



The Ethiopian Herald

Vol LXXX No 122 31 JANUARY 2024 - TIR 22, 2016

Wednesday

Price Birr 10.00

Africa seeks commercial ties with advanced countries: Premier

• Receives first aircraft built in Ethiopia

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) reportedly made the call to developed countries to forge trade and investment relations with the African continent including Ethiopia.

The Premier is said to have made the above remark in the Italy-Africa Summit yesterday in Rome.

Planning and Development Minister Fitsum Assefa (PhD) told local media that Abiy's summit address was focused on Ethiopia's infrastructural development activities including road, renewable energy as well as an industry sector. "Despite the effort that is being exerted in the industry sector, the country's export is still limited to few raw materials."

According to the minister, the summit enhances development cooperation and relations between Ethiopia and Italy. Accordingly, PM Abiy held talks with his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues.

See Africa seeks ...page 3



ካስማ ፎርኒቸር
Gurd Sholla Century Mall 3rd floor
+251913230014 ቦደውሎ

Facebook: Kasmafurniture, Instagram: Kasma.furniture, Twitter: Kasma Furniture, LinkedIn: kasma furniture, Website: kasmafur.com



Prof. Brook Hailu

Ethiopia's access to seaport guarantees maritime security

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopia's sovereign access to seaport and its establishment of a naval base would guarantee an enduring peace for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden region, a scholar familiar with the issue said.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), a Political Science Scholar Prof. Brook Hailu stated that Ethiopia's acquisition of a sea gate in the strategic, yet volatile region is of great significance to the area's maritime security and repulsing criminal activities.

See Ethiopia's ...page 3

Coal Factory covering 75% local demand to operate soon

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

TARCHA- A coal factory in Dawro Zone having a capacity of substituting 75 % of country's imported coal would get operational soon, Company Representative disclosed.

The construction of the coal factory that has been undertaken for the past two years in Dawro Zone's Tarcha Town by ET Mining Development Company at a cost of five billion Birr has reached final phase, the Company Representative Wondimu Mitiku said.

He told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the construction of the factory is at its final phase where necessary machines are being installed.

See Coal Factory ...page 3

Czech keen to lift ties with Ethiopia to new heights

• Aims to private sector's involvement to thriving ties



Photo: Gebabo Gebrie

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – The Czech Republic is working tirelessly to enhance its partnership with Ethiopia in a range of sectors that are instrumental in taking the bilateral cooperation to new heights, the country's ambassador disclosed.

Approached by *The Ethiopian Herald*, the Czech Republic Ambassador to Ethiopia Miroslav Kosek said that it is in the interest of his government to transform the two countries' historical relations into new heights.

The Czech Republic has immense interest to take the current level of

cooperation with Ethiopia to higher levels in many spheres that would benefit both parties. Accordingly, the parties have finalized the preparation to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish the Ethio-Czech Chamber of Commerce that would mobilize the participation of the private sector in holistic attempts to build stronger Ethio-Czech ties.

According to him, the MoU would also contribute to strengthening economic diplomacy, realizing objectives and opening a door for businesses. Establishing the chamber would enhance the role of the two countries' private companies'

See Czech keen ... page 3

African American Literature in 'Roots', 'Beloved' and other comparisons

Page 7

How to ease rising external debt-service pressures in low-income countries

Page 8

Anchor stabilizer in destabilized region

Page 9

News



ShieldVax to deliver fill finish vaccine by 2026: Minister Lia

ADDIS ABABA (ENA) ShieldVax, one of the Public Enterprises Holding and Administration Agency in Ethiopia, will deliver fill finish vaccine by 2026 and vaccine drug substance by the end of 2027, Health Minister Lia Tadesse (MD) said.

Health Minister Lia and pertinent stakeholders laid the foundation stone for the construction of ShieldVax Enterprise project to manufacture vaccines in Ethiopia at the Kilinto Industrial Park on Monday.

During the ceremony, Lia said that a strong ecosystem is a key to build the local manufacturing industry.

“ShieldVax Enterprise is not confined to a local context; it aims to be pivotal player in regional collaboration and solidarity. Aligned the priorities of the Africa CDC, this project is significant step towards the bold vision of producing 60 % of the continent’s vaccines by 2040,” she elaborated.

The establishment of Shieldvax Enterprise reflects the government’s unwavering commitment to strengthen defenses against both current and future health threats; the Minister emphasized, and added that it serves as a symbol of resilience, adaptability, and our united determination to secure a healthier future for generations to come.

Africa Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa-CDC) Director-General, Jean Kaseya through his representative said that in many ways, Ethiopia’s approach to vaccine and pharmaceutical manufacturing represents both the challenges and the necessary solutions that we face as Africa as a whole.

“The government of Ethiopia, Africa CDC and partners continue to work together as we take the next and even more crucial steps towards securing the goals of manufacturing 60 % of our vaccine needs in Africa by 2040,” he added.

He affirmed Africa CDC’s support to the works and ambitions of Ethiopia in manufacturing medicines and vaccines.

World Bank Ethiopia’s Country Director Ousmane Dione said on his part that Ethiopia’s national strategy for pharmaceutical and manufacturing seek to expand local production from 20 to 60 % and substitute import while bringing consumers and producers closer.

To achieve this, the World Bank will continue to work hand in hand with the government of Ethiopia, he added.

“The World Bank and IFC are designing an investor outreach to identify potential investment opportunities and investors with focus on the ShieldVax Enterprise at Kilinto Industrial park,” he elaborated.

He affirmed that the World Bank will continue to provide technical assistance to the government in this endeavor.

Ethiopia grosses over 142 mln USD from minerals export in half-year

• Formulates new policy to better outcomes

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA- The Ministry of Mines said some 142.9 million USD was obtained from minerals export in the past six months of the current fiscal year and achieved 58 % of the plan.

The above was disclosed when the Ministry reviewed the implementation of the six-month performance of the 2023/24 fiscal year with relevant stakeholders yesterday.

Speaking at the occasion, Mines Minister Habtamu Tegegn (Eng.) stated that it was planned to earn 243.24 million USD from the export of minerals to foreign market in the reported period, and 142.9 million USD has been earned. The stated sum was obtained by supplying gold, tantalum, lithium ore, jewelry and industrial minerals to the foreign market.

The minister also stated that the nation has planned to secure about 512 million USD from minerals export in this fiscal year.

“There are 11 cement factories in operation in the current fiscal year,” he noted, adding that factories have the capacity to produce 14 million tons of cement per year.

According to Habtamu, the annual domestic



Photo: Gebabo Gebrie

demand for cement is 36 million tons. Some 51 million tons of cement was produced in six months of the fiscal year.

He further noted that consolidated efforts are underway to implement an effective mining policy with the support of the already-established national mining council in bid to tap Ethiopia’s immense mining sector potentials. “The existence of illegal actors in the mining market chain and corruption are the major setbacks that keep the sector unproductive.”

The national mining council was established to control these illegal actors and put accountability on those who violate the laws.

The ministry is also working to create the situation whereby the produced gold and other precious minerals are directly submitted to the central bank and passed through in a transparent way to generate a sizable foreign exchange from the sector.

“We will soon establish a mining police to curb the pressing problems that the mining sector has been facing. Since the sector requires capital, large scale investment and time, government’s closer follow-up and support to private capital is critical.”

Habtamu added, “Despite some challenges, five large-scale companies are on the way to engage in the Ethiopian mining sector and then we expect better results from the private sector’s involvement and will create a favorable environment to attract more businesses.”

Limited number of experienced and skilled experts in the mining sector and lack of coordination among concerned institutions as well as technological setbacks are also challenges that the ministry has been engaged to address.

Here, environmental health and public benefit should be considered in careful manner and it needs international experience and actors to manage and utilize in good manner, the minister remarked.

Yelimat Tirufat boosts animal products in Ethiopia

• Initiative yields over 2.1 billion liters of milk

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA- Yelimat Tirufat initiative has yielded Ethiopia increased animal products including over 2.1 billion liters of milk in Oromia State in six months, State Agriculture Bureau said.

