



The Ethiopian Herald

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4th Floor, Dabi Building, Bole road Addis Ababa Ethiopia

Vol. LXXX No 107 13 January 2024 - Tir 4, 2016 **Saturday** Price Birr 10.00

Panelists shining light on Ethiopia's diplomatic journey

• MoFA launches book highlighting 116 years of modern diplomacy



photo Dagne Abera

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA- Success stories of Ethiopia's diplomatic journey help to learn from predecessors and the current actors need to sustain the good one and correct the unpleasant, panelists at the Diplomatic Week said.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Public Diplomacy Director General Ambassador Dina Mufti said in the discussion that including the Pan-African movement, Ethiopia has been struggling to make international diplomacy fair and equitable. "In peacekeeping, Ethiopians are respected in all mission zones and pressures from outsiders cannot be ignored in Ethiopian history."

Whatever happened in the modern history of diplomacy, Ethiopia has been struggling to mobilize Africans and its citizens to fight injustice, poverty, and climate change. And, continues to struggle to preserve the national interest.

The noted historian Prof. Bahiru Zewude for his part said that trade had been the major cause of ancient Ethiopian diplomatic history during Aksumite Empire and Adulis

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Ethiopian's role in promoting nation's diplomatic Relationship on spotlight

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopian Airlines Group has been playing a crucial role in the development of Ethiopia's diplomatic relationship with the rest of the world, Ethiopian Airlines CEO Mesfin Tasew said.

An exhibition highlighting Ethiopia's 116-year diplomatic history and contemporary diplomatic accomplishments kicked off in Addis Ababa on Thursday in the presence of President Sahle-Work Zewde and high level government officials.

The exhibition, inaugurated at the Science Museum under the theme "From an African Hub to the

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Ethio-Somaliland accord brings new dynamism to HoA

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA- The port deal that Ethiopia and Somaliland struck recently would bring a new dynamism in relations among countries in the Horn of Africa (HoA) and expedite their economic, social, and political benefits, academicians said.

The above came at a panel discussion Jimma

See Ethio-Somaliland ... Page 3

Diplomats say Ethiopia reverses false narratives revolving port deal

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA-Senior diplomats said Ethiopia has reversed false narratives that are circulating its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Somaliland and the aspiration to seaports' sovereign access at large.

The above remark came at a panel discussion organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the

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photo Dagne Abera



The dogs bark, but the caravan moves on

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Ethiopia continues cultivating its 116 years successful diplomatic achievements:

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs -Demeke Mekonen

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'Dine' projects bolster tourism

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News



Gov't reaches 71 mln citizens with potable water supply

BY YOHANES JEMANEH

ADAMA – About 71 million citizens have now access to drinking water, so said Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE).

MoWE Minister Eng. Habtamu Itfa (PhD) said yesterday that the national effort to address drinking water shortage has enabled 71 million citizens to have access to potable water.

The minister made the above remark on an event held in Adama to evaluate the performance of Water4 Life Plus project.

He mentioned that the event is just the initial platform to the national monitoring and evaluation programs to be held soon with all NGOs and other partners engaged in Ethiopia in resolving water shortage problems.

The government has been working with partners to expand access to potable water to citizens at Kebele level, he indicated.

The main goal is to ensure the benefit of citizens from potable water supplying projects, he added.

“Check and balance is required for successful and sustainable potable water supply,” the Minister noted.

Habtamu stressed that all NGOs working in the sector need to perform based on Ethiopia's policies regarding expansion of clean water to all citizens.

It is important to work on supplying improved water to citizens by identifying most vulnerable people for shortage of potable water, he said, adding that the country has yet 40 to 50 million citizens craving for clean water.

Authority insists on criminalization of wildlife hunting, trafficking

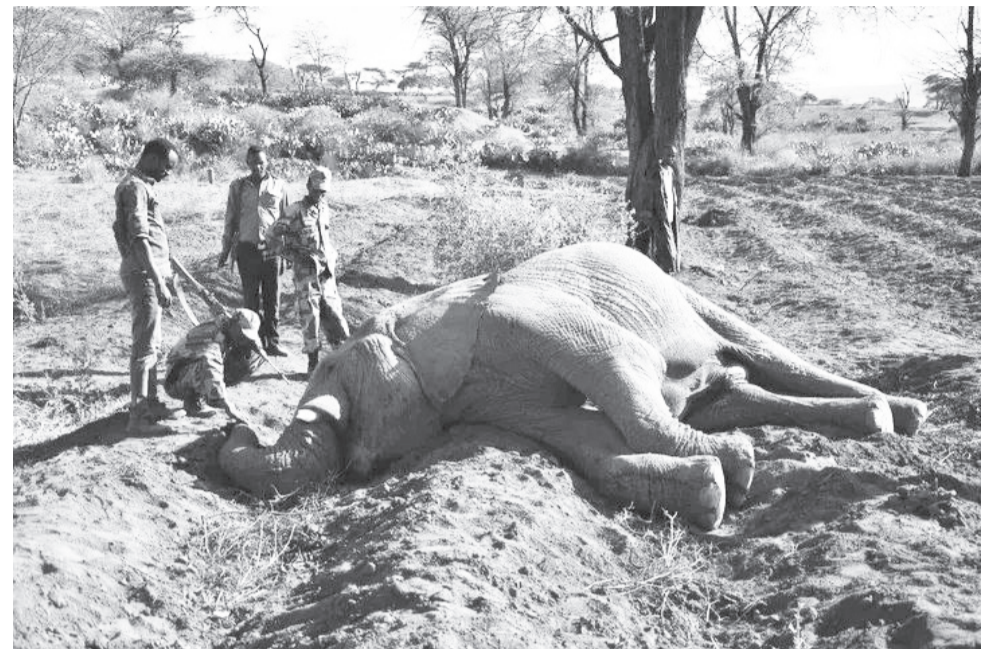
BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA- The current law has shortcomings to ensure the criminalization of illegal wildlife hunting and trafficking and aggravated the problem, the Ethiopian Wildlife Development and Conservation Authority said, calling for a new legal approach.

Authority Wildlife Law Enforcement Desk Head Daniel Asefa told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that illegal hunting of animals, especially elephants is widespread in national parks and in just one month, five elephants were killed in Babili Park. Due to the absence of adequate law to curtail the problem, illegal elephant hunting has also been observed in Chebera Churchura and Kafta Sheraro parks.

Daniel also said that there is a high risk of violating national parks and restricted areas and committing prohibited acts. Violating national parks to farm, cut forests, collect charcoal and build houses are also serious problems. Compared to the previous years, illegal activities in restricted areas are increasing.

According to him, consolidated efforts have been made with law enforcement agencies to hold individuals involved in illegal hunting and trafficking of animals accountable by law.



The head further stated that the authority is working tirelessly to prevent the problems and the identification of vulnerable animals has been conducted. Among the wild animals identified as vulnerable to this illegal activity, elephants take the largest share followed by cheetahs.

“In addition to identifying the problem, attention is also given to raise the public awareness about the impact of illegal hunting and trafficking of animals in the nation's economy and mobilize the latter to curb the challenge.”

Actions that are taking place in the habitats of wild animals are seen as another crime and the lack of adequate legal action has led to the spread of illegality.

To address the problem in a sustainable manner, various activities are carried out to revise the current law in the way to incorporate other countries' experiences. The revised law is expected to enforce the criminalization of illegal wildlife hunting and trafficking and put rigorous punishment on those violating the law, the head remarked.

IGC mobilizing research, knowledge for policy inputs: MoPD

• Holds white paper workshop

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABBA – The International Growth Centre (IGC) has been mobilizing research and knowledge partnering with different government institutions, Ministry of Planning and Development (MoPD) said.

The IGC in collaboration with the MoPD held a workshop on white paper on a way how Ethiopia ensures sustainable growth and development by mitigating climate change.

MoPD State Minister Nemera Gebeyehu (PhD) stated that IGC's white paper revealed that the country has huge potential in energy sector especially in producing renewable energy. It forwarded ways to adapt technology and others to benefit communities.

IGC has been a good partner by mobilizing research and knowledge across different subjects partnering with various government institutions mainly policy study institute to achieve sustainable development.

“Climate resilience system is really important for Ethiopia as it has been facing climate change challenges like unprecedented flood and other issues. And it



would help to design effective policies and strategies to successfully achieve the desired policy outcomes by tackling problems.”

