



# The Ethiopian Herald

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Ambassador Tesfaye Yitayih

**Israel shows positive gesture to Ethio-Somaliland port deal:**  
*Ambassador*  
BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- The Israeli Government foresees Ethiopia's acquisition of a military base as a good step to stabilize the volatile region and does not oppose the latter's port deal with Somaliland, the Ethiopian Ambassador to Israel  
*See Israel shows positive ... Page 3*



Prof. Brook Hailu

**Ethiopia remains committed to safeguarding peace in HoA: Scholar**

BY MESERET BEHAILU  
ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopia has for long been advocator of peace in the Horn of African (HoA), so remarked scholar in the field.  
Political Science and International Relations Scholar Prof. Brook Hailu told EBC that Ethiopia has been  
*See Ethiopia remains ... Page 3*



Photo: Gebabo Gebrie

## Ethiopia stands resolute to regional cause: *House Speaker*

• East Africa Pastoralist Expo kicks off

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE  
ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopia always prioritizes its relations with the Horn of Africa (HoA) countries and its attempt to

bring together the region's pastoralists also aims to ensure sustainable change in their livelihoods, the House Speaker said.  
The House of Peoples' Representative (HoPR) Speaker Tagesse Chafo made the

above remark while opening the East Africa Pastoralist Expo here yesterday.  
The House Speaker also stated that Ethiopia's attempt to bring together East Africa pastoralists  
*See Ethiopia stands ... Page 3*



## Ethiopia witnesses remarkable economic growth in six-month

BY STAFF REPORTER  
ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopia has registered remarkable economic growth over the past six months enduring domestic and global

challenges, Finance Minister Ahmed Shide stated.  
The Finance Minister said Ethiopia's economy has withstood domestic and external pressures  
*See Ethiopia witnesses ... Page 3*

**Addis bracing up for the upcoming AU summit** *Page 7*

**Combating cross-border crime, illicit trafficking via coordinated efforts** *Page 10*

**Ethiopian Poet who writes verses every morning for ten years** *Page 11*

# News



## Researcher underlines climate technology transfer significance

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

**ADDIS ABABA**— International cooperation is required to transfer tangible and intangible climate technologies to African countries, so stated a researcher.

In an exclusive interview with The Ethiopian Herald, Yong Jun Baek (PhD), Researcher in Energy and Environment Policy said that transferring tangible Climate technology is not only helping developing countries but it is also useful for all third world countries.

Indicating that climate technology helps mitigate the climate crisis and the Korean Institute of Green Technology in which he works is doing various Research and Development, the expert said adding that apart from funding the Small and Micro Enterprises to innovate appropriate technologies that fit with the recipient countries, arranging short and long term capacity building trainings.

All the developed countries have done Research and Development on the way they can transfer the advanced technologies to the African countries. With these climate technologies, they are not only helping improve climate resilience but also for actually developing it, he said.

Pointing out that it is hard for the developed countries to support businesses abroad, the government support SMEs based in Korea to create business in the African countries. The climate technologies can be transferred to the African countries as it is a win-win strategy. "That is why I am focusing on and try to emphasize on the importance of international cooperation and technological transfer."

As countries develop, environment pollution will come down. African countries should neither follow traditional pathway nor use coal or more fossil fuel, instead they should turn much quicker from the traditional way to using the climate technologies.

Ensuring sustainable development and combating climate change are the two important things that the Africa countries need to overcome. Get and apply the advance technologies, disseminate knowledge across the country assist their development. Official development assistance (ODA) is as government aid designed to promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries, he said.

"Government funding is important but there is a limit to how much a government can do. Government runs with taxes as the assistance coming from the pocket of its people. So there is a limit how much we can fund. What I think ODA can do is start things off or kicks start and eventually at the end happen is they need to create a market."

He, however, said that the issue of climate change is not profitable. So, companies do not want to involve in it.

It is not right for the private businesses to handle the issue of climate. The government has to do it, he added.

"But the government make that the society wants properly and even gobble and tried to solve but they don't have the money. They have the money but it is limited resource. In order to bring the private sector into this industry and they need to give some kinds of incentive. I guess where the ODA comes in."

## Ethiopia holds unique position in hosting refugees: *MiNT*

TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA** – Ethiopia with a long and proud history of welcoming refugees has held a unique position on the global stage, said Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MiNT).

The International Labor Organization (ILO) and the Ministry of Innovation and Technology, Information Technology Park Corporation and the Somali State Innovation and Technology Bureau signed partnership agreement yesterday to enhance the inclusion of refugees and host communities in digital era.

The MiNT Minister Belete Molla (PhD) stated that Ethiopia's digital 2025 strategy is not only building a roadmap for technological advancement, but also it is a declaration of inclusivity.

"Digital revolution is a true potential that can only be unlocked when everyone has an opportunity to participate including our vulnerable communities and refugees."

According to him, inclusivity is not just a moral imperative; it is an economic necessity in the digital era in a world where a technology drives growth and innovation.

Ethiopia together with ILO's collaboration will integrate the refugees' specific concern into our national digital strategy, it was learnt.

Ethiopia a nation with a long and proud history of welcoming refugees holds a unique position on the global stage. It is



one of the largest refugee hosting countries in the world offering sanitary and relief for those flees. It is a testament for our values of hospitality and compassion, he stated.

The International Labor Organization (ILO) and the Ministry of Innovation and Technology, Information Technology Park Corporation and the Somali State Innovation and Technology Bureau forged partnership agreement to enhance the inclusion of refugees and host communities in digital era.

ILO Country Director for Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan Alexio Musindo for his part said that the initiative progresses the issue of digital inclusion strategy, direct access to jobs and others. Digital landscape shapes societies' and economies. "Our commitment on inclusivity extends beyond just accessing

technology. It extends into fostering opportunities for meaningful employment for ensuring that digital access applies for all including refugees."

The convention of digital strategy should be a catalyst for inclusive economic growth. The implementation agreement would highlight digital skill development to equip individuals, entrepreneurship, partnership training, collaboration with public and private sector, economic resilience.

He further said that the implementation agreement would contribute to leverage digital economy potential to create jobs and foster economic inclusion benefiting refugees and host communities by providing connectivity, digital skills training, empowering youths and bridge marginalized groups.

