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Photo: Berihun Tadele

House approves Mesafint Tefera as EPA new CEO

• Endorses NEBE, EBC heads

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA-The House of Peoples' Representatives (HPR) approved yesterday Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's (PhD) appointment of Mesafint Tefera as the new

CEO of the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA).

Mesafint, who was the Deputy Director General of the Institute of Foreign Affairs, is replacing Getent Tadesse who is also appointed as the new CEO of the Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation (EBC).

EPA and EBC are the pioneer institutions in Ethiopia's print and broadcast media industry respectively.

Moreover, the House approved the appointment of the new Chairperson of the National Election

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Diasporas' engagement in Nat'l Dialogue gaining momentum: ENDC

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) announced that the involvement of the Diaspora community in the National Dialogue is gaining momentum as it has set to confer with Ethiopians and Ethiopian born living in Latin and North America, Oceania and Asia soon.

Commission's Media Communication Partnership Sector Coordinator and Spokesperson Tibebe Tadesse told *The Ethiopian Herald* that the significant work of informing the Diaspora community about the purpose of the commission is on the right track.

Accordingly, an awareness creation program will be held soon with Ethiopians and Ethiopian descent in the aforementioned regions

See Diasporas' ...page 3



Fitsum Assefa (PhD)

Ministry to curb inflation implementing 2nd Homegrown Economic Reform

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA-In the second chapter of the Homegrown Economic Growth Reform, prime attention is given to ensure macroeconomic stability and curb inflation in a meaningful way, the Ministry of Planning and Development (MoPD) said.

See Ministry to curb ... page 3

Ethiopia, Russia vow to heighten holistic bilateral cooperation

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA –It is high time for Ethiopia and Russia to leverage massive opportunities to expedite their trade and investment cooperation, the Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MoIT) said.

During a joint commission and business forum revolving around the two countries economic, scientific, technical and trade cooperation, MoIT Minister Belete Molla (PhD) yesterday said that Ethiopia is currently undertaking multifaceted Home Grown Economic Policy Reforms in all fronts to achieve sustainable, green and remarkable economic growth.

Therefore, it is imperative for both countries to design and implement their joint practical industrial projects to ensure mutual

See Ethiopia, Russia ... page 3



News

Experts acclaim COHESA's potential to prevent disease outbreaks

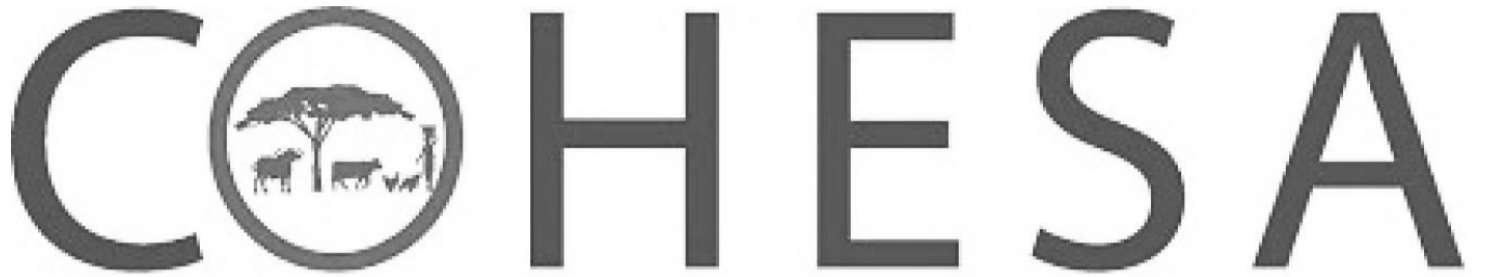
BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA –Equipped by scientific research and the involvement of different actors, the Capacitating One Health in Eastern and Southern Africa (COHESA) project is up to combat disease outbreaks, medical experts said.

Addis Ababa University Health Associate Professor Mirgissa Kaba told *The Ethiopian Herald* that the project would enable to control and prevent disease outbreaks like the COVID-19 due to the combined efforts of different actors.

According to him, the project aims to bring various stakeholders together and find the antimicrobial resistance (AMR) solution using modern information systems and research. The project also makes a good health system and puts efforts to create a suitable interaction among human beings, animals, and environment.

Mirgissa further stated that 60 percent of bacterial infection transmitted from animals to human beings due to the expansion of developmental activities such as urbanization, agriculture, advancement, lack of adequate attention, and climate



Capacitating One Health in Eastern and Southern Africa

change.

A number of pandemics have occurred during the past many years including the worst world epidemic, the Spanish flu that caused immense human loss due to lack of cooperation and unorganized information. The rate of epidemic occurrence now a day is increasing compared with years back due to various reasons.

As a COHESA works on capacity building in education, research, and related issues, it would have the capacity to prevent the pandemic if it happened. Universities like Mekelle, Addis Ababa, and Jimma are taking part in such activities while it would be expanded into other similar institutions.

AAU's Pediatrics Department Head and Tikur Anbessa Infection Disease Specialist Workeabebe Abebe (Prof.) on her part said that drug adapted bacteria are increasing especially among cancer patients. Besides, 1/3rd of infection comes from drug adapted bacteria and increased the death rate by one-third as well.

Workeabebe added, "We are planning to work closely with artificial intelligence (AI) to bring significant change on AMR and to form a conducive environment among humans, animals, and the environment. This means that COHESA has the ability to prevent a pandemic if it arises."

Expressing conviction for the above

rationale, Seid Teku (Prof.) from Jimma University stated that AMR is a timely and serious concern that has been causing serious damages globally. Currently, over 700,000 people across the world are losing their lives each year due to AMR factor while the developing countries are the most affected.

The scholar recommended that balancing the environment with humans and animals through collaboration effort is vital to create suitable living on earth.

It is to be recalled that COHESA is a collaborative project involving representatives from some 12 countries of Eastern and Southern Africa.

Ethiopia

imports 150,000 PSTS digital IDs

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA - The Public Service Transport Service (PSTS) announced that it has imported 150,000 public service transport digital IDs to launch a pilot project aimed at providing advanced services.

PSTS Information Technology Director Kalkidan Gebeyew told the Ethiopian Press Agency(EPA) that the institution would launch the pilot project in two months with the imported digital IDs that receive NFC technology for improved verification that avert any contact. The Director said that this digital card will solve forgery problems that had been occurred while using the old paper ID.

The digital ID contains the complete personal information of the user and the software to verify the card will be installed on the buses, he said, adding that the card verification would be processed through extracting and analyzing the complete information when the customer comes closer to the bus with the digital card.

He stated that the new system also helps to identify the validation of customer IDs.

The software that reads the cards is being developed by an indigenous company called



the Premium Ethiopia, he noted.

According to Kalkidan, the ID cards are processing through consecutive inspection to ensure their quality and strength to serve for more than ten years.

The digital ID will play a pivotal role in reducing paper consumption in the country and increasing service control efficiency, he added.

He also mentioned that the new ID will enable the government employees to get ATM card recharge in addition to the transportation services.

The Director said that the 150,000 cards that have been entered the country would be experimented through a pilot project while efforts are being exerted to implement the digital ID next year.

Cardinal says Catholic Church resolute to peace

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Archbishop of the Ethiopian Catholic Church Cardinal Berhaneyesus Demerew expressed the Church's commitment to engage in inter-religious dialogue to promote human dignity and reconciliation and partner with different stakeholders to peace building.

The Ethiopian Catholic Church held a ceremony to introduce its Ten-Year Plan yesterday.

Speaking at the occasion, the Cardinal stated that the Church is committed to give voice to the voiceless, build peace and resilience throughout the country.

Ethiopian society faces deep challenges and a strong Catholic Church is vital for meeting pastoral and social needs- including health and education and meeting the demands of the poor and vulnerable. Hence, the Church is committed to ensuring strong advocacy for addressing the growing needs in Ethiopia.

"So far, the Church has been responding to humanitarian and emergency demands in different conflict-affected areas and in times of natural and manmade disasters in various parts of the country," Cardinal Berhaneyesus remarked.

Abba Teshome Fikre, Secretary General of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Ethiopia (CBCE) on his part highlighted the Church's strong commitment to strengthen its pastoral



mission with concerted efforts to better serve society.

According to him, the Church remains an active player in humanitarian response and provides support to people in need. Supported by development partners and local allies, the Church has been reaching people affected by the Tigray War. "Also, we have made meaningful participation to address conflict ridden areas and people affected by natural and manmade disasters in Oromia, Amhara, SNNP, Afar and Somali states."

