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Premier touts building Nat'l rhetoric

• Congratulates Ethiopians on 18th Nations, Nationalities, Peoples Day



BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA – Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) has called on nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia to build national identity based on unity in diversity principles.

The premier sent yesterday a congratulatory message in connection with the 18th edition of Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Day that is being celebrated today in Jigjiga, capital of Somali state with a theme: "Diversity and Equality for National Unity."

As the theme indicated, the day marks Ethiopianism which stands for a national identity built on a unity made of multinationalism, Abiy said.

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MoFA invites Japanese companies to avail investment opportunities

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) has invited Japanese businesses to further explore emerging and untapped investment

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GBHHEC inaugurates HQ in Addis Ababa

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- The Global Black History, Heritage and Education Center (GBHHEC) inaugurated headquarters in Addis Ababa aimed at expanding its effort to promoting the history, culture and knowledge of black people across the world.

During the inaugural Ceremony held Friday, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen said that the launching of the center is a practical response and a milestone in the journey of building institutions of African Identity.

History, heritage and culture are instrumental to navigate with the spirit of Africanism towards achieving the full emancipation of Africa from conflict and poverty, he added.

"As the African Union Agenda 2063

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WB reaffirms support for Ethiopia's dev't projects

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – World Bank (WB) has reaffirmed commitment to enhancing support for development projects in Ethiopia.

WB Managing Director of Operations Anna Bjerde said that the bank encourages the development projects Ethiopia has been undertaking so far and provides more support to their accomplishments.

According to the Managing Director, Ethiopia's infrastructural developments and economic reform works are commendable.

She added that her bank will continue providing support to the projects that have shown remarkable progress.

Finance Minister, Ahmed Shide on his part said "An agreement has been reached with the World Bank to further support the development works that Ethiopia is carrying out."



WB is the most important strategic partner in supporting Ethiopia's human development, economic growth, reform agenda, and the likes, he stated, adding that various sectors

in Ethiopia has been benefiting from the bank.

Ahmed further stated that the World Bank

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Ethiopian Air Force in defending nation's sovereignty

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The 18th Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Day

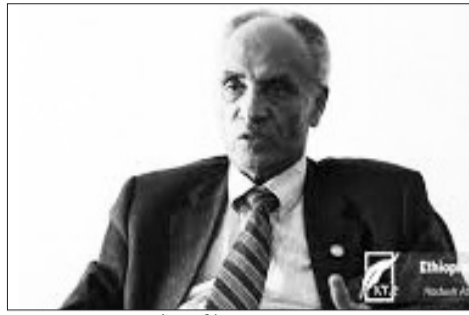
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Ensuring productive national dialogue



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News



Beyene Petros (Prof.)

Contesting parties reiterate commitment to Nat'l Dialogue

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA – Contesting political parties reiterated their support for the national dialogue saying that it is a significant tool to address national controversies and ensure lasting peace.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Ethiopian Social Democratic Party (ESDP) Chairman Beyene Petros (Prof.) said that his party has been actively engaged in the national dialogue process as per the direction of the National Dialogue Commission.

He reaffirmed commitment to take part in any areas of engagement including the commission's meetings, adding that it is crucial to gear the inclusivity of participants towards meeting the desired goal.

Urging the political parties to involve in the process, he said that the political parties agreed to closely work with the commission towards bringing about lasting peace and development.

He called on other concerned bodies to extend their views freely and support the entire process for the common goal.

Sharing the above rationale, Ethiopian Citizens for Social Justice Deputy Leader Architect Yohannes Mekonnen said that they have been suggesting peace solutions before the establishment of the commission.

Yohannes said that the party has established noble expert committee members with the view of facilitating the issues of the national dialogue commission.

Mentioning the commission's performance, he remarked that some peace insecurities and political glitches in the country have been challenging the process to go as scheduled.

So far, about seven political parties' leaders have been taking part in the national dialogue experience sharing forums from Holland.

Stating the preliminary activity of the national dialogue process which reached its last phase, Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) Deputy Chairman, Kejela Merdasa remarked that the party has been expressing interest to work with the commission.

He said, "We are also committed to engage in the areas of the commission's plan in Oromia State to meet its objective. Besides, it is discharging its responsibilities neutrally and honestly."

As to Kejela, dialogue is the best policy and it's high time for the country and everyone needs to stand on the side of the commission and work collaboratively.

As to the OLF, he remarked that the national dialogue would have a paramount importance to solve gigantic controversies rolling for long in the country and reaching common understanding.

It was learnt that the commission has completed the dialogue in two successful rounds and prepared to commence the third round soon.

Ethio telecom to expand digital services in Oromia, Sheger City

BY TAMERU REGASA

ADDIS ABABA - Ethio telecom signed MoU with Oromia State and Sheger City Administration to implement smart solution and digital services.

The press release issued regarding the accord indicated that the agreement is intended to deploy the state of the art smart solutions and digital services and ushering in a new era of modernized and digitized service delivery.

Signing the agreement, CEO of Ethio-telecom Frehiwot Tamiru highlighted the necessity not only to have national digitalization program but also to use digitalization to change the lives of citizens.

She stressed that digitizing services provided in Oromia is compulsory rather than an option as the state is the largest one in terms of population and area.

The press release stressed that the agreement will have a substantial impact across diverse sectors ranging from local administrative units to state level organs, thereby streamlining service delivery processes and leading to greater satisfaction with service provision.

The agreement is mainly aimed at implementing smart offices and campuses in selected areas, smart traffic lights in



selected cities, smart education, mining, agriculture, transportation, health and smart citizen-based services, the release said.

Head of the Oromia Revenue Bureau with a rank of vice president Meskerem Debebe, said that services in the fields like education, health, investment and revenue have been digitized in the past and the new agreement will help to digitize services provided in selected sectors adding that all sectors from the State's President Office to the villages should digitize their services.

Likewise, Ethio telecom also has signed an

agreement with Sheger City Administration to deploy a Wide Area Network (WAN) infrastructure that will help to easily integrate various bureaus and service rendering offices.

Mayor of Sheger City Administration Teshome Adugna (PhD) said that the city administration has been endeavoring to digitize its services to ensure the practice of good governance in the city.

There are many complex issues in the city and it is difficult to manage these complex issues without using technology, he emphasized.

RRS, UNICEF ink MoU to strengthen returnee's protection

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA - Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) and UNICEF signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen their collaboration to protect and support refugees and Ethiopian returnees in the country.

In a press release sent to *The Ethiopian Herald* yesterday, RRS Director-General Teyiba Hassen said that the agreement is a significant step forward in our efforts to protect and support refugees and Ethiopian returnees in Ethiopia.

Along with UNICEF, Teyiba elucidated that it is possible to ensure refugees and returnees access to essential services and support they need to survive and thrive.

She said, "It also improves access to essential services including education, healthcare, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), child protection, social protection, and education for refugees, Ethiopian returnees, women and children, adolescents, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable communities."

In addition, the MoU promotes self-reliance and integration, strengthens protection systems and advocates for the rights of refugees and Ethiopian returnees.



As to the director-general, it acknowledges Ethiopia's long-standing tradition of protecting refugees and ensuring the right to access basic services.

UNICEF Deputy Representative in Ethiopia, Mariko Kagoshima on her part stated that as children are strangely affected by conflict and displacement, this accord would help ensure the benefits of refugee and returnee children in Ethiopia have access to education, health care, and protection among others.

