



# The Ethiopian Herald

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## UAE

### Leader visits Ethiopia's Green Legacy Pavilion

BY BILAL DERSO

**ADDIS ABABA** - The United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan along with Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) visited the Ethiopian Green Legacy Pavilion yesterday in Dubai.

Premier Abiy said on his social media page,

"I thank my brother Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for visiting Ethiopia's Green Legacy Pavilion at COP-28 where we are showcasing strong commitment to address climate change through concrete solutions.

Information from the Prime Minister's office indicated that Ethiopia is promoting its green development work at the 28<sup>th</sup> edition of the

United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 28).

The two leaders visited the Ethiopian Pavilion before the official opening of the exhibition.

It is to be recalled that Ethiopia expressed its desire to make a meaningful participation in

*See UAE leader ... page 3*

### Ethiopia's BRICS admission not politically-motivated:

**MoFA**

• **Calls on CSOs to counter misinformation**

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA**- In applying to the BRICS economic bloc, the Ethiopian government does not plan to put itself in major powers' rivalry, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said, calling the CSOs engagement to neutralize misinformation.

The Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA) and civil society organizations (CSOs) discussed the purpose of Ethiopia's entry to BRICS yesterday.

In his opening remark at the discussion, MoFA State Minister Ambassador Misganu Arega indicated some interest groups have been disseminating false information about Ethiopia's accession to the block which could damage the country's interest.

The government has repeatedly informed the international community

*See Ethiopia's BRICS ... page 3*



Mamo Mihiretu (PhD)

### Ethiopia saves 1.5 bln USD via debt settlement

BY STAFF REPORTER

**ADDIS ABABA** – The National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) announced that the debt settlement works that have been done in the

*See Ethiopia saves ... page 3*

### Ethiopia, Angola to elevate diplomatic ties

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

**ADDIS ABABA** - Ethiopia and Angola have pledged to further elevate their diplomatic relations in a range of fields to the benefit of the two people and the continent at large.

The Republic of Angola marked the 48th anniversary of National Independence Day under the motto "United for the Development of Angola."

In his felicitation message to Angolans, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) African Affairs Director-General Ambassador Fisseha Shewel said that Ethiopia and Angola have long-standing bilateral relations despite changes in governments in both countries.

Ethiopia envisages that these bilateral relations need to be further strengthened to the benefit of the peoples of the two countries and Africa at large, he noted.

*See Ethiopia, Angola ... page 3*





የኢትዮጵያ ሀገራዊ ምክክር ቤቅ ስሜት ስር ETHIOPIAN NATIONAL DIALOGUE COMMISSION

## Commission to commence online meeting with Diaspora soon

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA** - The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) announced that it will start online meeting with foreigners of Ethiopian origin, the Diaspora community on 9 December, 2023.

As to the information gained from the Commission, it has already made appropriate preparations and announced that it will hold the first round of online meeting.

The commission also stated that the first round meeting will be held with Ethiopians living in Africa and the Middle East. The meeting will start at 3 pm in the stated period, and the commission called up on the Diaspora Community to be active participants in the meeting as it is determined the future of nation. It means that the meeting is expected to play a vital role in determining crucial factors for Ethiopia, of course with coexistence and unity exercised at home.

The Commission thanked those who had already registered and urged that to patiently wait to attend the webinar prepared for an intended national objective. The commission has also announced to send zoom link for participants through email. Besides, the meeting will be made sustained in different parts of the world considering the convenient of the local time (time zone), and the date and specific time will be introduced (announced) through commission's official page.

It is to be recalled that the commission called for an online meeting with foreigners of Ethiopian origin on June 27/2022. However, the meeting was extended for an indefinite period as the commission found it necessary to postpone it for a better preparation and approach.

# EBA expedites Ethiopia's export to EU

• *EU Chamber issues two policy briefs to Ethiopian gov't*

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

**ADDIS ABABA** - Ethiopia's export to Europe steadily grew at an annual rate of six percent over the last years under the European Union's 'Everything But Arms', (EBA) agreement, the bloc's ambassador to Ethiopia revealed.

The ambassador's remark came at the forum organized by the EU Chamber in Ethiopia here yesterday. During the event, the Chamber announced two policy briefs on forex disbursement and customs administration aiming at improving Ethiopia's business climate.

Speaking at the occasion, EU Ambassador to Ethiopia Roland Kobia said the country has become a meaningful player in the European market and capitalized on EBA efficiently.

"The EU has kept this preferential trade treatment, which is unilateral, which is non-reciprocal, only to the benefit of Ethiopia. When it comes to having no customs duties, 0 percent of customs duties for all products of Ethiopia are exported to the EU, and also no quantitative restrictions."

The ambassador further noted that Ethiopian exports under the EBA have been growing on an average of six percent and in the last five years only, the country's total value of exports to the EU was at approximately 140 billion Birr.

Most strikingly, the exports to the EU grew the fastest last year, by 47 percent increase,"



he said, adding over the last decade, the total investment stock of European companies in Ethiopia has reached 2.5 billion euros. "These investments create direct jobs for more than 115,000 Ethiopians."

European Chamber Board Chairman for Ethiopia Ben Depraetere said they have issued two policy briefs titled 'solving the crunch: Recommendations for Forex challenges' and 'Optimizing customs processes' to the Ethiopian government. The documents cover key issues including challenges that foreign and domestic investors have been facing in Ethiopia and presenting policy recommendations to the government.

"The research documents do not aim at

all potential pathways for addressing the researched challenges," the chairman noted, adding that the recommendations are rather focused on creating a platform for further discussion through public-private dialogue. "The whole purpose is to identify those areas that are open for further improvement."

"A few months from now we will see the launch of two more policy briefs on the topics of taxation and access to land, he remarked."

The EU Chamber in Ethiopia in collaboration with Business Environment and Investment Climate, including e-government (BEIC) project has launched an Investors' Guide to Ethiopia's business environment with all the necessary details, announced at the event.

## GARE grants Gondar University medical equipment

• *Equipment worth over 15 mln. Birr*

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

**ADDIS ABABA** - Global Alliance for the Rights of Ethiopians (GARE) has provided Gondar University with medical supplies amounting to over 15 million Birr so as to fuel its service to the people in dire need.

Speaking at the handover ceremony yesterday, GARE Country Representative Besufekad Abay said that the alliance has been extending its unwavering support to many people who are affected by the conflict and flood in the nation since its inception.

The representative said, "The alliance has been facing problems in due course of being at the forefront in times of difficulties. Despite challenges, it has delivered medical equipment to Gondar University worth over 265,000 USD in a bid to promote capacities of health centers and enhance service delivery."

In addition to humanitarian aid support, Besufekad said, adding that the institutions' executive directors and board members have been visiting the vulnerable communities in different times.



