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Diplomat optimistic for Ethio-Russia thriving relation in BRICS +

• Lauds Russia’s principled stand on colonial-era injustice

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopia’s historic relation with Russia is expected to grow into comprehensive cooperation owing to the former’s accession to the BRICS Plus family where Russia wields a strong position, the Ethiopian Ambassador to Russia said.

In an exclusive interview with Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Ambassador Cham UgalaUriat stated that the two countries have built trust on political and economic cooperation and have longstanding partnership in different arenas.

Ethiopia and Russia have been enjoying very warm diplomatic ties particularly during difficult times. And, the government of Ethiopia expects more as the two countries are intertwined in the BRICS Plus bloc.

Ambassador Cham further noted that the

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Photo: Gebabo Gebrie

Ambassador Cham Ugala Uriat

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Ethiopia’s diplomacy week, exhibition allures multitudes

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA – About 700 diplomats and 126 institutions have been attracted by Ethiopia’s Diplomacy week and exhibition being displayed at Science Museum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said.

In a presser held yesterday, MoFA Spokesperson Ambassador

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ENDC hails academia’s leading role in Nat’l Dialogue

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDISABABA- Acquainted with immense knowledge and expertise and highly valued within the society, academicians are expected to be frontrunners to the successful conduct of the National Dialogue, Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) said.

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Gov’t endeavoring to reach out people in drought situation

• Aid agencies urged to intensify relief efforts

BY MENGESHA AMAR E

ADDIS ABABA—The government and aid agencies have been working hard to reach out to citizens who are affected by drought and other catastrophes, Government Communication Service (GCS) said.

GCS also called on relief agencies to intensify humanitarian assistance to those in dire need.

Briefing media outlets regarding a number of issues carried out this month, GCS State Minister Selamawit Kassa said that emergency humanitarian assistances are widely being distributed across the nation particularly in

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Ministry eyeing Expo to change pastoralist communities' livelihoods

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA- The Ministry of Irrigation and Lowlands (MILLS) said it is well prepared to employ the Horn of Africa Pastoralist Expo to bring a holistic change in the livelihoods of pastoralist communities.

In a press briefing he held here yesterday, MILLS State Minister Endriase Geta (PhD) stated that the ministry aims to employ the grand event to promote the tourism and investment potentials of pastoralist areas and to identify development opportunities there.

The expo, which is said to be helpful to ensure the pastoralist communities' betterment, will be held from 26 January to 1 February 2024 under the theme "Pastoralism: The East African Mosaic" at the Millennium Hall.

Pastoralists from different East African countries including Kenya, South Sudan, Uganda, Djibouti and Somalia are expected to take part in the expo and to present their cultural displays. The event is also instrumental to showcase technological and business innovations, create market linkage; share experience and hold policy discussions and other measures that help to boost regional ties, Endriase elaborated.

By the same token, the expo is said to help pastoralists from IGAD member states to connect with Ethiopian counterparts and to work together in border areas and to sustain the relation.

Ethiopia has been marking 'Pastoralist's Day' in the national level since 1999 and this creates a direct link with the government and helps pastoralist communities to solve their problem and get recognition."

"Pastoralism is a predominant lifestyle, reflecting the rich and abundant heritage of the nation and the government has demonstrated its dedication to implementing strategic reforms, notably through the Ethiopian Pastoral Development Policy and Strategy."

The state minister further noted that the expo marks a crucial step towards regional integration and transcends national boundaries. "It connects the past, present, and future of pastoralism in one of the world's most culturally rich and ecologically diverse regions."

The expo will promote a pastoral lifestyle of social and economic contributions of the region, and help to establish a robust foundation for future collaborations, he remarked.

This expo is organized by the MILLS in collaboration with IGAD.

Organized diplomacy tool against Ethio-Somaliland deal distracters: Researcher

BY EYUEL KIFLU

ADDIS ABABA – Implementing the Ethio-Somaliland sea access deal and counter fighting unfounded concerns that followed the agreement require uninterrupted and organized diplomatic approach, Foreign Affairs expert suggested.

The country has made it clear that the issue of sea outlet is a matter of existential significance, and realizing this objective necessitates diplomatic negotiations, trust-building, and engagement with neighbouring countries, said Anteneh Getachew (PhD) researcher specializing in Asia and the Pacific at the Institute of Foreign Affairs in exclusive interview with The Ethiopian

Herald.

To counter objections and unfounded doubts raised by certain foreign entities regarding the Addis-Hargeisa deal, organized international public relations work is imperative, the researcher underscored.

Adaptability is imperative in foreign relations to effectively navigate through global geopolitical dynamism and meet strategic interest, the researcher stressed adding that meeting national, regional, and international strategic issues require such kind of adaptability to global dynamism.

To effectively implement and achieve national interest objectives, it is vital to adapt to the global dynamics of politics,



Anteneh further emphasized the importance of cultivating an adaptive diplomatic mind-set at the levels of government heads, diplomats, ambassadors, and even among citizens, in order to effectively communicate Ethiopia's key national issues to the world.



State building medium scale irrigation projects

• Develops multi pastoralist community resilience strategy

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA—Somali State said that it has been constructing medium scale irrigation infrastructures around Shebele, Dawa and Genele rivers.

Approached by *The Ethiopian Herald*, Somali State Chief Administrator Advisor Ahmed Ismail said that the state has been developing multi pastoralist communities' resilience strategy in order to mitigate climate change and drought.

Since the state is affected by climate change and drought occur every two to three years, the state has been working with partners like federal institutions, regional sector bureaus, USAID and others to mitigate the problem.

The state decided to bring all actors to build capacity and the resilience of pastoralist communities in order to effectively lessen these incidents. He said, "As a result, we come up with strategy to tackle it and the state has been working to maximize pastoralist community resilience, capacity



building, human support and others."

The initiatives are aligned together with in a way to contribute to the effort geared towards reducing the impacts of climate change. Furthermore, it has been constructing medium scale irrigation infrastructures around Shebele and Dawa, and Genele rivers. The construction of these projects is well underway, he added.

He said, "Although the shortage of energy challenging the construction, we are trying to take an advantage of solar energy since the state has abundant solar energy. We are

also trying to build cooperatives to benefit from the irrigation infrastructures."

According to him, lowland irrigated wheat production has been yielding a promising result particularly around Wabe Shebele river areas. The project is well taken place even if there are challenges. Moreover, the state is actually trying to focus on increasing agriculture production.

Hence, it has been investing in climate change adaptive programs such as increasing water availability, diversifying livestock and other programs, he noted.

WESP suggests international cooperation to address economic issues

BY FIKADU BELAY

ADDIS ABABA - Stronger international cooperation required to tackle economic challenges and facilitate seamless transition towards sustainable future, UN World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) report indicated.

The report urged governments to avoid counterproductive fiscal consolidation measures and instead expand fiscal support to stimulate growth.

Despite the fact that persistence of high inflation rates in many countries, the report advocates for a robust Keynesian approach that prioritizes growth drivers.

The report highlights that African countries are currently facing numerous challenges in terms of monetary and fiscal policies, industrial

development, and debt sustainability.

It acknowledges the efforts of African central banks in striving to strike a balance between inflation, growth, employment, and financial stability.

