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**EIAR launches link platform for improved seed availability**

BY FIKADU BELAY

**ADDIS ABABA** - The Ethiopian Agricultural Research Institute (EIAR) has announced the inauguration of its groundbreaking link platform named EIAR-EGS designed to increase access to high-quality improved seeds.

Director of Technology Multiplication and Seed Research at EIAR, Karta Kaske (PhD), told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the EIAR-EGS improved seeds marketing link platform has the

*See EIAR ... Page 3*

**National ID**  
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**WBG greenlights 350 mln USD to Nat'l ID Program**

**ADDIS ABABA** - National ID Program (NIDP), Ethiopia's Fayda ID digital identity, has been granted 350 million USD in funding to supplement its public investment, NIDP Head Abenezer Feleke told FBC.

Abenezer underscored that digital ID has a significant contribution to advance and digitize the operation of service providers.

*See WBG ... Page 3*



photo Dagne Abera

## ETAF makes great leaps in professionalism, competency

**• Inaugurates Air force Officer's Club**

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

**BISHOFTU**- The Ethiopian Air Force (ETAF) has made big leaps in building competency and professionalism during the last three years that enables it to deter provocation from enemy quartets, Field Marshal Birhanu Jula said.

The Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) Chief of Staff Field Marshal Birhanu Jula and his deputy General Abebaw Tadesse inaugurated the hugely- renovated Airforce Officer's Club yesterday at ETAF Headquarters.

*See ETAF makes ... Page 3*

## Museum set to open to public on Victory Day

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA**- The Addis Ababa Mega Projects Construction Office (MPCO) announced that the Adwa Museum Project would be inaugurated and fully gone operational on the upcoming Adwa Victory Day.

Journalists drawn from local and international media visited the project yesterday.

In his explanation to media professionals,

*See Museum ... Page 3*



photo Berihun Tadesse

Promoting the culture of domestic touristic tours

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A reciprocated partnership

**Page 7**

We are very optimistic about Ethiopia's membership in the BRICS

**Page 8**



# News

## Bureau secures over 32,000 USD from foreign tourists in 1st quarter

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA** – Afar Sate Culture and Tourism Bureau said it has secured over 32,000 USD (1.8 million Birr) from tourism destinations fee from foreign tourists during the past four months of the current fiscal year.

Bureau’s Tourism Director Mohammed Hassen told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the stated sum was secured from some 900 foreign tourists who have visited Afar’s attraction sites. The performance is surpassed the target that was set for the period by over one million Birr. Besides, the Bureau planned to entice 3,000 foreign tourists in this fiscal year alone.

As to him, unrest in parts of the country and COVID-19 outbreak have challenged the tourism sector in the past some years. Limited promotion of attraction sites and private sector’s involvement as well as infrastructure and market related issues are other setbacks of the sector.

The signing of Pretoria Peace Agreement and the subsequent restoration of peace has been stimulating tourists’ inflow to the area.

Mohammed further stated that Bureau in collaboration with stakeholders have



been working hand-in-hand to bridge the skilled labor gap and address infrastructure, hospitality, promotion, market, and other related shortcomings and to make Afar tourist-friendly area.

Particularly, the Bureau recently established a tourism delegation that aims to promote the state’s tourism potential for local and foreign tourists. The Bureau made Afar’s three lakes visible to drivers that go to and from Djibouti as one way of attracting local

tourists.

The Danakil Depression, Dalol tours, Erta Ale, Yangudi Rassa National Park, and Arho Tours are among some of the famous tourist attraction sites of the Afar State, it was learned.

It is to be recalled that Afar secured 49.95 million Birr from 251,000 foreign and domestic tourists that visited different attraction sites in the past fiscal year.



## Authority working on buttressing technological advancement

BY FIKADU BELAY

**ADDIS ABABA**- Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority (ECAA) announced that a lot has been carried out to help the country take the lead in terms of aviation industry through fostering innovation and economic growth.

Transport and Logistics Minister Alemu Simie (PhD) stated that Ethiopia has achieved unparalleled success in establishing a leading airline in Africa. Besides, the country’s airline has set new standards for excellence via boosting top-tier services across all sectors.

He said: “The remarkable strides made by the ECAA have become a cornerstone for the industry’s growth and the promotion of safe air travel. This robust regulatory body ensures aviation technology, including airplanes, airports, air navigation systems, safety, and security, remains at the cutting edge, utilizing state-of-the-art, globally distributed technologies.”

He further elucidated that the impact of ECAA ability extends far beyond the industry itself. The air transportation services play a pivotal role in supporting various economic sectors such as tourism, trade, industry, and agriculture.

The aviation sector has become a driving force behind the growth and prosperity of these key areas through facilitating efficient and secure connectivity, he added.

Some 95 young people showcased around 101 creative works throughout on the expo that took a week conducted under theme, "Innovation for Aviation Excellence," individually and collectively.

These aspiring innovators were evaluated by experts from different institutions and some 55 innovators awarded and took recognition for their outstanding achievements, he added.

As a remarkable step to promote their initiative, ECAA provided each young innovator who stood first to third with a considerable reward of 100,000 Birr.

He also said that those who are out of the award range will receive assistance and ongoing mentoring from authority in their respective fields of expertise to encourage them aiming at fostering innovation and further reinvigorates breakthroughs.

Looking ahead, the ECAA is collaborating with other sectors to harness technology and unlock the aviation sector’s immense potential.

He mentioned that through collaborative efforts to develop a globally competitive aviation industry, leveraging cutting-edge advancements thereby solidifying Ethiopia’s position as a leading force in the global aviation landscape.

With its unwavering commitment to excellence, innovation, and safety, Ethiopia is poised to continue its upward trajectory in the aviation industry, propelling the nation towards greater economic prosperity and global recognition, he noted.

## Ethio telecom launches advanced services

BY EYUEL KIFLU

**ADDIS ABABA** - Ethio telecom has announced the launch of Voice over Long-Term Evolution (VoLTE) and three other groundbreaking services aimed at transforming connectivity and driving the nation’s digital development.

Unveiling the services yesterday, Ethio-telecom CEO Frehiwot Tamiru said that VoLTE enables customers to benefit from superior voice and video quality during phone calls.

With ultra-high-definition call quality, users can enjoy clearer voices and reduced background noise, she stated, adding it ensures uninterrupted data connectivity during voice calls, allowing for seamless switching between voice and video calls.

She said Ethio-telecom is offering this service at no additional subscription fee, aligning with industry standards in the telecom sector.

The company also launched the Rich Communication Service (RCS) / Rich Business Messaging (RBM) feature.

Frehiwot highlighted that this service empowers individuals and institutions to engage in real-time communications with advanced features such as graphics, video information, emojis, audio clips, and messages.

Users can effortlessly share media, participate in group chats, make video calls, share documents, and benefit from content encryption. Also, small entrepreneurs can



Photo: Gebabo Gebrie

advertise their products to their customers simply by using this service, she said.

To enhance messaging capabilities, the company also introduced Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS) value-added services.

According to the CEO, customers can now capable to send and receive video and audio files, simultaneous messages to multiple recipients, and messages with up to 1600 characters.

The service also provides read receipts, allowing users to know when their messages have been received and read, she added.

In addition, Ethio telecom also launched Voice Mail Services (VMS) with the latest features, offering users a convenient alternative to traditional voicemail.

With VMS, customers can record, deliver,

store, and retrieve voice messages anytime and anywhere. This service ensures that callers can leave voice messages even when the recipient is unreachable due to network coverage or other reasons, she stated.

Frehiwot emphasized that to use the VoLTE service, users need to have a compatible device while mentioning over 15 million devices used by customers are capable of accessing this service.

She expressed that her company is collaborating with device manufacturers in Ethiopia to provide software updates to expand the availability and utilization of the VoLTE service.

Currently, Ethio-telecom has over 74 million users, with more than 27 million of them utilizing the 4G internet service, it was learnt.



# News

## UNESCO, Huawei TeOSS project hands over ICT equipment to MoE

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA** – United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Huawei Technology-enabled Open School Systems for All project (TeOSS) handed over ICT equipment for the Ethiopian Ministry of Education (MoE.)