So far, the institution has reached the needy, displaced people in flood affected areas of Amhara, Somali, Afar, Tigray and other parts of that country.

Lauding the unreserved support of MEDWISH foundation, the country representative pledged to reach drought affected people in South Gondar areas, too.

Gondar University President Asrat Atsedewoyin (PhD) on his part stated that these medical supplies would be of paramount importance in fostering university hospital's services delivery.

Mentioning the institution's continuous support made in different times, the president elucidated that this donation differs from the previous one both in kind and quantity.

He also urged foreigners of Ethiopian origin and the diasporas to join forces thereby contributing a lot in terms of material, finance and knowledge.

It is to be recalled that the Global Alliance donated about 15 million Birr medical supplies to Black Lion Specialized Hospital for sanitizer production and Woldya health centers for rehabilitation program, among others.

## NBE working on stabilizing macro-economy

BY MESERET BEHAILU

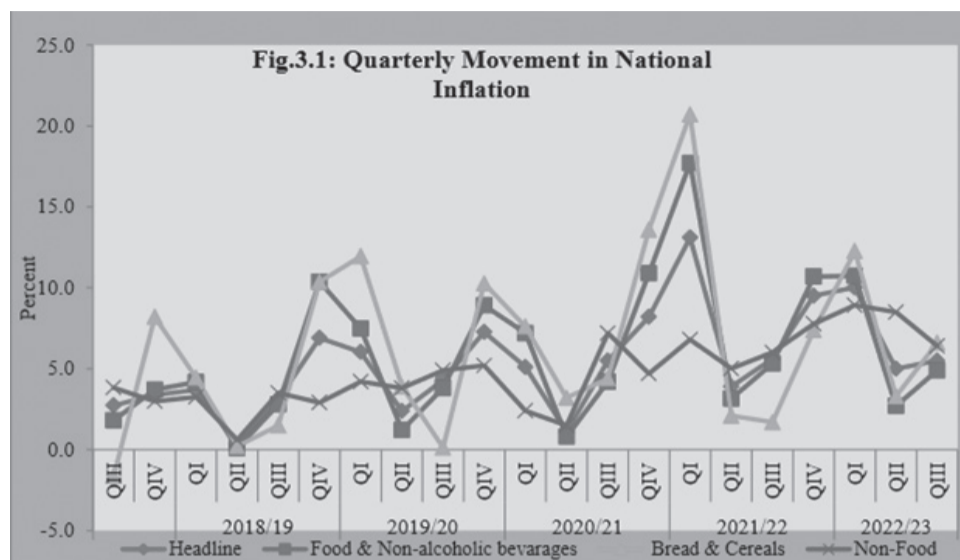
**ADDIS ABABA** – National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) expressed that works are being intensified to stabilize the macro-economy and reduce challenges hindering the national development.

Last Wednesday, NBE Governor Mamo Mihretu (PhD) was presented the 1st quarter year performance report to the Plan Budget and Finance Affairs Standing Committee of the House of People Representatives.

On the occasion, the Governor said that the bank is working on stabilizing macro-economy and eliminating development bottlenecks through establishing a clear system and ensuring accountability.

As to him, the world economy has been experiencing shocks emanated from political unrest, war, climate change, and the likes over the past years. Consequently, the amount of loan that the developed countries grant to the developing ones is diminishing.

Despite the challenges, Ethiopia has achieved a 7.2 % economic growth last year and an average of 6.5% growth for the past four consecutive periods. This



National Bank of Ethiopia quarterly bulletin

trend has showcased that the country is building resilient economy in East Africa, he stressed.

“The bank works to ensuring financial stability and inclusion, and deepening digitalization, realizing operational, human and technological excellence, and establishing good governance to achieve the expected result in the sector,” he added.

Working in collaboration with stakeholders,

the Governor stated that the NBE strives to reducing inflation which is serious factor in the country at present.

Last September, the government had reduced inflation by 27.7 % that reached 30 % over the past two years. The governor pointed out that weak transport networks, traders’ incompetence and policy issues, demand-supply mismatch, and conflict are among the major causes of inflation in Ethiopia.

## Ethiopia saves 1.5..

past three months enabled the country to retain about 1.5 billion USD.

While presenting the first quarter year performance report to the parliament, NBE Governor Mamo Mihretu (PhD) expressed that the most extensive and successful task the bank undertook in the past three months is that it has managed to reduce about 1.5 billion USD from the national debt through reaching agreement with creditors on an interim based debt service suspension.

The country has been repaying two billion USD of the external debt annually while undertaking development projects side by side, it was learnt.

Therefore, Mamo said, reducing such amount of cash outflow helps to ensure a stable foreign currency management.

Responding to the queries of MPs about the effectiveness of policy measures on currency and inflation control, he noted that the nation shouldn’t allow the inflation rate the way as it is.

Mentioning that the NBE and the National Macroeconomic Committee are primarily working on fixing the inflation rate the Governor said, “That’s why we are taking strong fiscal policy measures.”

Another concern raised by the MPs was that illegal marketing is depriving the country’s benefits from Gold that has become one of the main sources that increase financial reserve.

In relation to this concept, Mamo stated that the government is working on bringing gold products to the right market place so as to exploit the abundant gold production appropriately.

The NBE is playing its due role in facilitating the gold market to be traded legally in a way that increase the national reserve, he indicated.

The Plan, Budget and Finance Affairs Standing Committee Chair Dessalegn Wodajo on his part noted that the bank ought to exert more efforts to reduce inflation and increase foreign currency earnings.

It requires hard work to control inflation, illegal trading, and balance of trade, he stated. The bank also need to strive to improve availability of foreign currency.

## UAE Leader visits...

the Cop 28 and to work closely with the UAE on the green development and climate change arenas.

The 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference, aka Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC or COP28 is being held from 30 November until 12 December 2023 at Expo City, Dubai. The conference has been held annually since the first UN climate agreement in 1992. The COP conferences are intended for governments to agree on policies to limit global temperature rises and adapt to impacts associated with climate change.

## Ethiopia’s BRICS...

about the clear agenda Ethiopia has in BRICS. But, some rumors are still on air and misleading governmental and nongovernmental entities including the CSOs. “The admission has no purpose beyond development partnership,” Ambassador Misganu asserted.

“Some consider joining the BRICS as avoiding Western global powers and giving a political backup to the founding members, but it is untrue that Ethiopia will not be part of ideological contentions. We need to diversify our developmental partners and the CSOs should be aware of Ethiopia’s inclusive diplomacy.”

The state minister further explained that as an economic bloc of Global South, Ethiopia deserves membership in the BRICS family and its appeal does not emanate from conspiracy or to make itself the venue for political contest. Ethiopia will continue its partnership with countries from four corners

of the globe.