Governments are urged to improve their tax systems and introduce progressive reforms to enhance fiscal revenue and meet developmental needs while safeguarding lives and livelihoods.

The report emphasizes the significance of industrial policies that incorporate technological advancements, innovation, and green transitions.

It underscores the crucial role of international cooperation in addressing these challenges and ensuring stable economic growth.

Africa also tackles obstacles such as high debt burdens, the impacts of climate change

and political instability. Debt sustainability is a significant concern, with several countries having debt-to-GDP ratios exceeding 70%, thereby limiting their capacity to address developmental challenges, according to the report.

The report calls for international support to improve debt sustainability and enhance investment and industrial capacity.

Based on WESP report, developing countries face the weakest prospects due to tight financial conditions, limited fiscal space, and sluggish external demand.

Particularly vulnerable, according to the report, are the least developed countries, as slow growth hampers poverty alleviation efforts and risks the achievement of sustainable development goals.

Rising interest rates and tight credit

conditions pose risks to countries, particularly in Africa, affecting their balance of payments and debt sustainability. Moreover, trade performance has weakened, and investment remains subdued, particularly in developing economies, the report noted.

To mitigate the adverse effects of monetary tightening, the report suggested central banks in developing countries to utilize various macroeconomic and macro-prudential policy tools.

The report further emphasizes the need for effective global cooperation initiatives to prevent debt crises and ensure adequate financing for developing nations.

It highlighted the importance of revitalizing and transforming industrial policies worldwide as countries adapt to technological advancements and promote innovation, productivity, and clean transitions.

Gov't endeavoring to...

Amhara, Afar, Oromia states with a view to supporting the drought affected citizens.

As to the State Minister, the government has been fostering humanitarian support deploying some 15 billion Birr to reach out to those in dire need in three rounds.

She said: "As of the outset of this fiscal year, citizens have been provided with emergency assistance in three rounds. In the first round, 7.3 million citizens have been addressed and provided with the emergency assistance. Close to 3.6 million citizens can be addressed, and the third round is going to

cover 6.5 million citizens."

As far as the types of the assistances are concerned, she said some 1.7 million quintal food items and 2 billion in cash to help them have what they need in their surroundings. Of the delivered food items support, the government covered 77% amounting to 11

billion Birr, and the rest 23 % was covered by international development partners, they contributed to the effort close to 4 billion Birr.

Such an emergency support is given to drought affected citizens from Amhara, Oromia, South Ethiopia, Afar, Harari as well as Dire Dawa.

ENDC hails...

The ENDC along with Addis Ababa University (AAU) organized a discussion forum on the role of academia in the National Dialogue at Ras Mekonnen Hall yesterday.

Speaking at the forum, ENDC Deputy Chief Commissioner Hirut Gebreselassie stated that the academic community needs to engage to translate their knowledge and experience into various activities that will enable the National Dialogue a success. Academicians are expected to provide constructive ideas as they are part of the society that is highly expected to contribute for the successful realization of the dialogue.

"More importantly, they are the part of the society that has basic ideological differences on national issues. Thus, they need to interpret their years of knowledge and experience to enable the nation to reach a national consensus."

Hence, Hirut urged the academic community to play an essential role in prioritizing and encompassing the National Dialogue into

their studies, lectures as well as day-to-day activities.

Addis Ababa University Acting President Samuel Kifle (PhD) for his part said that Ethiopia has faced a number of challenges that have tested its nation building process throughout history. Similarly, there are pressing challenges that still need to be addressed as a country.

According to him, the AAU has conducted viable studies and organized discussions on various existing and emerging issues including Ethiopia's seaport aspirations in a bid to support the National Dialogue to bring the desired outcomes.

The president further highlighted that the National Dialogue forum is part of the efforts the AAU is exerting on nation building, sustaining peace, prosperity and development in the country.

While presenting a paper on the relevance of dialogue for Ethiopia's challenges, an academician AyalewZegeye indicated

the way that the nation has been trying to resolve differences over years was biased and entertained one party's interest while undermining the other.

Yet, the coming into forth of the National Dialogue would provide people the opportunity and space to express their ideas freely. Though there might be problems that need policy and political interventions, the majority of existing challenges could be addressed through dialogue, Ayalew emphasized.

NigussuAkililu (PhD) who also presented a paper on the National Dialogue's experience, hope and threats, called for the expansion of political space that will allow the academic community to reflect their views freely.

Nigussu also mentioned Ethiopia's political culture and verbal violence could be a threat for the successful conduct of the National Dialogue. Thus, he urged the academia to provide positive ideas and contribute their share for nation building.

Ethiopia's diplomacy...

Meles Alem (PhD), said that the Diplomatic Exhibition which is showcasing Ethiopia's centuries-old diplomatic journey has been visited by about 700 diplomats based in Addis Ababa, thousands of officials and workers from 126 institutions, in addition to citizens and foreigners.

Some 152 journalists and photographers from the federal, state and city administrations, and government and private media houses also covered the exhibition, he stated.

He also said that the second generation Ethiopians who came home responding to the invitation of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD), also visited the exhibition and expressed their support for their country.

Ambassador Meles expressed about the significance of the two books published by his ministry to preserve the memory of the institution and the general diplomatic history of the country.

By the same token, the Spokesperson remarked that ambassadors and mission leaders of Ethiopian embassies are having all rounded discussions on ways of further protecting the national interests of the country.

The ambassadors are expected to make a field visit in addition to the discussion that focuses on political, economic and social, regional, continental and global issues in the forum that lasted more than a week now, he added.

Diplomat optimistic...

two countries have signed several cooperation agreements including on the peaceful use of nuclear energy. "Russians are still committed to support Ethiopia to build nuclear energy plant though the implementation gets delayed just because of unfulfilled preparation on the side of Ethiopia."

About the Ethio-Somaliland port deal, the diplomat expressed his belief that Russia would support the agreement as Ethiopia lost its sea access due to colonial

conspiracies. The colonial border architects disowned Ethiopia even a single port and Russia, as a country standing against colonial conspiracies, is expected to not to undermine Ethiopia's struggle over this colonial-made law.

"Of course, there would be no eternal friend or eternal enemy in the field of diplomacy. However, we have trust in Russia that it would not oppose Ethiopia's port deal with Somaliland and considers the accord as an attempt to reverse the colonial-era injustice.

Also, the MoU is a very legal and justifiable measure and Russia is expected to support Ethiopia's aspiration to abolish colonial rules."

Ethiopia's borders with its coastal neighbors were demarcated by colonial forces to harm the former. The Ethiopian government is now attempting to secure a short-distance seaport at least in a lease base and any country with a positive stance towards Ethiopia could not reject this agreement for real, he emphasized.

Opinion

Conflict and poverty in Ethiopia

BY GETACHEW MINAS

Conflict and poverty are two sides of the same coin in Ethiopia, closely related although they seem different. They are interlinked challenges in the country. Both of them contribute to a complex socio-political relationship. They reflect a multifaceted social landscape. There are critical points to understand the relationship between conflict and poverty in Ethiopia and these are ethnic diversity and historical relations. There are various ethnic groups and linguistic communities living together within the country. Ethiopia is home to over 85 different ethnic groups. Historically, Ethiopia used to have centralized governance and authoritarian rule. The country has experienced conflicts related to power dynamics, resource distribution, and ethnic representation.