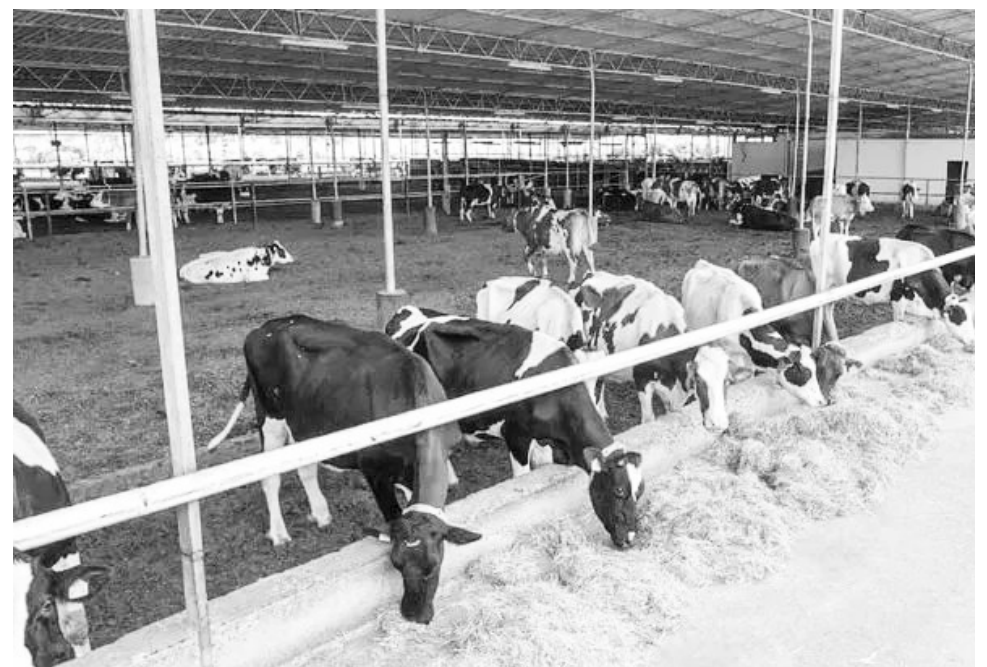
Oromia Agriculture Bureau, Animal Breeding Improvement and Development Director Demse Kumsa told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that more than 2.17 billion liters of milk of the planned 2.18 billion liters has been produced in the past six months.

The state has been working to produce over 3.3 billion liters of milk this fiscal year under Yelimat Tirufat initiative, he indicated.

Accordingly, over 201, 480 farmers are engaged in the milk development program which is being implemented in more than 1,679 milk villages, he added.

Likewise, the initiative which also designed to increase poultry production has enabled the state to produce 49,252 tons of chicken meat and over 1.2 billion eggs, according to the Director.

Similarly, the initiative also helped to produce 157, 258 tons of fish more than the



planned 97,765 tons of fish to be produced in the same period, Demse said.

Moreover, he added, some 54,300 tons of honey was produced in the first half of the fiscal year through participating 9,780 beekeepers in 489 honey villages.

Apart from these successes, the Director said challenges related to lack of budget, input and absence of market linkage have been seen during the implementation of the

initiative.

Despite all, this year’s six month accomplishment of Yelimat Tirufat initiative is better than last year’s annual performance, he mentioned.

Demse also noted that involving a large number of people in the program would play a significant role in ensuring food security in the region in addition to improving employment and income.

News

Officials says ENA continues to uphold Nat'l interests

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA—The newly built Media complex of Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) is expected to strengthen national understanding, unity and build country's image in a new phase, so stated officials.

ENA inaugurated the modern media complex yesterday. The complex includes three television and four radio studios. It also has a number of rooms for office use, meeting halls, a library, a recreation center and a state-of-the-art gymnasium, it was learnt.

At the event, House of Federation Speaker Agegnehu Teshager said that the newly media complex will create national consensus and strengthen unity. It will make the service ready for a higher national mission. It will also be equipped with modern technologies and would cause comfortable environment. The agency will continue building a collective narrative and strengthen ties with foreign news services to become the leading source of reliable news



Photo: Dagne Abera

in Africa.

Established 82 years ago, ENA has been playing a crucial role in building national unity and common heritage in Ethiopia.

Government Communication Services Minister, Legese Tulu (PhD) on his part said that a media house equipped with modern technology and infrastructure would be of paramount importance in increasing

Ethiopia's media capacity and access to information.

Mayor of Addis Ababa city administration Mayor, Adanech Abiebie, said that ENA should work hard to inform the world about Ethiopia's reality and create national consensus.

She also pointed out that ENA has fulfilled the technologies that will redeem the time. It is safe to inform the whole world about the reality of Ethiopia.

She also pointed out that ENA's modern media complex would be able to create appealing environment, and the city administration is committed to provide it with all necessary support.

ENA CEO Seife Derbie said on the occasion that that ENA will work to strengthen national understanding and the building of the country's image opening a new chapter.

"It is a competitive institution with foreign news services and is working in coordination with foreign media in addition to local media," he added.

Czech keen...

involvement in establishing stronger commercial ties. To materialize the goal, Czech has been extending the necessary technical support to Ethiopia in various sectors.

Ambassador Kosek further highlighted the two countries' higher-level officials' reciprocal visits are of great significance to the furtherance of the bilateral relations in various arenas. In this regard, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's (PhD) visit to Prague and his Czech counterpart Petr Fiala's stay in Addis Ababa last year confirmed the deepening of the two sides' bilateral ties.

"Moreover, the Czech Republic Ministry of Trade and Industry and its Ethiopian counterpart have been working to finalize the signing of an inter-ministerial MoU that would facilitate conditions for the two countries' companies to do business, get licenses, explore market opportunities and cooperate with each other."

Ethiopia and the Czech Republic have

been enjoying stronger cooperation in the mining, agriculture, hydrogeology (water management), cultural, health, defense and other areas. Czech has special interest to expand its partnership with Ethiopia in the sphere of culture as it creates strong bonds with individuals, institutions, companies and others, he added.

"Ethiopia's Diplomacy Exhibition that has been taking place at the Science Museum is a good idea for us to prepare something for our diplomacy. It is also an important part of cultural diplomacy."

There are a number of Czech companies that are actively operating in Ethiopia's market and they are ready to deliver the technology, technical know-how and other support for local partners. This kind of engagement requires unrelenting support of the two countries' embassies. "Step by step, the Czech and Ethiopian companies would penetrate market potentials in both countries," Ambassador Kosek expressed optimism.

Africa seeks...

"Since Italy is going to chair the upcoming G7 Summit, Abiy urged PM Meloni and expressed his hope that Africa would be treated as equal partners in the event."

The two countries launched a program worth some 5.5 billion Euros which focuses on education, infrastructure, renewable energy and other sectors. Of which, the direct budget support agreement for the renewable energy program is over 83 million Euros.

Noting the recent launching of the second phase of the renewable energy program, Fistum indicated that the cooperation would highly contribute to the realization of the program in achieving universal electricity access. "Similarly, the agreement will pave the way in solving the financial challenge that the Koysha Hydroelectric Power Project faced due to Ethiopia's loan situation."

She further highlighted that the cooperation is the manifestation of Ethiopia's development

partners' effort to revive the collaboration.

On the other hand, the summit deliberated on minimizing the challenges of illegal migration. The summit's focus was not only easing the problems but also addressing the pushing factor of illegal migration from the source, it was learned.

In a related development, Premier Abiy received the first aircraft built in Ethiopia in 1935 dubbed "Tsehay" which was made by the collaborative efforts of the German engineer and pilot of the emperor, Herr Ludwig Weber, and Ethiopian individuals of that era.

In his tweet the PM said, "Today is a day of great pride for Ethiopians as we celebrate the official handover of "Tsehay" by the Italian Government. I extend my immense gratitude to Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni for her support over the past year in facilitating its return."



Photo: Hadush Abraha

Coal Factory...

As to him, the company plans to inaugurate the factory in less than two months after finalizing the installation and test of machines.

"Ethiopia has a coal resource, but it imports processed coal from South Africa. Ethiopia's cement factories are using imported processed coal and ET Mining Development aims to substitute over 75 % of imported processed coal," Wondimu stated.

As to the Representative, the company has the capacity to supply 150 ton refined coal per hour.

Factory's Project Manager Belay Asefa for his part said that Ethiopia's processed coal demand is high as it demands 400 million

USD on average.

