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Photo: Gebabo Gebrie

Tanzania's port services prefect maritime deal to neighbours: Amb. Shibru

BY EYUEL KIFLU

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia's neighbours should draw lesson from Tanzania's experience on reasonable port services as it ensures national and regional development, Ambassador Shibru Mamo said.

Speaking to *The Ethiopian Herald*, Ethiopian Ambassador to Tanzania, Shibru Mamo, emphasized the need

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Photo: Hadush Abraha

Dawit Wendimu

Tarcha witnesses Diaspora businesses' influx

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

TARCHA- Members of the Ethiopia Diaspora have been showing active involvement in investment and business activities in Tarcha town of the South West Ethiopia State and environs, the mayor stated.

Tarcha town Mayor Dawit Wendimu told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that Tarcha, the capital of Dawuro Zone and the Seat of the Social Sectors Cluster of the South Western Ethiopia State, has been witnessing the

See Tarcha witnesses ... Page 3

Ethiopia welcomes DP World's intent to port dev't

• Relation with UAE gaining new momentum

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) multinational logistics company DP World's desire to cooperate with Ethiopia in port development is a welcoming approach that the government is working for, Ethiopia's Ambassador to the UAE said.

In an exclusive interview with the Ethiopian

Press Agency (EPA), Ambassador Oumer Hussein stated that the Ethiopian government will negotiate on terms of cooperation that was initiated by the DP World for port development. "We would like to cooperate on port development with not only DP World, but also with any interested companies or countries."

Ambassador Oumer also said that Ethiopia's potential cooperation with the DP World would be an extension of its robust partnership with the UAE and it is more rewarding than similar accords that would be concluded with other parties.

While commenting on the Arab countries' political view on the Ethio-Somaliland port deal, the diplomat

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EU extends 'full support' for expediting Nat'l Dialogue process

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA -The European Union (EU) said it supports Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) to shortly begin the most important tasks of the National Dialogue process.

Approached by *The Ethiopian Herald* EU Ambassador to Ethiopia Roland Kobia

said that the National Dialogue would help Ethiopia to turn the page of a conflict and open a new chapter of reconciliation that enable the people to get back to normal life.

He expressed that EU has been evaluating the National Dialogue process since the beginning and now it requires the ENDC to

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Amb. Roland Kobia



Yonas Adaye (PhD)

ENDC participants' identification near to completion

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) said participants identification process is near to completion all over the country except in conflict-affected Amhara and Tigray states.

ENDC Commissioner Yonas Adaye (PhD) told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the commission considers commencing participants' identification in the two states whereby the security challenge has been largely resolved. In addition to the two states, four zones in the Central Ethiopia State have not yet been reached by the commission and it is working to commence operation there.

The ENDC has been covering Afar, Sidama, South West Ethiopia, Gambella, Benishangul-Gumuz, and most parts of the Oromia state so far. However, it is still not able to hold participants identification in Amhara and Tigray states due to sporadic unrest there. Accordingly, the commission has attempted to commence similar activities in these two states especially in areas with relative peace.

Yonas cited the Global Peace Index (GPI) report that Benin, Kenya, and Tunisia have capitalized on the relative peace in parts of the country to save the whole nation from collateral damage. "Those countries are benchmarks to our ability to transform our country to enduring peace and unity."

He further stated that the ENDC held fruitful discussions with Ethiopian Diasporas residing in different parts of the world through various channels. As a result, the commission gained significant inputs from the Diaspora community which helped it to conduct a successful National Dialogue.

"The commission has made consolidated efforts to ensure the inclusiveness of the dialogue and incorporate all segments of the society that are still in demand of representation."

Job fair easing TVET graduates' burdens: Project

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA- Enhancing job searching for TVET graduates is of significantly useful in combating unemployment, Addis Ababa Consortium of Catholic Congregations project said.

Speaking at the job fair event organized under the theme: "Connecting Skills and Opportunities" Inter-congregational network project Coordinator Solomon Dejene, told the Ethiopia Press Agency (EPA) that Addis Ababa Consortium of Catholic Congregations project has aimed at connecting employers and employees.

The exhibition aims to enhance job searching skills for TVET graduates in Addis Ababa who have undergone training as part of the inter-congregational network project.

The job fair through exhibitions, workshops, networking sessions can provide TVET graduates with a platform to connect themselves with potential employers. It also aims to foster strategic partnerships and showcase the achievements of the consortium, offering

a chance to contribute to sustainable livelihoods, he said.

As to him, the inter-congregational network project commenced three years ago. The project is committed to the holistic development of society, focusing on the integral well-being of individuals through healthcare, shelter, vocational training and employment initiatives. Now we are trying to collaboratively work with other stakeholders deploying a 1.9 million USD budget.

"The project has actively transformed the lives of IDPs, returnees, refugees and vulnerable individuals. Through healthcare services, shelter provision, vocational training and soft skill training, the project has successfully achieved a 70 percent employment rate among beneficiaries. And the project strives to address the youth unemployment crisis and create sustainable livelihoods," he added.

As to him, food preparation, leather good production, Arc welding, furniture making, basic electricity building installation, graphics design, IT, Care



Solomon Dejene

giving, soft skill and business and entrepreneurship training were provided for beneficiaries.

The consortium has consisted six Catholic Congregations such as Salesians of Don BOSCO, Salesians sisters, Missionary of Charity, JRS, Ursuline Sisters, and CMRS under the coordination of the Socio Pastoral Commission of the Addis Ababa, he said. Some 3,000 people are expected to visit the job fair.



Yohanes Ayalew (PhD).



Photo: Berihu Tadele

Ethiopia's diplomatic journey showcases path to success

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopian leaders have proved the world that outstanding capabilities in building strong diplomatic skills and ties with various countries throughout the century, so said Yohanes Ayalew (PhD).

Development Bank of Ethiopia (DBE) President Yohanes Ayalew (PhD) said that Ethiopia has had a 3,000 years diplomatic history in the world with strong government and people. It is the pioneer nation that has been defending colonialism, motivating freedom as well as a founding member of League of Nations. These all are the greatest achievements of the nation.

Approached by Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) regarding to Ethiopian Diplomacy Week and Exhibition, Yohanes said, "Wherever we go, the diplomacy work of the nation gives us patience and persistence that determine the nation's future path and needs to build in sustainable manner."

He further said that the organized exhibition has depicted the rich history of Ethiopia's diplomacy providing citizens with opportunities to know and learn more about the past and the present diplomatic endeavors.

"We need to make our economic diplomacy strong by applying good skills and consistence policy with a

view to maximizing the nation gain in the fields of trade, investment activity to attract investors and tourists to the nation to use untapped potential. The current generation should learn from past successes and challenges of Ethiopia's diplomatic history to sustain this good lesson," he added.

Diplomacy should not be left only to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or media outlet but all others are expected to contribute their share for instance Ethiopian Airlines to well introduce Ethiopia's image to the rest of the world. Besides, banks are required to work on diplomacy in financial sector by working diligently and attracting foreign investment, he noted.

Ethiopia, Italy ink 12 mln euro accord

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA (ENA)- Ethiopia and Italy have accorded on Implementing Agreement to support to job creation-oriented skills and infrastructural development, Ministry of Finance (MoF) disclosed.

According to Ministry of Finance, Italy commits to provide finance assistance for a total amount of 12 million euros comprising 10 million euros loan and two million euros grant.

The Agreement was inked by Finance State Minister Semereta Sewasew and Italian Ambassador to Ethiopia, Agostino Palese.

The Project aimed at supporting decent job creation by enabling the flow of skills, also involving Italian excellences for improving production processes and access to markets, particularly of women and young people.

It will contribute to the national drive for employment of approximately two million new young people aspiring to enter the job market annually.



Specifically, the agreement will finance infrastructural interventions to create a Skill Park in Addis Ababa, inclusive of a Centre of Excellence for Fashion and Design, and an enterprise Incubator/Hub in Jimma.

Tanzania's port services...

for Ethiopia's neighbours to draw lessons from Tanzania's exemplary provision of port services and the importance of a give-and-take mechanism in achieving this goal.

Ethiopia, known for its rapid economic growth, recognizes the significance of owning a port for facilitating international trade, attracting foreign direct investment, and bolstering the overall economy, he said.

Furthermore, the construction and integration of roads, railways, and airports associated with port infrastructure play a vital role in optimizing the country's supply chain and expanding its infrastructure, he elucidated.

Apart from internal challenges and external influences, Ethiopia's economy is steadily growing thanks to the social, economic and political reforms conducted in five years, he mentioned.

