying goes: 'When in Rome, do as Romans do' we are rich in traditional conflict resolution norms and we will employ such experience in our mission."

To achieve the commission's mission and register sustainable development and peace,

it is not mandatory to go abroad, rather use the local conflict-resolution mechanisms and the knowledge in the years to come, he noted.

"The security of each of us is guaranteed in the existence of others. Social values that are found in different parts of the country are vital for mutual understanding. Thus, we will use all methods of conflict resolution and prevention in the National Dialogue."

Yonas added: "We may apply international experiences that will best fit with our context. Still, indigenous conflict resolution mechanisms and norms will have an indispensable role in our activities in years to come."

The active participation of people at the grass root level is a more viable approach to seek lasting solutions to Ethiopia's deep rooted problems than elite bargain. Ethiopia's common values that keep the survival of the country for long will undoubtedly serve to overcome the existing and emerging challenges, the commissioner

emphasized.

More importantly, trust is an essential element in any community. The ENDC recognizes this and works diligently to cultivate trust among various stakeholders. Through its dedicated efforts, the commission aims to bridge the gap between different communities and foster a sense of unity. By promoting empathy, understanding, and tolerance, the ENDC builds the foundation necessary for sustainable peace in Ethiopia.

Accordingly, the commission advocates for inclusive decision-making processes, where communities actively participate in shaping their own futures. By involving citizens in important dialogue sessions and policy discussions, the ENDC enables Ethiopians to have a stake in the peace building process. This participatory approach empowers individuals, deepens their sense of ownership, and strengthens the fabric of Ethiopian society.

In sum, the ENDC also collaborates with existing governmental and non-governmental institutions. By partnering with organizations involved in conflict resolution and promoting peace, the commission leverages its resources and expertise to enhance Ethiopia's peace building efforts. This collaborative approach not only fosters synergy but also ensures that the nation benefits from the collective wisdom and experience of various stakeholders.

The ENDC established with a mission of creating conducive conditions for national consensus by identifying the root causes of deep division and discord among the Ethiopian society through research, and public dialogues, conducting national dialogue and presenting recommendations to the concerned bodies as well as designing the implementations monitoring system thereof, it was learned.

Law & Politics

Egypt's obsolete rhetoric: A sharp contradiction to Ethiopia's genuine stand on Abbay Dam

BY EYUEL KIFLU

The construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) has reached a significant milestone, marking a crucial step towards Ethiopia's ambition to become Africa's leading power exporter. As the project progresses, trilateral talks between Ethiopia, Sudan, and Egypt have been initiated to address concerns and ensure regional cooperation.

It is known that the country began building the Abbay Dam in 2011 with the aim of harnessing its vast water resources for economic development. To address some of the concerns of downstream nations, Sudan and Egypt, and foster regional cooperation, trilateral talks were initiated between the three countries. These negotiations aim to find a mutually beneficial solution that ensures Ethiopia's development goals are met while safeguarding the interests of downstream nations.

The most recent and anticipated negotiation was the fourth and last round of trilateral negotiations, which took place in Addis Ababa and featured productive discussions between delegates from all three nations. In accordance with the agreement that Egyptian President Abdel Fatah el Sisi and Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed struck on July 13, 2023.

However, Egypt is engaged in manipulative fantasies of the colonial era Nile agreement. Claiming that these are historical rights, Cairo is working tirelessly and sacrificing everything to preserve the unfair and antiquated colonial agreements.

Regional collaboration in the Nile Rivers is being impeded by Egypt's unbalanced stance. Egypt's claims of historical rights are seen by other countries bordering the Nile as nothing more than historical injustice that goes against the ideas of a win-win strategy and shared resource management in the twenty-first century.

Egypt, emboldened by its masters, has been unjustly taking the benefits of shared resources for centuries, unopposed and unquestioned. Other members, such as Ethiopia, the river's source, have been left in the dark while the nation has had exclusive use of the Nile, leaving them as bystanders.