Conflicts have been rampant in Ethiopia due to power dynamics. The power relations have been tense in different parts of the country. Some people felt that they were ill-represented in power sharing and resource control. Resource distribution has been abused by those who controlled political power in the country. Conflicts have also been caused by ethnic representation in which some people felt that they have been under represented. To overcome these issues, the Ethiopian government adopted a federal system, emphasizing ethnic federalism. This has involved the delineation of administrative regions along ethnic lines. Though it has been intended to address historical marginalization of people, it has also been criticized for contributing to ethnic tensions. These tensions have been inflamed by political power mongers hidden behind their ethnic groups.

The tensions have been aggravated by unequal distribution of resources. Some regions in Ethiopia are endowed with rich natural resources while others are not. However, people could move freely to where they would work and earn their living. But, ethnic entrepreneurs have made the free movement of citizens within the country a difficult one. Generally speaking, Ethiopia is rich with natural resources including land which its people could utilize productively and earn income. People have to be free to exploit the economic opportunities that abound in the country. But, free movement of labor is becoming the Task of Tantalus, showing that selfish ethnic actions can affect others in ways that are unpredictable. Even public services that should be freely accessed by all citizens are impeded by social barriers. These actions become sources of tension. Ethnic groups may perceive disparities in resource allocation as unjust, leading to competition and conflict.

Where ethnic tensions are not resolved in time, land-related issues have become intensified. They entail serious disputes over ownership of land. The political aspiration of the 1960's including provision of "Land to the Tiller" has become irrelevant where ethnic issues are unresolved. Land is one important economic factor that has

contributed to ethnic conflicts. Moreover the high rate of growth of population has intensified competition for arable land. High fertility rate has exacerbated population growth in the country, despite growth in death rate due to hunger, famine, war and social skirmishes in Ethiopia. These socio-economic developments have been superseded by identity politics. Ethnic identity is often politicized by political parties organized along ethnic lines. Unemployed and incompetent politicians in Ethiopia exploit petty ethnic differences to promote their personal interest of controlling the economic resources of the country. This has led to a politicization of ethnicity, where individuals may try to impose their ethnic identity over Ethiopian nationalism.

Ethnic conflicts have caused internal displacement in Ethiopia. Violent conflicts have forced communities to flee their place of residence. This has considerable socio-economic repercussions, as displaced populations often face poverty. Dislocated people lose their livelihoods. They suffer from inadequate and insufficient living conditions. Ethnic conflicts also have impacts on the livelihoods of people. These conflicts disrupt economic activities in the country, particularly in rural areas. Among the economic sectors, the most affected would be the agriculture sector. This sector is a primary source of livelihood for a large majority of the Ethiopian people. Disruptions to farming practices seriously affect supply of agricultural outputs to the local and external markets. However, economic and social disruptions force the rural people to be disengaged from their activities which are major sources of their income. Also, the trade sector is negatively affected by failure of production in agriculture. All these lead to unemployment and poverty.

Ethnic conflict can disrupt the educational system in Ethiopia by limiting access of the people to education. Children and youth become disengaged from the educational services for reasons they are not aware of. Even their parents residing in the rural areas are not conscious of the causes and effects of ethnic conflicts. The rural communities that are affected by ethnic violence become dislocated from their agricultural activities, rendering them poor and unable to feed themselves. Moreover, they could not engage in activities other than agriculture due to lack of education and skills in other areas of economic activities. Thus, educational disparities contribute to long-term poverty by hindering skill development and economic opportunities in the rural sector. This sector is a major contributor to the gross domestic product of Ethiopia. But, it is now on the verge of decline causing unemployment, low foreign exchange earnings and diminishing revenues to the government.

The humanitarian consequence of any conflict is a major concern in Ethiopia. The impacts of conflict stretch to various economic services including education, health, water, transport and other sectors. In the education sector, those involved in

teaching activities, including students, teachers and school administrators fail to perform their duties due to skirmishes and social conflicts. Parents of school children and communities are negatively affected by these conflicts. In the health sector, clinics, health centers and hospitals are unable to function due to conflicts. Those affected by conflicts may not have access to health services. The health institutions may run out of medicines and other health facilities. Communities affected by conflicts may suffer from shortage of water without which they find it difficult to maintain lives. People residing in conflict ridden zones find it difficult to travel to other areas due to shortage of transport facilities. Those running the means of transport avoid zones of conflict. They may lose their vehicles due to damage from gun fires set by ethnic entrepreneurs.

Organizations that provide food and health services to the people in conflict zones are rendered ineffective. As NGOs, they are challenged by the participants in ethnic conflict. Some of these organizations may have their headquarters (HQ) located abroad. They need the approval of the HQ for delivering their services to conflict areas. They try to access donor fund which they use for the purchase of food and other basic necessities to meet the needs of people in conflict affected zones. Donor support is provided to all parties to the conflict without any differentiation. But, sometimes, they face challenges from those parties to a conflict. As a result, the poor peasants in conflict areas suffer from hunger or famine for reasons they are not aware of. Once the terror imposed on the people by one party is over, then they are bound to suffer from another one on the assumption that they have been supporters of a contending party. In both cases the poor people in conflict zones face endless rounds of terror imposed by conflicting parties.

Peace building efforts to settle disputes between conflicting parties in some regions of Ethiopia has become an endless task. Locally, elders have taken the responsibility to bring conflicting parties to roundtable discussions for settlement of disputes. These incidents have led to the killing and wounding of innocent people in their place of residence. These people have also lost their properties and cattle with which they used to conduct farming activities. They also found it difficult to move to peaceful neighboring regions for accessing food and other basic necessities. They are not in a position to recover their former standard of living. This situation renders them to be dependent on aid from anywhere. Lacking access to donors of food and other basic necessities, they have been forced to starve to death. Domestic donors find it difficult to deliver aid to the rural people due to conflicts in the regions.

Domestic donors acquire aid from different sources located abroad. They seek donations from international sources in the name of the Ethiopian people impoverished and malnourished due to ethnic conflicts. The relationship between ethnic conflict

Peace building efforts to settle disputes between conflicting parties in some regions of Ethiopia has become an endless task

and poverty in Ethiopia is complex. It is deeply rooted in historical, political, and socio-economic elements. Acknowledging and addressing these challenges requires deeper analyses of the consequences of the political and economic situation in the country. This requires a comprehensive approach that includes conflict prevention and inclusive governance. Economically speaking, it demands equitable resource distribution and allocation. This has to be supported by sustainable development initiatives. Historians and political scientists are in favor of efforts to build social cohesion. This has to be promoted through dialogue among concerned political leaders and other interest groups representing all ethnic groups. Their goal is to address the underlying causes of ethnic tensions which are essential for fostering a more stable and prosperous Ethiopia. These measures would definitely reduce and, therefore, eliminate conflict and poverty in the country.

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

Editorial

Access to sea a must not a luxury for Ethiopia!