"RRS manages and coordinates the implementation of projects in the refugee

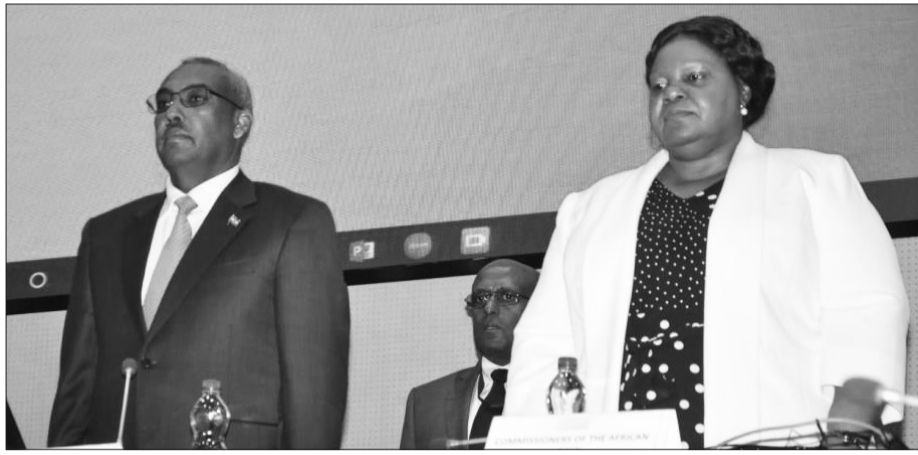
camps, sites, and surrounding host communities through its administrative structures available at various sites," the representative remarked.

As part of humanitarian situations and subsidiary organ of the United Nations, Mariko emphasized that UNICEF has outlined in its Core Commitments to Children and a global mandate towards protecting the well-being of children and vulnerable groups respectively.

It was learnt that Ethiopia, hosts close to one million refugees, is one of the largest refugee-hosting countries in Africa.

News

Photo: Gebabo Gebrie



GBHHEC inaugurates...

promotes Africa's new revolution in all aspect of social changes including culture, the establishment of the center which primarily focuses on the identity of black people is also believed to capture the imagination of the African Youth in our quest for greater unity and integration," he said.

The institution helps black people to share the significance of its heritage and enables to nurture the current knowledge and pride among the generation to come, he noted.

He also called upon all Black people around the globe to support the center to become fully operational.

The center will be a testament to the resilience and unwavering spirit of the black people, so said Angela Martins, Acting Director General for Social Development, Culture and Sport at African Union Commission while speaking on

the occasion on behalf of Amb. Minata Samaté Cessouma, African Union Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development.

It is also a living testament to support those who try to study the roots of black history and heritages, she stated.

The Center is a place where black people come together to empower themselves and future generations, according to the Acting Director General.

"The contributions of black people to the world have been marginalized and erased. Our history has been distorted; our achievements minimized and our voice has been silenced. We believe the Global Black History, Heritage and Education Center is here to regain our narrative, to tell our stories and to ensure that our legacy is forever stamped in the African and global history," she noted.

Commission determines to foster gender equality, women empowerment

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA—The European Union Commission is committed towards gender equality and women and girls empowerment, so said Ambassador of EU to Ethiopia.

As part of the commemoration of 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence (GBV) which is being celebrated under the theme, 'UNITE: Invest to Prevent Violence against Women & Girls' globally, European Union in Ethiopia and EU member states in Ethiopia organized CSO engagement event.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador of EU in Ethiopia Roland Kobia has expressed the commitment of European commission towards gender equality and empowering women & girls.

UN women Ethiopia Deputy Country Representative, Schadrack Dusabe, who is also taking part at the CSO engagement event, stated that UN women recognizes the crucial role that CSOs are playing every day to eradicate Gender Based Violence (GBV) and fight the pandemic that rages day and night.

Gender equality starts with ending oppression, he said in his social media account, adding that Denmark supports Gender Equality by contributing in



Ambassador Roland Kobia



Deputy Country Rep. Schadrack Dusabe

provision of essential services, as well as access to justice for survivors of gender-based violence.

Moreover, he said it will also support conflict related gender-based violence with UN Women Ethiopia.

One in three women experiences physical or sexual violence at least once in their lifetime in which investing in prevention to eradicate violence against women and girls is critical, according to UN women's report.

MoFA invites Japanese...

sectors in Ethiopia.

The ministry in collaboration with Ethiopian Investment Commission, Industrial Parks Development Corporation, Ethiopian Chambers of Commerce and Sectoral Association and Ministry Of Trade and Regional Integration yesterday held a three-day business forum for Japanese business delegation.

Speaking at the occasion, MoFA Middle East, Asian and Pacific Countries Affairs Director General Ambassador Gebeyehu Ganga (PhD) said that Ethiopia offers

investors with a favorable investment climate supported by a growing and expanding economy, abundant resources, a skilled workforce and strategic location in Africa. The forum would serve as a showcase for the great unexploited investment and trade potential.

"The government encourages Japanese businesses to explore the vast investment and trade landscape of the country, especially agriculture, mining, ICT, tourism and manufacturing, the key priorities in terms of foreign direct investment," he said.

"The government is committed to foster strong bilateral relations with Japan. I believe the convergence of the ample potentials of one side and technological advantage of the Japanese companies on the other gives a leverage to strengthen the economic ties of the two countries in addition to benefiting the two parties," he said.

He said the two countries enjoy a time honored cooperation and friendship. The delegation would have a pleasant time navigating business opportunities in

Ethiopia.

As to him, Ethiopia is one of the fastest growing African economies with a great potential in abroad spectral sectors. In this regard, a great importance for Japanese companies because experience, know-how and technologies that continue furthering the local economy.

Members of the Japanese business delegation on their part said that participating in the business forum would help them explore, investment opportunities.

Premier touts...

This national identity accepts multinationalism in one hand and perceives the existence of the longstanding strong unity which embraces the diversity on the other, he noted.

"I believe that this year's celebration would help us to build the nationalism rhetoric constructed on multinational unity," the premier said.

Nationalism is the remedy that heal the nation from the discrete rhetoric constructed to dividing and weakening the country, he underscored.

He stated that the nationalism is a governing rhetoric to build a single political and economic society relied on constitutionalism through emphasizing on the social history, while aspiring the current and the future works and opportunities.

Nations and nationalities are the original

thinkers and owners of the nationalism rhetoric as the notion founds on emblemizing their sacrifices to reach their destiny withstanding every challenge, according to the PM.

He stressed that there is no people in Ethiopia who didn't contribute to the development and sacrificed for the sustainability of the country.

Therefore, he said, all nations and nationalities are granted to live in this country where their right to justice, equality and freedom is respected.

However, they are also responsible to overcome poverty and lay the cornerstone for Ethiopia's prosperity, the premier stressed.

He hoped that Ethiopians commemorate the day with the spirit of building an enduring and inclusive state with nationalism rhetoric.

WB reaffirms...

appreciates Ethiopia's coordinating role in the region as the collaborative works that have been started so far are progressing well.

The WB also pledged to provide additional support to ensure the reform agenda encouraged by country's efforts to improve the role of the private sector, he indicated.

"The bank agreed to work in collaboration with other development partners to ensure Ethiopia's economic reform. It also promised to support the reconstruction process in the country and to mobilize additional resources in a cooperative manner," Ahmed noted.

He recounted that the WB supported the development of the Djibouti Corridor

which enables Ethiopia access to the Djibouti's ports.

The government of Ethiopia is effectively utilizing the resources of World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) to realize the national economic reform and other development programs.

WB's Managing Director for Operations, Anna Bjerde and a delegation led by the Bank's Eastern and Southern Africa Region Vice President, Victoria Kwakwa yesterday held discussions with the officials of the Ethiopian Ministry of Finance and the National Bank of Ethiopia. In addition, the delegation also discussed with Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) and visited various ongoing projects in the country.

Opinion

Ethiopian Air Force in defending nation's sovereignty

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

The Ethiopian army, led by Emperor Menelik II, which defeated the Italian invaders at the battle of Adwa in 1896, was a traditional one.

Soldiers were recruited from peasants. They used their own logistics and animals for transportation.

The army was barefooted, ill-fed and ill-clothed but it defeated the invaders by paying a huge sacrifice with strong spirit for the country's existence.

Modernizing the Ethiopian army was started by Ras Teferi Mekonen before he was crowned in 1931 as Emperor Haile Selassie I. While he was named as the successor of Empress Zewditu his prior agenda was consolidating his position by winning the internal power struggle and establishing a strong central government by eroding the autonomous status of the regional kings and lords.