He urged the IGC to continue its supporting to government research institutes and policy makers by identifying policy issues. There are research infrastructure gaps for developing countries like Ethiopia. Since the climate change has been impacting many people, it requires social protection

with various supports to ensure productivity of communities.

IGC Ethiopia Senior Country Economist Senshaw Tamru for his part said that the IGC conducted various studies on climate change and others to be utilized as policy inputs. It has been working with government institutions to fill gaps regarding policy issues. IGC researchers also have been supporting policy frameworks of Ethiopia.

News

Ethio-Somaliland...

University held recently under the theme: "Ethiopia's Access to the Sea for Regional Integration and Durable Peace."

Speaking at the occasion, Jimma University Economics Lecturer Kenenisa Nemi (PhD) stated that Ethiopia the accord transforms the HoA into infrastructure-driven economic integration, ensuring durable peace and vibrant trade ties. The deal plays a pivotal role in satisfying Ethiopia's long-held aspiration to sea access and accelerating the region's economic progress.

Noting Ethiopia's huge market that supplies many commodities to the international market, Kenenisa called on coastal neighbors to ensure interconnectedness by any available means and ensure mutual benefits and growth.

Ethiopia's aspiration to sovereign port access is a timely measure that would bring enormous economic, social and political benefits to HoA nations at large. "Thus, all parties should support this idea instead of showing objection or going against the issue."

Jimma University Political Science and International Relation Researcher Idiris Yeba (PhD) urged neighboring states should not be intimidated by the port deal and



to weigh its geopolitical significance to the entire region. "Here Ethiopian diplomats need to work tirelessly in promoting the benefit and positive impact of the two sides Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the strategic, but volatile region."

The diplomats are expected to make every effort to inform the international community that the accord is being done under the win-win approach and it does not violate the sovereignty and interest of third parties, the expert added.

For Institute of Foreign Affairs Researcher Dareskedar Taye (PhD), there is no decision that is free of any challenges. "So we need



Dareskedar Taye (PhD)

to treat the tensions and confusions that are happening at this time by designing viable



Kenenisa Nemi (PhD)



Idiris Yeba (PhD)

strategies and we do not close the door for negotiation and set long-term solutions."

Panelists shining...

was one of biggest world ports during that time. Europeans were using trade as a tool to enter into Africa.

Noting the Royal family of European empires had relations with the then Ethiopian rulers; the historian indicated religion was also another vehicle of diplomacy to ancient Ethiopia. "The relation was much closer to making marriage relations among Royal family members of Ethiopians and Europe."

He further noted that in modern history,

Ethiopia has been trying to have an active tour in international trade and Emperor Tewodros was very interested to liberalize the religious relation to mutual benefiting diplomacy. And, his diplomacy relied on building tangible benefits like building infrastructure.

During Menelik II, the first Minister of Foreign Affairs appointed; counsels established first in neighboring countries. And he finally appointed ambassadors. During the Haileselassie I, the diplomacy

gets almost modernized, Prof. Bahiru remarked.

In a related development, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) launched a book yesterday that documents major focuses of Ethiopian diplomacy from 1907 to 2023.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Demeke Mekonnen, present at the ceremony, emphasized the need to highlight Ethiopia's struggles to protect its interests and the role of its diplomats since the turn

of the century.

The book is said to be an attempt to document the country's diplomatic history, which will provide opportunities to continue doing what works, learn from mistakes, and correct course accordingly.

The book, written in Amharic, provides a bird's-eye view on an array of issues, demonstrating the ups and downs in Ethiopian diplomacy since the establishment of the Foreign Ministry in 1907.

Ethiopian's role...

World," will remain open for public until February 2, 2024.

The exhibition contains photographs revealing moments of the historical events related to visits and bilateral meetings of heads of state, Ethiopia's efforts for international peace, Ethiopia's aspiration and its supports for the freedom of African nations, among others.

Ethiopian Airlines CEO Mesfin Tasew who attended the exhibition told ENA that Ethiopian Airlines has been connecting Ethiopia to the rest of the world for the last 78 years.

During this period Ethiopian has been carrying people from country to country and it connects Africans together and to the rest of the world.

Ethiopian Airlines has given a new stimulus to Ethiopia's diplomatic undertaking since its inception. It boosts representation of the country in Africa and beyond, he said.

"We have been carrying government officials from country to country. We have been facilitating diplomatic relationships. We

have been promoting economic diplomacy by promoting economic interaction between the countries. We have been promoting tourism and all the good faces of Ethiopia to the rest of the world," CEO elaborated.

"We strongly believe that Ethiopian Airlines has played a crucial role in the development of Ethiopia's diplomatic relationship with the rest of the world."

Moreover, the CEO indicated that Ethiopian Airlines, the continent's leading and largest airline, serves 135 destinations around the globe with its 147 ultra-modern environmentally friendly aircraft.

"We are expanding and adding new destinations and that is how we grow. When we add new destinations, we create a conducive environment for the people of the two countries to travel, create more socio-economic relationships between the countries and that elevates diplomatic relations," Mesfin added.

The CEO reiterated that Ethiopian has been reinforcing diplomatic relationships between Ethiopia and countries that Ethiopian travels, connecting the peoples.

Diplomats say...

Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) under the theme: "Our diplomacy for our national interest" yesterday.

Speaking at the occasion, Prime Minister's National Security Advisor Ambassador Redwan Hussein stated that some groups falsely accused the Ethiopian government of resorting to the use of force to achieve its port aspiration. "We have chosen the peaceful path to realize the long-held quest to sea access and the MoU was concluded in the win-win approach that ensures mutual benefits."

Redwan added, "There is also a misunderstanding that our ambition to get sea outlets is fixed in the north and we have also reversed this narrative. We have several alternatives in the region."

Sharing the above rationale, another senior diplomat Ambassador Teshome Toga said the Ethio-Somaliland MoU is being misinterpreted by some elements especially by those whose interest is to hinder Ethiopia's efforts to integrate with the region. "The recognition to be given to Somaliland is not something that happened

overnight, but Ethiopia has been working with the latter for many years."

According to Teshome, the MoU is also an instrument to enhance the existing relationship, not to create something that has never been seen. "The accord does not violate anything related to Somalia's national interest."

He added, "We signed a lease agreement, not to incorporate the land. But, the misinformation is something really unmatched with the facts."

For Ambassador Redwan, Ethiopia's pursuit of obtaining seaports in a fair and mutually beneficial manner is getting acceptance and many are supporting it. "Ethiopia's move to find alternative sea outlets aligns with its Foreign Policy that centers on ensuring mutual benefit."

He also said that the recent agreement shows that the government's desire is not to gain ports through invasion and force, but based on the principle of give and take and through peaceful means.

Opinion

Transitional justice:

Healing societal denigration, realizing better tomorrow

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Though Ethiopia esteemed for the healing of Africans and every other nationals under exploitation in every corner of the planet, it has suffered from the injury resulted from maladministration under the past successive regimes.

From the outset, the Ethiopian modern political history is characterized by ill intent and contradictory logic though the nation remained in mysterious magnetism for millennia. The absence of strong institutions which could lay ground for the flourishing of rule of law, accountability and fair justice put the nation to stay in violence among various interest groups' interference.

Only in the last sixty years Ethiopia lost its prominent leaders due to violence and political instability. One emperor, two presidents, two prime ministers were killed and two other prime ministers also imprisoned for more than a decade. These clearly indicate that how the nation has undergone tragic moments. When the governments are overthrown by violence; extrajudicial killings, mass arrests and kidnapping become the order of the day and bring social and economic repercussion.

Ethiopia is the first country which came across with the modern constitution in Africa. According to documents, Emperor Hailasilasie I formulated the two constitutions to enhance the modern figment of Africa so it should be better seen. While the rest of the countries were under the yoke of colonialism; Ethiopia introduced its first written constitution in 1931 with the consent of the Emperor. It was prepared by the then elites who were inculcated by the Japanese constitution philosophy advent by the Meija dynasty. Dejazmach Girmachew Teklehawariat, who was educated in Russia played pivotal role in preparing the constitution. Public figures such as Negadras Tesema Eshete, Deresse Amente and Gebrehiwot Baikedagn also contributed valuable ideas during the drafting phase of the constitution.