Ethiopia's sea access deal with Somaliland is a breakthrough that paves the way for a much-needed regional integration. The deal has upped optimism for an integrated Horn and is very much attuned to regional and continental aspirations. For those who are even-minded, the agreement even serves as a savvy example of and takes strategy. With the population forecast to see sharp growth and economic growth set to grow, sharing resources and integrating the Horn region are in the best interest of the regional countries.

As Ethiopia expects sharp population growth and an economic boom, the deal is the right move at the right time. It is unthinkable to meet the country's burgeoning demands without enough port choices. Solely reliant on a single port and coastal nation, Ethiopia finds itself in a tough situation and back foot in global commerce. For a country of over 100 million people, having direct access to the sea is not a luxury, it is an existential matter. Located nearer to the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean, having diverse port alternatives and direct access to the sea is a must-do task with a big dividend.

Depending on single port access carries huge security and economic risks with the country whose population is growing with an alarming rate. It is for these reasons that the Ethiopian government has been exploring alternative port accesses and its recent deal with Somaliland is part and parcel of the continued effort to overcome the threats that comes with the landlocked status. From Berbera to Assab, the country through formal and peaceful agreements can increase its port alternatives that are laden with immense economic advantages.

Geographic proximity, infrastructural development, and cost efficiency also play into the country's aspiration. In addition to significance to national socio-economic development, port deals with neighboring nations also cement regional cooperation. Having multiple ports access or direct sea outlets can be vital in providing a quicker and more effective route for transporting commodities. Ensuring economically and geographically advantageous ports will help reduce the time and money needed for shipping products

Ethiopia has been spearheading regional integration through connecting the neighboring countries with electricity and energy. The mega projects that the country is building have the borders benefits. Simultaneously, the country has been investing hugely in joint infrastructural projects contributing to regional developments. Efforts of connecting the country to Djibouti, Sudan, Kenya, and South Sudan by power, road, and railway transport are at the heart of Ethiopia's inclusive growth; once, the Abbay Dam is completed the country will be exporting to countries afar.

Ethiopia's recent move to enter an agreement with Somaliland is meant to reduce dependence on a single transportation route and expand trade opportunities through the provision of export destinations. Securing port access eases transaction hurdles and stabilizes the economy.

On the other hand, there are regional and global geopolitical dynamics that put an onus on the country to look for reliable and alternative sea outlets or ports. Over the last weeks, the Red Sea has come under intense bombardment with commercial lanes facing disruptions.

The militarization of the Red Sea and the increasing threats of piracy and militant attacks on commercial lanes in strategic locations behoove the nation to diversify port choices. The country cannot afford to be a bystander amidst the growing security and economic threats. Hence, Ethiopia's recent deal with the Somaliland is a conscious decision that contributes significant share to the development, peace and security across the Horn.



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The Ethiopian Herald

Opinion

Ethiopia's diplomatic voyage as a center for regional, international organizations

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

As things currently stand, Ethiopia has set up itself as a commanding player in international relations and diplomacy more than ever before. As attestation to its growing influence, the country has brought into play diplomacy week scheduled from January 11 to February 02, 2024. This allocated period of time demonstrates in black and white the country's peculiar charisma and distinctive qualities congealing its presence on the international landscape.

In point of fact, the diplomacy week offers a unique possibility for ambassadors and appendages of the worldwide community residing in Addis Ababa to band together and take the county to the next level of accomplishment.

Since the dawn of history, Ethiopia's international relations were meaningfully molded by factors such as commerce, culture, religious belief, security considerations and other related aspects. In a globalized world, Ethiopia extended the degree of its international linkage to incorporate the expansions of technology in the length and breadth of the country.

With the intention of fashioning a prosperous nation, every once in a while Ethiopia has been vigorously maintaining its interests of the whole nation. At the core of its diplomatic initiatives is also a pledge to catering citizen-focused diplomatic duties at its numerous missions abroad. For the sake of truth, the diplomatic weeks cover not only the past 116 years of Ethiopia's diplomatic journey since the inception of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia but also underscores the country's deep-rooted diplomatic relationships.

As a nation ancient that severely maintained its independence and territory, the country has stood as a demonstration of liberty for not only Africans, but also for downtrodden populace worldwide. In actual fact, the country held the hallmark of being the only independent African nation flagged in the League of Nations and later turned out to be a foremost member of the United Nations.

Several years after, African heads of state and governments took the decision to set up the headquarters of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in Addis Ababa. This move was replicated by subsequent generations of African leaders who also picked Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia, as the diplomatic neighborhood for the African Union (AU). This being the case, the country at this point in time is home to a wide spectrum of consular missions abroad and international organizations.

By exhibiting extraordinary leadership, the country remains unshakable in its dedication to Pan-Africanism and steadfastly stands up for more balanced representation of Africa. Given the current circumstance, Ethiopia is situated at the cutting edge of tackling global challenges manifesting its

adherence to global causes. Apart from its role as a peacemaker in the Horn of Africa, the country holds the characteristic of being the dominant host to refugees and a notable contributor to peacekeeping efforts.

Since time immemorial, Ethiopia's charm remains resolute fueled by unwavering dedication to global initiatives backed by concrete actions. This being the case, Ethiopia has earned continuing international acceptance and a prestige for its remarkable contributions. The diplomacy week is an avenue for demonstrating the country's long-standing and remarkable diplomatic success making possible nations to make good use of its accomplishments and address difficulties faced.

The contents of the diplomacy week are not only miscellaneous but also appealing and extremely informative. With the intention of familiarizing the entire event with the general public, wide-ranging preparations have been made to successfully demonstrate the extraordinary 116-year diplomatic voyage of the country. Besides, a thoughtful effort has been made to provide insights into the future outlook of diplomacy.

The country's contemporary foreign relations which naturally emerged following the historic victory at Adwa have been categorized into three clusters: mutual relations, multifaceted relations, and the prospects for future diplomacy. Ethiopian diplomats and scholars have participated actively in panel discussions covering a diverse range of topics with flying colors.

The country proudly commemorates its significant role as one of the foremost diplomatic centers worldwide. As the birthplace of the African Union and United Nations, the country's powerful diplomatic influence has endured the trials of time. Other than that the country continues to be a steadfast and trustworthy partner exemplified by its impressive track record in maintaining resilient and enduring relations with nations in all parts of the world.

The country's stimulating diplomatic journey is legitimate for celebration leaving behind an unforgettable engraves on the global stage through the setting up of international linkages and weighty contributions to worldwide issues. As the headquarters for a number of regional, continental, and international organizations, the country maintains to brandish significant diplomatic influence, vigorously redesigning global principles and working towards a more unbiased and all-encompassing world.

Through setting up warm diplomatic relations, the country has successfully shielded its independence and national interests causing to happen an augmented voice on a world scale. The country's current foreign policy is anchored in economic advancement, multifaceted cooperation, and giving prominence to the needs of its citizens.

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

Business & Economy

Expediting mineral resource: A promising footstep for economic growth

BY HIZKLE HAILU

South West Ethiopia Regional State is known for its abundant natural resources and possesses immense potential for driving economic growth and development. The region boasts a wealth of minerals like gemstones, precious and semi-precious minerals, as well as significant coal reserves. These resources, if effectively hatched, have the capacity to not only transform the local economy but also significantly contribute to Ethiopia's overall economic prosperity.