He broke the traditional power hierarchy and appointed his own officials to govern the regions from the center. However, his advent had not got acceptance by his rivals, which had power base in the regions.

One of his rivals, the former husband of empress Zewditu, Ras Gugssa Wole of Gondar who was a conservative lord opposed the progressive ideas of Teferi Mekonen to modernize the nation through the expansion of education. Backed by the Italians who controlled Eritrea, Ras Gugssa criticized Haile Selassie's measures and rebelled against him in 1930.

Alerted by his clandestine activities, Ras Tefferi Mekonen took a preemptive measure against him and obtained fire support from the British Royal Air Force stationed in Aden Yemen and defeated the Ras Gugssa Wole's forces at the battle of "Anchem" in Southern Gondar.

The Emperor's use of air force against internal rebels was the first of its kind in the long history of Ethiopia.

Two days later, after the defeat of Ras Gugssa, the mystery death of Empress Taytu was announced to the public and Ras Tefferi Mekonen was crowned as Emperor Haile Selassie I in 1931.

As a result of this experience, he advocated the development of the Imperial Ethiopian Air Force. The Ethiopian Air Force was organized by Mishka Babitchef the first Ethiopian pilot, who was of a Russian descent. By the time of the Italian invasion of 1935, the air force had four pilots and thirteen aircrafts.

A few transport aircrafts were also acquired during 1934-35 for ambulance work. The air force was commanded by Colone John Robinson (African-American, took command May 1935), recruited by Haile Selassie, and who

remained until the Italian occupation of Ethiopia when the small air arm ceased to exist.

During the war fascist Italy used its air force to bombard the Ethiopian patriots using mustard gas prohibited by the league of nations, for it has hazardous effect on human as well as animal's lives.

After he came from the exile, the Emperor drew lesson from Italy how the air force can change power balance in the ground battle and began to reestablish the imperial air force.

The liberation of Ethiopia gave way the country to start reorganizing the air force, at embryonic stage that had existed prior to the Italian invasion. In 1944, a group of World War II African American veterans set up a flying school at Lideta or old airport in Addis Ababa.

The nation acquired a few aircraft through military aid from the United States and United Kingdom and the school had some 75 students by 1946. But later on neither the United States nor the United Kingdom was interested to providing assistance. Ethiopia turned to Sweden to help create a modern air arm.

The latter agreed to provide assistance and was appointed as the chief instructor of the newly re-formed Imperial Ethiopian Air Force (IEAF).

The Swedish contingent played a critical role in setting up a solid foundation. Sweden and the Ethiopian government acquired transport aircraft from the United States to equip the flight training, bomber, and transport squadrons, respectively. In 1951, the IEAF formed its first fighter/attack squadron by acquiring fighters from the United Kingdom and Ethiopia's relation with the US and United Kingdom became reinvigorated.

In 1953, a military agreement was entered between the United States and Ethiopia for a military assistance program. It aimed to provide Ethiopia with a capable military force for defensive purposes. The US military sent a team to undertake a comprehensive study of the Ethiopian military capabilities, requirements, and probable threats facing Ethiopia.

In addition to military assistance, the US provided economic support to Ethiopia and increased the number of students entitled scholarship to study in the US. The schools and higher education curriculum were adopted from the western countries.

The US also gave political advisors to the imperial regime to protect the status quo from internal upheaval.

Meanwhile it was proved that when the Military coup took place against the imperial regime led by the Neway brothers in 1960, the air force squadrons piloted by the Americans bombarded the imperial guard positions and played their own role to calm down the coup attempt.

Side by side consolidating his power

through modernizing the army, Emperor Haile Selassie I was forced to engage in military competition with the neighboring countries.

The Somali irredentist ambition since 1960 to aggrandize the territories inhabited by Somali ethnic groups in the horn forced Ethiopia to balance its counterpart and to prepare to the unavoidable war with the Somali regime led by Ziyad Bare.

In 1964, the Somalis began receiving large quantities of weaponry, ground equipment, and MiG-17 fighters from the Soviet Union. In response, the US started delivering the supersonic F-5A jet fighters to Ethiopia.

In addition, Canberra, bombers and air defense radars were acquired from Great Britain and the US respectively.

In 1974, popular unrest against Emperor Haile Selassie led to a military coup. The military then formed a committee from within, known as the Derg dominated by junior officers and shortly after, it executed 60 top civilian and distinguished military officials of the imperial regime and imprisoned many others.

In addition, the Derg forced out many career military officers it was suspicious of and killed others. The army was in shambles and the country was engulfed in political turmoil. It was during this moment the Somalis believed it was a ripe time or their best chance to launch the massive invasion in 1977.

The Somali forces launched their attack at Togochale, a border town east of Jijiga, but the Derg at the time had killed most of the nation's most-able generals and its army was stranded by civil wars across Ethiopia and the province of Eritrea, and therefore it was no match to the air forces of Somalia well-equipped by the Soviet Union. The brief conflict provided the Ethiopian air force with valuable experience. Lessons learned included the need for heavy bombers, an air defense complex, a secure and reliable communication system, and better coordination with ground forces.

Ethiopia suffered hits from a ground attack. Two F-5E pilots as well as the C-47 crew were captured by the Somalis while one F-5E pilot was rescued by helicopter. One of the F-5E pilots captured was General Legesse Tefera (died 5 October 2016), credited with shooting down 7 Somali MiG fighters by dog fighting, making him the most successful F-5 pilot ever. His F-5E was shot down while overflying an area thought to be in control by Ethiopian forces. He was captured by the local Somali army and held prisoner for over 10 years. The other captured F-5E pilot, Afework Kidanu, died while in captivity in Somalia.

In addition to the eastern front, from 1960s to 1990s, the Ethiopian air force

dedicatedly fought against the separatists in northern front against Shabia and Woyane armed groups to defend the nation territorial integrity. It is vividly remembered.

After the down fall of the Derg regime, the EPRDF government dominated by TPLF again dismantled the air force and many veteran pilots left their country and went to exile. In 2018 when the reformist government led by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed assumed power, the institution was reformed and reorganized once again.

Ethiopian Air Force Commander Lieutenant General Yilma Merdasa recently announced that, the closing ceremony of the commemoration of the historic achievement and the 88th anniversary of the establishment of the Ethiopian Air Force will take place on December 16, 2023.

In his press briefing in connection with the celebration to the local media, Air Force Commander Lieutenant General Yilma Merdasa said the 88th anniversary of the Air Force had been celebrated since the end of November 2023 in various air units.

Among the programs to be carried out during the closing of the anniversary will be an air show named "Black Lion" in which friendly countries of Ethiopia take part, he revealed.

A graduation of leaders, pilots, technicians, flight instructors and others trained in various fields will also be held.

Moreover, various infrastructures built by the Air Force will also be inaugurated and works done to enhance weapon capability will be displayed, the Air Force Commander stated.

Different discussion forums in which commanders of various African countries take part will be conducted.

The main purpose of the celebration is to show to the public and the government about the works done by the Air Force since the reform and to prepare for future military operations.

Lieutenant General Yilma pointed out that extensive works have been done in terms of building human resource capability, modernizing weapon capacity, getting equipped with new weapons, and infrastructure and creating favorable working environment after the institutional reform in the Air Force.

Currently the Ethiopian air force is vigorously protecting the nation air territory from the foreign intruders.

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

Editorial

Unity in diversity to realize prosperity

The 18th Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Day of Ethiopia has been celebrated under the theme "Diversity and Equality for National Unity" in Jijiga, capital of Somali State for a week. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has conveyed a congratulatory message on the celebration of the day. He also expressed his firm belief that the celebration plays commendable roles in building and strengthening a shared narrative of national unity. Likewise, Somali State Chief Administrator Mustafe Mohammed also said marking the Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Day is a paramount occasion to build an inclusive and multinational state of Ethiopia.

