



# The Ethiopian Herald

Vol LXXX No 079 12 December 2023 - Tahisas 2, 2016

Tuesday

Price Birr 10.00

**ethio telecom**  
**CRBT Register, Buy Tones**  
*Get the Reward!*

After registration/bought the tone, send "Y" to 645; Answer the questions & Get the Reward!

**AGI** CONSTRUCTING THE FUTURE AFRICA  
 Abyssinia Group of Industries

Manufacturer of Rebars, Angles, Channels, Flat Bars & Round Bars. Introducing cut & bend service for rebars.

**Contact & Address**  
 Tel: +251 116 63 97 55/ 251 116 63 51 22/25  
 Mob.: +251 962 009 072/ +251 949 440 868  
 +251 911 45 9790  
 E-mail: sales@agiethiopia.com  
 4th Floor, Dabi Building, Bole road Addis Ababa Ethiopia

Photo: Samuel Tesfaye



## Innovation core to aviation excellence, holistic dev't: House Speaker

- Aviation Expo venue for young innovators

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia's aviation industry excellence and the country's

holistic economic development hinge on viable research-based innovations and modernizations, the House Speaker said.

The House of Peoples' Representatives (HoPR) Speaker Tadesse Chafo made the

above remark while opening the Aviation Innovation Expo 2023 which was organized by the Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority (ECAA) and the Ministry of Transport and

See Innovation core ... page 3

## Only peaceful dialogue brings stability to Sudan: IGAD

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA - The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) urged conflicting parties in Sudan to pursue peaceful and respectful dialogue as the only means to chart the way forward for a peaceful,

See Only peaceful ... page 3

## Ethiopia begins shipping flowers by sea

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopian cut flower producing and exporting companies began transporting produce by sea to Europe under partial trial shipment modality for the first time early this month, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) disclosed.

MoA's Horticulture Export Coordinator Mekonnen Solomon indicated the export of 7,722 kg of refrigerated consignment, which are said to be maintained at 2°C in trucks, marks a major breakthrough in Ethiopia's conveying of flowers by sea.

The cut flowers are shipped by Maersk, world's largest shipping line and one of the biggest logistics companies in the region. The product is expected to arrive in excellent condition at the end market,

See Ethiopia ... page 3

## AFLEX garners diplomats' support for expansion projects

- Opens enrollment to all Africans

BY YESUF ENDRIS

SULULTA-The African Leadership Excellence Academy (AFLEX) has called on Addis-based diplomats to extend financial support to its multimillion-USD 13 expansion projects to be implemented shortly.

The AFLEX held a discussion session with the Addis-based diplomatic community yesterday.

Speaking at the occasion, AFLEX President Zadig Abrha said institutional reforms have been taking place to make Africans the direct beneficiary of the academy's development leadership. "This academy would no longer be for Ethiopians only and it would recruit other African professionals and deliver training for senior and emerging leaders from all corners of the continent. This transformational expansion will be realized



Photo: Gebabo Gebrie

in the near future."

Zadig noted, however, that the reform and expansion projects could not be materialized with the sole effort of

the Ethiopian government. "We need partnership to implement the project and the

See AFLEX garners ... page 3

# News

## IAOTP names veteran mathematics professor as 2023's Top Professor

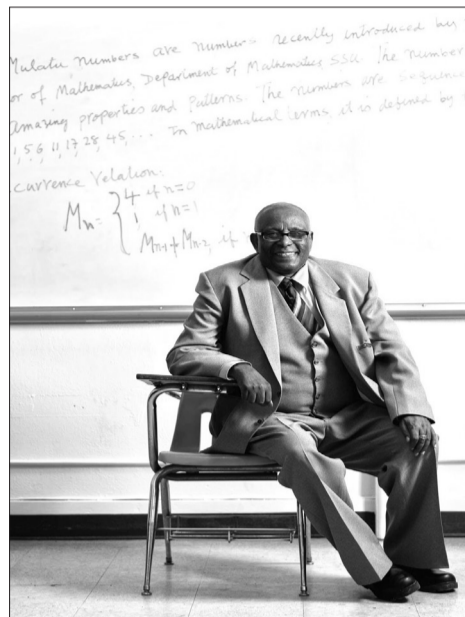
BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- The International Association of Top Professionals (IAOTP) has recognized veteran Ethiopian professor of mathematics, Mulatu Lemma as the 2023 Top Professor of the Year.

The Ethio-American professor of mathematics at Savannah State University in Georgia, Mulatu Lemma, has been selected as the 2023 Top Professor of the Year by the International Association of Top Professionals (IAOTP).

IAOTPhonors professionals around the world based on professional accomplishments, academic achievements, leadership abilities, longevity in the field, other affiliations, and contributions to their communities.

The Professor has taught mathematics for more than 30 years, including the last 28 at



Savannah State University.

“My philosophy of teaching mathematics is to teach the students you have and not the students you wish you had”.

He went on saying: “As a professor, you have to meet the students where they are and through teaching and mentoring elevate their level of understanding and appreciation for mathematics.”

Professor Lemma earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in mathematics from Addis Ababa University while he accomplished a Ph.D in mathematics from Kent State University in Ohio.

It is to be recalled that Professor Lemma was amongst the 12 recipients of Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM) in 2020.

PAESMEM recognizes those who have made significant contributions to mentoring and thereby supporting the future productivity of the U.S. science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) workforce, it was learnt.



## Nat’l ID implementation expected to boost Ethiopia’s GDP by 7%

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA– Up on the full implementation of National ID system, it is expected to increase Ethiopia’s GDP by 7% , the National ID Project said.

Belayihun Yirga, the Senior Policy and Legal Adviser of the National ID Project, told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that Ethiopia’s GDP is projected to increase by 7% annually upon the complete implementation of the National ID as it allows majority of Ethiopians to have access to the financial system.

The National ID Project announced that more than 90 million citizens will hold a national digital ID by the end of 2025.

Currently, 70 percent of the population is excluded from financial services provided by formal financial institutions, Belayihun said, adding this have a considerable impact on the country’s social, economic and political development.

The digital national ID helps to open a bank account, apply for a job and access public services as well as for various purposes, he stated.

He also noted the new national ID is also important to prevent and control fraud and other misdeeds.

General Manager of the National Identity Project Yodahe Arayaselassie on his part said that activities are being carried out to make digital identity available to the society in various areas.

The project is working to provide the ID to 25 million citizens this year mainly focusing on students and bank customers, he indicated.

The project is working in collaboration with the Ministries of Education, Finance, Revenues and other institutions to ensure the implementation of the digital national ID which aimed at modernizing the ID system and ensuring financial inclusion, he stated.

Yodahe also expressed the national digital ID will significantly help the society to get modern and instant financial, health and other public services.

So far, more than three million people have been given National Digital IDs under the National Digital ID Program which was started in 2021.



## COHESA employs cross-sectional system to deter health threats

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – Cross-sectional system has been implemented in the Capacitating on Health in Eastern and Southern Africa (COHESA) program to deter animal, human, plant and environment health threats, the Addis Ababa University (AAU) said.

The AAU organized yesterday a sandpit workshop with an objective to develop innovative and one health solution for antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

In the workshop, a researcher and Associate Professor at Addis Ababa University Mirgissa Kaba said AMR is currently a global concern due to strong linkage among human beings, animals, and environment. In this regard, some 24 studies (researches) will be presented in the workshop and the

best two will be selected and eligible for the award.

The AAU is the multiplier of the capacitance on health in COHESA project, which involves several stakeholders such as public sectors, research institutes, and universities in the country. The main objective of the COHESA project is developing innovative solutions through identifying the root causes.

“As part of its role, AAU has run two rounds of a Delphi process (group) to identify key areas of focus for one health solution and the process has helped to identify AMR,” the researcher added.

