



The Ethiopian Herald

Vol. LXXX 072 3 December 2023 - Hidar 23, 2016

SUNDAY EDITION

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COP 28: Opportunity for Ethiopia to showcase Green Legacy success

BY MENGESHA AMARE

ADDIS ABABA—The 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) being held at Expo City, Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has provided Ethiopia with many opportunities.

Speaking to FBC, Planning and Development Minister Fitsum Assefa (PhD) stated that Ethiopia has been contributing a lot to the effort geared

See COP 28: Opportunity ... page 4

Botanic Garden to propagate 1.2 mln indigenous plant seedlings

BY FIKADU BELAY

ADDIS ABABA-Gulele Botanic Garden announced that it has planned to propagate 1.2 million indigenous plant seedlings this fiscal year.

The Gulele Botanic Garden Head Eng. Gutema Moreda told

See Botanic Garden ... page 4



Mohammedseni Amin

State to harvest 11.5 mln quintals of coffee

BY TAMERU REGASA

ADDISABABA - Oromia State Agriculture Bureau announced that it has planned to harvest 11.5 million quintals of coffee from 1.4 million hectares of land this fiscal year.

See State to harvest 11.5 ... page 4

Ethio-Djibouti Railway freight volume surge

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA—Ethio-Djibouti Railway Share Company (EDR) stated that its capacity in terms of cargo and passengers transportation has shown close to 40% annual growth.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Company Chief Executive Officer Abdi Zenebe (PhD) said that the rail freight and passengers transportation capacity have been registering a remarkable growth of 35%-40% per annum.

The CEO further remarked that the rail service has reached its transport capacity of exceeding 2 million tons of cargo, he said, adding that preparations are underway to increase the number of railway stations keeping the existing 20 ones intact.



The corporate, which commenced service five years ago, has been contributing a lot to the trade facilitation and foreign exchange reduction, EPA learnt.

He said: "Currently, rail transport is playing a pivotal role in strengthening regional connectivity and stabilizing the country's

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Efforts underway to manage inflation

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Green pavilion in Dubai demonstrates Ethiopia's commitment in tackling climate change

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Capitalizing on latest technologies to expand job opportunities

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News



Nega Wedajo

Commission toils to increase tourist influx

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA- Oromia Tourism Commission said it is endeavoring for tourism development through conducting researches and promoting the sector to increase both domestic and foreign visitors.

Oromia Tourism Commission Deputy Commissioner Nega Wedajo told the Ethiopia Press Agency (EPA) efforts are being exerted in the areas of tourism development, research, and promotion to encourage local and international tourists to visit the region and to benefit Ethiopia from the tourism industry.

The Oromia Tourism Commission collaborated with Castle Wines to transform a vineyard in Batu town for tourism, promoting agriculture-related sightseeing and local tourism resources, thereby increasing revenue from the sector, he noted.

“In addition to this, we are encouraging investors to spend their money in Oromia. Not only do tourists come to visit, but they also come to observe the various investment opportunities,” he expressed.

Nega believed that the tourist inflow will increase shortly when new tourism destinations are completed and made open to visitors.

According to the report of the International Tourism Organization, Ethiopia has ranked 7th among the top 10 countries in terms of number of visitors, he mentioned, noting that it indicates the increment tourist influx.

However, Deputy Commissioner underscored on the need strengthening collaboration among stakeholders, expanding new destinations and promoting the industry to make the promising tourist influx steady.

Union generates over 1 mln. euros from carbon sales

BY TAMERU REGASA

ADDIS ABABA- Oromia Coffee Producers Union announced that it has earned over 1.1 million euros from carbon sales over the past five years.

Project Sector Head of the Union, Dagne Guta, told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the union has secured more than 1.1 million euros by selling 97,000 tons of carbon to a Dutch company.

The Union has sold the aforementioned amount of carbon to Fair Climate Fund of the Netherlands as the two have been working in partnership to enhance carbon trading and exchanging financial and technical support, he indicated.

According to the Head, the implementation of the National Green Legacy program has brought a favorable condition for coffee and carbon production so that it would



Dagne Guta

enable the union in its effort to double the current revenue from carbon trading.

The union has been working on carbon and coffee production through promoting

agroforestry in Oromia state, he mentioned.

Dagne pointed out that the other objective of the union is to promote coffee development and ensure the benefits of farmers.

It is important to undertake forest development activities to get the necessary benefits from increased coffee production, he said, adding that the Union is engaged in forest development works in all coffee growing districts of Oromia state.

Accordingly, the union has established the Oromia Cook Store Distribution project to enable farmers refrain from deforestation activities in pursuit of energy sources, he expressed.

To this end, the union has provided various energy alternative technologies including stoves to 7,000 farmers in the past five years, according to the Head.

Ethiopia set to host 23rd COSECSA scientific conference

BY TSEAGYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopia has finalized preparations to host the 23rd African surgeons' annual general meeting and scientific conference, announced ALERT Specialized Comprehensive Hospital.

In a presser, Hospital Chief Executive Manager Shimelis Gezahegn (MD) said that preparations have been finalized to host the 23rd College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Scientific Conference.

The event incorporated certificates of competency examination and graduation for surgeons to get a license that allows them to work within 14 countries, he indicated.

According to Shimelis, some 170 surgeons drawn from 14 African countries came to Ethiopia to sit for the exam that would be given on December 4 and 5.

Meanwhile, some 324 examiners came from different continents are assigned to certify the surgeons, he said, adding that 80% of the exams including General Surgery, Orthopedic Surgery and Plastic Surgery would be given at Alert hospital.

He believed that the arrangement of such events in the country helps to create



institutional linkage, promote medical tourism and excellence among others.

In Ethiopia, there are over 100 certified and internationally licensed experts to work within 14 countries, said Yigeremu Kebede (MD), a Plastic Reconstructive Surgery Expert at the Hospital.

Certifying and licensing with this certificate would give great opportunities and benefits for experts as well as the country, he stated.

The AGM and Scientific Conference incorporating the COSECSA Examination and Graduation is organized by ALERT Specialized Comprehensive Hospital in partnership with the Surgical Society of Ethiopia.

COSECSA is a surgical training college for Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Sudan, South Sudan, Zimbabwe and others, it was learnt.

Editorial

Coming to the front in climate diplomacy!

In Dubai, United Arab Emirates, the United Nations climate conference (COP28) is underway from 30 November until 12 December 2023. Leaders from around the world are confronting strong challenges since participants carry with them some long-held and new grievances, and strong expectations. The central theme would be an assessment of progress toward the 2015 Paris Agreement to keep global warming in check.

As governments around the world are attending the 2023 United Nations climate summit, the global heat is rising to new extremes and devastating climate disasters are providing powerful reminders of the costs of climate change. It seems that some hopes are ahead to meet the goals of the 2015 Paris climate agreement. Nevertheless, the world's greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise, causing a large scale of devastation across the globe.

This year's COP28 summit ought to bear fruits that enable the governments to harness a spirit of international cooperation in order to curb the rising consequences of climate change. Essentially, it must address record-breaking extreme heat recorded this year.

At the conference, Ethiopia's exceptional experiences in greenery projects were shared. Portraying on exhibition alongside the COP28 summit, Ethiopia's green legacy initiative has showcased the nation's strong commitment in green development.

Speaking at the Conference, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed underscored Ethiopia's relentless commitment to reduce emission and build a climate resilient economy. Importantly, his nation launched the Green Legacy Initiative in 2019 and has undertaken a series of green campaigns since then. As a result, over 130,000 nurseries have been established in different parts of the country and more than 32.5 billion seedlings have been planted; and the target is to reach 50 billion by 2026. Unquestionably, this is not only a remarkable achievement but also the greatest afforestation project across the globe.

The chief aim of this initiative is to address the pressing environmental issues and socio-economic challenges and then build a climate resilient green economy. Even some years have elapsed since the nation incorporated green development in its national development.

Suitably, some leaders attending the conference (COP28) have acknowledged Ethiopian commitment in the greenery campaign while discussing with Prime Minister Abiy. UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, visiting the Ethiopian Green Legacy Pavilion along with the Premier, appreciated Ethiopia's commitment in green legacy; he also stated that his nation continues cultivating close relations with Ethiopia to work conjointly in various ways including the green legacy initiative.

Moreover, the Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel recognized Ethiopia's green initiative to curb the consequences of climate change; in his talks with Prime Minister Abiy he said that in order to address global climate change, bilateral cooperation on national development issues is essential. Significantly, the two leaders also discussed ways to foster cooperation in the tourism and agriculture sectors.

Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo and Premier Abiy discussed ways of cooperation between their countries in climate change and scaling up of the partnership in various areas of mutual interest. And UK's Former Prime Minister Tony Blair underlined the necessity of scaling up Ethiopia's greenery campaign across the globe.

In sum, Ethiopia has been taking a series of bold steps like the greenery campaign and is recording commendable achievements as a result. The above recognition by global leaders is a commensurate to its unrelenting commitment in green legacy. Hence, it is essential to reinforce collective global action to address the climate challenge consequences just as Prime Minister Abiy said, "The battle to protect and heal our planet is a battle for growth and prosperity."



The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays
By The Ethiopian Press Agency

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The Ethiopian Herald

Opinion

Dire need for combined effort to rescue survivors

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Natural calamities and unpredictable disasters across the world have given citizens of any nation a hard time, and the latter have been experiencing a series of hurdles coupled with poverty, scarcity of resources, conflicts, and other related factors attracting challenges. No matter how serious the dangers in relation to floods or other forms of natural or manmade catastrophes, it would be easy to help, support victims of any country, such as what is happening at present in Ethiopia and Somali State, if efforts are solicited from different sources.