The constitution, though declared that human rights are recognized and respected, it again claimed that all rights were given to the people by the will of the emperor. However, the United Nations Human Rights Conventions declared in the later decade clearly explained that human rights are not given and will not be taken away; rather they are naturally endowed to humans.

Nevertheless, for the country which was ruled under the old monarchial system introducing the constitution was categorized as progressive venture. The constitution had its own strong and weak sides and announced that the nation had the legislative body which was bicameral including the first chamber and the senate. The senate had mandate to ratify laws prepared by the first chamber but the ultimate say was given to

the emperor in which he had an absolute power.

Putting human rights on paper is a big deal but applying them on the ground is another thing. As it was a feudal system where institutions were patronized by the emperor, it was hard to fully execute their duties and responsibilities. In 1955, when Eritrea was federated with Ethiopia based on the United Nations monitored referendum to accommodate the federation objectives, the government introduced new constitution. Yet, it gave absolute power to the emperor. The imperial regime though brought socio economic progress through the expansion of education, infrastructure and registered economic growth; it was not ready to bring political change which enable to meet the political aspirations of the public.

In 1974, the old monarchial system was overthrown by the military regime unconstitutionally. The officials of the old system were arrested and killed without due process of law. The Derg regime did not draw lesson from the downfall of the feudal regime and continued to rule the nation with an iron fist denying justice, rule of law and protecting human rights. It dragged the nation to the long and protracted war for 17 years which cost the nation human as well as financial resources.

Ultimately, with no political changes, it met its death by force in the same way the preceding monarchial regime was ended. The aftermath of the downfall of the imperial regime brought mass killings, evictions, arrest, corporal punishment, unemployment and other economic woes. The victims of the political upheavals still did not obtain justice.

The Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) regime, during its first years, pledged to restore peace and security and rule of law and introduced new constitution which enshrined articles that recognized both individual and group rights but did not live up to its pledge and became dishonest for its oaths.

Political repression, imprisonment and extrajudicial killings continued with no abetting. As if the previous political and economic woes not enough, it added new problems by igniting ethnic based hatreds via inculcating the mentality of oppressor and oppressed groups among the peoples. It also created homelands divided by endogenous and none endogenous ethnic groups and made the regions volatile. The culprits responsible for the injustice and extrajudicial arrest and killing committed in the reign of EPRDF did not face justice and the victims also did not get justice and compensation.

To date, conflict and war due to political polarizations have become order of the day. Many people agree that identity politics has been taken as a tool for easy political mobilization. There are also numerous

political parties organized under the basis of ethnic ideology.

In order to relief the tension, many elders and senior citizens have forwarded their plea to the political groups to narrow their differences and come together for attaining peace and stability to the country. But instead of coming together, they are getting fragmented and failed to bring common agenda.

According to a recent study conducted by the Addis Ababa University on conflict, only in the last five years, 5000 conflicts were witnessed due to ethnic and religious violence in various parts of the country and thousands have lost their life and in a similar way hundreds of thousands have been displaced from their homes. This clearly shows how the nation's problems are deep rooted and complicated. It also testifies that bringing solutions to the problems is not an easy task and needs time and patience. However, it is believed that if there is the political will among the political actors including the government, bringing solution through dialogue can be possible.

Five years ago, the reformist government assumed power and asked amnesty to the parliament for the past misdeeds and pledged to reform the system and announced that it will be committed for the prevalence of rule of law and justice.

To fulfill its pledge, it established a commission for attaining transitional justice by healing the past wound and bring the better tomorrow via allocating the necessary human resource and budget to the commission. Recently, the Transitional Justice expert team presented its draft report to media on policy direction alternatives, public consultation and input gathering process.

Presenting the report to the media, Transitional Justice expert team Chairperson Tadesse Kassa said that implementing transitional justice mechanisms have become an integral part of Ethiopia's efforts to sustainable peace, reconciliation, and justice. According to him, the consultation forums and input gathering process have affirmed that the public accepts the implementation of the transitional justice.

The participants, on their part demanded the establishment of new procurator office staffed by senior legal professionals who engaged in investigation and conduct their job in neutral manner and free from the intervention of any interest groups.

They also suggested that issues that need truth and pardon should be seen by all stakeholders. And new commission also must be established to deal with the matter of pardon provision to the people who found guilty of crime if it is necessary.

The participants of the discussion also appealed for the establishment of special court which is mandated to sea cases that

are treated under the transitional justice platform that brings justice to the victims. The professional groups working for bringing transitional justice have conducted discussion with the public for six months in all regions and city administrations.

The professional groups comprised 13 members and organized 53 platforms and 3391 people participated in the discussion and out of the participants 1288 of them are victims of political repression and arbitrary rule.

While presenting the findings of the discussions, Kalkidan Dereje, a member of the Transitional Justice experts' group said that the participants strongly demanded accountability of offenders. The participants have, in particular, stressed the need for a prosecution process on perpetrators who have committed gross violation of human rights.

With regard to the question which perpetrators should be prosecuted, Kalkidan said; "The findings indicate that most of the participants stated that individuals who have committed serious crimes, those who planned, gave orders, and led the process should be held with high accountability. Others who have not fulfilled their responsibilities to avoid the harm should also be prosecuted."

The participants have also suggested compensation for damages inflicted on those who have suffered serious human rights violations, experienced psychological and mental crises, suffered severe physical injuries and sexual violence as well as for displaced persons and those who have lost their families, among others. The transitional justice expert team has finally made recommendation that the time frame for the transitional justice begins from 1995.

Ethiopia in its history did not come across with the transitional justice system and if it is succeeded, it paves the way for the establishment of rule of law, accountability and attaining peace and stability. As mentioned above, in the last 60 years gross violation of human rights and extrajudicial killings have been committed by the successive regimes but no one was became accountable for his or her misdeed. Impunity was common and victims of the injustice spent decades by simmering.

Therefore, for better accomplishment of the task of transitional justice and to come up with the better future, all stakeholders should exert their efforts as much as possible. In line with this, any concerned body should cooperate for the fruitfulness of the effort underway in this regard.

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

Editorial

Millions need urgent lifesaving aid

Severe drought and flood resulting from climate change has made Ethiopia seek urgent aid for millions at risk. In its press briefing, the Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission announced that it will distribute 3.3 million quintal grain and food items to 6.6 million people who are in need of humanitarian assistance because of drought, flood and man-made crisis.

In his briefing last Wednesday, the commission's commissioner Ambassador Shiferaw TekleMariam (PhD) said that his commission has identified that about four million people need emergency relief because of the drought which happened in the East Africa region.

Amhara, Tigray and Afar have been identified as most drought affected states [of Ethiopia] so more aid distribution will be made across these states in January, February and March, he indicated.

Though Ethiopia has passed through severe challenges of such kind in its history, the current problems are different in wider area coverage, number of people exposed to the disaster and kinds of the disaster that include drought, flood and internal displacement. Besides, the country is accommodating refugees from other countries those come here in need of shelter and are forced to flee their land because of civil war and other political issues.

On top of carrying out its responsibility by its own capacity, Ethiopia is calling for immediate action from the international community to reverse the danger that has the possibility to be changed to famine that may cause gross humanitarian loss. As the risk is severe and the response is beyond the capacity of the country, the response the international aid organizations should give must be urgent lifesaving response. No extra time for delay since every minute takes us closer to more damage.

Ambassador Shiferaw said that the federal government budgeted 500,000 quintal and international aid agents pledged 400,000 quintal for the first upcoming round of aid distribution. Though, the budgeted aid cannot cover the humanitarian demand fully, he said, adding that international partners should improve the volume of their contribution as the drought is affecting a large population.

It is commendable to hear good news that two international humanitarian organizations have already resumed aid distribution which they broke off because of the malpractice occurred in aid distribution earlier. But, they have reduced the volume. "We need them to supply aid with their full capacity to help the victims of the climate crisis," he stressed.

He also called upon all international and local humanitarian agents to mobilize finance and public support to fulfill the aid gap.

According to the Commissioner, "The drought has posed a risk of hunger and outbreak of epidemic diseases. The people faced malnutrition, shortage of some other basic needs that could cause life-threatening conditions. However, the government sees no hunger so far, but a food shortage."

The most important thing here is not talking about whether the problem has changed to famine or not. Rather, it is the immediate response to reach the people under the threat of the estimated famine.