Civil Societies Authority Deputy Director General Fasikaw Molla said on his part that the government needs to continue discussions with CSOs to be aware of its clear agenda over BRICS entry.

The government considers the impact of regional, continental and global affairs; So, Ethiopia’s admittance to BRICS may be a concern of CSOs and it is crucial to keep informing CSOs about its diplomacy, he emphasized.

An assessment research conducted by the IFA also disclosed that CSOs have recognized the significance of Ethiopia’s BRICS admission to the national economy and to democratize the global economic institutions.

Some CSOs expressed their concern that Western donor groups may cut their aid due to Ethiopia’s admittance to BRICS.

## Ethiopia, Angola to elevate...

Ethiopia was supportive of Angola’s anti-colonial struggle, which helped the people of Angola finally achieve their well-deserving freedom, he said.

Ambassador Fisscha also said that Ethiopia attaches great importance to its relationship with the Republic of Angola and desires to continue further consolidating collaboration, especially on key bilateral, regional, and global matters.

As to the Ambassador, the two countries have learned that cooperation and collaboration is vital for their collective

survival.

“We want a prosperous Africa based on sustainable and equitable development. Also, we want a united Africa that aspires to fulfill the ideals of Pan Africanism and the vision of an African Renaissance,” he said.

According to the Director General, the event reaffirms the close collaboration between Ethiopia and Angola, manifesting the multitude of relations between the two countries.

Ambassador of Angola to Ethiopia, Miguel Cesar Domingos Bembe on his part said

that the bonds of friendship and cooperation between Angola and Ethiopia are historic and interoperable.

According to him, the relation between the two nations is a testimony of their shared values, aspirations, and collective commitments aiming for progress and sustainable development, always in defense of pan-Africanism and multilateralism, to materialize the “Africa we want.”

Amb. Bembe also said that both countries have economic potential that serves as a driving force capable of stimulating more

comprehensive bilateral cooperation with investment opportunities and partnerships in key areas of common interest.

“We reiterate our determination and commitment to strengthen and expand the relations of cooperation between Angola and Ethiopia, contributing to the development process of both countries,” he said.

It was on November 11, 1975, through the voice of the first President of the Republic, the late António Agostinho Neto (PhD), that Angola officially became independent.

# Opinion

# Africa

## Two parliaments without legislations

BY MELAKU MULUALEM

The African Union (AU) was officially launched in July 2002 in Durban, South Africa. It replaces the former Organization of African Unity (OAU) which was established in 1963 in Addis Ababa. Based on the Constitutive Act, the African Union has nine organs. These are the Assembly of the Union; the Executive Council; the Pan-African Parliament; the Court of Justice; the Commission; the Permanent Representatives Committee; the Specialized Technical Committees; the Economic, Social and Cultural Council; and the Financial Institutions.

The focus of this piece is on the parliaments of Africa. Africa has two continental parliaments. These are the African Parliamentary Union (APU) and the Pan-African Parliament (PAP). APU is a continental interparliamentary organization established in Abidjan on 13 February 1976 as a “forum of National Parliaments of the African continent and as instrument of dialogue and parliamentary cooperation in the service of peace, democracy, good governance, and sustainable development”.

PAP was established in March 2004, by Article 17 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union. PAP members are designated by the legislatures of their Member States and members of their domestic legislatures. The ultimate aim of PAP is “to be an institution with full legislative powers, whose members are elected by universal suffrage. Until such time, the PAP has consultative, advisory and budgetary oversight powers within the AU”. At the time of the Pan African Parliament establishment, Addis Ababa was selected to be its seat. Later seat was moved to Midrand, South Africa.

APU and PAP have similarities and differences between them. One of the similarities is that both are working for the African continent in the name of parliament. They have also similarities in working on peace, development, good governance, and the like. They have also differences. APU was established at the time of OAU and continues to function up to now, whereas PAP was established by the AU as one of its organs. Unlike the APU, PAP is working for the integration of the continent. All 55 states of Africa are members of PAP, but only 41 National parliaments are members of the APU. Currently, both do not have legislative powers.

The objectives, functions, and rules of procedure of PAP are stated in the protocol of the Abuja Treaty. Based on this treaty PAP is expected to work on overseeing the implementation of AU policies and programs; promoting human rights and good governance; consolidating democratic institutions; creating awareness of the AU’s objectives; strengthening continental cooperation and development; promoting peace, security and stability; harmonization and coordination of Member States’ legislation; promoting

the coordination of the Regional Economic Communities’ policies, preparing and adopting its budget and providing recommendations on the AU budget.

The Abuja Treaty has set 34 years for the “final stage for the setting up of the structure of the Pan-African Parliament and election of its members by continental universal suffrage”. Since the Abuja Treaty was entered into force in 1994, the thirty-four-year target will be in the year 2028 i.e. after five years. Because of limited time, there is a need to take major stapes quickly to make the PAP fully functional. Otherwise, Africa will repeat the failure of “Silencing the Gun”.

Considering the absence of legislation function by PAP, it is hard to say that the continental organization is working on the above objectives properly. The African Union has no problem crafting objectives and mandates and passing decisions, but it lacks implementation. Thus there is a need to see leapfrog in the PAP to work on the above functions and fulfill the interests of the people of Africa. PAP and its Permanent Committees meet twice a year in their respective sessions. Taking this limited discussion time, it is also difficult to accomplish its very wide objectives. Biologically speaking the Pan African Parliament is at the “tissue” level rather than the “organ” level. After five years PAP is expected to be fully functional.

To substantiate the issue of this piece it is good to see the European Parliament which is made up of 705 members who are directly elected by the people. The Parliament acts as a co-legislator and also decides on the EU budget. The European Parliament “supervises the work of the Commission and other EU bodies and cooperates with national parliaments of EU countries to get their input”.

Of course, the European Parliament and the

parliaments of Africa have different contexts but have similar objectives-to make people of the continent participatory in continental agendas. Even if both the Pan-African Parliament and the European Parliament are supranational bodies, the European Parliament has transformed itself from limited power to a key player in the EU decision-making process. The European Parliament is also promoting “democracy and human rights – not only in Europe but also throughout the world”.

The European Union has more than 2000 legislations on various issues including agriculture, customs, external relations, foreign and security policy, education, energy, monetary, environment, and the like. Such legislation has played a great role in unifying the interests of member states and working together for common objectives. These decisions can be regarded as common positions of the member states in the European Union. The African Union should get the best examples of the European Union in crafting common positions of member states and speaking in one voice.

The Pan-African Parliament has 235 representatives who are elected by the domestic 47 parliaments of the 54 AU states. Each member state sends a delegation of five parliamentarians to the Parliament. The Pan African Parliament is still in its limited power of consultative and advisory role. Similar to the European Parliament, the Pan-African Parliament should be transformed into a key player in the African Union to make the voice of the people of the continent heard.