During the handover ceremony, MoE State Minister Ayelech Eshete, reflected her appreciation to UNESCO and Huawei for their unwavering commitment to education and sharing their vision of a digitally inclusive society.

She said: “ MoE extends its gratitude once again to UNESCO and Huawei for their dedication to education and for this significant donation at this very critical time.”

The State Minister mentioned that the ICT equipment will open doors to a world of opportunities for their secondary school students. “It will enable them to explore diverse educational resources, expand their knowledge beyond textbooks, and connect with a vast global network of information and learning experiences,” she added.

UNESCO Representative of Ethiopia and AU, UNECA Liaison Office Director Rita Bissoonauth (PhD) said that recognizing this immense potential, UNESCO, in partnership with Huawei Technologies, and the MoE, embarked upon the TeOSS project to reduce the digital divide, establish a crisis-

resilient school system, and enhance the quality of equitable and inclusive education for all through the enhancement of the ICT infrastructure and capacity building of educators and education especially secondary level.

Rita added: “Today, we mark a significant milestone in this journey as we witness the delivery of the latest ICT equipment to secondary schools across Ethiopia. These schools, which have been carefully selected by the MoE and respective regional education bureaus as beneficiaries of this project, will now have the occasion to integrate technology into their classrooms, providing students with opportunities for enhanced learning, collaboration, and skill development.

She stated :“We are so delighted to deliver 480 tablets, 48 access points, and 24 smart boards with their own full accessories to be equally shared among the 24 beneficiary secondary schools in different regions of the country. All this equipment costs nearly 300,000 USD.”

States that benefited from the project intervention are Oromia, Amhara, and Afar states shared three schools each while the Somali, Sidama, SNNPR, Gambella, and BenshangulGumuz have shared two schools each. Similarly Hareri state takes 1 school and the Addis Ababa and, Diredawa City have shared 2 schools individually. The main purpose of this project is ensuring quality education.

## EIAR launches...

potential to boost accessibility and get over industry barriers.

Customers can request improved seeds directly through the user-friendly interface, which he stated addresses the issues of inadequate information and far-off infrastructure when it comes to improved seed supply.

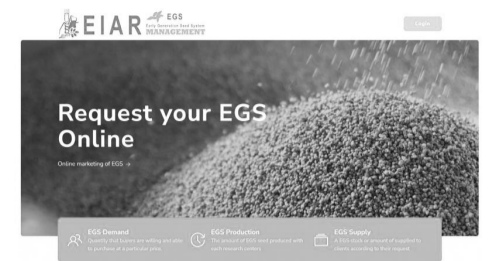
He emphasized that the electronic platform allows participants in the improved seed marketing process to update the framework by addressing structural system gaps.

Due to limited information access, only 50–56 percent of the improved seeds are being distributed up to this; this will significantly reduce the gap between production and dissemination of improved seeds, he added.

He said the research institute's goal is to close the gap between supply and demand by figuring out how much improved seed Ethiopia needs.

Additionally, he mentioned that by using the EIAR-EGS link, customers may quickly verify the amount and kinds of improved seed availability and save time, money, and effort.

He states that the institute working on the link platform will eventually integrate regional agricultural research institutions and be able to provide customers with simple access to enhanced improved



seeds.

According to him, four questions about the improved seeds were successfully processed via the connection in the previous three weeks during the marketing period.

The development of the EIAR-EGS link platform spanned over two years and is currently available in English, he stated, adding that it will be expanded in various languages to cater to a broader customer base.

He mentioned that to register on the EIAR-EGS website, customers are required to provide the full name of the organization or its representative, address, phone number, email address, license to be an improved seed producer, and some justification for why they need improved seed, which will undergo thorough verification by the institute.

The introduction of the EIAR-EGS application brings hope for improved seed access and addresses concerns about the survival of individuals relying on quality seeds for their agricultural endeavors, he remarked.

## ETAF makes...

In his remarks at the occasion, the Chief of Staff noted that the ETAF has done commendable jobs in building politically neutral force that efficiently protect the country's air space and ensure lasting peace. “The military should be free from political affiliation and serve the nation that is represented by a democratically elected government.”

Birhanu further revealed that several countries air forces including the United Arab Emirates Air Force have been showing interest to work with the ETAF in building air superiority and other areas of mutual significance. “As the air force development requires a huge investment, it is valuable to propel international cooperation and partnership.”

ETAF Commander Lt Gen. Yilma Merdassa for his part said that they have made extensive reforms to build a competent and professional force that enables them to defend the country's air space from potential threats. Vision set to make the ETAF leading air forces in Africa by 2030 via innovation and utilizing modern technology and trained personnel.

According to the commander, it is crucial to equip the Air force with modern combat, infrastructure and other up-to-date technologies to build an able army that can effectively fulfill its mission and meet obligations.

Currently, the ETAF is undertaking extensive reforms that aim to build

the capacity of its personnel improve infrastructure and create an enabling environment for further advancement and modernization. Moreover, it is delivering air transport service; encountering natural disasters and building digital warfare capacity among others.

“Building a modern and competent Air force requires immense resources including finance and knowledge, and it is also crucial to streamline the local expertise and ease the overdependence and imported knowledge and technology. The engagement with international companies should also reorient from input imports to knowledge transfer.”

Mentioned the volatility of global politics, resource constraints and limited technological capacity are the main bottlenecks of the ETAF, LtGen. Yilmainedicated self-sustainable strategy and pursuit of technological innovation are valuable solutions.

ENDF Deputy Chief of Staff Gen. Abebaw Tadesse stated that ETAF's current excellence is the result of the strong foundation it laid upon and its committed and disciplined personnel.

“To maintain Ethiopia's existence, it is critical to strengthen and build a competent air force,” Gen. Abebaw emphasized.

So far, the ETAF has been providing various types of training to pilots and engineers from Somalia, Nigeria, Sudan and Yemen.

## WBG greenlights...

The latest donor funding was secured from the World Bank Group (WBG) in a short period owing to the Office of the Prime Minister's critical role, the NIDP chief underlined. He also extended his gratitude to other stakeholder institutions for their contribution in realizing the financial funding from WBG.

He emphasized that the fund will be instrumental to roll out digital ID for over 90 million citizens throughout the country.

According to the Director, this financial support will be implemented over a period of five years, which is important for the

development of the digital economy in Ethiopia.

He explained that the digital ID system will enable the establishment of a comprehensive, consistent and reliable system for registering the residents in Ethiopia.

The digital identification system will be instrumental in establishing transparency and accountability system and streamlined service delivery system, Abenezer indicated.

The Director also thanked the WBG for its funding in understanding the importance of digital ID system for Ethiopia.

## Museum set...

the office CEO Engineer DeboTunka said that the project would be officially launched and put into operation on March 2, 2024.

The museum is one of the multipurpose mega projects that are under construction in the capital and currently over 95 percent of the work has been completed.

Upon completion, the project will provide various services including shopping, restaurants, sports, transport, museum, theater, cinema, meeting halls, and many others.

Along with the major project site, the construction of plazas that display Ethiopians' heroism, national symbols including the Abay Dam is the underway and expected to complete next month, the CEO added.

Addis Ababa Mayor's Office Head Tilahun Worku on his part said that project is a pillar of Ethiopia's unity,

The City Administration is carrying out several human-centered mega projects that are meant to address social and economic problems and the Adwa Zero Kilometer Museum Project has become the grandeur of Adwa Victory. “It is a project that shows that when we Ethiopians stand together and become united we can go beyond ourselves and be an example to the black people,” Tilahun remarked.

Over 185 local and international media leaders, reporters, and communication experts visited the current status of the project and got extensive briefings on services that the center will provide upon completion.



# Opinion

## Cooperation between Russia and Ethiopia: Summing up the results of 2023

BY H.E. Mr. EVGENY TEREKHIN,  
Ambassador of Russia to Ethiopia

As we are rapidly approaching the New Year holidays, we have an excellent opportunity to once again recall the crucial moments and events that occurred in the Russian-Ethiopian partnership in the outgoing year. It is important to remind that in February this year our countries and peoples celebrated the 125th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, which is rightfully considered a key historical milestone in the development of our bilateral cooperation.