Senior Scientist at International Livestock Research Institute of Tanzania Theo Knight-Jones on his part noted that some 12 countries (COHESA) have been funded by European Union (EU.) To bring suitable

connection among humans, animals, and environment, encouraging connectivity and improving research are the main priority focus areas thereby identifying AMR.

Theo added that COHESA would bring a number of advantages to Ethiopia such as sharing experience, knowledge, technology, and providing research based solutions in addressing AMR.

It was recalled that COHESA is a collaborative project involving representatives from Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda from the east direction of the continent. Similarly, countries like Botswana, Namibia, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe are members from Southern Africa.

The workshop will stay till December 15/2023, it was learned.

# News

## Bunna, Wegagen Bank announce 2022/23 earnings

BY STAFF REPORTER

**ADDIS ABABA-** Bunna and Wegagen Bank stated that they have become profitable and earned 1.35 and 1.2 billion Birr profit respectively before tax in the 2022/23 fiscal year.

Bunna Bank recently held its 14th Ordinary shareholders' General Assembly. Speaking at the occasion, Bunna Bank Board Chairperson, Ambassador Alemayehu Sewagegn said that the bank managed to mobilize over 36.59 billion Birr in deposits and 1.35 billion Birr profit before tax in the 2022/23 fiscal year. The bank approved various economic sectors with a total of 8.92 billion Birr loans.

The bank's total asset has increased by 12.9 billion Birr to Birr 46.39 billion. It also opened 122 new branches across the country; this has made the total number of branches 465. It also mobilized 1.63 billion Birr in interest-free banking services during the stated period, he said.

The total capital of the bank showed increment by 1.5 billion Birr. It extended 41.8 million Birr in support as part of its corporate social responsibility programs, he added.

Meanwhile, speaking at the 30th Ordinary shareholders' General Assembly of Wegagen Bank, its Board Chairperson Abdishu Hussien said that the Bank earned a total income of Birr 7 billion during the 2022/23 fiscal year which has depicted a 36 percent growth from the preceding year balance of Birr 5.1 billion marking the highest ever generated income despite various challenges it encountered during the fiscal year.

Furthermore, the bank registered a record high profit before tax of Birr 1.2 billion in the 2022/23 fiscal year indexing a remarkable 109 percent growth compared to the last year same period, with a profit of Birr 572 million.

He highlighted that Bank's paid up capital increased by 17 percent and reached Birr 4 billion in the 2022/23 fiscal year from previous year Birr 3.4 billion.

He further noted that the total capital also grew to Birr 6.9 billion for the 2022/23 fiscal year up by 23 percent from Birr 5.6 billion last year.

Likewise, it was further disclosed that the total asset of the Bank augmented to Birr 53.5 billion for the 2022/23 fiscal year which showed 24 percent increase from Birr 43.1 billion in the preceding year. According to him, Bank's total deposit reached Birr 42.8 billion in the end of the 2022/23 fiscal year, reflecting a 26 percent increment when compared to Birr 33.9 billion registered in preceding fiscal year.

Correspondingly, he disclosed that the Bank's outstanding loans and advances amounted to Birr 39.9 billion for the 2022/23 fiscal year registering 32 percent growth from preceding year balance of Birr 30.3 billion.

"The Bank aims to advance its technological capabilities through implementation of Information Technology operation and automation of back office services."

The Bank continued to honor its commitment towards discharging corporate social responsibility and subsequently made Birr 35 million donation in 2022/23 fiscal year to different local organizations engaged in philanthropic activities as well as for the rehabilitation of displaced citizens, it was learnt.



## Only peaceful dialogue...

stable, united and democratic Sudan.

In its communiqué issued on the 41st Extraordinary Assembly of IGAD Heads of State and Government held in Djibouti on Saturday, the bloc underlined that there cannot be a military solution to the current crisis in Sudan.

IGAD reiterated its call to the parties in the conflict to immediately and unconditionally cease hostilities and allow unimpeded humanitarian access and protection of civilians in the affected areas and communities.

Moreover, the communiqué urged IGAD member states to affirm their pledges for humanitarian support to Sudan and for the International Community to immediately respond and scale up support to alleviate the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Sudan.

The communiqué stressed the resolved to redouble efforts and work towards better and closer collaboration and coordination with all stakeholders to mobilize full political and diplomatic support for IGAD and the AU to effectively discharge their critical

role in delivering a peaceful resolution to the ongoing conflict and for IGAD to convene quarterly the progress of the peace process in the Sudan.

The communiqué further said to fast-track efforts in organizing an IGAD-AU facilitated all-inclusive Sudanese-owned and Sudanese-led civilian dialogue aimed at forging national consensus towards the formation of a civilian-led transition that will culminate in the holding of open, transparent and democratic elections.

It also appreciated the co-facilitators of the peace talks made so far as they help preserving the modest progress.

During the Assembly, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) expressed continued commitment to support a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Sudan which has been going on for several months.

As part of the IGAD, Ethiopia has been actively engaged in supporting a process for the peace and stability of the Sudan, according to the Office of the Prime Minister of Ethiopia.

## Ethiopia begins..

Netherlands within a maximum of four weeks.

According to the Ethiopian Custom Authority, approximately 701,816 tons of ornamental plants and cut flowers have been transported by Ethiopian Air Cargo for the past decade.

Mekonnen further stated that the Ethiopian Air cargo used to reach around 136 international market destinations, including 63 African cities, with daily and multiple flights with a minimum layover in Addis within hours or days. On the other hand, sea shipment could take weeks or months.

"However, there is a long-standing wish among some flower producers as well as foreign importers to make the transition from air transport to sea shipment owing to its benefit, one of which is a price advantage," he added.

Also, sea freight has a lighter carbon footprint than air freight. The ships generally have a significantly lower fuel consumption rate per unit area of transport, resulting in reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

Likewise, sea freight offers a significantly larger capacity for transporting flowers compared to air freight. Ocean freight vessels, such as container vessels, can accommodate large volumes of cargo, while air freight is limited by the size and weight restrictions of aircraft.

Cut flower producing and exporting companies including Herburg Rosesand Sher Ethiopia PLC recently adopted the experience and improved practice of perishable logistics service and began cut flower sea shipment for the first time, Mekonnen recalled.

## Innovation core to aviation...

Logistics (MoTL) yesterday.

In his remark, Tagesse emphasized the need to translate researches and innovative ideas drawn from universities and research centers to maintain the country's sustainable growth and development. "It is also important to put our efforts and contextualize homegrown knowledge and technology transfer towards realizing Ethiopia's journey to prosperity."

He added, "It is high time for the government and other stakeholders to capitalize the involvement of the youth and leverage the talents of the new generation."

For Transport and Logistics Minister AlemuSime (PhD) the aviation industry requires a huge amount of technological inputs and emphasized the need to give much attention and assistance to produce more innovative youth in quality and quantity to meet the desired goal in the sector. "Despite its long journey, homegrown innovation has not been contributing a lot

to the industry sector's development and the sector has long been dependent on overseas technology.

Since Ethiopia is a landlocked country, the aviation sector's contribution to the nation's holistic development is so immense.

The minister expressed optimism that the expo would play a pivotal role to forward solutions to overcome the sector's setbacks and expedite the nation's path to prosperity. He also called on the government, private sector, and other actors to provide ceaseless support to the youth to translate their innovative ideas and help the aviation sector's progress.

ECAA Director-General Getachew Mengistie on his part said that the authority has been implementing various projects towards making Ethiopia a competent and preferable African aviation hub, the authority has been capitalizing on modern technologies and its qualified expertise.

Expos, symposiums and other events that are taking place at the sidelines of the expo would also play a due role to share experience with diverse actors in the aviation business. The authority is also partnering with the Innovation and Technology Minister to prepare a national aviation technology development roadmap.