The European Parliament has legislative power and uses it properly. The law of the continental organization is binding to all members. For the sake of continental interests, national governments have given some of their

sovereign rights to the continental parliament. In the case of Africa, governments should be willing to give some of their sovereignty rights for the sake of the continental organization's interests. Otherwise, the Pan-African Parliament will be a paralyzed continental body of the African Union.

The role of the Parliament of the European Union is very vast. It is a glue to make common positions of the member states. On agreed positions, the member states will not kill time by debating with other nonmember states. For instance, the European Parliament has promulgated laws on climate issues. If there is any discussion of member states with other nonmember states, the member states will reflect the previous agreements and decisions of the European Parliament as their standards and guidelines. When we come to the African countries, we do not find many common positions like that of the European Union.

The members of the European Parliament are elected directly by the people of their respective countries, however, members of the Pan-African Parliament are designated by the legislatures of their respective governments. Since member states of the European Union have given some of their sovereign rights to the continental organization, they are consolidating their interests and moving forward. Because of this, the law of the European Parliament is binding to all member states.

Recently, the African Union has become a permanent member of the G20. In the future, the AU can also get a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council. The robust Pan Africa Parliament will make the interest of the member states to be consolidated. The PAP should take quick stapes that will transform itself into a legislative power. Governments of Africa should be willing to give some of their sovereign rights to the continental organization so that the continent can speak in one voice. This is determinant to the PAP to meet its objectives.

In conclusion, Africa has two parliaments, but without legislative powers. This is cumbersome and a waste of the limited resources of Africa. In my opinion, it is good to make the mandate of APU as mandate of a Directorate in a PAP and dissolve the former. If both parliaments discuss similar agendas including peace, democracy, development, and good governance, it is duplication of efforts and burning up of time and money. It is time to strengthen the Pan-African Parliament. Otherwise, the Pan-African Parliament will remain as a “talking shop” rather than becoming a functional organ of the African Union.

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



# Editorial

## Global problem requires global intervention!

Climate change continues to take a big and unprecedented toll on the planet Earth with the global phenomena showing no sign of slowing down. The grave ramification of the increasingly worrying problem has appeared more severe over time. And, the last decade was punctuated by extreme ends of weather situations as the world goes through bone-chilling weather and sweltering temperature. Natural disasters continue to occur across the globe equally impacting nations in spite of their varying contribution to the major threats of mankind.

Droughts, flash flooding, and other menaces have claimed millions of lives and displaced many creating an alarming humanitarian crisis. However, the repercussion of climate change is being felt intensively in developing countries where early warning systems and prevention methods are weak. Resource is also scarce and some nations have been struggling to overcome the dire humanitarian crisis they are faced with.

Interestingly, developing nations like Ethiopia have been engaged in massive tree planting and greenery projects in an effort to combat climate change. And, international support has ironically remained largely little with climate financing yet to materialize.

Although African nations have been the least emitters of carbon, they have been worst hit by the myriad of impacts of climate change. And, developed nations that have achieved economic growth at the expense of environmental pollution failed developed nations in terms of providing compensation. Actions are yet hard to come by while promises have been nothing but lip services. In what could be said insult to injury, developed nations turn a blind eye to the human carnage unfolding in African nations.

Oftentimes, the Horn of Africa where Ethiopia is located has been facing recurrent droughts and famine-like situations requiring the developing nations a huge chunk of money. Climate change is adding an insult to the conflict-ridden region. The magnitude of the problem demands the constant and unwavering engagement of the international community. For the time being Ethiopia and other countries have been doing their level best to cope up with the acute challenge mostly created by developed economies.

Currently, there are 7.3 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and the government has allotted over 7.9 billion Birr in two rounds to distribute the essentials. According to the National Disaster Risk Management Commission (NDRMC) Senior Public Relations Officer Atalele Abuhay, over the last forty-five days, in two rounds, the government delivered humanitarian assistance to some 7.3 million needy people located in North Gondar and Wag Hemra zones of the Amhara State as well as three zones of the Tigray State. Some 3.6 million people received cash assistance and the remaining citizens are beneficiaries of food-related items.

The officer further stated that the government has provided 610, 000 quintals of the crop, 54, 000 quintals of nutritious food, and one million liters of edible oil for children and pregnant women in the second round. Some 1.5 billion Birr cash has also been distributed through the support of the World Bank Group.

While Ethiopia has been trying to help those in need of humanitarian assistance through its national capacities, addressing the impacts of climate change and helping the victims of the global crisis is also the onus of the international community. Particularly, developed nations have also the moral duty and the responsibility to help African countries fight for the global cause.



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# Opinion

## Ethiopia's green legacy actions speak loud

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

The eyes and ears of the world are now in the heart of the United Arab Emirates, Dubai, where world leaders are meeting to exchange views and decide on the fate of our planet. Climate change is now a phenomenon that has been affecting the lives of people day in and day out.

The world has convened a number of summits, spoken more about the consequences of climate change, and passed decisions that have not been translated into action. The Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is mentioned in this regard.

The Cop 28 aims to address the climate crisis by agreeing on ways to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. This international conference, which commenced yesterday, is expected to pass important decisions that will be changed into practicality so as to save our plants from the impacts of climate change.

With the next round of these plans scheduled for 2025, the outcome of the global process could encourage countries to raise ambition and set new targets, exceeding existing policies and commitments.

Ethiopia is expected to actively participate and share its experiences in combating climate change and renewable energy. In this international conference, more than 130 countries will participate, and Ethiopia will share its experiences regarding the implementation of the green legacy initiative and the development of renewable energy.

Ethiopia's participation at the conference is a golden opportunity for the country not only to share its experiences with other developing countries but also to learn from best practices around the world. For those who want to take lessons from the Green Legacy Initiative, the gate of Ethiopia has remained open.

Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative has multiple targets, as it naturally touches on various targets of the 2030 Agenda. Contribution to food security is one of the objectives of the initiative. In 2022 alone, more than 500 million seedlings were plants that have premium values in local and international markets, such as avocados, mangoes, apples, and papayas.

This directly feeds into the current drive to become food self-sufficient by promoting sustainable agriculture as envisaged in Sustainable Development Goal 2. The Initiative is a major flagship project that will help attain its adaptation goals as set in the National Adaptation Plan. Ethiopia is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change.

Frequent droughts, floods, and locust infestations are some of the manifestations

of extreme climate events. Over the past four decades, the average annual temperature in Ethiopia is estimated to have risen by 0.37 degrees Celsius each decade. Directly linked to Goal 13 of the SDGs, this initiative complements Ethiopia's efforts to reduce its vulnerability.