What the Ethiopian government has done so far should receive recognition that its effort to provide lifesaving aid as much as possible even during the time aid organizations discontinued aid distribution. The government is committed to reach the people in need with food items and health facilities though not enough as the disaster covered vast areas of the land.

Standing by the side of the federal government, regional states and individuals have stretched their hands and provided necessary aids including fodder for animals. This genuine move of the people should receive positive response from the international aid organizations and the international community.

Those who entered the aid distribution process ought to keep up their effort and for the rest who have delayed; it is a critical time to act because it is a matter of saving lives of many that include children, women and elderly people.

Opinion

Ethiopia's Win-Win Diplomacy gaining credence

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Ethiopia has adopted a strategic approach to enhance its regional and global influence by engaging in win-win diplomatic cooperation with both the Western and Eastern world. Unlike aligning exclusively with one side, Ethiopia actively pursues strong relationships with countries across different regions. This inclusive approach has contributed to the country's reputation as a respected player in international affairs. Due to its growing credibility, Ethiopia is frequently approached by other nations to mediate and facilitate negotiations during times of conflict.

Being trusted and respected by various nations allows the country to make significant contributions to conflict resolution efforts and peacekeeping missions. Moreover, Ethiopia's commitment to impartiality and finding mutually beneficial solutions further strengthens its role as an influential contributor in international affairs.

The practice of engaging with both the Western and Eastern world enables Ethiopia to bridge divides and fosters dialogue between conflicting parties. This diplomatic approach has earned Ethiopia the trust of nations involved in conflicts. As a result, Ethiopia is often called upon to mediate and facilitate negotiations helping parties reach peaceful resolutions.

This mediation role not only contributes to regional stability but also reinforces Ethiopia's standing as a trusted and impartial mediator in international conflicts. Additionally, Ethiopia's reputation as a respected player in international affairs opens avenues for forging partnerships and alliances that align with its national interests.

Nations perceive Ethiopia as a trustworthy and reliable partner, which increases their willingness to collaborate in various areas such as trade, investment, security, and development. By leveraging its reputation, Ethiopia can negotiate favorable terms and secure partnerships that assist in achieving its national goals and aspirations.

Ethiopia's practice of engaging in win-win diplomatic cooperation with both the Western and Eastern world has proven instrumental in enhancing its regional and global standing. This approach allows Ethiopia to contribute to conflict resolution efforts, participate in peacekeeping missions, and forge beneficial partnerships and alliances.

The country's approach of impartiality and commitment to finding mutually beneficial solutions has positioned it as a highly influential and effective contributor to peacekeeping efforts on a global scale. By upholding its reputation as a reliable and trustworthy partner in international affairs, Ethiopia gains the trust and confidence of other nations increasing the likelihood of successful agreements and collaborations that align with its own national interests.

Leveraging its reputation, Ethiopia can forge

strategic alliances that serve its interests and enhance its regional and global standing. In doing so, Ethiopia not only contributes to conflict resolution efforts and actively participates in peacekeeping missions but also establishes robust partnerships that foster mutual growth and development.

The practice of win-win diplomatic cooperation with both the Western and Eastern world is paramount for Ethiopia in enhancing its regional and global standing. This approach places Ethiopia in a favorable position to effectively advocate for its interests and actively shape international policies and decisions. By engaging with a diverse range of nations, Ethiopia expands its influence and presence on the global stage propelling it forward as a key player in global affairs.

Ethiopia's commitment to fairness finding mutually beneficial solutions, and forging partnerships based on trust and reliability significantly contributes to its regional and global standing. It allows Ethiopia to actively engage in conflict resolution efforts, participate in peacekeeping missions, and establish strong partnerships that cater to its national interests. Through this approach, Ethiopia fortifies its influence in international affairs, advances its national objectives, and assumes a vital role on the global stage.

Ethiopia's active engagement in diplomacy with both the Western and Eastern world allows the country to harness the power of mutual benefit in political matters. By deliberately seeking and cultivating strong alliances with nations from both regions, Ethiopia can significantly bolster its influence and presence on the global stage.

These alliances provide Ethiopia with a strong platform to effectively advocate for its national interests and actively participate in shaping international policies and decisions according to its own priorities. However, the benefits extend beyond mere economic and political advantages. Ethiopia's pursuit of diplomatic cooperation with both the Western and Eastern world also brings significant social and cultural development opportunities.

Through engaged dialogue, meaningful exchanges, and productive partnerships with nations from diverse regions, Ethiopia can expand its horizons, foster cultural understanding, and promote social progress. This exchange of ideas, values, and experiences enriches Ethiopia's own already diverse cultural fabric and contributes to the overall growth and development of its society.

By avoiding an excessive dependence on any single region, Ethiopia takes proactive measures to reduce the risk of vulnerability to external pressures. This strategic approach ensures that Ethiopia can maintain its autonomy and freedom in pursuing its national interests without being unduly influenced or restricted by external forces. It allows Ethiopia to chart its own course and make decisions that best serve its unique needs and aspirations.

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



The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays
By The Ethiopian Press Agency

Office of the CEO

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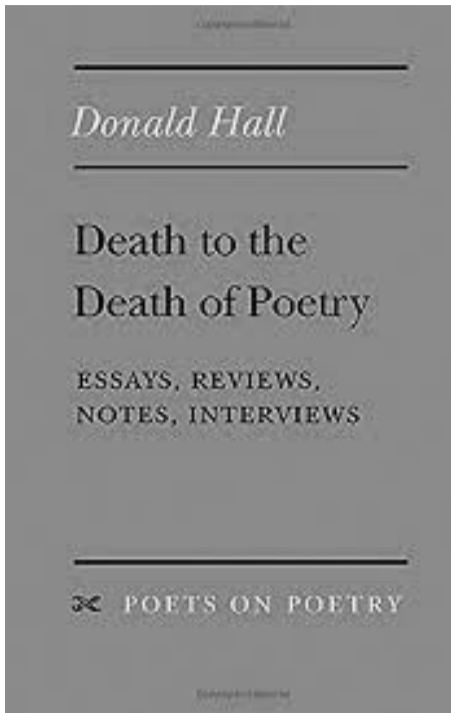
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The Ethiopian Herald

Art & Culture



Yes “death to the death of poetry!”

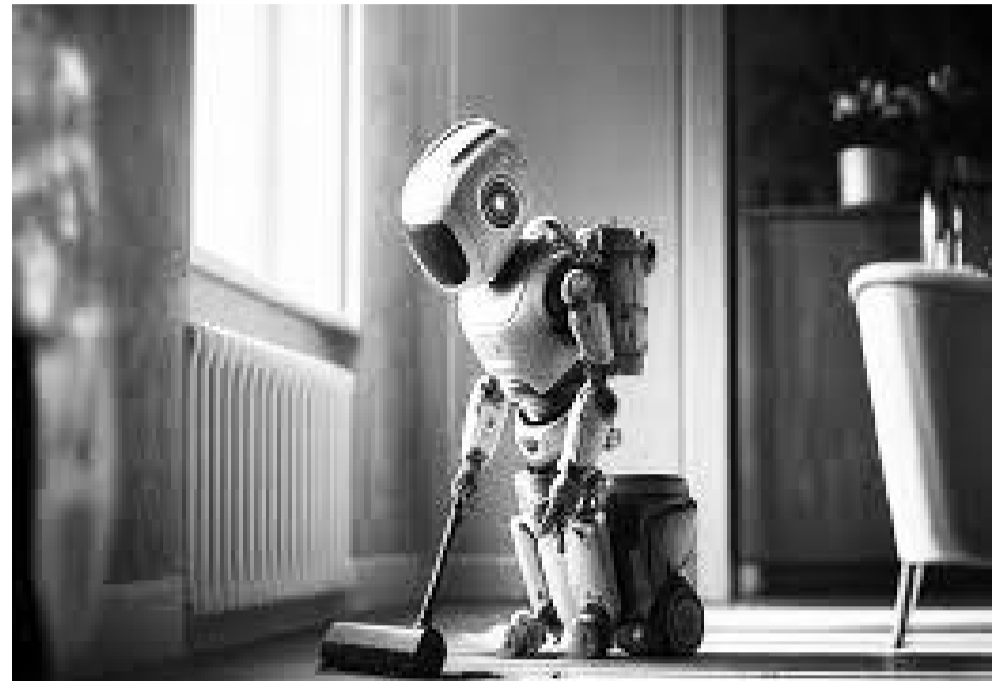
BY ALEM HAILU G/KRISTOS

We have opened up
 A new leaf
 To land on a new page
 Where a poet sage
 Is dealt a slap on the face
 For readers willfully
 Are getting locked in
 A digital cage
 No longer enjoy they could
 Poems’ uplifting mood
 Nor relish its being
 To the mind nourishing food
 Nor heads to poetry nights
 In the neighborhood
 Nor buy books however good
 Nor experience
 Literary piece’s power
 To entertain, enlighten, educate
 And explain so as
 To take one to an ivory tower.
 Even the change of form
 Couldn’t help to its
 Palatable norm.
 This unglamorous unfolding
 Quite a mystery
 Seems a symptom to
 The clinical death of poetry
 Death to the death
 Of this literary piece
 Since esoteric beauty
 We are going to miss.