Ethiopian Catholic Church Ten-Year Plan is said to comprise four components namely governance, pastoral ministry, social ministry and operations ministry- along with four systemic competencies.

Over 200 dignitaries, institutional representatives, Church leaders, diocesan staff, congregational representatives, lay and family association members and others took part at the launching ceremony.

News

Ethiopian acquires 450 mln USD loan amid fleet expansion

ADDIS ABABA (ENA)- Ethiopian Airlines, Africa's largest carrier, yesterday announced a landmark 450 million USD loan agreement that will finance five new Boeing aircraft: three Boeing 737-8 and two Boeing 777F (Cargo).

The loan will be secured against the value of the five planes and has been arranged exclusively by Citi's Corporate Banking and Export Agency and Finance teams. It is guaranteed by the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM).

Ethiopian Airlines is a longstanding client of Citi's Treasury and Trade Solutions (TTS) business, and their support and partnership have been instrumental to reaching the deal.

Different parts of the bank, all working together, reflect Citi's unique ability to offer different banking services to clients with cross border needs.

The loan agreement is Citi's largest aircraft financing in Ethiopia within the last decade and will help support both the bank's bid to increase its footprint in the region, and the airline's ambitious growth plan, according to the Ethiopian Airlines.

The five new aircraft will bolster Ethiopian Airline's fleet to 150 in total and delivery of all the aircraft will be completed in the U.S. state of Washington in December.

The new arrivals will help Ethiopian serve all its destinations by accelerating its expansion throughout the world and will further bolster Ethiopian Cargo and Logistics Services' position as Africa's largest cargo network operator.

Ethiopian Airlines has ambitions to grow its



fleet to over 270 aircraft by 2035.

Ethiopian Airlines Group CEO Mesfin Tasew said, "We are pleased to announce that we have reached an agreement with Citi to secure a 450 million USD loan. This financing will allow us to expand our fleet size by adding five new aircraft, three B737-8 MAXs and two 777 Freighter."

Fleet expansion being one of our strategic growth pillars, we will continue expanding and modernizing our fleet size so as to grow our business and reach new markets, he added.

Citi Sub Saharan Africa Head, Akin Dawodu said "Citi has been serving Ethiopian Airlines for many decades, and we are pleased to support its growth with financing for five new aircraft."

A lot of work has gone into getting this deal off the ground, and it is thanks to Citi's strong relationships and connectivity both within the country and across our global network that we have been able to make it happen.

Citi has been working with Ethiopian Airlines for 45 years, supporting the airline's treasury operations and working capital management in 27 countries across five continents.



Diasporas' engagement in Nat'l Dialogue...

to realize an inclusive and participatory National Dialogue, he said.

As to him, the commission informed foreign nationals of Ethiopian origin and Ethiopians who are living abroad about its missions and the successful activities it has made so far.

For example, the commission has given adequate information to the Diaspora community living in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East countries, he mentioned.

The commission strongly works on briefing its duty, responsibility, and future activities for the Diaspora aimed at ensuring national consensus

through broadminded, participatory, and all-inclusive approach, Tibebe stressed.

"Though the commission is striving to inform the Diaspora community and the local one about what it is doing, a lot remain to be done with regard to ensuring accessibility compared with the wide range of tasks it required. To this end, the commission works in close collaboration with stakeholders such as the media," he said.

He also called up on the Diaspora Community to play their part to end conflict and realize National Dialogue through sharing knowledge, experience, and others.

House approves Mesafint Tefera...

Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) Melatwork Hailu, a lawyer by profession. Melatwork is replacing NEBE's former Chairperson Birtukan Mideksa who resigned from her position last August.

While presenting their credentials, Government Whip Tesfaye Belijige said the three individuals have been appointed by the Prime Minister based on their job experience and educational background.

Ethiopia, Russia vow to...

benefit, the Minister underscored.

Despite their diplomatic and historical friendship which is built on solid rock-foundation, the Minister remarked that their trade and investment relations have not been bearing a remarkable achievement.

The Minister said, "Ethiopia is open for Russian companies to invest in building new hydropower power plants, wind-farm, and geothermal energy, natural and solar energy in the form of Public Private Partnership."

This midterm review helps unlocking Ethiopia-Russia tremendous economic and technological potentials to realize prosperity for the people of the two great nations. Besides, it critical to nurture political relations on both sides to ensure peace and security in their respective regions, Belete stated.

Moreover, Ethiopia is also interested to work with Russia in the areas of information warfare technologies, cyber-crime investigation, aerospace technologies, artificial intelligence, ICT infrastructure expansion and management, he added.

"It is vital for Ethiopia and Russia to enhance collaboration to ensure global peace and security including fighting terrorism, modernization of defense capabilities as well as curving emerging threats in cyber

security," he pinpointed.

The Minister called on the Russian investors and companies to explore the huge opportunities and exciting incentives available in Ethiopia in manufacturing, mining, energy, agriculture, pharmaceutical and other sectors.

The Russian Commission Delegation Chairman, Head of the Federal Agency for Mineral Resources of the Russian Federation, Evgeny Petrov for his part said that Ethiopia is immensely endowed with human and natural resources.

He further remarked that his country is keen to boost industrial connections across various sectors including the capacity building sphere which help train professionals who tap the identified areas and outlined projects.

So far, he remarked that the Russian companies have not been well aware of the Ethiopia's legal frameworks and areas of interest, therefore, the first Ethio-Russian business forum would be significant platform to networking reliable partners in the latter's market and strengthening their relationships.

Moreover, the forum would be a catalyst to expedite the relationsand economic cooperation of two sides, he noted.

Ministry to curb inflation implementing...

MoPD Minister Fitsum Assefa (PhD) made the above remark while presenting her ministry's first quarter performance report to the House of People's Representatives Planning, Budget and Finance Affairs Standing Committee yesterday.

Fitsum indicated in her report that MoPD has been doing promising jobs to enhance institutional capacity, resource utilization and service delivery. She also discussed the policy preparation, monitoring and evaluation system that the ministry has put in place.

Members of the Standing Committee raised questions related to Ethiopia's macroeconomic performance and the ministry's engagement in supporting and monitoring regional entities for the effective implementation of the development plan.

Addressing the queries, the minister said a continuous institutional support and monitoring system is executed to mobilize the regional entities contribution in the implementation of the 10-Year Development Plan.

According to her, Ethiopia's multi-sector progress is the result of policy interventions that the reform government has made

in the past three years. "For instance, remarkable progress is being registered in the development of crops, animals, fish resources and environment and nature protection, which all are attributed to the ongoing economic reform."

In the first quarter of the current fiscal year, the country has encountered different setbacks that hampered the implementation of the plan for foreign direct investment, export trade and job creation.

The minister further highlighted that domestic and international factors challenged the implementation of the plan; calling for stakeholder's collaboration to address hurdles and compensate for the loss.

Standing Committee Chairperson Desalegn Wedaje stressed the need to sustain national growth by managing the macroeconomic system in a continuous manner. Strong support and monitoring mechanisms should also be taken place to implement the 10-Year Development Plan and other related strategies.

The chairperson also appealed to regional actors to play a meaningful role for the successful implementation of the development plan.

"Melatwork is expected to chair preparations and electoral processes of upcoming national and regional elections," Tesfaye remarked.

The House approved the appointment of the new NEBE head with majority vote and one abstention.

Established some 82 years ago, the EPA owns five newspapers namely *Addis Zemen Daily*, *The Ethiopian Herald*, *Al-Alem*, *Bariissaa*, *Wegahta* and *Bakkalcho* as well as a quarterly magazine *Zemen*. The agency dispatches text news and audio-video stories about local and international events to the public and media enterprises.

Opinion

Ethiopia's strong bilateral, multilateral diplomatic relations: Fostering global partnerships

BY HIZKEL HAILU

Ethiopia, a landlocked country in the Horn of Africa, has been actively engaged in building and nurturing strong bilateral and multilateral diplomatic relations with nations around the world. With a rich history, diverse culture, and strategic geographical location, the country has emerged as a key player in regional and international affairs. The writer of this article try to extend his view on exploring Ethiopia's diplomatic efforts, its bilateral partnerships and active participation in multilateral forums, and how these relationships contribute to its economic, political, and social development.