## Office finalizes preparations to celebrate 84th Agew horse riders' festival

### • Over 2,000 riders to decorate

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA** - Preparations are being finalized to celebrate the 84th Annual Agew Horse Riders' festival, Awi Zone Culture and Tourism Office disclosed.

Office Head Leykun Sisay told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that preparations are at final stage to celebrate the 84th Agew Riders' festival that is slated to take place on January 31 and February 1 with the theme of "Patriotism for Peace and Brotherhood".

A committee led by the chief administrator of the zone has been formed and started working to undertake all the necessary preparations to hold a well-organized festival that keeps traditional values and attracts foreign and domestic visitors, he expressed.

Leykun added that besides celebrating the festival, various traditional foods and handicrafts will be displayed to revitalize and promote tourism in the zone.



In addition, the Head stated that the Zone Tourism Office is working with the relevant stakeholders to facilitate infrastructure and avert security problems during the festival.

The zone has some 6,200 community leaders who are capable of promoting tolerance and peace in the area, he stressed.

The festival does not only reinvigorate the zone tourism and enhance social interaction, it also stimulates the economy,

he noted.

According to Leykun, over 2,000 riders of the 62,200 members of Agew Horse riders' Association would participate in this year's festival.

He also called on the people to preserve the traditional values of the festival and hospitably serve guests with Ethiopian courtesy.

# News



## State secures over 800 mln Birr from tourism

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA** – South West Ethiopia State Tourism Bureau announced that it has secured over 800 million Birr revenues from tourists in the past six months.

State Tourism Bureau Head, Fantahun Bilatic told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the state has earned 812,040,000 Birr in the past six months from foreign and domestic visitors.

The revenue was collected from 767,000 and 2,176 domestic and foreign tourists respectively, he stated.

In this regard, he noted that domestic tourists have taken the lion's share of the revenue contributing 800,000,000 Birr whilst foreign visitors shared 215,000 USD (12,181,000 Birr).

The number of foreign tourist inflow has been increased as 2,176 foreigners visited the state, which surpassed the expected number of 871 international tourists which is attributed to the inauguration

of Dine for Ethiopia projects including Halala Kela and Chebera Churchura Elephant Paw Lodges, according to the Head.

He further stated that the Bureau has been working on developing and promoting the tourism destinations in a view to extending the duration of time in which tourists stay in the state.

To this end, Fantahun said, the tourism infrastructure projects being constructed in the state would help to attract more visitors who spend more time to visit the region.

Tourist attraction areas in the South West Ethiopia had not been visited and availed the required income since the resources in the state have not been developed for lack of adequate attention, he mentioned.

However, the current government has given serious attention towards the tourism development as it has given priority to the sector to get adequate benefit from this untapped resource, the Head noted.

## Ethiopia stands...

could help to establish the proper linkage that enables them to prosper together.

By the same token, the event could be regarded as the manifestation of Ethiopia's constant desire and effort to establish mutual economic benefit and strengthen the region's collaboration in all aspects.

Improving the livelihoods of the rural communities and helping them to economically benefit is not the task that would be left for tomorrow and that is why Ethiopia has made the push for regional integration, Tagesse emphasized.

"Pastoralists do not have borders and fences. Ethiopia is collecting neighboring states in one place to make better relations among relevant actors. When we stand together, we add beauty among us, strengthen our capacity, and solve our problems."

The House Speaker further noted that Ethiopia always asks why poverty and hunger always affect the resource-rich region and why the countries could not prosper by utilizing their blessing and giving priority to regional ties. "If we work hand in hand, we could sustainably change the pastoralists' livelihoods."

"This expo is a demonstration for Ethiopia's desire to pursue a cordial and family-like partnership with Horn of Africa nations. So we need to give priority to pastoralists

as they play their due role in our economic development and also to recognize their contribution."

As a result of the expo, the spirit of connection in pastoralists that started at this level would be strengthened and it would have a far-reaching outcome to ensure regional peace apart from paving the way to mutual development of natural resources, he remarked.

In her welcoming speech in the expo, Irrigation and Lowlands Minister Aisha Mohammed (Eng.) stated that over 90 percent of Ethiopia's livestock resources come from pastoralist areas mentioning the need to forge collective efforts and commitments to transform the sector's challenges into opportunities for sustainable growth and resilience.

"The borderless pastoralists' clusters identified in Karamoja, Moyale, Mendera and Dikhil are home to millions of pastoralist communities who share language, cultures and livelihoods that symbolize our region."

Borderless community is not just a way of life but it is a model for regional cooperation and serves as invaluable insights into Ethiopia's diplomatic endeavors for regional stability and economic integration, the minister noted.

## Ethiopia remains...

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.

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. Brook noted.

In a similar manner, 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 Brook, 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.

## Israel shows positive...

said.

In an exclusive interview with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Ambassador Tesfaye Yitayih noted that Israeli officials have shown a positive gesture to Ethiopia's aspiration to direct access to the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

Ethiopia's Embassy in Israel held a discussion with the country's officials on the Ethio-Somaliland port accord and understood the latter's conviction with Ethiopia's quest for sovereign port access, he added.

"Israel's stand is not only to remain neutral, but they show us a supporting gesture. Owing to the longstanding partnership, Israel considers Ethiopia's establishment of a naval force in the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea as an opportunity to cooperate on stabilizing the strategic, yet volatile region."

Israel's foreign policy centers on preserving mutual benefit and the country could not be affected by other nations which have strong alliances with the former. If there

is something happened somewhere that could benefit Israel's interest, they would vehemently support it. So, the Ethio-Israel relationship will not be downturned due to the port deal, Ambassador Tesfaye elaborated.

The diplomat further highlighted that the two countries longstanding partnership is also a guarantee that keeps their political ties stable and commercially, they have also clear interests in working for common benefits.

"Israel, for example, imports sesame and coffee from Ethiopia, and Ethiopian Airlines has also twice-a-day flights to the former with there is an ongoing discussion to expand the flights to thrice-a-day. Likewise, Ethiopia also needs Israel's support in political and economic areas."

Over 175,000 Ethiopians and foreigners of Ethiopian origin are residing in Israel and they are actively participating in their home country's development and building its positive image among the global community, he remarked.