That is why the Ethiopian government has called for the amalgamated efforts of the international community, development partners, countries that would like to see a stable, peaceful, poverty-free, and politically model African country, Ethiopia, and those that are fond of establishing new relations or countries that have already established firm bilateral ties with this great nation.

As widely witnessed, the Horn of Africa region is experiencing heavy downpours and floods linked to the worst weather phenomenon, killing a number of people and causing large-scale displacement, including in Somalia, where the rains have destroyed bridges and inundated residential areas.

The floods and extreme rains have resulted in catastrophic consequences for hundreds of thousands of people who have lost their homes and properties, or their animals and crops. They have destroyed homes, schools, and roads, leaving children without basic needs such as shelter, food, and drinking water, among others. Ongoing flooding has destroyed homes, forcing children and their families to leave their homes, some of whom are now sheltering in makeshift structures in the open.

Bottom of Form

Hundreds of thousands of people were displaced from their homes in the Somali State of Ethiopia due to flash flooding, as the Horn of Africa is one of the region's most vulnerable to climate change and extreme weather events.

It is natural to experience, of course, earthy disasters, which particularly happen due to nature like floods, earthquakes, and lightning. What matters here is the initiation determination of one country or some sorts of universal organizations, especially those that are set up with the intention of stretching a helping hand to those who encounter unpredictable challenges from whoever the country across the globe. In the era of globalization and under a suitable circumstance where each and every country has shared the good and the bad incidents, supporting the citizens of a given nation

to help them get rid of the problems they have been facing is as sacred and as humanitarian as possible.

As learned from various sources, some 52,000 citizens have been displaced and abandoned their homes in the region after the Wabi Shebelle and Genale Rivers burst their banks following heavy rains. Sadly, of the six woredas in Gode, Afder and Liben, a number of people were killed, and three were killed in the worst-affected woredas in Gode.

Hence, all affected woredas need emergency relief, indeed! As emergency relief is a means of providing the victims of what happened in Somali state or other related calamities with immediate assistance, the role of the international community in disaster response is highly regarded as a good remedy. Hence, preparedness and determination to rescue citizens need to come to the forefront. A large influx of international humanitarian assistance has to be recorded as the provisions in international disaster response have to be put into effect in such a trying period.

For instance, the call the Ethiopian government has made to contribute to the national effort it has been carrying out is part of this global collaboration to rescue the lives of many. The flood catastrophe there is very severe, and the international community has to join forces to help survivors as much as possible. As flush floods can roll builders, tear out trees,

Conscious of the fact that the international community or other charity or philanthropic organizations are always ready to help assist countries exposed to such devastating calamities, the Ethiopian government has called for a untied effort to soothe the sufferings of citizens.

In a nutshell, the governments of Ethiopia, the governments of neighboring countries, those of the nations that have had the best approach and bilateral ties with Ethiopia, and the international humanitarian responders have to advance their efforts to rescue their citizens. The region is emerging from the worst drought in four decades after multiple failed rainy seasons that left millions of people in need and devastated crops and livestock.

The international community needs to urgently act upon and provide the affected people with the required assistance in combination with the continuing effort locally exerted, as no one can come and act accordingly to rescue their lives. Yes, climate change impacts such as what is happening in Ethiopia, Somali State, can be abated through the combined effort of all, as moving in unison would make everyone, let alone countries with huge capital and capacity, capable of making a difference.

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

News

Botanic Garden...

The Ethiopian Herald that the Garden has planned to breed some one million and two hundred thousand indigenous plant seedlings and distribute them to various organizations to be cultivated nationally.

During the last three years, the Garden has prepared around one million indigenous plant seedlings and supplied to the Urban Beautification Green Development Bureau of Addis Ababa City Administration, he stated.

He mentioned that the Gulele Botanic Garden is home to an impressive collection, accommodating over 10% of Ethiopia's diverse array of over 6,700 indigenous plants.

"We provide the city Urban Beautification Green Development Bureau with seedlings of indigenous plants obtained from regional states such as DebreBirhan, Borena, and the southern and other parts of the country. This collaboration will support the propagation of traditional medicinal plants and safeguard endangered indigenous species from the edge of extinction," he said.

He noted that the Urban Beautification Green Development Bureau dispersed the seedlings to various sub-cities



Eng. Gutema Moreda

and districts for planting as part of the green legacy program, which aims to promote environmental conservation and

sustainable practices.

In addition to its conservation efforts,

Gutema mentioned that the garden plays an active role in education and community outreach.

He further elucidated that the garden offers a wide range of educational programs, workshops, exhibitions, and guided tours, with a focus on fostering an understanding of biodiversity, sustainable living, and the vibrant role of plants in maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

According to the Head, these initiatives target schools, universities, and the local community.

The garden is committed to empowering organizations involved in seedling propagation by providing training sessions, he said, adding the community-driven approach targets providing valuable knowledge and raising awareness for environmental conservation efforts across various institutions.

Gutema emphasized the critical importance of consistent care and attention to ensure the successful growth and development of the seedlings. He also stressed that the community and all concerned institutions to be diligent in tending to their seedlings, even after planting them, in order to maximize their probabilities of thriving.

State to harvest 11.5 mln ...

Bureau Deputy Head Mohammedseni Amin, told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the state has cultivated coffee on 2.8 million hectares of land of which the 1.4 million hectares is expected to yield product this fiscal year.

He mentioned that the state also managed to reap some 2.1 million quintals of coffee during the past four months.

According to him, Oromia State is the major coffee producer covering 70% of the country's coffee production and revenues.

Coffee is produced in 18 of the 21 zones of the state, he said, adding that coffee initiative has been launched to improve the volume and quality of the product and benefit farmers through creating conducive marketing system.

Over the past four years, the state has made

positive changes in increasing production through cultivating coffee on 800,000 hectares of new land while replacing old coffee trees with new ones on 400,000 hectares of land, according to the Deputy Head.

Coffee production is increasing through time, he said, mentioning that the state produced 6.5 and 10.4 million quintals of coffee in 2019 and 2022 respectively while 11.5 million quintals of product is expected at the end of this Ethiopian fiscal year.

As to Mohammedseni, the reformist government paid special attention to benefit coffee farmers and cut the network of manipulators in the market so that the efficiency of the producers has been increased by 400 percent. However, he said, a lot remains to be done to benefit the farmers sustainably.

Ethio-Djibouti...

economy. Besides, capacity building activities have been putting in place with two giant Chinese contractors to boost the rail transport capacity."

"Preparations are underway to increase the capacity of the rail service from 2 million tons to 4 million," he added.

Along with the Ethiopian Electric Power, Abdi elucidated that the firm has managed to solve some power interruptions and now it is delivering proper services. "Indeed, involving various stakeholders, we have managed to reduce the misuse of resources and

destruction by 85%."

Moreover, the corporate is closely working with the National Bank of Ethiopia to solve foreign exchange glitches witnessed in the sector.

Emphasizing the significance of Belt and Road Initiative that has on the countries rail transport and industrial and technological transformation, the CEO stated that the initiative would have of a paramount importance for the country to gain valuable inputs and experiences in the sector.

COP 28: Opportunity...

onwards fighting the negative repercussions of climate change.

Being the African continent voice, the country has commenced Green Legacy Initiative, a down to business response of course, with a view to overcoming the pressing social, environmental and economic challenges from which countries are suffering these days.

"We have organized a huge exhibition lies on 1,500 square meters to exhibit Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative, its lucrative productions, among others, and has taken bold steps to reduce emissions and build environmental resilience," she

said.

She said: "We have travelled a remarkable trek with regard to enhancing wheat import substitution, promoting agro ecological zones, introducing the nation to the rest of the world; this scenario has thus been a viable platform, the greatest exhibition, apart from working on green legacy. Besides, a number of side events are being held to well introduce green legacy initiative of our country and urban development, energy, water, investment opportunities taking advantage of at this exhibition and pavilion."

She further stated that what makes COP

28 of this time unique compared with the previous ones is Ethiopia has given ample opportunity to take part in a wider scope ranging from organizing huge exhibition.

The country is well recognized that Ethiopia has been known in running a number of activities in this regard.

As to her, since this is a global climate conference where governments from all corners of the world agree on policies to tackle climate change, every participant would play a vital role in consolidating efforts to curb the impacts of climate change, other related global hurdles.

As the conference is being held comprising

heads of states of different countries, government officials, international industry leaders, private sector representatives, academicians, experts, the youth representatives, it would be an ample opportunity to provide Ethiopians with chance to well introduce the country to the rest of the world via cardinal exhibitions, side events and even personal contacts.

"As the event would help amalgamate efforts with a view to successfully combating the impacts of climate change, opens a chance to address climate injustice, other countries need to follow suit what Ethiopia is doing regarding climate change," she said.

Opinion

Strengthening Ethiopian-Austrian diplomatic ties: A path to mutual prosperity

BY HIZKEL HAILU

Ethiopia and Austria share a history of amicable relations dating back to the 19th century when Emperor Menelik II maintained diplomatic contacts with the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Over the years, the diplomatic relations between Austria and Ethiopia have continued to deepen and diversify. Both countries have engaged in high-level visits, exchanges of delegations, and signed various agreements to enhance cooperation in areas such as infrastructure development, energy, agriculture, education, and tourism.

The diplomatic relationship between Austria and Ethiopia reflects their shared commitment to mutual understanding, cooperation, and the promotion of bilateral interests. It serves as a foundation for further collaboration and engagement, contributing to the development and prosperity of both nations.

The recent official visit of Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) to Austria marks a significant milestone in the diplomatic relations between the two nations. This visit not only highlights the growing importance of Ethiopia on the global stage but also signifies a renewed commitment to fostering bilateral cooperation and mutual understanding. As Ethiopia continues to make remarkable strides in various sectors, including economic development and regional stability, closer ties with Austria present a unique opportunity for both nations to unlock their full potential and forge a prosperous future together.