Ethiopia has historically maintained strong bilateral relationships with various African countries. These relationships have been built upon shared historical, cultural, and economic ties, as well as a common desire for regional stability and development. For instance, Ethiopia and Kenya have a long-standing relationship characterized by economic cooperation, trade, and regional security collaboration. The two countries share an extended border and have worked together on infrastructure projects such as; highways and port development like the Lamu Port as well as the South Sudan-Ethiopia-Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor, which aims to enhance connectivity and trade between the two countries and the region.

Likewise, Ethiopia and Djibouti have a strategic partnership due to their geographical proximity and shared interests. Djibouti serves as Ethiopia's main maritime outlet, with around 95% of Ethiopia's imports and exports passing through Djibouti's port. The two countries have collaborated on various infrastructure projects, including the Ethio-Djibouti electrified Railway, which has significantly enhanced trade and connectivity between the two nations.

Ethiopia also has strong bilateral relationship with Rwanda. The two countries have fostered a strong bilateral relationship, particularly in the areas of trade and investment. Both countries have pursued economic reforms and have shown commitment to regional integration efforts, such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Additionally, Ethiopia has provided technical assistance to Rwanda in areas such as agriculture and infrastructure development.

Ethiopia has also built strong diplomatic relationship with Sudan, South Sudan and many other African countries. These examples highlight Ethiopia's commitment to fostering strong bilateral relationships with other African countries targeting economic development. These relationships are founded on shared interests, regional integration, and the pursuit of peace and development in the continent.

Additionally, Ethiopia has cultivated strong bilateral relations with countries across Africa. Ethiopia's historical ties with fellow African nations have been pivotal in driving regional cooperation. The country has

played an active role in mediating conflicts and promoting peacekeeping efforts in countries like South Sudan and Somalia. Such diplomatic and military endeavors have solidified Ethiopia's position as a trusted partner in the region.

Furthermore, Ethiopia's bilateral diplomatic relations span across continents, reflecting its commitment to engage in inclusive diplomacy with countries across the globe. One of the significant partnerships is with China. The two nations have enjoyed a long-standing relationship based on mutual respect and cooperation which recently uplifted to the all weather strategic partnership cooperation. China has provided substantial investment for Ethiopia's infrastructure development, including the construction of roads, railways, and industrial parks. This partnership has not only boosted Ethiopia's economic growth but also facilitated technology transfer and knowledge sharing.

Another crucial bilateral relationship is with the United States as Ethiopia pursues inclusive diplomatic approach. Ethiopia and the U.S. have collaborated on various fronts, ranging from security cooperation to development assistance. The U.S. has been a key partner in supporting Ethiopia's efforts in areas such as healthcare, education, and agriculture. Additionally, the two countries have worked together to promote regional stability and counterterrorism activities, underscoring the importance of their strategic alliance.

Ethiopia also shares a strong bilateral relationship with India, characterized by historical ties, trade, and cultural exchange. India has been an important partner in various sectors, including agriculture, technology, education, and healthcare. The two countries have collaborated on development projects, capacity building initiatives, and knowledge sharing programs. India has also extended lines of credit to Ethiopia for infrastructure development, further strengthening their partnership.

Ethiopia and Russia have also maintained diplomatic relations since the 19th century. In recent years, the partnership has gained momentum, with both countries expressing interest in expanding cooperation in areas such as energy, mining, and defense. Russia has provided technical assistance and expertise to Ethiopia in sectors like nuclear energy, aviation, and space technology. These collaborations have opened new avenues for economic growth and technological advancement.

Apart from these, Ethiopia's bilateral relations with Turkey have witnessed significant progress in recent years. Turkey has become an important trading partner and investor in Ethiopia, particularly in construction, textiles, and manufacturing. Turkish companies have played a significant role in infrastructure development projects, including the construction of roads, bridges, and industrial parks. The partnership has also fostered cultural exchange and people-to-people connections.

Ethiopia, additionally, maintains strong diplomatic ties with the EU, which are one of its largest trading partners and a significant source of development assistance. The EU has supported Ethiopia's economic growth, agriculture, and rural development through investments and grants. Moreover, the EU has been actively involved in promoting good governance, human rights, and democracy in Ethiopia, providing technical expertise and financial support for capacity building and institution strengthening.

Not only with the EU, but also Ethiopia has cultivated close diplomatic relations with several Gulf Cooperation Councils (GCC) countries, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Qatar. These countries have been important sources of investment, trade, and remittances for Ethiopia. The Gulf countries have supported Ethiopia's infrastructure development, particularly in sectors like construction and real estate. Additionally, they have played a crucial role in facilitating employment opportunities for Ethiopian migrants in the Gulf region.

Ethiopia further actively participates in multilateral forums, recognizing the importance of collective action and global cooperation. The African Union (AU), headquartered in Addis Ababa, serves as a significant platform for Ethiopia's multilateral engagement. As one of the founding members of the AU, Ethiopia plays a vital role in shaping the continent's agenda. It has contributed troops to peacekeeping missions and advocated for African unity, integration, and development.

Ethiopia's engagement with neighboring countries has also been instrumental in fostering regional integration and stability. The country is a member of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), an East African regional organization focused on promoting peace, security, and development. Through IGAD, Ethiopia collaborates closely with countries such as Kenya, Sudan, and Djibouti on issues like conflict resolution, trade facilitation, and infrastructure development, contributing to regional progress.

Ethiopia's involvement in the United Nations (UN) is also noteworthy. The country has been elected to various UN bodies, including the UN Human Rights Council and the UN Security Council. Through its participation in these forums, Ethiopia has been able to address global challenges, advocate for the rights of African nations, and contribute to the formulation of international policies.

Furthermore, Ethiopia actively engages with international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to access development assistance, promote economic growth, and address poverty alleviation. These partnerships provide Ethiopia with financial resources, technical expertise, and policy advice to support its developmental goals.

As the headquarters of United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

(UNECA), Ethiopia also plays a vital role in promoting economic development, regional integration, and sustainable growth across Africa. UNECA works closely with member states, including Ethiopia, to provide research, policy advice, and technical assistance on economic and social matters. Ethiopia's involvement in UNECA strengthens its position as a hub for African development and policy formulation.

It is also undeniable fact that Ethiopia is an active member of the African Development Bank (AfDB), a regional development bank focused on promoting economic growth and social progress in Africa. The bank provides financial resources, technical expertise, and capacity-building support to member countries. Ethiopia has benefited from AfDB's funding for various infrastructure projects, agriculture initiatives, and private sector development, contributing to the country's overall development agenda.

As a member country to Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), a forum of developing countries that advocate for peace, sovereignty, and development, Ethiopia is playing its pivotal role. Through its participation in NAM, Ethiopia has strengthened its ties with countries from different regions and has actively engaged in discussions on global issues, including disarmament, human rights, and socio-economic development. Ethiopia's involvement in NAM amplifies its voice on the international stage and enables it to contribute to the shaping of global policies.

All in all, Ethiopia, a nation nestled in the Horn of Africa, has established robust bilateral and multilateral diplomatic relations with countries worldwide. With its rich history, diverse culture, and strategic geographical location, Ethiopia has emerged as a key player in regional and global affairs. Ethiopia's strong bilateral and multilateral diplomatic relations demonstrate its commitment to global cooperation and its aspirations for economic growth, political stability, and social progress.

Through strategic partnerships with countries such as China and the United States, Ethiopia has leveraged foreign investments, technology transfer, and development assistance to advance its infrastructure, education, and healthcare facilities.

Active participation in regional organizations like IGAD and multilateral forums like the AU and the UN has allowed Ethiopia to contribute meaningfully to regional integration, peacekeeping efforts, and the formulation of global policies. As Ethiopia continues to strengthen its diplomatic ties with countries across the globe, it remains poised to play an increasingly influential role in shaping regional and international affairs.

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

Editorial

Ethiopia's unwavering commitment to peace, security

Ethiopia's commitment to international and regional peace and security has never faltered under any circumstances. No matter what its internal challenges are, the nation has been willing to take praiseworthy measures for the sake of international as well as regional peace and security.

This is witnessed at various times when the nation responded to the call for peacekeeping operations, anti-terrorism activities, and settling internal differences through negotiations and supporting regional and continental peace initiatives.

As an active participant in the 10th Annual High-Level Seminar on Peace and Security-the Oran Process, Ethiopia has reflected its commitment to peace and security.

The theme "Celebrating 10 Years of Progress and Cooperation: A Decade of Transformation and Innovation, Reaching New Heights Together" assessed the achievements made by the African Members of the UN Security Council (A3) in fulfilling the AU-given mandate and reflected on the challenges faced over the past ten years.