## Ethiopia witnesses...

over the past six months and has seen better achievements in major development sectors.

The Central Committee of the Prosperity Party has also discussed major national issues and diverse party agendas and passed resolution accordingly.

The Central Committee has deliberated on the overall economic growth of the country over the past six months.

The Finance Minister Ahmad Shide, who is also member of the party's Executive Committee, stated that the homegrown economic reform the government has been implementing over the past years has contributed to the economic growth the nation achieved during the first half of the fiscal year.

He said that the growth that Ethiopia has registered in a row has witnessed better performance compared to many countries.

He also attributed the economic growth to policy documents he said devised in a way that has enabled the private sector to actively participate in the economy.

The implementation of the multi-sectoral approach strategy which helped the nation better utilize resources has also resulted in steady economic growth against all the odds resulted from the global economic shock.

The Minister added that better achievements have also been registered in areas of agriculture, industry, tourism and in the implementation of mega projects.

# Editorial

## Prioritizing humanitarian response counts

It is widely heralded that the government and aid agencies have collaboratively working to reach out to citizens who are affected by drought and other natural or manmade catastrophes. The Ethiopian government has specially endeavored a lot targeting at rescuing citizens and called on relief agencies to intensify humanitarian assistance to those in dire need.

Obviously, humanitarian assistance is intended to save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity peculiarly after man-made crises and disasters caused by natural hazards and strengthen preparedness whenever such situations occur.

True, emergency humanitarian assistances are being widely distributed across the nation particularly in, Afar, Amhara, Oromia states with a view to supporting susceptible citizenry. The government has also relentlessly been working to address people in drought situation.

Playing its own part as properly and promptly as possible, the government urged aid agencies to intensify relief efforts and discharge theirs. In simple terms, the government has exerted utmost effort to foster humanitarian support deploying some 15 billion Birr to support the needy.

For example, 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, as learnt from the Government Communications Affairs Office, 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, the government covered 77%, amounting to 11 billion Birr, and the rest 23 % was covered by international development partners, i.e. they contributed close to 4 billion Birr to the effort.

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

As many citizens have been facing multiple overlapping humanitarian challenges in the aforesaid areas, urgent humanitarian support has to be intensified. As the issue of providing drought affected areas are getting more critical following failed rainy season, and has severely impacted a number of communities, particularly in Amhara, Afar, Oromia, Dire Dawa etc., prioritizing humanitarian assistance more than anything else has to come to the forefront.

Prioritizing humanitarian response has to be structured following strategic objectives aiming at addressing immediate lifesaving needs, providing safe and inclusive access to essential services, and contributing to support and build linkages towards recovery and resilience.

Interestingly, the emergency humanitarian aid has targeted at rescuing the lives of most vulnerable people and who have critical needs caused by the extreme drought, which is affecting the lives of millions of Ethiopians.

The government has now attached due emphasis to building the capacity of local and national development partners in a bid to come up with meaningful engagement in humanitarian response, in line with the regional, continental as well as international frameworks.

In sum, as reinvigorating the humanitarian steps-peace nexus is of significantly useful in making a difference, the government of Ethiopia has predominantly embarked on ensuring peace and related aspects. The effort exerted towards helping the religious festivals held across the nation pass in an absolute peaceful manner is a case in point in this regard. Such a bold move in due course of ensuring peace across the nation is vital in assisting citizens especially residing in drought affected areas. It is really high time for Ethiopia and its government to promote targeted collaboration among international humanitarian aiders, development and peace actors to reduce humanitarian vulnerabilities. To do this, the government, development partners, international aid providers are expected to collaborate prioritizing humanitarian assistance. Besides, increasing humanitarian assistance and mitigating vulnerabilities needs to be consolidated to make a difference.

# Opinion

## Government's preemptive efforts to prevent worst scenarios during drought

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

Unless you have sadistic behavior or an evil mindset, you cannot deliberately carry out something evil on others to get some sort of satisfaction from their suffering. The human being who was created in the image of God in their moral, spiritual, and intellectual nature is not expected to wish or do something immoral on other beings.

The desire and wish of the Ethiopian government is to ensure the overall security of its people. By not only bounding itself in this, the incumbent pledged to make sure the prosperity of citizens. Even though a number of natural and manmade challenges have been encountered, it continues various tasks parallel to redressing the quest for humanitarian assistance.

One of the obstacles emanating from the natural disasters that Ethiopia and other east African countries have faced so far is the recurrent drought. The primary cause and contributor to the drought is ever-increasing climate change. In fact, war, floods, cross-border diseases, and displacement of people are also other features that contribute to the occurrence of deaths in the region. However, some politicians tried to associate the natural deaths of individuals happening in Tigray with the drought that altered to famine.

Undeniably, the internal conflict between the Ethiopian defense force and the TPLF forces, which was going on for two solid years, exposed the area to being severely affected. As a result, even though the people were highly exposed to shortages of food, the government, together with other international organizations, was able to supply food, restore areas that were damaged, and rehabilitate social service-provider institutions that had stopped work.

Due to the war, the farmers in Tigray were not able to produce crops as it is one of the areas exposed to drought-related problems. However, emergency humanitarian assistance is being distributed to those affected by drought in various parts of the country.

On the contrary, those who have special political interests in the government and people's of Ethiopia are now deliberately releasing information as the drought is already clogging and providing continuous humanitarian aid for those affected by the drought. The truth that anyone can come across in Ethiopia and discover is that the government has been providing emergency humanitarian assistance in collaboration with pertinent stakeholders to those affected by drought and other related problems.

Over 15 billion birr worth of humanitarian assistance was delivered in three rounds over the past six months. Some 70 percent of the total, or 11 billion Birr worth of aid, has been covered by the government, with the remaining by non-governmental organizations. The government has reached

7.3 million people in the first round, 3.6 million in the second, and 6.5 million in the third. Yet, 6.6 million citizens are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance from January to March this year.

The federal government has been able to work in order to provide sustained support to the needy, stressing the obligation of regional states to fulfill their responsibilities in this regard.