Additionally, Ethiopia's membership in the BRICS presents another opportunity for

economic advancement. Nevertheless, the country's economic growth needs to be balanced with its high population growth, making access to the sea an indispensable solution, according to Ambassador Shibru.

He urged other countries to follow Tanzania's approach, emphasizing its provision of free port services to neighbouring nations.

Tanzania not only provides port services for its neighbours but also allocates 20 hectares of dry port space for Zambia, the Ambassador noted.

Furthermore, Tanzania also grants tax-free port services for 45 days to the latter which shows, as to the Ambassador, the country's commitment to regional economic development.

While other countries have obtained port access through contractual agreements without significant opposition, Ethiopia's pursuit of access through a give-and-take mechanism has encountered unwarranted

opposition from certain countries and entities, Ambassador Shibru mentioned.

He emphasized the sacrifices made by Ethiopian troops in ensuring stability in Somalia and the region, underscoring the need for reciprocal support from neighbouring countries for Ethiopia's port access.

Rejecting the mutual benefit mechanism of give and take would hinder progress and indicate a lack of readiness for Agenda 2063, according to Ambassador Shibru.

He called for collaboration between Ethiopia and its neighbours to achieving port access through a give-and-take approach, highlighting its potential for fostering regional economic growth.

The Ambassador stressed that this collaboration is crucial and juxtaposed with the collective efforts of Ethiopians in the construction of Abbay Dam.

Ethiopia welcomes...

advised members of the Arab League to examine the rationale of the accord and to shun their aggressive stance and provocative approach.

"As members of the Arab League, the countries may issue similar statements. However, it does not necessarily mean all of them demonstrate similar stances while dealing at a bilateral level. Something must be clear that the noise of those interest groups wielding hidden agendas in the League will be settled in due course of time."

According to him, the one-to-one relationship with foreign countries determines what could happen in Ethiopia's national interest. "They all know which position would preserve their national interest... [] We hope they will realize the civility of Ethiopia's intention soon."

He further highlighted that Ethiopia's diplomatic relation with the UAE is gaining new momentum supplemented by ambitious agreements. "The UAE investment in Ethiopia hits a 2.4 billion USD mark and Ethiopians are also investing in Emirates in a great number. The two governments' strong aspiration is the driving force for the growth of Ethio-UAE diplomatic ties. In my view, the huge investment potential is still untapped."

Ethiopia's geographical proximity with the UAE and other Gulf Arab countries is also suitable to enhance trade and commercial ties. The Gulf Arab countries are reliant on food imports from nations far away from the region and Ethiopia has every potential to become an active player in the UAE market in particular and the region's market in general, Ambassador Oumer remarked.

EU extends...

finalize the preliminary works shortly and begin undertaking the most important tasks.

According to Ambassador, the EU is one of the first international partners to support ENDC through technical and financial assistance to facilitate its activities given that National Dialogue is an opportunity for Ethiopia to achieve reconciliation.

He further noted that the National Dialogue is not a mechanism to address minor conflicts, it rather is a system to identify long term resolution and ensure common understanding among all parties on national matters.

EU desires to see the government, political parties and others to build peace across the country, he expressed.

"We believe in national reconciliation." Since its establishment, the national dialogue commission deployed a lot of efforts for two years to consult across the country at all levels, he recalled.

He believed that the ENDC has accomplished an important consultation and still doing it because some areas need to be done.

However, the initial consultation activities should be finalized in a short period of time so as to begin the major tasks of the national dialogue, he suggested.

Tarcha witnesses Diaspora...

ever-increasing participation of the Diaspora in various investments. The Diasporas have been investing in mining, hospitality, real estate, food processing and other areas since last year in a large number.

"We are providing plots for viable investment projects in the town and surrounding areas. Among the big-scale investment projects in the town is a real estate business by members of the Ethiopian Diaspora who are native to Dawuro Zone with an initial capital of 200 million Birr."

According to the mayor, the Diasporas, who are coming from different parts of the world, formed a team and requested the town administration to provide them with plots for real estate development. Having evaluated the proposal, the town's

administration has permitted four-hectare land for the real estate investment.

Having received the land for construction, the Diasporas begin the preparation for construction and conduct soil tests and other related activities. "Real estate investment is new for our town and even at a state level," Dawit noted, adding that the administration has been extending relentless support for the execution of the project and working with members of the Diaspora to that end.

Now in its pre-construction phase, the real estate project has employed 27 local youth and when the construction begins, it will create more than 500 jobs. The mayor further called on Diasporas who are native to Dawuro Zone and others to do business in Tarcha town and surrounding areas which

has an immense investment potential in various sectors.

"In addition to Tarcha, investors could benefit themselves and the public at large by exploring the area's untapped business potential and we encourage and incentivize them to participate in priority sectors."

Dawuro Zone Head Dawit Gebeyehu for his part said that the zone is open for Diaspora's and other stakeholders' investment. In addition to their involvement in different businesses, Diasporas who are native to Dawuro Zone are supporting the area's development endeavors.

"Through mobilizing the local community, we are working to expand road infrastructure and the Diasporas are providing financial support to the public's effort," the head remarked.

Opinion

A glimpse of Ethiopia's diplomatic endeavor

BY HIZKEL HAILU

Ethiopia, which is a land of ancient civilization and a symbol of African resilience, has embarked on a remarkable journey of diplomacy. With a view to creating opportunities for a viable diplomatic trek, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) of the country, recently organized an event to mark 'Diplomacy Week' at Science Museum, in Addis Ababa, which was conducted under the theme "From an African Hub to The World." This event, featuring a captivating photo exhibition, is attracting diplomats and international communities, offering a comprehensive glimpse into Ethiopia's diplomatic history and its multifaceted engagement with the global community.

This piece targets at exploring the significance of Ethiopia's Diplomatic Week, highlighting the diverse contents of the exhibition and the importance of such initiatives in shaping the country's future on the international arena based on this visit at the Science Museum.

I. Ethiopia's diplomatic journey

The exhibition exhibits not only the 116 years of Ethiopian diplomatic journey carried out since the establishment of MoFA, but it also demonstrates the ancient diplomatic engagements of the country from the legendary Queen Sheba to the present. The nation in each era has played a pivotal role in regional and international affairs. The exhibition at the diplomacy week serves as a window into this captivating journey.

The exhibition showcases notable diplomatic milestones, emphasizing Ethiopia's commitment to peace, cooperation, and mutual understanding. Besides, it highlights what future diplomacy will look like. The diplomatic feats and challenges that Ethiopia has been through are also presented in a variety of ways.

According to ancient Ethiopian tradition, Queen Sheba (also known as Queen Makeda) had a legendary diplomatic encounter with King Solomon of Israel. The story goes that she traveled to Jerusalem, seeking wisdom from King Solomon, and the two engaged in diplomatic exchanges. This encounter is believed to have laid the foundation for diplomatic and trade relations between Ethiopia and Israel.

Throughout Ethiopia's ancient history, diplomatic engagements played a crucial role in expanding trade, fostering cultural exchange, and establishing Ethiopia's regional influence. From the legendary Queen Sheba's encounter with King Solomon to the reign of Emperor Menelik II, Ethiopia's diplomatic heritage has been deeply rooted in its ancient past, shaping its identity and positioning on the world stage. It also showcases the current Ethiopia's diplomatic activities coupled with fostering the future digital diplomacy.

II. Political diplomacy: A legacy of sovereignty, Pan-Africanism

Ethiopia's political diplomacy has been shaped by its unwavering commitment to sovereignty and Pan-Africanism. The

exhibition has highlighted significant moments, such as Ethiopia's resistance against colonialism, its role in the formation of the Organization of African Unity (now African Union), and its contributions to peacekeeping efforts in the region as well as other ever remembered scenarios that would potentially help the nation bring about real difference in all aspects centering nation's relations, be they are bilateral, trilateral or multilateral connections. Pan-Africanism represents Ethiopia's dedication to the unity and progress of the African continent as a whole.

Through political diplomacy, Ethiopia has consistently advocated for African unity, self-determination, and the resolution of conflicts through dialogue. The exhibition is a significant event where the country showcases its political diplomacy. One of the key themes highlighted through this exhibition is Ethiopia's role as a legacy of sovereignty and Pan-Africanism, reflecting its historical and ongoing commitment to these principles.