Moreover, forest conservation, reforestation, restoration of degraded land and soil, as well as the promotion of sustainable management of forests Ethiopia's forest coverage has been declining for decades at an alarming rate. Between 2000 and 2013, the net loss of forest cover was 72,000 hectares per year, which is equivalent to 100,840 football fields.

The initiative intends to reverse this, as this is unsustainable in a country where 85 percent of the population depends on rain-fed agriculture. Overall, the innovative aspect of the initiative lies in its potential to address multiple objectives. This entails enormous benefits in environmental protection, restoration of overexploited and degraded natural resources such as surface soil and water, halting desertification, and many other interrelated objectives. The enormity of the inter-linkages will significantly contribute to Ethiopia's efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

In the meeting, Ethiopia's and other countries green experiences will be discussed, as will the challenges faced by countries and ways to enhance the fight against climate change. The implementation process of the Paris Climate Agreement and the financing of projects to combat climate change will also be evaluated at the conference.

In side meetings, the Ethiopian delegation will also hold bilateral discussions with various development organizations present at the conference. Ethiopia will carry out various activities, including ministerial side events and meetings with potential partners and decision-makers.

During the summit, an agreement will be reached to help increase the rate of reducing greenhouse gas and carbon dioxide emissions, which contributes to reducing the rate of increase in the planet's temperature to less than 1.5 degrees Celsius.

In my opinion, Ethiopia has been going forward with remarkable results in terms of implementing the green legacy initiative. Taking this into consideration, the world should give its ears to Ethiopia and draw lessons from its action against climate change.

Apart from appreciating what Ethiopia has already been and is doing, the world should learn from the green practices of the country and replicate the practice for the world at large.

The international funding agencies should also assist countries like Ethiopia, considering their commitment to reverse climate change at national and continental levels.

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

# Business & Economy

## Modern agricultural technology for the producers, consumers

BY BACHA ZEWDIE

The Agricultural Transformation Institute is one of the institutes established to modernize the agricultural sector. It is an institution that works by identifying long-standing and major bottleneck problems in the agricultural sector and generating solutions in order to increase production and productivity and benefit the producer and consumer as well as the growth of the country's economy.

One of the activities that the institution performs to ensure the growth of production and productivity as well as the benefit of the farmers is advisory service provided to the farmers through digital technology. The institute, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, has developed and implemented a platform called 8028, which makes the advisory services provided to the farmers efficient, easy and convenient. The Deputy Director General of the Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Institute, Chimdo Wanchala (PhD), said that the farmers are calling 8028 on their mobile phones and are getting solutions to any problems they face in their agricultural work.

As he said, in this system, a high level of advisory service is currently provided to the farmers. The farmers call 8028 toll-free number and explain the problem in brief and are getting quick response and counseling service.

Dr. Chimdo recalled that until now counseling services were being provided in this system only for crop products. At present, the preparations for developing a system to include market information and make it accessible to farmers and pastoralists have been completed. For this purpose, the institution has agreed to work with MERCY CORPS Ethiopia and USAID Feed the Future Transforming Agriculture.

It was necessary to expand the access to advisory services and market information, which was only for crop products, to animal resources as well. In particular, the agricultural advisory services provided in Afar and Somali regions will focus on livestock. Farmers or herders of the Afar and Somali regions who participate in animals' rearing will be able to get this information and make good use of it.

So far, 130,000 pastoralists in these regions are using this information. This indicates that there is a high demand. The institution has made an agreement with the two partner organizations to expand the use of the system in these regions.

The organizations will provide financial support. USAID Feed the Future Transforming Agriculture will support 23 million Birr and MERCY CORPS Ethiopia will support five million Birr. The Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Institute will support six million Birr to jointly develop the system for the benefit of farmers and pastoralists. Since digital system is like raising a child, it is necessary to develop the system by constantly adding new things and



*Farming goes digital*

increasing its capacity, he said.

This system, as to him, provides great support to increase the capacity of farmers and pastoralists. It will be developed especially when they are managed in a way that is suitable for farmers and herdsman. After this system is developed, farmers in the region, especially pastoralists, as well as development workers in the region will have access to this information.

The information is very fast response so that the pastoralists would call and get an answer within 24 hours. If they do not get an answer, the information will be sent directly to the institute, and the institute will provide follow-up and support. This will enable farmers and pastoralists to quickly access current information about agriculture.

As the Deputy Director General explained, among the various information that the farmers and herdsman get through the technology are information on locusts and other pests and by identifying these problems through research, it will be possible to take the necessary precautions by making the upcoming danger reach the farmers based on the information available from the satellite. Information will also be made accessible along with relevant advice. Farmers and ranchers can take the necessary precautions by accepting this counseling service.

The contribution of the system to the farmers is very high and significant. In particular, it will contribute significantly to increase production and productivity and to be able to access market information. Currently, the pastoralists do not have market data. As they have no information about how much and where they buy and sell, they are vulnerable to middlemen. Both the producer and the consumer are victims as the middlemen have a large share especially in agricultural products.

By entering the producer and the consumer in this system, both parties will have the information. The system can completely remove the illegal middlemen by connecting the producer and the consumer, Dr. Chimdo said.

He mentioned that they have been able to get into action by hiring experts who

collect market data in every district. Market data is collected every week and when its accuracy is verified, it will be entered into the system and it will be used by the producer and the consumer as needed.

Another is the digital payment system, which is said to provide efficient service in the supply of agricultural inputs. This will eliminate the traditional practice. It was pointed out that the electronic payment system, which can control the transport of fertilizer from Djibouti until it reaches Kebele and distributes it to the farmers, will also modernize the distribution of fertilizers. Farmers use their mobile phones to request agricultural inputs. They will make the payment through electronic payment method. For this, a serial number read with the system is given. This gives them information about where and when to take the resource. Therefore, it will be possible to take it from local cooperatives. The service is also said to be easy to use, convenient and cost-effective.

Dr. Chimdo mentioned that this system has been started on a trial basis. It has been started in 65 districts on a trial basis. After this, the debris around the compost is removed. The system will remove greedy traders as well. In this situation, he said, "The technology seen in other countries can be applied in our country as well."

Mandefro Nguse (PhD), the director general of the Agricultural Transformation Institute, said that the institute works to identify the basic problems in the agricultural sector through research and after identifying them, it will propose solutions.

The institute is providing counseling services for the problems farmers are facing in connection with the agricultural work. At present, it has reached an agreement to work with partner organizations to implement a modern system of obtaining market price information so that the pastoralists can sell their animals at current prices.

It focuses on the health care and welfare of animals, including the trade of

animals. The experts of the institute will be present in every district, i.e. in the areas where there are animal markets, and the information will be collected and distributed after studying the market situation in each area. The information will be accessible to anyone who wants it.