Thus, the Ethiopian government has no intention better than to fulfill the desires and interests of its people by providing all the necessary daily assistance each and every citizen requests, especially emergency food assistance. It has been finding various food sources and supplying food for its citizens. Unless one is foolish, he or she cannot come up with this conclusion that is supported by weak premises and says the drought has changed to famine, and it has become the cause of death happening now in Tigray.

***The truth that anyone can come across in Ethiopia and discover is that the government has been providing emergency humanitarian assistance in collaboration with pertinent stakeholders to those affected by drought and other related problems***

The government that gets its power from the ballot box will never and ever do such a malevolent act. It would rather carry out everything possible to fulfill the interests of its citizens. As the international humanitarian organizations witnessed, the government has been doing various tasks to ensure food self-sufficiency and build the image of the country by producing wheat on large-scale farms that were not used for this purpose.

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



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# Opinion

## Ethiopia's unrestraint efforts in hosting refugees

BY ABEBE WOLDE GIORGIS

With more than 1 million registered refugees, Ethiopia is the third largest refugee hosting country on the African continent.

The Government of Ethiopia continues to provide access to asylum within the context of the open door policy which it has maintained for many years, and UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies are allowed to implement mandate related activities.

Ethiopia adopted its Refugee Proclamation in 2004, which is the main national legislation governing refugee issue. Refugees continue to arrive mostly from South Sudan, Somalia, Sudan, Eritrea, and Yemen. Most refugees are granted prima facie refugee status, and the majority of the refugees are accommodated in camps, in which only a smaller percentage of the refugee population is permitted to reside in urban areas for medical and/or protection and humanitarian reasons. In addition, about 16,000 Eritrean refugees reside in Addis Ababa under the Out-of-Camp Policy (OCP).

The horn of Africa is highly vulnerable to Human made and natural disasters for many decades. Most of the area land scape is characterized by low land and arid in which the annual rainfall fall volume is very little.

Most of the population engaged in pastoral way of living. The number of cattle population is very high and feeding them needs moving from place to place for searching water and grazing land. In time of extreme climate condition shortage of resources let the cattle to meet their death in the wilderness.

The pastoral communities, to escape disaster due to extreme weather condition migrate to the neighboring countries mainly to stay in camps as refugee. Such practices continued for many decades. The pastoral community who are rich in cattle population engaged in traditional way of cattle rearing, unable to modernize it.

In fact, modernization needs the availability of infrastructure such as roads, schools, health centers, veterinary and huge budget.

As the location of the pastoral community is in the remotest areas of the countries, access to the market to supply their products is very hard.

Therefore, the economic value of their cattle resource is insignificant. Therefore, crafting climate resilient strategy seems a far site ambition. But currently each generation repeat they previous generation way of life with no change.

Migration due to drought and flood which is a natural phenomenon forces the community to leave their areas and living in the neighboring countries as refuge

particularly in Ethiopia.

Somalia is categorized as failed state and since the down fall of the Ziad Bare regime in 1991. War and displacement have been the common phenomena. The civil war ignited in 1990s among the warlords in Somalia left many to death, physical injury and psychological trauma and hundreds of thousands were forced to find their way to live as refuge in Ethiopia.

Later the emergence of Islamist fighters known as "alshebab" makes the matter worse and still displacement and migration due to war and fear continued.

Even though Ethiopia itself is still hit by natural calamities induced by drought and flood, it continued to host refugees in its land and one can observe many refugee camps in the south east of the country refugees living in tents. The United Nation Higher Commissioner for Refugees and the Disaster Risk Prevention Commission of Ethiopia played pivotal role in hosting and supplying humanitarian aid to refugees reside in camps.

The other neighboring countries whom their population migrate to Ethiopia originate both from South Sudan and Sudan.

Before Sudan was splinted in to two countries in 2010, descended in civil war for more than 40 years and to scape war thousands of Sudanese migrated to Ethiopia by regarding the country as safe heaven. The number of the refugees still increasing due to the rampant political instability and war. South Sudan gained its independence in 2011 and only five years after the independence the country indulged in to civil war and to escape the war, hundreds of thousands of Southern Sudanese migrated to Ethiopia and registered as refuge.

One can observe camps located in Beneshangul Gumuze region hosting refugees from South Sudan living in tents.

The out brake of war in Khartoum between the government and the insurgents led by Gen Dagalo forces four months ago forced thousands to be displaced and many crossed the border through Metema town of Ethiopia and hosted as refugee.

There are also thousands of refugees resided here came from Eritrea due to lack of opportunity and escaping political repression.

Most of them are living in Tigray region in camps.

The political instability prevailed in the region can be said the most contributing factor for the emergence of refugee and displacement.

Most of countries still unable to build strong and functioning institutions helpful for the flourishing of rule of law which are key for establishing stability and to build democracy.

Most leaders come to power by unconstitutional means and imposed

arbitrary rule which pose public grievance. As the result, the region unable to move forward and stayed in the cycle of violence which push the people to migrate. The absence of rule of law created fertile ground for illegal trading and arm smuggling which further exacerbate the movement of insurgency and conflict.

The external forces also exploit the political instability of the region to advance their own interest. They fuel violence through supplying weapon to their proxies and ultimately force the population to stay in fear and migrate to the nearby country.

Ethiopia not only host refugees from the neighboring countries but also serves as a transistor for to the third countries.

Refugees from Somalia and Eretria used Ethiopia as corridor to go to Libya via Sudan and after crossing the Mediterranean Sea they arrive Europe. Ethiopia properly treats all refugees as their second country and facilitates all the humanitarian assistances.

Ethiopia has a very generous and very progressive refugee policy that accommodates and grants refugees the right to access services and make livelihood, according to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) deputy representative.

The Deputy Representative Margaret Antonio recently said that Ethiopia's refugee policy is very progressive and generous.

"The government has been very generous by opening the borders, and it is very generous through the policy and laws that it has put in place, which really accommodates and grants refugees the right to remain, access to services as well as the right to be able to make a livelihood," she said.

"We have seen recently that instead of putting refugees in camps where they are confined and not able to move, the government has allowed them to settle freely within the community where they will be able to live normally", Atieno elaborated.