Throughout its rich history, Ethiopia has successfully resisted colonization and maintained its sovereignty. All the efforts exerted along this line have provided Ethiopia with courage and firm determination to be one of the few African countries that have never been colonized. Such an astounding status of the nation makes it a pioneer for other African countries to declare independence and lift themselves from the yoke of colonialism. This legacy of sovereignty is a source of pride for Ethiopians and underscores their deep-rooted national identity.

The diplomatic pictures also highlight Ethiopia's historical involvement in various continental and international institutions. One notable example is the League of Nations, the precursor to the United Nations, where Ethiopia was a founding member. This demonstrates the country's active engagement in global affairs and its commitment to multilateralism.

Moreover, Ethiopia's membership in other regional and international organizations showcases its desire to contribute to the resolution of global challenges. These institutions include the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), among others. Ethiopia's participation in these organizations enables it to have a voice in shaping regional and global policies, advocating for African interests, and collaborating with other nations to address common issues such as peace and security, climate change, trade, and development.

III. Coffee diplomacy: Sharing Ethiopia's liquid gold

Ethiopia's coffee diplomacy has a rich history, following the country's being birthplace of coffee itself. The exhibition has portrayed that the journey of Ethiopian coffee, from its origins to becoming a global symbol of hospitality and friendship, has contributed a lot to the country's rife recognition across the globe. Ethiopia's coffee diplomacy emphasizes sustainable practices, fair trade, and the empowerment of local coffee

farmers. By sharing its liquid gold, Ethiopia strengthens diplomatic ties and promotes a deeper appreciation for its cultural heritage.

The coffee diplomacy corner at the exhibition, where visitors are invited to taste Ethiopian coffee, serves as an important platform for cultural exchange and introducing Ethiopia's coffee to the international community. Ethiopia has a deep-rooted and rich coffee heritage. Coffee is originated in Ethiopia, and the country is renowned for producing high-quality Arabica coffee beans. By inviting exhibitors to taste Ethiopian coffee, it provides an opportunity to showcase this cultural heritage and the unique flavors and aromas associated with Ethiopian coffee.

The coffee diplomacy corner therefore, serves as a platform for cultural exchange, introducing Ethiopia's coffee heritage to the international community, and promoting the country's coffee industry. It creates opportunities for dialogue, trade partnerships, and a deeper appreciation of Ethiopia's coffee culture, contributing to a broader understanding and recognition of the country's cultural and economic significance in the global coffee landscape.

IV. Sports diplomacy: Uniting nations through athletics

Sports diplomacy has emerged as a powerful tool for fostering goodwill and enhancing diplomatic relations. Ethiopia's prowess in athletics is celebrated worldwide, and the exhibition highlights the country's achievements in long-distance running. Through sports diplomacy, Ethiopia transcends borders, promoting peace, friendship, and cultural exchange.

The inclusion of the Sports Diplomacy content highlighting Ethiopia's role as a founding member of the African Football Cup, as well as the achievements of Ethiopian athletes such as Abebe Bikila and the other 20 Olympic gold medalists, holds significant diplomatic significance.

Sports have a unique ability to bring people together, transcend cultural and political boundaries, and foster a sense of unity and camaraderie. By showcasing Ethiopia's involvement in the African Football Cup and the achievements of its athletes, it highlights the country's role in using sports as a tool for fostering positive diplomatic relations among African nations.

Success in sports can also generate a sense of national pride and act as a form of soft power for a country. By highlighting Ethiopia's involvement in the African Football Cup and the numerous Olympic gold medalists, it reinforces the positive image of the nation on the international stage. This recognition can enhance Ethiopia's influence and reputation, opening doors for diplomatic engagement, cultural exchange, and economic opportunities.

Hence, the inclusion of Sports Diplomacy promotes unity, cultural exchange, and understanding enhances Ethiopia's national pride and soft power, facilitates diplomatic engagements and international cooperation, and inspires future generations.

V. Bilateral, Multilateral diplomacy: Building bridges with the world

Ethiopia's bilateral and multilateral diplomacy plays a crucial role in its global engagement. The exhibition features key partnerships and diplomatic efforts undertaken by Ethiopia, emphasizing its commitment to regional integration, peace building, and collaboration on global issues. Through diplomatic channels, Ethiopia aims to address shared challenges, foster economic growth, and promote sustainable development.

The exhibition's photos highlighting Ethiopia's diplomatic history demonstrate the country's historical continuity in engaging with other nations. Visitors can observe that Ethiopia's diplomatic interactions have spanned centuries, showcasing the nation's enduring commitment to bilateral and multilateral relationships.

Moreover, as Ethiopia's diplomatic engagements throughout history have facilitated cultural exchange and influenced the country's development, visitors can witness the impact of diplomatic interactions on Ethiopia's art, architecture, language, and cultural practices, reflecting the interplay between Ethiopia and other civilizations. The exhibition can also provide examples of Ethiopia's diplomatic achievements, such as treaties, agreements, and alliances established with other nations over time. Visitors can gain an appreciation for Ethiopia's diplomatic prowess and its ability to navigate international relations successfully.

The evolution of Ethiopia's diplomatic approaches and priorities from ancient times to the present are also visible on the exhibition. This is seemingly important for visitors to observe shifts in Ethiopia's foreign policy, diplomatic alliances, and engagement with regional and international organizations, providing a broader understanding of the country's diplomatic journey.

The exhibition showcasing Ethiopia's bilateral and multilateral diplomatic path allows visitors to acquire a comprehensive understanding of Ethiopia's historical and present-day diplomatic engagements. It offers insights into cultural exchange, diplomatic achievements, challenges, evolution, and provides valuable lessons for Ethiopia and the international community.

All in all, Ethiopia's Diplomacy Week serves as a testament to the nation's diplomatic journey, highlighting its historical legacy, cultural richness, economic potential, and commitment to global engagement. This event not only showcases Ethiopia's achievements but also fosters dialogue, understanding, and collaboration among nations. As Ethiopia continues to position itself as an African hub to the world, initiatives like Diplomacy Week play a vital role in shaping its future on the international stage. Through diplomacy, Ethiopia paves the way for a brighter, more interconnected, and prosperous future for itself and the global community.

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

Editorial

Pastoralists are catalysts of development

The overall development of a country's economy should not ignore the needs and objective situation of the pastoralist community as they play an integral role in the overall development of the country.

Globally, the pastoralist community accounts for 25 % of the total cattle resources while in Africa this figure is estimated to rise up to more than 60 %. This carries a lot of meanings as pastoralism contributes to many sectors of the economy like agriculture and tourism.

African countries should also give due attention to transforming the life of the pastoralist community both to cope with the current situation of the world including overcoming the impacts of climate change as well as to boost their usual contribution to the economy. Ethiopia is one of the countries in the world that is rich in its livestock resources. A considerable portion of the livestock population is accounted for by the pastoralist community.

Pastoralism supports the economy of countries like Ethiopia through supplying vital inputs to agriculture. Agriculture is the backbone of the country's economy. Therefore, the pastoralist community needs to be empowered to revamp its supply to the sector.

In addition to the agriculture sector, pastoralists play a vital role in the development of the tourism sector in Africa. Africa has a good potential for development via tourism. The future tourism development in Africa is likely to be a mix of safari and cultural tourism, to which the pastoralist input will be harder to omit or neglect.

Pastoralist communities do all their contribution to the nation in spite of many hurdles that affect their day to day activities as well as their wellbeing or existence. One of the major challenges that the community faces is the global threat of climate change. Pastoralist communities largely depend on nature. They cannot feed their cattle with commercially grown fodder or factory produced items. Therefore, they are at the forefront of decimation if drought happens to the extent that happened in parts of Ethiopia like Borana and Guji zones of Oromia State as well as in Somali State in recent years.

It is to be recalled that drought that surfaced in these places for at least three rainy seasons has devoured a huge sum of cattle. Furthermore, untimely rain which is the outcome of climate change has also caused a lot of destruction against the livestock of the pastoralists that survived the drought. In many ways, climate change is an imminent threat to the wellbeing of pastoralists and needs due attention.

Pastoralists also need the necessary support from government and non-governmental institutions so as to transform their living situation in a way that enables them to enhance their safety and productivity. For instance, many cattle herders who own hundreds of animals lose some of them as they have to move long distances in search of water. This will expose them to predator animal attack as well as loss of the weight of animals that will cause the fall of their price in the market.

This calls for the need to speed up the efforts to introduce sedentary cattle rearing without eroding the beautiful and ages old tradition that otherwise helps them in attracting tourism. By encouraging settlements, pastoralists can provide water and fodder and medication as well as access to suitable markets.

In this regard, governments and concerned institutions need to redouble their efforts to transform the pastoralist community with all their indigenous knowledge and traditional culture as their economic contribution can pay back exponentially.