Certainly, since then our interaction has undergone a qualitative transformation, but an immutable fact remains that Russia, as before, is a reliable and loyal friend of Ethiopia. This is exactly how I can describe Russian-Ethiopian ties today: based on the traditions of friendship, mutual respect and assistance. The deep spiritual kinship, including of a religious nature, that has always united us, still allows to successfully overcoming any difficulties, geographical distances and language barriers.

Holding a unique place in the continent, Ethiopia is a country with immense potential, a progressive vision for economic growth and development, rich history and remarkable cultural diversity. Equally indisputable is Ethiopia's strategic importance in promoting peace, stability and progress in the region, its role as a diplomatic capital of the continent – the country hosting the African Union Headquarters. Throughout the long history of our bilateral relations, Ethiopia has been one of Russia's key partners in Africa. Having stood the test of time, our cooperation has grown considerably stronger, and has acquired a multifaceted, mutually advantageous character.

It would be no exaggeration to say that our interaction is developing dynamically and in a very positive way. Its basis is a joint ongoing, regular work, as well as “comparing notes” on the most topical issues of both regional and global nature, the incessant search for new points of contact.

We especially value the achieved trust-based nature of the bilateral political dialogue with Addis Ababa at the highest and high levels, as clearly evidenced by the visit to our country of Prime Minister of the FDRE Abiy Ahmed (PhD) on July 26, 2023, as well as by the subsequent participation of the Ethiopian delegation in the Second Russia-Africa Summit and Economic and Humanitarian Forum in St. Petersburg. We highly appreciate the signing on the “sidelines” of the St. Petersburg events of a whole package of bilateral agreements (on information security, air services, the establishment and operation of the joint Russian-

Ethiopian Biological Research Center, the Road Map on cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the Protocol and the Interaction Plan between the customs services). We are convinced that we have laid a good groundwork for the strengthening and improvement of the entire legal framework.

We assess quite positively the current dynamics and state of inter-parliamentary relations. In May this year, Speaker of the House of Federation of the FDRE Parliament Agegnehu Teshager visited Moscow. As a result of his meeting with Russian Federation Council Speaker Valentina Matvienko, upper chambers of the two countries' parliaments signed a Memorandum of Understanding. In March, a high-ranking delegation of the House of People's Representatives took part in the Second International Parliamentary Conference “Russia-Africa”. There are good prospects for expanded bilateral cooperation between the ruling parties in our countries – “United Russia” and the Prosperity Party.

Our cooperation on international and regional issues also deserves high praise. Russia and Ethiopia share identical or similar approaches towards major world problems. It is of great importance to continue our active cooperation with the aim of bolstering the role of multilateral institutions such as the United Nations, African Union, and other regional organizations and associations. Committed to the principles of multilateralism, our countries work together to promote peace and stability, address global challenges and transnational security threats, and advocate for the interests of developing nations. As genuine partners, we are developing this cooperation along the lines of equality, observance of international law and non-interference in others' internal affairs. There is no doubt that the spectrum of interaction will continue to expand with the strengthening of Russia and Africa's positions as centers of a multipolar world.

We believe that boosting cooperation in trade, industry and agriculture is currently a critically important imperative of Russia's policy in the Ethiopian direction. This is objectively driven by the fact that Ethiopia has significant resource potential and remains attractive from the point of view of investment cooperation and the engagement of Russian business circles in the implementation of ambitious projects and development programs here. We proceed from the indisputable fact that the Russian Federation has a number of advanced technologies and commercial solutions that could provide considerable advantages over competitors. In the first place, this includes the creation and development of energy infrastructure, digital transformation and AI, the introduction of high technologies in

industrial production, the joint development of peaceful nuclear technologies, satellite launches, etc.

In this respect, a key role is assigned to the work of the Intergovernmental Russian-Ethiopian Commission on Economic, Scientific, Technical and Trade Cooperation. We hope that the meeting of the Co-Chairs of the Commission and the expanded Russian-Ethiopian Business Forum, which are planned to be held soon in Addis Ababa, will become a notable event in strengthening the mechanisms of economic cooperation between our countries. We are confident that they will also give an additional impetus to interregional ties, the potential of which, in our opinion, has not yet been fully maximized.

An urgent task on the trade and economic track is increasing the awareness of the Russian and Ethiopian business circles about each other. For this purpose, the creation of an effective communication system between government agencies and the business community is highly relevant. To that end, we consider the re-opening of a Russian trade mission in Addis Ababa this year as an important step towards realizing the existing potential of economic cooperation between our countries.

With the aim of strengthening a comprehensive dialogue with Ethiopia, we attach high priority to the development of cultural and humanitarian interaction, encompassing, first and foremost, the acquaintance of the Ethiopian audience with the capabilities and achievements of Russian science, culture and education. The leading role in the implementation of this task belongs to the activities of the Russian Center for Science and Culture in Addis Ababa, on the site of which various events are organized, including holidays, evenings, festivals, exhibitions, concerts, New Year's performances, etc., aimed at popularizing the rich Russian culture among Ethiopians. Among the brightest manifestations of interaction in this sphere – the recent classical music concert at Pushkin Center by graduates of the Moscow State Tchaikovsky Conservatory as well as participation of Minister of Culture and Sports of the FDRE Kajela Merdassa in the “United Cultures” Forum in St. Petersburg.

We continue rendering professional training for Ethiopian citizens. More than 20 000 Ethiopians have completed high education programmes in Russia in the past years. We increased the quota of Ethiopian students sponsored by the Russian federal budget more than three times for the 2023–2024 academic year. Our goal is to continue increasing that number in the coming years. The main impetus to pursue efforts in this direction is the visible interest of Ethiopian youth to receive Russian education, which is

known for its high quality. In addition, there are also a number of programs to improve professional skills for specialists in different areas.

Now, a few words about the fateful, without exaggeration, decision of the BRICS Summit in Johannesburg in August 2023 to invite Ethiopia to join the association. We fully share the view of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) that joining BRICS is a “great moment” for Ethiopia. We believe that your country's participation in BRICS will make a substantial contribution to the development of this most dynamic integration structure, which is gaining influence in the world, essentially in the interests of the Global South. BRICS, in fact, is also becoming a symbol of the growing trend towards the formation of a polycentric world, and at the same time its powerful generator.

We find it very symbolic that Ethiopia's full-fledged membership in BRICS will start on January 1, 2024, the same day when the Russian Federation will assume the chairmanship of the association. In this context, we are determined to consistently expand the entire range of areas of cooperation with partners, including the progressive promotion of the common interests of the BRICS countries in the international arena. In this regard, we expect that the association will play an ever-increasing role, including in resolving key issues of ensuring global peace and security and establishing the supremacy of international law in world affairs. Undoubtedly, Ethiopia has the potential to provide a valuable input to strengthening the foundations of a multipolar world order and creating an extensive system of interaction mechanisms within the BRICS framework.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity and congratulate the Ethiopian people on the upcoming New Year 2024 and sincerely wish that the forthcoming year will be safer, more peaceful and prosperous for all citizens of your country. I am confident that objectively emerging growth problems associated with modernization will be successfully addressed based on national consensus, respect for state sovereignty and democratic norms. I would like to once again assure that Russia fully shares the aspirations of the Ethiopian people and its leadership on the path to progress and transformation. We are interested in our states moving together towards a better future, preserving and enhancing those cordial and brotherly relations that constitute our common historical wealth.

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



# Editorial

## ETAF's exemplary role in ensuring peace, security

The Ethiopian Air Force (ETAF) is committed to collaborate with the brotherly African countries in air support, air reconnaissance, training and transport, according to ETAF Commander Lt. Gen. Yilma Merdassa.

The commander made the remark at the first-of-its-kind African air force forum held this week in ETAF's headquarters Bishoftu town under the theme: "Enabling Future Africa Air Forces". The forum was arranged with a big dream in mind that it would set directions to advance Africa's air defense capabilities and counter its security challenges.

Indeed, it is a timely issue to discuss security affairs of the nations and the continent by large as the time necessitates being alert in protecting peace and stability from danger that might originate from in or imposed from out of a country or the continent. Likely, it is the time to collaborate among the African nations to grow together via keeping economic, political and social interests of the people of the continent. For Africa, to ensure sovereignty and materialize prosperity by getting rid of poverty, it is essential to work together in various ways in which building strong defense is among the pillars.