Moreover, the deputy representative added that the host communities are the first to respond when (UNHCR) encounters refugee crises. Even before it starts operation Ethiopia provides food and share homes. Speaking about the recent Sudanese refugees entering Ethiopia, she said that the numbers are growing as the conflict has forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee to neighboring countries, including Ethiopia.

Sudanese refugees have been entering Ethiopia through multiple border crossing points in Amhara, Benishangul-Gumz, and Gambella regions.

"Before the current conflict in Sudan, there were about 15,000 refugees from Sudan in Ethiopia. Since the conflict started in April we have seen close to 25,000 refugees come from Sudan," Atieno stated.

According to UNHCR projection, there could be about 100,000 Sudanese refugees who may want to seek asylum in Ethiopia by the end of this year if the situation is not changing. The UNHCR is working closely with the Government of Ethiopia to support the refugees. Since the conflict began Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) established screening and registration facilities at the border of entering points, including in Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz and Gambella regions. RRS is also now putting structures for reception of transiting centers where refugees stay before being allocated for settlement, she added.

The deputy representative stated that her organization has identified, again with RRS, two possible settlement sites. Settlement is basically the government granting a piece of land where the refugees can find home, build their shelters, access education and health as they wait for lasting solutions.

On the other hand, however, there is a shortage of resources to address the challenges facing the refugees.

Therefore, UNHCR is calling on partners who have the ability to respond mostly calling on international partners, to support the efforts financially. There is great interest in the part of the international community in terms of providing resources such as food, shelter and protection as well as provide support to communities that are receiving the refugees.

Ethiopia for long hosted refugees open handedly even they came from hostile country which has clandestine interfere in its internal affairs.

It showed the international community that it is abided by law which governs the refugee affairs. The Ethiopian peoples have a deep culture to regard refugees as brothers and sisters and do not show animosity towards them. Refugees not only from neighboring countries but also from far properly treated and allowed to live and work here. One can see a refugee came from Syria begging in the streets of Addis Ababa and the people deliver their duty through providing money.

But the international community still did not consider that Ethiopia's generosity towards refugees. Most western media pictures Ethiopia as country engaged in self- destruction and indulged in war but it is not true. Ethiopia in addition to endeavoring to attain socio economic development, it devotes to treat refugees in a sound manner. Therefore, the international community should pay due attention to Ethiopia's efforts and continue support to bring long lasting solution to the refugee crises.

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

# Law & Politics

## Addis bracing up for the upcoming AU summit

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

Anyone who travels to Addis these days will see how busy the city is in terms of renovating its buildings, its streets, its sidewalks and its squares. Lots of construction works are fervently underway and we see a sense of urgency in everything they do. In places where there are no sidewalks or where they were not comfortable for pedestrians or have worn out the City Council has been building new ones with shining bricks and the garden areas of the city are being taken care of by professional gardeners most of whom are women with wide hats on their heads in protection against the heat of the sun. New flowers are also being planted while the already existing ones are being nurtured to revitalize them well. You see labourers watering these garden areas and the grass planted earlier. Practically every building on the main roads of the city are having renovations with similar color painted and there is a sense of novelty everywhere and whoever may not have been to the city in recent months, they would be surprised by the kinds of works already carried out in the last months.

Addis residents do know from their past experience that every year around the end of January and beginning of February the biggest diplomatic event of the year takes place in their city with the African Union heads of state summit preceded by the meetings of ambassadors and foreign ministers. They are also ready to give way to these guests while the main roads where they pass will be temporarily closed or not be available for normal circulation by the traffic and law enforcement forces due to security precautions and the safety of the guests.

Addis is preparing to welcome its guests and this year the event is even more significant than other years given the potential of vital issues at hand that the summit should consider and possibly discuss them at length and take crucial measures. Today Africa has lots of issues to hammer out. There is the issue of coups and destabilization of the West African countries including the persistent issue of combating the Boko Haram infiltrations in the west and al shabaab in the east. There is the issue of the civil conflict between the Sudanese regular army and the Rapid Support Forces underway since April 2023 and has become a cause for the death of thousands and the displacement of millions. The AU has not been able to bring to a halt this conflict and many criticize it for that. Many argue that the interference of foreign forces is one of the reasons why the situation could not be solved by African bodies.

Furthermore, there could potentially be raised the issue of Ethiopia's request for access to sea port recently brought to the attention of the world particularly

**The solution to African problems lies with African nations and the upcoming summit of the AU could shed some more light on this principle and reassert its positions on certain continental issues**

on the African scene because the issue is especially relevant to the Horn of Africa nations where the access to sea is requested by Ethiopia. To address this issue, Ethiopia has recently signed an MOU with Somaliland and the details will be framed and signed in a short period of time as there are certain specifications that need to be made according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia. However there have been some outlandish reactions from various corners some of whom have no relevance to the case such as the declaration made by the Arab League just as it did when it made a statement regarding the move Ethiopia has taken on the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, GERD.

Some people would argue that the AU should take a stance on these 'interferences' because Africa is capable of taking care of its own internal disputes or disagreements with its own diplomatic and political personnel and means. Those who try to interfere are only bent to add fuel to the fire and contribute negatively to destabilize the continent to then pursue their own strategic interests.

The AU as an organization should be more vigorous in calling them to abstain from their moves and give due respects to African nations recognizing that Africa is in a position to solve its problems internally and does not need the interventions or suggestions of other nations. Many argue that the AU summit should make its position clear on such issues and disclose them with pertinent statements.

Ethiopia's MOU with Somaliland on the issue of access to a sea port is a matter for the two parties to fix and arguably the countries that may be more implicated in the new development. Ethiopia has signed a cooperation agreement with Somaliland as have done others before it and there were no similar reactions and that is why one would wonder 'why this time'.

Ethiopia will have the opportunity to explain its stance on this issue in a clear and unequivocal way and as Ambassador Redwan Hussein, the Special Advisor to the Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has stated along with other high level government officials including the premier himself, the intention of Ethiopia is to create warm, friendly and brotherly relations with possibly all its neighbours and Somaliland is one of them. Ethiopia does not intend to annex any one's territory nor use force to achieve its objectives. It is trying to create a win-win solution with a diplomatic 'give and take' principle. Ethiopia will have access to a sea port while Somaliland will get economic advantages to be better defined and articulated in the coming weeks as negotiations proceed. This arrangement does not go contrary to any interests of other nations.