Life of a Robot

BY ALEM KIDANE

your breakfast, a fast break
 your lunch is junk
 your dinner is coffee, to your
 sleepless nights.
 your eyes shop what they see
 and your hands work for them
 what a sorrow, that your eyes
 only see what they shop.
 your life is a file
 your history, an abandoned case
 your death, a folder in a trash
 can.
 you’re a mold, obediently
 molded
 in a moldy society...
 I would have liked to wipe
 the speck, from the corners of



your eyes
 but the Book says
 “first take the log out of your
 eye

then you’ll see clearly,
 to take the splinter,
 from your brother’s eye.”



You can only be you

BY TSION YEHUALA

U can’t change the past
 But u can change the future
 And if u believe in yourself
 There’s nothing u can’t do
 U can even change the world
 Cause anything is possible

If u always be yourself
 U know u can’t be somebody else
 U can only be u
 Otherwise u’re gonna die
 Wishing to be someone u’re not
 Just try to be the real u
 Cause when u try to be somebody
 else

U become nobody
 So be proud of who u are
 Cause there’s no one like u
 And no one can ever be like u
 So try to be the best u can be
 And don’t expect me to be like u
 Cause I can never be the same as
 u.

Law & Politics

The dogs bark, but the caravan moves on

BY SOLOMON WASSIHUN

Ethiopia started the new European year with what an American columnist described as a diplomatic bombshell. The signing of the MoU between Ethiopia and Somaliland was indeed a news that took us by surprise, and immense joy, which is shared by Ethiopians, Somalilanders alike.

The president of the Ethiopian economist association says; “finding access to the sea has been what Ethiopians has long been yearning for a long time. This is a diplomatic victory. Our leaders and diplomats have been toiling for several years on this issue. Now they are about to rip the fruit of their labor. This is a time of great joy. I congratulate the diplomats and political leaders of our nation.”

This week, the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs observes the week of Ethiopians diplomacy, by holding various events like exhibitions, discussion forums and release of related publications. It is indeed the perfect time for Ethiopian diplomats to crow loudly about their spectacular success. At the beginning of 2024, they saw their country entering the BRICS club as well as striking a deal that would mitigate one of the national security and economic emergency issues the nation is facing.

It is now almost a fortnight since we heard the news that flabbergasted the whole world. At first, major world powers and international agencies were taken aback not knowing how to react in. But as the details about the MoU trickles down, it is gathering more cheering crowd's supporters and enjoying their blessings. On the contrary, the hullabaloo created by some foreign powers and the international media following the ground braking deal made by Addis Ababa and Hargiesa is now slowly but surely dying out.

Ethiopian diplomats across the world are making successful efforts to explain to the international community that the MoU is just a business deal made based the principle of achieving mutual benefits through sharing resources, not a political move as some foreign powers describe it wrongly with ignorance or deliberate distortions of the nature of the agreement.

“The deal would undoubtedly bring a swift and fundamental transformation in the Ethiopian socio economic landscape, and that is not going down well with some foreign powers who do not want to see Ethiopia making a break, and remain languishing in a stagnant economy, not changing beyond figures in a tangible way, making life easier and happier for citizens” said an Ethiopian analyst specializing on the middle east and GERD politics.

It appears that as the time goes by and

the international community takes time to listen and analyze the Ethiopians' argument for their justified quest for access to the sea, and the peaceful strategy they employ to achieve their objective, the barking noise coming from anti Ethiopia elements would fall on deaf ears and eventual die out drowned with clamor of machineries building the roads, the port and the railways to Lughaya at coast of the gulf of Eden.

Even foreign veteran diplomats that have expert knowledge has began appearing on major international media outlet to explain that the Ethio- Somaliland MoU is made without contravening any international law and regulation, and that it would be a game-changer in the process of transforming the socio economic situation of the Horn.

One of the top reasons why the plots to sabotage the Ethio-Somaliland deal would not succeed is that its argument has no truth in it and is merely based on paranoia, denial of the existing reality and distorted interpretation of history.

The plot masterminds and their allies did not yet wake up to the call of the 21st century Africa- the call for thinking of development cooperation defying and redrawing the borders set by the colonialist, economic integration, free movement of Africans, and joint effort for peace and security.

Had they been on the right mindset, the Mogadishu authorities would not have publicly said statement that was anti Ethiopian. It is Ethiopia's permanent foreign policy and national interest to see peaceful and united Somalia. The proof for that is thousands of Ethiopians in uniform have been paying the ultimate price until to date, defending peace and stability of Somalia people and government. No one can deny the fact that the Ethiopians have been one of the leading contributors of the peace keeping mission in Somalia.

The Ethiopian authorities are not surprised at all by the pattern of reactions that came in response to the news of the MoU. According to the national Security Advisor to the Ethiopian Premier the negative reaction of a few powers to MoU news, creates a sense of de-ja-vous, taking us a decade back, when Ethiopia broke the news that it was going to build the largest dam in Africa.

Several politicians and experts voiced against the plan to build the GERD. Even some of them warned the project quite unsustainable, politically motivated and would trigger regional war. Resisting the concerted diplomatic and media campaign against the project, Ethiopians continued to expedite the implementation of the dam project.

Now, twelve years on, it became crystal

clear who is right and who is wrong. The GERD project is now at its final stage, proving all the dooms day speculations and analyses unrealistic, rather opening endless possibilities for regional economic integration.

Returning to the MoU case the thing happening now on the ground is the parties to the agreement are getting down to business determined to materialize the objective of the MoU. Government representatives from Ethiopia and Somaliland are expected to come up with negotiated agreements in a month's time on the specifics about the terms and conditions implementation of the objectives of MoU, which includes providing Ethiopia direct access to the sea by entitling it the right to develop a corridor to the sea, a commercial maritime infrastructure and a military base on a 20km coastline strip on the Gulf of Eden.

One evidence proving the work of building comprehensive cooperation framework agreement is practically in progress, beyond signing ceremonies, the handshakes, and the press statements, is the arrival the Joint Chief of Staff of the Somaliland army in Addis Ababa to meet and hold talks with his Ethiopian counterpart. The frequency and the volume of shuttle diplomacy between Hargeissa and Addis Ababa is likely to intensify in the weeks ahead until both sides work out the details of the comprehensive agreement with spirit of sharing resources for mutual prosperity, peace and security of the people of both countries.

Somalilanders residing in Ethiopia are expressing their joy at the signing of the MoU, and saying it was a ground breaking achievement that opens a gateway for fast track regional integration, and consolidation of the people to people relations between the two parties.

To the utter dismay of those against the port deal and their allies, politicians and experts in other land locked African countries like Rwanda and Uganda ,are reportedly appreciating ingenious and peaceful and win –win strategy the Ethiopian diplomats and leaders used to get access to the sea. The Rwanda and Ugandans are now inspired to brainstorm ideas that employ a quid pro quo approach to negotiate with their Kenyan and Tanzanian neighbors to get direct access to the sea.

With fresh and peaceful groundbreaking diplomacy, Ethiopia is now leading the caravan of its neighbors and development partners towards regional economic integration, as well as collective peace and security. The march of the development caravan on the road of prosperity would carry on regardless of the plans of plots and sabotages of the few.