The premier on his telegram has expressed his gratefulness to Chancellor Karl Nehammer for their fruitful exchanges. "Ethio-Austria relations are over a century old with current relations enhanced by robust development cooperation. We aim to build on our existing relations gearing partnerships towards economic cooperation," he noted.

The visit also builds upon this historical bond, reinforcing the commitment of both nations to deepen their engagement for the benefit of their people. The two leaders have exchanged views on important issues that can bring several advantages and opportunities for both countries.

Undoubtedly, Austria is known for its technological advancements and thriving business landscape. As a result, it can offer a wealth of opportunities for Ethiopian enterprises. The visit presented an ideal platform to explore avenues for enhanced economic cooperation. With Austria's expertise in sectors such as renewable energy, infrastructure development, and manufacturing, Ethiopia can tap into this knowledge to accelerate its own economic growth. Joint ventures, trade agreements, and knowledge-sharing initiatives can catalyze sustainable development, job creation, and skill-building in Ethiopia, while Austria can benefit from Ethiopia's vast market potential and resources.

Strengthened diplomatic ties can also

facilitate increased trade and investment between Ethiopia and Austria. Austria's advanced industries, such as machinery, technology, and automotive sectors, can find new markets and investment opportunities in Ethiopia. Similarly, Ethiopia's emerging sectors, such as agriculture, textiles, and manufacturing, can benefit from Austrian expertise, technology, and investment. This collaboration can lead to job creation, transfer of knowledge and technology, and economic growth for both countries.

Moreover, cultural exchanges are crucial in fostering understanding and building bridges between nations. Ethiopia's rich cultural heritage, vibrant traditions, and diverse ethnic groups can captivate the Austrian people and vice versa. Strengthened diplomatic ties between Ethiopia and Austria can promote cultural exchange and tourism. Sharing Ethiopia's rich cultural heritage, vibrant traditions, and diverse ethnic groups with the Austrian people can foster mutual understanding, appreciation, and a deeper connection between the two nations. This cultural exchange can attract Austrian tourists to Ethiopia, contributing to the growth of the tourism industry and generating economic benefits for local communities.

Additionally, Ethiopia's rich history, cultural heritage, and natural beauty have immense tourism potential. Strengthened cooperation with Austria can promote tourism exchanges, leading to increased tourist arrivals from Austria to Ethiopia and vice versa. This collaboration can boost the tourism industry, create employment opportunities, and contribute to the preservation and promotion of Ethiopia's cultural heritage.

Besides, education and research collaborations play a pivotal role in advancing societies. Austria, known for its world-class educational institutions and research facilities, can play a vital role in supporting Ethiopia's educational development. Student exchange programs, joint research projects, and scholarships can facilitate knowledge transfer and capacity building in areas such as science, technology, engineering, and medicine. This collaboration can empower Ethiopian students and researchers while fostering innovation and driving progress in both countries.

Owing to the fact that Ethiopia has a strategic location in the Horn of Africa, it makes the country a key player in regional stability and cooperation. As a result, Austria can lend its diplomatic support and expertise to promote peaceful resolutions and dialogue. By working together, both nations can contribute to the stability and prosperity of the region, addressing common challenges such as security, migration, and sustainable development.

Strengthening diplomatic ties with Austria can enhance Ethiopia's position in regional forums and foster collaboration on regional challenges such as security, migration, and sustainable development. Austria's diplomatic support and expertise can contribute to promoting peaceful resolutions and dialogue in the region, ultimately benefiting both

countries and the broader region.

Austria has a history of engaging in humanitarian and development cooperation globally. Strengthened cooperation with Ethiopia can facilitate joint efforts in addressing development challenges, including poverty alleviation, healthcare, education, and infrastructure development. By leveraging Austria's expertise and resources, Ethiopia can enhance its capacity to implement sustainable development projects and improve the well-being of its citizens.

Austria's expertise in infrastructure development can contribute to Ethiopia's ambitious plans for modernization and expansion. Austria's engineering and construction firms can participate in infrastructure projects, including road networks, transportation systems, energy facilities, and urban development. This collaboration can enhance Ethiopia's connectivity, promote sustainable development, and improve the quality of life for its citizens.

One area where Austria can make a valuable contribution is in the development of road networks. Austria's engineering firms have extensive experience in designing and constructing efficient and well-connected road systems. Ethiopia, with its vast size and diverse geographical features, can greatly benefit from the expertise of Austrian firms in building and upgrading road infrastructure. Improved road networks can facilitate better transportation of goods and services; enhance connectivity between different regions, and foster economic growth.

Transportation systems are another area where Austria's expertise can be beneficial to Ethiopia. Austrian companies can collaborate with Ethiopian authorities to develop and modernize transportation infrastructure, such as railways, airports, and ports. These improvements can enhance the efficiency and reliability of transportation, facilitating trade and investment opportunities for Ethiopia. Moreover, the development of sustainable transportation systems can contribute to reducing carbon emissions and promoting environmentally friendly practices.

This collaboration can also bring several benefits to Austria. Here are some potential advantages. Participating in infrastructure projects in Ethiopia can open up new business opportunities for Austrian engineering and construction firms. These projects can generate revenue and contribute to the growth of the Austrian companies involved. It can also lead to long-term partnerships and collaborations with Ethiopian counterparts, creating a platform for future business ventures.

Austria has accumulated significant expertise and advanced technology in infrastructure development. By sharing this knowledge with Ethiopia, Austrian firms can expand their reach and export their expertise. This can lead to the transfer of advanced engineering techniques, innovative technologies, and best practices, benefiting both countries.

Successful collaborations in Ethiopia can also

enhance Austria's international reputation in infrastructure development. It can showcase Austria's capabilities and expertise to a global audience, attracting attention and potential partnerships from other countries. This can lead to further networking, business opportunities, and international recognition for Austrian companies.

By the same token, engaging in infrastructure projects in Ethiopia can strengthen Austria's diplomatic relations with the Ethiopian government. It provides an avenue for bilateral cooperation and fosters a positive relationship between the two countries. This can have broader diplomatic implications, potentially leading to increased trade, investment, and cultural exchanges between Austria and Ethiopia.

As Ethiopia possesses significant renewable energy potential, particularly in hydropower, wind, and solar energy, Austria, as a leader in renewable energy technologies, can provide support in the form of technical expertise, investments, and knowledge sharing. This bond will enhance mutual benefits among the two countries. Collaboration in the energy sector can also help Ethiopia harness its renewable resources efficiently, address its energy needs, and contribute to a cleaner and more sustainable energy mix.

By leveraging the advantages of strengthened cooperation in these areas, Ethiopia and Austria can foster mutual development, prosperity, and cultural exchange. The shared expertise, resources, and collaboration can unlock new opportunities, address common challenges, and contribute to the long-term growth and stability of both nations.

The recent official visit of the Ethiopian Prime Minister to Austria marks a significant step towards strengthening the diplomatic ties between the two nations. This visit serves as a testament to the commitment of both countries to forge a mutually beneficial partnership, leading to a prosperous future characterized by shared growth, understanding, and peace. As the journey of collaboration unfolds, let us embrace the potential that lies within this alliance and work hand in hand towards a brighter tomorrow.

Overall, the advantages of strengthened cooperation between Ethiopia and Austria lie in the potential for economic growth, knowledge transfer, cultural enrichment, regional stability, and collaborative efforts in addressing development challenges. By leveraging each other's strengths and resources, both countries can unlock new opportunities for mutual prosperity and contribute to the well-being of their respective populations.

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

Business & Economy

Efforts underway to manage inflation

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

According to the World Bank, Ethiopia faces various challenges manifested itself by macro-economic deficiencies. Unemployment, foreign currency crunch, debt service, which is currently reached to 27 billion Dollars, inflation, corruption, illegal trade can be mentioned as major factor.

The challenge was aggravated by the war broke out between Russia and Ukraine and in the northern part of Ethiopia and by the COVID 19 two years ago.

The World Health Organization studied the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on African economies and household welfare using a top-down sequential macro-micro simulation approach. The pandemic is modeled as a supply shock that disrupted the economic activities of African countries and then affected households' consumption behavior, the level of their welfare, and businesses' investment decisions. It is calibrated to account for informality, a key feature of African economies. It is also proved that COVID-19 could diminish employment in the formal and informal sectors and contract consumption of savers and non-savers, especially for savers.

Because of the war in the northern Ethiopia lasted for two years, the economic activities in that region was collapsed. Industries and service sectors were totally shrunk. The revenue that would have been collected was cut off.

Banks and insurance services were cut and money was not transacted, which again affected the economy. Farmers could not cultivate their land and produce crops and the crop that would have been supplied to the market was not delivered. As a result, the product was in short supply, which in turn aggravated inflation by raising the price. The interruption of transport service also dwindle the revenue that would have been collected from the sector. Rehabilitating the displaced people due to the war also burdened the government coffer. Reconstructing the demolished infrastructure forced the government to allocate its financial resources that would have been allotted for other development endeavor.

According to Ministry of Finance, the reconstruction costs the nation to more than 20 billion Dollars and unless it is supported by donors executing the reconstruction project might be unthinkable.

As of economists, there are various factors which contribute to the galloping of commodities' and services' prices and among others: illegal trade, the deteriorating of peace and security in various parts of the country, the loan taken by the government from local and foreign banks by various reasons which increases cash flow in the market, the



Central bank governor foresees promising results in tackling inflation

increasing government expenditure, excess remittance, and imported inflation due to the price hike of commodities in the international market, money laundering, black market and others.