Ethiopia is a huge country of more than

one hundred twenty million people and needs its own access to a sea port as an alternative to the services it actually gets from the Port of Djibouti. This cannot be denied by any one who stands by the side of Ethiopia and the entire neighbourhood if it is going to be stable and prosper peacefully without any population pressure in a landlocked nation. Ethiopia's economy is growing and a single port does not fulfill its economic development trajectory and its GDP which is bound to double shortly. It hence needs an alternative port to cope with its expanding international commercial and trade transactions and the goods it needs to import commensurate with the needs of its growing population.

Suffocating the economy of Ethiopia and preventing it from carrying out its natural growth by denying it further access to the sea and not prospecting peaceful and diplomatic solutions to this issue could potentially be a source of huge social and economic problems that could easily spill over to its neighbours and potentially even further.

That is why Ethiopia believes it should not leave any stone unturned to search and find an alternative sea access to Djibouti without encroaching on the sovereignty or national interests of other nations. It is strictly declared that the principle to be guided by is give and take and not a one way path. Ethiopia wants to push for a regional integration and sharing resources with others who do not have the same resources. For instance we can cite here the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, GERD, which has presented an opportunity for neighbours to have some access to clean and cheap energy. This is a huge impetus to the growth of other states as well beside Ethiopia. Similar projects are encouraged to bring together nations sharing what they have in excess and receive what they have in fewer portions from others. In this case Ethiopia lacks access to sea while it has other economic assets; the countries of the Horn have multiple ports and accesses to the sea which they can easily avail for Ethiopia thus filling the gap. The final turnover is a win-win condition.

Africans should cooperate in a pragmatic manner and not be dictated by what foreign nations say or suggest. The solution to African problems lies with African nations and the upcoming summit of the AU could shed some more light on this principle and reassert its positions on certain continental issues. Africans hope that the Africa 2063 project will not be hampered by some minor misunderstandings among certain states and Africans should always come to the negotiating table to resolve their problems rather than be exposed to outside forces' interferences which in the final analysis are chasing their own strategic interests and not that of the continent.

# The government and people of South Sudan have a good regard for Ethiopia

*Ambassador Nebil Mehdi*

BY ZEKARIAS WOLDEMARIAM

*Ever since South Sudan achieved its independence it has exercised strong diplomatic and people to people ties with Ethiopia. The strong ties has its foundation since the time the South Sudanese were fighting for liberation. This has passed the test of time as it started since the reign of emperor Hailesellase I. All the governments that rules Ethiopia have pursued consistent diplomatic relations and policy towards South Sudan.*

*The relations between the two countries has now very deep and wide. The two countries collaborate in peace, security, economy, infrastructure and capacity building among others. Today's Herald Guest is Nebil Mehdi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia to South Sudan. He has explained the ongoing activities to maintain the existing strong ties between the two countries and efforts to prolong to the next generation. Have a nice read!*

**Could you tell us how the overall diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and South Sudan are going?**

The foreign policy of Ethiopia gives priority to neighbouring countries. This is because Ethiopia is intertwined with neighbouring countries in language, culture and even religion. This justifies Ethiopia's formulation of its foreign policy this way. We share language, culture, history, etc.

Ethiopia has played a good role in the independence struggle of South Sudan. Ethiopia has passed through different regimes since the reign of Emperor Haile Selassie. Throughout these times the governments and people of Ethiopia have maintained similar stances for South Sudan. Before South Sudan became an independent country, Emperor Hailesellase played a decisive role in enabling South Sudan to become a self-administering region within the Sudan in 1972. Colonel Mengistu has also held a similar stance as he has helped South Sudanese Liberation fighters. This is what created the capacity for South Sudan's liberation. The subsequent Ethiopian leaders Meles Zenawi, Hailemariam Desalgn and PM Abiy have also done a lot for South Sudan. Especially Dr Abiy has enabled the signing of the peace agreement in 2018.

Even after its independence Ethiopia is the only country that stood closely with South Sudan when it faced conflicts. As can be recalled there were sporadic conflicts in South Sudan in 2013 and 2016. Ethiopia is still contributing to the peace

and stability of South Sudan as its peacekeeper role is very high for the stability of South Sudan. They have received repeated recognition for their contribution. It has been an icon of pride as witnessed by the UN and the people of South Sudan. The overall work of our peacekeepers has shown their unique capabilities. We are now providing support so that peaceful elections can take place in the country at the end of this year. We are doing our support as part of IGAD.

The support we provide is not limited to ensuring peace but also to bringing about economic integration. If there is no economic integration our ties would not that be meaningful. There was a Memorandum of Understanding signed when the country achieved independence. However, it was not implemented due to various reasons. We are now working to speed up this implementation. There is good progress on our side, but the South Sudanese side lags. The two countries signed a financial agreement in 2015 for the construction of infrastructure like roads. In this regard road construction to Falouj, the south Sudanese oil-producing areas, Ethiopia has taken the initiative under the principle of African Solutions to African problems. Hence without waiting for funding sources like WB and IMF, we are planning the construction so that South Sudan will cover the cost with oil. This way we will construct up to three roads. This 270 km long road will enable it to supply its produce either to Ethiopia or export through Djibouti port.



***E*thiopia has passed through different regimes since the reign of Emperor Haile Selassie. Throughout these times the governments and people of Ethiopia have maintained similar stances for South Sudan**

Ethiopia can also supply electric power to South Sudan. The outputs of the Abbay Dam can serve electricity to South Sudan. Ethiopia is already supplying electricity to Sudan and Djibouti (Kenya). Next South Sudan will also get electricity as the line is being stretched from Gambella to Malakal. The road that connects Ethiopia's Gambella with Malakal is underway with the support of ADB. It is progressing smoothly. Our interconnection is not only in electricity but also in land-water transport from Gambella to Malakal. We are studying water transportation.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Innovation and Technology, efforts are underway to interconnect the two countries through fibre optics. South Sudan Mobile, which is owned by an Ethiopian investor has been licensed to build the fiber optics.