With fresh and peaceful groundbreaking diplomacy, Ethiopia is now leading the caravan of its neighbors and development partners towards regional economic integration, as well as collective peace and security

Ethiopia continues cultivating its 116 years successful diplomatic achievements:

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

-Demeke Mekonen

BY ZEKARIAS WOLDEMARIAM

*E*thiopian Press Agency (EPA) has interviewed Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Demeke Mekonen. Demeke has dwelt at length on the diplomatic journey of the country, the challenges faced in recent decades as well the future plan of its foreign relations. Excerpts:

Would you tell us about the purpose and importance of celebrating Diplomacy Week?

The Diplomacy Week is focused on three key issues. It has been 116 years since the first Ministry of Foreign Affairs was organized as an institution. Therefore, our diplomatic journey of the past years has left a mark in every age. It will explore that diplomatic journey by looking at the stories we have and the lessons we learn.

Secondly, what is our current situation in the field of diplomacy? What are the possibilities? What challenges are there? What should be done to protect our national interests? It is very useful to see that.

The third focuses on the diplomacy of the future: History, current situation, future era. By linking all three issues together, we celebrate this diplomacy week with exhibitions, panels and various other events, we are holding the event called our diplomacy in the hope that it will be possible to create a better national movement for the future.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was established as an institution on October 15, 1923, 116 years ago. It does not mean that there were no diplomatic relations in different forms before. Early relationships are religious or Economical in nature. Cultural and security aspects; There were economic, commercial, diplomatic activities in various forms. Exploring the highlights from that time; it will benefit this generation.

What is the current situation of Ethiopia's foreign relation?

In the last few years, following the framework of reform, there are clearly defined national issues in foreign affairs, as well as in our foreign relations. The main focus areas of the diplomatic nodes are first, focused on economic diplomacy. Second, politics in general focuses on a multilateral, bilateral political framework. Thirdly, they are the focus areas of foreign relations policy, which includes citizen diplomacy as a major framework.

Our foreign relations policy is based on national interests, national realities, and ensuring national interest in terms of foreign affairs or foreign relations. It is to uphold sovereignty. Since it is a matter of ensuring our interests in all fields, it means



that it arises from the national and internal situation. From here on, priority will be given to neighboring countries. Despite the attention and balance with neighboring countries, it will cross over to the African continent and then to the world square. What is called multilateral means that it is a framework of diplomatic communication that expands in bilateral relations. Based on the positive experiences of previous years' systems, various change packages were prepared in the framework of the change. It was prepared based on the premise that Focus on these frameworks; Jump to the continent and make Ethiopia's influence on the international level, Ethiopia's national interest and our advantage in the world competition become a reality.

Could you mention some of the major achievements of our diplomacy thus far?

It would be better if we see the journey in these years, the challenges faced, the results achieved and what can we learn for the future. So, in the history of diplomacy in Ethiopia, the leaders of every era, the stakeholders of every era have faced many challenges. They have crossed that with the main power of the people and our country has left many traces and reached here. We can look at the historical role played by Ethiopia in the "League of Nations" as

the only representative of the black people during the colonial period. In connection with this, when we see many details in the history of black people, it is better to take a good look at the role that Ethiopian diplomacy has played in bilateral relations not only for Ethiopia and the people of Ethiopia, but also for Africans and black people.

There is a journey of 116 years where we have left traces of how challenging the incidents were. In these journey, in this era of change, especially when we look at the diplomatic activities of the last three years, perhaps the worst and most severe pressure was placed on Ethiopia. It is a time when Ethiopians, the government and its friends fought hard to overcome that. It is very important to give recognition and respect to the many challenges that have existed in each age and to the wisdom that have been applied to overcome them.

At the onset of the reform various reform agenda came into operation, during which Ministry of Foreign Affairs improved the communication frameworks and continued with citizen diplomacy, economy, politics and related issues. For example, if we look at the Renaissance Dam, it is a project that has been going on for years before the change and the people of Ethiopia were

being hustled from side to side. The era of change is taking over this and solving the obstacles that are there, which facilitates it to enter into a better movement. In the era of change, Ethiopia has gone through many challenges especially external pressure or meddling.

First, the pressure on Ethiopia due to the Renaissance Dam had decreased. Second, due to the resistance on the reform and various reasons, there was a major war at home and a problem that challenged the country. There was a situation where various pressures related to this fell like avalanche over Ethiopia.

The US had also levied economic and various sanctions against Ethiopia. All the agendas that are full of challenges were imposed on Ethiopia. Hundreds of thousands of our citizens from some countries were expelled at once to put a lot of pressure on Ethiopia to accommodate them. During the war at home many believed that Addis Ababa, the capital of Africa is not suitable for diplomacy and is a security threat. So they were prepared to leave the country and some even tried to close their embassy and make everything dark. Coupled with other issues that I have not included in detail here, these years have been issues that have tested Ethiopia greatly and put Ethiopia in a great challenge.

There were also attempts to divert the GERD talks out of Africa with the pretext of peace negotiations. Humanitarian support activities and other service agendas were used as a tool to bring Ethiopia to its knees and twist its hands, along with other diplomatic and economic interests. In general, there were endless attempts of meddling.

Could you tell us briefly as to how we managed to overcome these pressures?

The major back up of the victory is the perseverance of the Ethiopian people, the strength of Ethiopia as a country and the wisdom and ingenuity of the actors and the synergy of our friends. As a result of the combination of these four pillars, Ethiopia overcame this challenge without abandoning its main stance. This should be taken as a great victory and success and it should be emphasized that the main owner is the people of Ethiopia.

From the resistance against the meddling we have drawn a lesson that when the diplomacy is moving within the capacity of the public, first, Ethiopia must define the real agenda of itself. This means reminding different parties about its position. Secondly, it is seen as a great wisdom to calm down things that come out of emotions and various pressures. Thirdly, it is necessary to make more friends during such challenging

Continued to Page 9



Ethiopia continues ...

Continued from Page 8

times so that they understand and take our side. One can ease the pressure, not through rigidity but by following the wisdom that helps you leap forward. The tactic of re-engagement was laid out to overcome this through the work done at every level by the communication skills of the country, in order to restore the diplomacy. When the situation moves to a better phase, we should complete the relationship that has passed and go to a better relationship.

We were under intense pressure from Washington DC during the era of President Trump that intended to withdraw GERD talks from Africa. Bringing it out of that box and making African and Ethiopian-African negotiations take place means that it is a very successful work. It means that works that can be mentioned in other profiles are also done in the same way.

The strength of our people in all this work was wonderful. As the Diaspora fought and campaigned with the #Nomore movement, every citizen threw away what they had to safeguard the country. It was through these campaigns that this result was achieved. As we continue, we have put it in the global arena to remove the strangulation devices that were designed against us. In fact, beyond that, there is a situation where Ethiopia has become a member of new cooperation frameworks like BRICS and we have entered into better relations and activities in various fields in the UN and the European Union.

What is our national preparation for our diplomatic work in the future, what are the works being done, what are the hopes and opportunities for Ethiopia?

In various forums we have participated in history I have realized that many African countries have a great respect and regard for Ethiopia. Sometimes, when issues that test the world come up, positions are taken elsewhere in the United Nations, despite being busy in its own domestic agenda Ethiopia's stance and influence are multiplicative. They give us tip of ideas that they want us to resound like what position we have to take, or what action we have to take. By the way, in such cases many want to know "What is Ethiopia's stance?" Africans, Latin American countries and many countries of the world have a very high view of Ethiopia. This happens because they know Ethiopia's place through history and various experiences.

There is this great opportunity and wealth. Ethiopians also have a legacy of standing as a manifestation of the freedom of the black people in this challenging time, in every era, and how much they persevered for their freedom and dignity. This is the achievement of our people.

To pave the way for a successful diplomacy in the future we should consider the current world situation, geopolitics and the needs of countries, what they are saying and reading.

As we see it now, the geopolitical situation will change in unpredictable ways. We see more rapprochements between countries that we say are not close.

Cooperation frameworks that used to be known as frameworks are changing their appearance and are perceived differently. And in order to map the diplomacy of the future era, it is necessary to start from the current dynamic situation. When we say diplomacy, we need to face the changing situation in the future and stand competitively. With the advent of new technology, diplomacy has ended, replaced by another and many literatures show that. It means that as long as there are different fields of communication, world competition and countries, diplomacy will continue to change and prepare accordingly.