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Opinion

Regional integration as a means for common development, shared future

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

It goes without saying throughout history nations worldwide have unceasingly focus attention on the safeguarding and preservation of their national interests, a practice that go back to the very foundation of nations. As sure as eggs is eggs this widespread phenomena which has assumed multifaceted representations throughout the ages have constantly maintained to influence our circumstances of the present age.

It is common knowledge that in the course of a wide spectrum of periods, nations have put innumerable strategies into effect with the intention of safeguarding their countries' interests at irregular intervals regressing back to dynamic and wide-ranging measures such as becoming involved in unconcealed or surreptitious contention in reaction to potential threats encroaching on their welfares.

Needless to say, these actions designed for preserving their integrity have not been without repercussions sometimes imposing worth mentioning handicaps upon the global community. In the same manner, as compared to the abovementioned method, nations worldwide have historically functioned on the basis of the principle of trying to find mutual benefits for their nations and maintaining their national interests.

This standpoint necessitates a mutual exchange where nations endeavor to augment the affluence and safety of their people no matter what the cost may be. Furthermore, it has been noted that nations have put peaceful and diplomatic methods into effect to lift up the existing situation of their frontrunners upholding an amicable relationship between the ruler and the people by entrusting them with the power to guide the nation alongside warm expressions of backing and congratulations.

It becomes evident that nations have been putting into practice prevention driven mindset with the purpose of protecting their domestic interests searching for groundbreaking ways to tackle these encounters.

One widespread approach encompasses forging close-knit relationships and establishing regional associations which operate as platforms to heighten collaboration as well as accommodatingly build capacity to overcome deterrents. Unusually, the European Union acts as a striking example of such a collaborative effort signifying the effectiveness of this approach in defending shared interests and bolstering stability.

This shift towards concerted action to resolve a conflict reflects the credit that complicated problems demand combined efforts with nations joining their possessions, understanding, and knowledge to tackle collective interests on a regional scale. By coming together and cashing in on the strengths of multiple nations, countries can better voyage the intricacies of the decade that followed next era and ensure the protection of their vivacious national

interests.

It is clear that nations have a tendency to give priority to the protection of their domestic interests, even if that means establishing army bases in off-the-beaten-path locations often thousands of kilometers away from their restrictions.

It is well-known that nations consider the utilization of force as a strategic option when they believe it necessary to advance their interests, despite this decision is typically made after careful deliberation and consideration of the potential consequences. By demonstrating a willingness to assert their power when required, nations aim to ensure the conservation of their vital national interests and promote stability in a progressively multifaceted worldwide landscape.

The notable presence of military bases encompassing the Red Sea region serves as an actual signal of the importance attached to this tactical area. Countless nations incorporating those considered dominant in the international arena have turned their attention towards the Red Sea acknowledging that any potential threat in this region could constitute a hazard to their national interests.

As a consequence, their tendency to set up armed bases in the area has seen a continuous growth as nations move heaven and earth to amalgamate their presence and reinforce their positions with the intention of effectively protecting their captivating interest within this geopolitically critical zone.

Taking its profound strategic importance on a world scale into account, the attention drawn to the Red Sea region is entirely understandable. Numerous individuals assert that this area is not only vital to their national interests but also dwell in a central position in their strategic focus. The anticipation of such attention is completely defensible including within the scope of one of the appropriate grounds to the predominant uncertainty witnessed within the territory.

Honestly speaking, the potential occurrence of any international threat in the region does not directly impact citizens residing within the countries of the region. It is important to recognize that some attempts are being made to label the efforts of these local countries in safeguarding their own national interests as a broader concern for the international community. Ethiopia ardently advocates its legal, historical, and moral entitlement to possess a coastal gateway as a secure alternative considering the gravity of the challenges posed by this issue.

It is advantageous to the broader international community to recognize and vigorously take part in exploring all potential peaceful solutions to smooth the progress of the realization of this justified claim. In fact, it is the collective responsibility of the global community to actively support and work towards transforming this rightful aspiration into a tangible reality.

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

Business & Economy

New Outlook: Efforts to revive Ethiopia's economy

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

Ethiopia, facing a challenging economic situation, is implementing new strategies and reforms to revive its struggling economy and improve the livelihoods of its citizens. Despite the precarious conditions, the government is actively pursuing measures to bring about positive change and ensure the nation's progress.

One recent development in Ethiopia's economic landscape is the collaboration between the government and the Netherlands Development Cooperation to promote the expansion of biogas development programs. Carlos Bueso, the team leader of the SNV Biogas Dissemination Scale-Up Program expressed their commitment to supporting Ethiopia's plan to install 160,000 bio digesters by 2030. This initiative aims to provide clean energy to rural farmers, contributing to their welfare and the overall improvement of living standards.

The Netherlands Development Cooperation has been actively involved in Ethiopia since 2017, with a focus on agri-food, energy, and water sectors. Their support for the biogas technology stems from its numerous benefits for farmers at the household level. Bueso emphasized that biogas technology not only provides sustainable and clean cooking options but also addresses sanitation issues as the bio digesters are linked to toilets, offering a comprehensive solution. Furthermore, the bio digesters produce organic fertilizer, which enhances crop yields, soil fertility, and soil health, thereby benefiting the farmers in multiple ways. Since 2017, over 25,000 digesters have already been installed in nine regions of Ethiopia as part of the project.

Bueso highlighted the tremendous potential of biogas in Ethiopia, given the size of the country's livestock sector. He estimated that more than 4 million digesters could be installed, which would cover approximately 23% of the total population. Scaling up the use of biogas as an alternative energy source is crucial for Ethiopia, as a significant portion of the population still relies on solid biomass for cooking, which has detrimental effects on the environment. The introduction of biogas technology represents a breakthrough for the country's sustainable development goals.

The successful implementation of the third phase of the Biogas Dissemination Scale-Up Program in Ethiopia (NBPE+) has had positive outcomes. It has generated over 2,000 green jobs and supported the establishment or expansion of more than 300 enterprises involved in biogas production. These achievements demonstrate the program's effectiveness in contributing to economic growth and job creation.

In addition to the biogas initiative, Ethiopia's economic achievements and post-conflict reconstruction efforts were discussed during a meeting between Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen and President of the World Economic

The government's ongoing reforms and international collaborations are instrumental in creating a new outlook for Ethiopia's economy and fostering sustainable growth

Forum, Borge Brende, at the annual World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Demeke highlighted the government's economic policy reforms, which have contributed to sustained annual GDP growth. He also emphasized the importance of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam as a flagship project that showcases the government's commitment to expanding development projects and investing in key sectors to enhance the country's economic performance.

Borge Brende praised Ethiopia for its active participation in the World Economic Forum and expressed the forum's interest in strengthening its partnership with the country. This acknowledgment highlights Ethiopia's growing significance on the global economic stage.

Demeke Mekonnen's participation in the World Economic Forum provided opportunities for further discussions with other leaders. He met with the Vice President of Tanzania, Philip Isdor Mpango, and the Director-General of the World Intellectual Property Organization, Daren Tang. The discussions focused on various topics, including the construction of the

Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and the potential for cooperation in intellectual property matters. Both Tanzania and the World Intellectual Property Organization expressed their commitment to collaboration and their support for Ethiopia's endeavors.

Ethiopia's presence at the World Economic Forum demonstrates its determination to rebuild trust and engage with global partners to address critical issues such as development, security, innovation, and climate change. The government's ongoing reforms and international collaborations are instrumental in creating a new outlook for Ethiopia's economy and fostering sustainable growth.

Coffee tourism has gained significant popularity in recent years due to the increasing global interest in specialty coffee, sustainability, and experiential travel. Travelers are now seeking immersive experiences in the world of coffee production, which has led to the emergence of coffee tourism as a vibrant niche within the broader tourism industry. Coffee enthusiasts, cultural explorers, and adventurers are drawn to coffee-producing regions, where they can engage in activities such as coffee farm tours, hands-on participation in coffee harvesting and processing, coffee tasting sessions, and learning about the intricacies of brewing coffee. These experiences allow travelers to delve deep into the rich cultural heritage and picturesque landscapes associated with coffee production.

Beyond its cultural and educational value, coffee tourism has become a significant contributor to foreign currency earnings in countries with thriving coffee industries. International travelers who engage in coffee-related activities contribute to the local economy by spending money on accommodations, local transportation, meals, souvenirs, and various other experiences. As a result, the tourism sector becomes a valuable source of foreign exchange earnings, diversifying revenue streams for coffee-producing regions. This diversification reduces their dependency on volatile coffee commodity prices, providing alternative income sources that are less susceptible to market fluctuations, according to documents.