In this regard, the role the Ethiopian Air Force has played so far is commendable. Lt. Gen. Yilma Merdassa, mentioned Ethiopia's noble contribution to African independence movement and affirmed the ETAF's readiness and commitment to work together with African brothers and sisters for common good.

Apart from enhancing and advancing air force capabilities that help build bilateral and multilateral partnership, the forum laid a foundation to bring dispersed capabilities that ensure mutual benefit. "It is high time for us to go hand in hand not only to ensure our benefit from the opportunities but also counter threats everywhere," the commander emphasized.

Truly, the advancement the ETAF has registered especially since the reformist government assumed power is exemplary and milestone deed to attain modernized, advanced and self resilient Africa in the areas of peace and security since there is possible threat arises from different directions including terrorist attacks. More importantly, modernizing Africa's defense capacity, particularly in air force, is essential in order to tackle unprecedented attacks that probably carried out by drones as a result of owning the technology by many forces including terrorists becomes easier.

To this end, according to Abraham Belay (PhD), Defense Minister of Ethiopia, the forum helps to shape the respective and collective vision of Africa's air forces future capabilities. "Ethiopian airlines, the baseline for the formation of ETAF, is the leading birth of African aviation which connects all African economies and it is not only connecting the continent with the rest of the world but also it is the inspiration symbol of all Africans," the minister remarked.

While marking its 88th Founding Anniversary, the ETAF is proud of its advancement and enthusiastic to collaborate with fellow African counterparts and ready to share its experience aiming to see self relied Africa in the aviation technology. As of the Ethiopia's Defense Minister, Ethiopia as a nation and Ethiopian air force as a hub feel duty bound for enhancing and replicating pan-African business partnership in the continent. Besides, as of him, it is also important to reinforce our joint capabilities in a spirit of pan African alliance.

As a part of its duty, the ETAF is tasked with protecting the national air space, providing support to ground forces, as well as assisting civil operations during war, the duty it had been tested by many times and made all the threats futile.

Living up its name that meets its age, the institution continues being proud of Ethiopians and Africans in the way it had proved when protecting some African countries' air space from attacks following their independence as their air forces were immature or none at the time.



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# Opinion

## The need to respond to environmental concerns of African Small Island States

BY STAFF REPORTER

African Small Island Developing States (ASIDs) have pressed for adaptation finance to fight climate change impacts threatening livelihoods and their future survival. They made the call during a side event held by the African Island State Climate Commission (AISCC) on the theme, 'Transitioning to a Climate Resilient Future.'

Cape Verde, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles and Zanzibar comprise the African members of the Small Island Developing States, a group of low-lying island nations with a combined population of 4 million people and extremely vulnerable to climate change impacts. African SIDS are located in remote, low lying areas that are vulnerable to sea level rise and cyclones. Furthermore, their economies are primarily based on tourism and fisheries.

Seychelles Minister of Agriculture and the Environment, Flavian Joubert, stressed that African SIDS are particularly vulnerable to climate change shocks, making it imperative for immediate action to protect people, economies and the environment. Mr. Joubert, whose country is the chair of the African Islands States Commission, called on major emitters to develop more ambitious plans to keep the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 Degree Celsius.

"Like all Africa, Seychelles views climate change as an emergency challenging all aspects of its chances for future survival and undermines efforts to fully achieve sustainable development goals," Mr. Joubert noted, adding, "We need to find common ground and expect outcomes from the negotiations on the global goal for adaptation and that should not lead to further delays in strengthening adaption action, particularly for African Island States."

African SIDS experience the impacts of climate change with acute vulnerability to weather, seismic and oceanographic events making them particularly vulnerable because their economies are anchored on tourism and fisheries. Among other issues, While they share common characteristics of insularity and geographical disparity as well as small populations their vulnerability is not uniform; they have varied experience of climate change and capacity to address them. Comoros, Guinea Bissau and Saõ Tome and Principe are all LDCs while Cape Verde, Mauritius and the Seychelles have higher levels of development as well as policies and better mechanism to address climate change, Due to their varying economies, they face difficulties accessing green climate financing.

Anthony Nyong, Director Climate Change and Green Growth, African Development Bank (AfDB) said the bank has resources and programmes to promote resilience for Island States which faced different vulnerabilities than most countries.

For his part, Nassim Oulmane, Acting Director for Technology, Climate Change

and Nature at the Economic Commission for Africa, said the ECA was working on a readiness project proposal for countries to access the Green Climate Fund. Furthermore, ECA was working on finalizing a regional request for the 9 African Islands States so they can mobilize funding for adaptation from the Green Climate Fund.

"We are also working on better valuing blue carbon and implementing protocols that are specific to the African Island States as we have done with the Congo Basin by also putting together a blue carbon registry," Mr. Oulmane said.

Kavydass Ramano, the Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change in Mauritius, called for innovative solutions to secure a resilient future for African SIDS, stressing that, "there is no plan B as we are all subjected to either prolonged spells of extreme droughts or floods caused by torrential rainfall."

He said Mauritius has advocated for an ecosystem adaptation through nature-based solutions under its 2021-2030 National Determined Contribution (NDC).

"The small island of Sao Tome and Principe is vulnerable to climate change impacts experiencing high sea level rise which is threatening coastal communities and needs funding to implement coastal protection programmes," said Adelino Cardoso, Minister of Infrastructure, Natural Resources and Environment in Sao Tome and Principe.

Tania Serafim Romualdo, Cabo Verde Ambassador to the United Nations, told the panel discussion that her country has developed the Blue-x in partnership with Carbo Verde Stock Exchange and the United Nations Development Programme. Blue-x is a trading platform for sustainable and inclusive financial instruments geared towards a sustainable economy, for example, issuance of blue bonds and green bonds.

Ms. Ramualdo said Cabo Verde has also instituted a bilateral swap with Portugal and successfully negotiated the transformation of 140 million Euros in debt held by the Portugal treasury into a Climate and Environment Fund. The Fund will provide seed capital for a comprehensive energy transition strategy to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

While climate change affects the development of all nations regardless of location or economy size, the 38 SID countries located in the Caribbean, the Pacific, the Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea are responsible for less than 1 percent of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions AND are the most vulnerable to its devastating impacts.

The side event was hosted by the government of Seychelles, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the Office of the Special Advisor on Africa, OSAA at COP28 in Dubai.

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



# Art & Culture



## Promoting the culture of domestic touristic tours

BY NAOL GIRMA

In many countries, domestic tourism is a lucrative industry that contributes significantly to both local and national economies. You do not anticipate being labelled as a "tourist" when you travel a short distance from your house. In general, domestic tourists are anyone who undertakes travel activities in their own country of residence. Countries rely on domestic tourism as a tool to reduce poverty, improve infrastructure, and generate employment opportunities and most importantly it helps to catalyse economic growth. The activities of domestic tourists create economic importance as the money spent on domestic tourism feeds back into that particular country's economy, providing itself with a more viable and prosperous economy.

Recently Addis Ababa Culture, Arts and Tourism Bureau were providing training to professionals in the field to enhance the culture of visiting the country. The training was attended by different clubs and associations working on visiting and knowing home country coalition, travel associations and experts in the field. The Bureau has provided training to professionals in the sector to promote the culture of touring in the country. The Addis Ababa Culture, Arts and Tourism Bureau's Directorate Director of Tourism Destination Development and Promotion of Domestic Tourism, Samson Ayenachew, pointout that the Bureau offers expert assistance and coordination to all parties involved as well as various clubs and associations that participate in activities related to visiting domestic tourist sites within a nation.

According to Samson, tourism is one of the top drivers of the economy with ICT, mining, agriculture and manufacturing,

adding that currently the bureau is working on the development of tourism destinations and the promotion of domestic tourism.

It is worth noting that in the past three months, the Directorate has provided training in the field of modern service delivery to professionals in parks and public recreation areas in our city and to entities in the tourism sector as a whole.

Addis Ababa Know Your Country Clubs Coalition President Berhanu Wadajo said that not only do the residents of our city live confined, but also visit the tourist places of our capital and increase the number of visitors by expanding domestic tourism.

