



# The Ethiopian Herald

Vol LXXX No 115 23 January 2024 - Tir 14, 2016

Tuesday

Price Birr 10.00

**AGI** CONSTRUCTING THE FUTURE AFRICA  
Abyssinia Group of Industries

Manufacturer of Rebars, Angles, Channels, Flat Bars & Round Bars. Introducing cut & bend service for rebars.

**Contact & Address**  
Tel: +251 116 63 97 55/ 251 116 63 51 22/25  
Mob.: +251 962 009 072/ +251 949 440 868  
+251 911 45 9790  
E-mail: sales@agiethiopia.com  
4th Floor, Dabi Building, Bole road Addis Ababa Ethiopia

## Ethiopian Diaspora diplomacy forum comes into existence

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDIS ABABA** - Ethiopia has formed first-kind Diaspora Diplomacy Forum aiming at augmenting the contribution of nationals of Ethiopian origin to the homeland.

During the announcement of the formation of the forum yesterday, Ethiopian Diaspora Service General-Director Mohammed Idris stated that the newly established forum would comprise over 300 members across 25 countries.

He said establishment of the forum would pave the way to enhance fellow members of Ethiopian Diaspora to enhance support to homeland in all aspects.

Accordingly, the forum is said to be helpful in transferring technology, knowledge and supporting policy makers conducting researches, among others.

At the occasion, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) State Minister Ambassador Misganu Arega said that the diaspora community has contributed immensely for the nation in various ways.

See Ethiopian Diaspora ... page 3



Phot: Berihun Tadele



## Ethiopia to increase water supply to Djibouti: MoWE

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA** – Ethiopia is accelerating projects to provide Djibouti with 100,000 cubic meters of potable water each day, Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE) said.

See Ethiopia to ... page 3

## Time for promoting arts in Ethiopia's diplomacy: Musician • "Children of Nile" reggae song to see light of day soon

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA** - As a noble approach to promote Ethiopia's diplomacy voyage, devising an artistic way to tell its untold success history is of great significance, a renowned musician Zeleke Gesese said.

Artist Zeleke, who is also a facilitator of public diplomacy, told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that most of the country's diplomatic history has not been documented

artistically so far. His new reggae song dubbed "the Children of Nile" is about to be released.

"Ethiopia has been repeatedly mentioned in the Bible, Quran and Torah. All this happened because of its diplomatic ties with ancient civilizations. But, the details that the people need to know are still buried. It needs to be researched and supported by scientific approaches."

See Time for promoting ... page 3



## Ethiopia expresses readiness to implement COP 28 decisions

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE



**ADDIS ABABA** - Ministry of Planning and Development (MoPD) expressed that Ethiopia has set to implement decisions of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28).

MoPD has issued a statement regarding the conference and said that Ethiopia is at all forefront of climate action in Africa by

See Ethiopia expresses ... page 3

# News

## Ministry involves East African stakeholders in forthcoming Pastoralists Day

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA** – The Ministry of Irrigation and Lowlands (MILLs) said the participation of East African stakeholders in this year's Pastoralist Day would have great significance in forging social, cultural, economic, and diplomatic ties.

MILLs State Minister Endrias Geta (PhD) told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that preparation is finalized to mark the forthcoming 19th Pastoralists Day with East African representatives' attendance.

Previously, the day was marked at the national level, but this year's festival is set to be held uniquely with the involvement of pastoralist representatives from neighboring countries as well as high-level government officials, diplomats and others, he added.

The celebration, which is said to be instrumental in identifying pastoralists' problems and creating the opportunity to improve their livelihood, would be held for seven consecutive days (January



26-February 1) in Addis Ababa.

According to Endrias, the festival is of great significance to create attention to pastoralists' issues and to support them through policy and strategy frameworks. Apart from improving the livelihoods of pastoralists' communities, the establishment of the MILLs has greatly contributed

to exploiting tourism and investment potentials in the pastoralists' areas and supporting the development of the country.

Since the livelihoods of pastoralists are not limited by borders and boundaries, meticulous preparation has been made to ensure the economic benefit of pastoralist communities. Camel riding and camel milk tasting shows are set to take place in the festival and some 250 pastoralist representatives, diplomats, and agricultural experts are also expected to be in attendance. The event is farsighted to create networking among East African pastoralists, the state minister elaborated.

"Furthermore, the participants would strengthen their cultural and economic ties and obtain the opportunity to discuss their common concerns including drought and other problems."

Besides promoting the pastoralist areas' tourism and investment opportunities; the festival would also facilitate experience sharing and enhance the business ties in the sector, he remarked.



## Jima City attracts 15 bln Birr investment: Mayor

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

**JIMMA** - Jimma City has attracted 120 investment projects worth over 15 billion Birr capital in one and half years, City Mayor Nejjib Abaraya said.

Approached by Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Mayor Nejjib Abaraya stated that the city has received 120 investment projects owned by domestic and foreign companies registering more than 15 billion Birr capital during the past one and half years.

"Hotels, commercial centers, real estate, manufacturing, coffee, honey and fruit processing are among the new investment projects," he said.

According to the Mayor, 94 of the 120 investment projects have already become operational.

"Among the new investment projects that comes with a new blessing for Jimma is Haile Resort Jimma," Nejjib said adding that the resort has reached at finishing phase in eight months of time.

A coffee processing company has also become operational within four months and exported 3000 quintals of coffee, Nejjib mentioned.

According to the Mayor, Jimma is ready to receive more investments as the city administration prepared over 200 hectares of land for new investors in hotel, manufacturing, wheat, fruit, coffee and honey processing and other areas.

He indicated that Jimma city is suitable for investment with adequate industrial inputs in various sectors.

The product and productivity of wheat, rice, honey, coffee and fruits is increasing exponentially following the "Yelemat Trufat" initiative thereby the city administration is striving to exploit its immense resource, Nejjib said adding investors that come to Jimma can easily make profit using these comparative advantages.

The Mayor stated that Jimma city creates over 20 thousand permanent jobs for the youth during the past six months.

The nice climate plus the potential for increasing agricultural productivity in coffee, honey, fruits, maize, rice, as well as minerals and other necessary inputs for manufacturing, hotel and other industries makes Jimma ideal investment destination, Nejjib added.



Emmy Glaffa



Martin Reakes Williams



Benjamin Kalkum

## Timket festival beyond imagination: Tourists

BY TEWODROS KASSA

**ADDIS ABABA** - *Timket* (Ethiopian Epiphany) is one of the most vibrant and celebrated religious festival with its colorful processions, traditional rituals, and spiritual significance, tourists who attended the *Timket* Festival here at Janmeda said.

Emmy Glaffa from England told The Ethiopian Herald that *Timket* Festival is truly a feast for the senses.

She came with her mother to visit Ethiopia a week before *Timket*. She visited Arbaminch and back to Addis to attend the colorful Janmeda *Timket*.

As to her, *Timket* is a splendid street festival that is beyond imagination.

"It feels great to be baptized with a wondering a holy water by priests together with a huge get together of people. Everyone here is very happy and I enjoy the ceremonial process," she said.

"It is incredible and Ethiopian *Timket* is a big festival. The people are very friendly and open. So, I would like to come back and recommend other tourists to visit Ethiopia."

Martin Reakes Williams attended *Timket* at Janmeda for a second time.

He said that *Timket* festival is very interesting and so many people attend it.

"I am interested in the spiritual part of the ceremonial process and it is good to remember that God had been baptized like a human. All the gathering here is renewing commitment to the Christ through baptism," he said.