Suitably, according to the Prime Minister, Ethiopianness, the quality or state of being Ethiopian, refers to a national identity centered on multi-national unity. He also said that Ethiopianness accepts the diversity of nations, nationalities and peoples on the one hand and recognizes the strong synergy that has been binding Ethiopians for generations on the other hand. Essentially, it is a path that accelerates the journey towards building strong and harmonious nation.

Interestingly, the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has clear provisions that guarantee both collective cultural and family rights. For instance, it states that every nation, nationality and people shall have the right to speak, write and develop its language and to promote its culture, help it grow and flourish, and preserve its historical heritage. This makes Ethiopia an attractive nation where the collective and individual rights are respected. As a result, all nations and nationalities have the right to live in freedom, justice, and equality in the country. Moreover, since Ethiopians are the owners of the national narratives that strengthen their common destiny, they continue working towards building a strong and prosperous nation. They continue upholding unity in diversity.

Ethiopia, besides this, is a country with a long history and civilization. In its past it came across various upside downs in successive centuries; it defended its territorial integrity from foreign invaders. The victory of Adwa victory in 1896 which is the recent can be mentioned as the case in point. Fortunately, all Ethiopians regardless of their ethnic, religious and cultural identities rallied together and marched to the war front and defeated the enemy. Then after, the establishment of modern state governed by the rule of law also accommodates ethnic and religious diversity.

Ethiopian nations, nationalities and peoples have carefully identified their common enemy – poverty – meantime, they also established a road map solution which is a journey to prosperity. They are striving towards ensuring the intended prosperity. The path of prosperity has become their destiny to ensure their common interest that they had been dreaming of for ages.

Ethiopia has become a nation where rapid and sustainable development has been realized even at the time of recurrent conflicts and other challenges. The secret to withstand those challenges and register sustainable growth arises from its home grown economic strategies introduced by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

In sum, this year's celebration is special as it happens when many things are getting better. The sense of unity and harmonious relations among Ethiopians is progressively improving regardless of their ethnic and religious backgrounds. Previously, the peoples were suffering because of violations of human rights and unbearable social and economic inequalities that resulted in recurrent conflicts and instabilities. Fortunately, this year's celebration is marked with better achievements than that of the previous ones since sustainable developments that strengthen unity in diversity have effectively been undertaken in the last five years



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The Ethiopian Herald

Opinion

Far beyond linking citizens

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Commemorating days, be they are manifestations of unity and co-existence or milestones where a country has transformed itself from one step to other momentous strides, would be potential instrument to make generations well aware of what their country has had and what values and assets need to be transported from generation to generation carried by time trajectory.

Every country does have their own unique timeframe of which they, have all the time been, will be, proud. Ethiopia is not exception in this regard as it has been celebrating Nations, Nationalities and People's day in a round basis getting sates' capitals ready to host.

The occasion is celebrated with great zeal and gusto across the country and the official celebrations has right this time taken place at Jijiga City. People hoist the tricolor flag, sing the national anthem, fly kites and enthusiastically participate in cultural events.

The occasion also reminds all citizens about their valiant freedom fighters who fought selflessly and even sacrificed their lives for Ethiopia to attain freedom from the tying and uneven dictatorial reign. As citizens celebrate this sacred day this year, they can proudly say that their country has made great progress in all aspects though there are irregularities that need to be corrected.

Be it military, education, technology, sports or infrastructure, Ethiopia has improved in all the fields and certainly, the road ahead is full of development and prosperity though it is left with a long journey to hit the set target.

Frankly speaking, all Ethiopians have to move in unison to conquer the spirit of disintegration, steps against co-existence and rooms that can aggravate hostility and divergence as they had been doing for defeating international aggressors. It is really high time for all Ethiopians, nations, nationalities and peoples in particular, to act responsibly and with a firm patriotic gesture since Ethiopia is a great nation having all things to get prospered. Here, celebrating the day has to time for binding an oath to work for great Ethiopia regardless of race, gender, social status, place of origin, you name it. The day being marked in Jijiga has to be the beginning of a new era in the history of this great nation—Ethiopia. The very next year, the country shall be the paradise of peace solving all disparities, skirmishes and rivalries through a viable means of addressing challenges—the national dialog. The celebration of the day has thus to be instrumental in drying the roots of all sorts of conflicts, rivalries and disagreements either sporadically or recurrently happen across all corners of the nation.

Definitely, celebrating Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Day annually should not be conducted merely for the sake of making reports bedecked with golden expressions about unity, fraternity, co-existence and firm connections among/between citizens of the nations everywhen in its soil; instead it has to be a viable means to practically witness real ties of brothers and sisters at all corners of the nation. It should also be a firm bond to tie fellow citizens together. Yes, this is a grand celebration with a youth procession to mark the day. Needless to state, the day all the time brings together thousands of representatives of nations and nationalities from all angles of the country, senior government officials as well as members of the diplomatic corps, if there are. Besides, the day is a showcase for diverse culture, lifestyle and values of nations and nationalities of Ethiopia under the umbrella unity.

It also helps people promote national consensus and unity on common national concerns to sustain peace and stability. Of course, its celebration is a cast-iron guarantee for nations and nationalities to meet their interests. Mainly, differences and state of diversity among citizens has to be taken as a mosaic of beauty and source of strength, indeed! The day has to be an instrument to fuel development, growth and transformation, peace and tranquility and spirit of fraternity. It has to be made special for Ethiopian Nations, Nationalities and People's for it has brought equality, unity, democracy and fraternity.

The unique and overall features of the eleven regional states of the country are exhibiting themselves in different forms. The colorful festivities observed on the occasion do have their own deep meanings. Yes, the day is celebrated in commemoration of the endorsement of the constitution that guaranteed and protected the rights of the various nations, and nationalities by declaring their equality and just representation in the political milieu, as enshrined in the noble document—constitution.

To make Ethiopia's vision of becoming an influential state in Africa real, the government is working hard, of course, in collaboration with development partners, neighboring countries and others.

In the area of diplomacy, Ethiopia is now becoming an influential nation in the world, and its significant contribution has been making towards the maintenance of peace and security in Africa in general and in the Horn in particular has helped it win trust, support and acceptability among the international community.

It is fitting that at this historic moment all citizens of Ethiopia have to take the pledge of dedication to the service of Ethiopia and its people.

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

Art & Culture

Unity in diversity is the catchword we up hold

BY ALEM HAILU G/KRISTOS

If variety

Is a spice of life,

Diversity becomes

A source of beauty.

True, ethnic groups must

Maintain and display

Their language,

Cultural, religious... identity

Of course, democracy

Being the nitty-gritty.

And if unity

Is a source of strength,

To forge their oneness

Ethnic groups must go

A greater length.

Let it be known

Predators, self-seekers

Enemies,

Phony politicians

Seek an entry point

And Achilles' heel

With a divisive

Wedge a nation to kill.

To fish in

A troubled water

They want

To put us asunder.

So "Unity in diversity"

Must be the catchword

We uphold.

It is wise to remember



"We will be hanged separately
Unless we hang up together!
(Benjamin Franklin)"

Cultural bridges between Ethiopia and Russia

BY AUTHORS: Tatyana Jolivet,
Director of Center for Public Diplomacy

Andrey Khrenkov, PhD in History,
Institute of Oriental Studies of the
Russian Academy of Sciences

(Part II)

Gumilyov was a passionate traveller, exceedingly interested in Africa, and many of his works are a reflection of the poet's impressions of his wanderings, which is why the popularisers of his work try not to be limited to Russia alone. Director of the Small Development Fund of historical cities, Yuri Shehegolkov, said that the exhibition of paintings and his travels to Africa were already demonstrated in Egypt (in Hurghada, Cairo and Alexandria) as part of the exhibition "In the footsteps of N. Gumilyov." Unfortunately, this project was interrupted by the COVID pandemic period, but there is a planned idea to arrange a traveling exhibition and demonstrate it around, following in the footsteps of N.S. Gumilyov in Djibouti and Ethiopia, organizing exhibitions in those cities that he visited, as well as conducting cultural and historical seminars.