Coffee tourism also stimulates job creation within local communities, offering employment opportunities in the hospitality industry, transportation services, guiding roles, and other related sectors. This economic growth contributes to poverty reduction, infrastructure development, and an overall improvement in living standards in coffee-producing regions.

Furthermore, emphasizing high-quality coffee production and sustainable practices enhances the overall coffee tourism experience. Certifications such as Fair Trade, Rainforest Alliance, or organic certifications can attract conscious travelers who value ethical and sustainable practices.

In the case of Ethiopia, promoting its organic coffee and boosting exports can be achieved through various strategies. Obtaining internationally recognized certifications such as Organic, Fair Trade, and Rainforest Alliance for Ethiopian organic coffee ensures consumers of its organic production methods, sustainability, and fair trade practices. Developing a strong marketing and branding strategy specifically for Ethiopian organic coffee, highlighting its unique characteristics, flavors, and cultural heritage, is crucial. Participating in international coffee trade shows and exhibitions provides valuable networking opportunities and positions Ethiopia as a leading producer of high-quality organic coffee.

Despite the negative propaganda by some western media and partners, many have the confidence that Ethiopia is a dynamic country with an established state system and resilient people that can overcome any.

The experiences of many African and some non-African countries show that sporadic conflict is not an absolute impediment to FDI. Investors always anticipate challenges and provide solutions in advance. Secondly, the Government has taken bold investment-related reforms, including the legal and institutional frameworks and administrative measures that ease doing business in Ethiopia.

The reforms have caught the eyes of stake holders, and several foreign investors have decided to involve in the nation economic endeavor. Thirdly, we live in a multipolar world where several middle powers are making notable influence and contributions in less developed countries like Ethiopia. Multipolarism has created the advantage of widening policy options for Ethiopia as it no more relies on the will of a single partner to get what it needs to address its challenges.

While the foreign policy has, for decades, been directed towards attracting FDI as a key priority, the coming into power of Prime Minister Abiy (PhD) has enabled a new chapter where the legal and institutional framework, as well as administrative procedures pertaining to investment in general and FDI in particular, have been significantly reformed towards a more liberal, latest and favorable system.

With the Government's introduction of the Home-Grown Economic Policy, the primary focus of the Foreign Policy has been promoting and implementing this program. While implementing this program requires more aggressive diplomacy, the program has eased the diplomatic work by introducing inherently attractive and liberal initiatives.

Uplifting Ethiopia's regional and global influence requires a wide range of measures at home and abroad. First, to be a regional hegemon, Ethiopia must keep up its good relation with the neighboring through dedicating in its peace keeping missions and fighting terrorism in a cooperative manner.

Art & Culture



Will digital era fix or keep the bias behind the spinning world?

BY WORKU BELACHEW

The projection and perspective of the continents particularly on the World Map are subject of controversy among cartographers. The distortion of the size of some continents on the World Map as well as the perspective that keeps some continents on the “up” and the rest on the “lower” part of the globe are the epicenter of debating among scholars.

Though it appears as a merry-go-round debate for some, a great deal of scholars treats the topic in the context of tackling the entrenched oppressor/oppressed relations. Both the map and the globe tacitly serve to define power relations between the Global North and Global South if you like.

The CNN published an article by Sophie Morlin-Yron in March 2017 entitled ‘What’s the real size of Africa? How Western states used maps to downplay size of continent’.

According to Morlin-Yron, Geert de Kremer (Gerardus Mercator) projection of the world map is highly misleading. The said projection of the map is the one which is widely in use even in their Google map. And our long-held concept of the map and globe is rooted in the 16th C Mercator projection.

“Mercator initially made globes. Later transferring his map from a three-dimensional curved surface to a flat sheet of paper was problematic. Taking the equator as the logical map center left big, confusing gaps near the poles,” argues Morlin-Yron.

The Euro-centric view is responsible for shaping our perspective as far as the map and the globe are concerned. We have taken for granted both the distortion and the nominal ‘top-down’ perspective of the continents.

Isn’t it stunning to read that a fair projection



of the map of Africa can comfortably fit a landmass as big as three times the size of Canada? But on the map, Canada is projected as larger, may be appearing close to the size of Africa.

There isn’t dispute in the distortion of the size of Africa and may be others as well. One could argue that maps themselves have evolved historically at different civilizations and by various cartographers, and distortion is unavoidable. But, the thing is, maps and their representations go beyond demonstrating geographical boundaries and landscapes.

Farish A. Noor (PhD) (an Associate Professor), a scholar who is said to have been collecting and interpreting old maps for three decades, had this to say in his article published in 2015: “By reading maps I mean that the map is never simply a chart or a plan of territory, but also a statement (of intent or ambition) that can be interpreted and understood.”

It is a little less than half-a-century since McArthur’s Universal Corrective Map has brought a new perspective. It puts the map “upside down.” In February 2014, Nick Danforth published an article that goes with a title: ‘How the north ended up on top of the map’.

Why raising this topic now?

The diplomatic week and exhibition at the Science Museum in Addis Ababa have once again brought the topic to the attention of this writer.

The exhibition launched on Jan 11, 2024 goes

with a catchphrase; “From an African hub to the world.” The catchphrase attempts to epitomize the role Ethiopia has been playing in fulfilling its international commitment aside from serving as the diplomatic capital of Africa. Ethiopia’s role has been seamless particularly for the maintenance of international peace. Emperor Haile Selassie had seen the looming danger that would engulf the world while he urged members of the League of Nations to be true to their own covenants and morality in his appeal at in 1936. The League neither safeguarded the sovereignty of Ethiopia nor did it prevent another round of World War.

After the end of WWII, Ethiopia became the only independent African founding member of the UN. Ethiopia under the blue helmet of the UN proved its commitment to safeguarding world peace. It also championed the unity of Africa and played a forerunner role in founding the OAU, the present day AU. Ethiopia’s health professionals helped the fight against the deadly Ebola in the West Africa. Ethiopian continued connecting Africa to the rest of the world and delivered emergency kits to fellow Africans in times that other airlines had banned flights. Over and beyond, the ancient country, Ethiopia, serves as a symbol of freedom to all the oppressed.

Visualizing Ethiopian diplomacy

The gate of the exhibition at the Science Museum imitates the sentimental building of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The design incorporates other features as well.

As can be seen in the picture here, the semi-circle (arch) structure represents the globe. It depicts the global nature of Ethiopian diplomacy. And there are seven rays at the interior part of the arch (intrados) which shows Ethiopia’s extensive diplomatic relations that spans across all the continents. The front design of the gate features the unique pattern of the Ministry’s building. Each layer is interconnected with hexagonal structures.

The design works of the building that were completed in 1964 apparently symbolize the English letter “Y” and “K”. As this writer has heard from a senior diplomat, the “K” and “Y” stand for the initial letters of the given names of then Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Minister of Finance (Ketema Yifru was Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yilma Deressa served as Minister of Finance). The duo cooperated in the construction of the Headquarters’ building in their respective capacities, according to the diplomat. As art work is always subject to multiple interpretations, it is given that there could be other symbolism embedded it.

The thing is, as you walked inside, passing the giant magnificent gate; you would be greeted by a huge rotating Globe. The Globe has to do with Ethiopia’s diplomacy that is first depicted by the arch and the rays at the gate. Here you will see the sites of the Ethiopian diplomatic missions on the globe represented by a blinking light.

Here lies the crux of this piece of writing. In this writer’s view, the continent, Africa, appeared visibly large on the globe. The vastness of Africa is reflected on the Globe. And one would say that it creates a good impression on any keen spectator. The positive impression on children would also be huge. There is a power in representation of course.

The colonial period as, V.Y. Mudimbe, hypnotized (see *The Invention of Africa*), did not only organized and arranged the modes of production and physical space, it also formatted the minds of the people.

Yet, African children and youths of this digital era should get enough opportunity to see the world anew. And freeing the mind from the domination must involve understanding ourselves and the world around us in our own standards. The entrenched concepts and practices...need to be deconstructed.

Indepth

African women on the frontline of peacekeeping

For over a year, a group of United Nations peacekeepers from Ghana led by Captain Esinam Baah regularly patrolled the “blue line” or the demarcation line between Lebanon and Israel, and visited neighborhoods in the area, checking in with local families and making sure they were safe.