Ethiopia's tourism industry has faced significant challenges in recent years. Although Ethiopia is home to many cultures, heritage, interesting landscapes and unique historical sites, it is striving to attract international tourists following declining visitor's numbers.

One of the main obstacles faced by the industry is the lack of good visibility of the country's image and reputation in the international media. The fact that most media reports on political instability and conflicts in the country can be seen as one reason why visitors do not explore and visit Ethiopia's beauty and diversity.

Another significant obstacle to the expansion of the tourism sector is the lack of adequate infrastructure. Roads, airports, and suitable transportation networks are lacking in many parts of Ethiopia, making it difficult for tourists to visit isolated sites. The limitations have prevented Ethiopia from taking full advantage of its tourist destinations, providing great potential for its economy and creating jobs opportunities for its citizens.

The COVID-19 pandemic three years ago

has also had a negative impact on Ethiopia's tourism industry. Like many other countries around the world, Ethiopia has faced a decline in the number of international tourists due to travel restrictions, control measures and fear of the virus.

Border closures and the disruption of international flights have severely disrupted the flow of tourists and led to a decline in revenue for businesses operating in the tourism sector.

Ethiopia has been in the midst of all this tourism crisis and celebrated the international Tourism Day with three consecutive events and exhibitions recently under the theme of "Tourism for Arengwade lemat (Green Development) for Tourism" more than a hundred different tourism actors and tourism institutions attended the event to mark Tourism Day, including handicrafts manufacturers and tour companies

Ethiopia is a country with many man-made and natural attractions that can be admired everywhere, from Dallol to Ras Dashen. Ethiopia is the most prominent advocate for the liberation of black people, and it is a symbol of the struggle for the liberation of the black people in the world.

Ethiopia is also home to many amazing attractions, needs to be watched and informed by its citizens in a variety of ways. Ethiopians should visit their country's natural beauties and unprecedented natural and man-made heritage, as well as the diverse culture, diet, clothing, natural beauties and unprecedented natural and man-made heritage at the peak. But the community has little experience visiting heritage and attractions that reflect its past history and culture. As a result, the average of visitor to the country is less likely to see and know the country's resources, so they

tend to live without knowing the resources of the country.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed once remarked, "A lot of people do not know what exists in the country," during a visit to Unity Park's construction site. In addition to providing financial rewards, using one's personal fortune to support one's native nation encourages creativity and shows how important it is to know oneself. One of the most important aspects of the project is to ensure that the resources available to the public are utilized. Needless to say, this is the biggest and most important source of revenue for the country's economy. It is also a means that can create quite a lot of jobs in terms of deployment of manpower," he said, pointing out that Ethiopians are not aware of their tourism resources in their country and that domestic tourism activity is weak.

The expansion of domestic tourism contributes to the strengthening of local economic activity as well as the development of national unity through the creation of people-to-people ties. Among the reasons why domestic visitors are low are the lack of community visiting experience, lack of attention to visitation, lack of interest and lack of financing are mainly cited.

It is important to understand the impact of the city's tourism activities on foreign tourists through the domestic tourism strategy. Therefore, it is necessary to work in coordination with sector actors to encourage domestic tourism activity, as well as strengthen and establish visiting clubs. Addis Ababa Culture, Arts and Tourism Bureau is working with different clubs coalition, travel associations and experts in the field to promote the culture of touring in the country.



# Law & Politics

## A reciprocated partnership

BY STAFF REPORTER

**G**ulf countries have over the years emerged as an influential player in the world and increasing their presence in various parts of the world. As the countries toil to diversify their economy, their investments have at times been catalyzing economic growth in other regions. The relation between Ethiopia and the Gulf nations are occasionally improving in areas of multilateral collaboration. The nation has a multi-cooperation agreement, particularly with regards to its connections with Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia.

Ethio-Gulf countries relation has been growing by leaps and bounds with the economic partnership seeing a remarkable turn over the past few years. With the latter nations consolidating their firm involvement in global geopolitical matters and continue to assert their power in various parts of the world, Ethiopia is also alluring gulf nations and is positioning itself as a major ally. From deploying military unit to investing economically, the oil rich nations have been eyeing to maximize their presence in their strategic location.

In contrast to earlier times, Gulf countries are actively seeking to assert their influence in the Horn of Africa and have been making bold moves to increase their involvement in global affairs. At the heart of strategic partnership is Ethiopia, a decisive player in the Horn of Africa. Driven by petrodollars and powerful leaders, Gulf countries have positioned themselves as a new player in a world that is becoming more and more multipolar. And, Addis has become a major partner of the oil-rich nations due to its proximity and significant influence in Africa, the relationship has improved recently.

Ethiopia is known for its neutral and non-interference foreign policy and remains a key partner of all. With its geographic proximity, growing consumer and abundant natural resource and investment friendly environment, Ethiopia is major economic hub for the Arab world.

The last couples of years as watershed moments in the Ethio and Gulf relations. The years saw sharp growth in the trade exchanges between the two sides. Ethiopia has been among the top itineraries of Arab countries leaders and is becoming the best destination of gulf investments. The comradery between Ethiopia and Arab countries has reached a new height. Addis is frequented by leaders of the Arab world and Ethiopian leaders have been taking the front seats in

conferences hosted by the Arab nations.

Months ago Addis Ababa rolled on the green and yellow carpet adorned with the Enkutatash also known as the adeyabeba at Bole International Airport; a seasonal flower that blooms in September in Ethiopia to welcome UAE President Mohamed Bin Zayid was greeted by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, who was accompanied by flower girls. The welcoming and picturesque environment conveys much about the developing camaraderie between Ethiopia and the Gulf countries, the latter of which is increasingly present and actively involved in the political and socioeconomic life of the Horn of Africa.

The country's importance to the peace and tranquillity of the Horn made it a staunch ally and a decisive partner for the desert garden nations. Lately, Abiy arrived in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to take part in the inaugural Saudi-Africa Summit, another testimony to a partnership witnessing a new height. The summit showcases the big appetite of the Gulf countries to push for cemented ties with African nations. Furthermore, the country remains on the top spot on Gulf countries' foreign policy ladder because it is an anchor state in the volatile but strategically important region

The nation has a multi-cooperation agreement, particularly with regards to its connections with Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia. The oil-rich countries have strong economic power and vast potential for foreign direct investment (FDI). Ethiopia has favourable investment climate that is attracting investors from the Arab world. And, this week, Chairman of West Asian Countries Parliamentary Friendship Committee Mohammed Al-Arusi said that Ethiopia has been striving to consolidate relations with Arab countries.

Relations between Ethiopia and the Arab countries are represented in several areas, including scholarships for Ethiopian students to continue their studies in Arab universities such as the UAE and other Arab universities.

The relationship is rooted in common culture and history and this makes the Ethiopian presence in the conscience of the Arab world, he added.

Recently, State Minister Ambassador Mesganu Arga received the Deputy Head of Mission of the State of Qatar to Ethiopia, Jaber Jemal Al-Awami, at his office. Highlighting the strong political and economic cooperation between Ethiopia and Qatar, Ambassador Mesganu stressed the need to capitalize

on the existing potential for investment and development cooperation between the countries. Jaber Jemal Al-Awami, on his part, stated that Qatar attaches great importance to its wide-ranging relations with Ethiopia.

With the high consumption of oil in Ethiopia and food from the Gulf, the two sides are interdependently tying their relations together for mutual benefit. Ethiopia's comfortable climate and land resources for agriculture attract the Gulf countries' detachment from their only oil production. Ethiopia's rapidly growing economy and population are also important factors in the two regions' growing relationship.

Beyond economic and political relations, the two sides' religious history is the basis for their robust relation. The era of unipolar world has been over, new world order is fledgling, blocs like BRICS, South South and others have been presenting themselves as an alternatives of international cooperation and this opens a window of opportunities for countries like Ethiopia in terms of financial source and political partnership. In fact for African nations, there should not be Eastern or Western blocs, as developing nations, African nations should make use of every penny available and help coming from either sides.

The country's economic (trade and investment) relations with Gulf countries have shown significant progress in the last two decades. The oil-rich countries have strong economic power and vast potential for foreign direct investment (FDI). These countries are working to minimize their oil dependence by diversifying their economies. Ethiopia, on the other hand, has offered investment opportunities in agriculture, manufacturing, and service sectors for the countries that are compatible with the latter's goals of diversifying their economies, according to a study published in 2022.