A monument to the Gumilev family was erected in Bezhetsk, where Nikolai Stepanovich is immortalized in a bust. Negotiations with the authorities of the city of Kronstadt are also underway to install a monument to Gumilyov, where N.S. Gumilyov appeared to be born into the family of a ship's doctor, state councilor S.Ya. Gumilyov. However, organisers of the expedition in the footsteps of Gumilyov, have even more ambitious plans to preserve the memory of Nikolai Gumilyov in Ethiopia. But to do this, you need to do the most obvious thing first – organise translations of the poet's poems into Amharic language so that the significance of the poet's personality can be appreciated by the Ethiopian public.

In summer of 2023, at the invitation of the festival organisers and thanks to the efforts of the Centre of Public Diplomacy, a group of Ethiopian students



came from Moscow to the Gumilev Festival in Bezhetsk. They left having an unforgettable impression by the reception they had and the events themselves. Some of them have already participated earlier in the evenings, dedicated to Gumilev, which were organised by the Gumilyov Society. But most Ethiopian participants never heard the names of Gumilyov and Akhmatova before.

Iosif Belaneh, student of RUDN and Adimasu, student of the Engineering Institute, underline: "We had the incredible opportunity to immerse ourselves in Russian culture and learn about the rich history of this city. We were able to discover how the city lived and heard fascinating stories of important people who had left their mark on its development. This was a unique opportunity which many Russian have not had. We were happy to share with the locals our culture and traditions that they could know Ethiopian culture better. Most of them have never seen foreigners".

Thus, that's the goal of public diplomacy - to introduce each other's culture, significant for history of two countries by names, especially if these names are capable of playing an important role in bringing our peoples closer together. Ethiopian students participated in all festival events - singing, dancing, reading poems by Gumilyov and Akhmatova. For the population of Bezhetsk this festival has become a great cultural

event. The main thing now is to support this initiative, so that the festival turns into a good tradition, and perhaps even into a conceptual tourism product. As for students from Ethiopia, for them this festival is another opportunity to get acquainted with outstanding personalities, which are uniting Russia and Ethiopia.

If Ethiopia could organise a traveling exhibition, dedicated to the work of Gumilyov and his travels around the country, arrange translation of his best poems and poems dedicated to this African country, then Gumilyov could again become a link between our peoples.

Culture is, of course, not a profitable infrastructure project, but also a product, which can be sold commercially. These, at first glance, costly, but cash-strapped projects can also be very effective in the short and medium term perspective. And the real and visible result of these projects will be the establishment of good relations between our peoples, the revival and development of friendship societies.

Horizontal connections turning into economic projects for small and medium-sized businesses and even jobs are what are needed today, without looking back to big politics. For such projects to be successful, along with financing, there must be also a sincere interest in other cultures and peoples, which helps building reliable and strong relationships. This applies not only to the Russian side,

which in this case takes the initiative of developing the figure of Gumilev into a cultural and literary bridge between our countries. We also appeal to the Ethiopian side to respond and actively contribute to this initiative. As has already been said, for starters, let us organise a competition for translations of Nikolai Gumilyov's poems into Amharic language, as well as the continuation of the literary festival themes dedicated to the travelling routes and various commemorative events not only in Russia, but also in Ethiopia.

July 2023, Tver region, Linen corner

At the end it would be logical to make readers to get an impression about Gumilev's poetry.

African Night

BY NIKOLAY GUMILEV

Midnight descended, impenetrable
darkness,

Only the river glistens from the moon,

And across the river, an unknown tribe,

Lighting its fires, makes noise.

Tomorrow we shall meet and find out

Who is to become the ruler of these parts;

They are helped by a black stone,

We — by a golden cross on the chest.

Again I pass around knolls and pits,

Here will be the things, the mules, over
there;

In this woebegone land of Sidama,

Not even the trees grow.

It's joyful to think: if we shall prevail,

And we have prevailed over many

The serpentine yellow road will again

Lead from hill to hill.

If tomorrow the waves of the Uebi

Shall submerge my last breath into their
roar,

Then, dead, I will see how in the ashen
sky

The black god battles with the god of fire.

Law & Politics

The 18th Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Day

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

Ethiopia was once a unitary state divided in various regions or provinces with the central government having all of the grips of exclusive power. There were the so called representatives of the kings or emperor or other central authority and these used to fulfill the desires and orders of the reigning monarch according to his or her liking. The emperor may have his crown council and these advisors may suggest certain policy recommendations based on their perceptions but the ultimate decision was the emperor's and whatever was to happen would be decided by the central powerhouse.

Power was hence concentrated in the centre and in most of the cases, in one person or in the hands of a selected few individuals. Besides, it was rarely reversible by appeals. If someone from the provinces or the governorate generals, as it was once known, wanted to present a grievance, a petition or some miscarriage of justice, some request, they were supposed to either wait for the day the emperor would pass in that locality and present the petition vociferously, and hope to be noted, or travel personally to the capital city and present their case before the throne.

Decentralization of power was inconceivable and delegation was limited to the routine activity of collection of monies or dues to the rulers by the minor officials in the regions or remote areas to the coffers of the throne.

The first constitution in our country's history was, in the words of the emperor 'granted' to the Ethiopian people back in 1931.

Some historians did write that such constitution was considered a breakthrough as it was the first of its kind in the country's long history. The intention of introducing a modern constitution that established in clear legal terms the powers of the monarchy was indeed unprecedented. In a way, it wanted to introduce the country to the modern era, to an era of certainty, a country that could now join the big family of 'states'.

However, as it was a new concept and seemed too much forward looking for the tastes of the then lords, it was taken with utmost suspicion by the feudal lords who thought that such document would circumvent their powers. There was in fact a kind of palace struggle as it was often characteristic of Ethiopia's history.

Furthermore, this constitution had little that could be called a 'limitation' or delineation of the powers of the Emperor or the authorities in general, because in fact constitutions would be intended to consecrate certain rights and duties of all the branches of government in clearly defined terms while putting certain 'legal limitations' to the exercise of certain powers and privileges. This constitution however reflected the opposite idea. It was rather considered a more solid and unshakeable consecration of the powers of the monarch. He was made practically above the law. The other provisions even sanctioned the 'perpetuity' of the succession to the throne.

No doubt this document with its 55 articles and 7 chapters was just a putting on paper of the powers and prerogatives actually in vigour and legitimize them so that any kind of complaint could be thwarted and suppressed, if necessary.

Then twenty four years later, in 1955 a so

called Revised Constitution was promulgated with more provisions and nuances as it appeared there arose the need to revise the legislation. The Revised Constitution contained the expansion of certain ideas like for instance the focus on the bicameral nature of the parliament and an invitation for the public to vote for members of the Lower House.

The document provides for two chambers, the Lower House or the House of Deputies or the Congress, following in a way the US model, and the Upper House, or the Senate. While the deputies were to be elected by a 'certain category' of people among the masses, the senators however were exclusively handpicked by the emperor himself. A seat in the senate was considered as a sort of position of honour given to veterans who had served the country for a longtime.

Ethiopia remained one of the least developed countries of the world by any standards and its opening to democracy was to say the least faint and not promising. African countries were fast being decolonized and making progress in practically many fields while a situation of status quo was maintained in our nation. No wonder as the fast developments taking place in other African countries began to reflect in the students movement, a public uproar began to be heard; demonstrations and rallies became the order of the day with the harsh suppression of the regime by its mighty security and military apparatus. The grievances were impossible to contain and eventually revolution erupted.

The very army that was the backbone of the regime gave the final blow to the regime. With a stroke of the pen the Derg regime of a group of military officers that grabbed the reins of power dismissed the historic monarch, and the ancient regime was deposed with the monarchy abolished.

People thought, especially those who were involved in the public revolt, particularly the intelligentsia that a new era was breaking to the masses of the impoverished Ethiopians with new hopes and aspirations. The final result of the seventeen year regime of the Derg was however only to result an ordeal of the people.