In 2022, Baah was one of the 173 Ghanaian women peacekeepers who served in the UN Interim Mission in Lebanon. She was also one of the 6,200 uniformed women peacekeepers – military and police personnel – serving in the world’s 12 peacekeeping missions which are mostly in Africa (6) and the Middle East (3).

These women are seen as a beacon of hope and protection for millions of civilians, many of them women and girls, who are struggling to keep safe while helping to rebuild their lives and communities after wars.

“There are some in the town who are not very comfortable with an unknown man talking to their females so, because I am a woman, I am able to approach any female, in any town, because they see me as a woman and I am not a threat,” says Baah.

Gender parity in peacekeeping, especially among its leaders and uniformed personnel, has long been a priority for the United Nations. The organization, which depends on its member countries to provide military and police contingents, has launched several initiatives over the years, including urging and incentivizing troop-and-police-contributing countries to deploy more women peacekeepers.

“The world will be a better place with gender equality. We should, therefore, continue to challenge gender stereotypes, call out discrimination, draw attention to biases and seek out inclusion,” says Ghanaian Commodore Faustina Anokye, the Deputy Force Commander of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, on critical ways to overcome the gender barriers.

Over the years, some progress has been made. Between 1957 and 1989, there were only 20 uniformed women in peacekeeping. As of September 2023, there were 6,200. But progress has been slow and particularly low among the military contingents. Out of the more than 70,000 uniformed peacekeepers, including over 62,000 troops, less than 10 percent are women.

More than half of these women are from Africa. Among the over 120 countries that contribute both troops and police, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa and Zambia are some of Africa’s largest contributors of uniformed women peacekeepers today.

Pioneers, trailblazers

“Together, with all the other women pioneers, we have a responsibility to



Téné Maimouna Zougrana is a corrections officer from Burkina Faso who served with MINUSCA.

carry the torch and break down the gender stereotypes, prejudices and barriers against women in the field of corrections and security,” says Téné Maïmouna Zougrana, a corrections officer from Burkina Faso who served in the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

Zougrana was awarded the first-ever UN Trailblazer Award for Women Justice and Corrections Officers in 2022. Working under MINUSCA’s mandate to help build-up the national capacity to maintain law and order, she was instrumental in creating an all-women rapid intervention team, and recruiting and training local prison officers at the Ngaragba Central Prison – considered the largest and the most notorious prison in Bangui.

“In my professional environment, the field of security, women are often placed second or even ignored, because of stereotypical perceptions that men are better suited for the job. I had the courage and strength, and vocation, to break down barriers and assert myself confidently in this field,” adds Zougrana.

Restrictive and biased deployment opportunities, gendered perceptions of the role of women, lack of family-friendly policies, and insufficient women in national militaries and police forces are some of the reasons for the lack of gender parity, according to the UN Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy, which was launched in 2018.

Female peacekeepers like Zougrana act as role models for many women and girls. Her work helps to break down traditional gender barriers, and motivates and empowers local women to take on non-traditional roles monopolized by men in the security sector – improving their access to meaningful jobs and contribution to society, and helping to

build their confidence.

Peacekeepers also play a critical role in putting in place gender-sensitive outreach programs designed specifically to cater to the unique needs of women and girls. Military Gender Advisor Steplyne Nyaboga from Kenya, who won the UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year award in 2020, was one such peacekeeper.

She trained a military contingent of more than 15,000 troops, who served in the UN Mission in Darfur (now closed), on gender dynamics and strengthened the mission’s engagement with Darfuri women.

“Peacekeeping is a human enterprise: placing women and girls at the center of our efforts and concerns will help us better protect civilians and build a more sustainable peace,” says Nyaboga.

Over the decades, international norms and conventions have been adopted to include women in peace processes – to make sure women are represented in peace negotiations, support women civil society organizations and address the gender imbalance among decision-makers that continues to exist today.

In 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, formalized the urgent need to address women’s empowerment and inclusion in conflict resolution among other priorities, paving the way for the adoption of the landmark UN Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in 2000 – which acknowledged and highlighted the importance of women’s contributions to conflict prevention and resolution, peacekeeping and peace building.

More recently in 2019, the Elise Initiative Fund, hosted by UN Women, was established to provide countries with financial incentives and support to increase the number of uniformed women peacekeepers. By 2022,

it had invested \$17 million to support 21 national security institutions, including in Uganda, Senegal and Ghana, and two peacekeeping operations such as the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali.

“It is now time to live up to those commitments and walk the talk. We need to bring the voices of women to the negotiation table in political and peace processes. We must empower them through capacity-building and provide the support they need to be heard. This is a must for sustaining peace,” says the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Africa Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee.

On the ground, the indispensable work of women peacekeepers continues to make a major impact especially in the lives of local women and girls. Jackline Urujeni, who commanded a force of 160 Rwandan police officers, half of whom were women, in the UN Mission in South Sudan, faces many questions about her work in a traditionally patriarchal security structure.

“Women here (in South Sudan) have asked me a lot of questions, especially when they understand that I’m the commanding officer of a big group of police officers. They ask me: ‘How can you be a commander? Don’t you have men in your country?’” says Urujeni, who believes that women peacekeepers “play a big role in inspiring girls and women.”

“I noticed that girls and women here are gradually becoming aware of their rights to become who they want to be. They understood that girls don’t exist just to get married and have babies. We are opening their eyes to new possibilities, to new choices that they should be allowed to make.”

Source: Inter Press Service

Law & Politics

Creating more rooms for diaspora engagement

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

The contribution of every citizen from in and outside of the country is vital for the overall economic, political and social development of the nation. Coupled with the actions taken by any government, the role played by the diaspora community is worthwhile for the wellbeing of the nation. From remittance to knowledge transfer, Diasporas communities can make a big impact at home.

As far as Ethiopia is concerned, there are millions of Ethiopians who live across the globe. Reports show that the number of Ethiopians in the US, Europe, and other Arab nations takes the highest number.

Since the ratification of diaspora policy in 2013, the contribution and participation of the Ethiopian Diasporas have significantly been changing for good. In addition, in 2018, the government has launched the Diaspora Agency later named Ethiopian Diaspora Service in order to engage Ethiopians and foreigners of Ethiopian origin in meaningful participation. A sense of belongingness and become active participant in various national and international issues have become the features of Ethiopian Diasporas.

In the past few years, Ethiopian government and the people have been in bumpy roads facing multiple hurdles from internal and external factors. During those dire occasions, the Ethiopian Diasporas have stood beside the nation and its administration and showed their solid stand on the matters. The Diasporas were very much eager to do anything to make the country advance as a sovereign nation. The latter stretched its hands to help the country in political, social and economic matters.

The Ethiopian Diasporas have pushed forward to stand with the country in the time of the global pandemic, COVID-19. During the time, the diasporas all over the world contributed everything they could to help their nation. Figures show that Ethiopian Diasporas contributed more than 506 million ETB for the purpose of prevention. Besides, the diaspora communities from different continents have also provided goods and items at that time.

One of the main participation of the Ethiopian diaspora communities was seen when the country was going through conflict in the northern part of the country. At that time, the diaspora community has played marvelous part in relation to defending external aggression and unwanted pressures. It is crucial to remember that when the United States of America planned to pass bills on Ethiopia to pressurize the government, the Ethiopian Diasporas counter acted the situation and became the voice for the country. They have called multiple demonstrations, held and participated in a number of meetings and webinars to defend their motherland. The action from the government of Ethiopia and the diaspora community yield fruit to change the course of those pressures.

Similarly, the nation lost many infrastructures and the people were displaced to various place. Again, the FDRE defense force needed support from Diasporas. To this regard,



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the Ethiopian Diaspora communities have contributed more than 339 million ETB for the FDRE Defense and Rehabilitation purpose.

On the other hand, the Diaspora community has also been playing a vital role in the economic activities of the nation. The entity has been doing tangible actions in contributing and transforming skills and technology. It has donated around 27 million ETB for the Gebeta Lehager Project. Also, it has actively been participating in the construction and other diplomatic issues

of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD). The Diaspora has become the source of nation's remittance when the country was between two fences. The diaspora has played in various investment and trade activities of the country.

In order to increase the contribution and engagement of the Diasporas, the government has been creating more rooms by introducing new platforms. Recently, Ethiopia has formed first of its kind Diaspora Diplomacy Forum aiming at augmenting the contribution of nationals of Ethiopian origin to the homeland. On the occasion, High Level Diaspora Diplomacy Advisory Council was officially established.