However, ET Mining Development's coal factory is on final stage to start supplying quality processed coal at home, he said, adding that the factory has the capacity of supplying 3,600 tons of coal product per day.

According to Wondimu, the factory has already began undertaking social responsibility by supporting community development projects in the surroundings.

It has built two health centers and now constructing a school that created over 300 jobs during the construction period. Moreover, the factory would create about 400 jobs when it gets operational, Wondimu indicated.

Ethiopia's access...

As to him, the security of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden will be more guaranteed if Ethiopia has direct access to a seaport and can participate well in maritime issues. Besides, the seaport plays a critical role in intensifying its commercial activities and deploying the naval forces. Therefore, Ethiopia's aspiration to direct access to port is justifiable and reasonable on legal, moral and other grounds.

Prof. Brook lamented, "Taking its large population and economic prowess into account, Ethiopia has been suffering a lot in the past 30 and plus years due to the absences of direct access to seaport and the loss has also had a lasting impact on its security and the public wellbeing."

He also said that Ethiopia's acquisition of a

seaport from Somaliland comes based on two sides' interests and a win-win approach, not by any pressure or coercion. "I think some interest groups' opposition to the port deal is influenced by the distorted information of our historical enemies."

"Why it strange for Ethiopia, only 60 kilometers away from the sea, to establish a military base in Somaliland while different countries that are far away from the region already have a strong military presence?"

Likewise, Ethiopia has many commercial ships that are operating as far as China and South America but no party to protect them. Therefore, the agreement would help to protect the ships security through cooperative approach, the expert emphasized.

Opinion

Tricolor emblem Vs pan-African ensign: Symbol of unity, resilience

BY HIZKEL HAILU

The vibrant flags of many African nations proudly display a common thread—a tricolor emblem, the red, yellow, and green icon. While these hues may seem arbitrary at first glance, they hold a profound significance rooted in the history of the continent and the ideals of Pan-Africanism. On October 11th, 1897, a year after Ethiopia defended itself from Italian colonization at the Battle of Adwa, Emperor Menelik II authorized the creation of a flag containing a rectangular tri-color from top to bottom: red, yellow, and green.

Ethiopia's resistance against colonial oppression and the subsequent influence of Pan-African leaders like Kwame Nkrumah has shaped the symbolism of these colors. This piece of article delves into the origins and meanings behind the Pan-African colors, highlighting their role in fostering unity, resilience, and a shared identity among African nations.

In 1896, Emperor Menelik II of Ethiopia led his forces to a historic victory against the Kingdom of Italy at the Battle of Adwa. This triumph not only secured Ethiopia's sovereignty but also represented a significant blow to European colonial powers. To commemorate this feat, Emperor Menelik II authorized the creation of a flag adorned with three horizontal stripes: red, yellow, and green. These colors became a symbol of Ethiopia's resistance against colonialism, inspiring other African nations in their quest for independence.

The spirit of Pan-Africanism, advocating for the unity and liberation of African nations, gained momentum in the mid-20th century. Kwame Nkrumah, the visionary leader who spearheaded Ghana's independence in 1957, played a pivotal role in spreading the Pan-African ideology. Drawing inspiration from Ethiopia's flag, Nkrumah incorporated the red, yellow, and green colors into Ghana's national flag. By doing so, he emphasized the connection between Ghana's struggle for independence and Ethiopia's historical resistance.

Ghana's adoption of the red, yellow, and green color scheme set a powerful precedent for other newly independent African nations. Guinea, which gained independence in 1958, followed suit, employing a vertical tricolor design. Mali's flag resembled Guinea's but with the green stripe at the beginning and the red stripe at the end. Cameroon, Senegal, Togo, Comoros, Burkina Faso, Seychelles, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe, Congo, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Benin, and numerous other African countries also embraced the three colors combined with Pan-African colors in their flags.

While the specific meanings of the Pan-African colors may vary slightly from country to country, they generally represent key aspects of Africa's identity and history. Green symbolizes the continent's lush landscapes, fertile lands, and the hopes for a prosperous future. It serves as a reminder of

Africa's agricultural wealth and its potential for growth.

Red, associated with the bloodshed endured during the fight against colonial oppression, represents the sacrifices made by Africans seeking independence. It embodies the shared struggles and resilience of the African people.

Yellow signifies the abundance of Africa's natural resources, from its vast mineral wealth to its diverse wildlife. It represents the continent's potential for economic prosperity and development. Finally, black, often included in the Pan-African color scheme, symbolizes the color of Africa's inhabitants, celebrating the continent's rich cultural heritage and the unity of its people.

The adoption of the Pan-African colors by African nations reflects a desire for unity and solidarity. In the wake of colonial rule, African countries sought to create a shared identity, one that transcended borders and celebrated their collective heritage. The Pan-African colors serve as a visual reminder of this shared struggle and the aspiration for a united Africa. They foster a sense of belonging and provide a unifying symbol that resonates with Africans across the continent and the diaspora.

Today, the Pan-African colors can be seen not only on flags but also in various cultural and artistic expressions, serving as a reminder of Africa's rich history and its ongoing journey towards progress and unity.

Now another time is also coming in which the African countries' flags are going to shine at different places in Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia and Africa as well. The 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union will take place by the coming month (from 17th – 18th February, 2024) at Africa Union Hall, here in Addis.

The convening of the 37th Ordinary Session of the African Union in Addis Ababa holds great symbolic significance. The capital city of Ethiopia, known as the diplomatic capital of Africa, is not only the headquarters of the African Union but also the birthplace of the Pan-African movement. As African leaders gather in Addis Ababa, the city serves as a powerful reminder of the continent's rich history, unity, and shared aspirations.

The Pan-African colors, prominently displayed on the flags of African countries, represent the ideals of the African Union. The presence of African flags flying in Addis Ababa during the session reinforces the message of unity and solidarity among African nations. The Pan-African colors, which adorn these flags, serve as a visual representation of the shared history, struggles, and aspirations of African countries. They remind leaders and citizens alike of the importance of working together to address common challenges and achieve shared goals.

The red, yellow, and green colors found in the flags of many African nations are

shaped the continent's past and continues to shape its future. They serve as a beacon of hope, reminding us of Africa's potential and the power of solidarity among its diverse nations.

In a world where borders can sometimes divide, the Pan-African colors unite. They transcend linguistic, cultural, and geographical differences, reminding Africans of their shared struggles and common destiny. By embracing these colors, African nations reinforce their commitment to Pan-African ideals, fostering collaboration, and cooperation for the betterment of the entire continent.

The Pan-African colors are not merely symbols on flags; they are a testament to the resilience and strength of the African people. They represent the triumph over colonialism, the pursuit of independence, and the ongoing efforts to build prosperous and inclusive nations. These colors serve as a reminder that Africa's future lies in its unity, diversity, and collective action.

As we celebrate the Pan-African colors and their significance, let us also recognize the challenges that lie ahead. Economic disparities, political instability, and social injustices persist in many African nations. However, by embracing the spirit of Pan-Africanism and the symbolism of these colors, we can foster a renewed commitment to address these issues collectively. The Pan-African colors remind us that the struggles of one nation are the struggles of all and that by working together, we can overcome obstacles and forge a brighter future for Africa.

In conclusion, the red, yellow, and green colors found in the flags of many African nations are not merely a coincidence or a matter of aesthetics. They are a powerful testament to the continent's history, resilience, and aspirations. Inspired by Ethiopia's resistance and fueled by the ideals of Pan-Africanism, these colors represent unity, strength, and hope. They remind us of Africa's shared struggles, its diversity, and its potential for greatness. As we look to the future, let us carry the spirit of the Pan-African colors in our hearts, working together to build a prosperous, inclusive, and united Africa.

Now, the adoption of these particular colors by these African countries was not because they lacked artistic or design tastes. We must understand that at that time, these countries were just recovering from colonial oppression. And the way they could relate with each other was to adopt similar colors as similar colors may signify similar heritage. Again the ideal of Pan-Africanism which is a call for a United Africa was a big deal for the continent African at that time.