"At the expo, 95 young innovators are expected to present 90 projects individually and as a team. Besides, some 34 private and government institutions in the aviation sectors have also displayed their innovations," Getachew remarked.

Upon their arrival, various senior government officials visited the photo exhibition the ECAA organized in collaboration with the Ethiopian Press Agency.

The expo which is being held under the theme "Innovation for Aviation Excellence," stays open for visitors till December 16.

## AFLEX garners diplomats'...

infrastructural expansion requires more than 35 billion Birr. Likewise, other projects need such a huge amount of finance and we hope the diplomatic community would take its share to support the reform."

The expansion is also said to widen the academy's programs and interventions to reach larger audiences and it would improve the institution by scale-upping its physical infrastructure and programs. Several leadership programs would also be delivered.

The president further revealed the plan to offer long-

term (MA level) programs. Furthermore, the Africa Leadership Development Program, School of African Studies, African School of Public Affairs, and School of Future Studies would be opened and the enrollment would be for all Africans.

Continental Leadership Award, discussion and debate platforms, a monthly continental publication on leadership, smart and large farms, research and consultancy centers are planned as a part of the expansion projects of the academy, it was stated.

Some members of the diplomatic community also

pledged support for the implementation of projects. Approached by journalists, Russia Ambassador to Ethiopia, Yevgeny Terekhin said that his country has been collaborating with the Ethiopian government in leadership development. Russia is also desirous of extending the experience sharing with Ethiopia in institutional building.

Minister Counselor of Chinese Embassy ShenQinmin also welcomed AFLEX's appeal to support; reaffirming his government's backing to the academy's transformational expansion.

# Opinion

## Time for reinvigorating Ethio-UAE longstanding ties

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Establishing rapports and amicable ties with counterparts, seniors or juniors in terms of growth and progress, in fact, is crucial in coming up with real growth and change in personal aspects let alone in countries with vast resource to utilize, huge population to get interacted, a range of political ideology, organized military muscle to be shared and entertained, among others.

In recent years, efforts to account for changing patterns of alliance relationships have incorporated a growing number of insights and propositions derived from the scrutiny of inclusive interdependence. True, the nature of the alliance agenda, the structure of the relationship, the characteristic distribution of influence between alliance nations, the operative procedural norms which regulate bilateral bargaining and negotiation; as well as the institutional arrangements which have evolved for the coordination of alliance policy, have to be well garnered to make relations sustainable and much more win-win.

Obviously, diplomacy has been practiced whenever countries organized themselves into collective entities, and bilateral diplomacy is the oldest type of diplomacy, dating to ancient times when kingdoms negotiated with one another. The norms regulating diplomacy emerged through practice and have been consolidated in treaties among nations. Bilateral diplomacy is essential for any country to engage directly with other countries, whether they are in their immediate neighborhood or beyond. As a result of these engagements, states strengthen their own objectives.

Yes, all countries benefit out of strong diplomatic cooperation. Firm amicable relations help countries build trust, understanding and mutually beneficial relationships by engaging people through the most attractive social, economic, political and even cultural assets of each country, whether in the arts, education, language, heritage, sports, science or cuisine.

Without a shadow of doubt, when people have direct experience of another country through travel or study, or have a deeper understanding of its culture, language and society, this helps create trust in that country and a sense of empathy and connection which is resilient to the ups and downs of the political relationship. In today's shifting international landscape these tensions are more likely to occur, so cultural relations is even more valuable, as a channel of dialogue that often remains open even when those in other, more political areas are difficult or closed.

True, building mutual trust, understanding and collaboration through cultural and educational programs can help cultivate popular support for the wider relationship in both countries. Positive experiences gained through bilateral relations can leave a long-lasting impression which increases people's willingness to

engage with Ethiopians throughout their lives.

There is a clear historical logic and strong internal driving force for the growth of Ethio-UAE relations. High-level interactions have played a key strategic role in leading these relations. They have established a whole set of mechanisms for high-level interactions and multi-faceted cooperation which provide important systemic and institutional safeguards for the growth of the bilateral ties.

The two sides have cemented political mutual trust and fostered a new model of major-country relations. They have also put in place an all-round and multi-tiered cooperation framework. Yes, their collaboration in scientific and technological innovation, cross-border e-commerce and other emerging areas is showing a strong momentum. Their cooperation at the sub-national level is also booming.

They have to further reinvigorate the vision of lasting friendship and steadily strengthened traditional friendship. They have also had close coordination on the international stage and fulfilled our responsibilities as major countries.

The two sides need to raise both the quality and quantity of investment and economic cooperation and step up policy coordination to create favorable conditions for the high-quality development of investment cooperation. Yes, boosting two-way trade, foster more convergence of interests and areas of cooperation, and promote the complementary and synchronized development of traditional trade and emerging areas of cooperation.

As the world today is going through profound changes unseen in a century, the historical trend of peace, development and win-win cooperation is unstoppable. The prevailing trends of world multi-polarity, economic globalization and greater democracy in international relations are irreversible. On the other hand, the world is confronted with complex and intertwined traditional and non-traditional security challenges, damaging acts of hegemony, domination and bullying, and long and tortuous global economic recovery.

All these have enriched the vision of Ethiopia and UAE to be fruitful within the shortest time possible. They have fueled a shared future for mankind and provided practical pathways toward it. Their firm relations are part and parcel of the response to the challenges the two countries have had. Through these amicable ties between Ethiopia and UAE, the common values of humanity, peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom have taken deeper roots in the heart of the people if the two countries have well reinvigorated.

An open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world with lasting peace, universal security and common prosperity has become the shared aspiration of more and more countries, even that of all nations of the world. The international community has recognized that

no country is superior to others, no model of governance is universal, and no single country should dictate the international order.

It is believed that so long as UAE and Ethiopia embrace the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, and pursue equal-footed, rational and results-oriented dialogue and consultation, they will find a reasonable way to resolve the crisis as well as a broad path toward a world of lasting peace and common security. Influence through bilateral linkages is regarded as an important driving force behind foreign policy similarity. However, the likelihood of influence transmission within bilateral relations depends on country-specific conditions.

Countries integrated in comparable ways in global political and economic processes and exposed to similar problems, for instance, should be more likely to formulate parallel policy responses, especially in a context of shared institutional, socioeconomic and cultural attributes. Important prerequisites for foreign policy alignment are also rooted in shared regime characteristics and comparable levels of socioeconomic globalization.

Ethiopia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which are set to become full members of the BRICS economic bloc on January 1, 2024, committed to utilizing the platform to enhance their all-round relations and cooperation.

This was announced as the UAE prepared to celebrate its 52nd National Day anniversary last Saturday, which coincided with COP28, which is being held in the emirate of Dubai. Yes, the UAE National Day marked the historic union of the seven Emirates and the birth of a nation that exemplifies progress, unity, and prosperity. The UAE president, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, recently visited Ethiopia to strengthen Ethio-UAE bilateral relations.

UAE Ambassador to Ethiopia, Mohammed Salem Al Rashidi, said that the two countries' accession to the BRICS family was of paramount importance to boost their relations in social, economic and political spheres. He indicated that the Ethio-UAE diplomatic relations, which was formalized by his country's opening of its embassy in Addis Ababa in 2010, had been evolving at bilateral, regional and international levels.

Agreements were signed with a view to further reinforcing the United Arab Emirates' ties with Africa in general and with Ethiopia in particular. The agreements with Ethiopia, a promising market of over 120 million inhabitants, reflect the country's increased ambition on the continent. One of the agreements paves the way for cooperation between Abu Dhabi Ports and Ethiopian Investment Holdings, one of Africa's largest sovereign wealth funds.

One other agreement provides for the exchange of expertise in governance and

technological cooperation between the two countries while others cover partnership between the Ethiopian Investment Commission and the Federations of Chambers of Commerce of the Emirates of Sharjah and Abu Dhabi.