Though the GERD is a national and sovereign project solely funded and constructed by Ethiopians, the country has been doing its level best not only to bring the downstream countries on board but also to find a common ground where the three countries would be able to benefit from the colossal dam. Despite the encouraging developments, Egypt continued to be a roadblock to any attempts at mutual understanding on unresolved GERD-related issues.

Egypt, on the other hand, has been sluggish to take new steps and has been dragging its heels to uphold the unjust system. Ethiopia's approach is friendly

and sincere, in stark contrast to the actions of the country.

Ethiopia has been to Washington, Cairo, and Khartoum to talk with downstream nations over the years, demonstrating its unwavering commitment to using diplomacy and peaceful methods to settle disputes.

Nevertheless, the fourth round of negotiations ends without a deal due to Cairo Oldies' unsatisfactory offer and wayward thinking. Furthermore, the nation continues to spread misleading information through the media.

According to ENA GERD Negotiation Team Chairman, Sileshi Bekele, stated that Egypt should cease its misguided propaganda and media campaign because negotiations are the only way to settle the dam's disputes. Despite certain differences, the entire negotiating process has been progressive, he added.

The downstream nations have been urged to return to the negotiating table Sileshi said. Recall that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also rejected the statement of Egypt that violates the UN Charter and the Constitutive Act of the African Union. It has also rejected the misrepresentation of its positions by Egypt.

"There is no significant difference from Article one to five of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam," Ethiopia's Sileshi said, elucidating the progress made by the tripartite committees. Harmonizing such pieces would be simple.

The key difference is found in article six, which talks about the share of water and water-related concerns. According to Sileshi, this article also addressed the management of water during drought conditions and its flow from the Renaissance Dam.

He claims that since the dam releases more water from the reservoir during droughts, the downstream nations are greatly blessed by it. The dam reservoir will partially discharge water in the event of a drought.

Sileshi emphasized the importance of making sure that no country is harmed by water sharing, and Ethiopia wants the problem resolved through the 2015 Declaration of Principles, which encourages fair water use without seriously harming any country.

He listed the adjustment of water from GERD, where Ethiopia is willing to discharge 31 billion cubic meters yearly, as one of the other issues impeding the deal. "We stated that future adjustments are required. This is due to the fact that it will result in issues for both the current and upcoming generations. This is the primary issue, and it is difficult to resolve. Sudan and Egypt maintain that we won't be making any changes.

Furthermore, a water share arrangement from the colonial era was subtly suggested, especially by Egypt. "Such a strategy that harms our nation will not

succeed, particularly the way they are claiming to share the water allocation and expecting Ethiopia to approve them. This is entirely incorrect. He emphasized that no nation totally gives up its resources.

As an upstream nation, Sileshi reiterated that Ethiopia has no plans to consume Nile water alone, saying, "We have pushed for a dream together to bring regional integration." Ethiopia has not adopted a hard stance as a result, and it will continue to work toward developing the Nile River without endangering other nations while also ensuring negotiating transparency.

Political Economic Analyst for Africa, Lawrence Freeman told The Ethiopian Herald that Egypt is motivated by a type of ideology dependent on what it claims historical rights rather than understanding the implication of the Abbay Dam.

In order to come to a consensus on the matter, he stated that Egypt should put more effort into realizing the development potential of the Abbay Dam than it should into stubbornly defending an erroneous historical right to a share of the water.

He said that nobody could have a historical right since the dam is on the Blue Nile (Abbay River). "There is no real argument there. I think the Egyptians want a guaranteed amount of water that will flow to the Aswan dam and that cannot be delivered and the Ethiopians would be remiss and wrong in my view if they guaranteed it because they can't," he said. But they can be joined in collaboration and he noted that Egyptians are currently denying their ability to work together.