Ethiopia's role in the 10th Annual High-Level Seminar on Peace and Security is a manifestation of its dedication to addressing peace and security issues in the continent. What is more, the Seminar also serves as a platform for African countries to identify peace and security-related matters and then foster cooperation through institutional coloration.

As indicated by Ambassador Nebiat Getachew, the Oran process serves as a powerful platform to align actions and mobilize efforts to safeguard Africa's peace and security amidst significant political shifts at both regional and global levels. Certainly, Ethiopia is an active participant in the seminar and has demonstrated its commitment to safeguarding peace and security in Africa as well as in other parts of the world by sending its peacekeeping forces.

Ethiopia's commitment to internal peace is also witnessed when it accepted the Pretoria Agreement unequivocally. Indeed, mindful of the people of Ethiopia to live in peace and dignity, the Pretoria Agreement emphasizes the importance of lasting peace through a permanent cessation of hostilities and serves as a living testimony for African countries that face recurrent conflicts. What is more, the country's obligation to continental peace is also evident through its involvement in the African Union peace process.

True, Ethiopia's commitment to support the African Union's peace effort and advocate expanded partnership between the UN and AU to address violence and humanitarian crises in the continent is one good indication of how the nation is aggressively working to ensure peace and security in the continent.

Moreover, regarding ensuring global and continental peace and security, Ethiopia has made significant efforts in counter-terrorism to address the threats posed by terrorist organizations.

Ethiopia's commitment to combating terrorism in Africa is indication of how the nation is decisively working to ensure sustainable peace and security in the continent. What is more, through its cooperation with international partners and organizations Ethiopia is aggressively working to address global challenges of terrorism. Since the Seminar's primary objective is to ensure decisions adopted by the African Union Peace and Security Council are effectively promoted and defended at the UN Security Council, Ethiopia's active participation and inputs to the summit serve as a remedy to regional peace and stability.

Overall, Ethiopia's participation in the 10th Annual High-Level Seminar on Peace and Security underscores its relentless commitment to peace and security in Africa.



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The Ethiopian Herald

Opinion

Why green transition is urgent issue in Africa

BY STAFF REPORTER

Africa, rich in mineral resources, must leverage the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to accelerate green transition to boost sustainable development and environmental protection.

Speaking at a three-day peer review meeting for research papers on *Green Considerations of the AfCFTA* in Addis Ababa, ECA Director for Regional Integration and Trade Division, Stephen Karingi underscored the importance of green transition for Africa.

"Africa needs to use every instrument at its disposal to move towards green transition, this will be for the region's own resilience and future competitive advantage as we have already seen from the example of the European Union Carbon Border Adjustment mechanism that African businesses competitiveness in foreign markets will be heavily tested," said Mr. Karingi, emphasizing that Africa needs to create a policy and regulatory environment that promotes green growth, including green industrialization and environmental protection.

ECA in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and with financial support of the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) undertook research to investigate opportunities of how to promote green transition and environmental protection through the implementation of the AfCFTA. The research sought to understand the interlinkages between policy areas of the AfCFTA and environmental conditions as well as understanding the opportunities and challenges of greening the implementation of the provisions of the AfCFTA protocols.

Launched in 2019 by African countries, the AfCFTA is a free trade area to create a single continental market with a population of about 1.3 billion people and a combined GDP of approximately US\$ 3.4 trillion. At its full realization, the AfCFTA with the mandate of eliminating trade barriers, will be the largest free trade area in the world bringing together the 55 countries.

Climate change poses a significant threat to African countries' economic, social, and environmental sustainability. Investing in green sectors and promoting sustainable investment practices is critical for African countries in mitigating the impacts of climate change and transitioning to a low-carbon economy.

The ECA notes that the AfCFTA Protocol on Investment presents a unique opportunity for African countries to attract and promote investments in green sectors that support green transition.

The AfCFTA Protocol on Investment provides several mechanisms for African countries to achieve green transition. These mechanisms include promoting investment in green sectors, facilitating technology transfer, developing green investment standards and encouraging regional cooperation.

Why Africa must pursue green transition

Africa is the least contributor to climate change but it is worst affected by it. 16 of the 20 countries listed as most vulnerable to climate change are in the African region, Mr. Karingi said.

Besides, there is a major financing gap in climate finance and investments in Africa which attracts less than 1.5 percent of the global renewable energy investments yet climate disasters are costing the continent between 5 and 15 percent of the GDP.

Research by the Africa Climate Policy Centre indicates that the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, requires annual investments of \$3 trillion, including \$2.5 trillion between 2020 and 2030.

Mr. Karingi highlighted that the AfCFTA could improve the regulatory and policy environment to boost intra-African trade and investments that promotes sustainable industrialization and broadens domestic resource mobilization while attracting finance to support Africa climate mitigation and adaptation strategies. With the right market-backed policies, there is a great potential for Africa to leverage its natural resources through the beneficiation of its green minerals, renewable energy and carbon markets, he said.

"The AfCFTA presents Africa with the opportunity to build resilient value chains that can generate green industrial development and also attract investment for sustainable competitive advantage of African businesses in the global market," said Mr. Karingi.

Officer-In-Charge of the UNCTAD Regional Office for Africa, Judith Ameso, said the review of the papers on *Green Considerations of the AfCFTA* - a culmination of a two-year research - was timely on the back of growing recognition of the devastating impacts of climate change in Africa.

Currently research indicates that while Africa contributes 4 percent of the global greenhouse gas emissions, it is suffering the biggest impact of climate change as seen in worsening droughts, low agriculture, high temperatures, flooding and damage to infrastructure, supply and distribution chains.

The latest UNCTAD report on Economic Development in Africa shows that some of Africa's competitive advantage includes having vast resources of critical minerals like copper, magnesium, cobalt and lithium which are key in high technology and green product development.

Ms. Ameso underscored the need to value add the critical minerals and ensure that they are produced and traded in a sustainable, just and transparent manner. The AfCFTA is instrumental in promoting inclusive and sustainable economic development through trade, said Ms. Ameso.

"It is necessary to mainstream climate change and bring policies to the AfCFTA processes including the implementation aspect," Ms. Ameso said.

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

Business & Economy

Enhancing role of manufacturing in economy

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Agriculture has been everything for Ethiopians that has served as the source of basic needs; food, clothing and shelter. It has also been the main stay of the nation's economy. About 70% of the labor force depends on the sector. Besides, it contributes 45% to the country's Gross Domestic Production (GDP) and 80% to the foreign currency earning. Though remained subsistent, the sector has taken the lion's share in fulfilling every household's demands so far and is expected to continue in the same vein until the manufacturing sector takes the leading role in the long run.

It is obvious that the sector is subsistence in which more than 2/3 of farmers possess only less than half hectare of land. It is also climate sensitive and when extreme weather conditions occur, farmers face crop failure which again makes them dependent on foreign handouts.

In such manner, attaining sustainable development without bringing structural economic transformation is impossible. The past governments, beginning from the imperial regime, tried their level best to enhance the role of the manufacturing sector in the economy and to shift the stranded agricultural labor force to the non-farming sectors such as manufacturing and service. In the first five years of development plan of the imperial regime from 1966 to 1971, for example, some achievements were registered in increasing the role of manufacturing sector in the economy and it was possible to increase the sector's role by 6% but could not sustain.

Three years later, the outbreak of the Ethiopian revolution crumpled down the effort and dragged the nation to back to square one. The ideology introduced by the Derg regime was pro socialism and anti-capitalist economic system which labeled the private sector as exploiter of the proletariat. Latter, the regime nationalized both foreign and local private manufacturing industries.

Recorded documents indicate that following the nationalization of the private firms, Ethiopia continued to register negative economic growth particularly in the manufacturing sector.

In fact, public owned manufacturing industries were expanded during the Derg era but the industries were producing below their average capacity due to inefficient management and lack of sense of ownership. It was proved that the protracted war waged against the rebels in the northern part of the country consumed not only the regime's time but also the nation's resources and the industrial production was lowered so that the sector could survive only by subsidy.

The EPRDF regime which assumed power by overthrowing the Derg in 1991 announced that it would pursue free market economy and introduced laws helpful to attract local and foreign investment. In such measures, it could win the hearts of the international financial institutions and secured substantial amount of hard currency in the form of grant and loan.

In addition to these, aiming to stimulate the economy, it privatized some of the public owned enterprises and the money obtained from the privatization endeavor was allocated



to the infrastructure developments such as roads, educational institutions and health centers.