Further, providing investment opportunities Ethiopia is the second-most populous country in Africa. So, this creates the opportunity for high-market destinations and human power for the Gulf countries.

The recent bolster relations between the UAE and Ethiopia from the two sides reassure how the countries relations are deepening in various sectors. The UAE president Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan's visit to Ethiopia strengthened not only the two countries relations but also sent a message about how Ethiopia's and Gulf countries relations have increased. The president's visits also strengthen long-standing ties between the two countries.

**The country's importance to the peace and tranquillity of the Horn made it a staunch ally and a decisive partner for the desert garden nations. Lately, Abiy arrived in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to take part in the inaugural Saudi-Africa Summit, another testimony to a partnership witnessing a new height. The summit showcases the big appetite of the Gulf countries to push for cemented ties with African nations. Furthermore, the country remains on the top spot on Gulf countries' foreign policy ladder because it is an anchor state in the volatile but strategically important region**



# We are very optimistic about Ethiopia's membership in the BRICS

Alex Giacomelli da Silva

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

*Though there have been long-standing relations between Ethiopia and Brazil, bilateral trade is still adventitious and unconsolidated. However, there is room for expanding mutual trade as well as creatively overcoming our geographical distance as well as deeper culture and mutual knowledge. Between 2004 and 2014, Brazil and Ethiopia managed to keep an average annual bilateral trade of over 40 million USD.*

*The two governments are working hard to elevate the trade ties as per the level of political and other relations. In this context, the reopening of the Ethiopian Embassy in Brazil early this year was indeed an important step.*

*Moreover, the signing of the agreement between the two governments in investment cooperation and facilitation back in 2018 is also very important in our economic relations. The agreement provided to investors from both sides with the additional reassurances including a dispute settlement arrangement enshrined in a legal framework backed by the Ethiopian and Brazilian governments.*

*The substantial flight connections established over the recent years between Brazil and Ethiopia and consequently the whole of Africa is also another opportunity to up the trade relations. Ethiopian Airlines operates a daily flight between Addis Ababa and São Paulo. Business people know there is no investment in face-to-face meetings and as you know well it is crucial to be able to travel to reach the potential buyers and sellers in person.*

*Ethiopia would become a full member of the BRICS as of the 1st of January 2024, likely increasing the opportunities for dialogues and exchanges. Brazil and Ethiopia should make the most out of it. We must endeavour to increase trade not only quantitatively but also qualitatively for the benefit of both sides.*

*Ethiopia will be considered as an official member of BRICS from January 2024, this strategic move will strengthen the current strong economic relations between Ethiopia and Brazil.*

*Being a member of BRICS is a significant economic, political and diplomatic victory for Ethiopia. Moreover, this partnership would amplify Ethiopia's economic growth, diversify its export markets and provide broader opportunities for its emerging industries, particularly in the manufacturing sector.*

*Brazil has positive contributions to Ethiopia's BRICS membership. This membership will take the long-standing friendship between the two countries to the highest level. Today's guest of the Ethiopian Herald is Ambassador Alex Giacomelli da Silva who is also Director of the Department of Trade Investment and Agriculture under the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Brazil.*

**So far, Ethiopia and Brazil have a fledgling trade tie. Could you tell us how the two countries can further enhance the economic relations between the two countries?**

First of all, we are here in Addis Ababa because we have a great attachment between the two countries. I don't see the modest trade as a problem. I rather see them as an opportunity as we have a lot of sectors in which trade can grow. Some of them are aviation, transportation, domestic utilities, kitchenware, and machinery. I think we have a lot of opportunities. Of course, we learn from each other investment opportunities. We/Brazil / have to learn more about how to invest here. So we have to understand well and have something helpful.

This week the Brazilian Embassy in Addis Ababa has launched a trade and investment guide that will have an impact in resolving the shortage of knowledge of the Brazilian

investors. There are also a lot of things that we can do together. The potential is there, and we have to know each other. This is the first step that we do on both sides. There are a lot of opportunities and potential. We can work to get better results in our trade and investment relations.

**How helpful is this guide in interconnecting investors and in promoting trade in Ethiopia?**

This guide contains all the information that helps Brazilian companies who need to export from Ethiopia. The companies that have already started to export from Ethiopia do have enough information on how they can do business in Ethiopia. Most of the time, these companies that have products might be interested in the Ethiopian market. However, companies in Brazil do not know if they are investing in Ethiopia and exporting various goods. They do not, for example, have knowledge



and understanding of Ethiopia's legislation, how they can operate their business, the culture of the society and so on. Thus this guide explains everything about Ethiopia. It elaborates on the business procedure that the companies need to follow. A Brazilian company with access to this guide may be more inclined to invest in Ethiopia. It is one of the key instruments that will improve trade relations between the two countries.

**Reports from the Ethiopian investment commission indicated that there are only three Brazilian companies that have currently invested in Ethiopia. What is your reflection on the number of investors compared with the potential number of companies at home with the interest and capacity to invest in Ethiopia?**

First of all, Brazilian businesses do not have an awareness of the business opportunities here in Ethiopia. This is something that we need to work out. Taking this interview as an

opportunity, I invite Brazilian businesses to begin considering investing here in Ethiopia. I think there are a lot of opportunities here. As part of my trip here in Ethiopia, I visited three supermarkets here in Addis Ababa. In the meantime, talked to these supermarket managers and they told me that they have some difficulties in getting some suppliers due to some currency problems. Hence, it will be good for Ethiopia to see companies that produce locally. This is a very good example of the investment that could be in this country. So that will be interesting if potential investors in Brazil better help. Maybe Brazilian investors will see that as a wonderful opportunity.

The seminar that we organized this week aimed at bridging gaps from both sides. I think Ethiopian business people do not know Brazil and at the same time, Brazilian investors do not know about Ethiopia, despite the direct flight between the two

*Continued to Page 9*





## We are very optimistic ...

*Continued from Page 8*

countries. It is the role of the government to bridge the gap between them. So the private sector can cross and see the opportunities. We brought people from Brazil and there were representatives of the private companies here as well.

In the technical meetings that were held after the seminar, Brazilian and Ethiopian businesses discussed the specific issue in detail. There was a field visit organized by the Industrial Parks Development Cooperation. This is a cumulative effort. It is the first step and the BRICS Ethiopia's membership is coming up to show the alternatives. So this is what both governments are doing. We are just bridging the gap. This is just the beginning. The seminar is very productive and it is not an isolated event, it is a part of lots of things that are happening together.

**Brazil is now producing high-quality agriculture machinery which is preferable to Ethiopian farmers and large-scale farming industries. How can Brazilian investors engage in this area and fill the demand for machinery?**

This is one of the sectors in which we see great potential.

As you said we have high-quality machinery in Brazil and we export these machinery to the international market. We used to export two and three years ago. We can export those machineries again. So it is up to Ethiopian importers to show their interest and I am sure our companies are ready to sell them. I understand that there is a currency problem in Ethiopia and this is something that may be an issue for your importers. As far as Brazil is concerned these machinery are available and we can export them again to Ethiopia.

The most promising sector for the bilateral trade is the agriculture sector. One of the most important messages that I see we had at this seminar held recently is Brazil and Ethiopia do not necessarily have to be competitors. I think there is room for both countries to work together be it in the coffee, beef, and agricultural machinery which are well known in the market including in Ethiopia with very good price-quality.

We can get a quality product at a reasonable price. The Brazilian government is studying ways and means to help facilitate the importation of Brazilian machinery given the situation lack of currency in Ethiopia. This is something we do have in account working to see how we can help. The machineries are ready and we want to work together with Ethiopia.

We should not look at each other as competitors. Brazil exports different agricultural goods. You can find products that are not produced here. You find products that may complement production here so smart. you can import from Brazil and the other way round.

**Would you tell us the investment plan of Brazil in Africa using Ethiopia as a gateway for business?**

Africa is a priority for Brazil. When we think of Africa, we necessarily think of Ethiopia, the thriving economy in a very strategic



location in the continent, as the diplomatic headquarters of the African Union. We have a lot of interest in strengthening this relationship with Ethiopia and with Africa too. And the seminar held recently is an example that we are here not with words but with deeds. We decided on the foreign affairs of Brazil, apex-brazil which is a trade and promotion agency coming to Addis Ababa bringing high-level representatives of the Brazilian government.