It is proved that illegal trade is aggravating and critically harmed the nation's economy. Resources such as cattle, coffee, mines, fuel, chat, vegetable, fruits and others are smuggled to neighboring countries' markets through borders. Due to such illegal trade, the supply of the aforementioned products has been shortfall and as a result, experiencing price hike in a frequent manner continued.

According to recent report of Animals' Quarantine Department, Ministry of Agriculture, ten thousands of cattle are illegally exported to the neighboring countries weekly. If it has been exported in the legal way, the nation would have been garnered handsome amount of hard currency. The other products also could support the nation's foreign currency reserve, if they would have been exported through formal channel. The interruption of transportation, because of the absence of peace and security, hampered the supply of agricultural products not to reach the market which again contributes for the aggravation of inflation.

It also made difficult the supply of agricultural inputs such as fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides to farmers which again caused the low productivity of the sector. Government's deed in disseminating borrowed money from local banks into the local market also posed the shortage of commodity supply. It is for the reason that when excess money is circulated in the market, it makes scarcity of commodities in the market and to mitigate the problem, the National Bank of Ethiopia recently announced that it reduced the provision of loan to the government from local banks.

Obtaining hard currency through remittances helps the nation garnering foreign currency capacity. But persons who receive hard currency from their relative residing overseas, exchange it in the parallel market to obtain more local currency which

poses inflation. If they exchange in the formal channel, in banks, it would have contributed to raise the nation's foreign currency reserve and reduce inflation.

The price hike of commodities in the international market also poses inflation. When the commodities are imported in the expensive price, they are also supplied to the local market in high price which again burden the consumers' purchasing capacity. To stabilize the market and to reduce the inflation rate, the government has taken various measures since long ago and some positive outcomes have been witnessed.

Recently, Governor of National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE), Mamo Mihretu said inflation has declined from 29.3% by the end of last June to 27.7% during the first quarter of the current Ethiopian budget year.

Presenting the quarterly performance of NBE to the HPR Plan, Budget and Finance Affairs Standing Committee recently, the Governor said inflation has been declining during the past six months. In September, inflation fell to 27.7% from 35% in March, 2023.

Last August, the National Bank of Ethiopia announced monetary policy measures to reduce inflation in a significant manner. NBE targets to reduce inflation to below 20% by June 2024 and below 10% by June 2025. Among the measures undertaken by NBE for this fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, credit growth is to be limited to 14 percent, and all commercial banks are instructed to limit their loan to be consistent with this aggregate credit ceiling.

According to the Governor, NBE has also sharply reduced Direct Advances to the Government this fiscal year and limited such lending to just one-third of the prior-year levels. The interest rate at NBE's Emergency Lending facility, which banks utilize when they face liquidity problems, is increased from 16% to 18%, it was learned.

Despite encouraging achievements registered during the first quarter of the ongoing budget year, reducing inflation significantly is still a priority in NBE's

macro-economic stability initiatives. Regarding the financial sector growth, he said that the financial sector has been booming especially during the last few years following the reform as bank branches grew from over 4,000 in 2018 to more than 11,000.

Deposit of commercial banks also increased three times, from 700 billion in June 2018 to 2.3 trillion Birr as of now. The Ethiopian payment system has been also booming, the Governor stated. The digital payment system reached 4.76 trillion Birr, by doubling to the previous year

The standing committee members acknowledged the encouraging achievements registered by NBE in creating healthy financial system, reducing inflation, and the increase in digital payment system, among others. Despite the recent decline, they stressed that coordinated efforts are needed to meaningfully reduce inflation by implementing the necessary directives and policy measures.

Ethiopia is an agrarian economy in which the sector serves as the means of living for about 80% of the population residing in the rural parts of the country. The sector is climate sensitive and when rain fails followed by crop failure which in turn the supply of agricultural products to the local market will be reduced and this is the major factor for the growing inflation which critically affects the urban consumers. Hence, to reduce inflation induced by climate change, improving the sector through supplying modern inputs and enhancing irrigation based farming practices and increasing production and productivity is essential.

As mentioned above, illegal trading of local products to the neighboring countries is a major factor for the growing of inflation because of the short supply of the products to the local market. Therefore, to mitigate the problem, the law enforcement institutions should take strict measure against the culprits.

Corruption also plays a negative role in the economy by posing inflation. Self-interest traders set their own commodity price beyond the consumers' purchasing capacity through bribing some irresponsible government officials. Therefore, putting in to account the officials for their malpractice is essential. The unnecessary value chain stretched in the agricultural products' market also causes price hike and to shorten the value chain by removing traders who do not pay tax in the value chain is vital.

Inflation critically affects the poor who has fixed income. According to the recent report, 75% of civil servants earn less than 12 thousand Birr per month and their income do not cover their house rent and food consumption expense. Therefore, to relieve their painful living, the government should engage in stabilizing the prices.

Planet Earth

Green pavilion in Dubai demonstrates Ethiopia's commitment in tackling climate change

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

The United Nations Climate Change Conference, known as COP, takes place once a year. This year's COP 28 is being undertaken in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, as of November 30, 2023. It is the world's only multilateral decision-making conference on climate change, with nearly every country represented.

To put it simply, the COP is where the world gets together to agree on methods of addressing the climate catastrophe, such as limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, assisting vulnerable populations in adapting to climate change consequences, and attaining net-zero emissions by 2050.

Including members of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), over 70,000 participants are now attending the high-level meeting. Business executives, young people, climate scientists, journalists, and a variety of other specialists and stakeholders are taking part in COP-28.

The summit is critical to achieving the aim of reducing long-term global temperature rises to 1.5 degrees Celsius. In 2015, approximately 200 countries agreed on this in Paris. According to the UN's climate authority, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the 1.5°C target is critical for avoiding the most devastating effects of climate change.

The conference will also discuss how far we have come in meeting the existing Paris targets. In particular, it would prioritize the transition to sustainable energy sources to "slash" greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. Delivering funds for climate action from wealthy to poorer countries, as well as working on a new agreement for developing countries that focuses on nature and people. These and other challenges are contributing to COP28 being the "most inclusive" ever.

Furthermore, COP28 is significant for poor nations because it provides a forum for them to voice their unique demands and difficulties connected to climate change. Despite contributing less to the cause, developing nations frequently endure the disproportionate cost of the consequences of climate change. COP28 permits these countries to lobby developed countries for financial and technical assistance to help them adapt to and reduce the consequences of climate change.

Additionally, COP28 might allow underdeveloped nations to receive funds and technology transfers for sustainable development and renewable energy initiatives. Ensuring that developing nations' perspectives and concerns are heard and addressed in global climate discussions is critical.

Taking these notions into account, COP 28 is divided into two zones: blue and green. The UNFCCC is in charge of the



The green pavilion that is conveying a powerful message to the international community

blue zone. It hosts national negotiations as well as a variety of speaker and panel events for delegates from UNFCCC-accredited organizations. The green zone is supervised by the host country and provides a space for non-accredited groups to further the climate discussion. Within each zone, there are theme-based pavilions that present programs relevant to their individual perspectives on climate change.

As a developing country that plays a critical role in combating climate change, Ethiopia featured pavilions on green legacy efforts and other connected concerns. As we all know, Ethiopia has been carrying out a statewide forestation drive as part of the Green Legacy Initiative, which Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed started in 2019.

The nation planned to plant more than 50 billion tree seedlings in two phases of the campaign. During the first phase of the initiative, the country was able to plant 25 billion seedlings of agroforestry, forestry, and ornamental varieties, surpassing the set ceiling by mobilizing more than 20 million people in four years. The country also launched the second phase of the initiative last rainy season to plant another 25 billion tree seedlings in four years.

As a consequence, this broad green culture has taken root, matured, and flourished during the last five years, resulting in a major decrease in the pace of deforestation and the formation of new forests. These new forests will be critical to carbon sequestration as Ethiopia moves forward in its attempts to combat climate change.

As a result of its engagement, Ethiopia would be able to advocate for its unique needs and concerns connected to climate change through green legacy projects. COP28 is also vital for the world to share the vision of Ethiopia's Green Legacy program, which aims to tackle climate change and deforestation by planting billions of trees. This enormous reforestation initiative not only aids in mitigating the effects of climate change but also adds to the country's long-term development goals.

By actively participating in global climate

negotiations like COP28 and implementing domestic initiatives like the Green Legacy, Ethiopia is demonstrating its commitment to addressing climate change and promoting environmental sustainability. These efforts not only benefit Ethiopia but also contribute to global efforts to combat climate change and protect the planet for future generations.

Jack Schein, from Boston College, who is attending the COP28 climate change conference and visiting Ethiopia's Green Legacy initiative pavilions, stated that the initiative is critical to battling climate change and avoiding and managing global carbon emissions. The Initiative's planting of over 31 billion seedlings demonstrates the country's commitment to mitigating climate change.

Nigeria's Environmental Protection State Minister, Dr. Iziq Salako, stated that Ethiopia, through the pavilions, has conveyed a powerful message to the international community to fight climate change. The prepared pavilion is where a significant message has been conveyed, urging people all around the world to return to nature. Ethiopia's Green Initiative, which is working to save the globe from the crisis of climate change, is an excellent example to follow.

The United Nations Development Program Regional Director for Africa, Ahuna Iziakonwa, explained that Ethiopia's Green Initiative Pavilion at the COP28 'Green Zone' Dubai City Expo is admirable and shows the commitment of leadership.

She mentioned that the Green Legacy Initiative Exhibition (Pavilion) that Ethiopia has organized at the COP28 'Green Zone' in Dubai City Expo shows a wonderful activity and indicates that everyone should take action. This showed the commitment of leadership at the forefront.

Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair said, "Ethiopia's green development is exceptional and remarkable, thanks to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's (Dr.) initiative." In addition to making significant strides in the agriculture sector, it has performed well in

green legacy projects aimed at addressing climate change.

He also stated that by bringing about a fundamental change in agricultural products such as wheat, rice, vegetables, and fruits that were previously imported and increasing production and productivity, the country can export them. Hence, Ethiopia's outstanding work on green development is not only for Africa, but it can be a lesson for the world.

According to Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, Ethiopia's Green Legacy pavilion at the COP28 Green Zone in Dubai demonstrates the country's efforts and commitments to tackling climate change and enabling food security.

At COP28, Ethiopia features its Green Legacy-related development initiatives at the Ethiopia Pavilion in the Green Zone. The Pavilion shows Ethiopia's strong commitment to addressing climate change through concrete solutions. The office of the Prime Minister invited participants to visit the Ethiopian Green Legacy pavilion at the COP28 Green Zone in Dubai and learn about Ethiopia's efforts and commitments in tackling climate change and enabling food security, Prime Minister Abiy said.

Ethiopian Plan and Development Minister Fitsum Assefa (PhD) said that the country is sharing its best experiences in the Green Legacy Initiative with countries at the 2023 UN Climate Change Conference (COP28). It has also set up an exhibition pavilion at COP28, where it is sharing the success stories of the implementation of the ongoing Green Legacy Initiative with the world community.

The pavilion, at 1,500 sq. m., holds testimonies of Ethiopia's remarkable achievements in the green development arena that are being displayed for participants from all corners of the world. The soil and water conservation works, in tandem with prioritized agricultural practices, have enabled Ethiopia to realize remarkable productivity in its wheat farming initiatives, she stated.

The importance of Ethiopia's Green Legacy initiative shown at the Pavilion at COP28 is that it demonstrates the country's proactive approach to addressing climate change and promoting reforestation efforts. By showcasing their commitment to environmental sustainability and their ambitious goal of planting four billion trees in just one year, Ethiopia is setting an example for other countries to follow.

In general, Ethiopia's participation in COP28 is crucial for ensuring that the country's voices and concerns are heard and addressed in global climate negotiations. The green legacy initiative not only benefits Ethiopia but also contributes to global efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change and protect the environment for future generations. It highlights the importance of reforestation and the role that individual countries can play in combating climate change.

Art & Culture

Call booze by whatever name, but boozers remain the big losers

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

In Shakespeare's play "Romeo and Juliet", Juliet says the following about her beloved Romeo's name, "What is in a name? That which we call a rose, by any other word would smell as sweet." Unfortunately, Shakespeare did not leave us a profound poetic line about alcoholic drink but one can derive from the above quotation by the bard of Avon, the following wisdom: "By whatever name you call the booze, it would remain a synonym for lose."

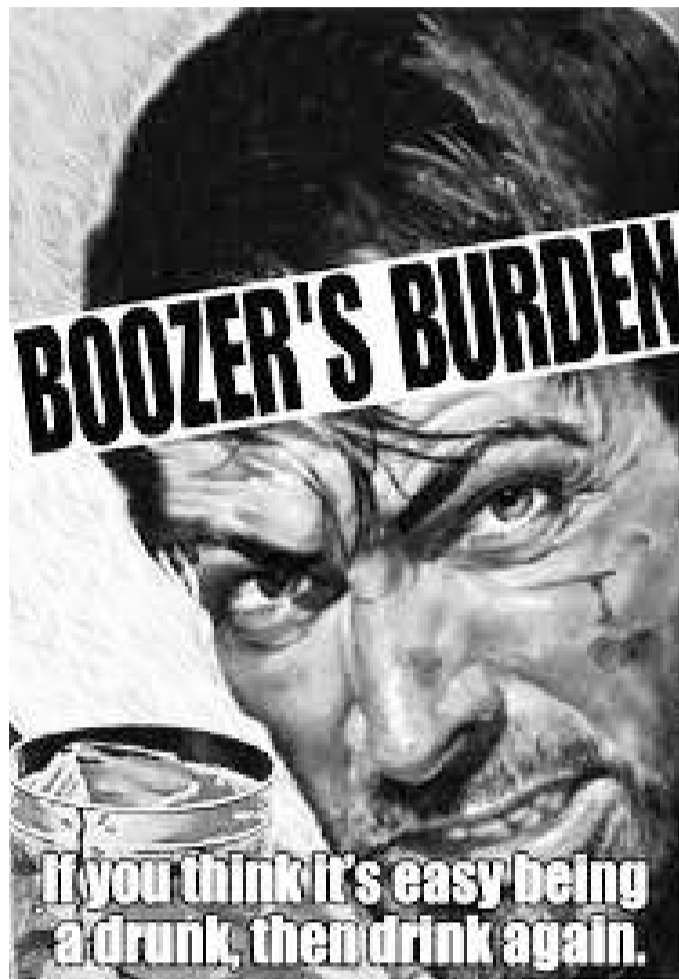
Humanity started producing and consuming alcoholic drinks thousands years ago. "Chemical analyses recently confirmed that the earliest alcoholic beverage in the world was a mixed fermented drink of rice, honey, and hawthorn fruit and or grape. The residues of the beverage dated ca. 7000-6600 BCE, were recovered from early pottery from Jiahu, a Neolithic village in the Yellow River Valley." That is to say in ancient China.

According to another study that established the time line for the discovery and consumption of modern alcoholic drink says that, "In 1849, Swedish physician Magnus Huss coined the term alcoholism in his book *Alcoholismus chronicus*. Some argue that he was the first to systematically describe the physical characteristics of habitual drinking and claim that it was a mental disease." Modern medicine has long established that excessive alcohol drinking is a mental illness. According to Wikipedia, "the modern disease theory of alcoholism states that problem drinking is sometimes caused by a disease of the brain, characterized by altered brain structure and function."

The drinking culture in Africa is as old as society itself although it has undergone critical evolution in the modern era, particularly following European colonial rule in the last couple of centuries. "Unlike in some European countries, where alcohol use is part of the daily life of the people, or is used especially during meals, in Africa generally, alcohol is used mostly during rituals, marriage ceremonies, clan/family festivities." For instance the French are known for drinking wine with their meals at any time of the day except in the morning.

Ethiopia cannot be an exception to the rule because the culture of drinking alcoholic beverages is embedded into the general social culture as a factor of both socialization and entertainment. It is a kind of "rite of passage" most youngsters go through to reaffirm their adolescence and youth. Like anywhere in Africa, cultural drinks in Ethiopia are processed from natural foods. According to one blog page, there are at least eight traditional alcoholic drinks that are categorized as follows: *Tej* or honey wine, *Tella* or traditional beer, *Borde*, or millet beer, *Shamita* or the homemade barley beer, *Araki* or traditional spirit, *Birz* or alcohol-free wine, and *Qaribu* or alcohol-free *Tella*.

The Ethiopian culture of drinking is also similar to the one prevailing in most African countries. Drinking culture is defined as, "the set of traditions and social behaviors surrounding the consumption of alcoholic beverages



as a recreational drug and social lubricant." As long as drinks are consumed within the boundaries of socially acceptable norms of behaviors, they may not cause a problem to families and societies. But as soon as they transgress the socially delimited boundaries of what is acceptable and what is not, well, they become intolerable.

Western drinking culture is obviously different from what prevails in Africa in general and in Ethiopia in particular. In the Western societies, drinking alcohol at any time is not only tolerable but also encouraged following the growth and envelopment of modern drinks producing enterprises that have developed since the Industrial Revolution in particular.

Like in Africa, traditional production of alcoholic drinks in Europe was first based on cottage industries or on family estates that were famous for producing a certain type of beer or spirits. This was the case in Germany for instance where the culture of drinking beer was established as a result of the proliferation of home-brewed quality beers that were produced at certain localities and later on started to be processed industrially.

Social attitudes towards drinking alcoholic beverages vary from country to country although all of them have invented different ways of producing these beverages. "Although alcoholic beverages and social attitudes towards drinking vary around the world, nearly every civilization has independently discovered the processes of brewing beer, fermenting wine and distilling spirits."

Modern consumption of alcoholic drinks in Ethiopia is generally believed to have started during and after the Italian fascist invasion in 1935. Although the invasion was short-lived, its negative social consequences on Ethiopian society continued after the invasion was reversed. The Italian fascists are believed to

have introduced prostitution or the brothel and modern alcoholic drinks in Ethiopia.

When we look at the Ethiopian context to know about the social attitudes towards drinking alcohol, we realize that drinking is not a problem as long as it is done within acceptable limits. Most people who argue in favor of "knowing one's limits" as the rule of "responsible drinking" maintains, refer to Biblical passages to justify their solidarity with alcoholic beverages. They refer to Jesus Christ who changed water into wine or the unwritten law that the church does not condemn drinking as long as it is done within the bounds of "Christian morality". However, the rule is often broken and people are furious about

it when they see drunken churchmen misbehaving in bars and alehouses. They often portray them "playthings of the Devil."

The same attitude defines the prevailing tolerance towards drinking. It is okay to drink without becoming drunk and without causing social, familial and community disturbances. This kind of tolerance was behind the proliferation of alcoholic drinks, particularly among the younger population in both urban and rural areas. Both in the collective social conscious and cultural lore, drinking within limits is often considered as something masochistic that reinforces male domination in society while women were expected to abstain from drinking alcoholic beverages.

Critical voices against too much drinking are often raised during church gatherings or in popular literature. Tebeje, the main character in the short story entitled, "The Drunkard of Gulele" by Temesgen Gebre is a fictional portrait of the evils of drinking too much both to the drinker and to society. By the way "The Drunkard of Gulele" is the first Amharic short story in the history of Ethiopian literature. The story was translated into English by this columnist back in 1998 and still remains unpublished.