According to the World Bank and the International Monetary fund, in the following two decades starting from 1995, the nation registered double digit steady economic growth. However, according to experts, it is the agriculture sector which has played pivotal role in the economic growth and the growth did not bring structural change as it was intended by the government. The growth also attributed to the public investment than the private one.

The government gave emphasize for the expansion of manufacturing and bring structural change in both the two Growth and Transformation Plans but the achievement was below the intended target.

When introducing the 10 years perspective economic development plan, the current incumbent underlined the value of bringing economic structural change through shifting from agricultural led to the industrial led in which manufacturing is the base.

The emerging economic achievement indicates that attaining economic growth is likely through paying much attention to the manufacturing sector. The sector serves to attract both foreign and local investment; enhance import substitution and boost export; creates the two directions linkages between agriculture and market; create job opportunities to hundreds of thousands, and enables knowledge and technology transfer. In addition, it plays key role in creating self-sustained private led economy.

In the last two decades, cognizant of the vitality of the expansion of the manufacturing sector, the government aggressively engaged on constructing infrastructure and exploring and exploiting energy sources which are vital for industrial production activities. So far, various hydro-power dams are constructed. The Abbay Dam which is projected to generate 5 thousand plus megawatt and eyeing its completion soon is expected to level the nation's energy landscape.

The country is also exploiting other energy sources like wind farm, solar and geothermal that help increase electric power supply to the national energy grid. Currently, due to power outages, most manufacturing industries are producing below their average capacity.

Hence, the completion of the construction of the hydropower dams is expected to ease power interruptions and enhance the industries' producing capacity.

As mentioned above, in the past, the EPRDF regime gave wider attention for the expansion of manufacturing industries which are labor intensive such as sugar factories, textiles and garment among others.

It also cultivated sugar plantations in thousands of hectares of lands. It had an ambition to construct about ten sugar factories and all the projects were derived their financial sources from government budget.

However, due to inefficient project management, financial scarcity and extended corruption, it failed to achieve as per the plan. For instance, while the sugar projects located in southern Omo areas that include Omo I, II and III see their completion soon; other projects started in Amhara region could see their completion after long delay and incurred additional construction cost.

The Tendaho sugar factory, constructed by loan secured from the government of India, seen its completion after many years' delay. However, it is understandable that due to various technical reasons, it is not producing in its full capacity yet. To the poor country such as Ethiopia, delaying the construction of projects and mismanaging the resources is not affordable. Hence, by drawing lesson from the past mistakes, the government should start new projects by doing risk assessment beforehand.

Currently, in order to reduce the role and the involvement of the government in the economy, the Ministry of Finance announced tender to privatize the sugar factories located in Southern Omo areas but to date, no private entity showed interest to purchase the factories and it is expected that sooner will be privatized.

As mentioned above, to attain structural change and to shift the economy from agriculture led to industry one, expanding manufacturing is vital and to lay the foundation in better ground, opening the space to the private sector is essential. To that end, strengthening cooperation with the partners and foreign investors and financial institutions is vital.

Cognizant of these, Melaku Alebel, Minister

of Industry recently said that the Ethio-Russia partnership in manufacturing is a beacon of collaborative success. Russian business delegation led by Russia's Head of Federal Agency on Mineral Resources, Evgeny Petrov is here in Ethiopia to explore investment opportunities. The delegation held bilateral meeting with the officials of the Ministry of Industry.

During the occasion, the Minister highlighted synergies and future possibilities that lie in the collaboration between the two countries in trade and investment, manufacturing sector in particular. This partnership marks a significant journey of collaboration, promising to shape the future of the two nations, he elaborated.

"Our journey, rooted in mutual respect and shared interests, is more than just an intersection of two nations—it's a testament to the power of unity in achieving common goals," the minister added.

Ethiopia has made strides in sustainable development, the Minister said, adding the country is committed to a strategy that emphasizes inclusive and sustainable industrial development, critical to achieving national prosperity.

Moreover, Melaku added that Russia's technological prowess complements Ethiopia's dynamic economy, creating a synergy that is beneficial for both.

He also said that, extending the relations beyond trade is anchored in investment and cultural exchange, fostering a comprehensive partnership. In the manufacturing sector, Ethiopia and Russia are leveraging their strengths for mutual benefit. The Minister also said that Russia's role as a critical trading partner brings technology and expertise to Ethiopia, while Ethiopia offers one of the Africa's fastest-growing markets. "Investment stands at the heart of our economic ties, with Russian interest in Ethiopia's manufacturing sector fostering industrial growth, technology transfer, and knowledge sharing," he noted.

"Therefore, the Ethio-Russia partnership in manufacturing is a beacon of collaborative success and will further this fruitful relationship," Melaku reiterated. The delegation was also briefed on investment opportunities in Ethiopia, particularly in the manufacturing sector.

Art & Culture

Maligning

(Short Story)

BY ALEM HAILU G/KRISTOS

"A good name is better than a fine perfume, and the day of death better than the day of birth," King Solomon

One Sunday afternoon I headed to a nearby barbershop located at the crossroad of Olympia to get my hair cut short. It is a three-by-four room with a French window at the front. One feels not discomfort to sit long in the sunlit room as it is good for a live show, for vehicles shuttle the two way roads whose pedestrian walks are often thronged by passersby and standers-by some of which are taxi drivers, vendors and shoeshine boys.

That day my barber Roza failed to arrive in time though, via a phone, I assured in advance her coming.

Sat on a Sofa, after leafing through different newspapers laid out on the table and after reading different titles, I put down the papers back in place.

Another barber who was waiting for a client was sat beside me. He goes by Seid. Soon we began discussing things. As Seid lived in that area for half a century no person in the vicinity is stranger to him. From force of habit he was quick in laying bare imperfections of passersby whom he names inside out. He had a circular face erected on a wide shoulder devoid of a neck bridge. Foams are seen at both extremes of his lips whenever he talks. He likes talking touching the listener to grab attention.

"Do you see that fiend on the other side of the road?" pointing a finger he stared at me.

"Which one?" I casted curious eyes to where he pointed a finger.

"Do you mean the thin and tall man?"

"Yes, the one that looks like a bark pelted from a long tree and that comically walks by some magical means!"

"I know him. We are on bowing terms. He is one of the frequenters of churches. What do you want to tell me about him?"

"Sure, he seems one who lives in congruence with religious beliefs. But an official in the Wereda Land Management Administration Unit he tacitly takes bribes."

"How?"

"He knows how to tighten or loosen the bolts creating bureaucratic red tape thanks to the long list of rules and regulations."

"Is it to hide his filthy hands he puts on spiritual gloves on them?"

"Innocent civil servants live by the sweat of their brow, while the deceitful ones, who often project a pitiful face fatten by the day sucking the blood of the haves and have-nots alike," Seid touched me on my arm laughing.

"The labyrinth of rules and regulations create a hotbed for corruption. To avoid hectic bureaucracy clients may resort to greasing palms. Cutting bureaucratic



processes short is mandatory," I punched the arm of the sofa unconsciously.

"For the maintenance of one's fence, roof, and house or for the expansion of rooms on one's premise free from any foul play, applicants will be forced to go through a long process full of hustles or they will be denied their rights. That is systematically forcing the applicant to grease service giver's palms to take the hustle out of the intended task," Seid once more touched me on the arm.

"On the flip side, such officials also take bribe to turn wrongful acts right," I eyed him and added

"I see the candle of government service burns on both sides. Against such backdrop, the corrupt blemish the government's image. The tragedy begs for the combing out measures of lechers."

A minute of silence took place.

"My barber Roza said she would arrive shortly but I waited for her more than 45 minutes," I pulled out my wristwatch from the sleeve of my left arm.

"Do not worry she will come soon. Whenever her client-turned concubines give her a call she is on her toes. She clears away in a jiffy as if she has a pair of wings," ha ha he laughed.

Roza is a middle-aged woman with iron ball eyes, hooked nose, curvy hips and slender waist.

"Is she not married? I did see a ring on her middle finger," I posed a question of ethicality with my eyes.

"Her stout husband is a timid gentleman, who discharges his husbandry and paternal duty well catering to all the demands of his wife and children," he paused for a while and continued "But she is a woman whose belly lies in doors, while her bottom outdoors."

"Which is what?"

"Is it for dinning purpose she goes home befouling her body elsewhere!" he laughed once more.

"I never thought she was that type of person. Once she told me about her blissful marriage."