Indeed, there was lip service for an ideology that was not to the appetite of the people switching from a mainly capitalist or mixed economic structure to a Marxist Leninist stance with the pretext of socialistic principles.

Accordingly, the Workers Party of Ethiopia was founded and the country was to have a people's democratic republic and a constitution that would sing for a world of proletarians and against any form of bourgeois, feudalistic and aristocratic elements.

Ethiopian constitutional history continued with attempts by this military government to prepare and promulgate several proclamations and decrees including a couple of constitutions or basic legislations that paid tribute to the aspiration of a socialist system of government with power declaredly attributed to the workers. In fact, Article 3 of the so-called People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Constitution of 1987, stated "power belongs to the 'working people'". It says it shall be done through the 'National Shengo' and the local shengos (a kind of parliamentary assembly) to be made through elections. Article 2 talks about the country being 'a unitary state', but it also declares the

**We need to
acknowledge these
developments and hope
that fruitful results will
be borne out of these
discussions**

'nationalities' would live based on equality. Although Article 2 sub article 4 talks about the formation of regional autonomy, the principle of 'democratic centralism' and the hierarchy of accountability stating that lower organs are accountable to higher organs did not seem to focus on true decentralization or delegation of power. The unitary state was even more accentuated than ever before and the issue of the diversity of the peoples of Ethiopia was not addressed.

This constitution as well did not exactly address the major and fundamental issues of the people and many of the provisions that particularly deal with civil liberties such as 'freedom of association, expression' and movement' or religion'.

Then it followed the inevitable downfall of the Derg, replaced by EPRDF. May 28, 1991 is considered a watershed in the history of Ethiopia. After a couple of years, focus was given to the preparation of a new constitution replacing the old one.

After protracted discussions with public gatherings and parties' participation, after debates aired on TV and radio, the 1994 Federal Constitution was drafted and promulgated. A new parliamentary system of government with a prime minister accountable to the House was formed. In the process, many of the fundamental issues of the Ethiopian society were seriously portrayed and discussed.

The Ethiopian Federal Constitution of 1994 has been acclaimed by many intellectuals as among the best in the world. Such constitution is acknowledged as an outstanding document that enshrines the most advanced ideas in the political, social and economic spheres even by the fiercest critics and opposition elements that did not see eye to eye with the incumbent.

In Chapter Four articles 45 and following, the State Structure is amply described. The Prime Minister has the executive power, while the President's position is largely ceremonial and 'super partes'. Then there is an independent Judiciary and the Legislative body. The bicameral parliamentary system consisting of

the House of People's Representatives and the House of Federation is key and has its own *raison d'être*. Electoral districts elect the 547 representatives for the House every five years, and the party that earns the majority of the votes nominates the Prime Minister.

To date Ethiopia has carried out six elections with the National Electoral Board managing it. Extended campaigns, and debates on issues aired on the mass media were carried out. This is viewed as one expression of democracy. This was the result of a newly established system in 1991 and following the promulgation of the Federal Constitution. A good preview of the Constitution can be experienced beginning from the very preamble which states:

We, the Nations, Nationalities and Peoples of Ethiopia strongly committed, in full and free exercise of our right to self-determination, to building a political community founded on the rule of law and capable of ensuring a lasting peace, guaranteeing a democratic order, and advancing our economic and social development; firmly convinced that the fulfillment of this objective requires full respect of individual and people's fundamental freedoms and rights, to live together on the basis of equality and without any sexual, religious or cultural discrimination have adopted, on 8 December 1994 this constitution through representatives we have duly elected for this purpose as an instrument that binds us in a mutual commitment to fulfill the objectives and the principles set forth above.

Finally, it should be understood that as conditions on the ground change there could be reason for a change in the constitution as well. Hence, taking that constitutions are susceptible of amendments as society changes and evolves, Articles 104 and 105 provide for that.

And the celebration of the Nationals, Nationalities and Peoples Day is based on this Federal Constitution that recognizes the rights of every nationality in the country. In fact in application of this principle three more new regional states have been formed recently following the requests of the people living there. The reformist government that has acceded to power some years ago has accepted the demands of the public and put in practice the words of the 1994 document.

Pertaining to the outstanding issues that need to be sorted out and in search of a consensus, this government has established what is called the National Dialogue Commission which has been working now for more than the last year and a half and is now reaching vital point. It has identified most of the issues raised by the population and it has made many preliminary discussions with large sections of the population.

As we observe the 18th Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Day we need to acknowledge these developments and hope that fruitful results will be borne out of these discussions so that the country reaches a certain consensus on the way forward and even if we need to amend the constitution we need to know it from these discussions of the Commission.

Ethiopia needs a clear pact for its future development trajectory and not be influenced or still worse determined by past narratives which are often outmoded and boring when they are repeated again and again across years. Ethiopians need to focus on matters that relate with most of them than be prey to divisive ideas and narratives.

“Nations, Nationalities and Peoples’ Day is a platform to demonstrate peaceful coexistence among Ethiopians,”

Kejela Merdasa

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

Today’s guest is Kejela Merdasa who is the Culture and Sport Minister of Ethiopia.

Kejela Merdassa, a politician from the opposition quarter, was included in the new cabinet of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. He was appointed as a Minister for Culture and Sports in October 2021. Just before he came to the cabinet, he had been an executive committee member of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF).

The Ethiopian Press Agency made a short stay with Minister Kejela to learn more about federalism and the importance of celebrating Nations, Nationalities, and People’s Day (NNPD). And he touched on a range of points, including the constitution of Ethiopia, the federalism system, and other political thoughts. Have a nice read!

What is the contribution of celebrating Nation, Nationalities, and People’s Day in building the future of Ethiopia?

I believe celebrating this day helps Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples of Ethiopia to approach one another, know each other, cultivate togetherness, and share the good practices they have developed so far.

This year’s Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Day has been celebrated in Jijjiga town, Ethiopia, Somali State. As part of the NNPD, there have been a symposium, and various study papers was presented and discussed. On this special day, NNPs are expressing togetherness and carrying out activities that cultivate their diversity to reinforce their unity and harmonious relations.

It is the right decision for the government of Ethiopia to ratify December 8 as the day of the Ethiopian Nation, Nationalities, and People’s. Just before 18 years, the primary reason for selecting the day was that it was a day that the nation, nationalities, and people are of Ethiopia ratified the existing FDRE constitution. This constitution is an instrument for the Ethiopian peoples to establish a federal government system and sign the contract that they had given to the government.

Hence, it is accurate of being December 8 a Nation’s, Nationalities, and People’s Day. This helped sink the rule of law into the mindset of the people. Because



it gives a guarantee to the existence of each nation and nationalities, marking the day is quite imperative.

The Ethiopian constitution was ratified after getting the full support of the people. So observing Nations and Nationalities People’s Day independently shows that the day is a historic event.

Do you think that the previous regimes did not oppress people’s right?

Oppression was one of the causes that led to the birth of the Constitution. If there was no oppression, where can we invent or bring the word oppress? We know how it was undertaken practically. During the regime of Emperor Haileselesse I, the government had sovereign power. He considered the land and the people in this country to be his own property. This system oppressed the rights of the people. It saw the land and people equally. In the recent constitution, however, citizens are being treated equally before the law. I believe that the constitution responded to the inquiry of the people about oppression. The constitution assures that the people of Ethiopia have sovereign power.

In this constitution, the nations, nationalities, and peoples of Ethiopia have autonomous power. Now, there

is no oppression supported by the law of the land. In the first constitution of Ethiopia, during the regime of Haileselesse I, there were many articles that show the oppression of the people.

Though the Derg regime called itself a democratic government, the constitutions provided autonomous power to one group. As it had not given power to the people, the constitution in the Derg regime had no point of connection with the existing one. In other words, the Constitution of Derg was a system that oppressed peoples’ rights. This kind of oppression forced the people to engage in various forms of struggles, and finally, the people gained the unconditional right to self-determination, including the right to secession. This is the result of long-term struggle of the people of Ethiopia.