He, Tebeje, had thought many times about quitting booze. After every evening of a drinking spree, he vowed not to drink again. However, he drank more the next day and got even drunk than his previous indulgence. He drank in the belief that he would feel happier intoxicated than sober. He drank to overcome his feeling of anger and despondency.

That was Tebeje's habit.

"I will not be your spiritual father anymore unless you stop boozing!" The priest had one day told him and disowned him with a curse.

Housekeepers refused to work for him be-

cause they considered working for a drunk to be humiliating. The Women he asked to marry him refused unless he stopped drinking. His neighbors barred him from membership to the religious association because of his drunkenness and consigned his soul to oblivion.

He did not mind about all this. He did not care about what they were saying. He had money. He was rich. Only the rich could indulge in drunkenness. Only the poor are teetotalers. Why then did they consider his habit an act of rebellion?

His case was different. He got drunk many times and was run over by cars. He had often found himself in prison as he woke up from his stupor in the morning...

At last, Tebeje became the victim of a car accident and at the end of the short story we hear him lamenting about the loss of one of his legs:

A doctor suggested to amputate one of Tebeje's legs from his knee down.

Another surgeon decided to amputate his leg from his thigh down so that he would not go out and drink again. They amputated him from his thigh. The same doctor ordered the nurses to weigh the amputated leg on the scale and put it between Tebeje's arms.

The nurses weighed the amputated leg and put it between Tebeje's arms. At that moment, the dogs that were fighting over a bone came and fought to take his amputated leg away. They scared him so much that he came out of his slumber although it was difficult for him to remember all that happened in his dream.

He jumped out of his bed and cried in terror. He asked his servant how many legs he had.

"How many legs did you have usually, sir?" His servant asked him.

"I had two!" He repeated three times.

"Three times two are six!" The servant said.

"I'm serious!" Tebeje shouted again, shaking all over in anger.

"You have two legs indeed, sir!" The servant said.

Tebeje tried to bend and kiss his leg but he could not reach it. He turned his eyes to the sky and lamented, "Drink for me is as bad as death!" He said. It was night time.

"This vow will also be forgotten soon!" His servant answered.

This rather witty short story was written at a time when too much public drinking was something that was condemned by society. In the following decades, drinking or drunkenness was comfortably established. The short story has a vital lesson to teach: boozing is self-defeating.

Perhaps it is time to read Tebeje's story again because the individual and social impacts of boozing have long become social and economic malaises with no remedy in sight. Suffice it to see the annual statistics of deaths from car accidents that are caused by drunken driving. The early warnings against too much alcohol consumption seem to be justified indeed, even if the appeals continue to fall on deaf ears.

Society

Capitalizing on latest technologies to expand job opportunities

BY TEWODROS KASSA

In today's ever-evolving digital landscape, the role of technology has become indispensable in shaping our lives and the way we work. This vast technological advancement presents endless opportunities, especially for the younger generation. Thus, different countries are exploring the significant role of digital technology in creating job prospects for youths, enabling them to thrive in an increasingly digital world and easing their lifestyle.

According to experts in the field, the digital technology has pervaded every aspect of our lives, from communication to commerce, education to entertainment. Its impact has been particularly profound in the job market, where it has opened up new avenues and transformed existing industries. With the rapid growth of e-commerce, the rise of social media and the increasing reliance on automation and artificial intelligence, youths has never had a better opportunity to harness the power of digital technology.

Digital technology offers unprecedented opportunities for young entrepreneurs to establish and grow their businesses. Platforms like e-commerce marketplaces, social media, and freelancing websites provide a global marketplace for their products and services. By leveraging digital platforms, youths can bypass traditional barriers to entry and reach a broader customer base, allowing them to showcase their talent and drive economic growth.

Recently, the Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MoIT) has urged citizens to unlock job opportunities available online following the advancement of the digital sector.

MoIT State Minister Yisherun Alemayehu (PhD) told *The Ethiopian Herald* that the government has been investing in manpower, facilitating infrastructure and supporting the private sector to invest and increase their participation to realize 'Digital Ethiopia 2025'.

Accordingly, the implementation of technologies has been contributing to ensure the accessibility and inclusiveness of transportation and other sector services thereby it has been playing positive economic role. The government is committed to support the expansion efforts of technologies in all sectors and encourage the private sector to join.

"In Ethiopia, the digital technology sector has easily made job opportunities accessible so that new graduates, private sector and others can exploit the digital technology sector since it offers unique jobs. We should develop technology skills and experience.



In this regard, the government has been encouraging local technology expansion for own consumption and economic value by interpreting and analyzing the data," he said.

Furthermore, Yisherun elucidated that the existing technologies are not sufficient to deliver efficient services as it requires bringing or applying new technologies that would increase the accessibility and inclusiveness in each sector.

Implementing these technologies saves time, increases efficiency, creates jobs, improves security and others, he elaborated.

At the same pace as this, Addis Ababa Science and Technology University (AASTU) has disclosed that it is striving for realizing the national economic development through providing the science and technology sector with standardized education and training.

AASTU President Dereje Engida (PhD) said that the university has been working hard on making the university as hub of science and technology in Africa in the years to come.

As to him, conducting problem solving researches, adopting knowledge and technology, building capacity and national science and technology center are among the priority missions of AASTU.

AASTU has a strong stance to reinforce universities-industry linkages thereby boosting technology and innovation. Besides, quality should be focused to realize the ambition of the university and the nation at large.

"Among others, artificial intelligence and robotics, biotechnology and bio-

processing, construction quality, mining exploration, and sustainable renewable energy are among the areas to be made centers of excellence," he added.

He further stated that the university is working on quality management system to ensure world class competitive institutions in various areas such as producing competitive employees at the international level.

The university is also eyeing on laboratory facilities for making industries and other areas competitive and helps them bring fundamental change in science and technology sectors.

"The university has been awarding and providing employees, who serve the university in the past ten years, with thanksgiving program. Capitalizing on science and technology would be the viable means thereby provoking eagerness to another mission and realizing national ambition in science and technology sectors keeping better quality, Dereje underlined.

The experts recommended that, to effectively utilize the job opportunities created by digital technology, youths must acquire the necessary skills and competencies. With the wide availability of online resources, digital training programs, and coding boot camps, acquiring digital skills has become more attainable than ever before. Whether it's learning to code, mastering graphic design software, or understanding digital marketing strategies, these skills equip youths with the tools needed to thrive in the digital job market.

The digital age has given rise to numerous job opportunities that were nonexistent a decade ago. Industries such as e-commerce,

digital marketing, software development, and data analytics have experienced exponential growth. These sectors offer a wide range of positions, from entry-level to highly specialized roles. Young individuals who possess digital skills are well-positioned to secure lucrative jobs that provide growth opportunities and long-term career prospects.

Moreover, while digital technology has the potential to create jobs for youths, it is essential to bridge the digital divide that exists among different communities. Access to the internet, computer literacy, and affordability of digital tools and resources vary widely across regions and socioeconomic backgrounds. To harness the full potential of digital technology, efforts must be made to ensure equal opportunities for all youths, regardless of their background.

In sum, recognizing the crucial role of digital technology in job creation, governments and the private sector are actively investing in initiatives to empower youths. Programs such as digital literacy campaigns, subsidized training courses, and entrepreneurship development schemes are being implemented to bridge the skill gap and foster a digitally capable workforce. Collaboration between stakeholders is vital to create an ecosystem that nurtures innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable job growth.

The fast-paced nature of technology necessitates a mindset of lifelong learning and agility. By embracing change and staying ahead of the curve, youths can navigate the evolving job market and seize emerging opportunities, the experts stressed.

Law & Politics

Backing refugee-friendly countries

BY STAFF REPORTER

The IGAD region has become the heart of the refugee issue due to ongoing wars and natural threats. Livelihoods have been destroyed and millions of people have been forced to relocate. The region is experiencing a severe humanitarian crisis due to an increased rate of interstate migration. Millions of people have fled their homes as a result of protracted droughts and conflicts, making it difficult for the international community to satisfy the growing demand for humanitarian aid.

This year also saw a high rate of interstate movement due to the unrest and community disputes occurring in the surrounding nations. Furthermore, nations like Ethiopia that provide sanctuary to the displaced and persecuted are finding it more and more difficult to handle the enormous influx of migrants entering their borders as a result of the continued lack of adequate international help. However, Ethiopia is still at the forefront of regional efforts to welcome over a million displaced people and provide services that are helpful to refugees.

Recognized for its humane handling of migrants, the nation also keeps setting the standard for action by implementing real measures to assist refugees. After Sudan and Uganda, this nation is the third in Africa to house refugee students. Students from South Sudan, Somalia, and Eritrea make up the majority of those who are refugees in Ethiopia.

In the nation, refugees do have comparable rights. As a result of its goodwill toward foreigners, the nation whose name appeared in numerous holy texts has amassed international recognition and passed legislation favoring refugees at the national and international levels that help ensure that they are treated with dignity. It is true that Ethiopia has provided refugees escaping persecution with a safe haven for ages.

There are comparable rights for refugees in the nation. Over time, the nation whose name appeared in numerous holy texts for its magnanimous deeds for strangers joined international accords and enacted legislation favoring refugees at the national level, which helps to ensure that refugees are treated with dignity. It is true that Ethiopia has provided safe harbor to refugees escaping oppression for eons.

In total, 168,269 refugees are attending formal education in 65 preschools, 53 primary and 11 secondary schools. In addition, some public schools nearby in refugee camps are also delivering services. Public universities are also receiving and providing scholarships to refugees without any special requirement and any refugee who has a passing mark in the university entrance exam is also being treated equally.