The red, yellow, and green colors found in the flags of many African nations are not mere aesthetic choices but powerful symbols of African identity, resilience, and unity. Inspired by Ethiopia's resistance against colonialism and driven by the ideals of Pan-Africanism, these colors represent the struggles, hopes, and aspirations of the African people

not mere aesthetic choices but powerful symbols of African identity, resilience, and unity. Inspired by Ethiopia's resistance against colonialism and driven by the ideals of Pan-Africanism, these colors represent the struggles, hopes, and aspirations of the African people. They serve as a visual testament to the continent's rich heritage, abundant resources, and collective determination to overcome adversity. The Pan-African colors connect nations across Africa, reminding them of their shared history and the ongoing pursuit of a united and prosperous Africa.

As we witness the Pan-African colors fluttering in the wind, let us reflect on the remarkable journey that led to their adoption and the significance they hold for African nations. These colors embody the spirit of resistance, resilience, and unity that has

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

Editorial

No more see Africa as a junior partner!

Gone are the old days when Africa was treated as a dark continent. In a sharp contradiction to past tarnishing portrayal, Africa is growing to be more assertive and decisive in global stages. The continent has attracted more traction from the international community with its big opportunity for mutual growth. Particularly, over the years, the rest of the world has increasingly become desirous to forge strong bilateral cooperation with the continent of the youth.

Being home to close to 70 percent young population and replete with precious yet untapped natural resources, the continent has also placed itself as an indispensable actor in global geopolitics. African countries are also fighting for a greater representation of the populous continent in international organizations including the United Nations Security Council.

Unlike the longtime ill-conceived thoughts, African countries are pushing for equal treatment in the international arena. Nowadays, the world's fastest growing economies are in Africa. Countries like Ethiopia, despite the odds, have been registering rapid economic growth for years in a row.

With the African economy forecast to maintain an upward trajectory, powerful economies and affluent blocs have been coming up with various socioeconomic programs to cement cooperation with a continent that has so much to offer. Last year only, BRICS countries added Ethiopia and Egypt as new members and the G20 countries also gave the African Union a permanent membership. These developments are solid indicators of the continent's increasing engagement at bilateral and multilateral levels.

In terms of redressing global woes, the continent remains a key partner. And, it is behooving the rest of the world to join forces with the continent to tackle global challenges like climate change. More nations and blocs are showing keenness to boost economic cooperation and political alliance with the continent.

And, the boom in the number of global actors and the rapid transition to a more multipolar world are offering the continent with multitude of cooperation alternatives. The fact is Africa is no longer a junior partner and it has now become vivid that no international goals can be met or no predicament can be tackled by leaving the largest continent behind. From the U.S Africa Summit to Russia Africa forum, nations with different economic status and political view are exploring ways to bolster ties with the abundant continent.

Despite the growing enthusiasm, Africa is asking for an equal treatment in its partnership with other sides.

Over the years the calls have got louder and clearer. Trade rather than aid is what Africa prioritizes.

The continent's young population, vast natural resources, rich history and culture place it in equal footing in the world stage. Sure, Africa needs the proper technology and knowledge to unlock its potential.

With right policies and strategies, the continent can achieve miraculous economic growth and may significantly contribute to global causes. To do so, there should be savvy commitment from other sides.

Speaking at the Summit where leaders and representatives from 45 African nations have took part, Musa Faki said: "Africa does not want to reach out. We are not beggars."

While welcoming Italy's Initiative, the Chairperson said: "we cannot be satisfied with mere promises that can't be kept. A paradigm shift is required to usher in a new model of partnership and pave the way towards a more just and coherent world."

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said for her part that the project would be based on cooperation among equals" and "far from any predatory imposition or charitable stance towards Africa. We want to write a new chapter in the history of our cooperation. There has been biased storytelling in the past, saying Africa is a poor continent. This is not true. It boasts natural resources and a young population."

True to the words of both leaders, Africa should not have been seen as a continent of poverty. Of course like elsewhere, the continent has layers of challenges to overcome. From conflicts to poverty, Africa has to do more to tackle its pervasive problems. Yet, describing the rich continent with defaming words was a grave mistake that requires respite. The continent has immense potential that does not only bring continental development but also global change. To see the continent as a land of poverty and junior partners is an outdated way of thinking. Africa has what it takes to be an equal partner and the world should take concrete steps to ensure where a just and equal global system works.

Opinion



Ethiopia's National Dialogue as an impetus for national development

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

It is common knowledge that in recent years Ethiopia has set in motion a National Dialogue, an earth-shattering stride that inculcates enthusiasm within the general public on the grounds that it puts forward a potential step in surmounting the encounters upsetting the nation. It is a well-known fact that Ethiopia has been over and over again burdened with entrenched matters hampering its progression and barricading advancement en route a cheerful future.

The significance of the National Dialogue cannot be emphasized enough as it acts as an impactful platform that authorizes and inspires diverse stakeholders to voice their unique views, opinions, and standpoints on matters that positively impact the nation. Stakeholders have the potential for playing a part in heated discussion around critical matters that span the social, political, and economic realms that have comprehensive consequences for the country as a whole.

The remarkable progress has been going in the proper direction sparking a rehabilitated grasp of hope among the population as a whole signifying the rise of a future devoid of disharmony and marked by considerable evolving treads. In point of fact, the expectation surrounding Ethiopia's National Dialogue is driven forward by a shared attachment to change as well as harmony within the population as a whole.

Following the ongoing positive move on the subject of the national dialogue the population as a whole have been provided with a glimpse of hope considering that praiseworthy progress is being manifested confirming the certainty that a more harmonious and affluent future is close at hand despite achieving the desired goal overnight is easier said than done.

As a matter of fact, the country has been time and again contending with huge numbers of encounters that need immediate remedy. On the basis thereof, the national dialogue process appears as a vital undertaking playing a fundamental role in smoothing the path of effortless solution that can bring about more sufficient solutions. This critical step connotes a noteworthy growth in the country's route serving as tangible proof that the progressive efforts and resourcefulness directed towards tackling these persistent matters give rise to encouraging outcomes.

By the same token, the national dialogue process is a breakthrough assignment that endeavors to foster unity and solidarity among the diverse population of Ethiopia. This comprehensive plan is deliberately designed to convene individuals hailing from a wide array of ethnic groups and political

affiliations with all-encompassing objective of providing a platform for inclusive as well as constructive discussions with a view to bringing the desired goal at the earliest possible time.

By commending the variety of viewpoints and vigorously taking into account the diversity of standpoints, the federal government proves a commendable openness and enthusiasm to play a part in a genuine dialogue. This approach generates a platform where conflicting opinions are not only documented but also candidly considered.

By fostering this culture of honesty, the government distinguishes the importance of incorporating and acquires knowledge from divergent viewpoints, with the ultimate ambition of directing the nation forward on the basis of consensus and shared values.

The praiseworthy direction in which the national dialogue process is heading at the present time can primarily be closely related to the unwavering commitment demonstrated by the federal government of Ethiopia. This steadfast devotion as well as active involvement in smoothing the national dialogue process should receive due respect and acknowledgment at the earliest possible juncture.

The remarkable development made within the framework of the national dialogue process indicates an essential step towards bringing up a more closely aligned and harmonious Ethiopia. Needless to say, this firm resolution is extraordinarily praiseworthy as it makes evident a readiness to involve broad-mindedness and understanding towards different viewpoints all with the overriding objective of looking for common understanding and catapulting the country forward as a united nation.

It is worth mentioning that this development marks a withdrawal from the protracted challenges that have snowed under the country. Other than that the ongoing national dialogue process has the potential to bring transformative changes into play nurturing the general public free from conflict, and propelling the country towards sustainable development at the earliest possible moment.

It is essential to underscore that throughout the country's history, no other government has demonstrated such resolute determination in encouraging and nurturing a vigorous platform for the national dialogue with the purpose of bringing about the sought after goal. This coordinated effort signifies a critical juncture indicating the government's desire to tackle the longstanding matters affecting the country and pave the way for a more unified and well-to-do future.

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



The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays
By The Ethiopian Press Agency

Office of the CEO

Tel. 011-126-42-22

Fax. 251-011-156-98-62

email- epa@press.et

Advertisement and Dist.