According to reports, High Level Diaspora Diplomacy Advisory Council was established with a view to facilitating ways to create strong diaspora engagement in the overall development efforts of the country in collaboration with the government. In the forum, participants have discussed on the achievements, challenges and future tasks in engaging the diaspora.

Speaking on the occasion, Foreign Affairs State Minister, Ambassador Misganu Arega commended the participation of the diaspora in term of national development, remittance and other areas stressing the need to further scale up this engagement to a higher level.

Noting the government's strong commitment to strengthen the participation of the diaspora, the state minister said efforts will be exerted to enhance the contribution of the diaspora in knowledge and technology transfer as well as tap their potential for development. Engaging the Ethiopian diaspora in various activities of the country will further be intensified, he said.

Ambassador Misganu thanked Ethiopians Diaspora for their commitment to support the country in its effort for transformation. He said "we have to work together to build nation and protect its national interest." Finally, he urged the Diaspora communities to strengthen their efforts for the benefit of the country by protecting its national interest.

Ethiopian Diaspora Service Director General, Mohammed Endris said the forum aims to discuss the conditions that could encourage and strengthen the diaspora's engagement in the nation's development endeavors. He 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.

During the panel discussion that Ethiopian Diaspora Service held on the contribution, challenges and prospects of the Diaspora community at the Science Museum, the panelists stressed that knowledge and experience sharing platforms need to be created to tap Diaspora's contribution.

Highlighting the role of the Diaspora community, Panelist Berhanu Gizaw (PhD), said Nationals of Ethiopian origin across the world are estimated to be 2.5 to 5 million in which their annual economic contribution hits about 40 billion USD. He stated that they have so far contributed some 54 million USD for the construction of Abbay Dam.

Apart from supporting over three billion Birr during the COVID 19 pandemic, the Diasporas have played a great role in responding to national campaigns such as "It's my dam" and "No more," among others, Berhanu noted. However, he underlined that the government need to permit the representation of the Diaspora in the Parliament, provide firm investment guarantee as well as allow dual citizenship to increase their contribution.

Tewabech Bishaw, another Panelist, mentioned that despite the readiness and desire of the Diaspora community to engage on development activities, the nation is missing the opportunity due to the absence of an organized system. Not only a system should be formulated but the diaspora policy must be revised, she stressed.

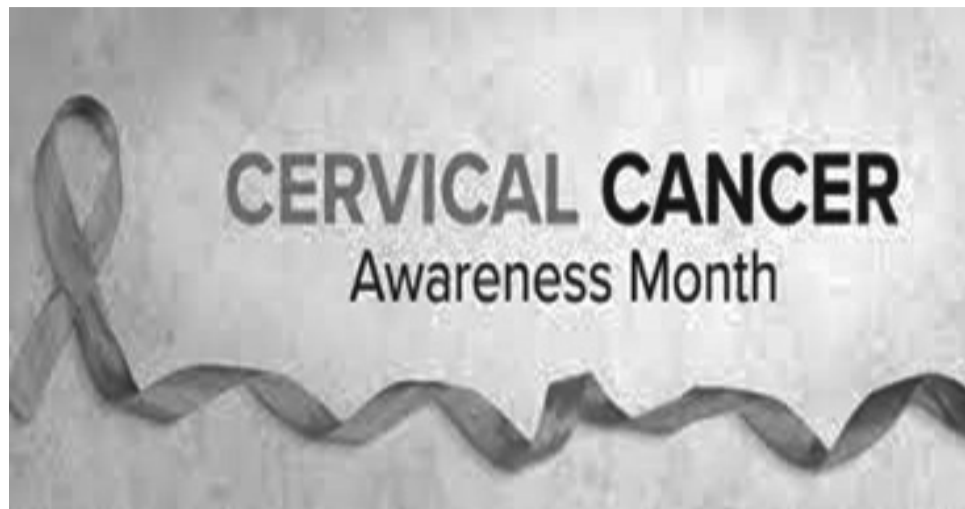
Engaging the Diaspora community requires huge resource, therefore, a huge investment requires interpreting their engagement in to economic benefit apart from creating formal structure, as to Tewabech. She urged all Ambassadors to exert extra efforts in engaging the Diaspora organization in their tasks as well as compiling the experience of the Diaspora community.

Panelist Prof. Alemayehu Gebremariam on his part highlighted that the Diaspora community needs to be an advocate for nation building in every way possible. "Despite differences, people from all walks of life need to stand together to maintaining peace, ensuring national interest, nation building and safeguarding the territorial integrity of the nation," he underscored. To this end, the Diaspora needs to bridge the people and the government while the government is expected to address the challenges at grass root level, he underlined.

For Birhanu Tafesse (Ph.D.), who attended the discussion through virtual platform, knowledge and technology transfer is a survival issue for the country. Applying indigenous knowledge requires abundant time, thus, he said the Diaspora needs to seize the opportunity to support its nation through knowledge and technology transfer by all means.

Ministry of Education, Ethiopian Diaspora Service and other stakeholders need to join forces to promote and support initiatives such as 'bright generation' in an organized manner, he stressed.

Women in Focus



Consolidated effort to eliminate cervical cancer

BY ELIZABRTH MENGISTU

Globally, every two minutes one woman dies of cervical cancer—totaling over 300,000 preventable deaths per year. Of which, women in developing countries bear the brunt of this disease and over 90 % of related deaths occur in low-income and middle-income countries (LMICs).

Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer in women around the world with an estimated 604 000 new cases and 342 000 deaths in 2020.

The most saddening reality is that cervical cancer though is one of the preventable and treatable diseases that can be eliminated by increasing access to vaccination and getting screened to detect precancerous lesions, it remains one of public health challenges in many parts of the world.

Predominantly, the incidence and mortality of the disease remain higher in developing countries. Hundreds of thousands of young women are still losing their lives and it continues to show a high burden among young women worldwide, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

According to global estimates of incidence and mortality of cervical cancer in 2020: a baseline analysis of the WHO Global Cervical Cancer Elimination Initiative, in 2020, there were an estimated 604 127 cervical cancer cases and 341 831 deaths globally, with a corresponding age-standardized incidence of 13.3 cases per 100 000 women-years (95 % and mortality rate of 7.2 deaths per 100 000 women-years.

Understanding the severity of the case and to raise the awareness of the public towards the disease thereby to eliminate cervical cancer through concerted efforts of all, January is dedicated as a month of Cervical Screening Awareness Month.

Throughout this month, awareness raising activities will be carried out through various outlets with regard to the importance of getting vaccinated and taking cervical cancer screenings that are important to identify abnormalities in the cells of the cervix at an early stage.

Ethiopia, as one of the countries with a large number of its young women are affected by the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) -the most common type of virus that is responsible for cervical cancer-, marks the month of January with a special focus to raise the awareness of the general public, including women, about cervical cancer and inoculation.

To keep Ethiopia on the right path and to eliminate the disease so to save the lives of women making aware the public about the extent of the problem is critical. In this regard, the active involvement of the media, in terms of educating and increasing awareness among the community is fundamental

According to documents, cervical cancer is the second most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second most deadly disease among women between 15 and 44 years of age in Ethiopia. The incidence and prevalence of the disease is increasing from time to time because of the growth and aging of the population, as well as an increasing prevalence of well-established risk factors.

Taking the devastating health, social, economic and psychological impacts of cervical cancer into consideration and speeding up the elimination of the case in the coming decades through sensitizing the public, the Ministry of Health is undertaking various activities to inform the community and eliminate the diseases. As part of this effort, it developed the Cervical Cancer Prevention and Control Guideline and introduced the country's first national cancer control strategy.

Not only that, it has also been scaling up cervical cancer prevention services through immunizing young women and students aged between 15 and 44, and providing cervical cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment services. Currently, it has finalized preparation to immunize school girls and women across the country.

Recently, in relation to the International Month of Cervical Health Awareness, the Ministry had organized awareness raising training for media professionals and communicators at Bishoftu Town.

In her research paper presented at the training under the title 'National Cervical Cancer Program Overview', Cervical Cancer Coordinator for Cervical Cancer Screening and Management with the Ministry of Health Takelech Moges said that cervical cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in 23 countries and it is the leading cause of death in 36 countries including the Sub Saharan Africa, Melanesia, and South America and among others Unfortunately, nearly 90 % of deaths occurring in low and middle income countries, she said referring to documents.

The case is becoming more pressing, she said, underlining the significance of implementing programmatic interventions over the life course such as screening, treatment and palliative care, to prevent HPV infection and cervical cancer and lessen the burden among young women.