According to him, at the heart of *Timket* Festival lies the commemoration of Jesus Christ's baptism in the River Jordan.

He said this event holds immense religious importance for Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church faithful symbolizing the purification of sins and the reaffirmation of faith, adding that, it is a time of spiritual

reflection, forgiveness, and renewal.

On his part, Benjamin Kalkum from Germany said that *Timket* festival is joyful, impressive, and the overall process is beautiful.

"If God allows I would love to visit the famous *Timket* in Gonder and other parts of the country in the future," he said.

He further said that Ethiopia could generate more from the tourism sector if utilized the *Timket* festival properly and ensure sustainable peace to create conducive environment for the sector.

"I am interested and ready to invest thousands of dollars and discover most parts of Ethiopia if security situations are guaranteed."

Accordingly, the tourists expressed that they are eager to attend *Timket* annually since this annual event captivates both locals and eager travelers alike, offering a unique opportunity to witness the rich cultural heritage of the country.

# News

## Jimma plans to plant 136 mln tea seedlings

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

**JIMMA** - Since being introduced in 2022, tea farming has become popular in Jimma Zone, and preparation is underway to plant 136 million seedlings in the coming rainy season, the Zone's Agriculture Office disclosed.

Jimma Zone Agriculture Office Head Mohammed Taha told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that tea farming has become popular during the past two years in the zone. "Tea farming was started in 2022 by planting seedlings in small plots and in the 2023 rainy season, the zone has planted over 1.1 million seedlings."

Mohammed also said that the tea seedlings that were planted in 2022 are now ripping fruits and for the coming rainy season, preparation is underway to plant over 136 million. The office was partnered



with Gumero and Wushwush tea farming companies to plant the seedlings during the past two years.

"During the past two years, Gumero and Wushwush provided us tea seedlings, but, now we prepared our own 136 million

seedlings in 16 districts and plans to cover 10,000 hectares of land by tea farming including the past two years' harvest. Tea farming has become very productive in the Jimma Zone and efforts are underway to expand the practice."

The Office head further noted that they have made consolidated efforts to create a robust market linkage between local tea producers and tea commercial companies and encourage the involvement of well-known tea processing companies in the business.

Noting the high prevalence of soil acidity in the area, Mohammed indicated that tea farming is one of the instruments with significant contribution in reducing soil acidity and the zonal administration is taking the expansion of tea farming as one method of treating the soil. "Apart from satisfying local consumption, due attention has been given to providing the tea to the export market."

### Time for promoting...

Even, the documented (diplomacy) is also reached to only a small segment of the society and the larger public has no clue about most of the major diplomatic happenings that Ethiopia has experienced. Cultivating the culture of history-telling and staging modern exhibitions and awareness creation activities are crucial steps that need to be taken to fill the gap in promoting Ethiopia's diplomacy history, the musician emphasized.

"Since art is a powerful tool to convince others, we need to invest in creative works aiming at public diplomacy. The U.S. has Hollywood in which artistic diplomacy has been carried out. Ethiopians have also been engaging in making public diplomacy through art. Ethiopia's music industry has also contributed a lot to the development of the reggae style. So, we are trying to tap this opportunity to get into international audiences' minds with diplomatic messages supported by reggae music."

Zelege further highlighted that efforts are underway to involve Sudanese and Egyptian artists in "the Children of Nile" song that is set to be released soon. "We hope artists from those countries will join us. The people of Sudan and Egypt also love reggae music. Furthermore, we could easily reach the 700 or 800 million estimated reggae-loving Africa youth through this way."

As a member of public diplomacy facilitators, he also conveyed an invitation message to fellow artists to work together on international music and art stages that could unite diplomatic missions.

### Ethiopia expresses readiness ...

implementing various initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as to fight the impacts of a climate change in the globe.

Ethiopia had properly utilized COP28 conference to showcase its environmental protection activities and is ready to work in all collaboration with partners so as to address environmental challenges in the globe, the statement noted.

In the conference, Ethiopia engaged in negotiations and discussions on implementing the Paris Agreement and enhancing its global climate ambition, it added.

"Ethiopia's ambitious vision for a net zero GHG emission and climate resilient prosperous nation by 2050 and its progress on implementing national climate initiatives, such as Green Legacy Initiative, Gebeta for Generations, and Yelemat Turufat."

According to the statement, Ethiopia has been implementing its ambitious plans to mitigate the impacts of climate change and ensure food security.

Ethiopia's exemplary climate action efforts serve as an inspiration to other nations, demonstrating the power of collective action in addressing the global climate crisis and its commitment to environmental sustainability and food security paves the way for a greener and more resilient future for all, it was mentioned.

As to the statement, COP28 conference was a major opportunity for Ethiopia to showcase its leadership on climate

action, shared its experiences with other developing countries, to learn from best practices around the world and to secure support to transform into a green economy.

During the conference, Ethiopia had presented its Green Legacy Exhibition pavilion at Blue Zone COP28 and a booth at the Green Zone, where it hosted various side events and bilateral and multilateral meetings, and a live exhibition to share its successful climate action initiatives and present challenges of climate change, it stated.

MoPD also said in the statement that Ethiopia's pavilion at COP 28 will serve as a platform to showcase the country's climate action achievements and challenges and the open partnership with different stakeholders to this end.

At the conference, moreover, various side events, bilateral meetings, and multilateral discussions, were held to foster collaboration and partnerships for addressing climate change and other environmental challenges and ensuring Ethiopia's aspiration to build climate-resilient economy, it mentioned.

"However, Ethiopia is also facing the effects of climate change, such as droughts, floods, desertification, and displacement, the country is seeking international support and cooperation to address these challenges and achieve its ambitious climate goals and plans into action," it said.

So far, the country has planted 32 billion saplings under the Green Legacy Initiative to combat the consequences of climate change, according to the statement.

### Ethiopia to..

MoWE Minister Habtamu Itafa ( Eng. PhD) told local media that Ethiopia is putting extensive efforts to increase its clean water supply to Djibouti by 80,000 cubic meters.

Visiting the "Ethiopia to Djibouti Transboundary Water Supply Project Kulen Pump Station," the Minister said that the project helps to increase the current 20,000 cubic meters of clean water supply to 100,000 cubic meters per day.

As to him, the project showcases Ethiopia's commitment to ensure mutual development in the region.

Therefore, the Minister noted, other countries expected to understand this and work together for better achievement.

MoWE's State Minister, Ambassador Asfaw Dingamo on his part said that some 28 deep water wells that have 500 meter depth each are being drilled.

He expressed that 10 of the 28 deep water wells commenced supplying clean water following the completion of electric installation works.

Djibouti will receive the planned amount of 100,000 cubic meter clean water each day up on the finalization of the electricity installation works for the rest 18 deep water wells, Ambassador Asfaw stated.

The project helps to increase the number of Djiboutian citizens benefiting from Ethiopia's potable water supply and bolsters the people to people relations between the two countries, he added.

The Ethiopia-Djibouti Transboundary Water Supply Project was started six years ago with financial loan from Chinese Exim Bank, it was learnt.

### Ethiopian Diaspora...

The Ambassador extended his gratitude for the Diaspora community who have made unwavering support to the nation through

the good and bad.

A panel discussion that focused on the

contribution, challenges and prospects of the Diaspora community was also held.