**People-to-people ties are an important**

*Continued to Page 9*

# The government...

Continued from Page 8



**area of diplomacy. How far have you gone in invigorating the strong relations between the peoples of the two countries?**

Concerning people-to-people ties, since the time of the War of Independence, many fighters and senior government officials have been trained in Ethiopia. Many people in the high-level leadership circle are trained here. We are working on the new generation to create a similar impression about Ethiopia.

Previously Ethiopia used to grant 150 scholarships to South Sudanese citizens annually. Now this number has climbed up to 250. In addition, it gives specialization training for 30 individuals annually. Ethiopian Airlines also flies twice daily for passengers and cargo. It also works within South Sudan from Juba to Malakal. South Sudan's president also used Ethiopian Airlines as a sign of trust and friendship beyond making business. The green legacy initiative has also been part of the diplomacy. During the last three years due linkage has been formed with the relevant authority in South Sudan and the plantation of trees has been carried out throughout the years. It is being implemented as a benchmark taking the best practices of Ethiopia. This year we changed the focus of the program to schools and started the campaign from there.

**Are you working on institutionalizing some of the activities that aim to boost the relations of the two countries?**

***during the two years of war in northern Ethiopia, some countries intended to launch an attack against Ethiopia via South Sudan. But South Sudan rejected their proposals as they didn't want to discuss it at all***

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The final goal of the two countries' relations is to consolidate the people-to-people ties and ensure the benefit of the people. For instance, during rainy seasons some areas of South Sudan cannot be accessible for supplies from home. They access them instead from Ethiopia's Gambella and Benishangul. The Lamu Port South Sudan-Ethiopia (LaPSSET) corridor is also a good example of integration. On the Ethiopian side construction of the road has been carried out from Addis to Moyale and from Addis to Gambella. When the road in South Sudan is completed it will reinforce the integration.

Ethiopia and South Sudan share a similar situation as both countries are landlocked. South Sudan has an untapped huge oil reserve. So far it has used only 5% of its potential. It has an oil pipeline, which is 1600 km long that extends to Sudan. This is the only option it has.

By now Ethiopia has also inked a port access deal with Somaliland which doesn't violate the sovereignty of any country. Ethiopia has also made sacrifices for independence. African countries including Somalia. This port access will further enhance economic integration. Ethiopia, especially the eastern part is highly linked with the ports of Somaliland in the past as many commercial items in Eastern Ethiopia are imported via that route. Therefore, the MoU between

Ethiopia and Somaliland is something that reinstates the usual trade ties rather than a new venture. It will also benefit landlocked countries of the Horn of Africa.

The government and people of South Sudan have a good regard for Ethiopia. For instance, during the two years of war in northern Ethiopia, some countries intended to launch an attack against Ethiopia via South Sudan. But South Sudan rejected their proposals as they didn't want to discuss it at all. So they believe that any development in Ethiopia also benefits them.

**Are there attempts by the two governments to solve problems that flare up around the border?**

We are working with the Joint Border Commission. The issue of child abduction is something related to the traditional problem rather than a politically motivated operation that violates Ethiopia's sovereignty. In general, the election in 2024 December is monumental as the transitional government ends its tenure. And it is expected that the country will achieve reliable peace and stability. This will also address problems that appear around borders.

**Ethiopia has pioneered the preparation and signing of the Cooperation Framework Agreement (CFA) for the utilization of water resources especially that of the Nile basin. How is South Sudan handling the ratification of the CFA?**

The South Sudan Council of Ministers ratified the CFA five years ago. Four years ago it was submitted to the country's parliament. In the parliament, the first reading has been done. We have also done the necessary awareness-raising work. So the parliament has been convinced that the agenda is not merely that of Ethiopia but of South Sudan, too. IF South Sudan ratifies the agreement, it will become a law. We expect that the parliament of South Sudan will ratify it this year.

The embassy has also carried out a workshop for parliamentarians, pressure groups with higher education, etc. We hope that it will be one of the first agenda when the parliament opens this year in mid-February. IF successfully ratified it will change the colonial period rules. It has no intent to harm the lower basin countries. It will not reduce their water share. But for us, it is meaningful as the majority of our people do not have access to electric light.

**Thank you very much for your time!**

Thank you!



# Society

## Combating cross-border crime, illicit trafficking via coordinated efforts

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

Cross-border crimes are one of the serious threats our planet faces these days. These crimes encompass a variety of illicit activities, such as human trafficking, smuggling, cybercrime, money laundering, terrorism, drug and weapons trafficking among others. These crimes have far reaching negative consequences for any country, for regional stability and global security.

By taking the issue seriously, countries all over the world are working individually or in collaboration to curb illegal human trafficking and cross-border crimes.

Ethiopia is one of these countries that are working aggressively to halt all forms of cross-border crimes. This is especially true regarding illicit human trafficking and it is taking measures against traffickers. The government has been implementing various strategies, including strengthening law enforcement, enhancing border control and improving international cooperation.

As part of its vision to curb illegal human trafficking, Ethiopia has also increased efforts to raise awareness, provide support to victims and prosecute those involved in human trafficking.

Recently, the Regional Operational Center in support of the Khartoum (ROCK) process and the African Union (AU) Horn of Africa Initiative organized a consultation meeting with stakeholders to address the issues of human trafficking and cross-border crimes, here in Addis Ababa, ENA reported.

Speaking at the event, Federal Police Deputy Commissioner, General Zelalem Mengiste stated that Ethiopia will continue to enhance its continental and international cooperation to combat illegal human trafficking and cross-border crimes.

According to the Deputy Commissioner, cross border crime is becoming a serious threat to global peace and security and its impact is affecting the peace and security of countries across the globe.

During the Prosecution and Law Enforcing Dialogue he said: "We are living at a time when technological and communication advancements have shrunk distances between states and opened up new frontiers of opportunities for economic, political and social interactions," he noted.

According to him, globalization has brought the whole world into a single village. The interconnection among nations' economic, political and social interconnectedness has also provided a fertile ground for criminal organizations and cross-border crimes, illicit human trafficking and organized smuggling.

The Deputy Commissioner underlined that because of illicit human trafficking, several people are suffering in the hands of traffickers and smugglers who are gambling and making money out of the blood of innocent people.