The abundance of mineral resources in the region holds great promise for driving economic growth in multiple ways. Attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and revenue generation, job creation, poverty alleviation, export diversification and foreign exchange earnings, infrastructure development as well as technology and knowledge transfer are among the benefits.

In order to discuss on the region's immense mineral potential and success, the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) approached Deputy Director General of South West Ethiopia Region's Mining and Energy Development Agency and Head of the Mining Sector, Mengesha Medalcho.

According to him, the region is blessed with abundant natural resources such as water bodies, minerals and forests with natural spices and supportive of honey production that have garnered attention from both local and international investors. The region is known for its diverse range of coal production, gemstones and other minerals.

He said that following the government's belief that the mining sector contributes greatly to the country's economy and mining works are being done to exploit the region mineral resources including extracting of coal which can be used as input for industrial power generation, he noted.

He further said that a processing machine that can increase the quality of coal is being installed in Dauro Zone. In addition, enabling environment is created to start large-scale coal production, which is a potential means to create job opportunities for the unemployed.

Kaolin, granite, marble and limestone which can be used as inputs for ceramic production are also widely available in the region. In order to develop these minerals, investors are obtained production license stage and soon will start production.

He further elucidated that the region is rich in minerals that can be used in the construction sector. Accordingly, sorting of marble, granite, limestone (as it is used for building and wall covering) and other minerals is underway, he asserted. Iron and ferrous minerals are also among the minerals found in the region. "Therefore, the investors who have obtained permission for exploration work in the Dauro zone, Konta and Keba corridors in the region are

As South West Ethiopia embraces its role as a mining frontier, it must strive for a balanced approach that maximizes the economic potential of its resources while preserving its natural and cultural heritage for generations to come

getting ready to start production.

In addition to these, the local people who extract iron and ferrous minerals in the traditional way have been given permission and started their operation."

Southwest Ethiopia is a place where precious and semi-precious minerals are available.

He further highlighted that gold, opal and gemstones are available in the region.

These minerals, with their diverse values in various industries, present opportunities for economic diversification and job creation. "By encouraging environmentally friendly mining and providing infrastructural facilities we can unlock the potential of these minerals and attract both domestic and foreign investors," Mengesha explains.

Gemstones, found in the region, with their attractive colors and pristine quality, hold immense value in both domestic and international markets. "Our gemstones have the potential to become a thriving industry, attracting buyers and investors from around the globe," he asserted. He emphasized the need for cutting, polishing, and refining facilities within the region to add value to these gemstones and create a robust market chain that benefits local artisans and entrepreneurs.

The deputy director also announced that the gold mining process is now in a good condition as the government has paid attention to it and is supporting and monitoring it in an unusual way. Underscoring that opal and agate are among the precious metals found around the Benchi Sheko zone of the region, he accentuated that a private developer has obtained an opal mining license and is preparing to begin production.

"While two licensed private developers have been engaged in the development of marble in the western Omo Zone, the other two producers are engaged in the development of granite and limestone in Dauro zone," he mentioned.

Noting that about 18 producers are engaged in the process of coal mining, the deputy director stated that currently many of them are in the process of exploration and investigation. He also mentioned that there are about 178 investors who showed interest to engage in mineral exploration and testing, adding that the issuance of new licenses has been suspended in order to inspect producers whether they are appropriately doing their job or not.

In addition to gemstones and precious minerals, the region holds substantial coal reserves.

Mengesha envisioned a future where coal extraction serves as a catalyst for energy generation and industrial development. "Through sustainable coal mining practices, we can foster the growth of the energy sector, reduce reliance on imports, and provide a stable power supply for industrialization," he asserted. He also emphasized the importance of leveraging renewable energy sources in parallel to ensure a balanced and sustainable energy mix.

Regarding job creation in the mining sector, it is planned to create job opportunities for 3607 unemployed citizens in the first six months of the current fiscal year. To date it was possible to create job opportunities for 2711 citizens, he noted.

He keenly believes that the development of South West Ethiopia's mining sector will be a game-changer for the region's economy. "By capitalizing on our mineral wealth,

we can create a ripple effect of economic growth," he says with conviction.

He highlighted the direct employment opportunities in which mining operations offer to geologists, engineers, technicians, miners, daily laborers and actors in the value chain. Furthermore, he emphasizes the multiplier effect where mining activities spur the growth of supporting industries such as logistics, transportation, and service providers enabled to generate additional jobs and income.

Mengesha's vision extends beyond job creation. He underscores the importance of community development and social well-being. "Through responsible mining practices and collaborative partnerships with local communities, we can contribute to education, healthcare, and infrastructure development," he explains. By sharing the benefits of mining with the communities, the region can achieve inclusive growth, lifting people out of poverty and improving their quality of life.

Mentioning that region contribution to the national economy, he said that 15 kilograms of gold was sent to the National Bank in the first quarter of the current fiscal year, he revealed that due to the efforts of the regional government, it has now been possible to supply 22 kilograms of gold to the National Bank of Ethiopia each month.

In order to overcome challenges regarding the market linkage and other problems in the sector, the deputy director pointed out that research has been conducted to deal the matter and such studies can help to identify the amount of coal calories required by industries. Now most of the cement factories receive more than 6000 per/hit of coal. Through identifying this need, the necessary measures are being taken to create a reliable market connection.

All in all, South West Ethiopia's mineral wealth, as highlighted by Mengesha, presents a remarkable opportunity for economic growth and development even at national level. The diverse range of gemstones, precious and semi-precious minerals, and coal hold the potential to create jobs, generate revenue, and fuel industrial growth. However, it is crucial to approach the exploitation of these resources with a commitment to sustainability, environmental conservation, and social inclusivity. Through implementing responsible mining practices, engaging local communities, and ensuring transparent governance, Southwest Ethiopia can unlock its mineral wealth while safeguarding the environment and benefiting its residents.

With strategic investments allocation in infrastructure, skill development, and economic diversification, the region can transform into a thriving hub of economic activity, contributing not only to its own growth but also to the broader prosperity of Ethiopia. As South West Ethiopia embraces its role as a mining frontier, it must strive for a balanced approach that maximizes the economic potential of its resources while preserving its natural and cultural heritage for generations to come.

Art & Culture

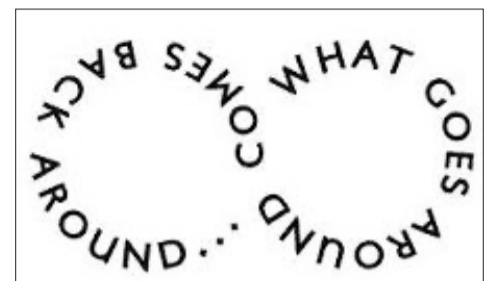


Beauty in the night sky!

BY TAPIWA
CHABINGA (From Zambia)

I step out my door into the dark,
I catch the moon gazing at me,
My lips arch in a smile, such a spark.
I smile at the moons stare beautifully,
Its glow is embracing,
And its glare flawless,
Its glimmer enticing,
And its shimmer effortless...