# Opinion

## Diversity dynamics:

### The Chinese experience, its implication to Africa

BY BALEW DEMISSIE (PHD)

In China, the administrative structure is hierarchical. At the top are the 23 provinces such as Guangdong and Sichuan, each of which has extensive autonomy. Autonomous regions, such as Xinjiang and Tibet, offer additional self-government to certain ethnic minorities. Four directly administered municipalities—Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin and Chongqing—directly report to the central government. Special administrative regions (SARs) such as Hong Kong and Macau enjoy a higher degree of autonomy. Prefectures, such as Chengdu Prefecture in Sichuan, function similarly to counties. Counties are the main divisions within a province, which in turn are subdivided into townships and villages. County-level cities, such as Shijiazhuang and Jiaying, have the status of a city but share administrative responsibilities with counties. Townships and sub-districts are administrative units under counties. Villages serve as basic rural units that usually belong to a township, while districts play a similar role in urban areas. This well-organized hierarchy simplifies the administration of China's vast and diverse territory.

Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, designated since 1955, holds China's largest administrative region. Situated at the strategic crossroads between Central Asia and East Asia, it spans a vast area of 1.6 million square kilometers, accounting for almost one-sixth of China's total territory. Covering a quarter of China's international boundary, it shares borders with eight neighboring nations. Within its borders, Xinjiang boasts a rich tapestry of diversity, encompassing many ethnic groups. The Uyghurs, the largest Muslim Turkic-speaking community, make up almost half of the region's 25 million inhabitants. In addition to the Uyghurs, Xinjiang is home to a diverse array of ethnic groups, including Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, Han Chinese, Tibetans, Hui, Chinese Tajiks, Mongols, Russians, and Sibes. Despite the region's ethnic diversity, Xinjiang manifests peaceful coexistence and harmony among its residents, fostering a strong sense of pride in shared cultural roots and history. The city of Urumqi actively embodies unity, functioning as a vibrant melting pot where all ethnic communities converge and thrive.

Historically, Xinjiang was the epicenter of the Silk Road, connecting civilizations through archaeological sites and ancient cities. These cultural heritages, rooted in the Silk Road, reflect the lasting influence of trade routes in world history. It played a central role in cultural exchanges and trade network, acting as a link between East Asia and regions in Central Asia, South Asia, West Asia and the Mediterranean world. This

***Xinjiang's role as a cultural hub and in economic integration inspires Africa's aspiration for regional connectivity. By adapting these lessons to its context, Africa can foster inclusive growth, celebrate diversity and build a future that respects its cultural richness while promoting economic development***

network, which facilitated exchanges over two millennia, symbolizes the integration of material and spiritual cultures between East and West. UNESCO, in recognition of its historical significance, has honored the "Silk Roads: The Routes Network of Chang'an-Tian Shan Corridor" as a World Heritage Site on June 22, 2014, reinforcing Xinjiang's status as a historically significant destination worthy of exploration.

Also, Xinjiang Tianshan, another UNESCO World Heritage Site in Xinjiang Autonomous Region, captivates with its natural beauty, including snow-capped peaks, glaciers, lakes, and diverse ecosystems. Tianchi Lake and Lake Ayiding stand out as alluring attractions, too. The region's cultural heritage shines through the ancient karez irrigation system, Jiaohe City's ruins, and the Xinjiang Art Museum in Urumqi City, which houses a diverse collection of paintings and sculptures. The Xinjiang Ancient Ecological Park in Urumqi City offers a unique experience, and UNESCO-recognized elements like Meshrep, Uyghur Muqam music, and the Kyrgyz epic Manas further enhance Xinjiang's appeal as a tourist destination.

In addition to Xinjiang's world cultural

legacy, Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang, has become an important Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) hub, with extensive infrastructure development taking place in its 19 supporting administrative regions. Launched by President Xi Jinping in 2013, the BRI builds on the legacy of the ancient Silk Road and aims to transform economic and cultural relations between East and West. China, by showcasing this commitment through state-of-the-art facilities, is positioned to bridge the global infrastructure gap and revolutionize global trade and cultural relations. Thus, Xinjiang, a crossroads of the ancient Silk Road and the modern BRI, not only is historically significant but also offers fascinating natural landscapes.

Considering all the above factors, the Chinese government is prioritizing the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in its efforts to promote economic development, alleviate poverty and ensure social stability. This comprehensive policy comprises a series of positive measures and includes various initiatives to bring about great changes in the region. At the heart of the government's strategy is the proactive implementation of economic development projects, characterized by extensive investment in infrastructure, industry and the promotion of trade.

The government, in line with the overarching goal of poverty reduction, has initiated targeted poverty reduction programs as a key strategy. These programs focus on improving living standards, creating jobs and improving economic conditions, particularly in agriculture, rural development and vocational training. Extensive investment in infrastructure projects is intended to improve transport links, economic activities and the overall quality of life in Xinjiang. The focus on education and vocational training opportunities gives people the skills they need for employment and to tackle poverty and unemployment. Efforts in the education sector include the promotion of bilingual and multicultural education.

Africa can learn valuable lessons from China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in dealing with the dynamics of diversity. First, it can learn the lesson of balancing ethnic diversity and national unity. Similar to Xinjiang, Africa is also home to different ethnic groups, and studying Chinese policies can offer insights into promoting social cohesion and unity while preserving cultural identities. Second, economic development and poverty alleviation should be prioritized.

Africa can learn from China's prioritization of economic growth and poverty alleviation to promote development, especially in

ethnically diverse regions. Third, education, multiculturalism and bilingualism should be promoted. Africa can invest in educational infrastructure and promote bilingual education to overcome language barriers between different ethnic groups. Finally, dealing with security concerns and extremism is another important lesson. Africa can learn from China's comprehensive strategies that combine security measures with socio-economic development and community engagement. In addition, the adoption of accountability and transparent governance measures in different regions can further enhance Africa's approach to managing diversity.

Africa can glean crucial insights from Xinjiang's security strategy by tackling the socio-economic root causes, especially poverty and unemployment. Moreover, China's commitment to investing in education and training serves as a remarkable model for empowering diverse communities in Africa, promoting economic growth and social cohesion. The experience in Xinjiang demonstrates the importance of transparent communication and independent evaluation, and highlights the importance of open dialogue and external assessments to build trust and credibility.

Furthermore, Xinjiang's historical role as a cultural crossroads along the Silk Road provides a lesson for Africa in promoting cultural exchanges and integration. Positive interactions between different ethnicities can contribute to mutual understanding and social harmony. Xinjiang's involvement in economic integration and regional connectivity through the BRI offers Africa the opportunity to explore similar initiatives and promote economic cooperation, trade and infrastructure development in different regions.

In general, the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region offers valuable insights into the many challenges facing Africa. In its pursuit of economic development and cultural preservation, Africa can learn from Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region experience. The lessons extend to preserving culture in the midst of progress, addressing the root causes of unrest and establishing transparent communication. Xinjiang's role as a cultural hub and in economic integration inspires Africa's aspiration for regional connectivity. By adapting these lessons to its context, Africa can foster inclusive growth, celebrate diversity and build a future that respects its cultural richness while promoting economic development.

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

# Editorial

## Harnessing bounties of multi-polar concord

In the era of globalization that has inevitably attracted multifaceted trends of association and systematic synergy, knowing the pros and cons born to unipolar and bipolar moves can break the vicious circle of socio-economic and political hurdles. True, the world requires the presence of multiple actors who are able to observe and address the structural problems of the globe especially in the underdeveloped continents like Africa.