And they meet with Ethiopian representatives here. Then both sides see the opportunities and challenges. So we can only do business together and we also know the opportunities. There is a plan for the Ethiopian delegation to visit Brazil next year. This idea came up during the seminar that we have had recently. This is like creating a new initiative as we speak. Brazil is already doing tasks to enhance business tasks. This is just a first step.

We look at Africa as one of the priorities in our foreign policy at all levels such as political, economic and so on. Concerning trade and investment, we will work very hard to gain mutually beneficial results. The economic situation of African countries like Ethiopia is growing very fast. My instruction is to work with Africa to have projects that are proven to produce mutual benefits.

Ethiopia is more important for us and the world. Brazil will be the chair of BRICS in 2025. This is very interesting for both countries. The African Union (AU) has just entered the G-20 as well. Now, Ethiopia has played a key role in this process since the AU is here. I think Ethiopia will play an important role in these processes and

this is very interesting for our political and economic relations.

**What are the areas of cooperation identified to enhance business ties between the two countries?**

This is part of our learning process. When we approach one another and talk about opportunities, we will identify areas of cooperation in trade, investment and agriculture. Here I can mention some of them that we have identified immediately. Aviation, transportation, domestic utility, kitchenware, machinery, and agricultural inputs are some of the areas in which we can work together and gain results very quickly.

**As it is known for agricultural productivity, what lesson can Ethiopia learn from Brazil in terms of improving the coffee and other agricultural subsectors?**

I think our cooperation in the agricultural sector is the result of a very long process. Concerning technology, we have in Brazil a public company called Embraper which was founded 50 years ago. In that we developed a lot of technology which was later used in our agricultural sector. This was very important for the development. In addition to Embraper, other companies play a role in technological advancement. Of course, there were a lot of public policies that helped the entrepreneurs or the private sectors to flourish. I think that I would mention these three factors; technological advancement, government policies and the private sector involvement contribute a lot to the success of the agriculture sector.

**How can Ethiopia's membership of BRICS strengthen the trade and bilateral relations between the two countries?**

Although BRICS is a multilateral sentiment, it helps countries to put together bilaterally. In every BRICS meeting, there are bilateral meetings and facilitations to talk about specific problems of BRICS members. So, it is an opportunity to strengthen bilateral relations and it helps understand each other. It helps them to find solutions to their problems. So I think that membership in BRICS helps to deepen bilateral relations and find solutions that each of the countries in the BRICS have. I think it will be very productive for bilateral relations.

BRICS is a like-minded group. Countries are getting together. We do have to agree with everything in the BRICS. It is an instrument for the countries to understand each other in the multilateral forum. Naturally, the bilateral synergies happen once countries meet regularly. Each one of us sees the opportunities to do business together. So this is an environment conducive for Brazil and Ethiopia to know each other even more and to see the opportunities on both sides. We are very optimistic about Ethiopia's membership in the BRICS. I think my government is closely working with Ethiopia.

Thank you very much!

My pleasure!



*When we approach one another and talk about opportunities, we will identify areas of cooperation in trade, investment and agriculture. Here I can mention some of them that we have identified immediately. Aviation, transportation, domestic utility, kitchenware, machinery, and agricultural inputs are some of the areas in which we can work together and gain results very quickly*



# Society

## New approaches, strategies in curbing migration challenges

BY TEWODROS KASSA

In recent years, Ethiopia is facing migration challenges for a number of reasons. Its citizens migrate in large numbers throughout the year in search of better opportunities abroad. It is obvious that, this mass migration could pose multiple social, economic and political challenges both on the country of origin as well as destination countries.

Academicians and experts in the field encourage stakeholders to develop a working strategy and address these phenomena through adopting and applying ethical approaches that consider the well-being of individuals and communities. They believe by implementing effective strategies to reach out the victims and learn the pushing factors that drive migrants pave create informed community. The ultimate goal of the approaches should center on promoting citizens to remain and contribute to the nation's development and make informed decisions.

According to various sources, a range of factors are leading individuals to leave their home country. Identifying these drivers in advance should be given due attentions as it is significant in formulating effective solutions.

Some of the push factors could be economic reasons, such as limited job opportunities and low wages, often leading individuals to seek greener pastures elsewhere. Political instability, social unrest, and conflicts are also additional factors that could cause migration upsurge. Furthermore, the lack of access to education, healthcare, and basic services also contributes to the desire for a better life abroad.

Migration impacts could be positive or negative. For instance, migrants could remit finance for family members and loved ones through legal procedure that could benefit the nation in terms of foreign currency. The remittance plays boosting foreign currency crunch. On other side, migration also could cause the loss of skilled labor and potential loss of original countries development.

Additionally, when people migrate the social fabric of those communities is disrupted as well as families are separated, and traditions and cultural practices and values are eroded.

History tells migration challenges have been a significant concern in East Africa, with individuals departing home country seeking better economic opportunities, for safety, and social stability on a daily basis. Experts recommend a number of ways to effectively address these prevailing challenges, through strengthening



regional coordination among East African countries. One of the recommendations putting in place collaborative approach among stakeholders and establishing comprehensive strategies to manage migration, promoting human rights, and ensuring the well-being of all individuals involved.

Recently, during the validation workshop on the revised Migration Action Plan (MAP) 2024–2028, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) member states are urged to harmonize policies to address the issue of migration with a view to ensuring safe, orderly, and well-managed migration in the region.

IGAD Health and Social Development Division Director Fathia Alwan told local media that the IGAD action plan considers the changing migration dynamics within the region by incorporating new strategies and approaches to protect the wellbeing of migrants and refugees throughout their journey.

The Director said that IGAD has brought all members together to revise the policy on migration, which aligns with the Africa Union (AU) and the broader global compact on migration.

“Migration is a complex phenomenon that requires a comprehensive and coordinated approach. The IGAD migration policy framework set out a strategic vision and also a guiding principle to ensure a safe, orderly and well managed migration with in our region,” she said.

East Africa is a region of migrants because most of our member states are countries of origin, destination, and transition, she noted.

“We have been at the forefront in bringing member states together because migration is not the issue of one country. We want to see how our member states can actually work together, harmonize policies, and also address the issue of migration together,” she said.

Accordingly, the issue requires intergovernmental organizations or all neighbors to work together in cooperation. The plan will translate into concrete action providing also a road map for effective implementation, she said adding that IGAD is confident that inputs during this meeting will contribute significantly to the finalization of the action plan and also reinforce commitment to a coordinated and harmonized approach to migration governance in the region.

National Partnership Coalition Secretariat Head Abraham Ayalew for his part said that governing migration with a comprehensive approach is very important especially in the region; to this end Ethiopia has crafted its migration policy.

He added that this IGAD action plan is very much helpful to our efforts and it reflects Ethiopia's realities and soon after “we validated this action plan; we expect to align our national efforts and engagement with this important document.”

“Strengthening the capacity to address irregular migration in the IGAD region is very important. As you all know human trafficking, smuggling of migrants and also irregular labor migration are serious challenges of Ethiopia and the IGAD region. Consequently tackling irregular migration is one of the key policy issues

outlined under the IGAD regional migration policy framework,” he said.

Therefore, through regional coordination, countries can exchange information about migration patterns, trends, and risks. This knowledge sharing enables governments to make informed decisions, develop targeted policies, and allocate resources to address specific migration challenges effectively.

What is more, the government has been taking various measures to ease the challenges of migration among youths and women in Ethiopia. To address the economic push factors driving migration, it is essential to focus on improving job prospects within Ethiopia. This can be achieved through strategic investment in sectors with high growth potential, such as agriculture, infrastructure, and manufacturing. By creating sustainable employment opportunities, individuals will be less likely to consider migration as their only means for economic advancement.

Curbing migration challenges in Ethiopia requires a multi-faceted approach that addresses the various factors driving individuals to seek opportunities abroad. By implementing ethical strategies, such as enhancing economic opportunities, strengthening education and skills development, addressing social and political challenges, and improving healthcare and basic services, Ethiopia can create an environment that encourages its citizens to remain and contribute to the nation's growth. Through these efforts, Ethiopia can build a brighter future for all its citizens while retaining its invaluable human capital, the experts underscored.