An aloof beauty,
It makes me understand why pretty faces are the loneliest.
With only one duty, to glow...
Yet does more,
Melts my heart with overwhelming warmth,
Inspires my soul with unmatched loyalty,
I whisper;
"Blessed is he that ever stepped foot on thee,"
And deep within, i hope she knows she's beautiful.



What goes around comes around

BY ALEM HAILU G/KIRSITOS

(A boy to his girlfriend)
When
A monkey realizes
Seeking advantage
Leaving a branch
Of this tree
It could swing
To a higher
Branch of
A nearby tree free,
It hesitates not
To a monkey-jump
To resort.

You and I vowed
To walk to
The ends of the earth
You, nonstop to me
Fanning the hearth
I caring for
Our marital health
Till do us part death;
But
When you
Trapped someone
In a marital bait
Which you set,
You decided with
A monkey jump
Me to dump!
How cruel?
How come
You opted
Me to forget
With
Acrobatic bent?
(The girl to her boyfriend)
How failed you
To understand
Applies to you
The case at hand?

When you
Immigrated to town
Saluting your fiancée—
the lass
With a typical
Provincial mood, gown
Cross-tattooed neck,
Butter-greased hair brown
Claming
"Alas,
With a countryside lass
As my wife
I can't mix with
Urban dwellers
And members of
The top brass,"
And soon you began
Towards me
Casting a glance,
For with
Fashionable dresses
I foregrounded
My elegance.
It was
A monkey jump
Deep down
In your heart
You wanted
To advance!
Are all these
By hap stance?

How to deal with anxiety

BY SENAIT G/HIWOT

We can refer to anxiety as the alarm in our body that tells us something is wrong. The part of the brain called amygdala processes fear in to actual physiological changes. The left hemisphere of the brain creates worries and panics to keep up with this changes... it is also called the fight or flight response.

An effective solution for this is the CBT exercise. Thoughts lead to action which leads to behaviors.

First you have to know the trigger event because the cause of your anxiety is how you respond to it.

We give our thoughts way too much importance so the solution is intervening the cycle with our observer mind... some people may feel emotional pain at first and observing it works too.

Cognitive distortions like catastrophizing,



black and white thinking, magical thinking (presuming to know what the other person is thinking) can all be slowed down by the observer mind... knowing that they are just thoughts and feelings not reality helps a lot.



What is love?

BY ALEM KIDANE

He sang to me his music of silence.
His canvases empty...

a great painter was he.
He wept devoid of tears,
and he laughed without teeth...
his books contained no lines
nor did his poetries.

He never said the words
but I know he loved me...
one who truly feels love,
discerns it quietly.

Science & Technology

Building a thriving ecosystem: Ethiopia's initiatives for technology transfer

BY HIZKEL HAILU

In today's rapidly advancing world, technology transfer and innovation play a vigorous role in driving economic growth and societal progress. In Ethiopia, a nation rich in cultural heritages and natural resources, there is tremendous potential for hitching scientific research and innovation to address socio-economic challenges and pave the way for a prosperous future.

Technology transfer refers to the process of sharing and disseminating scientific knowledge, research findings, and technological developments from academic and research institutions to industries and society at large. It plays a crucial role in translating scientific discoveries into practical applications, creating new products, enhancing productivity, and fostering economic development. By bridging the gap between research and commercialization, technology transfer fuels innovation and drives competitiveness.

Recognizing the need to overcome these barriers, Ethiopia has been taking significant steps to promote technology transfer and foster innovation. Bayissa Bedada, State Minister of Innovation Technology stated that these initiatives aim to create an enabling environment that facilitates the smooth transition of research outcomes into viable products and services.

As to him, technology transfer refers to the process of sharing and disseminating knowledge, skills, and technologies from one entity to another, typically from more advanced or developed organizations to less advanced or developing ones. It plays a crucial role in driving innovation, fostering economic growth, and bridging the technological gap between countries or regions.

Technology transfer enables countries or organizations to acquire new knowledge, skills, and expertise from more advanced entities. This helps them improve their capabilities and competitiveness in various sectors. Through adopting and implementing advanced technologies, countries can enhance their productivity, efficiency, and overall economic development. Technology transfer facilitates the diffusion of technological advancements, which can lead to job creation, increased industrial output, and higher standards of living.

Technology transfer also involves collaboration between different organizations or countries, fostering innovation and research partnerships. It encourages the exchange of ideas, joint R&D efforts, and the development of new technologies or products. Accordingly, the Ministry is working in collaboration with two Universities from India and other countries, he asserted

Moreover, technology transfer contributes to capacity building through providing training and technical assistance to the receiving entities. This helps them develop the necessary skills and expertise to utilize and adapt the transferred technologies effectively.

To ensure successful technology transfer, it is essential to have effective policies, legal frameworks, and supportive institutions in

place. Governments, academia, research institutions, and industry stakeholders often collaborate to facilitate technology transfer through initiatives such as licensing agreements, joint ventures, and knowledge-sharing platforms.

Mentioning that technology and innovation sector is among the priority sectors identified to realize the Home Grown Economic Reform and make Ethiopia a middle income country by 2030, he explained that the ministry has also revised the policies for its successful implementation.

Despite the potential benefits, technology transfer in Ethiopia faces several challenges, said Abreham Belay, a software engineer. These barriers need to be addressed to unlock the full potential of the nation's scientific and technological capabilities. Some key challenges include:

Limited research-industry collaboration is often a gap between academia and industry in Ethiopia, with limited collaboration between researchers and businesses. This hampers the effective transfer of knowledge and technology. Insufficient funding for research and development activities also limits the ability of institutions to conduct cutting-edge research and develop innovative solutions.

Despite the challenges, Ethiopia has witnessed notable success stories in technology transfer and innovation. One such example is the development of low-cost medical devices by Ethiopian researchers to address healthcare challenges in rural areas. These devices have not only improved healthcare delivery but have also created opportunities for local manufacturing and job creation.

Ethiopian researchers have developed low-cost medical devices to address healthcare challenges in rural areas. For instance, a team of engineers at the Addis Ababa Institute of Technology created a low-cost, battery-operated infant incubator that is specifically designed for resource-constrained settings. This innovation has significantly improved access to neonatal care and reduced infant mortality rates in rural communities.

Ethiopia has also harnessed its renewable energy potential by transferring solar energy technologies into practical applications. The country's commitment to renewable energy has resulted in the development of solar-powered irrigation systems, solar-powered water pumps, and solar home systems. These innovations have helped improve agricultural productivity, access to clean water, and electricity in remote areas.

Moreover, in Ethiopia's agriculture sector, technology transfer has played a crucial role in boosting productivity and improving food security. The Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) has developed improved seed varieties, such as drought-resistant maize and disease-resistant wheat, through collaborative research and knowledge-sharing with international partners. These innovations have helped farmers increase their yields and adapt to changing climatic conditions.

Mobile money and digital financial services are also additional success in Ethiopia's path in technology transfer. The nation has embraced



the technology transfer of mobile money and digital financial services. The introduction of services like Telebirr has revolutionized financial inclusion by allowing individuals to send and receive money, make payments, and access financial services through their mobile phones.