The information can also be accessed through a voice call to 6077 and a short text message. This agricultural information service for farmers and pastoralists as well as the digital service of the national market information system will be provided in different languages. The information will be accessible not only to farmers, pastoralists and semi-pastoralists, but also to consumers and those who provide slaughterhouse services, Dr. Mandefro said.

He pointed out that the information will show where, at what price, what kind of animal is being sold, and announced that the same service will be provided for crop production. This will benefit the farmers and consumers. It prevents the farmers and ranchers from selling their products and animals unfairly. This information system will serve both the farmer and the consumer and will work with the purpose of increasing the productivity and income of the pastoralists and farmers.

Dr. Mandefro recalled that this information system was implemented a year ago and that farmers and pastoralists are using it through information exchange. The service is expanding, and it was possible to increase Afar and Somali regions with the current agreement. Following this, the users of the service have increased from 157 districts to 250 districts and the accessibility is expanding.

The Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Institute, which is striving to modernize agriculture, is doing this work in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry of Agriculture will enter into this system and improve its capacity. It is expected that the knowledge and experience gained from this system will be combined and adequately prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture and will be greatly expanded and continued when the Agricultural Transformation Institute ceases to function.

# Art & Culture



## Life is but a puzzle

BY ALEM KIDANE

*Life is but a puzzle,  
an it doesn't always fit,  
sometimes you will fly,  
or flutter off an flit,  
or sink down really low,  
In a godforsaken pit.*



## Legend

BY EMBET MESFINE

*Grandma, your absence left such a void in my heart,  
past the barking dogs we stepped into the yard,  
saw your hut you used to sit at a spot knees bent,  
missed your presence in everything, Abayeto, grand,  
kept hearing distinct voice whenever you converse,  
unhurried taking time to speak reflective solemn,  
acknowledging each one gifting name which befits,  
adults children surround basking in expansive wisdom,  
composed at peace remarkable aura of you shine,  
showering words of gratitude as you put incense on fire,  
thankfulness expressed eulogizing ancestors long gone,  
past and present blend listening to you, the mediator,  
deserved rest no doubt left memories which distinguish,  
treasures you possess naturally life lessons to cherish.*

## Knock not at my heart's door once more

BY ALEM HAILU G/KRISTOS

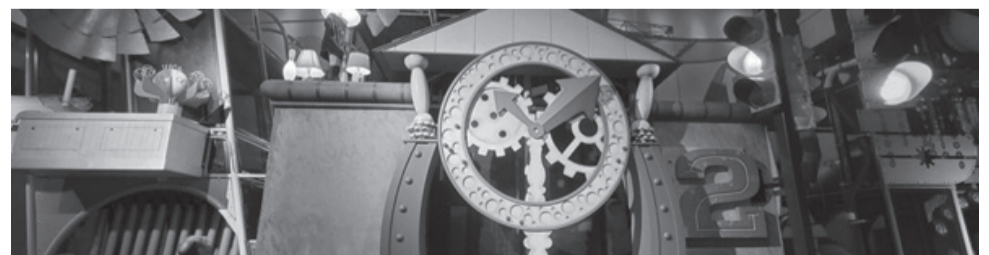
*When you  
Came home  
Back a fortnight  
In the early hours  
Of the night  
Outside,  
Beneath a tree  
We were free;  
So enjoying  
A romantic glee  
As usual,  
As you previously  
Initiated it  
After we talked  
When I was about  
To plant  
A goodnight kiss  
On your dainty lips  
Not to be accused  
'On your part  
You are remiss!'  
With a sense of relief  
Also a strong belief  
You are me,  
Instead swiftly offering  
Your left cheek  
You allowed, me,  
The chance to miss.*

*Miss what does  
Mean this?  
I read the act  
Lately somebody else  
Has rented your heart  
With love's broom  
To brush me out  
A dirt!  
Could you imagine  
How excruciating  
Me that could hurt?*



*Miss what does  
Also mean this?  
Opportunistic before  
With a false promise  
You were playacting  
Me that you adore  
Such a thing  
I abhor.*

*Miss  
Do you have  
A lover,  
Underground  
About whom  
I never found?  
In vain  
Try not to  
Prevail on me  
For you  
To open up  
My heart's door  
Once more, for  
In a wild goose chase  
Pursuing you  
From a fitting partner  
You will put me asunder.*



## Quotable quotes

"The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity."

—Dorothy Parker

# Science & Technology

## Extracting Ethiopia's mineral wealth through researches, technology

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

Ethiopia is endowed with precious and immense mineral resources. As Ethiopia is rich in mineral resources, the sector proves a viable means for the foundation of Ethiopia's journey to prosperity. The mining sector can become the major source of foreign currency and as an instrument to accelerate the import substitution efforts of Ethiopia by supporting the industry, agriculture and other development sectors of the country.

Considering the available untapped potential of the resource and its significance for the overall economic development of Ethiopia, the mining sector becomes one of the five priority sectors of the Home Grown Economic Reform Agenda of the Ethiopian Government. Agriculture, industry, tourism, ICT and mining are the five priority sectors with the target of achieving prosperity by exploiting the available potential resources of the country in every sector.

To identify and use the potential of the mining sector so as to develop its valuable contribution for the development of Ethiopia, conducting researches and introducing technology in the sector is crucial. The sector needs researches to identify the minerals available in Ethiopia, to properly point out the specific locations and types of minerals in the specific places and to properly administer and use the resource.

In addition, to manage the environmental impacts during mineral extraction, it needs meaningful researches and scientific way of managing the process of extraction. Similarly, technology is vital for the mining sector both to identify the resource, to process it and to export value added products. The sector is technology intensive and developing and importing advanced technologies in the sector would facilitate the development of the mining sector in Ethiopia. In addition, to export value added products instead of raw products, introducing latest technologies is critically important.

Ethiopia has a long history of small scale mining based on extraction through traditional way. But, commercial and large scale mining is still in its early stages in Ethiopia, despite huge resource and significant potential for the country's economy. Tantalum, potash, gemstones, gold, iron ore and various industrial, energy and construction minerals are few among the identified mineral resources in Ethiopia. Still, Ministry of Mines says that only less than 30 percent of Ethiopia's mining resource is identified. The huge resource potential coupled with the current government's policy measures is attracting international mining investors to invest in Ethiopia's mining industry. And so far, over 170 international and local companies are engaged in the sector throughout the country, according to Ministry of Mines.

In this regard, Minister of Mines, Engineer Habtamu Tegegn said that Ethiopia is rich in mineral resources. Though, Ethiopia has a huge and untapped potential of mineral resource, the country is not benefited from the resource yet due to lack of attention during the past years, the Minister stated. According to Habtamu, less than 30 percent of the mineral resource of Ethiopia is known while the rest of potentially available mineral resources



unidentified.