The point is the growing relationship between our two countries should be based on deep mutual respect and a shared vision for mutual progress, and they have to continue working together in the pursuit of sustainable development. Foreign direct investment also represents an important stimulus for economic relations between the two countries. With over 113 investment projects in various sectors including renewable energies, chemicals, agro-industry, aluminum, and pharmaceutical industries, the United Arab Emirates is a partner of choice for Ethiopia.

A common consensus was reached to establish relations between the two countries in the commercial, investment and tourism fields and in the field of technical cooperation and to create appropriate conditions to attract investors from both sides. It is well recognized that Ethiopian and the Arabian Peninsula have shared a long history of economic, political, social, and religious relations. Ethiopia and the United Arab Emirates have bilateral relations that have lasted for more than two decades. They discussed enhancing various areas of cooperation, including economic, investment, and development ties, across all sectors to serve joint aspirations to support the development and prosperity of both nations.

UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) held talks on various aspects of bilateral relations, in addition to broader regional and international issues of mutual interests. They also discussed regional and international developments and exchanged views on issues of shared concern, emphasizing the importance of building bridges of cooperation and effective partnerships that contribute to improving the quality of life and promoting prosperity for their people. This reflects the UAE's efforts to enhance its relations with other nations through partnership and cooperation across all fields to pursue collective solutions to challenges facing the international community.

He underscored that relations between the UAE and Ethiopia are growing and have witnessed significant progress in recent years, particularly in areas that serve sustainability and development in both countries. At the end of the meeting, both parties reiterated their strong commitment to enhancing bilateral relations across economic, trade, investment, and developmental areas. They expressed their shared dedication to fostering mutually beneficial cooperation that bolsters sustainable development, security, and stability across Africa.

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

# Editorial

## Dependable aviation industry with excelling results

Had it not been for the relentless effort of the Ethiopian Civil Aviation, the Ethiopian Airlines (commonly known as *Ethiopian*) couldn't have been at the step it has now reached. The geographical panorama where Ethiopia is located has immensely contributed to the national effort geared towards making itself as an aviation hub connecting Africa with the Middle East, Asia and Europe. As *Ethiopian* has recognized itself as the leader in all facets of the aviation business such as technology, leadership, network expansion and aviation mentoring over the years, Ethiopia has now possessed a leading aviation engineering in Africa.

Yes, air transport generates benefits to the wider economy by providing speedy connections between localities, countries and even continents. Besides, it enables countries to foster the economic flows of goods, investments, ideas among others which are the fundamental drivers of economic growth and societal connection.

Cognizant of the fact that the aviation industry has helped connect different continents, the Ethiopian government has enormously capitalized on it and has recorded remarkable outcomes, too. The aviation industry, which includes aircraft manufacturing, management, all activities involved in the flying of an aircraft covering both non-military and military services, is thus a broad umbrella covering all the activities that are associated with air travel.

The importance of the modern aviation industry in the era of 21st century is incomparable as it encompasses almost all aspects of air travel and the activities that help facilitate it. True, Ethiopia has given due emphasis to the sector since the industry has incorporated the entire airline industry, aircraft manufacturing, military aviation, among others.

Arduously working on a number of sectors, Ethiopian Airlines has been becoming the largest airline in Africa, with ever-increasing fleet data and prompt freight operations. Here, sustainable aviation is of paramount importance in reducing the aviation industry's carbon footprint, aligning with the industry's commitment towards achieving net-zero carbon emissions.

Interestingly, *Ethiopian* has established itself as Africa's largest airline, with an impressive feat for the airline following the active transformation of the aviation sector to a modern status. Civil aviation has also been relentlessly working toward making air transport safe, prompt and highly dependable.

Inferring from all the activities run to promote the aviation industry, one can easily deduce that the success of *Ethiopian* can be attributed to three factors: clarity of its vision and independence from the government in day-to-day operations, having strong and ever-transforming civil aviation and the country's appealing geographical location. Ethiopia has the opportunity to take the lead, and in doing so, construct an aviation future that is as sustainable as it has been pretty successful so far.

Under the auspices of a wider aviation industry, Ethiopian Airlines has been operating its day-to-day business independently as a commercial entity, which was further supported by competent leadership and well-trained staff.

It is indeed a testimony of the unique example of how a state-owned organization can operate in the modern age following a well-defined aviation industry in the country entertained by country's civil aviation.

The profound success of the aviation industry in Ethiopia is based on the fact that the Ethiopian government has provided it with deep protection and care thereby making the nation competent enough in the global aviation industry.

As the Ethiopian Airlines, which is now the youngest in the continent, has invested heavily in modernizing its fleet, the government provides it with due emphasis.

Since aviation is one of the leading industries in the world and jobs cascaded out of it are on the rise, Ethiopia has attached due emphasis to the air transport and civil aviation sector. Most definitely, with the advent of digital technology, the operation and functions of the aviation industry run by civil aviation and *Ethiopian* have become faster and dependable.

# Opinion

## The Ethiopian Airforce securing the peace and national airspace

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

The history of the Ethiopian Airforce (ETAF) dates back to the early 1920s when the late Emperor Haileselesie dispatched a group of young persons to France in 1929 to be trained as pilots. This effort was tragically interrupted by the war of aggression perpetrated by Fascist Italy from 1935-41. The Ethiopian Airforce cruised through various levels of development in modernizing the aerial defence system of the country and ensuring the sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the country.

In 1944, the Ethiopian Air Force was officially re-established with the help of British assistance. A small number of aircraft, including trainers and reconnaissance planes, were acquired.

Between 1950 and the early 1970s, Ethiopia received military aid from various countries, including the United States and the Soviet Union. The Ethiopian Air Force expanded and modernized its fleet during this time.

Between 1977 and 1978 the Ethiopian Air Force played a significant role in effectively repulsing the irredentist forces of the former leader of Somalia, Ziad Barre who waged a massive war on the Ethiopian territory to establish an empire of Greater Somalia which reportedly included parts of Eastern Ethiopia, Djibouti, North Frontier District of Kenya. Soviet and Cuban assistance was crucial during this conflict. The Ethiopian Air Force which had well-trained pilots gave ground support to the ground forces of Ethiopia which included the regular army, workers and peasant militia and demobilized members of the former Ethiopian ground forces. The former Soviet Union airlifted military hardware including various versions of MIG 23 fighter jets and ammunitions of all types for the Ethiopian Airforce while the former South Yemen State provided artillery support to the ground forces. The Cuban gallant fighters also shed their blood in solidarity with maintaining the unity and territorial integrity of the country.

1998-2000, The Ethiopian Air Force defended the territorial integrity of the country.

Between 2000-2010 The Ethiopian Air Force has undergone modernization efforts, acquiring new aircraft and equipment. It has also been involved in peacekeeping missions in the region, including contributions to United Nations missions.

Over the last five years, as part of the reform program that was conducted in the ENDF, THE Ethiopian Airforce conducted massive reform programs which among others included the modernization of the Ethiopia Air Force fleet, the introduction of high technology air defence system, modernization of the maintenance department, the introduction of technology supported modern pilot training program, automation and development of the management system by using IT resources.

The Ethiopian Airforce which has now become one of the centres of Ethiopian defence technology has already developed into a power to reckon with in setting an example for other African countries as a force for prompting and defending not only the unity and territorial integrity of Ethiopia but also for the promotion of pan Africanism in the area of cooperation with African countries to ensure peace in the continent.

In 2009, The Ethiopian Air Force provided remarkable logistics support that the Ethiopian Airforce transport fleet conducted in Darfur as part of the international contingent of peacekeeping forces has won it regional and international acclamation and recognition.