Even now, when we see it, it is not only the conventional diplomacy that we used to have, but now the struggle, digital diplomacy has been added to it. The landscape of social media has also changed. Simply scheduling long appointments and face-to-face engagements are not enough right now. It's an age where all information is delivered simultaneously with the fast, mobile technology we hold in our hands, where every leader, ambassador of foreign affairs all tweets and communicates through different devices. If we do not manage this, the diplomatic work would slip out of our hands and others will continue to define it in the way they want. Therefore, it is necessary to build the capacity of a suitable digital diplomacy system and be competitive.

The emerging geo-digital economy is becoming more and more demanding to use diplomacy as the future mode of communication in economic transactions and communication. It is not just about establishing a mission for a country. In the security, technology, and other communication contexts in the world, where is the market where I can work to protect the national interest? With revolutions such as artificial intelligence now coming and spreading, it is necessary to think about what will happen to the diplomacy and competitiveness and prepare already. It is necessary to make proper use of the opportunity provided by the technology, to build and work on the national capacity to support the negative pressure that it creates, to answer the question of how the negotiation agreement and other engagement conditions can continue. Furthermore, the overall dynamics of the digital economy's innovation infrastructure should be explored and linked to the foreign policy framework.

Our diplomats need the right armor: they need professionalism, they need the ability to use technology. Ethiopian youth engaged in the context of technology are expected to act to make a positive contribution to Ethiopia's national interest. A highly unpredictable diplomatic context

To pave the way for a successful diplomacy in the future we should consider the current world situation, geopolitics and the needs of countries, what they are saying and reading

is a need to increase the use of technology. It is very important to have the skills and technology required for the times. Our diplomacy week gave a great place and consideration on how we should prepare for the diplomacy of the future, what the current indicators look like, and in this regard, by understanding what the developed countries are already doing using artificial intelligence and others, we should not always be using it and following it. We don't have to be followers, it should be an era where everyone swims in an equal line, leaves us, moves to protect their interests.

Over the years, other technologies have moved their country to another level. We followed this after a long time. But we cannot shoulder the future in this way. What this country deserves and what we need to do is to quickly learn all the new world combat, deployment contexts, build national capacity, and deploy and implement that will honor our interests at that level. And the new diplomacy is directed in this direction; the roadmaps needed for this, should be well calculated and lined up. What's more, it means that Ethiopians from all over the world need to act as ambassadors of a common country and be there. This is where the future should be explored.

Our diplomacy has a long history. As I said earlier, it has 116 institutional diplomatic activities. So we have to comprehend this correctly; It is necessary to calculate correctly and to know and use the values. The problem in our country is that the speakers, leaders and front actors who come every day try hard to start from a new foundation by tearing down the old and throwing it like rubble. But it is worth learning from the past, taking the lessons. Therefore, it is necessary to take lessons from veteran diplomats, ambassadors and actors.

Diplomacy, foreign relations work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There is always a need to learn. It always requires being prepared. It always requires readiness to serve the national interest.

Diplomacy always requires being prepared in this sense. What was said about Ethiopia? What does Ethiopia share? It means that it needs to know what it is that allows her to overcome her own influence. Such readiness needs to be operationalized in a wider context and ensure usability. In this sense, the work of diplomacy needs to take advantage of the past months and strengthen internal solidarity and unity. It is important for Ethiopia to continue its diplomatic work in the world, befitting its history, its positive role, and its people. In that case, the national interest will be ensured. Sovereignty is held in high esteem everywhere Ethiopia's influence and Ethiopia's significant role. To make that a reality, I say it is necessary for all stakeholders to play their role.

Thank you very much!

is likely to emerge in the future. When it comes to diplomacy, opening an embassy or consulate somewhere, appointing an ambassador, assigning a diplomat, or a diplomatic journey that only goes one way is not enough. It requires the alignment and deployment of the times that will allow us to be accessible in the world. Informal diplomacy is increasingly important. Perhaps, sometimes, being an ambassador somewhere on behalf of Ethiopia, to deliver a leader's message, to implement some issues, for that country, that agenda, an influential person, who is not engaged in the field of diplomacy, but another citizen may be found more useful. It is necessary to create a situation where all those who are known in the field of athletics, known in the field of business, and who have influenced other agendas work as ambassadors of Ethiopia.

The campaign, the siege, the battle, is not only flowing in one narrow way, but deployments and activities are needed to ensure our benefit in all directions. There

Society

'Dine' projects bolster tourism

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

A number of countries' economic successes rely on their tourism potential. It is a widely accepted fact that tourism has multiple returns and creates incalculable opportunities for host destinations in many ways. It creates job opportunities for local communities, helps to develop the infrastructures of a country and ensures sustainable development by being a source of foreign currency.

Aside from that, tourism is a crucial sector to learn the social and cultural values of destination countries, and build the image of countries.

Irrefutably, Ethiopia is a country endowed with diverse tourist attractions. Ranging from cultural and natural sites to historic monuments and rituals, the country is blessed vastly.

Places like the Bale and Simien Mountains National parks, Danakil Depression, the Omo Valley, the Rock Hewn churches of Lalibela and the Obelisks of Axum coupled with Ethiopians' traditional dishes and their cultural and religious festivals, among the others, are the attractions that make the country a unique place for tourists.

However, the country is blessed with stunning attractions that have power to take visitors' breath away with wonderment; the revenue gained from the sector is not at the desired level.

In fact, to gain the sought after returns and improve the livelihood of localities thereby enabling the country to generate a considerable amount of revenue from the sector, currently wide ranging activities are undertaken by the government. The renovation of the existing ones as well as the construction of new tourist destinations is well underway across the country.

Mainly, under the initiatives launched by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed to develop world class tourist destinations through the programs - Dine for Sheger, Dine for Ethiopia and Dine for Generations-multifaceted works are ongoing and the efforts are gaining productive outcome in stimulating nation's tourist influx, promoting sustainable tourism sector nationwide and paving the way in transforming nation tourism sector.

In his recent remark, Tourism State Minister Sileshi Girma said that projects launched under the Dine for the Nation program are being constructed to accommodate a large number of tourists.

All the projects are eco-friendly and expected to attract a larger number of tourists than the usual ones; thereby promoting the overall development including job creation, he indicated.

Wonchi Dendi Lodge which is a part of the Dine for the Nation project will also be inaugurated soon, according to the Project Facilitator, Daba Jinfiesa.

The construction of Wonchi Dendi



Partial view of Unity Park



Chebera Elephant Paw Lodge

Ecotourism project which incorporates roads and tracks, sport and entertainment centers, cafeterias, restaurants, halls, bed rooms and other international standard lodge facilities is nearing to be inaugurated, Daba said.

The Elephant Paw Lodge, located in Dawuro Zone of South West Ethiopia, and clustered under the larger Koyscha and Halala Kela project, was also inaugurated recently. In the park, several dominant animals, including elephants, lions, buffalos, leopards, and greater kudus amongst others, have harbored.

In an exclusive interview with The Ethiopian Herald, Ayalew Sisay (PhD) Senior Tourism Expert also expressed his reflections pertaining to the Dine projects, their role in stimulating the tourism sector; and the impact on lifting up the image of the nation.

The metropolis deserves diversified destinations because it is a major center of transit and home to the largest number of its residents. Moreover, the city is where the headquarters of the Africa Union (AU) and Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) are stationed. The city should have a place to stay out of the door.

According to him, the Dine projects have energized local tourism and created an opportunity to offer diversified destinations for visitors. Just to mention, the Dine for Sheger project has practically brought about encouraging results by changing the face of the capital and uplifting its image in a manner befitting to its name-'Addis Ababa' to mean 'New flower' through renovating and constructing the Entoto, Friendship, Unity Parks, and carrying out the riverside development activities.

"In my view, the new tourist destinations are playing a significant role in shoring up the number of tourists and extending their time span in the metropolis. Now, the city has befitting to its name -Addis Ababa 'New flower' - and enhanced the well-being of its dwellers, because clean environs promote good health. However, this does not mean that everything is over; rather there are lots of assignments to be done. Thus, more concerted efforts are needed to meet the desired demands," he underlined.

The Dine for Sheger project, did not only give a boost to the tourism sector but also helped in mitigating river flooding and the creation of public spaces and parks,

bicycle paths and walkways along the riverside, which made the city comfortable for tourists.