Presenting the company's six-month performance report yesterday, Ethio telecom CEO Frehiwot Tamru said, subscribers to Telebirr, launched in May 2021, grew to 41 million of its 74.6 million total subscribers. She further noted that it was able to transact 910.7 billion birr during the past six months. This innovation has transformed the way Ethiopians manage their finances, particularly in rural areas where traditional banking services are limited.

The nation has also made significant strides in ICT and technology transfer in recent years. The country has witnessed the emergence of tech startups, incubators, and innovation hubs, such as the Ethiopian ICT Park and Labs. These initiatives have fostered a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation, leading to the development of various software solutions, mobile applications, and e-commerce platforms.

It was also able to successfully attract foreign direct investment in the textile and garment industry, leveraging technology transfer to build a competitive manufacturing sector. International clothing brands have established factories in Ethiopia, bringing advanced production techniques and expertise. This transfer of technology has created employment opportunities, boosted exports, and positioned Ethiopia as a rising player in the global textile market.

These success stories demonstrate the potential of technology transfer and innovation in addressing socio-economic challenges, improving livelihoods, and driving economic growth in Ethiopia. By fostering a conducive environment for knowledge exchange, research-commercialization linkages, and collaboration between academia, industry, and government, Ethiopia continues to pave the way for further advancements in various sectors.

Looking ahead, there is an immense potential for Ethiopia to further capitalize on technology transfer and innovation. Through nurturing a vibrant ecosystem that encourages

research-industry collaboration, provides adequate funding and support, and fosters an entrepreneurial culture, Ethiopia can position itself as a hub for technological advancements and economic growth. Collaboration with international partners, knowledge exchange programs, and targeted investments in research and development will also play a significant role in accelerating technology transfer and innovation in the country.

Undoubtedly, foreign investors play a crucial role in promoting technology transfer and innovation in Ethiopia, Abreham noted. To contribute effectively to the country's development and maximize the benefits of their investments, foreign investors should engage in partnerships with local universities, research institutions, and technology transfer offices to leverage their expertise and knowledge. Collaborative research projects and joint ventures can facilitate the transfer of technology and promote innovation.

Allocating resources and funding to support research and development activities in Ethiopia shall also be their home task. By investing in cutting-edge research, foreign investors can contribute to the generation of new knowledge, technological advancements, and innovative solutions tailored to the local context.

Investors can get additional benefit if they can work in collaboration with local entrepreneurs through providing mentorship, access to networks, and financial resources. Foreign investors can contribute to the growth of the startup ecosystem in Ethiopia by fostering innovation-driven enterprises and helping them scale up their operations.

All in all, technology transfer and innovation are essential drivers of economic growth and societal progress. In Ethiopia, concerted efforts are being made to promote the transfer of knowledge and technology from laboratories to the market. Through addressing barriers, fostering collaboration, and providing the necessary support and infrastructure, Ethiopia is poised to harness its scientific and technological potential for the benefit of its people and the broader global community. With continued commitment and investment, Ethiopia can position itself as a leading innovator, contributing to sustainable development and prosperity in the years to come.

Society

“United we stand, divided we fall”

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

Adwa is not only a victory of Ethiopians but also it is a win that heralded freedom for all black people in Africa and all over the world who had been the subject of colonization and that of slavery.

Ethiopia as a country made up of different nations, nationalities and peoples who have defended its sovereignty by sacrificing their life for the sake of its peace and stability. As repeatedly indicated by historians and political analysts concerning Ethiopia's greatness, the strong sense of national identity and pride is one reason behind all the successful victories Ethiopians registered impressive successes in all the attempts of aggressions - including the decisive Victory of Adwa.

Unity among Ethiopians is one of the basic secrets of Adwa Victory. Though different in culture, language, religion or other values, Ethiopians were united to defend their land. This strong Ethiopian sentiment that was witnessed in the Battle of Adwa is still fresh within the bloodstream of the new generation that detests all forms of aggression.

What is more, the cultural unity, leadership, collaboration, and nationalistic spirit displayed during the Battle of Adwa validated Ethiopia's commitment to preserving their independence and sovereignty.

As it was indicated at a consultative meeting organized by the Ministry of Peace in collaboration with Semera University and held at Afar State recently, the Victory of Adwa is a seal that certifies Ethiopians unity.

At the consultative forum conducted at Semera Town, with the theme “Adwa for strong nation building”, Peace State Minister Kayredin Tezera (PhD) said that Adwa is a victory where Ethiopians showed commitment and fought courageously to defend nation's territorial integrity, sustain its independence and sovereignty.

He said that Adwa is a victory by which Ethiopians paid sacrifice to hand over united Ethiopia to the next generations. Adwa also witnessed the fact that no matter what their differences are, Ethiopians have no tolerance for aggression and will not refrain from defending their country's sovereignty. “The Battle of Adwa was a time when Ethiopians set aside their differences and stood as one for the sake of preserving Ethiopia's sovereignty. This generation has a responsibility in the process of building a strong nation and preserving its peace.”

Mentioning the values that bind Ethiopians together and their strong ties with their country and their commitment to defend their country's territorial integrity and its sovereignty, Kayredin said that the useless attempts exerted by some entities to erode Ethiopians unity have a goal of weakening the strong Ethiopia. Understanding this, Ethiopians should work sensibly to abort divisive narratives and stand in unison to ensure the nation's peace and accelerate its development, he added.

Equally, it is vital to make higher education institutions places where the generation that builds the future Ethiopia is created. In the same way, university students should preserve and develop the value of



togetherness and unity in order to sustain the country they have inherited from their forefathers. Building a strong nation based on trust and respect is a historical responsibility of this generation.

Regarding handling differences in a peaceful manner, the State Minister said that solving challenges needs considering diversity and ensuring that the problems are dealt with in a more civilized manner through discussion and in a peaceful way. This is expected from this generation.

There are several enabling potentials that can speed up Ethiopia's progress. The Ministry of Peace is working to ensure sustainable peace all over the county. However, this effort must be supported by other institutions. In this respect, the role of scholars is key in supporting the effort through conducting scholarly researches and other ways.

Kayredin said that Ethiopia has several historical records that testify its potential and capability in overcoming hard times. This victory resulted from the fact that its children were and still are ready to scarify their interest for Ethiopia.

Foreign Relations and Peace Affairs Standing Committee Deputy Chairperson with the House of Peoples' Representatives, Fetihi Mahdi (PhD) also said that the Victory of Adwa is not only a history but it is also an undying heroic deed that forefathers have passed down the values of unity, perseverance and heroism to the young generation.

“The victory, in addition to Ethiopians, is a source of pride for black people across the world. Taking lessons from the battle and victory of Adwa, we should strengthen unity and overcome our problems with a united power.”

According to her, we should beat poverty, sustain the existence of the country through

paying the needed sacrifice and not kneeling down to external and internal pressures with courage that we inherited from our descendants who beat invaders fearlessly.

Certainly, there was no time that Ethiopians refrained from sacrificing their priceless life to preserve the sovereignty of Ethiopia. In times where military structure and the weaponry were unmatched, Ethiopians were there to defend their land from foreign aggressors. It was not the kind of weapon that they were armed that drove Ethiopians into the warfront to confront the Fascist Italians. Rather, it was the deep sense of nationalism that fueled Ethiopians motivation to protect their land from colonizers.