"You mean her theatrical marital bliss."

Giving me such food for thought he made me to spend an hour in the barber shop.

"What you claim seems true, otherwise, she couldn't have waited that long," I said dismayed by her being late in reporting to duty.

"What about your client what happened to him?" I passed a message of you are idle too.

"He will come. Though he lives in a hell hall, he is a man of inflated ego. Like a peacock he likes to show off. He gives exorbitant tips. I offer him preferential treatment. As if a business tycoon, he is open fisted. But often he is sure to give a negative feedback at the end. He derives satisfaction from humiliating the humble and subordinates," he expressed a feeling of 'I do not give a dam whether he comes or not' swinging his right arm.

"How do you respond when he provokes you?" I expressed curiosity.

"Once we did quarrel. I disrupted giving him service under different pretexts but as Roza finds his verbal lashing insufferable he was forced to implore for my service persistently demanding for it,"

At that point Roza arrived heavily breathing.

"Sorry for letting you wait a bit longer. There was jamming. I had to comfort my neighbor who was smote by grief,"

She prepared the chair for me and said "Do hop on!"

At that point Seid winked at me via the big glass hang on the wall in front of me.

"Shall I shave your mustache too?" Roza touched my chin with soft fingers.

"Yes!" I said.

Fifteen minutes later she brushed my neck and took a gown that resembles the one a waiter puts on.

When I got up to leave, a little girl with tattered clothes and a fluid that drips out from her nose came into the room and begged me to buy her a chewing gum. I bought three sticks and handed out to Roza and Seid each. The little girl said "Thank you!" when I divided mine in to two parts and gave her the bigger portion. She ran out quickly.

"What a pitiful soul! She should have gone to school than fending for herself," I saw her off with my eyes.

"That lady with a long dress standing by the

butchery is her mother. Going to bars late at night to sell peanut and fried beans she recklessly hatches too many children whom she makes vendors,"

Making haste to add another acerbic remark Seid pointing his finger and touching my arm said,

"Look at the meatball that rolls on the asphalt ducking his head nonstop like fence lizards which do pushups."

"What about him?"

"He is a newspaper journalist who calls himself an investigative one. Once, we wanted to expose the corrupt practices of a service rendering organization nearby."

"Did you approach him?"

"Yes, he took a list of complaints from victims to challenge the head at the main office. The head, on his part, was asking tangible evidences,"

"Did he come up with the report?"

"No, despite the pile and pile of evidences he got from us he put a hold on the investigation amidst heightened expectation on our side."

"What a shameful thing!" my tone betrayed vexation and regret.

"Presumably, he back pedaled taking bribe from the official who feared he will be deposed from his position if exposed,"

"If a steward turns a thief disastrous becomes the outcome," I said.

"Must you bend his ears with mishmash," Roza frowned on Seid.

Looking at my hair she posed

"How is it?"

"Nice you put me on the right side of 40," I laughed.

Roza bowed bending from her waist putting her right arm on her chest. Paying 100 birr and a 10 birr tip when I was about to leave

Handing out the 100 birr note to Seid loudly Roza said

"Seid, I got your ex-wife today. She said it has been three months since you gave her alimony for the upkeep of your children. Go give her 100 birr she badly needs. You will pay me back later," she looked him with denigrating eyes. He felt a bit ashamed for I heard what people say about him too. He took the money with a confused feeling of shame and ease.

The saying when a person points a belittling finger at others three fingers point at him/her bubbled up to the surface of my mind emanating from the back of it.

Outside I was disturbed terrified that the lashing tongues of Seid will not spare me true to the Amharic proverb "When the image of your friend is tarnished, be sure that next is your turn,"

Caring for one's name and leaving positive-impacting legacy are salient tasks expected from mankind as per the proverb put at the prelude of this story.

Global Affairs



A female orca splitting a herring bait ball while diving through it to get one. (Underwater Sea Scapes WINNER for 2023 Photo Competition The annual Photo Competition for UN World Oceans Day)

Africa's Great Blue Wall

As an Islander from the Seychelles, Africa's smallest country, I find that the ocean is intricately woven into my heritage. It not only defines my roots but also shapes the trajectory of my journey. When I think of the future, I can't help but also look at the boundless possibilities reflected in the vast expanse of the ocean.

I am therefore encouraged that the growing trend of African leaders turning their attention to the ocean as a catalyst for achieving "climate positive growth". This is the premise of the Nairobi Climate Action Summit, where African leaders emphasized that 'Africa possesses both the potential and the ambition to be a vital component of the global solution to climate change'.

African leaders are emphasizing that 'climate positive growth' will be built by Africans, for Africans. Of course, support is needed – no one can achieve the scale of change needed without massive upscaling of investment.

The Great Blue Wall is an initiative which aims to catalyze the promise of 'climate positive growth' into action. Under the Comoros Presidency, the African Union seeks, now more than ever, a 'blue future'.

Spearheaded by African countries in the Western Indian Ocean, as outlined in the Moroni Declaration adopted in June 2023, the Great Blue Wall initiative aims to shield African countries from impacts of climate change and natural disasters uplifting and delivering economic empowerment to local coastal and island communities.

The existing industrialized fishing practices of distant nations are completely detached from the eco-system which supports the biomass and hence poses a threat. The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission has underlined overfishing of tuna species, especially the

big-eye tuna and yellow-fin tuna.

At the same time, the warming ocean, increasing acidification of the water and consequent bleaching of coral reefs affects the availability of the prey species such as mackerel for the much-prized tunas.

Coastal African nations find themselves at risk, often reaping limited benefits from their marine resources, similar to challenges faced with mineral exports from the mainland. FAO and other UN agencies are working with African countries to allow them to reap more benefit from their marine resources.

The Great Blue Wall aims to conserve marine resources through Marine Protected Areas as well as empower local communities by boosting the sustainable fisheries value chain and establishing of additional economic opportunities through eco-tourism and related economic activities.

The 2022 Kunming-Montreal Framework on Biological Diversity delivered a global pledge to place 30% of the world's oceans under protection-further reinforced by the 2023 adoption of an agreement on protecting marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction.

A regenerative model also implies actively investing in the ocean for climate resilience. In this instance, mangroves in particular are nature's best line of defense. Mangroves provide some of the most effective protections against coastal erosion, while they are also critical spawning grounds for numerous commercial fish species and crustaceans.

Marine-based eco-tourism is also one of the most valuable forms of economic activity to provide opportunities for local populations. These are some of the elements that underpin

the transformation from 'extraction' to 'regeneration'.

How does this fit into Africa's drive for sustainable industrialization?

The Great Blue Wall not only offers a model for a 'regenerative blue economy' but also addresses broader challenges associated with Africa's maritime space.

As Africa's trade heavily relies on sea transport, ensuring climate-resistant port infrastructure becomes pivotal, most pressing is the development of Africa's maritime corridors for trade to build on the promise of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Reliable and affordable energy is a key enabler of sustainable value chains. Opportunities exist for offshore wind energy, for example, as being explored by Morocco. Meanwhile, floating solar is being tested in Seychelles, while using the ocean temperature differential for cooling purposes is being piloted in Mauritius.

Financing the vision

As the Great Blue Wall envisions climate resilience built on community-focused economic empowerment, financing is a key. The gap in climate finance is glaring- all the while conflicts divert resources away from climate and development priorities. The climate finance gap highlighted by the High Level Expert Panel on Climate Finance co-chaired by Nick Stern and Vera Songwe showed that \$2.4 trillion was required by 2030.

Large-scale climate finance availability would allow the Great Blue Wall initiative to mobilize quickly and at scale. Additionally, the Great Blue Wall also aims to generate income streams that support communities, reducing dependency and helps to boost

domestic resource mobilization.

Among these opportunities including tapping into the potential of 'blue carbon' or issuing carbon credits based on the sequestration potential of oceanic resources. Successful small scale projects such as Mikoko Pamoja in Kenya have delivered high quality results for local communities through mangrove rehabilitation.

Recognizing increased debt burdens of African countries, the opportunity to use debt swap instruments to replace existing expensive debt with more affordable longer-term lending could potentially liberate fiscal space to be redeployed to finance some of the priorities of the Great Blue Wall. The Seychelles debt for climate swap of 2015 for example delivered new and predictable flows of finance for marine conservation.

Looking ahead: COP28 and beyond

The Great Blue Wall has high-level political backing and is a priority for the African Union and its partners. Efforts are underway to expand its adoption to other African countries, connecting the ambitions of the countries along the Indian Ocean to those along the Atlantic.