As to the Minister, as Ethiopia decides to use the potential of the sector for its development endeavors, the Government makes the sector among the top priority sectors of the country. As investment in the sector is technology intensive, it demands huge capital and takes long period, so far the investment in the sector was limited. Engineer Habtamu noted that "as the first step to develop and promote investments in the sector due attention is given by the government, the sector becomes a key sector in the Ethiopian macro economy."

Last week, Ministry of Mines organized the second Mining and Technology Expo in Addis Ababa where a lot of local and international companies participated. Opening the expo, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) stated that Ethiopian Government is working to exploit the mining sector's potential to facilitate the economic development of the country. Hence, promoting technology, researches and investments in the mining sector becomes a priority agenda, adding government's readiness to provide all necessary supports for investors in the sector.

For his part, Habtamu said that until the 2018 reform, the mining sector was neglected sector as due to lack of attention by former governments. Due to lack of attention to the sector in the past, identifying and knowing the nation's resources properly is still a challenge. But following the reform, the mining sector is one of the critical economic sectors given due priority it deserves.

To identify and know the country's mineral resources properly and to exploit the available resource for the country's economic development, promoting researches in the mining sector and introducing advanced technologies of the sector is vital. State Minister of Mines, Million Mathewos said that so far, some 170 companies are engaged in the exploration and development of mineral resources in Ethiopia. Adding, there is growing interest of foreign companies to engage in the mining sector following the recent reform measures by the government.

"To date, over 100 companies are actively engaged in mineral exploration across the country, while about 70 others are actively developing different mining projects transcending the exploration stage in minerals like gold, gas, iron, geothermal and others. This is huge," Million told ENA. The income



from the mining sector is also growing in Ethiopia as it attracts the attention of local and international investors. Supporting this growing sector through researches and technology would accelerate the sector's development.

Habtamu promotes researchers to continue researches to identify mineral resources and to suggest scientific way of extracting the resource. As to him, without the strong support and researches of scholars, it is difficult to identify a resource, to exploit the potential and to properly use it. Hence, he advises researchers to intensify researches in the mining sector so to support the government's ambition of exploiting the potential of the sector for the overall development efforts of the country. "The mining sector needs long-term and continuous researches to identify the resource and to use it properly without harming the environment and the society," he stated.

In addition, as to Habtamu as a mineral resource is scarce by nature, it needs wise management to use it responsibility which makes scientific researches crucial. Hence, to identify and know the mineral resources of the country and for wise management for sustainable use, it is important to support the sector through researches.

Similarly, as the sector is technology intensive, it is important to give due focus for the technological developments in the sector. "The sector is technology intensive which uses huge machineries and technological advancements. Importing advanced technologies or attracting

foreign companies with latest technologies to invest in the sector is import to extract and exploit the resource properly," he noted.

Without technology, it is difficult to properly extract and develop the sector. Technology is helpful not for proper extraction of mines but also to manage the environmental consequences of mining. For the development of value added export in the sector, promoting the development of technology in the sector is vital. To keep environmental safety and societal health while extracting minerals, Habtamu said that importing latest technological advancements in the sector is crucial.

According to the Minister, investment in the sector is capital intensive that mobilizes huge capital and needs long-term investment. Due to this reason, an investment in the mining sector is not easy for individual investors and he advises investors to use joint investments. Reminding that Ethiopia is on the way to start stock-market, he recommends investors to think investments in the mining industry through stock.

"The investment in the sector needs billions of dollars, it is not easy to manage by individual investors due to its capital and time intensiveness," Habtamu stated adding "due to capital intensiveness of the sector, though the potential is there and the presence of a huge demands at home, there is no even a single fertilizer factory in Ethiopia." He promotes local and international investors to invest in the rising mining sector of Ethiopia with an ample potential.



# Society

## Supplying manufacturing sector with skilled work force

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

Human development experts encourage countries to implement Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to provide practical skills and knowledge to young citizens and supply skilled human capital to the manufacturing and industry sectors. According to sources, several developing countries are increasingly relying on TVET to achieve sustainable development as it plays crucial roles in providing training opportunities and career advancement for school leavers, as well as supplying the skilled manpower needed at different levels of the economy. The expectation is that these developed skills will usher in an era of self-reliance, enhancing the industrialization process in the absence of salaried employment.

As a growing nation aspired to achieve economic growth, Ethiopia has given special focus to TVET. Using the available resources the nation is providing TVET training for various Ethiopian youth. Equipped by TVET training the youth are filling the gaps in areas of industrialization, manufacturing and agricultural sectors to realize individual as well as national goals.

Regarding employment opportunity and skilled manpower TVETs prepare individuals for employment by providing them with the specific skills and competencies required in various industries, they are filling skills gap and increasing employability. The practical nature of TVET programs allows individuals to acquire hands-on experience, making them more attractive to potential employers and increasing the likelihood of job placement.

In Ethiopia, various activities have been undertaken to implement TVET and positively impact the youth, making them productive contributors to nation-building and helping the nation achieve its goal of becoming a middle-income country by 2025.

The Ministry of Labor and Skills (MoLS) has confirmed that over 600,000 youths will join TVET and attend regular programs this academic year. MoLS State Minister, Teshale Berecha (PhD), stated that TVET institutions have finalized preparations to receive 600,000 students who have just completed 12th grade under the regular program. He also mentioned that the country's TVET system annually receives half a million students in regular programs, while another two million undertake short-term training in the institutions.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, Simon Mulatu, a fourth-year BA program student at Ethiopian Technical University in Addis Ababa's Electrical Electronics and Communication Department, expressed how the training has positively impacted his life. He stated that all teaching and learning activities focus on practical activities, enabling him to develop skills that he can utilize. Despite not having graduated, he is already engaged in running a small business due to the practical training he has gained, which has shifted his mindset away from seeking public employment. Simon hopes to establish his own enterprise and contribute to the workforce after



graduation.

Regarding his family's attitude towards his enrollment in the TVET college, Simon mentioned that initially they were not interested. However, after learning about the opportunities and the training approach, they changed their minds and are now supportive. Simon emphasized that through TVET, young people can foster an entrepreneurial mindset and receive training in areas such as business management, financial literacy, and marketing. Despite being capital-intensive, private and public TVET institutions are prepared to equip young people with the necessary skills to become self-employed and create job opportunities for themselves and others.

Simon believes that TVET equips trainees with capabilities that can broaden opportunities in life, instilling confidence and paving the way for a bright future. He emphasized that fostering an entrepreneurship mindset among citizens could contribute to economic development, reduce dependency on limited job opportunities, and promote social stability.

“In my view, TVET provides opportunities and hope for the youth to establish themselves, equipping them with the skills necessary to secure decent self-employment. I encourage students in higher education to consider joining TVET, as it offers a range of learning experiences relevant to the world of work through formal, non-formal, and informal contexts, emphasizing practical skills. Despite the increasing interest in TVET among students, parents, and the larger community, there is still a prevailing perception that TVET is the last resort for those who wish to pursue a post-secondary academic path. I believe that TVET should be considered as a valuable option alongside university education, as it has cultivated a number of successful entrepreneurs.”