The crux of policy freedom can be sown especially in Africa and other developing spheres of the globe via entertaining multipolar dynamism. Of course, a multipolar world will provide nations with policy freedom via joining global frameworks like what Ethiopia has done in due course of joining the BRICS. In so doing, the country is working toward the realization of a multipolar world order having capitalized on the potential it has secured in BRICS plus bloc. No doubt, an easy way to alter the speed and torque characteristics of a stepper motor is to connect to different types of change engines. The multipolar, characterized by shifting relative power concerns and potential ideological splits, has utilized the tools necessary to deal with all sorts of problems the human race in the globe encounters.

The involvement of multiple actors and the creation of fair and reasonable global order have been proved quite indispensable. Taking this fact into account, Ethiopia has now become a member of the BRICS plus bloc which is an emerging but crucial platform for all rounded collaboration.

Unequivocally, the establishment of BRICS is a good opportunity to strengthen multilateralism, and have a number of opportunities for partnership on economic development and related areas.

Ethiopia, as a country that manages an emerging economy with huge demand, has got an important opportunity to get more partners for joining the bloc that has more access for economic cooperation and the likes.

Ethiopia has demanded more effective and strong multilateral partnership in which BRICS would create a good opportunity to strengthen that cooperation with developed nations and the developing ones through bilateral or multilateral relations among members of the bloc via South-South cooperation.

Such a lucrative step helps nations to declare policy freedom, full discretion and willingness to promote social, economic and political trajectories. Ethiopia would move forward on the vision and the roadmap of the bloc and started playing its due role as a good member while exploiting the potentials the coalition endows.

BRICS is a crucial platform to reverberate African voices to the world as the continent desires to play a role in the international arena like promoting multilateralism on trade, investment and other economic activities as part of the multipolar amalgamation.

The engagement of the world powers is becoming a decisive step, indeed! as changes in security, economy, and digital capabilities create a multipolar international order in place of the unipolar world. This stands in contrast to a unipolar world where power is predominantly concentrated in the hands of a single dominant nation or bloc. In a multipolar world, several major powers emerge, each possessing significant economic, military, and political capabilities that enable them to shape the global landscape.

The multipolar move can arise from various factors, including shifts in global economic dynamics, advancements in technology, and changes in political alliances. It is crucial to note that multipolarity does not imply an equal distribution of power among all actors, but it signifies the existence of multiple power centers that possess substantial capabilities and the ability to exert influence within their respective regions and beyond instead.

True, the distribution of global influence becomes more evenly spread among these centers, leading to a more balanced geopolitical landscape. Obviously, in a multipolar world, power is not concentrated solely within a single dominant entity; rather numerous countries emerge as influential players, exerting their influence on regional and global affairs.

# Opinion

## The centrality of democratic values in settlement of disputes

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Giving center stage to democratic values is critical in attaining viable peace as well as getting to the bottom of skirmishes in every part of the world. Honestly speaking, this reality on the ground necessitates sowing the seeds of liberty and justice in the length and breadth of the country in the face of achieving the sought after goal is not a low hanging fruit. In actual fact, fostering these common values serves as an impetus for peace in the pursuit of equal chances and fairness for every Tom, Dick, and Harry.

There is no gainsaying the fact that common values play a huge role in entrenching a diversified society where all voices are not only heard but also respected. By bringing these values into play it is possible to make sure the rights and needs of the populace are taken into consideration with a view to making the desired goal is attained as anticipated.

As the values lay a solid foundation for harmonious coexistence and settlement of disputes through fostering straightforward dialogue and exhilarating active participation, it is possible to ensure peace in the length and breadth of the world despite accomplishing the desired goal is not a walk in the park. Moreover, as these values pave the way for a peaceful coexistence and conflict resolution by utilizing open dialogue, everyone should not hesitate to work hand in glove with the purpose of achieving the ultimate goal. They should be able to take the bull by the horns.

The democratic values also play a huge role in smoothing the progress of living in harmony and peace under the umbrella of the country.

As a matter of fact, fostering inclusivity and promoting peace can make tranquility happen in every corner of the world at the earliest possible time on the grounds that the democratic values implant a sense of ownership and accountability among the broader population almost immediately. To tell the truth, in a democratic society, nations are vigorously giving a boost to shape the supremacy and policymaking processes yielding them an important stake in promoting peace and resolving skirmishes.

It is common knowledge that apart from promoting peace and creating a sense of belongingness among the population in general, democratic values play a huge role in taking the country to the pinnacle of development. Needless to say, the aforementioned values not only make peace happen but also make the communities at large live under the umbrella of their respective countries with harmony more than ever before.

In a similar vein, by nurturing

accountability, perseverance, dispute resolution, and other related aspects, it is possible to make the population as a whole live in peace, harmony and love. The process of boosting the values turns out to be vital in an effort to reach enduring serenity and delight incorporating the entire country. By the same token, the existence of democratic values plays a vital role in empowering citizens and shaping their shared destiny.

Giving the green light to the general public the liberty to openly express their, ideas, thoughts and feelings, democratic values can ignite a powerful fire pushing progress and fostering growth. Such an environment allows the emergence of diverse perspectives and ideas fashioning an atmosphere in which the seeds of democratic values can see the light of day in at the earliest possible time all over the world.

This liberty of expression acts as a substitute for allowing diverse perspectives and ideas to surface and contribute to the progress of their communities.

By making dialogue and participation possible, democratic values can create an environment that encompasses new potentials and nurtures the potential for unity. Other than that, encouraging democratic values inculcates within citizens a feeling of proprietorship and accountability for their nations.

Strengthened by the capacity to vigorously play a part in decision-making procedures, citizens can easily develop a thoughtful sense of belonging and investment in the well-being of their communities. Furthermore, without a doubt, through open conversations and exchange of views, people can gain a deeper understanding of one another and turn out to be more tolerant.

In point of fact, nurturing democratic values brings forth a setting wherein open conversations and acceptance pay a regular contribution to the understanding of permanent peace and serenity all over the world. The act of nurturing democratic values plays a most important role in deciding the social order that not only experiences provisional peace but scuffles towards long-lasting tranquility and genuine unity.

In actual fact, when all and sundry accept as true the fact that their opinions hold value and the democratic process is sensible, it inspires a sense of trust and confidence in their frontrunners and organizations. By fostering constitutional values, communities encourage straight forward communication and partnership among nations making possible a culture of understanding, tolerance, and cooperation. This, in turn, reduces conflict and contributes to a more harmonious and peaceful coexistence worldwide.

**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

Tel. 011-126-42-22

Fax. 251-011-156-98-62

email- epa@press.et

### Advertisement and Dist.

#### Department

email: etpresspromotion@gmail.com

Tel. 011-156-98-73/011-811-13-15

Telegram :- 0976084707 - press

Editor-in-Chief: Worku Belachew

email- workubelachew@press.et

Address- Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-city

Woreda - 05, House No----

Tel- +251 111 26 41 98

### Managing Editor: Wakuman Kudama

Email: wakuma220@gmail.com

### Deputy Editors-in-Chief:

Alem Hailu

Elizabeth Mengistu

Zekarias Woldemariam

Desta Geberehiwot

Daniel Beyene

Website: www.press.et

email: ethiopianherald@press.et

Fb//Ethiopian Press Agency/

The Ethiopian Herald

# Business & Economy

## Boosting manufacturing industry for economic growth

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Ethiopia has been working hard to boost the manufacturing sector. If the situation keeps at the same rate, Ethiopia will record meaningful manufacturing sector. True, the manufacturing retains a reputation as a sector of rapid productivity improvements; this is largely due to the spectacular performance of one subsector of manufacturing. The manufacturing sector in the country runs an enormous trade scope, and it is important to understand why the manufacturing sector got priority in the Ethiopian economy. The importance of manufacturing industry for the growth trajectories of developing countries like ours is really untold.