The 26,000-member UNAMID force needs 24 helicopters including 18 transport and six tactical helicopters to operate effectively across the Darfur region, which is as big as France, and to move the supplies and equipment necessary to carry out its mandate

The Ethiopian Airforce is currently involved in the socio-economic development of the country by providing extensive social services to the needy population of the country by rehabilitating the houses of the elderly and poor citizens and providing relief supplies to those in need of food in areas in Ethiopian which are affected by climate change-induced drought. Members of the Ethiopian Airforce delivered emergency support during various manmade and natural disasters in the country.

Recently, the EAF has started to engage in a massive agricultural development program by starting up a horticulture and grain development program to ensure its self-sufficiency in food production for the national air force.

The ETAF is also working in collaboration with Ethiopian Airlines through experience-sharing programs and mutual support in developing modern aviation technology and promotion the air defense system of the country.

In its operational areas. The ETAF has provided educational support for children by renovating their schools and supplying educational materials for needy children.

Contrary to the assertions on social media, the Ethiopian Air Force has all the mandate to ensure peace and the rule of law as part of the defence forces of the country and to effectively safeguard the constitution of the FDRE, peace and unity of the nation.

As stated above, the ETAF has developed itself into one of the modern air forces in Africa not only in terms of military capability but also in providing quality training for its offices and pilots who safeguard the peace of the country round the clock. It would continue to be a reliable force for ensuring the safety of the air space of the country.



## The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943  
Published daily except Mondays  
By The Ethiopian Press Agency

Office of the CEO  
Tel. 011-126-42-22  
Fax. 251-011-156-98-62  
email- [epa@press.et](mailto:epa@press.et)

Advertisement and Dist.  
Department

email: [etpresspromotion@gmail.com](mailto:etpresspromotion@gmail.com)  
Tel. 011-156-98-73/011-811-13-15  
Telegram :- 0976084707 - press

Editor-in-Chief: Worku Belachew  
email- [workubelachew@press.et](mailto:workubelachew@press.et)  
Address- Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-city  
Woreda - 05, House No----  
Tel- +251 111 26 41 98

Managing Editor: Wakuman Kudama  
Email: [wakuma220@gmail.com](mailto:wakuma220@gmail.com)

Deputy Editors-in-Chief:  
Alem Hailu  
Elizabeth Mengistu  
Zekarias Woldemariam  
Desta Geberehiwot  
Daniel Beyene

Website: [www.press.et](http://www.press.et)  
email: [ethiopianherald@press.et](mailto:ethiopianherald@press.et)  
Fb/ /Ethiopian Press Agency/  
The Ethiopian Herald

# Business & Economy

## From sky to ocean: Major breakthrough in perishable logistics

BY MEKONNEN SOLOMON

On 4th of Decemberr 2023 Ornamental plant producing and exporting companies of Ethiopia started to export cut flowers to Europe, for the first time, via refrigerated trucks by ocean under partial trial shipment modality. Trucks are maintained at 2°C and expected to arrive in excellent condition at end market, Netherlands. The export of about 468 boxes, containing nearly 190,476 stems or 7,722 kg of refrigerated consignment marks a major breakthrough in the conveying of flowers by sea in Ethiopia.

Maersk is chosen as shipping liner, being the world's largest shipping line and one of the biggest logistics companies in the region, it is assumed to guarantee the delivery of these cut flowers in good time and monitor the quality of produce. This flower product is expected to be reach at end market by passing through Djibouti -Jeddah -Rotterdam sea rout. The estimated duration of the product or flower to reach at end market is estimated to be 4 weeks.

For the last two decades flowers have been exported through air transport means in Ethiopia. In comparison to other transport modality the Ethiopian Air cargo freight industry is noted for its well-developed infrastructure, facilities and remained competitive to meet exporters demand.

The development of cut flowers and ornamental plants expansion in the country was heightened by reliable air transport supply chain of Ethiopian Cargo and logistics service which has 16 freighters with a capacity to load up to 95 tons. According to Ethiopian custom authority, closely 701,816 tons of ornamental plants and cut flowers have been transported by Ethiopian Air Cargo for the last one decade. The rate of air cargo transport for these perishable products has remained unchanged and continued \$1.69 - \$1.72 per kilogram of flower depending on the weight scale.

One of the most obvious benefits of Ethiopian air Cargo freight is, like other air flights, it is much quicker than existing available transport means. The Ethiopian Air cargo used to reach on about 136 international market destinations, including 63 African cities, with daily and multiple flights with a minimum layover in Addis within hours or days, while ocean cargo can take weeks or months. This means that one can meet tight deadlines, respond to changing customer demands, and avoid inventory costs.

Nonetheless, there is a long-standing wish among some flower producers as well as foreign flower importers to make the transition from air transport to sea shipment. The question whether sea freight benefit the Ethiopian flower producers and exporters remains to be seen.

In Ethiopia, the possibility of transporting flowers by sea is a subject that has been discussed for long time, until the Ethiopian flower producing and exporting companies such as Herburg Rose and Sher Ethiopia PLC recently started to find ways, by



adopting the experience and improved practice of perishable logistics service of the worlds, to come to a solution.

Past experience shows that most international transport of flowers is by airplane. The reasons are both related to the perishability of the product and to the fluctuating prices at destination. Currently, some flowers are sea-freighted in refrigerated containers on this sea mode of transport takes longer but have three basic advantages.

First, sea freight is cheaper than air freight. Sea shipments considerably reduce transportation cost to about 50% and provide much more flexibility and satisfy the need for increased transportation capacity especially during holydays. Due to limited capacity and wight restriction of planes, air flights often incurs high costs compared to sea frights. In contrast, sea offers a more cost-effective solution for transporting cargo, making it a preferred choice to optimize expenses.

Second, sea freight has a lighter carbon footprint than air freight. The ships generally have a significantly lower fuel consumption rate per unit area of transport, result in reduced green house gas emissions. The slower speed of sea fright compared to air fright also contributes to its environmental benefits. While air flights rely on jet engine that consumes large amounts of fuel, sea vessels typically use more fuel efficient engine, reducing their impact on environments.

Lighter carbon foot print is important as it mitigates the effect of climate change, improves public health, boosts global economy and improves bio diversity. Many Studies indicate that Sea freight can cut carbon emissions by between 84% and 95%. The carbon intensity of ships that is the amount of CO2 emitted per ton of cargo per kilometer is by far less that Air frighthat commonly ensure cleaner air and water for generation.

Third, sea freight offers a significantly larger capacity for transporting flower compared to air freight. Ocean freight vessels, such as container vessels, can accommodate large volumes of cargo, while air freight is limited by the size and weight restrictions

of aircraft. Additionally, factors like high demand and peak seasons can further reduce air freight capacity. Therefore, businesses with larger shipments or substantial cargo volumes can benefit from choosing sea freight as it provides ample space for efficient transportation.

Moreover, sea freight provides flexibility in terms of schedules and regular services. Shipping lines offer frequent departures to major ports worldwide, ensuring a reliable and consistent transportation service. Businesses can plan their shipments well in advance, taking advantage of fixed sailing schedules. Additionally, the availability of multiple shipping routes and carriers further enhances flexibility, allowing companies to choose the most suitable options for their specific needs.

However, a 4-5-week longer transport period is considered as not yet feasible by many exporters. First of all, this is related to the physiology of the flowering stems. The life of flower is very much related to the breathing or respiration activity. The respiration activity is dependent on the temperature: with increasing temperature the respiration increases exponentially. Higher temperatures have a pronounced effect on the speed of senescence. Longer periods at higher temperatures are detrimental for quality. After harvest, flowers are still alive. They respire and produce heat. The respiration and metabolic activity can be slowed down by keeping the temperature low.

Thus, the most important thing while shipping flowers is to maintain product quality throughout the entire supply chain by efficient cold chain management and packaging specifically designed for the transport of the sensitive goods. Ideally, the flowers are immediately cooled down to transport temperature after harvesting. These temperature conditions must be maintained for the flowers throughout the whole journey. This journey via sea can take more than two weeks. So while shipping temperature-controlled goods, such as flowers, a reliable logistics partner who can provide seamless cold chain transportation, from origin to destination is needed

One of the biggest challenges of ocean freight is the relatively low arrival frequency.