Before the current constitution, the peoples had no right to develop and exercise their cultures, languages and identities; the people were abused. This oppression was a cause the birth of the constitution.

As a result, the states created a federal system based on the nations and languages. The nation and nationalities and people of Ethiopia were struggling to remove the previous system and they are now formed a federal system based on their ethnicity and languages.

Do you think that the concept of ethnic nationalism was not there before the Constitution became effective?

In previous regimes, there was nationalism. Even though there was nationalism, the nations and nationalities of Ethiopia were not treated equally in front of the law of the land. Today’s nationalism is connected with ethnic nationalism. It is based on the equality and unity of nations and nationalities of Ethiopia, but it does not give a chance to the dominance of one ethnic group over the others. The constitution strengthens multinationalism.

In this constitution, nations, nationalities, and people of Ethiopia have got the chance to help and respect each other. Diversity by itself is not a problem for Ethiopia. It is beauty for us. This constitution allowed us to build a country based on mutual respect and cooperation with one another. The constitution gives a power for each district and zone, and power to administer itself under the constitution.

Continued to Page 9

“Nations, Nationalities ...

So the constitution has been practically implemented. I believe that this constitution stands on its own two feet.

Those who need to build a unitary system said that celebrating the nations, nationalities, and peoples days endangered the unity of the people instead of strengthening federalism. How do you see this?

This is not an issue that requires special analysis. Before five years, following a change of government, there were some attempts to lead the country to a unilateral system of government. In order to do so, some parties expressed their interest, but they were not effective. What is needed for the present Ethiopia is multinationalism, but not unilateralism. In order to build a better Ethiopia, we assured that the implementation of multilateralism would bring a united and prosperous Ethiopia. However, this is not possible by applying unilateralism, and we have understood this clearly over the past five years. Though there have been two kinds of thoughts in Ethiopia, the concept of multinational unity has become a dominant thought that has been chosen by the people.

On the morrow of the government change, some groups were striving and chanting war cry to bring back the thought of their forefathers. All the trials to bring about the dominance of one group were off-target. As we have observed over the past five years, we understand that multinationalism is a concept largely accepted by the people. Those who support unilateralism were not able to bring it to action. As they said, celebrating nations and nationalities' day will never be an obstacle to standing in unity. However, the concept of unity in diversity was taken as a grand concept in the minds of the people.

As they said, there should not be ethnic identity in Ethiopia, and it is enough to call someone a human. And this is a concept they tried to apply but failed. Because there is an ethnic group, every nation has organized itself under its own ethnicity. Being a human alone cannot express a human being, and that is the reason we applied the multinational system. They said being human was enough for us. They said this because they have the intention of bulldozing the interests of nations, nationalities, and people's of Ethiopia. We have to respect the interests of the people but not impose any sort of thought without the willingness and interest of the people.

Identity can be expressed in religion, ethnicity, language, and culture. All people have the right to use their identities. Those who believe in the



unitary system tried to twist it differently than it has been put in the constitution. They rather want to impose unilateral thought, which oppresses others. The people, however, expressed that they did not want a unilateral system and struggled for that. People who believed in the unilateralism system were assured that their way was not successful. The thought itself is an obstacle for them. Under the umbrella of Ethiopianism and unity, they tried to get people's acceptance.

In order to get the attention of the people, a struggle should hold the truth and stand for people's equality and justice. When they knew that they were not being accepted by the people, they twisted the multilateralism concept in order to gain hegemony.

If they had struggled for the assurance of democracy, human rights, and equality, they would have gotten people's acceptance. They told the people that “we know which is good for you” or “the thought I brought for you is always right.” In this way, a party cannot be successful. Anyone can find the aforesaid thought in the unilateralism system. This sort of attitude is dismissed by the Constitution. As it does not give space for diversity and is a factor that arouses people to struggle, this kind of thought could not hit its target. Though they carry any sort of weapon and speak

loudly in any media, they will not get acceptance by their people. As a result of this, their attitude has failed. The most important thing for the party to stay alive is the truth it holds, not the voice it repeatedly echoes.

In the present situation, it is impossible to impose one group's dominance over the other. This is the idea that the constitution has underlined.

As their objective is a mistaken one, under the coverage of Ethiopianism, bringing ethnic or group dominance to Ethiopia is not possible. There are many reasons for this. One is that the people of their origins would not allow them to do so. The nations, nationalities, and peoples of Ethiopia are married to one another. They are now united. When you are struggling to bring one ethnic or group dominance, as the idea is a mistaken one, the people of Ethiopia don't accept you. As it is a mistaken idea, it would never make them a winner. Accordingly, the idea failed by itself.

Second, in today's Ethiopia, where the intellectual level of Ethiopians is at a higher level due to technological advancement, imposing such an attitude is impossible. The people can analyze and choose the most convenient attitude for them. Imposing such ideas on people is not legally accepted. It will not be profitable for those who believe in a unilateral system.

One ethnic leadership system always fails because it is well known by the people. The people of Ethiopia are now a civilized society; hence, it is imperative to think at that level.

Those who want to impose the unilateral system in Ethiopia try to utilize the people who have detestation. A political attitude based on detestation would never be acceptable. Every nation needs togetherness based on unity, cooperation and adoration. But no one needs togetherness based on oppression.

If you want to add any more points, please take a chance.

As we are observing this year's Nations, Nationalities, and People's Day, we have to demonstrate peace, love and togetherness. For this to happen, concerned bodies should discharge their responsibility. The diverse cultures, way of dressing, way of living and the like to be demonstrated on this day should be sustained in the future. I, finally, want to congratulate the peoples of Ethiopia on the 18th Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples Day.

Thankyou

It's my pleasure.

Society

Ensuring productive national dialogue

BY MENGISTEAB TEHOME

Throughout history, we have witnessed the dissolution of nations due to the inability of citizens and governments to address underlying issues peacefully, while others have remained united despite their diverse populations. Ethiopia, in particular, has grappled with significant internal challenges, including persistent conflicts in various regions, highlighting the urgent need for extensive dialogue and reconciliation efforts to confront deep-seated societal and political divisions.

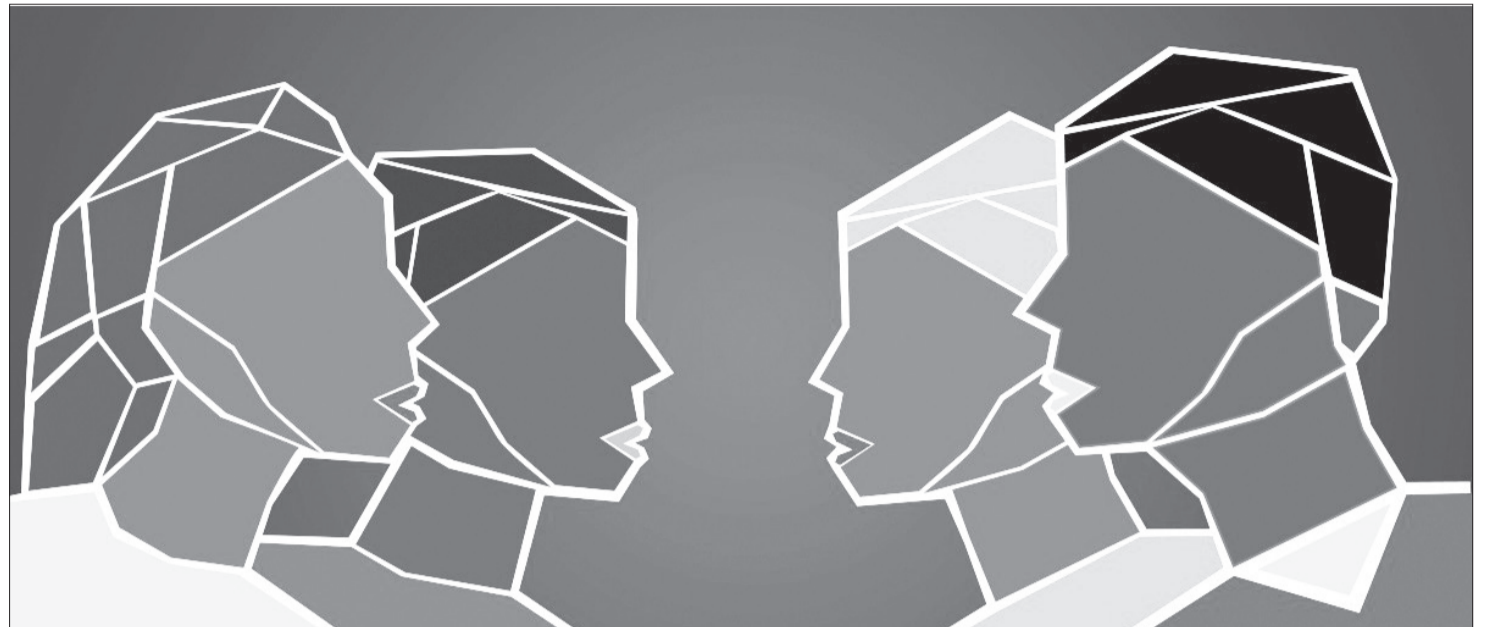
Recognizing the gravity of these challenges, the Ethiopian House of Peoples' Representatives approved the establishment of the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission on December 29, 2021. The national dialogue initiative aims to tackle historical grievances among communities and pave the way for national consensus and peace among citizens.