According to Freeman, Abbay Dam is a dam for producing hydropower for development in which the electricity is ready to be exported to Djibouti, Kenya, and Sudan. It needs to look at the potential of this increase injection of 5150 megawatts as a potential to develop nations in the Blue Nile and the White Nile, he added. He also noted that Egypt doesn't want to see Ethiopia as a major economic competitor, which is a false way of looking at the potential rather than countries uniting together for economic development.

"Ethiopia is claiming the right of sovereignty over its river systems and energy production. And I don't think much is going to change from that. And I don't think there's anything the Egyptians are going to do that's going to change it. And the Egyptians have maintained that they must have so much water guaranteed for them every year, which is impossible for Ethiopia to do," he elaborated.

Ethiopia is still hopeful, nevertheless, that Cairo will return to negotiations led by the AU and cooperate. Furthermore, the former stated once again how inappropriate the colonial arrangement is and how keen it is to work with countries downstream.

The GERD is a national and sovereign project solely funded and constructed by Ethiopians, the country has been doing its level best not only to bring the downstream countries on board but also to find a common ground where the three countries would be able to benefit from the colossal dam



Ephrem Endale
Contributor

Between you & me

Craving for Conspiracy Theory-Free Discussions

A young lady was recently so frustrated and depressed she was saying all kinds of things and friends were worried. The way she behaved was so strange and unlike her some feared she was headed for the worst. But then the reason for her being so upset was in a way one of those trivial incidents which many wouldn't have given a second thought. It was something most people would have brushed away and even forgotten within minutes. But for some reason she takes what happened to her as personal offense.

Her story was that she was having a chat with a former friend who recently came home from Europe after more than a decade. They say the two former chums talked about those little and harmless topics which are meant solely for entertainment and time-killing purposes. After minutes it so happened they somehow stumbled upon more sensitive issues; politics and religion. These were the very issues most of us prefer to keep at arm's length as they are issues which for years have broken relationships and even brought down entire households and put groups against each other. The story later was that it was not the local lady but the former friend who brought up the issues. She first jumps head on into politics and says all kinds of things much of which was nothing but hate-mongering targeting certain individuals, groups and in some ways entire societies.

The local girl listened to every word without much emotion as this was a scenario she sees

once in a while though kept her distance from being pulled into all the nonsense, as most so-called talk these days is nothing but nonsense and highly information and knowledge deficient. This time she had a couple of words for the lady who by some tyranny of nature was filled with hatred for some individuals and groups and didn't even try to hide it. And as it was difficult to take sense and substance where both don't exist the local girl tells her former friend that she didn't have to be so hate filled as it impacts on her vision of the real picture. As she talked for several minutes trying to play the nice girl on the block role and sort of a one-woman peacemaker the former friend kept her eyes fixed on her. After the young lady was done with what she wanted to say she pauses and several minutes of uneasy calm descend. The former friend kept while her eyes were still on the young lady.

"Hey. Are you alright?"

"Yes I am. Why do you think I'm not?"

I wasn't thinking that. Since you remained quite I thought maybe you're thinking of other things."

The uneasy calm continued and when the former friend decided to break it she did it in the most despicable of ways.

"I never thought you have joined (such and such) group?"

"What! How do you think of me like that?"

"You've changed so much..." and she goes

actually accusing the young lady manes. "You've hanged so much." the shocked young lady remained quiet and the former friend continues with her political diatribe which was so shockingly elementary. The girl's friends say there was nothing political about it and it was pure low level gossip and the like. The young girl practically walked out and never answered the former friend's repeated calls even after she returned to Europe.

They say several months back his same girl had another nasty encounter where she lost still another friend. This time they were talking about various YouTube and TikTok sites. At first, so they say, it was a lovely chat with all kinds of jokes and humor. But that didn't last. A couple of YouTube sites were raised as the main talking points. Here, all the humor and friendly air practically melted into the thin air. Words that could be synonyms with 'hatred' come flying from the friend. The two didn't have the slightest agreement on any of the sites raised. It so happens that the friend's hatred for the sites the young girl adored broke all boundaries of and it was difficult to find space for intelligent and polite discussions. The friend goes on to heap insults on the people who run the sites our young lady adored. That was too much for her to take. They say she at first tried to reason with her friend, saying there was no need for insults and verbal abuse. Then the friend turns on her and our young lady becomes a target herself. After they separated, she refused to have anything to do with her friend. No amount of cajoling and

convincing could make her change her mind. After that incident, she vowed not to talk to friends again. However, with the lady from Europe, she made the exception and it was a decision she regretted.