European importers commonly receive flowers via sea freight once 2 or 3 weeks. In the case of air freight, for example, products arrive almost daily, so that volumes are more in line with purchasing behavior of customers. Thus Sea freight requires a corporate strategic turnaround, necessary investments in cooling facilities and adaptation of processes. Products arriving irregularly and at unpredictable times also present a major challenge for importers who need to schedule the unpacking of the flowers. Making it plannable is the challenge of sea freight.

Recent studies, conducted by Sustainable Agriculture Innovative International, reveal that several importers and traders note that their customers are not really positive about a change from Air to sea freight. Particularly in the florist channel, traders remain cautious about the possibilities of sea freight. The simple reason that is often mentioned is that change is not liked. In addition, there is a strong 'day fresh' culture in the flower trade. Many traders and florists swear by the freshest possible products, preferably harvested yesterday.

The other challenge is customer's demands flexibility, especially in the florist channel. For example, when the weather gets hot, there is less demand for flowers. That is also why there is a general demand for smaller and last-minute orders. European wholesalers tend to move along with daily market sentiment. This is of course difficult if a container is just on its way. On the other hand, the UK retail sector is, according to a number of interviewees, easier to plan.

Assortment fit for sea freight is also the other challenge faced by many exporters experiencing in sea frights. Exporters with experience in sea freight said that vase life is generally not the problem. However, softer products often cause problems. Damage to softer petals is increased during longer transport, the pressure spots become larger. It is especially seen with certain colors. Red and orange varieties are trickier, as you can see any damage. It is the perception that longer lengths appear to have more difficulty with sea freight, according to interviewed traders.

Over the past couple of years, much has been learned and while some trials failed others have developed into regular supply lines. So far, the results of sea freight in east African have been mixed. These are because of a combination of existing quality issues with roses, deficient cold chain management. Poor post-harvest handling and the unavailability of packaging specifically designed for sea freight. Also due to challenges of high inland transportation cost related to poor shipping connections and frequently occurring delays in the supply chain.

To gain deep insight about the advantage and disadvantage of sea freight for flowers, a comprehensive study needs to be taken for the time to come.

*Mekonnen Solomon is a Horticulture export coordinator at MoA.*

# In the Sphere of Diplomacy

## Africa's negotiators urged to leverage on African science at COP28 high table

African scientists and researchers are concerned that the data shows that the continent is being cornered by the spiraling effects of climate change, that the real impact of climate devastation is yet to unfold, and that the region is on the cusp of more severe and catastrophic consequences.

Given Africa's high exposure and fragility to extreme and drastic changes in weather patterns, coupled with a low adaptative capacity, fears and concerns are rife that a failure to capture the full devastating picture on the ground could compromise Africa's negotiating position at COP28 currently underway in Dubai.

In a session titled 'African Science for the African Position,' delegates heard about the mismatch between existing data and the needs on the ground and why it is critical to highlight climate change research from the continent.

"The focus of this conversation is really about data needs; the role of science from Africa but also across the global South to feed into the negotiating positions is overlooked. There is a need to improve our data and our social science in a way that provides accurate and comprehensive evidence for decision-making. Across climates—and of course here we are focusing on the UNFCCC—we are starting to look at critical inter-linkages around biodiversity, the ocean, livelihoods, justice, and equity," said Laura Pereira, associate professor at the Global Change Institute at Wits University in Johannesburg and researcher at the Stockholm Resilience Centre at Stockholm University.

Dr. Odirilwe Selomane, from the Department of Agriculture Economics, Extension, and Rural Development at the University of Pretoria, reflected on progress at COP28.

"Some of the issues that stood out are that there is a lack of nature-based solutions for funding on the one hand, and on the other hand, listening to those with nature-based solutions speak about a lack of funding, especially biodiversity financing. This disconnect can be bridged through scientific baselines that show what is happening on the ground to inform decision-making while designing responsive or climate action projects for Africa."

When we look at the global soil degradation map, for instance, is it reflective of our continent and ecosystems, and how do we then improve these maps so that they give us an accurate reading of our contexts? One of the most effective and efficient approaches is to lean on African-centered science and research to give us the data needed to make decisions that match the needs on the ground."

An open letter by 50 African scientists to African Heads of State and Government in light of COP28 reads, in part:



***C*limate change is already multiplying threats to life on the African continent with record-breaking food insecurity and water stress levels. Poor health indicators and economic insecurities are of particular concern**

"African citizens are feeling the heat and experiencing the drought, the instability in food supply and prices, the boiling oceans, and the impact of dwindling forests. The world is on fire, quite literally. Climate floods, cyclones, and wildfire events are becoming less predictable and more intense, destroying lives and displacing tens of thousands as the climate crisis deepens. We are in the midst of a human-made climate crisis, one that will get much more catastrophic if we fail to act."

The letter further spoke about how alarming levels of gas emissions are increasing temperatures on the continent, compounding the multiple challenges facing the continent. Between 1900 and 2000, the continent warmed by 2°C in some regions. Stressing that Africa's ten hottest years since records began has all been since 2005.

At the current pace of greenhouse gas emissions, the projected annual mean temperature increase for Africa is approximately 6°C by the end of the 21st century, the scientists warned. In the coming years, climate heat waves will occur more often, at higher intensities, and last longer as greenhouse gas emissions increase.

Climate change is already multiplying threats to life on the African continent with record-breaking food insecurity and water stress levels. Poor health indicators and economic insecurities are of particular concern.

As the end beckons for the COP28 summit, these scientists are urging African leaders and negotiators to keep their eyes firmly on the African agenda and particularly focus

their attentions on key areas: phase out fossil fuels, enforce the polluter's pay principal, protect and conserve Africa's biodiversity, and not be distracted by fraudulent carbon markets and biodiversity credit markets.

Against this backdrop, more than USD 186 million of new financing for nature and climate towards forests, mangroves, and the ocean has already been announced during Nature, Land Use, and Ocean Day. This funding builds on the USD 2.5 billion mobilized to protect and restore nature during COP28's World Climate Action Summit.

For African leaders, this is a step in the right direction. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana, said "The COP28 Presidency, the UAE, has demonstrated real action for nature, one that is backed by significant financial commitments. The journey to 1.5°C, as we all know, is not possible without nature, and this level of action must be expedited to achieve real progress by COP30."

From a scientific point of view, the move is similarly welcome; reversing nature loss can provide upwards of 30% of the mitigation action needed to keep 1.5°C within reach by 2030. Nature has a crucial role to play in reducing climate-related hazards, such as floods and fires currently ravaging poor and vulnerable countries in Africa.

Nature preservation can also provide Africa with the answer to unemployment, as it can contribute a potential USD 10 trillion worth of new business opportunities and provide almost 400 million new jobs.

**SOURCE: INTER PRESS SERVICE**

# Law & Politics

## A celebration of diversity, equality

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

The celebration of 18th Ethiopian Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Day was carried out in Jigjiga town Somali Regional State last Saturday in the presence of President Sahle-Work Zewde, Vice President of the Prosperity Party, Adam Farah, Speaker of the House of Federation, Agegnehu Teshager, chief administrators of regional governments and senior federal and regional officials as well as city mayors.

The festival was celebrated with the motto 'diversity and equality for national unity'. The main objective of the festival is to strengthen national and multinational unity despite diversity. This event has been taking place every year for the last 18 years and is linked to the promulgation of the federal constitution which took place in December 1994.