Refugees Affair Senior Communication Officer Engize Ketema (Ph.D.), the



Ministry of Education in collaboration with aid organizations is providing education services to refugees. Children near refugee camps are also learning with the refugees.

Ethiopia is the third African country to host refugee students following Uganda and Sudan. South Sudanese, Somalis, and Eritrean students take the largest number of refugee students in Ethiopia. Addis Ababa, Gambella, Somali, Benishangul Gumuz, Afar, Amhara, and Tigray are hosting a large number of refugee students, the officer elaborated.

Refugees and Returnees Service Deputy Director General, Muluken Desta also said that Ethiopia hosts nearly one million refugees. Ethiopia is operating durable solutions for refugees and adopted a comprehensive plan of action to grant refugees the right to work, move, access formal and non-formal education, and other privileges. The government has also made several commitments in legal frameworks to support refugees and they are included in the sixth series of educational sector development plans and management information systems. Muluken also called on relevant stakeholders to collaborate for refugees' safety.

The Ministry of Justice and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) have signed an agreement that would enable them to scale up their existing cooperation to a strategic partnership. The cooperation agreement was signed between Justice State Minister Alemante Agidew and IOM Chief of Mission to Ethiopia Abibatou Wane, according to ENA.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief of Mission Wane said the agreement will facilitate efficient and effective coordination and collaboration between the two organizations.

“We live in a world on the move with

Ethiopia is still at the forefront of regional efforts to welcome over a million displaced people and provide services that are helpful to refugees



migration seen as an adaptation strategy in the context of changing circumstances and challenges posed by poverty, conflict, and natural disasters, among others.” And some migration corridors are more challenging than others for migrants as well as for authorities, he noted.

Ethiopia is a migration origin, transit, and destination country. “Every year, close to 150,000 laborers migrate to the Middle East, while thousands of others are engaging on the southern route or towards Europe.”

The chief pointed out that the scale and complexity of contemporary human mobility in Ethiopia require effective management of the social, economic, political, developmental, environmental, and humanitarian factors underpinning migration.

According to him, the Government of Ethiopia (GoE), in partnership with IOM Ethiopia, has taken significant strides towards establishing the required migration governance system to ensure

well-governed migration. “I would like also to reiterate the dedication of the GoE to the Global Compact for safe, orderly, and regular migration from its inception phase, paving the way to ambitious reforms and further engagement.”

Justice State Minister Alemante Agidew said on his part that the cooperation agreement is a milestone for greater cooperation. Since its first presence in Ethiopia in 1995, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has been contributing to the efforts of the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) to effectively manage migration through a wide variety of projects and programs, he noted.

“As a collaborative endeavor between the Ministry of Justice and IOM, the cooperative agreement (signed today) reflects both entities’ commitment to more fully harnessing the benefits of migration at a country level and to enable the ministry to play its leading role in migration governance,” the state minister said.

The Ministry of Justice has been carrying out various activities in collaboration and partnership with various local and international institutions by promoting regular pathways to migration and preventing human trafficking. The Government of Ethiopia has been closely working with the International Organization for Migration in all aspects of migration.

In spite of Ethiopia’s efforts, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) recently announced that about 4.5 million refugees require international support. With the number on the rise, the crisis in the region requires a comprehensive refugee response framework and vital intervention. And, Ethiopia’s experience is worth scaling up to give a better future for refugees.



Ephrem Endale
Contributor

Between you & me

“Duros Hebesha!”

There’s this story I was told by a young fellow who’s the sort of fellow you come across rarely these days. His loves for books is boundless; and I’m not exaggerating. Especially when it comes to local works in Amharic he is a sort of a reference material. Ask him any question and you wouldn’t be disappointed. Whether it is about what new works have made it to the shelves of bookshops or what to expect in the coming weeks or months he knows. One aspect I really admire about the fellow is that he doesn’t wait for people’s comments or criticisms and book reviews to read any new work or throw it away. (Unfortunately, especially on the social media there are comments which tell you to throw certain works far and wide because they are not worth reading! Why do they do that? That, dear readers, is a question I would have liked answered by those who really have the knowledge about the issue or even evidence-based personal comments.)

So this young fellow I’m telling you about isn’t easily moved by social media blitz for or against a certain. He in fact makes sure he stays away from platforms where such comments about works he hasn’t yet read abound. He’s of the pinion that it’s not only difficult, but impossible too, finding genuine literary comments. “The wrong crowd has taken over,” he says. I never asked him what he meant by ‘the wrong crowd’. If there is some ‘wrong crowd’ there certainly would be the ‘right crowd.’ Tricky, very tricky;

wouldn’t you say?

However recently he makes an exception and joins a group discussing a certain novella. Most of the participants were fans of the work and elevated it to a sort of a modern day classic. He says one after the other the comments sounded that they were discussing a Nobel Prize winning work. As the one-sided discussions were coming to a close a participant who stayed quiet the whole time offers to give his comment. Once he started the roof comes down without any warning. He had barely said a few sentences when almost every one turning on him. No one listened to any one as almost all accused him of being jealous of the writer with the proverbial Amharic upper cut “Duros Hebesha!” meaning that since he was an Habesha that was expected of him. Look the funny part about people who use the “Duros Hebesha!” phrase is that they think of themselves being on a different pedestal looking down on everyone else. Believe me such an arrogantly irresponsible comment is more common even among the better educated and those who are supposed to be more reasonable in their comments and doings. I’ve noticed this trend on some who return home for one reason or another after a couple of years abroad. They leave as a Habesha and return as a Non-Habesha!

So the guy who tried to present his genuine comments uncontaminated by any personal prejudices or favoritism and what does he gets! The mob-like verbal pounding of a

group which he must have thought knew better. He sits down and once the group indulges in its ‘customary’ one sided game the guy quietly steps out. This fellow who told me the story has vowed never to make the same ‘mistake again.

True that the social media has gone a long way in bringing literary works to the attention of the public. In fact it’d be only fair to say that without social media’ involvement many works would never have left the shelves of the bookshops or even in the worst of cases the warehouses of printing presses.

But then when it comes to discussing literary works the story takes a new twist and you’re forced to ask, “Is the social media destroying our literary world under our very eyes?” And believe me no one on their right mind would accuse on naivety or anything for that. Many times than not real and genuine literary discussions are thrown out of the window and the narratives indulge in shockingly crude name-calling, accusations of one side being biased about the other side which mostly is the proprietor of the work in question.

Then there are book launching ceremonies which are growing by the day. I have to admit these days in certain instances there are some changes as more and more emphasis seem to be given on the literary aspects of the work being launched. Of course there is still a long way to go to make

things even better. But then you can control the proceedings of book launchings but you can’t do that on the social media. And again unfortunately the social media could make or break the opportunities for the new work to attract the attention of the public.

Sometime back I used to be a regular at book launchings. But after several months I quit. Why? I’ll tell you why. Little by little the literary events were turning into some of sort of holiday celebrations where you talked nothing about the new works and just enjoyed the coffee, popcorn and the Dofa Dabo! Look, if I was in need of those things there are far more perfect places to go to. But book launchings are just book launchings and nothing more. So it’d have been nicer if organizers kept the popcorn and the Dofa Dabo! for themselves and told us about we came to launch. I could understand the holiday spirit of those whose works are being launched and those around them. After all coming out with a new work is a sort of landmark in its own way. But cutting back on the glitter and focusing on what should constitute book launchings would be great achievement.

I think then it’s high time the literary family searches for ways where we can have genuine and unbiased literary discussions on works, new or old, because that is the only way to eventual literary stardom for authors, poets and the like. Otherwise there would be no bridges we could cross with the proverbial uppercut punch “Duros Habesha!”

‘Preachers’ and ‘Medicine Men’

The streets of Addis never cease to amaze even most of us who have lived in it all our lives. Yes, it is a city that amazes any keen observer in more ways than one. A few minutes’ walk through any of its bustling streets would be going back home with a few things to mull over. One question any longtime resident would ask is something like, “Is this that very city I really lived in for decades?” So much is happening at any hour of the day that it’s practically difficult to take everything in.

I don’t know much about how they estimate populations. It has been quite sometime since we had our last population census, a very sensitive issue. It’s like live wire which if you don’t manage with the utmost knowledge and wisdom could prove very difficult for everyone. But one thing is sure. The Addis population has practically been booming for quite a long time and I’d say the census people would even find it nerve-racking to make any educated guess. Look at the streets which seem to be congested at most hours of the day. Go to outlying residential areas where new condos are built and you would think you’re in a completely alien land. Few of any of us are familiar with such scenes.

You know, in the old days we used to watch on the TV stations cities across the world where the crowds in the streets are so large we can’t help wondering, “How the hell

do they manage to move around in such crowded environments?” Well maybe, just maybe, we seem to be almost there!

I wasn’t planning to talk about crowds in the streets but the many things you come across. And these days it seems some of us just can’t ignore such street events and continue on our way. It seems there are people who have had enough of certain happenings which seem to be going in all sorts of bizarre ways. This is a nation of believers as repeated studies have shown. The latest figures are that more than 90% of the population is spiritually connected with one belief or another. So in times when the tiniest of things is blown into mammoth dimensions things said and done in the spiritual realm could prove very delicate should be handled with care. These days individual ‘preachers’ (or are they activists? Some narratives practically throw us into raging waves of confusions and we don’t know what to call some of this street-wise crowd!) could be found in many corners of the city. In the old days such individuals used the power of their voices to ‘preach’ (OMG!) whatever they want to say. These days things have changed in more ways than one. (I could imagine someone shouting at me, “It is the age of AI, dummy! Play along or get lost!”) The guys are these days using relatively big speakers and amplifiers! And this is happening in places where apart from the hundreds and thousands moving around there are all sorts of enterprises, shops and

other institution in the crudest disregard of the health and peace of mind of others; and also the rights of citizens to move around without unnecessary hindrances. The sound pollution, in no attempt to exaggerate on my part, is almost of biblical dimensions. Add to this the very content of the so-called spiritual narratives which these days have you. (The so-called in this sense is used the ‘preachers’ don’t seem to have any relevant knowledge of what they’re saying and were only repeating things they heard someone else saying. And many times they don’t seem to be doing a good job of even that. That seems to be why maybe unable to say anything more when they indulge in narratives that angers others.