Taking this entire concept into account, The Ethiopian Herald conducted interview with Mekonnen Balcha, an industrial Engineer graduated from Addis Ababa University and working as a consultant, to have professional point of view regarding the significance of manufacturing industry for economic advancement.

He said, "Manufacturing is the engine of growth and there is a positive causal relationship between output and labor productivity in manufacturing, derived from static and dynamic increasing returns to scale. Here, it is quite important to closely observe the importance of manufacturing industry for economic growth."

According to Mekonnen, the manufacturing output growth and economic performance are now moving in an intertwined manner and with an encouraging trend though a lot remains to be done. The relation between industrial growth and GDP growth can be explained by the effects of manufacturing on productivity levels, creating job opportunity, linkage with agriculture and its positive impact on the whole economy. Such effects are due to transfer of labor from low productivity sectors to the industrial sector and to the existence of static and dynamic economies of scale in manufacturing.

As to him, manufacturing has traditionally played a key role in the economic development of Ethiopia and other developing countries, too. Yes, exploring industrialization is attributable to long-term changes in opportunities available to the sector across the nation. As industrialization has continued to play a key role in the growth of the country, Ethiopia is highly focusing on the industry thereby achieving economic development by following the path of industrialization will likely remain important for it because is able to take advantage of its backwardness relative to those countries which have already experienced rapid industrialization with a disproportionately large share of manufacturing activities, and could soon enter a mature stage of industrialization, he opined.

Up to now, Ethiopia has developed several industry parks across the nations, which have been focusing on light manufacturing activities such as electronics assembly and food processing, he said.

According to Mekonnen, industry parks development in Ethiopia has faced some challenges, including a lack of infrastructure



*Textile industry in Ethiopia is the stuff that futures nation's economic growth*

and skilled labor. However, the government has been working to address these issues through investments in infrastructure and training programs for workers.

In general industry park development in Ethiopia is a key part of the country's economic growth strategy. The government has been actively promoting the development of industry parks and has made significant progress in this area in recent years.

Interestingly, Mekonnen said Ethiopia's manufacturing industry is growing rapidly because of the government policies aimed at attracting investment and promoting local production. The sector is diverse, with industries including textiles, leather goods, food processing, and pharmaceuticals. While there are challenges that need to be addressed, the future looks bright for Ethiopia's manufacturing sector.

"Economic growth is the priority area on which Ethiopia has been embarking with a view to defeating poverty and attaining growth. The development of the Ethiopian manufacturing sector over the years has displayed the growth of economic advancement measured by real value added GDP," he added.

"It is not entirely clear, however, whether this trend is attributable to sector-specific, structural factors, which could have led to a decline in the manufacturing sector's development quality, quantity or both, relative to other sectors. If the relative importance of manufacturing in Ethiopia declined due to sector-specific factors or due to a long-term shift in world economic structure, it should rebalance development strategies and place less emphasis on manufacturing development," he added.

Almost no country has achieved and sustained a high standard of living without making significant developments in its manufacturing sector, except for a few oil rich countries and small financial havens, empirically tested the manufacturing sector's overriding influence on the rate of economic growth, he opined.

He said despite recent assertions of shrinking opportunities for manufacturing development in developing countries like Ethiopia and the decrease in the importance of manufacturing for economic development,

the sector continues supporting the latter.

As to him, the structural transformation of a traditional economy dominated by primary activities into a modern economy where high-productivity activities in manufacturing assume an important role remains a defining feature of economic development. He said "Industrialization should be seen as a single global process in which the industrial mode of production has diffused across the globe. Individual country experiences with industrialization can only be understood as part of this global and ongoing process of technological diffusion, indeed."

He said that achieving low-carbon industrialization has a number of interrelated implications for industrial policy. Manufacturing has become the main engine of accelerating economic growth in the nineteenth century in Europe.

The textile industry is one of the largest in Ethiopia's manufacturing sector, with companies producing a range of products including clothing, home textiles, and industrial fabrics. The leather industry is also significant with high employing capacity in Ethiopia being one of the largest producers of high-quality leather in Africa.

Mekonnen said, "Ethiopia's manufacturing industry has been growing rapidly in recent years, with the government implementing policies to attract foreign investment and promote local production. The country's manufacturing sector is diverse, with a range of industries including textiles, leather goods, food processing, and pharmaceuticals. One of the key drivers of Ethiopia's manufacturing growth has been the establishment of industrial parks, which provide infrastructure and services to companies looking to set up operations in the country. The government has also implemented tax incentives and other measures to encourage investment in the sector."

The textiles industry in Ethiopia has also been growing rapidly in recent years, with the government actively promoting the sector as a key driver of economic growth. The country has a long history of textile production, dating back centuries, but it is only in the last decade and a half that the industry has begun to modernize and expand, headed.

One of the main factors driving growth in the Ethiopian textiles industry is the availability of cheap labor. Despite these advantages, however, the Ethiopian textiles industry still faces a number of challenges. One of the biggest is a lack of infrastructure, particularly when it comes to transportation and logistics. The country's roads and ports are often poorly maintained, which can make it difficult to move goods around efficiently. In addition, there is a shortage of skilled workers in many parts of the industry, which can limit productivity and quality.

The Ethiopian government has launched a number of initiatives aimed at improving infrastructure and developing human capital, to address all these challenges. For example, it has invested heavily in building new roads and ports, as well as upgrading existing ones. The government has also established training programs to help workers develop the skills they need to succeed in the industry.

Food processing is another important industry in Ethiopia's manufacturing sector, with companies producing a range of products including beverages, dairy products, and processed fruits and vegetables. The pharmaceutical industry is also growing rapidly, with several local companies producing generic drugs for both domestic and international markets, he accentuated.

However, he added the food processing industry is slowly gaining momentum due to the government's prioritization to promote boosting manufactured products for export to enhance the nation foreign currency garnering capacity.

In sum, one of the major challenges facing the manufacturing sector in Ethiopia is the lack of infrastructure and technology. Most food processing companies operate on a small scale and use outdated equipment, which limits their production capacity and efficiency. There is also a shortage of skilled labor and technical expertise in the industry. As there are still challenges that need to be addressed despite the growth of Ethiopia's manufacturing sector, a lot remains to be done along this line with a view to solve problems in relation to lack of skilled labor, inadequate infrastructure, and limited access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises and other related factors.

# In the Sphere of Diplomacy

## Linking tourism, diplomacy

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

Land of 'thirteen months of sunshine' was the motto of the tourism sector. But after a while it was decided that given that the country is land of Lucy the most ancient human remains discovered, it was considered to be the 'cradle of mankind' and the new motto for the tourism sector became 'land of origin' because few across the world knew this fact.

In the meantime, however the tourism industry did not pick up as much as expected. Many have said again and again that Ethiopia has not exploited all its tourism potential despite all the above facts playing in its favor. This statement becomes even more evident when we observe that other countries in Africa such as Kenya, Egypt, Morocco and South Africa do earn millions of dollars from their tourism industry even if they do not necessarily have more tourist attractions than Ethiopia does. There must be some shortcomings to be filled learning from other countries' experiences as well. There must be some reasons why these countries and others have lots of tourists that visit them and pass some time there more than in Ethiopia. We should hence wonder why this is so.