On his part, Federal TVET Institute Director-General, Biruk Kedir (PhD), has affirmed the institute's readiness to receive trainees in both regular and short-term training programs in the current academic year.

The Institute has the mandate to provide

**The practical nature of TVET programs allows individuals to acquire hands-on experience, making them more attractive to potential employers and increasing the likelihood of job placement**

mentor training for industry technicians, TVET trainers, and leaders, and is currently preparing to offer training on various thematic areas starting from level six. In addition to the main center, the institute provides training in satellite facilities located in different parts of the country. Furthermore, a new enrollment policy has been put in place to expand the number of trainees.

Regarding TVET colleges in producing skilled man power, Dean of Sidama State, Kebado Construction and Industrial College, Daniel Teshome, said that the college has firm believe that investing on TVET is investing on the whole economy of the nation. For this reason, the college is welcoming new entry trainees. The college provides training in nine competency areas, including ICT hardware and network servicing, as well as construction masonry. The training programs are designed based on the demands of the local labor market, combining general knowledge, technologies, sciences, and practical skills relevant to the workplace.

He also highlighted the college's collaboration with Yirga-alem Agro-Industrial Park to address the gaps in the demand and supply of skilled human power. Many graduates have acquired employable skills, contributing to the development of a skilled workforce in the manufacturing sector. They are running their own businesses in the Sidama State and beyond. To further prosper as a nation and improve citizens' lifestyles, he emphasized the need to invest in the TVET sector.

He stressed that to achieve the ultimate goal of producing a future-ready workforce with high vocational skills and knowledge, it is vital to invest in infrastructure and resources, promote collaboration between TVET institutions and industries, and enhance access and outreach efforts.

The role of TVETs in Ethiopia's growing economy and job creation is pivotal, as it contributes to economic development, fosters entrepreneurship, addresses the skills gap, and prepares individuals for productive employment in various sectors.



# This is Ethiopia



Partial view of Addis Ababa city

## Discover the new face of Addis Ababa!

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Currently, Addis Ababa is gaining new tourist attractions, hotels, touristic services, among others that enable the city to become more preferable among the international tourists. Are you looking to immerse yourself in a unique cultural experience? Are you a traveler seeking to explore a city with rich historical significance? Look no further than Addis Ababa, the vibrant capital city of Ethiopia. Home to a plethora of historical landmarks, diverse cultures, and enchanting landscapes, Addis Ababa has recently unveiled some exciting new tourist attractions that are sure to captivate your senses.

The Entoto, Unity, and Friendship parks in Addis Ababa are attracting tourists and boosting the economy as they offer a variety of attractions for both local and international visitors.

Entoto Park, one of the parks built as part of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's initiative to make the capital city more attractive for tourists and investors, has been attracting foreign visitors and benefiting the local economy.

As you walk along the winding trails of Entoto Park, you'll be greeted by lush greenery, vibrant flowers, and majestic trees. The park's natural beauty is truly a sight to behold, making it a perfect spot for nature enthusiasts and photographers alike.

The park, located in the Entoto Mountains,

offers stunning views of the city and is home to a variety of hiking and biking trails, picnic areas, restaurants and cafes, a horseback riding area, an artificial lake, a go-kart track, a library, a cinema, and sports centers. In addition, Entoto Park offers a serene escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. This sprawling park is nestled within the stunning Entoto Mountain range, providing visitors with breathtaking panoramic views of the city below.

Entoto Park is not only a natural paradise, but it also holds great historical significance. The park is home to the Entoto Maryam Church, an iconic Ethiopian Orthodox church that dates back to the late 19th century. Visitors can explore the church and learn about its rich cultural heritage. Currently, Entoto Park has something for everyone a fun-filled day of sports and games. The park offers various recreational facilities, including playgrounds, picnic areas, and sports fields.

Addis Ababa Public Recreation Administration Corporation (AAPRAC) Chief Advisor, Girma Mengesha said that at least 1,000 people visit the park every day, including 500-600 foreign tourists.

The AAPRAC is responsible for the management and maintenance of public parks and recreation facilities in Addis Ababa.

It is committed to making public parks and recreation facilities accessible to residents and visitors, and providing them with places to relax and enjoy nature, exercise, and socialize, Girma said.

As to him, AAPRAC has made a number of improvements to Entoto Park, including new hiking and biking trails, picnic areas, restaurants and cafes, a horseback riding area, an artificial lake, a go-kart track, a library, a cinema, and sports centers.

"We are confident that the park will continue to attract foreign tourists and benefit the local economy for many years to come."

As we add facility, the number of tourists is increasing. Therefore, we are on the final stage of building circus, 3 football fields, and amphitheater, he revealed.

Visitors are coming from all over the world mainly from China, Asia, and Europe. The city is expecting over a million local and international tourists to visit the parks of the city.

The economic benefits of Entoto Park are already being felt in the local community. Many people have been employed in the park's restaurants and cafes, and there is a growing demand for tour guides and other tourism-related services.

The AAPRAC is confident that Entoto Park will continue to grow in popularity and become one of Ethiopia's leading tourist destinations.

Unity Park is another exciting addition to Addis Ababa's list of tourist attractions. This expansive park is located within the historical precinct of the National Palace and encompasses beautifully landscaped gardens, historical sites, and cultural exhibits.

Unity and Friendship parks, two of the

popular parks in Addis Ababa, attract many local and international tourists with their diverse attractions, including a zoo, aquarium, aviary, gardens, historical buildings, artificial lake, and water fountain lights, Unity Park Communication Head Getachew Beyene said.

According to him, Unity Park attracts an average of 1,000 visitors per day, while Friendship Park attracts an average of 1,800 to 2,000 visitors per day.

Most of the visitors are tourists from other countries who are interested in learning about Ethiopian culture and history.

Accordingly, the parks are two of the most popular parks in Addis Ababa. Unity Park is a large urban park that was inaugurated in 2019. It is located on the grounds of the National Palace and features a variety of attractions, including a zoo, aquarium, aviary, gardens, and historical buildings.

Friendship Park, also known as Sheger Park, is a smaller park located next to Unity Park. It features an artificial lake, a square to gather, and also water fountain lights at nighttime. It also contains lots of flowers with diverse species of flora.

In sum, the Ethiopian government has been working on the development of the tourism sector through its Home Grown Economic Reform. At present the government is promoting new tourism destinations with the view to enhancing revenue from the sector. The effort to renovate tourism sites and develop existing ones is being carried out in order to improve the tourist flow, according to ministry of Tourism.