The strong sense of patriotism among the Ethiopians played a significant role in the victory at the Battle of Adwa. As indicated by various historical books, whenever Ethiopia's sovereignty was threatened by the invading forces, there were no times Ethiopians hesitated in taking necessary response. This strong Ethiopian sentiment is not confined either by age, gender or ethnic considerations. Ethiopians from all corners of the country have contributed their share for the decisive Victory of Adwa.

In this regard, the role of women during the Battle of Adwa was essential and multifaceted. They played pivotal roles in supporting and motivating the Ethiopian soldiers, providing them with food, water and medical aid on the battlefield. Women also took part in the fighting, with some dressing as men and actively engaging in combat. Their bravery and contributions were crucial in the ultimate victory against the Italian forces, and their involvement served as a significant symbol of women empowerment and resilience during that time.

Adwa, the first African decisive victory against the colonizers was a battle that demonstrated unity, love and friendship



among Ethiopians; but foremost, it was a time women's active engagement was witnessed. Like their men counterparts' women in Ethiopia have shown the world their courage and decisiveness to protect their lands from colonial powers. Individuals like Empress Taytu, and others are the best examples of this. Using her leadership skill together with her wisdom, she was able to mobilize the mass with her husband Emperor Minilik II.

Women were the leading force behind the Victory of Adwa, they were preparing food and water, providing medical care for the wounded and they were following the soldiers with a slogan of “freedom or death”. The heroic spirit that was witnessed at the Battle of Adwa is still intact among Ethiopian heroines. Ethiopian women have continued to play an active role in various aspects of Ethiopian society today. They are not simply “House wives. They are witnessing their capability in various spheres; they have made significant advancements in politics, education, public service and various professional fields. This is especially true after the political reformation that gave priority to women's active involvement in leadership circles.

Ethiopians are preparing to commemorate Adwa. While marking this special day they have pledged to unite their hands together to repeat the deeds of their forefathers to realize economic prosperity, sustainable peace and stability.

Indeed, the motto “United we stand, divided we fall” rings true for Ethiopia. The country's history has shown that unity among its diverse population is crucial for its progress and development. Ethiopia is a diverse nation with various ethnicities, languages, and religions, but it is through mutual understanding, respect, and solidarity that the country can overcome challenges and achieve its goals. When Ethiopians come together, regardless of their differences, they can work towards a common purpose, social, economic, or political victory. It is through unity that Ethiopia can build a strong and prosperous nation and ensure the well-being of its people.



This is Ethiopia

Timket festival in the eyes of tourists

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Timket Festival, also known as Ethiopian Epiphany, is one of the most vibrant and celebrated religious festivals in Ethiopia. This annual event captivates both locals and eager travelers alike, offering a unique opportunity to witness the rich cultural heritage of the country. With its colorful processions, traditional rituals, and spiritual significance, *Timket* Festival is truly a feast for the senses.

At the heart of *Timket* Festival lies the commemoration of Jesus Christ's Baptism in the River Jordan. This event holds immense religious importance for Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido and Catholic Christians, symbolizing the purification of sins and the reaffirmation of faith. It is a time of spiritual reflection, forgiveness, and renewal.

During *Timket* Festival, one can expect to witness grand processions and joyful celebrations throughout Ethiopia. From Addis Ababa to Lalibela, Gondar to Axum, various cities come alive with vibrant displays of traditional clothing, music, and dance. Pilgrims dressed in immaculate white garments converge on water bodies, carrying embroidered umbrellas and singing hymns as they reenact the Baptism of Christ.

One of the most captivating aspects of *Timket* Festival is the extraordinary rituals that take place on the eve and actual days of the festivals. The night before the main event, priests carefully carry replicas of the Ark of the Covenant, known as *Tabots*, from churches to temporary camps. These *Tabots* are then blessed and sprinkled with holy water in the early hours of the morning, amidst a sea of faithful followers. The atmosphere is electric, filled with devotion and spiritual fervor.

This festival is one of the most significant religious celebrations in Ethiopia and offers a unique opportunity for visitors to experience the rich traditions and customs of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. With its colorful processions, elaborate rituals, and joyful festivities, the *Timket* Festival provides an immersive cultural experience that showcases the deep religious devotion and vibrant cultural heritages of the Ethiopian people.

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 in Addis Ababa, 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*.



Emmy Glaffa

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

"It feels great to be baptized with a wonderful 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 with 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.

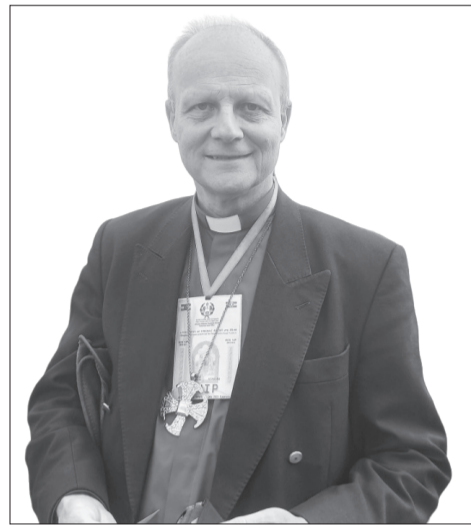
According to him, at the heart of *Timket* Festival lies the commemoration of Jesus Christ's Baptism in the River Jordan by John the Baptist.

He said this event holds immense religious importance for Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido and Catholic 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.



Martin Reakes Williams



Benjamin Kalkum

Recognizing the importance of safeguarding *Timket's* rich cultural heritages, various initiatives have been undertaken to ensure its preservation. Efforts include documentation of the rituals, educating younger generations about the significance of the festival, and engaging with religious and community leaders to uphold the authentic practices.

Timket Festival provides a unique insight into Ethiopian culture, allowing tourists to delve into the customs and traditions of this fascinating nation. By embracing this vibrant celebration, you can forge connections with the locals and gain a deeper understanding of Ethiopia's rich history and religious heritages.

In sum, across Ethiopia, the *Timket* Festival stands as a symbol of faith, unity, and cultural identity. As a tourist, witnessing this awe-inspiring event offers an unforgettable experience, enabling you to see the beauty and vibrancy of Ethiopian culture firsthand. So, why not embark on a journey to Ethiopia and immerse yourself in the magic of *Timket* Festival. Discover the richness of this ancient tradition and create memories that will last a lifetime. *Timket* is not only a time of deep religious significance but also a social and cultural event that reinforces the community's identity and strengthens the bonds between its members.

The Ethiopian *Timket* Festival has its roots in ancient Christian traditions that date back to the early centuries AD. It originated during the time of the Aksumite Empire and has since evolved and adapted over the centuries. The festival has been an integral part of Ethiopian cultural heritage and has experienced various historical influences, including the introduction of Christianity to Ethiopia in the 4th century. Its historical background reflects the fusion of diverse cultural elements, making it a truly unique and historically significant celebration in Ethiopia.

Timket Festival, one can expect to witness grand processions and joyful celebrations throughout Ethiopia