For tourism to flourish there are several factors besides having attractive historical, cultural and geographical destinations or sites that fascinate tourists. To begin with infrastructure is a huge factor because tourists want to feel at home wherever they go. They do not want things that put at inconvenience their stay in their voyage and tours. They want efficient and comfortable transport facilities, up to standard hotels and catering services with adequate recreational center with warm hospitality. They expect well organized communication from the people who help them in their tours knowing their tastes and their languages. What do tourists like and what do they resent? These are questions we must answer.

Ethiopia may feel pride for the reputation of being a welcoming nation for anyone who steps into their country especially when they realize that the visitor is a foreigner. They have special regard for visitors and this has been testified by many visitors. Ethiopians receive guests with utmost politeness and warmth let alone tourists who come from foreign distant lands to visit their country.

Traditionally, Ethiopians welcome even other nationals when they travel to their residence areas even if they are unfamiliar with their language or culture. Considering the kind of food Ethiopia can avail, Ethiopia's kitchen is varied with all sorts of national and international dishes. Ethiopia's multiple ethnic groups do produce equally multiple cuisines and foreigners seem to enjoy them as we saw in certain circumstances. Ethiopia's hotels avail all sorts of local and international specialties and tourists cherish not only their own traditional dishes but do want to be exposed to the new cultural traits

of the country they visit because this is a new experience for them.

The countries mentioned above which enjoy more tourist presence than Ethiopia do may have better infrastructure such as roads, communications systems, hotels and other facilities. But Ethiopia is now catching up fast especially in the past few years. New luxury hotels have been built and infrastructural facilities such as up to standard road networks with other facilities being upgraded. The national carrier Ethiopian Airlines presents easy and comfortable transportation facilities so that tourists do not have to travel by road unless they specifically request to do that. Hence they do not have to face hours of roads transport considering that Ethiopia is a vast country with very varied territory and traveling from one end to another can take precious days the tourists may like to use differently.

Ethiopian Airlines has acquired a huge reputation for its ultramodern fleet and facilities and highly trained and professional staff that surprises many. Moreover, during the past few years several resort areas have been constructed and are available for tourists to enjoy them passing some leisure in the midst of exceptionally endowed natural beauty.

Now that the African Union Summit is shortly due, Addis is bracing for this monumental yearly appointment. This fact has also been a major stimulus to the tourism industry because thousands of delegates, including journalists, diplomats, ministers and even heads of state and government will be flocking to Addis the capital of Africa and seat to scores of diplomatic missions. This fact has helped and is helping Ethiopia draw world attention and at the same time it would stimulate tourism.

In Addis several parks have been completed such as the Unity Park constructed in the middle of a historic place which was the royal palace where one can experience a part of Ethiopian history, both political and cultural. The former royal palace has been converted into a tourist site with the vision of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed who is keen to expand the Ethiopian tourism potential considered as one of the five pillars of the economy on a par with its agriculture, manufacture industry, mining and energy potential. Friendship Park and Entoto Park are also other attractions that are available without even going outside Addis. The National Museum presents the history of the country in miniature and the famous skeleton of Lucy is also in view there. People who are in a fast transit in Addis can come and have a view of the city and country and have a taste of what Ethiopia is and what it represents for Africa.

What is more, people who come here for a conference or summit such as delegates, journalists and the business community can also enjoy these sites and pass some leisure in these wonderful localities while carrying down their principal duties. There are

also other tourist projects which have been launched by 'Gebeta le Hager' or 'Dine for the Country', 'Gebeta le Tewlid' or 'Dine for the Generation' where vast funds have been raised to finance these projects besides those finances coming from foreign sources and grants. Hence projects such as the Wenchi Dendi Resort area have been inaugurated recently, very beautiful and attractive places at a short distance from Addis. Others such as Halala Kela, Koyisha and Chebera Churchura have also been completed and inaugurated in the South West Regional State. In the north the Gorgora Project around Lake Tana is being finalized and readied for inauguration. There are still other more projects with the same purpose and the Ministry of Tourism is aggressively working to enhance the untapped tourism potential with a new objective with the understanding that tourists want new exotic places to visit where they can find many things at one go such as culture, environment and history.

Hence we can say Ethiopia's historical and cultural sites are matched by few other countries in Africa and beyond. We can add to the list of attractions many UNESCO inscribed tangible and intangible historical and cultural heritages deserving and guaranteed of special protection by the international agency. Recently there have been several further additions to this list such as the Bale Mountains and the Gedeo Cultural Landscaped and the Muslim festival of Shewalid observed around the traditional city of Harar beside its famous walls and the Jegol white painted internal buildings linked by the traditional road network of the ancient city. We know that already festivals such as Maskel, (the finding of the True Cross) Timket (the Baptism of Jesus Christ at Jordan River), Chembelala (the Sidama New Year Festival) and the Geda system (the traditional democratic political order of the Oromo) have already been inscribed in the non-tangible world heritages under UNESCO. There are others in the pipeline under consideration by UNESCO such as the Irrecha Festival and other outdoor festivals. All these factors duly contribute for tourists' curiosity to come over to Ethiopia to pay a visit.

Ethiopia has had less attention by international tourists than others only because of the negative perception that has been building up across decades and it is this idea that we must fight and win. Our ambassadors will have a hard work to do to break this barrier and Ethiopia must renew its image in the international sphere projecting itself as a vast country with immense tourist attractions and accessible very easily and comfortably. The image of Ethiopia as a backward country teeming with wars and conflicts when there is not drought and famine must be erased from the minds of the international perception and a new one projected. A dynamic society where several things are happening despite all the challenges any developing country may face.

**E**thiopia may feel pride for the reputation of being a welcoming nation for anyone who steps into their country especially when they realize that the visitor is a foreigner

# Law & Politics

## Ethiopia's time-tested non-aligned stand

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

Ethiopia has always stood with peace and the wellbeing of human beings. The country was the light when most African nations were in darkness. As the nation is the only nation that defied colonialism and became a beacon of freedom and independence for most people who were under the shackles of slavery, Ethiopia has been an exemplary country with its own pride. Throughout its long history, the nation proves that it only aligns with collective peace and security. The country has followed its own strategies regarding its relations with other nations and blocs.

In major global coalitions, Ethiopia has played a key role to become a founding member of many global alliances and support those blocs in various terms. In good truth, Ethiopia was the only independent African nation that was a founding member of the United Nations. Besides, the country played a significant role to bring the two groups, Casablanca and Monrovia, to the table to narrow their differences and lay the founding stone for the establishment of the Organization of the African Union. The country has also put its hands in the formation of other regional and coalitions.

Accordingly, Ethiopia has been a founding member of the Non-Aligned Movement which was established more than half a century ago. From the onset of its inception, the movement has played crucial role during the collapse of the colonial system and the independence struggles of the peoples of Africa, Asia, Latin America and other regions of the world and at the height of the Cold War. Throughout its history, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries has played a fundamental role in the preservation of world peace and security, based on documents and official websites about the history of the movement.

According to its official websites, Bandung Asian-African Conference, which was held in Bandung on April 18-24, 1955, is the most immediate antecedent to the creation of the Non-Aligned Movement.

“Six years after Bandung, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries was founded on a wider geographical basis at the First Summit Conference of Belgrade, which was held on September 1-6, 1961. The Conference was attended by 25 countries: Afghanistan, Algeria, Yemen, Myanmar, Cambodia, Sri-Lanka, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, and Iraq.” The Movement was not conceived to play a passive role in international politics but to formulate its own positions in an independent

### Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)



manner so as to reflect the interests of its members.