## UAE Food Bank signs cooperation agreement with Majid Al Futtaim and Replate to donate food surplus from food establishments

BY STAFF REPORTER

The UAE Food Bank has signed a cooperation agreement with Majid Al Futtaim and Replate to enable all food enterprises at Majid Al Futtaim's trading centers to donate surplus food suitable for human consumption. This initiative aims to redirect food surplus towards workers and other beneficiaries, further minimizing wastage.

This collaboration aligns with the UAE Food Bank's commitment to provide food to people who need it through expansive and sustainable initiatives. It further supports the UAE's vision of becoming a global leader in the Food Security Index by 2051, a key objective outlined in the National Food Security Strategy 2051.

The First of its Kind

This partnership represents a groundbreaking initiative that is the first of its kind in the UAE. Through this pioneering move, the UAE Food Bank will distribute food donations and surplus food from participating food establishments situated at the Mall of the Emirates, which will serve as the inaugural experimental mall. This effort is in line with a comprehensive set of aesthetic standards and guidelines that contribute to enhancing the role of food enterprises, commercial establishments, and marketing centers in responsible preservation of blessings.

The teams at the Food Bank conducted training sessions for food establishments, offering necessary guidance at every stage of the food donation process. This included instructions on collecting surplus and good food, ensuring proper packaging, facilitating appropriate transportation, and trading to donation refrigerators. These activities were

carried out under the supervision of health supervisors accredited by the Food Safety Department of each food institution operating within the Mall of the Emirates.

H.E. Dawoud Al Hajri, Deputy Chairman of the Board of Trustees, emphasized the vital role of partnerships in advancing the Bank's vision, mission, and values. Al Hajri underscored the significance of efficient planning and management of food surplus to establish the Bank as a sustainable food bank, and a global leader and keep updated with future trends, in line with the UAE's objective of supporting values of sustainable development. Al Hajri highlighted the Food Bank as an integrated humanitarian system with key objectives that include raising the value of feeding food, minimizing waste, and delivering high-quality food to beneficiaries. These objectives are the core of the Bank's institutional values that are centered on humanity, generosity, sustainability, and community responsibility.

Al-Hajri said: "The partnership achieves several of the UAE's national goals, beginning with the preservation of blessings and fostering community responsibility towards specific target groups. Its primary aim is to reduce the volume of good food residues and enhance societal awareness in reducing overall waste and loss of food. This aligns with our government's vision of maintaining environmental resource sustainability and achieving food security principles, in line with the strategic global directions and objectives outlined in sustainable development initiatives."

For his part, Fuad Mansoor Sharaf, Managing Director of Marketing Centers at Majid Al Futtaim Properties, reiterated the company's dedication as a leading shopping destination

to promote environmental sustainability across its shopping centers. He emphasized their commitment to collaborate with tenants and encourage food and beverage outlets to participate in the initiative, showcasing Majid Al Futtaim's aspiration for a collective effort towards a sustainable future.

Sharaf said: "Our strategic partnership with the UAE Food Bank and Replate signifies the commencement of our journey towards achieving Majid Al Futtaim's goal of achieving a net positive by 2040. In just two months, the 'Feed the Future' pilot initiative has saved over 2,000 meals (15 kg daily), conserving 2.28 million liters of water, and mitigating the emission of 2,050 kg of CO<sub>2</sub>. These outcomes underscore our unwavering commitment to creating a positive influence on the local community and the environment."

Maen Mahfoud, Founder and CEO of Replate said: "There is a need for pioneering policies and government support for entrepreneurs to expand their work. This model helps in strengthening the cooperation between the social and environmental sectors, which will further help in achieving the impossible."

Joint Cooperation

Manal bin Yaarouf, Chairperson of the UAE Food Bank Steering Committee, highlighted the collaborative efforts between the Bank and Majid Al Futtaim management to motivate a substantial number of food establishments, restaurants, and hotels to actively participate in this initiative. This will involve increasing awareness of the initiative's terms and objectives, emphasizing the significance of preserving food, and encouraging these establishments to fulfill their social responsibility towards others (beneficiaries). The goals include creating a clean, carbon-

free environment and enhancing their contribution to food security for all.

Through this initiative, the Bank aims to expand its participant base in the future, fostering a culture of zero food waste and promoting healthy practices among all food establishments across Dubai's malls and shopping centers.

Advanced Technologies

Replate is one of the global companies leveraging technology to link businesses, restaurants, global events, and any entities with surplus food to those in need of meals within the community.

In this ongoing initiative, the company will gather data on daily quantities of donated food from food donation fridges and provide the UAE Food Bank with periodic reports, including daily, weekly, and monthly updates. These reports will be submitted after an analysis of the amount of waste reduction from surplus food, measuring the rate of food waste reduction in conjunction with waste management practices, and assessment of the environmental pollution reduction achieved through minimizing carbon emissions from surplus food conversion and recycling.

Since December 2022, Replate initiated a pilot study to measure the public's interest in food donations. During the initial phase, food donations reached 74 meals, while in May 2023, the number of donations increased to 1,210 per month. This resulted in the preservation of a ton of food and 2,284,884 liters of water, as well as the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.



# Verbatim and Caption



## Ethiopia's commitment to transform lives of refugees, host communities

*Ethiopia is committed to continue its efforts to transform the lives of refugees and host communities. Ethiopia will collaborate with all stakeholders to transform the lives of refugees and host communities. Protecting and integrating refugees requires a multi-stakeholder partnership, including the private sector. Ethiopia has made a significant stride to integrate refugees into national policies and basic services.*

*Demeke Mekonnen, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Ethiopia*

## Government subsidies over 6 bln Birr for industries

*Envisioning the manufacturing industry to be the engine for national economic growth, the government annually subsidizes over six billion Birr to the sector while more support is in stock.*

*Subsidizing and incentivizing manufacturing industries form a core part of the government's Ten-Year Development Plan. The Homegrown Economic Reform is being implemented with genuine reformative measures and the government has prioritized the manufacturing sector.*

*Currently, Ethiopia generates over 400 million USD from industrial exports and when the performance compared with the nine billion USD potential, it is evident that the sector is largely untapped.*

*Melaku Alebel, Industry Minister, opening the Ethiopian Enterprises Development exhibition*



## Ethiopia committed to fostering greater pan-African aerospace



*Strengthening collaboration of African air force would help to enhance the capability of the air force in the continent. Embracing long-term thinking, research and innovation as well as absorbing new technologies as key to sustainable air force modernization are crucial for the continent. And cooperation is crucial to modernize the continent's air forces.*

*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. As a "hub of excellence" in African air power, Ethiopia is committed to fostering greater pan-African aerospace and defense industry partnership*



## ETAF will continue cooperation with African countries

*The Ethiopian Air Force (ETAF) will as always continue in its efforts to collaborate with the brotherly African countries in air support, air reconnaissance, training and air transport.*

*Ethiopia contributes a great role to African independence movements and ETAF is ready and committed to work with African brothers and sisters for common good.*

*Ethiopia is enhancing and advancing Air Force Capabilities and strengthening bilateral and multilateral partnership in the sector. It is high time for Africans to go hand-in-hand not only to ensure our benefit from the opportunities but also counter threats everywhere.*

*ETAF Commander, Lieutenant General Yilma Merdassa*

## Next 40 years will be Africa's years: Prof. Sachs



*Ethiopia is on the right track of achieving economic growth. I believe that Ethiopia can sustain, and indeed raise this growth rate during the next four decades.*

*Comparing Ethiopia with China, Professor Sachs noted that China achieved economic growth, averaging around 10 percent per year of economic growth phenomena. When anything grows at 10 percent in a year, it means that it doubles in seven years. So, China achieved that growth over 40 years; and Ethiopia can in effect replicate China's miracle.*

*My deeply held view is that the next 40 years will be Africa's years. This will be a period of tremendous development soon. I think it is soon, within the coming decade. Everyone will want to rush here because this will be the fastest growing part of the world economy.*

*Professor Jeffrey Sachs, during the first 'Perspectives' Lecture organized by PMO*