At COP28, the focus was on mobilizing seed financing for this ambitious project which not only provides climate adaptation, but also seeks to fundamentally transform the economic model for management of marine resources.

The Great Blue Wall captures the essence of the 'climate positive growth' we hope to see.

Jean-Paul Adam is the Director, Policy, Monitoring and Advocacy at the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, UN Secretariat in New York

(SOURCE: INTER PRESS SERVICE)

Law & Politics

An Air Force that transcends generations

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

The Ethiopian Air Force recently celebrated its 88th year of establishment at the Bishoftu Headquarters where it is stationed. The celebrations were graced by the presence of the Commander in Chief of the Ethiopian Armed Forces Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) and the Chief of Staff Field Marshal Berhanu Jula as well as several high military officials and invited commanders of African Air Force establishments. The celebrations were in fact commenced on November 30, 2023 and continued for days with various programs including visits to the premises of the air base, panel discussions and a spectacular air show called that was conducted in tandem by the United Arab Emirates Air Force and the Ethiopian Air Force.

The Ethiopian Air Force has a long history across decades of activities and its contribution to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country has been enormous. It has always been a symbol of Ethiopia's resilience and independence as well as a testimonial of the sacrifices Ethiopians have paid for their independence and sovereignty.

Ethiopia's geopolitical position in the Horn of Africa at the cross roads of the world's crucial business and trade routes makes it an interested party to whatever may happen around its borders. Ethiopia has historically managed to preserve its independence and territorial integrity with immense sacrifices paid by its patriots who when it was possible have also used the expertise and capacity of its air force. When Ethiopia founded its air force there were few African countries that were independent let alone have their own air forces. Along the decades the Ethiopian Air Force has made remarkable progress and development in training and fielding hundreds of air force members who have taken part in the several missions it had to accomplish.

In general the Ethiopian Armed Forces have been among the strongest in Africa along the decades and has been mentioned as a great force that is always ready to face any invading force with resilience and prowess. In fact Ethiopians did foil alien invasions even without having a professional air force and other elements of the armed forces. The patriots were called by their leaders with their own personal arms and ammunitions and their own provisions and would be fielded in any battle by their respective commanders who could be gathered at a place together and March against the enemy.

This is part of Ethiopian history and every historian has written these episodes as part of the long years of resistance Ethiopians had to face throughout their long history. Once professional armies were being organized and established including the Air Force it was a new chapter in the history of the country and citizens joined the forces proudly to fight for the preservation of the

country's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. The current status of Ethiopia is a result of so much sacrifice and great and enlightened leadership by the various leaders it had along the years.

Ethiopia is no wonder mentioned as an avant-garde of independence and sovereignty on the continent by being the only country that has successfully resisted to any form of colonialism with the sacrifice of its people, its citizens who were always ready to fight back resisting any attacks on its integrity. Ethiopia has also trained several African brothers in its various armed forces with its expertise and has been a model for other African countries.

The 88th anniversary of the Ethiopian Air Force was celebrated with various programs under the theme: "Zero to Hero, Ethiopian Air Force." As part of the program, the first African Air Force Forum was also held in the presence of Africa's Air Force chiefs and top leadership from the continent, companies, experts and government officials.

Air force chiefs visited Unity Park, Entoto Park, Adwa Zero km Mega Project and Friendship Park. Air force commanders also visited the extensive works that have been carried out by the Ethiopian Air Force since the reform was launched in 2018.

At the celebration of the 88th anniversary of the Ethiopian Air Force several remarks were made by the high ranking officials and commanders of the Armed Forces and the Air Force as well. Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Field Marshal Berhanu Jula said on the occasion that the reform undertaken by the Ethiopian Air Force has made it an invincible institution for Ethiopia referring to the recent reforms carried out since Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed came to power. In fact it was said that the entire armed forces have undergone deep reforms in order to make the armed forces better representatives of the country's nationalities and peoples.

Field Marshal Berhanu said that as a result of reform implementation, the Ethiopian Air Force has made milestones in both manpower and technology. He added that the reform has achieved a target of building a professional and non-partisan army to any political party or ideology.

This great nation has repeatedly defeated foreign invaders, Field Marshal Berhanu said, recalling the challenges of internal conflicts. Outstanding achievements have been made to realize the vision of making the Ethiopian Air Force amongst the top African air forces by 2030, he stated, and added there is still much to be done. He so remarked at a panel discussion prepared to celebrate the 88th anniversary of the Ethiopian Air Force.

On the same occasion it was the turn of the Commander of the Ethiopian Air Force Lieutenant General Yilma Merdasa who remarked that the reform the Ethiopian

Air Force underwent is paying off in building a solid institution that transcends generations. He noted the air force which is entrusted to safeguard the sovereignty of the nation, will carry out its mission with utmost potential.

Deputy Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces General Abebaw Tadesse noted on his part that the National Defense Force has been built on precious sacrifices made to the nation. The Ethiopian Air Force is celebrating its 88th anniversary showcasing the remarkable resilience it has gained through generations.

Speaking at the Future African Air Forces Forum (FAAF) held in connection with the 88th anniversary of the Ethiopian Air Force in Bishoftu town, the Minister of Defense Abraham Belay noted that the consultative, exploratory and networking forum is aimed at setting the rightful tone of collaboration and high value.

The first of its kind forum to be hosted by the Ethiopian Air Force has brought together air force chiefs and senior leaders from across Africa along with defense companies and experts, heads of aviation institutions and military attaches of several countries to discuss achievements, challenges and the future goals of the continent's air forces. The 1st Forum of the African Air Force Commanders has taken place in Bishoftu town.

In his remarks, the defense minister emphasized the need to "set the right tone for collaboration and set the bar higher than ever" when shaping their individual and collective visions for building futuristic capabilities.

The Ethiopian Air Force, one of the earliest on the continent, has always played a key role in aviation advancement, including spurring the birth of Ethiopian Airlines, now Africa's top carrier. According to Abraham, embracing long-term thinking, research, innovation and absorbing new technologies as key to sustainable air force modernization are crucial for the continent. As a "hub of excellence" in African air power, Ethiopia is committed to fostering greater pan-African aerospace and defense industry partnerships, the minister said.

Ethiopian Air Force Commander, Lieutenant General Yilma Merdasa said on the occasion that the purpose of the forum is to lay a foundation that brings together dispersed capabilities that all have to a platform through which they can benefit from.

"It is believed that this forum also serves as a platform for enhancing and advancing air force capabilities that will help build pillars of bilateral and multilateral partnership," the commander added.

Furthermore, the forum will set a direction through which African air force capabilities will be coordinated in countering security challenges such as terrorism and piracy the continent is facing, he added.

Lieutenant General Yilma further said that, the Ethiopian Air Force has been supporting many brotherly African countries in close air support, air reconnaissance, training and air transport since its establishment in 1935.

Several Commanders of African Air Forces who were present at the celebrations made their own remarks and impressions on the occasion. Commander of Ugandan Air Force, Lieutenant General Charles Okidi was heard stating that it was a pleasure for him to join the Ethiopian Air Force in its 88th anniversary and the Future African Air Force Forum.

He said it was a learning experience for him as he has shared ideas and witnessed the capabilities of the Ethiopian Air Force and would be looking for better cooperation with Ethiopian Air Force. He said that Africa was growing just as the world is a changing environment and so African military establishments must stand together and consolidate themselves for the better of all of Africa.

Moreover, he added that Africa is growing; so is the world environment changing, so we should think of consolidating our militaries together and for the better of us all. The general said consolidating African collaboration with a forum such as this is really very important and of course, it is long overdue. Noting the collaboration among Africa countries is crucial; he said "it just shows that we can bring our communities together."

According to Lt General Okidi the principle of African solution for African problems is what Africa needs to achieve for being self-sustaining in whatever it does. The general also expressed his impression about the development of Ethiopian Air Force.

"What we have seen at the Ethiopian Air Force is quite educative. We have drawn lessons which we will adapt in our country, I think the Ethiopian Air Force is elevating to another level," he said. He further said that there are a lot of experiences we can share from Ethiopian Air Force.

Similarly Commander of Air Force Botswana, Major General Hendric Thuthu Rakgantswana said that, the Air Force Forum is huge step that has been trying to bring African air forces together.

He said, "We look at our capabilities, we look at our efficiencies, we look at our challenges, we look at common problems and how to tackle those. So this is a huge achievement."