Department

email: etpresspromotion@gmail.com

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

Telegram :- 0976084707 - press

Editor-in-Chief: Worku Belachew

email- workubelachew@press.et

Address- Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-city

Woreda - 05, House No----

Tel- +251 111 26 41 98

Managing Editor: Wakuman Kudama

Email: wakuma220@gmail.com

Deputy Editors-in-Chief:

Alem Hailu

Elizabeth Mengistu

Zekarias Woldemariam

Desta Geberehiwot

Daniel Beyene

Website: www.press.et

email: ethiopianherald@press.et

Fb/ /Ethiopian Press Agency/

The Ethiopian Herald

Business & Economy

Exploring Ethiopia's thriving business opportunities

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

Investing in Africa has become a crucial business and investment events which acts as a significant channel for stimulating the continent economy. With vast networks, business leaders, and other interested parties spanning across the globe, investing in Africa has facilitated numerous opportunities in various countries.

One such country is Ethiopia, located in the Horn of Africa, with a population of over 110 million people, making it the second-most populous country on the continent. Ethiopia has experienced substantial economic growth in recent years, creating a favorable environment for business opportunities. Let's explore some of the top investment prospects in Ethiopia.

Ethiopia has emerged as a promising destination for international investors seeking lucrative business opportunities. With its robust economic growth, strategic location, abundant natural resources, and a government committed to creating a favorable investment climate, the country creates enabling environment for various economic sectors.

Energy Sector: Ethiopia's potential for renewable energy is vast, with abundant resources such as hydro, wind, and solar power. The government has prioritized the development of energy infrastructure, creating opportunities for investment in power generation, transmission, and distribution projects.

Mining and Extractive Industries: Ethiopia is rich in mineral resources, including gold, platinum, tantalum, and potash. The government has implemented reforms to encourage environmental friendly mining practices and attract foreign investors. Exploration and extraction activities in the mining sector present significant potential for investment and growth.

Real Estate and Construction: Rapid urbanization and population growth in Ethiopia have fueled the demand for residential, commercial, and industrial properties. Investment opportunities exist in real estate development, construction projects, and infrastructure development to meet the country's expanding needs.

Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals: Ethiopia's healthcare sector is undergoing transformation, with a focus on improving access to quality medical services. Investment prospects exist in the establishment of hospitals, clinics, pharmaceutical manufacturing, and distribution networks to cater to the growing health protection demands.

Education and Skills Development: As Ethiopia aims to enhance its human capital, there is great potential for investment in the education sector. Opportunities range from establishing schools and vocational training centers to developing e-learning platforms and educational technology solutions.

Conducive investment Environment:

The Ethiopian government has taken various measures to create an enabling environment for investors, including:

Investment Incentives: Ethiopia offers a range of incentives to attract foreign investment, including tax holiday, duty exemptions on imported capital goods, and repatriation of profits and dividends.

Infrastructure Development: The government is investing heavily in infrastructure, including roads, railways, airports, and energy projects. This commitment enhances connectivity and facilitates the movement of goods and services across the country.

Policy Reforms: Ethiopia has implemented comprehensive economic and business reforms to streamline bureaucratic processes, improve transparency, and protect investors' rights. These reforms aim to enhance the ease of doing business and provide a stable regulatory framework.

Skilled Workforce: Ethiopia boasts young and vibrant workforce, providing a valuable resource for businesses. The government is focused on enhancing educational and vocational training programs to develop a skilled labor force that meets the needs of various industries.

The government endeavors to make the nation an attractive destination for international investors. Right after assumed power five years ago, the government introduced a home grown economic reform aiming at addressing the chronic macro-economic ills manifested by foreign currency crunch, inflation, unemployment, budget deficit, illegal trade and debt services and so far, it registered encouraging results. Donors pledged to support the government economic endeavor through providing loan and reschedule its debt payment.

Agriculture: Agriculture serves as the backbone of Ethiopia's economy, presenting significant investment potential. The sector contributes 45% to the Gross Domestic Production and 85% to the foreign currency earnings. The country possesses expansive fertile land, suitable climate, and abundant water resources, making it ideal for crop cultivation and livestock production. Opportunities for investment exist in crop production, animal husbandry, and agro-processing.

Manufacturing: Ethiopia's manufacturing sector is rapidly expanding, and the government is actively incentivizing foreign investors. The textile and garment industry is one of the most developed sectors in the country, but there are also substantial prospects for investment in other manufacturing areas such as food processing, construction materials, and pharmaceuticals.

Tourism: Ethiopia boasts a rich cultural and historical heritage, featuring ancient churches, monasteries, and castles, which make it an attractive tourist destination. Investment opportunities exist in the development of hotels, resorts, and tourist infrastructure to cater to the growing influx

Ethiopia offers significant potential for business opportunities, and the government is taking proactive steps to create a favorable investment environment

of tourists.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT): Ethiopia possesses one of the largest untapped ICT markets in Africa, and the government is actively encouraging investment in this sector. There are opportunities for the development of software, hardware, and telecommunication infrastructure to meet the growing demand for ICT services.

In conclusion, Ethiopia offers significant potential for business opportunities, and the government is taking proactive steps to create a favorable investment environment. With a growing economy, abundant natural resources, and a large population, Ethiopia presents an ideal destination for investors seeking to enter the African market.

In recent news, it has been reported that giant Canadian companies with substantial potential in the mining and agro-processing industries are preparing to invest in Ethiopia. The Ethiopian Ambassador to Canada, Fitsum Arega, highlighted the efforts of the embassy in promoting Ethiopia's investment

opportunities and favorable conditions across various sectors. Canadian investors, particularly those with expertise in mining and agricultural processing, are currently in the process of exploring investment opportunities in Ethiopia. Canada is home to companies with extensive experience and competence in the mining sector, aligning with the Ethiopian government's prioritization of mining development in its Ten-Year Development Plan. The government's focus on promoting the country's rich gold and mineral resources has attracted interest from Allied Gold, a major Canadian gold-producing company that is expected to launch a nearly half-billion-dollar project in Ethiopia.

Furthermore, the ambassador mentioned efforts to attract Canadian companies to the potash sector, with discussions underway with six companies that have high potential in various investment sectors. The promotion of tourism attractions in Ethiopia has also received significant attention, highlighting the country's commitment to developing multiple sectors simultaneously.

The Ethiopian government's reform efforts in recent years have garnered growing interest from foreign companies looking to engage in the mining sector. With vast land areas, advantageous geography, and geological conditions, Ethiopia possesses a unique mixture of various minerals, making it a treasure trove of untapped mineral wealth. These resources have the potential to contribute significantly to the nation's economic prosperity once harnessed effectively.

In another development, Ethiopia and Italy have signed an Implementing Agreement titled "Support to job creation-oriented skills and infrastructures development." The agreement, inked by the State Minister of the Ministry of Finance, Semereta Sewasew, and the Italian Ambassador to Ethiopia, Agostino Palese, commits Italy to provide financial assistance totaling 12 million euros (748 million Birr). This assistance comprises a loan of Euro 10 million and Euro 2 million grant. The project aims to promote decent job creation by facilitating the flow of skills and involving Italian expertise to improve production processes and access to markets, particularly for women and young people. It aligns with Ethiopia's national drive for employment, aiming to accommodate approximately 2 million new young people entering the job market annually. The agreement specifically finances infrastructural interventions, including the creation of a Skill Park in Addis Ababa encompassing a Center of Excellence for Fashion and Design, as well as an enterprise Incubator/Hub in Jimma.

These recent developments highlight the ongoing efforts to attract foreign investment and promote economic growth in Ethiopia. The government's commitment to creating enabling investment climate, combined with the country's abundant resources and diverse investment opportunities, positions Ethiopia as an attractive destination for international investors.