In addition, the movement's history amplifies, “The Movement has played an important role in strengthening international peace and security, within the framework of its permanent quest for establishing a more peaceful and prosperous world. It persistently called for strict adherence to the norms and principles of international law and has provided major thrusts in the areas of disarmament, better economic wellbeing, social justice and environmental sustainability.”

To this end, Ethiopia is always ready to stand with peace by supporting any movement in a neutral position. In many occasions, the stand of Ethiopia has been tested and proven that Ethiopia is following a non-aligned stance in any issues of the world. The nation has not put any extra effort to support one side and ignore the other; rather, it has been playing the middle ground between the superpowers and international blocs.

Ethiopia has proven itself in relation to strengthening international peace and security. That is the reason why the nation has sacrificed its sons and daughters in international peace keeping activities aiming for better world for all human beings. Ethiopia is still deployed thousands of its soldiers in various African nations to support the overall peace and security of the continent.

Likewise, the country has abided by the international laws and conventions to live in peace without meddling in sovereign issues of other countries. The nation has even included those signed international conventions into its constitution. Though Ethiopia

supported many African and nations around the globe, the nation has never asked anything in return; rather, the nation always tries to apply a win-win approach and mutual benefits in any deal between and among its counterparts. This is because the country is ready to any peace call from the world. The recent agreement between Ethiopia and Somaliland shows what exactly Ethiopia does for many years. Ethiopia has no record in violating any nation's sovereignty or international conventions.

Ethiopia always shows its unwavering stand for bringing equality among nations of the world. Ethiopia has been the voice for the Africans in many international scenarios and proved that it worth representing the continent. Parallel with the movement, the country is dealing with fair distribution of natural resources and economic wellbeing, social justice and environmental sustainability. The effort that Ethiopia exerted has been tangible. The nation always finds a way to appeal for social justice and the actions to tackle climate changes. Ethiopia always accepts any deal if it goes forward to foster partnerships.

There is no defying matter for Ethiopia to stand with world peace and equality. The nation has shared more than many nations in various world issues. Recently, the 19th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) was held in Kampala, Uganda. As a member of the bloc, Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) and his delegation participated in the summit.

Briefing the media about the conference, State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mesganu Arga said that, the 19th Summit

of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) has emphasized the need for partnership among developing nations.

State Minister Mesganu said that, Ethiopia is a founding member of the NAM and has contributed a lot for the independence of African countries since inception. He also mentioned that the NAM has been playing a major role in ensuring the sovereign rights of countries so that they are able to collaborate and forge their ability not to subdue by influence.

Member states of the Non-Aligned Movement has been making great efforts for the reform of the United Nations, international organizations and financial institutions as they are not inclusive enough, the state minister said. In this regard, the state minister also said international organizations have become inclusive and improved, yielding developing nations to speak up the voice of Africa.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed who participated at the summit conveyed a message, stating that we should raise our voices together to forge collaboration in a manner that the international institutions incorporate the voices of developing countries, the state minister added.

He recalled that in his speech delivered at the conference, the Prime Minister Abiy noted that landlocked countries are facing challenges in their efforts to address development issues and the demand of their population. Ethiopia is seeking a peaceful option to address the challenge of access to seaport based on peaceful means, the principle of give and take and mutual benefit, the State Minister Mesganu emphasized.



# Society

## Sharing resources for mutual benefits

BY ELIZABETH MENGISTU

Ethiopia, as it is clearly stipulated in its foreign affairs and national security policies and strategies, aspires to strengthen relationships and partnership with its neighboring countries and beyond in various spheres in a manner aligning with its national interest and with the principle of 'mutual benefit.'

As part of this intent, the country has been working to deepen strong partnership and cooperation with neighboring countries in the social, economic and political arenas, thereby achieving common goals and mutual benefits.

With a view to realizing this and addressing social and development challenges, it has been practically carrying out activities to elevate cooperation and integration with countries of the Horn and the region to new heights; and promoting the principle of win-win partnership and mutual development.

Mainly, through the establishment of various infrastructure developments including the enhancement of cross-border roads connectivity, enhancing provision of energy and safe potable water to neighboring countries, Ethiopia has been working to strengthen economic and social services integration and address common public challenges in a sustainable way, to accelerate regional integration, and grow their economies by resorting to collective efforts.

The infrastructure development paces that the country has made so far and the agreements it reached with neighboring countries just to mention with Sudan, Djibouti, Kenya and South Sudan, show Ethiopia's commitment to create strong economic and social service integration in the Horn region and beyond.

In turn, over the past few years, the country has been able to successfully carry out activities that are instrumental to reinforce social services integrity with neighboring countries and to realize the aspirations.

Recently, the Ministry of Water and Energy announced a plan to increase the amount of water safe drinking water supply to Djibouti.

As it was stated by the Ministry recently and ENA reported, Ethiopia will increase the amount of safe drinking water it delivers to Djibouti from the existing 20,000 to 100,000 cubic meters per day.

The Ethio-Djibouti cross-border potable water project is a manifestation of regional mutual development that economically integrates the people of the two countries which share similar identity, it was indicated.

The Ethio-Djibouti cross-border clean water project was initiated six years ago through funds obtained from the government of China based on the water supply agreement reached between the two countries. The primary water source for Djibouti comprises 28 subterranean wells drilled in the Somali region. This essential resource is supplied by a 258-kilometer-long infrastructure, crossing seven towns from the Shinile Zone to Milo-Harewa-Adigala- Lasarat - Ayesha -Dewele towns to reach Djibouti city.

Delegations of the two countries led by



the Minister of Water and Energy Eng. Habtamu Itefa (PhD) and Director General of the Djibouti Consulate in Dire Dawa, Ambassador Mussa Haji Jemal, visited Adigala Town in Somali region and its surroundings where they observed the project's activities.

After assessing the overall current situation of the project and the improvement works, the two sides have set a direction for the implementation of the improvement works and to resolve the challenges in connection to the water line within a short period of time. A discussion was also held to deal with illegal activities on the waterlines and an agreement was reached to solve the problems.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister of Water and Energy, Eng. Habtamu Itefa (PhD) said that the people of Ethiopia share a common culture, religion and language. Utilizing resources together for mutual benefits will facilitate common development within the region and enhance regional connectivity.

In this regard, the Djibouti Potable Water Project is economically integrating the two nations' people which share similar identity. The project is also one of the showcases of regional shared development and growth.

Mentioning that Ethiopia is sharing its natural resources with neighboring countries, he expressed his belief that in a manner neighboring countries develop and prosper together; Ethiopia will also grow and develop.

"Ensuring a shared development and mutual benefit is Ethiopia's main intention in the region. Hence, the country is exerting its utmost contribution to enhance mutual development among communities of its neighbors with similar identities by even sharing from its meager resources. Ethiopia has a firm stance that is grounded on the principle of give and take, to prosper together by sharing the challenges and blessings for mutual development," the Minister remarked.

According to the Minister, the ever-growing

ties between Ethiopia and Djibouti through various infrastructures is a model for regional integration. The water project is the real demonstration of the integration he reiterated.

Mentioning the development activities being carried out by Ethiopia to supply potable water and renewable energy sources to countries in the region, he said that Ethiopia's long-term aspiration is to realize shared development with its neighbors.

As he elucidated, the project was previously used to produce about 20,000 cubic meters of water each day using oil energy to draw water from the well, the Minister said that however, hereafter because it will be powered by electricity instead of gas, the project will supply 100,000 cubic meters of water. As to him, following the activities carried out to improve the service, it was enabled to increase the amount of the supply.