As an individual country you can have everything at your disposal, the major general said, adding, by participating at the Forum here, we are kind of networking.

We understand the importance of collaboration, because my neighbor has a certain capability, he said, adding "therefore I can make use of assets to train my technicians and pilots to build a certain level of capability."

Planet Earth

Preemptive actions against desert locust infestation in East Africa

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

The East Africa region has been hit with natural and man-made disasters. The presence of these calamities made the people residing in the horn to be remained poor and hopeless. In the same way as the saying goes “Adding sore to a wound”, since few years ago, the East Africa region is now becoming food insecure and exposed to various pests including desert locust.

One of the greatest desert locust infestations in history is presently plaguing the East and Horn of Africa. Its devastating effects are expected to exacerbate food insecurity in nations already struggling with ongoing conflict, drought, and high food prices, as well as extensive crop destruction.

In late June 2019, spring-bred swarms of desert locusts appeared in northeast Ethiopia and northern Somalia from Yemen, marking the beginning of the invasion of the Horn of Africa. Despite efforts to restrict them, desert locust populations have continued to proliferate due to unusually favorable weather.

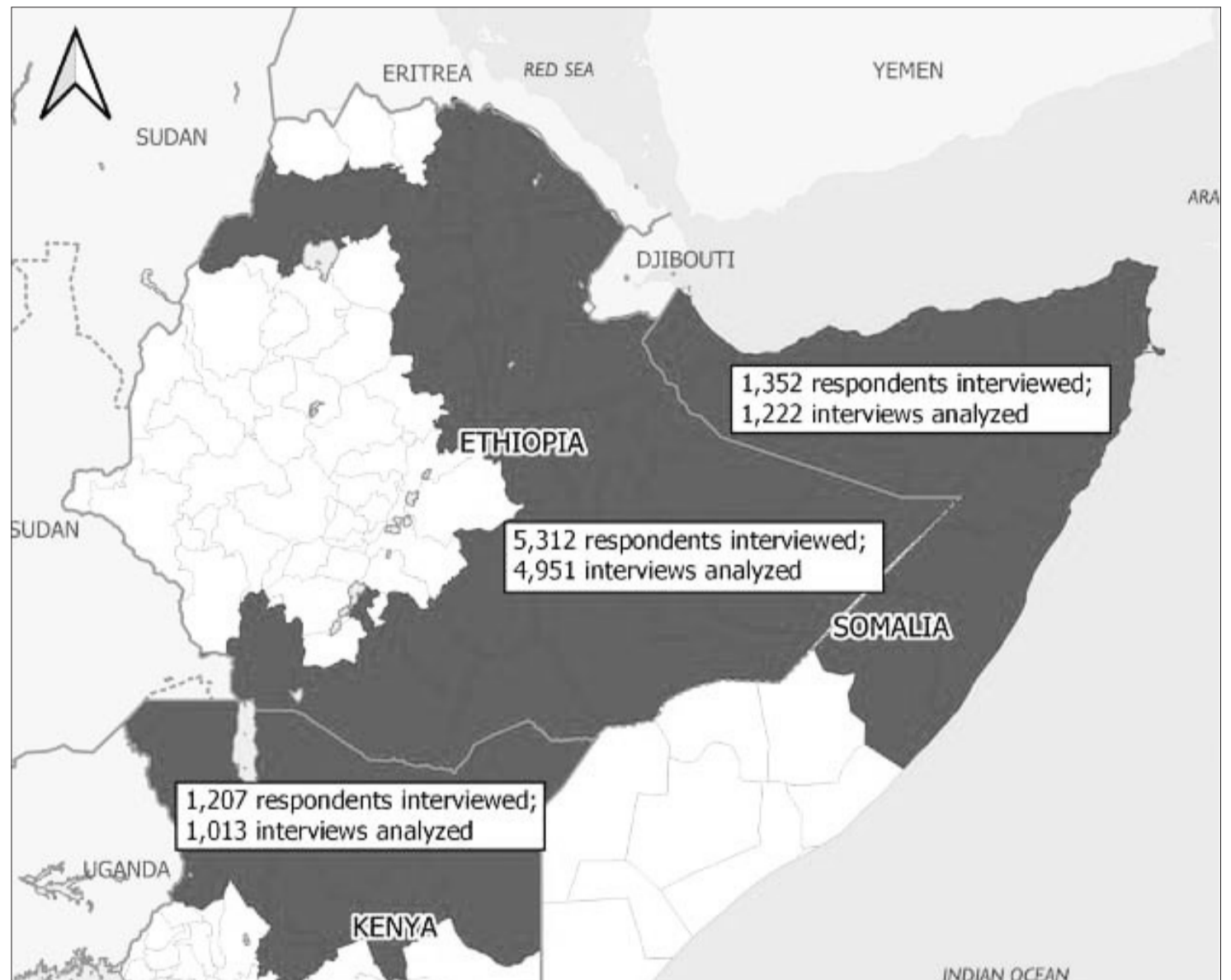
The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) has projected and current analyses show that over 10 million people in Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and other countries that are already experiencing severe food insecurity or worse live in areas that are currently experiencing infestations of desert locusts.

There are 3.24 million more severely food insecure people in South Sudan and Uganda who could be at risk, making nearly 13 million people overall. A number of major factors, such as two unsuccessful rainy seasons in a row, drought, heavy rains, flooding, persistent violence, and economic shocks, have made millions of people in this region very food insecure. Experts predict that swarms in Ethiopia and Somalia may get even larger.

The already underway reproduction of additional locusts in the area will make this menace even more severe. Swarms might grow by June 2020, experts worry, putting 3.24 million people in South Sudan and Uganda who are already food insecure at further danger if more action isn't made to contain the infestation and lessen its effects.

The impact of the desert locust on the extended wet agricultural seasons and pasture conditions in Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya will become more evident in the next IPC evaluations, when partners in the region conduct assessments.

The desert locust and other trans-boundary pests have remained a major threat to food security in the East African region, experts



from the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) told local media.

ICPAC Sustainable Trans-boundary Pest Management Program Manager Kenneth Mwangi said that he is worried by the fresh invasion of desert locust in the wider East African region.

“So far our worry is that the region is currently very green and this is one of the drivers of locust swarm. With a lot of vegetation due to high rainfall happening, there is a fertile ground for locust breeding and infestation,” he noted.

In this respect, the IGAD region is passing through more and more extreme weather events that have created favorable conditions to desert locust and other trans-boundary pests, Mwangi elaborated. As desert locust is among the top 10 food security threats in the IGAD region, the program manager warned that the looming infestation will exacerbate the food crisis in the region.

“We can see already condition for getting future pest invasion like locust and others,” he revealed. Subsequently, the program manager stressed the need for reinforcing a regional approach to curb locust invasion and other pests the IGAD region faces.

According to Mwangi, IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre is working hard towards containing swarms of locust in their breeding areas. To this end, the centre is particularly supporting IGAD region countries through its trans-boundary projects so that the swarm will not be out of control in the wider region, he added.

IGAD Climate Prediction Centre Climate scientist, Herbert Omondi Misiani said climate change is creating favorable condition for locust to thrive. The IGAD region has been witnessing several manifestations of climate change such as increasing flooding following a heavy rainfall and drought induced events, he pointed out.

Moreover, the changing condition for the sea surface temperature intensity is anticipated to negatively impact in terms of flooding and drought. “The projection of the future demonstrates that these drivers of drought will result in more infestation of pests and diseases.” The climate scientist urged IGAD and its member states to mobilize resources for adoption and resilient livelihood.

In connection with this, Misiani mentioned Ethiopia's response for the worrying climate change through its Green Legacy

Initiative (GLI). The country has planted tens of millions of tree seedlings over the last four years. “We have seen that Ethiopia is trying to plant trees and Kenya is also doing the same. So having more trees in the region would reduce the green house efforts.”

Due to the severity scenario and its difficulties the crisis of trans-boundary locust infestations, the media outlets in the IGAD region should give elaborate information to the vulnerable communities, governments, and other stakeholders, IGAD Communication trainer Isaac Sagala said.

Currently, IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre is providing training for journalists from the region on crisis of trans-boundary locust and other pests' invasion.

In order to reverse the situation in the region, and ensure food security in the region, IGAD member countries should work hand and glove. Standing alone will not be a solution for resolving such a daunting challenge that all African countries are encountering. So, collective and collaborative effort of all Africa countries are highly required and encouraged. Together, we can do better.