Art & Culture

African American Literature

in 'Roots', 'Beloved' and other comparisons

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

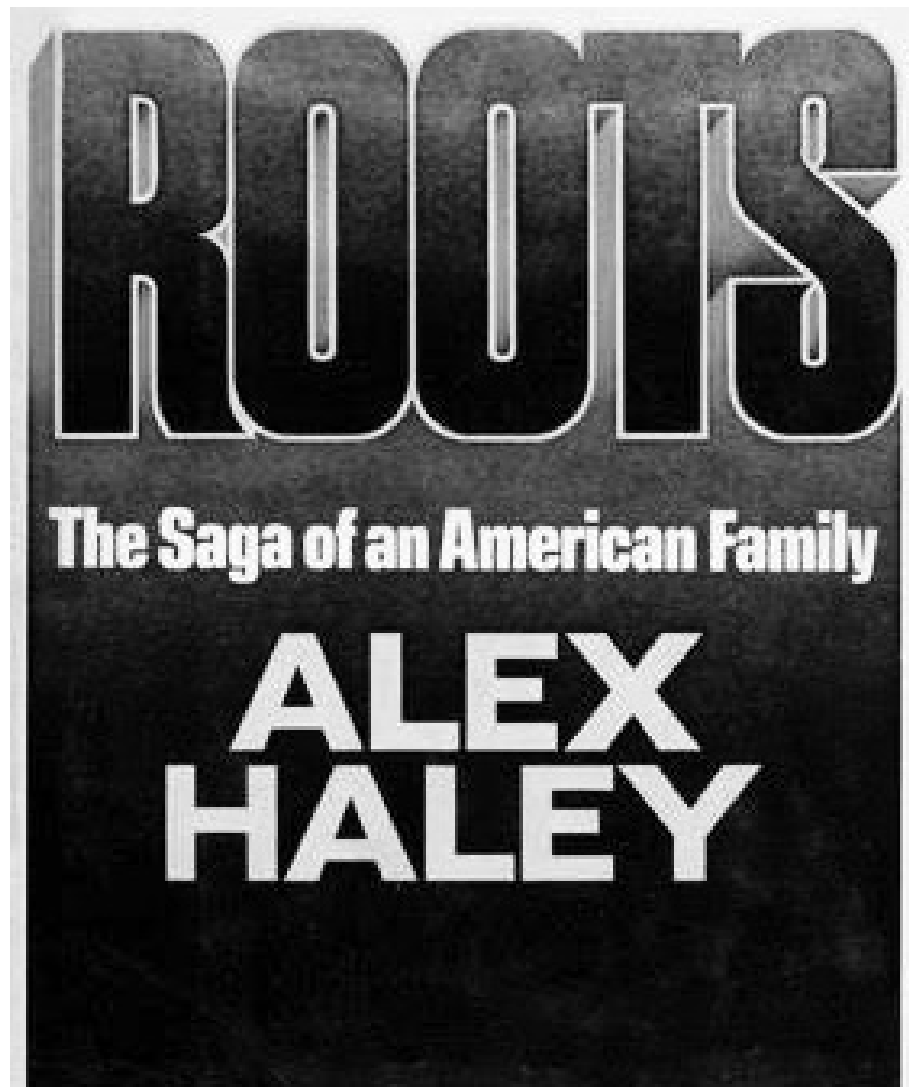
'Roots: The Saga of American Family' was written in 1976 by Alex Haley and tells the story of Kunta Kinte, an 18th century African, captured as an adolescent and sold into slavery in Africa and then transported to North America. The novel follows the lives and struggles of his descendants in the US down to the author himself. The publication of the book was followed by its television serial adaptation that create a cultural storm both among the black and white populations leading to the record sales and instant fame and glory to the author. The novel on the New York Times was in best-selling list for forty-six week and as number one for twenty-two weeks.

On the other hand, the contemporary novel 'Americanah' by a Nigerian young female writer called Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie is a continuation of the black American literary tradition in the sense that both books deal with race, ethnicity, being black in America and the conflicting destinies of their characters. Although both Roots and Americanah are written by black writers of African descent, they are at the same time different as far as the setting, time, locations and characters as well as their thematic focus are concerned.

While Roots deals with being black in slave-owning America, Americanah deals with being a member of the African or black Diaspora in the US long after the abolishing of slavery and the assumption of freedom by descendants of the former slaves. The two books therefore serve as points of reference if not comparison as to how the America of slavery has changed and changed the lives of its former slaves almost two hundred years after the abolishment of slavery or how the black Diaspora in America are faring in the 21st century that has seen the election of a black American president and success and failures of black assimilation in American white society and after the birth of a new protest movement known as Black Lives Matter.

According to Wikipedia, African American literature is defined as the body of literature produced in the United States by writers of African descent. It all started in the 18th century when slavery was at its worst and the plight of slaves books ported to American southern states found expressions in the pages by writers who escaped slavery and managed to register the history and lives of their black compatriots. The stories were known as "slave narratives" and were accounts by people who escaped from slavery about their journey to freedom and ways they claimed their freedom.

The second major period in African literature and the arts is known as the 'Harlem Renaissance' which consisted of a period of flowering of arts and literature black or African immigrants who left the southern states and went up to the north where they assimilated with the predominantly white population. This was known as the Great Migration.



Modern African American literature is therefore the descendant of slave narratives of born in the southern US and the creative contributions of black writers after the Harlem Renaissance which was an intellectual and cultural revival of African American music, dance, art, fashion, literature, theatre, politics and scholarship based in New York city in the 1920s. The evolution of African American literature from the days of slavery from the Harlem Renaissance to the present has gone through various stages of changes and maturity both in thematic orientation and narrative techniques. A case in point might for instance be a comparison between the subject matters of Alex Haley's 'Roots' and Tony Morrison's 'Beloved'.

While Haley's narrative in Roots is about the fate of former slaves from Africa, Tony Morrison's 'Beloved' deals with the aftermath of slavery and so-called non-racial America where the ghost of slavery is haunting many of the descendants of former slaves. As such, there is a thematic unity between Roots and Beloved in the sense that they both tell the same story with different perspectives. While Alex Haley gives us a raw account of the early days of slavery in America, Tony Morrison's account in 'Beloved' takes place in a later period.

'Beloved' is the story of period of slavery. It is the story of a black woman called Margaret Garner, who had escaped slavery but has been pursued by slave hunters and faces a return to slavery. It was at this time that she kills her two-year old daughter and was captured before she could kill herself. The dead baby (i.e. Beloved) return as a ghost to haunt her mother and the family. The

story was told in a surrealistic style which is different from Alex Haley's realistic style of narrative.

The lives and struggles of Diaspora Africans have long become the subjects or major themes in modern black literature in America as well as Africa. A number of African authors have addressed this issue in their works and a stream of new writings has marked a resurgence of a major black Diaspora literature almost two hundred years after the American Civil War. This tradition is still continuing as made evident by Nigerian author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie whose third novel (2013) 'Americanah' which is an exploration of a young Nigerian encountering race in America.

'Americanah' is in a sense an autobiographical novel based on the author's experiences when she was a college student in the US. "Adichie was not accustomed to being identified by the color of her skin, which only began to happen when she arrives in the United States. As a black African in America, Adichie was confronted with what it meant to be a person of color America. Race as an idea became something that she had to navigate. She then wrote about her experience in the novel."

According to the above description, we can say that there is an organic link between the three novels, that is to say, 'Roots', 'Beloved' and 'Americanah' all of them dealing with racism and exploring the implications of being black in America. The novels are not united by their themes but also through their conclusions. America might have changed as a country but it has little changed as a nation built on slavery and slave labor and black

oppression. America might be multicultural and multiracial but this does not change the fact that she is also racist, the majority of black Americans still shouldering the heavy weight of racism which has not changed even after a black American president entered the White House.

Alex Haley's America is a nascent slave owning and slave trading nation whose economy was being supported by slaves who labored day and night in cotton plantations in the southern United States, in order to feed the growing textile industry with raw materials and labor. The former slaves who migrate to the north during the Great northern migration too labored in the nascent industrial centers where the car and railway industries required massive infusion of cheap black labor for their growth. In 'Beloved' Tony Morrison is not dealing with modern slavery but with the kind of slavery around the time Haley wrote his famous 'Roots'. In this was Adichie is the author who has dealt with the modern face of American society based on racial prejudices and direct or indirect racist profiling. Adichie's novel is set in the America of 'Black Lives Matter', when African Americans are gunned down in daylight police brutality and racial injustice, oppression and exploitation.

The emergence of 'Black Lives Matter' is a stark reality as to the issue of race taking unprecedented importance in American political discourse although many supporters of the racist establishment look at this phenomenon as communist, Leftist or alien conspiracies. The importance of Adichie is not only that she has laid bare the earliest features of racism America. She has also sent a clarion call for joint struggle against the system that harbors and reproduces the same racist mentalities and behaviors in a society where the majority of Americans are opposed to racism and the political and economic alienation of black people in almost all walks of life.