Stating that the project improvement activity is expected to be completed within a month, the Minister affirmed that it would be able to supply the intended amount of water to the people of Djibouti.

Director General of the Djibouti Consulate in Dire Dawa, Amb. Mussa Jemal said for his part that Ethiopia and Djibouti have been connected by railways, roads, electricity, water and other infrastructures.

The connection of the two countries with various infrastructures will increase the opportunities to prosper together as the economic ties will continue to be strengthened in the future, he underscored.

The Ethio- Djibouti water development project has been providing an immense contribution to minimize the water needs of the people of Djibouti, the Director General remarked.

Including Water and Energy State Minister Amb. Asfaw Dingamo (PhD) and Energy Development Minister Eng. Sultan Wali (PhD), the field visit was attended by senior officials from the Ministry.



# Planet Earth

## The health and ecological benefits of Moringa tree

BY MAHLET GASHAW

In southern Ethiopia, Moringa is a daily meal from breakfast to dinner. Known locally as Halako or Sheferaw, Moringa has many health benefits, according to various studies. The plant is drought tolerant in nature and grows mostly in lowland areas.

Many studies conducted worldwide have confirmed that Halako (sheferaw) has many health benefits. The leaves of Moringa are considered to be a rich source of vitamins and minerals and exhibits strong antioxidant activity, often attributed to the plants' vitamins and phenolic compounds such as quercetin and kaempferol. The leaves can be also taken as vegetable and processed into tea, powder and other pharmaceuticals purpose.

According to Japanese study in 2009, leaves act as a good sink for carbon dioxide absorption and utilization. The rate of assimilation of carbon dioxide by Moringa tree is 20 times higher than general vegetation. Moringa is said to provide 7 times more vitamin C than oranges, 10 times more vitamin A than carrots, 17 times more calcium than milk, 9 times more protein than yoghurt, 15 times more potassium than bananas and 25 times more iron than spinach. Further more, juice can be extracted from fresh leaves and act like growth hormone and increase crop yield by 25-35%.

Moringa oleifera has several medicinal properties and has a potential to cure many diseases. It is used to treat diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, anaemia, arthritis, respiratory problems, skin, liver problems, paralysis, sterility, rheumatism, digestive disorders and many more.

In India, it was named the 'plant of the year' in 2008 by the National Institute of Health and Family Care. In many African countries, it is also used for the treatment of ascites, pneumonia and venomous bites.

According to various research, the leaves are said to be anti-fungal, anti-viral, anti-abortion, and act as flocculating agent and stimulants. Moringa powder can be used as a substitute for iron tablet, hence a treatment for anaemia. The health benefits of this wonderful tree appear to be boundless. Apart from all the goodness discussed

Moringa strongly supports mental health and boost cognitive power due to its antioxidant and neuro-enhancer activities. It has shown several preliminary result as a treatment of Alzheimer's disease. The high amount of vitamin C and E helps to improve brain function and also normalize the neurotransmitter in the brain which play a key role in memory, mood, organ function, responses to stimulus such as stress.

Moringa play very crucial role to protect liver against damage, oxidation, toxicity due to high concentrations of polyphenols in its leaves and flowers. Moringa oil can

also restore liver enzymes to normal levels, reducing oxidative stress, and increasing protein content in the liver. The liver is responsible for blood detoxification, bile production, fructose metabolism, fat metabolism, and nutrient processing, and it can only fulfill these functions with the aid of liver enzymes, so it's vital they stay at normal levels. For instance, lower levels of hepatic enzymes can impair its ability to filter the blood.

Moringa oleifera, which can be one of the best option to reduce malnutrition. The Moringa is also considered as important famine food because of its high resistance to drought and arid conditions owing to their tuberous roots.

Furthermore, Moringa is said to provide 7 times more vitamin C than oranges, 10 times more vitamin A than carrots, 17 times more calcium than milk, 9 times more protein than yoghurt, 15 times more potassium than bananas.

The absolute number of people facing chronic food deprivation has increased to nearly 821 million in 2017, from around 804 million in 2016. Due to the incredible character of Moringa to solve the hunger problem many international humanitarian organization and world health organization (WHO) have used it to combat malnutrition in many parts of the world.

Moringa has antibacterial and anti-fungal properties that fight infections. It's been effective against types of fungi that cause infections on skin and strains of bacteria responsible for blood and urinary tract infections and digestive problems.

Roots of Moringa oleifera have antibacterial property and are described to be rich in antimicrobial agents. The bark extract of Moringa has been found to have antifungal activities while the juice of the bark and stem exhibit antibacterial effect against *Staphylococcus aureus*.

Moringa has blood-clotting properties in its leaves, roots, and seeds that benefit wound healing and can reduce clotting time, which means it reduces the time it takes for scratches, cuts, or wounds to stop bleeding.

The Food and Agriculture Organization describes Moringa as a very useful plant with lots of health benefits. Some research has shown that Moringa is a plant that can help in reducing malnutrition among children and women. In the context of Nepal, malnutrition has been serious problem among children and pregnant women.

According to Nepal, Demographic and health survey 2016, 36% of children were stunting, 10% were wasted and 27% underweight. Even though, the scenario is decreasing but not satisfactory and the mortality due to malnutrition is still prevalent in Nepal. So, Moringa oleifera could be a best option to reduce malnutrition problem.

Moringa has abundant amount of calcium

which is considered as one of the important minerals for human growth. While 8 ounces of milk can provide 300-400 mg, Moringa leaves can provide 1000 mg and Moringa powder can provide more than 4000 mg.

Hence, can be used as a substitute of anaemia. It has been reported that higher amount of iron is present in Moringa than spinach. A good dietary intake of zinc is essential for proper growth of sperm cells and is also necessary for the synthesis of DNA and RNA.

Moringa Oleifera contains various essential phytochemicals in its leaves, seeds and pods and it is one of the effective remedy for malnutrition. Over 143 million children under the age of five in developing countries were undernourished in 2006. Food insecurity, lack of access to health care social, cultural, and economic class, all play a major role in explaining the prevalence of under-nutrition.

One practical step to compensate for the several unpreventable carbon dioxide emissions is to plant trees. This is because trees take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and they release oxygen in return. The type of trees planted will have a great influence on the environmental outcome. According to Japanese study (Villafuerte, and Villafuerte-Abonal, 2009) the rate of absorption or assimilation of carbon dioxide by the Moringa tree is twenty times higher than that of general vegetation. The Moringa tree therefore will be a useful tool in the prevention of global warming.

Fresh Moringa leaves can be cooked and eaten as vegetables or processed into tea, powder and other pharmaceutical preparations. Moringa leaves, shoots and seeds can be used as green teas, animal feed with tremendous results.

The World Health Organization (WHO) and other international humanitarian relief organizations have used Moringa to combat malnutrition in many parts of the world. The many medicinal, nutritional, industrial, and agricultural uses of Moringa are well documented. Fahey (2005) said that "the nutritional properties of Moringa are now so well known that there seems to be little doubt of the substantial health benefit to be realized by consumption of Moringa leaf powder in situations where starvation is imminent." The interest generated from the second international conference held in 2006 in Ghana on the uses of the Moringa tree has been so great that several national Moringa associations have already been formed in African countries.

Moringa is well adapted to most of sub-Saharan Africa, where the world's worst rates of malnutrition are found. Researches were not done on the multipurpose benefits of Moringa trees in Ethiopia. It has many advantages from environmental, economic and cultural perspectives.

**The World Health Organization (WHO) and other international humanitarian relief organizations have used Moringa to combat malnutrition in many parts of the world**