Responding to the Bureau's effort in facilitating increased collaboration works with pertinent stakeholders in a bid to shore up transit passengers' stay in the city, develop Addis Ababa's tourist attractions; he said that the Ethiopia Airlines and the Bureau as well as tour operators should work in collaboration.

He finally said that the Dine for Sheger initiative has served as a benchmark for other projects to be replicated in other parts of the country where potential tourism sites are found. "We are witnessing the success in the "Dine for Nation" project too through the construction of the Gorgora, Wonchi and Koyisha, tourist destinations which are endowed with breathtaking natural attractions," he added.

The plan has also been set to develop areas in various parts of the country through the 'Dine for Generation' initiative. According to the scheme, in this initiative, tourist destinations including the Geralta, in Tigray State, Hayk, in Amhara State, Jimma, in Oromia State, as well as Arbaminch in Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples State (SNNP), will be developed. Unquestionably, the projects add significant values in boosting the economic return of the tourism sector and pave ways in ensuring sustainable economic development.

The Dine initiatives are game changer projects and have immense multiple positive impacts. They are instrumental to improve the livelihood of local communities, conserve natural resources and the environment, and contribute to local infrastructure development. What is more, they have made significant contributions to preserve cultural and traditional assets, and reduce the level of poverty and inequality among citizens. Thus, all citizens and development partners should support the efforts, he opined.

Verbatim and Caption



Ethiopia plays crucial role for Africa's freedom: Amb. Dina Mufti

Ethiopia has supported Africa's struggles for freedom through diplomacy, politics and other activities. Ethiopia is a founding member of African Union and United Nations, which is among the biggest diplomatic achievements in its history.

These diplomatic achievements of the past are helping Ethiopia at this time to proudly act in the international relations.

Ambassador Dina Mufti, Veteran Diplomat



Leaders of Ethiopia play vital role to develop country's diplomacy: Historian

Ethiopia's leaders during their time have played crucial contributions in the African Union and other international organizations that promotes Ethiopia's role at international level. The leaders of Ethiopia at different era have achieved a lot of diplomatic activities especially and achievements at the African Union and other international organizations helped to outshine Ethiopia's diplomacy.

The leaders at different era have scored milestone achievements at international forums that elevates Ethiopia's role in international level.

Professor Bahru Zewde, Emeritus Professor of History said while presenting a paper on Ethiopia's diplomatic history at the Expo

International

Saudi Arabia launches new residency plans to draw foreign talent

Saudi Arabia on Thursday launched new residency programs aimed at attracting skilled professionals and investment as the Gulf country forges ahead with its plan to pivot its economy away from fossil fuels.

"The initiative aims to further drive the country's economic transformation by creating employment opportunities and fostering knowledge transfers," it said in a

statement.

The five new premium programs cater specifically to professionals in healthcare, sports and real estate, amongst others.

They will offer holders opportunities to settle in Saudi Arabia, conduct business, own real estate and obtain work permits for holders and family members.

The move is part of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's Vision 2030 economic transformation plan to wean Saudi Arabia's economy off its dependence on oil, which includes attracting billions in foreign direct investment.

It also come amid a growing economic rivalry with neighbouring United Arab Emirates (UAE) to be the region's trade and

business hub.

Authorities in the UAE have in the recent past introduced incentives such as the 'golden visa' system, while Dubai launched a 'family wealth center' last year to help wealthy individuals and businesses deal with cultural issues and governance.

Source: Reuters

Global unemployment rate set to increase in 2024 while growing social inequalities raise concerns, says ILO report

Joblessness and the jobs gap have both fallen below pre-pandemic levels but global unemployment will rise in 2024, and growing inequalities and stagnant productivity are causes for concern, according to the ILO's "World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2024" report.

Labour markets have shown surprising resilience despite deteriorating economic conditions, but recovery from the pandemic remains uneven as new vulnerabilities and multiple crises are eroding prospects for greater social justice, according to a new International Labour Organization (ILO) report.

The ILO's World Employment and Social Outlook Trends: 2024 (WESO Trends) finds that both the unemployment rate and the jobs gap rate – which is the number of persons without employment who are interested in finding a job – have fallen below pre-pandemic levels. The 2023 global unemployment rate stood at 5.1 per cent, a modest improvement from 2022 when it stood at 5.3 per cent. The global jobs gap and labour market participation rates also improved in 2023.

However, beneath these numbers fragility is starting to emerge, the report finds. It

projects that the labour market outlook and global unemployment will both worsen. In 2024 an extra two million workers are expected to be looking for jobs, raising the global unemployment rate from 5.1 per cent in 2023 to 5.2 per cent. Disposable incomes have declined in the majority of G20 countries and, generally, the erosion of living standards resulting from inflation is, "unlikely to be compensated quickly".

Furthermore, important differences persist between higher and lower income countries. While the jobs gap rate in 2023 was 8.2 per cent in high-income countries, it stood at 20.5 per cent in the low-income group. Similarly, while the 2023 unemployment rate persisted at 4.5 per cent in high-income countries, it was 5.7 per cent in low-income countries.

Moreover, working poverty is likely to persist. Despite quickly declining after 2020, the number of workers living in extreme poverty (earning less than US\$2.15 per person per day in purchasing power parity terms) grew by about 1 million in 2023. The number of workers living in moderate poverty (earning less than US\$3.65 per day per person in PPP terms) increased by 8.4 million in 2023.

Income inequality has also widened, the

WESO Trends warns, adding that the erosion of real disposable income, "bodes ill for aggregate demand and a more sustained economic recovery."

Rates of informal work are expected to remain static, accounting for around 58 per cent of the global workforce in 2024.

The return to pre-pandemic labour market participation rates has varied between different groups. Women's participation has bounced back quickly, but a notable gender gap still persists, especially in emerging and developing nations. Youth unemployment rates continue to present a challenge. The rate of people defined as NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) remains high, especially among young women, posing challenges for long-term employment prospects.

The report also found that those people who have re-entered the labour market post-pandemic tend not to be working the same number of hours as before while the number of sick days taken has increased significantly.

After a brief post-pandemic boost labour productivity has returned to the low level seen in the previous decade. Importantly, the report

also finds that despite technological advances and increased investment, productivity growth has continued to slow. One reason for this is that significant amounts of investment were directed towards less productive sectors such as services and construction. Other barriers include skills shortages and the dominance of large digital monopolies, which hinders faster technological adoption, especially in developing countries and sectors with a predominance of low productivity firms.

"This report looks behind the headline labour market figures and what it reveals must give great cause for concern. It is starting to look as if these imbalances are not simply part of pandemic recovery but structural," said ILO Director-General, Gilbert F. Houngbo. "The workforce challenges it detects pose a threat to both individual livelihoods and businesses and it is essential that we tackle them effectively and fast. Falling living standards and weak productivity combined with persistent inflation create the conditions for greater inequality and undermine efforts to achieve social justice. And without greater social justice we will never have a sustainable recovery".

Source: ILO

Verbatim and Caption



Celebrating Ethiopia's rich diplomatic achievements

President Sahle-Work underlines the need to elevate diplomatic achievements

Ethiopia's diplomatic history has a rich history and passed several ups and downs. Ethiopia is a nation with a long history of government, which has long protected its independence, and a founding member of numerous international institutions and organizations.

Foreign policies are the manifestations of internal realities and Ethiopia's diplomatic activities are manifestations of its internal policies. Its diplomatic approach focuses on win-win approach to achieve mutual development with give and take.

Maintaining and further elevating the existing achievements registered in the sphere of diplomacy is crucial for the Ethiopia. The youth generation should understand the diplomatic history of Ethiopia to contribute their own contribution in the field.

President Sahle-Work Zewde, President of the Federal democratic Republic of Ethiopia said at the opening ceremony of the Ethiopian Diplomatic Week Exhibition

Ethiopia has rich diplomatic history: DPM, FM Demeke

The Diplomatic Week Exhibition highlights Ethiopia's vast and rich diplomatic history further helping us learn from this rich history, prepare us to effectively manage current and future challenges, and establish a strong foundation to execute our foreign relations.

Ethiopia values its relationships with countries worldwide and its substantial contributions to the formation, development, and respect for international law.

Ethiopia's 116 years of diplomatic history achieved a lot of milestones. Ethiopians should visit the Diplomatic Week Exhibition to know their country's diplomatic history.

Demeke Mekonnen, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister



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