Although Americanah is a novel about Nigeria and its educated middle class, the fact that the major characters immigrate to the US and UK and observe and experience the prominence of race force them to acknowledge that racism is still going strong in Western societies. The implicit message might also be a warning to Africans to look at the so-called American Dream critically and celebrate their won blackness or and African roots at the same time that they are fighting against the system.

Adichie does not make a bold call to Africans in the Western Diaspora return to the roots or go back to Africa as Marcus Garvey and his comrades did back in the 1920s and 30s. Her call might be subtle and by giving us a stark or literary description of modern racism, she is warning us that the struggle should continue until the end of racism as an institution and as an idea wherever it is found. Like the dead child in Morrison's 'Beloved', racism is going to haunt us akin a ghost born more than two hundred years ago.

Global Affairs

How to ease rising

external debt-service pressures in low-income countries

As 2024 starts, the good news is that there haven't been any notable requests by a low-income country for comprehensive debt relief since Ghana's, more than a year ago. Despite this, vulnerabilities remain, with high debt servicing costs a growing challenge for low-income countries.

Financing pressures due to relatively high interest payments and the pace at which low-income countries need to repay debt are straining budgets. That prevents these countries from spending more on essential services or the critical investment needed to attract business, create jobs, improve prosperity, and build climate resilience.

One important metric is the share of revenues the government collects from its population through taxes and other fees that goes to pay its foreign creditors. While the scale of the burden differs greatly across countries, it's generally about two and a half times higher than a decade earlier.

This means for a typical low-income borrower the share has risen to about 14 %, from about 6 %, and as much as 25 %, from about 9 % in some economies. This is one of the key indicators used in the framework for assessing debt sustainability that signals a country might be at risk of needing financial support from the IMF or of missing a debt payment.

Low-income countries also have significant debt repayments falling due in the next two years. They need to refinance about \$60 billion of external debt each year, about three times the average in the decade through 2020.

But with many competing demands for financing, including from advanced and emerging market economies that are also trying to adapt to climate change, there's a significant risk of a liquidity crunch—failure to raise sufficient financing at an affordable cost. That could in turn lead to a destabilizing debt crisis.

To address this financing challenge, we must understand why it's happening and what affected countries and the broader international community can do to help.

Exacerbating liquidity squeeze

One factor was higher government borrowing and deficits to mitigate the impact of the pandemic and other external economic shocks. This has increased the level of debt and consequently the cost of servicing it. It's encouraging that this trend is reversing as countries bring primary deficits back in line with pre-pandemic levels.



In addition, central banks have significantly raised borrowing costs to tame inflation. That makes it costlier for governments to raise new debt or refinance existing debt. While central banks may be done raising rates, it is not clear when they will start to cut, and this uncertainty may be reflected in volatile financial market conditions.

Low-income countries have also increasingly borrowed from the private sector—with about one third of financing coming from private creditors in the last decade compared with about one fifth in the previous decade.

This reflected a slowdown in financing from multilateral development banks (MDBs) in the earlier part of the decade and through official development assistance (ODA) agencies over 2020-22 compared to borrowing needs. This shift has increased both financing costs and vulnerability to global financial shocks.

Avoiding a costly debt crisis

Building resilience in the face of these trends requires countries to act. Some countries have made progress—for instance, Angola, The Gambia, Nigeria, and Zambia have taken steps to implement significant energy subsidy reforms to create space for development spending.

But many are lagging behind, especially in efforts to increase revenues, such as broadening the tax base, reducing tax exemptions, and increasing the efficiency of tax administration.

For instance, the typical Sub-Saharan

African country raised only 13 % of gross domestic product in revenues in 2022, compared with 18 % in other emerging economies and developing countries and 27 % in advanced economies.

And those with high debt vulnerabilities can't afford to wait. Policy reforms are needed to boost growth and capture more revenue from that growth, for instance, through tax reforms. This will directly improve countries' key debt metrics and ensure they can avoid a costly debt crisis.

However, reforms take time to deliver results, so countries should also proactively work on mobilizing funding at lower costs, in particular grants. For some, this might mean turning to the IMF for help.

This is indeed one of our key roles—helping countries bridge a financing gap while working with them to strengthen their policy frameworks. Other partners, particularly MDBs or providers of ODA, may also be willing to extend financing, especially to support reforms that help address global challenges such as climate.

And official creditors face their own limitations. Efforts to ensure the IMF has sufficient resources to meet our members' needs, together with efforts to scale-up MDB support, are critical. In the same vein, efforts to protect ODA budgets will ensure the least fortunate have the opportunity to participate more fully in the global economy.

More systemic solutions needed?

It is not yet clear whether country-

driven actions and scaled-up multilateral financial support will be sufficient to address these challenges, but some analysts have begun questioning whether a more systemic approach to reprofiling or refinancing debt is needed.

Low-income countries can already seek debt relief through the Group of Twenty's Common Framework, including to reduce their immediate debt servicing burden. To date the Common Framework has only been used to help countries reduce the level of debt (with the exception of the debt standstill agreed for Ethiopia).

But it was also intended to provide more temporary liquidity relief. However, to be effective in that role would require greater predictability and speed. There has been progress—the agreement on a debt treatment by official creditors for Ghana took less than half the time it took for Chad two years earlier—but continued engagement on technical issues, including through the Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable (established last year by the IMF, World Bank and G20), is important.

Overall, the funding squeeze facing low-income countries must be closely monitored. A scenario where sufficient low-cost funding materializes is possible, but there are also scenarios where more ambitious reforms, stronger international cooperation, and faster improvements in the global debt restructuring architecture may be necessary to help them emerge stronger and more resilient.

(SOURCE: INTER PRESS SERVICE)

Law & Politics

Anchor stabilizer in destabilized region

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

One of the most pivotal points around the world is the Red Sea and the Horn of Africa. The geopolitical advantages of the place have been pulling the attention of every superpower of the world and every nation. Every step and action in the region is what nations see curiously. The region's peace is a decisive factor in a global stability. In the current reality, the Red Sea is the most militarized place in the world because over a dozen countries have put boots on the sea.

In the past decades, conflicts and unrests have been occurring here and there in the Horn and the Red Sea. The current instability in the Red Sea could be the best example to observe the importance of the region as major trade routes cross the area. Moves made by the armed groups in the Red Sea are forcing companies and countries to halt commercial activities. Though the danger proves to be more threatening to the region, any security menace can have a spiral effect in global peace and stability.

With the actors too many and stakes too high, the strategic place is increasingly becoming a frontline of the big and ragtag.

Cognizant to the advantages of being in the Horn and the Red sea, the geopolitics location of the region still poses danger as things are becoming very much intense. Recent developments are only solid remainders.

Other than resolving differences, the superpower nations do less, other than keeping their national interest. On the other hand, Ethiopia has appeared as a gear shifter in various conflict zones to resolve conflicts and make the place safer. To its part, the country has even done everything to resolve any feud with its neighbors so as to create more rooms for peace and collective security. The country's commitment for peace goes beyond its borders. It does not only have the concern for the Horn and the Red Sea, but it has also a strong stance to bring peace and equality in the world.

Ethiopia has played the most crucial part in the overall activities of the region. Though the nation is a landlocked with 120 million populations, every move and decision in the Horn and Red Sea has a huge impact on the country's economic and political positions. That is why; the country has taken the initiative to make sure the region is in peace.

Ethiopia is known as the beacon of peace and freedom in the eyes of many Africans and black people. Similarly, the nation has always been the leading country in bringing peace to the region and Africa as a whole by participating in a number of matters.



In the past many years, the government of Ethiopia has taken every single opportunity to secure the nation's interest by keeping the peace of its neighboring nations. Ethiopia is promoting collective security and economic integration among the region through a win-win approaches.

Ethiopia has been reciprocating to various peacekeeping calls from the African Union and the United Nation without turning its back to whatever the issue could be. In every place, it is deployed; Ethiopian peace keeping army has done marvelous jobs with a high military discipline. A textbook example could be that the Ethiopian army is still in an active duty in Somalia maintaining the nation's peace by warding off any possible attacks from any armed groups.