These days calm, polite and cultured discussion on any issue even with those closet to us has become difficult. Comments and no-string-attached personal opinions are usually taken out of context and because of it friendships, relationships have gone down the drains.

Look, it's not about sensitive issues like religion and politics where misunderstandings and the lack of tolerance to hear out the other side create all sorts of hurricanes and mini-tsunamis occur. Yes, issues of religion and politics are still as sensitive as they ever have been and there is no sign of the situation changing for the better any time soon. Many of us still avoid such issues because most of the time such issues end with nastiest kinds of disagreement. The strongest of friendships has been torn to splinters because of such issues. We're in such crazy times that even EPL games have across the Mediterranean and all the channels brake friendships in our own land! (When it comes to EPL, at times things were so bad with lives being lost people were calling for the banning of EPL games. just for the record.)

So we crave for times where conspiracy theory-free discussions are held with all the politeness, understanding and reasoning which are the only salvations for mankind.

Civilized vs Uncivilized! Where is the Jury?

"Have you seen our friend lately?"

"About whom are you talking?"

"That guy who really got some job in a western embassy."

"Oh him! What about him?"

"The guy has gone through a complete makeover."

"What do you mean?"

"The way he dresses, the way he walks, even the way he talks is so different he already looks like the civilized ferenji!" (Don't worry the guy saying all ferenji are civilized.)

"What does a civilized ferenji look like?"

"Looks like the civilized ferenji!" that's the master key to it all. It might be hard to digest especially in this age of tons information and even more tons of misinformation. Somewhere down the line much of society has been made to believe that all the ferenji are civilized. 'Hip, hip hooray!' Well this is not about some body of people congregating around a conference table and giving the titles of 'civilized' and 'uncivilized' to nations and people. Here is what many unfortunately would take as the sweetest news of all; if someone equates you with a ferenji with some "He looks like a ferenji..." comment it means you are heads and shoulders above everybody else. The sad story here is that such outlooks still persist among many.

I've this father of three friend who is one worried soul these days. He had two seventh

graders and a high school senior kids. It so happened that one teacher of the seventh graders recently talked to them about what civilization meant. You can say that this was one of those impossibly difficult and contentious issues to deal with. You can talk about such issues around cups of coffee or bottles of beer, But orienting students about what civilization meant especially in these days of total global confusion is a must be a daunting task. Whoever chooses to take up the challenge must either be some person who likes such challenges or someone who have carved out their own ideas of would love to send them out to the world.

Anyways what worries this father of three wasn't that his children have to face such difficult topics but the narratives of the teacher as played back for him by his early teen children. The teacher's idea of civilization were high rise buildings, things like electric train AI run production units and the like. Well it appears there's nothing wrong with such issues being described as examples of civilization, though there could be strong arguments. But the problem was that the teacher raised nothing about hat 'civilized' behavior meant. The person was never the agenda. Everything was about material things and that is could gravely lead the students to have wrong conclusions. The point here is these tender minds could easily be put on the wrong path and this brings about the danger of pulling them farther away from their quest for real uncontaminated knowledge. Even if we sit down to talk about the issue of what

civilization actually meant believe me it would talk where three of us would have taken thirty different ways each.

Civilization is about providing fair and just service. It is not about the high rises and the carpeted luxuriously furnished office. It isn't about the thirty-thousand-birr suit. It's about being human It is about the service rendered. You can't claim of being civilized while you can't even provide the most basic of services.