On the occasion, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed sent a congratulatory message to all Ethiopians highlighting the importance of the celebration and the objectives of the event. He said it was his firm belief that the celebration would help build a shared narrative of national unity. He went on to define what being Ethiopian means and that it is a national identity that is centered on national unity. He said being Ethiopian embraces the diversity of nations, nationalities, and peoples on the one hand and recognizes the strong synergy that binds Ethiopians and continues to do. Being Ethiopian he said has been a bond for generations.

The celebrations were streamlined and viewed all over the world through various channels. At the celebration itself, several officials gave speeches marking the importance of the day. In this regard, President Sahle-Work Zewde delivered an important message highlighting the significance of the day. She stresses the importance of tolerance as a vital element that will allow Ethiopians to build their unity on a strong foundation.

The president said tolerance and prioritizing ideas rather than conflict will allow us to build our unity on a strong foundation. The remark was made at the celebration of the 18th Ethiopian Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Day in Jigjiga town, Somali Regional State.

President Sahle-Work added that the festival is celebrated not only to show that diversity, multinational unity, and equality are inseparable but also to strengthen them. She said the event is an opportunity to remind us that our diversity should not be an impediment to our unity and equality.

Developed countries had also faced identity-related problems, but they were able to overcome the challenges through inclusiveness, she noted adding that however there is no other option than to live together as equals. She further explained that the greatness of Ethiopia cannot be

***If there is communication and knowledge about the others who live nearby in the same country the sense of unity and bond gets enhanced and there are little chances of misunderstandings and hence disputes***

separated from the greatness of its peoples, emanating from their history, culture, adventure, and the like.

It is our responsibility to maintain the greatness of this nation, she said, adding that Ethiopia will live in peace and develop only when we solve our common problems through dialogue.

Disagreements and differences of opinion are not enmity, the president said. The president pointed out that diversity is not

only about culture and language but also about thought; hence, trying to resolve differences with guns and force in our country must end. We must solve problems through discussion and dialogue, she emphasized.

In a way, she was also referring to the National Dialogue Commission which has been working relentlessly in the past couple of years selecting agendas for discussions and participants in the discussions from every corner of the country including those who are outside Ethiopia. In fact, the leader of the National Dialogue Commission Professor Mesfin Araya has been talking about the importance of the participation of every interest group including those in the diaspora, and that his body was ready to invite all those who want to take part in the deliberations. Such discussions as the president mentioned are important to create a common outlook on what our country can look like in the future distancing itself from frivolous divisions and resorting to force to assert one's ideas.

It should be ideas that should win over ideas and not personalities or groups over personalities and groups. The objective of this exercise should be to adopt a common ground on which to base the country without any disputes that could lead us to conflicts and constitute an obstacle to our progress and development. At the same time, it risks exposing us to the attacks of those who do not want our country to grow and exert the influence it deserves both at the African level as well as in the larger context of the world.

It should be recalled that in this regard Ethiopia's recent joining the BRICS economic group can be considered as a huge success for both the diplomacy of Ethiopia as well its significance in Africa. The fact that Ethiopians commit themselves to unite wholeheartedly under the 1994 Federal Constitution is the gateway to this bright future where all nations, nationalities, and peoples can count on their equality and dignity under a just system and a just law.

On the same occasion of the celebrations Speaker of the House of Federation, Agegnehu Teshager underlined the notion of unity under the constitution. He said celebrating the holiday in unison has helped us to strengthen our national unity.

He also said that the efforts exerted to bring Ethiopians to unity instead of differences, love instead of hate, and trusts instead of doubt have yielded results.

The speaker noted that diversity is not a debt to Ethiopia, but a reward for our people. It is clear that there are several more elements that unite us Ethiopians than divide us. The Nations, Nationalities, and People's Day can only be another testimony to this fact. When we see people of various cultural origins decorated with their respective traditional costumes and displaying their chants with dances testifies to the fact that being aware of the others' cultural traits

helps build up the bond and diminishes misunderstandings between communities.

The first cause of any misunderstanding between communities is a lack of awareness about the identity and cultural traits of others. If there is communication and knowledge about the others who live nearby in the same country the sense of unity and bond gets enhanced and there are little chances of misunderstandings and hence disputes.

Ethiopians have been living together for centuries without any significant internal conflicts. Communities of various ethnic identities be it cultural, religious, or linguistic have not been prevented from living together. Ethiopians know that when they are divided they are exposed to external attacks and this is what they try to avoid. The 1994 federal constitution in this sense is a legal guarantee for peaceful cohabitation and equality before the law and the firm application of the rule of law equally across the board.

What the constitution establishes is that there can't be discrimination between nations and nationalities and all of them are treated equally under the law. Here it is good to note the speech delivered by the Chief Administrator of Somali Regional State, Mustafe Mohamed who recalled that some regions, including the Somali region, had been considered as partners to the existing party in the past and their request to organize as a regional party was denied. It was not hence treated equally and justly.

He pointed out that following the reform the country launched five years ago, a national party was formed, granting everyone an opportunity to participate equally, and the right to organize as a regional entity was also acknowledged and respected. The theoretical application of the provisions of the constitution was not implemented until a few years ago according to Mustafe.

He said, "We Ethiopians are people who live together in unison. We must strengthen our brotherhood to exploit the wealth that nature has given us properly".

The Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Day is a major occasion to strengthen our bond as a nation and help us create a common narrative that helps us advance in our trajectory of development and progress. Ethiopia should not be bothered anymore with the diversity of its peoples in whatever way it could be but converge to building a nation that is strong and forward-looking rather than be prisoners of the past that continue to relate certain negative narratives to put at risk its unity.

The challenges of development that we face in today's world can only be resolved with a united front and that was what all the major leaders of the country were stressing when they talked about the importance of the Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Day, a testimony to that idea. The significance of the day cannot be overstated in our context and in the current political landscape.



# Society

## Acknowledging diversity for nation-building

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

Several historians have acclaimed Ethiopia's history as a testament to the coexistence and harmonious interaction among diverse societies, despite occasional rifts. They assert that Ethiopia's ancient past, characterized by civilizations, empires, and unique historical events, holds significant value in shaping the nation as a harmonious home for all citizens while preserving their identities. In this regard, Nation, Nationalities, and People's Day have special significance to all Ethiopians to further ensure their unity and an age-old culture of tolerance.

By recognizing and honoring the various ethnic groups and communities, this day promotes a sense of unity and shared identity among the people of Ethiopia. It also serves as a platform to acknowledge the contributions of different groups to the country's history, development, and cultural richness, thereby fostering a spirit of inclusivity and national pride.

During the 18th Ethiopia Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' day celebration in Jigjiga city, Somali region, themed "Diversity and Equality for National Unity," senior officials, dignitaries, and scholars shared insights on embracing diversity, fostering national identity, and addressing differences through a panel discussion and the presentation of study papers.

In his congratulatory message, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) expressed his firm belief that the celebration will help build a shared narrative of national unity. Being an Ethiopian means a national identity centered on multi-national unity. He also said, the concept of being an Ethiopian embraces the diversity of Nations, Nationalities and Peoples on one hand and recognize the strong synergy that had been binding Ethiopians for centuries.

Speaking on the occasion, President Sahle-Work Zewde emphasized the importance of building tolerance and prioritizing governing ideas over antagonistic ideologies. She highlighted the need to move away from the outdated "My way or no way" mindset, emphasizing that these efforts are crucial in laying a strong and unwavering foundation for unity.

President Sahle-Work underscored that the festival serves as a platform to demonstrate that the nation's diversity, multinational unity, and equality are interconnected. She emphasized the significance of nurturing these values through shared narratives to foster national unity and fraternity. Additionally, the event serves as a reminder that diversity should not hinder unity and equality.

In addressing identity-related challenges, the President noted that developed countries have successfully navigated similar issues through inclusive dialogues among concerned entities. She stressed that living together as equals is the only viable option.