Since its establishment, the Commission has been collaborating with stakeholders to identify participants for the dialogue, starting from grassroots villages, in a representative and inclusive manner. The goal is to ensure that diverse stakeholders are included in the process.

Amanuel Eremo (PhD), a lecturer at Kotebe Education University, emphasized the importance of inclusivity and transparency in conducting a productive National Dialogue. He stressed the need to address the root causes of conflicts and underscored the vital role of the National Dialogue in conflict resolution and political transformation. Establishing a culture of dialogue beyond traditional elite decision-makers is seen as essential for steering the country towards a new trajectory.

Ethiopia is currently grappling with significant political turmoil, leading to unrest and conflict. The establishment of the Commission is a wise and timely decision in this context. However, it's important to recognize that national dialogue should be viewed as a tool to facilitate peaceful political transformation, but it is not a panacea for all challenges.

Conducting national dialogue is a demanding task that requires high moral and professional integrity, as well as the capacity for effective execution. The ultimate aim should be to cultivate a culture of resolving differences without resorting to armed conflict, ultimately leading to a democratic Ethiopia where all citizens can live in dignity. Achieving a productive national dialogue is feasible, but it hinges on all concerned entities across the board fulfilling their responsibilities according to the



Inclusive national dialogue is key for sustainable peace

established standards.

The encouraging progress of Ethiopia's national dialogue has garnered public support and is seen as a crucial step in resolving the nation's outstanding differences. The success of the national dialogue depends on the diversity of ideas entertained and the commitment to implement the outcomes according to agreed mechanisms.

Media plays a vital role in ensuring the success of a fruitful national dialogue. Local media outlets should play an indispensable role in raising awareness among the general community about the purpose and progress of the national dialogue, thereby creating informed citizens and garnering support for its accomplishment. The media must serve the interests of the public, rather than those of elite or political groups.

"We are observing that certain local media outlets continue to produce content that advocates the interests of specific political groups rather than serving the common good of the public intentionally. This approach could potentially undermine the outcomes of the National Dialogue."

Addressing the role of civil society in ensuring the productivity of the national dialogue, he emphasized that civil societies should have a role in providing technical assistance to the national dialogue. They play a significant role in shaping the development and progress of the dialogue by mobilizing active and constructive citizen participation.

Furthermore, he highlighted that civil societies should engage in mobilizing the community to fulfill their responsibilities by advocating for their rights, holding the government accountable, and providing services through activism, research, and public awareness campaigns. It is essential that the government remains responsive to the needs of the people in a peaceful manner.

To ensure the success of the national

It is essential that the government remains responsive to the needs of the people in a peaceful manner

dialogue, civil societies should further promote social cohesion by bringing together diverse groups within society to participate. They should organize platforms that allow communities to bring their concerns to the discussion peacefully.

The active engagement of civil societies, as reported by the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission,

fosters understanding, tolerance, and peace among different communities, contributing to a sense of national unity and adding value to the fruitful execution of the national dialogue.

National Dialogue is a significant effort by the government to ensure sustainable peace in Ethiopia. By providing a platform for diverse voices to be heard and for key issues to be addressed through dialogue and reconciliation, the National Dialogue aims to foster understanding, unity, and ultimately contribute to a sustainable peace across the nation. This inclusive approach to addressing underlying grievances and promoting national consensus is a crucial step towards building a more peaceful and harmonious society.

The national dialogue in Ethiopia's political landscape presents significant opportunities that should not be taken for granted, as it is a platform that could help resolve age-old disputes and frictions at the roundtable and establish common narratives and vision that all should embrace.

Given the dire challenges citizens are facing due to the lack of peace in various parts of the nation, it is crucial to prioritize guaranteeing peace coast-to-coast before conducting the national dialogue. The government, as the primary authority, should continue its peace-building efforts that are currently underway.

The peace-building efforts of the Ethiopian government are indeed worth highlighting. The government's commitment to fostering peace and stability across the nation is crucial. By prioritizing peace-building initiatives, the government plays a pivotal role in addressing societal divisions, promoting reconciliation, and creating an environment conducive to constructive dialogue and progress. These efforts are instrumental in laying the foundation for a more peaceful and inclusive future for all citizens.

Verbatim and Caption

Ethio-Russia cooperation will be diversified: President Putin

Ethiopia is our long-standing and reliable partner in Africa. This year, we marked the 125th anniversary of diplomatic relations of our two countries.

During Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's official visit to Russia in July, an array of intergovernmental and trade agreements in transport and logistics, telecommunications, as well as in the sphere of peaceful atom were concluded. These agreements will undoubtedly help diversify Russian-Ethiopian cooperation. Russia supported Ethiopia's application to join BRICS from the time it was submitted. "We will facilitate the effective integration of our Ethiopian partners into all interaction mechanisms within the association during our chairmanship in 2024."

Vladimir Putin, President of Russia said while receiving the credential letter of Ethiopian Ambassador to Russia, Cham Ugala Uriat.



Celebrating Nations, Nationalities Day promotes multinational state

Celebrating Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Day is essential to build an inclusive and multinational country that we are dreaming. The day helps all nations, nationalities and peoples to promote their cultures and traditions. Representatives of all nations, nationalities and peoples are exchanging cultures and traditions with others and this promotes coexistence, unity in diversity and multi-nationalism. The 18th Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Day is celebrating colorfully here in Jigjiga, the capital city of Somali Regional State.

Mustafe Mohammed, President of Somali Regional State

Verbatim and Caption

Bright spot on Ethiopia's event calendar: PM Abiy

The 18th Nations and Nationalities Day is being celebrated today in Somali Regional state capital, Jigjiga, with the theme "Diversity and Equality for National Unity." As the theme implies, the holiday is an Ethiopia Day.

Ethiopiawinet is a national identity with multinational unity at the center. Ethiopiawinet recognizes diversity of nations and nationalities and holds this diversity for centuries in unity. It is my strong belief to use the day to strengthen a unifying and grand narration that bases on multinational unity.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD)



Ethiopia's Green Legacy exemplary to East Africa: IGAD

Ethiopia's effort to combat climate change through the Green Legacy Initiative is exemplary to the East Africa region. Ethiopia's endeavor to mitigate climate change under the Green Legacy Initiative is commendable and exemplary for the region.

The main reason that Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative is a pioneered model to the region and others is that the country planted over 30 billion tree saplings by mobilizing its resources, with people's effort and coordination of leadership, and without pleading for external financing.

Workneh Gebeyehu (PhD), IGAD Executive Secretary