Besides, Ethiopia took the important role in keeping the peace in Sudan and helped the country to secure its peace. What Ethiopia did in South Sudan is also the action to be recognized by many actors. Ethiopia believes and strives to achieve the wellbeing of its neighbors because the nation understands that their peace is its peace and their conflicts are its own. That was the sole intention for Ethiopia to send its peacekeeping troops to dire areas and scarify their lives.

However, there are still some entities and historic enemies of Ethiopia who keep smudging the name and actions of the country. With no tangible sacrifices and contributions, those enemies have blamed Ethiopia for its role played in the Horn and present themselves as the best ally of those countries.

To support the above mentioned idea, Political Science and International Relations Scholar Prof. Biruk Hailu told the local media that Ethiopia has for long been advocator of peace in the Horn of African (HoA). Ethiopia has been playing

an indispensable role in ensuring peace and stability across the HoA region.

The Sudan and Somalia peacekeeping missions are examples of Ethiopia's endeavor to brought stability in the area, he stated. The country has also deployed several troops in support of the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) formerly known as AMISOM's peacekeeping mission in Somalia, he mentioned.

Previously in another interview, the scholar mentioned, "It is a shame to forget what Ethiopia did to Africa and the region. Ethiopia's army in the Somalia is protecting the largest and most hostile area compared to other powers. Ethiopia has done a lot in the struggle of Africans to be free and should continue being a voice to Africa."

By the same token, Ethiopia tried its level best to calm down the conflict that broke out in Sudan aftermath of removal of Field Marshall Omar Hassen al-Bashir's regime, Prof. Biruk noted. He stated that Ethiopia took a lion's share in the effort to bring peace between President Salva Kiir Mayardit and the former vice president Rick Machar (PhD) in South Sudan. As to Biruk, Ethiopia is still working for economic integration and strong unity in the HoA whilst political stability and security is the priority agenda.

Considering this fact, the former U.S. President Barack Obama once said "The price that Ethiopia paid to bring stability to the HoA region will always be remembered. Though we have a multilateral relationship with Ethiopia, the country particularly paid a lot in the fight against terrorism."

It is to be recalled that the HoA region is the center of gravity of many interests and it is an environment that is being challenged by man-made and natural problems, according to the scholar.

“

Ethiopia has been reciprocating to various peacekeeping calls from the African Union and the United Nation without turning its back to whatever the issue could be. In every place, it is deployed; Ethiopian peace keeping army has done marvelous jobs with a high military discipline

Planet Earth

Expediting urban water, sanitation facilities to catch with rapid urbanization in Ethiopia

BY FIKADU BELAY

Sanitation is a critical issue that has significant implications for public health, economic development, and the overall quality of life in a given country. Ethiopia has made notable progress in recent years, but there are still substantial challenges that need to be addressed. Access to basic sanitation facilities, such as improved toilets and proper waste management systems, remains a major concern in Ethiopia.

According to the World Bank, as of 2021, only about 28% of the population had access to improved sanitation facilities. This means that a staggering 72% of Ethiopians still lack access to basic sanitation services. Data from the Ethiopian Central Statistical Agency reveals that, as of 2021, only 7% of rural households had access to improved sanitation facilities in rural areas. This lack of access is primarily due to limited resources, poor infrastructure, and low levels of awareness about proper sanitation practices. In many rural communities, pit latrines are the most common sanitation option, but these are often poorly constructed and not properly maintained, leading to further health risks.

The high population density in Ethiopia, especially in urban areas, is one of the main causes of the country's sanitary problems. Inadequate sanitary infrastructure and overcrowding are results of rapid urbanization. Consequently, a large number of individuals choose open defecation, which worsens the sanitation situation. Because it causes contaminated water supplies and the development of diseases transmitted by water, this lack of access generates serious health dangers. In addition to polluting water sources, open defecation helps diseases like cholera, diarrhea, and typhoid spread throughout the country.

Nuredin Mohamed, Lead Executive of Sanitation Infrastructure with the Ministry of Water and Energy, told The Ethiopian Herald that Addis Ababa has constructed a number of contemporary waste-filtering technologies. According to him, there are three catchments in Addis Ababa, and the Kaliti catchment alone can filter up to 100,000 cubic liters of water every day.

According to him, numerous small filters have been put in place in other cities, but due to new and current developments, they are not reducing as much as is necessary. He said, however, that these features are being updated as cities expand.

The consequences of inadequate sanitation are far-reaching. Waterborne diseases are a significant cause of illness and death in Ethiopia, particularly among children under the age of five. According to UNICEF, diarrhea alone accounts for approximately 15% of all deaths in this age group. Poor sanitation also has economic implications, as it leads to increased healthcare costs and reduced productivity. The World Bank estimates that the economic losses associated with inadequate sanitation in



Ethiopia amount to about 1.7% of the country's GDP.

The Ethiopian government has implemented a number of initiatives and programs in partnership with foreign partners to address the sanitation challenge. The United Nations has established the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which include the goal of providing adequate sanitation to all people by 2030. The One WASH National Program, which aims to enhance water supply, sanitation, and hygiene services nationwide, has been implemented by the Ethiopian government, which has also coordinated its national policies with these objectives.

Ethiopia is planning several sanitation-related projects and implementing them in 23 cities. Among these works, he said that due to the high density of people in cities, public and communal restrooms are being built. He added, "With the assistance of technological devices that can remove and filter sewage, we have completed preparations to build one in each of the 23 cities."

Furthermore, in order to prevent environmental pollution and health risks to humans, we are installing pipelines on all roads to facilitate the removal of these pollutants. He further stated that approximately 25 vacuum trucks have been purchased as a result, and another 70 devices are in the process of being purchased.

An effort has been made in order to raise the public's awareness of the significance of good hygiene and sanitation. Many places have implemented community-led total sanitation (CLTS) initiatives to encourage behavioral change and prevent the practice of open defecation.

Through active community participation in identifying and resolving sanitation-related concerns, these programs promote the sustainability and ownership of sanitation infrastructure.

He stated that in order to achieve the SDGs, Ethiopia is collaborating with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Work and Skills, the Ethiopian Environmental Protection Authority, and other partners.

Furthermore, investments have been made in the construction of improved sanitation facilities, such as public toilets, in schools, health centers, and other public places. These initiatives aim to ensure that essential sanitation services are available in areas with high population density and where people gather regularly.

Despite these efforts, significant challenges remain in achieving universal access to basic sanitation in Ethiopia. Limited financial resources, inadequate infrastructure, and a lack of skilled personnel pose obstacles to the implementation and sustainability of sanitation programs. Additionally, climate change and recurrent natural disasters, such as droughts and floods, further compound the difficulties in providing adequate sanitation services.

According to him, the building of a waste filtering system in Addis Ababa's East Cement district could take up to three years; he also mentioned that the modern waste treatment facilities under construction in other cities will be finished in a year or a year and a half.

In general, the World Bank is providing financial support for this initiative, totaling 505 million USD to date. According to the Addis Ababa Water and Sewerage Bureau,

more assistance projects with a total estimated cost of 60 million birr will be completed, he mentioned.

He stated that through implementing comprehensive strategies aimed at strengthening community awareness, this transformative project seeks to effectively eradicate the deeply ingrained culture of outdoor-based defecation. By engaging with local residents, conducting educational campaigns, and fostering a sense of personal responsibility, the initiative aims to bring about a significant shift in societal norms and behaviors surrounding this issue.

The project is not only providing alternative sanitation facilities but also addressing the root causes of the problem through community mobilization and awareness-building activities. Through collaborative efforts and sustained advocacy, the project endeavors to create a lasting impact, ensuring that safe and hygienic sanitation practices become the new standard within the community, ultimately leading to improved public health and well-being for all residents.

Besides, despite the fact that Ethiopia has improved sanitation over time, much work needs to be done before everyone accesses even the most basic amenities. Significant health concerns are associated with improper sanitation, which also hinders economic development. In order to resolve Ethiopia's sanitation problems, constant investment in infrastructure, programs to modify behavior, and community involvement are essential. Additionally, in order to mobilize the resources and understanding required to speed up development in this crucial sector, it is imperative that the government, civil society organizations, and international funders fortify their collaborations.