Furthermore, President Sahle-Work



elaborated on the intrinsic connection between the greatness of Ethiopia and its people, emphasizing that the collective history, culture, and spirit of the nation are integral to its overall greatness. She emphasized the responsibility of safeguarding this greatness and highlighted the necessity of solving common problems through dialogue to ensure peace and development.

The President emphasized that diversity encompasses not only culture and language but also encompasses diverse thoughts. She strongly advocated for resolving differences through discussion and dialogue, rejecting armed conflict and the use of force to gain power. In her view, disagreements and differences of opinion should not lead to enmity.

Chief Administrator of Somali Regional State, Mustafe Mohamed, highlighted the historical challenges faced by certain regions, such as the Somali region, in terms of their participation in the political landscape. He emphasized the denial of the right to organize and run a regional party during the time of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front coalition (EPRDF) party. However, following the country's recent reform efforts, the formation of a national party has provided equal opportunities for participation, including the right to organize as a regional entity.

***By embracing unity,  
Ethiopia can harness the  
collective strengths, talents,  
and contributions of its  
people to advance the nation's  
progress in various fields,  
including social, economic,  
and cultural domains***

Mustafe Mohamed emphasized the importance of unity among Ethiopians, stressing the need to strengthen brotherhood

to effectively utilize the nation's natural resources for the collective benefit.

Speaker of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) House of Federation, Agegnehu Teshager, emphasized that diversity is the cornerstone of Ethiopia, fostering mutual interaction and solidarity. He highlighted that diversity is an expression of identity based on the principle of equality, representing an opportunity and wealth for the nation. Agegnehu asserted that diversity is not a burden but a reward for Ethiopians.

Furthermore, Agegnehu emphasized the need to strengthen the national unity system based on equality, preserving it through consultation and understanding in the face of challenges. He underscored that the celebration of this day contributes to cementing harmony and nationalism, while emphasizing the importance of resolving differences through dialogue to uphold national unity and combat egocentrism and extremism.

According to Agegnehu, all Ethiopians are responsible for upholding the rule of law, peace, and prosperity in the country. He emphasized the need for everyone to contribute to building a strong, united nation based on a shared narrative.

In a related development, Addis Ababa University recently hosted a panel discussion in conjunction with the celebration of NNPD. The panel's objective was to rectify distorted narratives regarding the constitutionally guaranteed equality and common life, with a focus on fostering national unity, understanding, public truth, peace, and development.

Speaking at the event, vice President of Administration and Student Services at AAU Abdurazak Mohammed (PhD) emphasized the importance of recognizing diversity as a reality and promoting unity through constructive ideas.

Certainly, the unity of the people of Ethiopia is a foundational source of the nation's strength. When individuals from diverse backgrounds come together in solidarity, it creates a powerful force that can overcome challenges, foster development, and build a cohesive society.

By embracing unity, Ethiopia can harness the collective strengths, talents, and contributions of its people to advance the nation's progress in various fields, including social, economic, and cultural domains. This unity not only bolsters the country's resilience but also forms the bedrock for a shared vision of a prosperous and harmonious future for all Ethiopians. Therefore, nurturing and preserving this unity is essential for sustaining Ethiopia's enduring strength and resilience.

Overall, the Nations, Nationalities, and People's Day play a crucial role in promoting unity, understanding, and solidarity across the diverse tapestry of Ethiopia. It provides an opportunity to celebrate the diverse cultures, languages, and traditions that exist within Ethiopia, while also emphasizing the commonalities that bind the nation together.

# Planet Earth

## Africa's advantages of integrating AfCFTA implementation with climate change prevention efforts

BY ZEKARIAS WOLDEMARIAM

The implementation of Africa's Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) can speed up not only economic and trade development of the continent but also ensuring green growth.

African Development Bank (ADB) also asserts that Building on the broad concept of sustainable development, the green growth model provides a pathway that seeks to achieve growth targets and development objectives in a more efficient, sustainable and resilient manner.

In Africa, the priority is to enhance livelihood security and increase economic prosperity. Although there is no single approach to green growth that is universally applicable to all African countries, promoting green growth on the continent means addressing existing and emerging development challenges without locking into pathways that deplete Africa's natural capital and leave economies and livelihoods more vulnerable to climate change and other environmental, social and economic risks.

Africa needs to ensure green growth as it cannot afford to lose its hard won growth that comes in a slow pace to impacts of climate change. Africa is already suffering the impacts of climate change. This mainly not because of its own emission, but also of the developed world.

Through the various global forums, the continent is striving to maintain support and compensation for the damage it has sustained as well as for adapting to the impacts of climate change in the future.

Like all the other countries of the world African states have also submitted their respective documents entitled Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that are the statements of the countries commitment towards addressing global warming.

While being good steps in garnering the desired resources for the continent's climate change prevention activities, the NDCs or other similar efforts are believed to be more fruitful when the countries integrate their NDCs and/or their climate change policies.

This was indicated by a recent study about the impact of greening the implementation of AfCFTA.

Speaking on behalf of UNECA Executive Director, Claver Gatete, Melaku Desta, Coordinator of the ECA's Africa Trade Policy Centre (ATPC) told participants of a side event at a COP 28 side "Africa's Trade and Green Transition: A Continentally Coordinated Approach." about the need to undertake the implementation of AfCFTA in a way that ensures the environmental safety of the continent.

"As we strive to harness the potential of the AfCFTA, it is essential that we do so in a manner that safeguards our natural ecosystem, promotes renewable energy and mitigates the impact of climate change"

ECA and Centre d'Etudes Prospectives et d'Informations Internationales (CEPII) conducted a study - Greening the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement's Implementation -with a view to shedding light on important findings regarding the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement and

parallel adoption of climate policies. It examines how the implementation of AfCFTA agreement can be aligned with green principles, renewable practices and low carbon strategies, according to a Press Release from UNECA.

"The study was conducted against the backdrop of a growing need to consider the impact on the environment as the continent moves towards greater economic integration and take proactive measures to mitigate any negative consequences."

"Africa is being negatively impacted by climate change despite contributing a small amount to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Currently, Africa accounts for approximately 7% of total global GHG emissions from carbon dioxide and other gasses. GHG emissions in Africa are forecasted to grow faster over the next decades than in other parts of the world, although starting from a relatively low level currently," said Mr. Desta, adding that as per the study, emissions could rise to nearly 12% by 2045 based on current trends. If large emitting countries implement policies to transition to clean energy, Africa's economic costs to export goods to those countries could increase.

The AfCFTA creates opportunities for the continent to industrialize and transform through increased trade and as stressed at the session, the AfCFTA stands as a beacon of hope for fostering intra-African trade, economic integration and shared prosperity."

There are concerns, however, that it could add pressure to climate change through increased manufacturing and transportation use, among others.

Analysis shows intra-African trade could be 35% higher in 2045 with AfCFTA agreement in place, as compared to without AfCFTA. About two-thirds of the absolute intra-African trade gains would benefit industrial sectors supporting economic transformation. Supporting this increased trade will require major investments in transportation infrastructure to meet the AfCFTA needs which would be well over 2 million trucks, 100,000 rail cars, 150 vessels and 250 aircraft.

Presenting the key findings, Simon Mevel, Economic Affairs Office at the ECA said they analyzed the impact of implementing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement on Africa's GHG emissions. They also assessed implications of pursuing climate policies like Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and carbon pricing in parallel with AfCFTA Agreement's implementation.

Mr. Rashid Kaukab, Senior Specialist, Trade and Sustainable Development, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) said that the poverty and employment impacts of climate policies shouldn't be overlooked, while Mr. Babajide Sodipo, Senior Manager, Export Development Advisory, Afreximbank, emphasized the need for innovating financing mechanisms for the success of Africa's energy transition.

Participants attending the side event acknowledged the conversation is "a timely reminder of the need to find a balance between trade and climate for the benefit of Africa's future."