According to her, these days a number of public and private health institutions are providing the screening services. However, due to various reasons including lack of awareness about cervical cancer, cultural restriction and

embarrassment, lack of interest to be treated by male professionals, unsatisfactory support or hesitancy from male partner and being fully engaged in other house chores, as well as the nature of the disease, many women are not willing to utilize the screening services. Owing to these and other aggravating conditions, cervical cancer is becoming more prevalent and causing preventable deaths.

To alleviate such challenges and eliminate cervical cancer thereby save the lives of young women, comprehensive and concerted works should be carried out at national level. Equally important, strengthening collaboration with relevant stakeholders and pertinent bodies and providing effective, uninterrupted services is central. Governmental and nongovernmental organizations, religious institutions, community leaders and the general public should join hands with health professionals and exert utmost energy to make the effort a success, she remarked.

"We cannot solve the problem of cervical cancer just by marking the day and talking about it once in a year. Instead, we have to carry out uninterrupted, intensive works. In this regard, the role the media can play by educating the public about the seriousness of the issue and the social, economic, health and psychological impacts it causes on women, their respective family and the country. If we cooperate and work together, we can bring the desired outcome," she said.

Disease Prevention and Control Lead Executive Office Cervical Cancer Coordinator Officer with the Ministry Bisrat Fantaye also emphasized the irreplaceable role of the media to improve the health behavior of the community.

Media has exceptional roles in educating the public, promoting healthier lifestyles and building healthy communities. Cervical cancer is one health challenge around the world and the rate of the case in East Africa is high. Thus, to keep Ethiopia on the right path and to eliminate the disease so to save the lives of women making aware the public about the extent of the problem is critical. In this regard, the active involvement of the media, in terms of educating and increasing awareness among the community is fundamental, he said.

This year, 2024, the Cervical Health Awareness Month theme is "Learn. Prevent. Screen". The theme emphasizes the necessity of educating people with knowledge about minimizing cervical cancer risks and the life-saving importance of regular screenings, it was learnt.

Society

Transitional justice to instilling togetherness, promote sustainable peace

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

According to documents, countries around the world through transitional justice processes can address challenges created among societies and groups, resolve the problems; put the damaged relations right and sustain peace.

It is crystal clear that the transitional justice system is the process of acknowledging, prosecuting, compensating for and forgiving past crimes committed by the perpetrators. A properly designed and implemented transitional justice process offers the framework to resolve the causes and drivers of violence, overcome violations and divisions that were sowed over the years and arrest conflicts.

In view of this, Ethiopia is also working to hold a credible and participatory transitional justice process that addresses the peoples' grievances and heals societal denigration.

Recently, the Transitional Justice Expert Team has presented its draft report on policy direction alternatives, public consultation and input gathering process.

Speaking on the occasion, Transitional Justice Expert Team Chairperson Tadesse Kassa said that implementing transitional justice mechanisms has become an integral part of Ethiopia's efforts to sustainable peace, reconciliation, and justice.

"It is very important to design and implement a transitional justice system in terms of facilitating nation-state building, ensuring sustainability, and realizing a democratic political society that will rely on the basic principles of human rights and the rule of law."

To this end, the team carried out extensive consultations with victims, communities affected by conflicts, religious leaders, community leaders, media, influential persons and segments of the society, he elaborated.

According to him, the consultation forums and input gathering process have affirmed that the public accepts the implementation of the transitional policy.

Presenting the findings, Kalkidan Dereje, a member of the Transitional Justice Expert Group said 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, she added.

With regard to the question which perpetrators should be prosecuted, Kalkidan said that the findings indicate



that most of the participants stated that individuals who have committed serious crimes, those who planned, gave orders, and led should be held with high accountability. In the same way, others who have not fulfilled their responsibilities aspiring to avoid harm should also be prosecuted.

According to the findings a special court should also be established to conduct the trial process. Moreover, the findings from the public consultation forum recommend the formation of a fact finding body.

The participants have also suggests 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, during the implementation process of transitional justice.

The transitional justice expert team has finally made a recommendation that the time frame for transitional justice begins from 1995.

The report of the expert team was developed based on findings of 80 public consultation forums held from February 2022 to September 2023 with a view to soliciting inputs from relevant stakeholders.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald* YDA Civil Society Manager Kiflu Bifru said that listening to the victims and documenting the history of social and political conflicts in the country is precisely an important step

because it builds trust among the society and the justice structure.

"The government and all stakeholders should walk the talk in effectively translating the transition justice process to the ground," he opined.

According to him, the ultimate and long term goal of the program should be to secure peace and stability in the future, promote democracy as well as reconciliation among the people and to move forward with a spirit of unity and solidarity.

As to him, the process is a new way of approach that Ethiopia has not experienced in prior time. Owing to this, we should use the chance to undo the inconveniences and differences nationwide; and nurture this culture among the people so as to avert conflicts, resolve disagreements peacefully through dialogue, round the table

"In my view, transitional justice should be considered as a stepping stone to building the nation and shaping a national consensus among citizens, while continuing the political transition based on shared values that bond all societies."

Publicizing the performance of the transition justice efficiency should be strengthened because it is important to create the spirit of transparency and confidence and build trust between and among society.

Last but not the least, ultimate efforts should be made in identifying the violations in a historical, political, social and economic context and try to learn and examine their root causes of each conflict because identifying the root causes of grievances is one step to address the conflicts and find sustainable solutions.

"This is the sole way out to pulling Ethiopia out of the predicament of the ongoing political infighting that could drag the country towards a deadly civil war. The community is yearning to witness how justice and sustainable peace is ensured throughout the nation. The trails should work to hold wrongdoers accountable for the crimes they have committed," he added.

The Civil society and international community should keep on supporting Ethiopia's Transitional Justice process through providing financial and technical support, he further said.

According to him, if the transition justice process is carried out accordingly and translated to the ground in productive fashion, it could help in ensuring rule of law throughout the nation. However, if the grievances are not addressed well, they can cause inconveniences and become sources of social unrest and renewed violence.

Publicizing the performance of the transition justice efficiency should be strengthened because it is important to create the spirit of transparency and confidence and build trust between and among society



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HU calls for participation in *Irreecha* Studies

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Haramaya University (HU) was requested to participate in a study on *Irreecha*, one of the *Gada* System components.

The Oromo People celebrate *Irreecha* twice annually. It is a Thanksgiving celebration that signals the end of the rainy season and the start of the harvest season. During *Irreecha*, Oromos assemble to praise their Creator, *Waaqaa*, for the gifts of fertility and wealth in nature. The celebration consists of singing, dancing, and praying for a successful harvest and wealth.

Taking these facts into consideration, the Institute of Oromo Studies inked a collaboration agreement with Addis Ababa, Jimma, and Arsi Universities two years ago for a research project titled "Description and Documentation of *Gada* Cultural Terms with Special Reference to Terms in *Irreecha*." As a result, the institution has been undertaking important work this far.

Addis Ababa University Ethiopian Languages and Cultures Academy Researcher Dr. Abebe Kano said that the purpose of the study is to publish 70 research results and various events on



Irreecha in the encyclopedia. It also aims to publish 20 articles in internationally renowned research journals.

As a result, the study team is gathering data in Jimma, Tulema, and Arsi, among other locations in Oromia State.

According to him, the research is proceeding well by collaborating with diverse stakeholders. The institution has provided training on how to conduct research and store data. Furthermore, the results of the

research so far have been presented to various universities for discussion.

Addis Ababa University the Oromo Language, Literature, and Culture teacher and researcher Dr. Tilahun Telila said that the agreement among the Oromo Studies Institute and the three Universities would enable the institute to create a scientifically based encyclopedia in English and Oromo.

Dr. Tilahun remarked that the results of

the research conducted thus far were successfully discussed in the presence of researchers from Haramaya University's College of Society and Humanities. Therefore, to complete the research on *Gada* and *Irreecha*, Haramaya University has been requested to contribute to the research on Afren Kallo, Ittu, and Humbena.

Haramaya University Research and Community Affairs Vice President Dr. Yishak Yousuf said that the university, based on the request by the Oromo Studies Institute, is ready to work together with the three universities to contribute to the achievement of the intended goal of the research.

Haramaya University *Gada* Research Institute Director Dr. Reta Duguma said that it is necessary to document the accumulated indigenous knowledge of the Oromo people so that future generations can learn from it. Particularly, collecting and preserving the Oromo people's world view, philosophy, ethics, vocabulary and concepts related to *Gada* and *Irreecha* have multiple benefits not only for this generation but also for future generations. Therefore, the university is ready to work together with all institutions.