But then civilization is first and foremost about being humanely human and treating all human beings with the same respect and cordiality without prejudices and biases. The moment we veer away from such path that's where our claims of being civilized gets the knockout punch. Believe me most of us are on that floor on our backs looking at the sky I want to bring up a story I raised a couple of times before. It was the lengths we go to be considered uncivilized.

It is like saying that if you use knife and fork at every meal you're civilized and if not you aren't! Hogwash! I'm not going to mess with my Injera Bewot trying to use knife and fork. Decades back a group of us were in this East European country. The very first night of our arrival the twenty-plus of us sat for dinner in a dining hall. There were other ferenji and we were the only foreigners.

The main dish was filled with chicken breasts and legs and we were in a fix. How are we going go about eating it? We're in ferenji country and the proverbial yilugnta ties us hand and foot so as not to use our bare hands

and be seen as 'uncivilized!' No we weren't going give these ferenji reason to look down upon us. So we idled with crumbs of bread or something none of touching the chicken parts. Come on, the knife and fork things being alien to many of us yilugnta ruled over our rumbling stomachs. Then redemption came in ways we never thought of. In a far corner of the hall a heavyset ferenji had gigantic chicken leg firmly in his hands was tearing at it like he had some issue to settle. Well that did it and forty-plus hands went into action.

Going back to my friend's worry that the minds of his kids are being abused I share his concern. Recently the worried father's kids also heard that a teacher who's teaches another subject and not history indulges in some 'historical narratives' and the students were left confused as they were being told things which go against almost everything they have been hearing all along. The teacher goes way off the road telling the students that even commonly accepted and non-controversial historical happenings were all fiction. He goes to great length to dispel every aspect of the countries long history telling the students all history books and all historians of yesterday and the present were all liars and unqualified. He said they were writing historical fiction based on 'invented' history and not on facts. And what are the real facts?

Anyways we might as well look at our long surviving ideas of the aspects of being civilized vs being uncivilized. Where is the jury?

In Pictures

Construction of Koysha power plant 62 percent through

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) visited and reviewed the progress of the construction of Koysha Hydroelectric power project on Friday, this week. Koysha hydroelectric project with 1800 megawatts installed capacity is the second largest power plant in Ethiopia next to the Ethiopian Grand Renaissance Dam (GERD).

This week's visit to review Koysha project is his 12th since 2020. PM Abiy said that he witnessed a significant progress in the construction of the dam which is 62% through. The progress comes following the measures taken in project management and continuous follow-ups.

During his visit to review the project, PM Abiy discussed with the contractors and evaluated the construction progress of the power plant. He stressed the need to accelerate the construction.



Elephant Paw Lodge at Chebera Churchura National Park

Chebera Churchura National Park is located between Dawro Zone and Konta Unique Wereda. The park is home to 57 different mammals. The park is origin for over 49 different small and big rivers that flow in to Omo River and five lakes found within the park.

Now, Chebera Chrchura National Park includes a beautiful lodge which was built by the 'Dine for Nation' project under the Koysha tourism destination project. Through the Dine for Ethiopia project, Prime Minister Abiy launched Koysha, Wenchi and Gorgora projects and under the Koysha project are found Halalla Kela Resort, inaugurated on May 2023 and Elephant Paw Lodge, which is found within the Chebera Churchura National Park.

Djibouti National Assembly President visits Unity Park

Djibouti National Assembly President, Dileita Mohamed Dileita and his delegation visited the Grand Palace Unity Park. The President with his delegation was in Addis Ababa for official visit and discussed with the Ethiopian House of Peoples Representatives Speaker, Tagesse Chafo and delivered a speech at the parliament.

On Friday, Dileita Mohamed Dileita with his delegation visited Unity Park, which is found at the compound of the Prime Minister Office and which was built by the initiative of Prime Minister Abiy's 'Dine for Sheger' project.

During the visit, the National Assembly President emphasized that the heritages found within the park evoke pride not only among Ethiopians but also among Africans as well.