Recently ugly scenes happened in a part of the city where one of these fellows using big amplifiers was spewing angry words barraging what he says were the beliefs of another side. (No use calling names.) It wouldn’t be lost on any straight thinking person that such narratives are indeed very dangerous and should be handled with the utmost care. It so happened that a middle-aged man was so furious he charges at the fellow only to be subdued by quick acting citizens. He on his part goes into tirades calling the other side all kinds of names and accusations of the other side being the house of you can guess what! I can tell you it wasn’t some scene you would have liked to witness again. Well meaning citizens convinced him to calm down and also asked the ‘preacher’

to please leave the area before things got out of hand. He did so. One thing is that I personally didn’t find out which side the ‘preacher’ represented. But then this is not a question of whom or what. It is a question of the very act of turning public space into some mini war-game place.

Does this worry me? Of course it does. It should worry all well-meaning people who more than anything want the day-to-day lives of the public should be protected. And also whether we’re ‘preachers,’ activists or so it’s high time to realize there are red lines for every act, little or big.

There are also others which make moving about difficult and who, sadly, seem to be able to say and do whatever they want. Someone was telling me that in some part of the city there was this young guy claiming to have medicines for cancer. Yes, “Medicine for cancer!” saying that it was traditional medicine which the ferenjis tried to steal but couldn’t. It was kept in the most secret of places and it was from there he got the small amount he had. (They said it was some sort of grayish powder!) That was not the only shocking happening; People bought the cancer medicine for a hundred or so birr! A few younger lads who tried to ask him questions were muted by the others and, now this is scary, threatened by a couple of bulky youngsters who probably worked as the guy’s bodyguards.

In Pictures



Ethiopia, Czech leaders discusses

This week, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) with his delegation visited Czech Republic. During the visit, Prime Minister Abiy was received by Prime Minister of the Czech Republic Petr Fiala in an official welcoming ceremony at the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic in Prague.

The two leaders vowed to enhance cooperation in the fields of agriculture, mining and tourism and to bolster the existing cooperation in the defense sector.

PM Abiy discusses with Austrian Chancellor

Prime Minister Abiy with his senior government delegation was also visited Australia this week, to attend the twentieth General Conference of the UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO). PM Abiy and his delegation received an official welcoming ceremony during their arrival at the Vienna International Center.

During the official visit to Australia, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and his delegation were received by Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer. The two leaders exchanged views on Ethio-Austria relations, development cooperation and potential areas for strengthened cooperation.



INVITATION FOR BID

Procurement Reference number: RE-BID/AAWSA/WSIDD/GOV/ICB/W002/2023

1. The A.A. Water and Sewerage Authority- Water and Sanitation Infrastructure Development Division invites sealed bid from eligible bidders for the Supply and Installation of Electro-mechanical Equipment for the Implementation of Water Supply Project in Akaki-Sebeta-Hawas & Berek Districts and Dukem-Gelan Towns.
2. The Invitation is open for contractors under category of **WWC/GC- Grade 1** and above, Specialized **ELM Contractor** or equivalent who have registered with the relevant government offices in Ethiopia (for local contractors) and business organization registration certificate or trade license issued by the country of establishment, and renewed their License for the current year.
3. Bidding will be conducted through the **International Competitive Bidding (ICB)** contained in the public procurement proclamation of the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Procurement Team of the Division and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below during working hours from 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM in the morning and 1:30 PM to 5:30 PM in the afternoon.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders from **December 05, 2023** onwards during office hours at the address below upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **birr 1000 (One thousand)**. The method of payment will be in cash.
6. Bid is two envelop bid and must be delivered with one original and two copies of technical and financial proposal in separate envelopes to the address given below at or before **January 18, 2024 at 2:00pm**.
7. The bid shall be valid for the period of ninety (90) days and shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of be ETB **500,000.00** (Five hundred thousand) for each lot in the form of unconditional Bank Guarantee or CPO (which should be valid for **120** calendar days starting from the date of bid opening). Late bids shall be rejected.
8. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on **January 18, 2024, at 2:30pm**.
9. The A.A.W.S.A Water and Sanitation Infra-Structure Development Division reserve the right to reject any or all of the bids.

The address referred to the above is:

A.A. Water and Sewerage Authority: - Water and Sanitation Infrastructure Development Division, Lideta sub-city Woreda 08 around condominium houses on the left side of Lideta Menafesha. Tel.0115579512/9036
Attention -Mrs Mestawot Abebe, Procurement Support Process Head, Email Address:kiyake21@gmail.com

**Addis Ababa Water and Sewerage Authority
 Water and Sanitation Infrastructure Development Division**



Invitation for IPSAS Audit Work

Humedica e.V is an international non-governmental organization engaged in emergency medical and reliefwork, family sponsorship, child development and other social development programs and projects in Ethiopia.

Humedica invites qualified audit firms to undertake the annual IPSAS audit of the organizations transaction of fiscal year ending on December 31, 2023.

The audit firms are required to fulfill the conditions.

- * Should be certified chartered Accountants, and authorized to work by AABE.
- * Should have renewed /Valid business license
- * Should have TIN certificate and
- * Should submit their detail work profile with evidence of certified accountants and authorized auditors.

Information about the organization and the financial document (estimated 15 to 20 boxes) are available at our country office, and applicants are to assess the volume of the financial documents (estimated 15 to 20 boxes), the required audit report for separate project, etc, during office hour from Monday through Friday from 8:00-10:30.

Interested audit firms can submit their expression of interest, profile and technical paper with time frame and financial proposal-audit fees in two separate sealed envelopes to our office within 10 working days (Ten working days) of announcement.

Address

**Humedica e.V Ethiopian
 Mekanisa Abo Mazoriya behind Yilma Hotel
 Cell phone 011 8 32 59 73**

Humedica e.V

PM Abiy discusses with leaders of different countries

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

Ethiopia's Green Legacy Pavilion in Dubai

COP28 summit, which gathers world leaders, is underway in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) from 30 November to 12 December 2023. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) arrived in Dubai on November 30 to attend the summit.

Ethiopia is featuring its Green Legacy related development initiatives at the Ethiopian Pavilion in the Green Zone at COP28. On Thursday, PM Abiy and the UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan visited Ethiopia's pavilion ahead of its official launch.



PM Abiy met Belgian Premier

Ahead of COP28 summit in Dubai, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed met with Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo at the Ethiopian Green Legacy Pavilion organized there. During their meeting, the two leaders discussed current domestic issues and bilateral cooperation.

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Published Bimonthly in Collaboration with Industrial Parks Development Corporation

Empowering communities through holistic commitment

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

Debre Birhan Industrial Park is leading the transformation of the nation's economy towards an industry-led model while also fulfilling its role in supporting the park's overall objectives and community responsibilities. In the second part of the interview with the park's manager, Yeshitila Mulugeta, EPA delves deeper into the park's endeavors.

According to the manager, the park has been primarily focused on technology transformation, which is one of the three major objectives of building industrial parks, alongside generating foreign currency income and creating jobs. As a result, all the companies operating within the park are foreign companies.

These foreign companies bring not only their assets but also their working culture, skills, knowledge, management techniques, and international market connections to the country. By facilitating the transfer of technology and knowledge, the park has empowered 120 Ethiopian individuals (including 2 men and 118 women) to assume roles previously held by foreign citizens. This achievement demonstrates that the park is cultivating a new generation of engineers within the sector.

Currently, the majority of the park's operations



are carried out by Ethiopians, with only a handful of foreigners remaining. This represents a significant milestone for the park, as witnessing Ethiopians successfully perform these tasks is a testament to their growing capabilities.

Creating employment opportunities for citizens is another key objective of the industrial parks. To date, the park has generated 3,690 jobs, with 95% of the employees being women. This commitment not only contributes to job creation but also aims to enhance women's empowerment and advantages in the workforce.

Since its inception, the park has been dedicated to achieving major goals such as attracting foreign

direct investment and reducing foreign currency expenses through export earnings. Additionally, it has actively fulfilled its social responsibilities and provided valuable services to the community.

For instance, the park operates a modern and well-equipped fire brigade, staffed by skilled personnel. This fire brigade has played an active role in preventing the destruction of public and government assets by responding to and extinguishing eight fire incidents in the surrounding area last year. Such efforts have fostered a strong bond between the community and the park.

Furthermore, the park has been actively involved in supporting local schools and has provided

clean water for internally displaced citizens. It has also demonstrated its commitment to the community by funding development projects and providing assistance to those in need. In collaboration with Dashen Brewery, the park is even involved in the construction of homes for elderly individuals, exemplifying its dedication to social welfare.

The park's significance extends beyond its immediate boundaries, as it has become a center of excellence for over 500 different industry projects in its vicinity. These projects seek to leverage the park's experience and knowledge, further enhancing its reputation as a hub of industrial excellence.

Through its strong connections and interactions with the community, industry projects, and investors, the park has managed to maintain uninterrupted production even during challenging times. Moreover, the sense of belonging that the community feels toward the park can be shared and replicated in other parks, according to Yeshitila.

Overall, Debre Birhan Industrial Park's holistic commitment to technology transformation, job creation, and community engagement has positioned it as a catalyst for economic development while actively nurturing social progress.

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