Many of the illegal migrants are victims of extortion, torture, kidnaping for the sake of ransom, sexual exploitation, forced labor and domestic servitude. What is more, the Deputy Commissioner also pointed out that



**T**hrough coordinated efforts, law enforcement agencies have been able to rescue victims of human trafficking and provide them with the necessary support and rehabilitation services

several people are also dying because of the inhuman treatment of illicit traffickers. Seeing the magnitude of the problem, Ethiopia is actively working to curb illegal trafficking and cross-border crimes.

Mentioning that Ethiopia has been a member country of the ROCK for long, he said that the country is working persistently to prevent the crime of human trafficking through assigning a representative. It is contributing significantly by joining hands with member countries, stakeholders and police institutions.

A task force led by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Demeke Mekonnen has been established and various activities are ongoing to prevent human trafficking. In turn, encouraging results are recorded. Similarly, activities are being carried out to prevent the crime in coordination with all regional police institutions, he added.

Speaking on his part, ROCK Technical Director, Harve Jamet said that ROCK is working to mitigate human trafficking in the region by joining hands with member countries.

Regarding Ethiopia's role in fighting cross-border crime and illicit human trafficking, the Technical Director said that Ethiopia is one of the main partners in the ROCK project. "I just want to underline that Ethiopia is a very important partner for us and the main partners of this project."

Ethiopia is indeed working committedly to combat both cross-border crimes and illicit human trafficking within and outside its borders seeing the danger and the magnitude of the challenge for regional peace and stability as well as country's safety. This includes international and regional cooperation, enacting and enforcing legislation aimed at curbing human trafficking, awareness raising and prevention efforts, provision of support and protection for victims of human trafficking.

Ethiopia, as a country prone to both cross-border crimes and illicit human trafficking, is working with its neighboring countries and international organizations including INTERPOL and other regional and

international organizations to address the problem.

This is in the form of sharing intelligence and information about cross-border criminal activities; and through joint operations to apprehend criminals involved in crimes, gaining capacity-building programs offered by INTERPOL to strengthen the skill of Ethiopian law enforcement personnel.

Ethiopia's effort to curtail illicit human trafficking is also worth appreciating. The efforts the country took to combat illicit human trafficking have been yielding positive results. Law enforcement efforts have led to an increase in the prosecution of individuals involved in human trafficking. This signals a more rebuttal legal response to the crime.

Through coordinated efforts, law enforcement agencies have been able to rescue victims of human trafficking and provide them with the necessary support and rehabilitation services.

This demonstrates a commitment to not only apprehending traffickers but also assisting and protecting survivors. What is more, using its citizen based policy the government of Ethiopia is doing its level best to create job opportunities at home or sending workforces outside of the country in a legal manner.

Both illicit human trafficking and cross-border crimes are complicated and more sophisticated that involve modern technologies and organized criminal groups. In this regard, coordinated efforts are essential to effectively combat cross-border crimes and illicit human trafficking. Ethiopia's recognition of the need for coordinated efforts reflects a comprehensive approach to address these complex challenges, acknowledging that a united front is essential to combatting cross border crime and protecting vulnerable individuals from the horrors of human trafficking.

The ROCK is a project working focusing on to eliminate human trafficking and human smuggling. The project is funded by the European Union.

The main purpose of the roundtable is to exchange ideas and to cooperate on the smooth exchange of information among stakeholders, it was learnt,

# Art & Culture

## Ethiopian Poet who writes verses every morning for ten years

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

In the Guardian audio book review of Lemn Sissay's recent collection of poems, Fiona Sturges makes the following observation, "Every day for ten years, Lemn Sissay rose to write a poem to the break of day, a witty and profound collection recited here with his customary verve." A few months ago Ethiopian-British poet Lemn Sissay had claimed the headlines with his dramatic rendering of Franz Kafka's classic and absurdist tale entitled "The Metamorphosis".

A new poem every morning at dawn for ten years! That sounds weird indeed. Who else but writers have this weird habits they developed while doing their jobs. Every writer is seeking to develop the best time or condition for writing their works at their best. Lemn Sissay's morning habit of jotting down verses might look strange on the surface but deep down that was the best time of the day for the poet to do his work to the best of his ability.

Many iconic authors are known to have developed strange ways in doing their jobs every day. "For some writers lying down seems to set their creativity and focus in writing. They find inspiration and the right word to write while they are in the comfort of their bed. Among the successful novelists who have practiced this habit are Mark Twain, George Orwell, Edith Warton, Woody Allen, and Marcel Proust. They are all known for churning out pages while lying in bed or lounged on the sofa and Truman Capote even claimed to be a "completely horizontal author" because he could not think or write unless he was lying down."

It is not clear how Lemn Sissay-whether he is standing sitting or lying down in bed while jotting down the fresh morning verses. He is probably sitting down at a corner of his bedroom or in the living room or the kitchen sipping his morning coffee and checking his Inbox while inventing the verses out of nowhere.

This columnist too took that opportunity to introduce Lemn Sissay to the Ethiopian audience in the following terms, "Ethiopian-British writer Lemn Sissay's life is perhaps as strange as intriguing as that of Gregor Samsa, the main character in Franz Kafka's tragic and classic short novel called "Metamorphosis". Unlike Gregor Samsa, Lemn's was born in Lancashire in 1967 and was adopted by British foster parents where he grew up after coming to UK with his mother while she was still pregnant of him. His mother came to Britain after his father; Giddey Estifanos who was a pilot for Ethiopian Airlines was killed in a plane crash in 1972. After giving birth to Lemn, his mother continued her studies while he was raised by foster parents.

His official biography in Wikipedia portrays him as, "a British author and broadcaster who was the official poet of 2012 London Olympics, chancellor of the University of Manchester from 2015 until 2022 and joined



the Funding Museums board of trustees two years later having previously been appointed one of the museum's fellows. He was awarded the 2019 Pen Pinter Prize. He has written a number of books and plays."

Now Sissay has once again hit the headlines with a strange habit he developed over the last ten years when he just rose from his sleep and sat down to write one poem for the day. And this was repeated over and over for the last ten years. A simple arithmetic of his creative output would suggest that Sissay has so far written more than 3600 poems.

Although all of them might not be classics, his output is but staggering, discipline and commitment quite astonishing and his creativity budding with unstoppable creativity. However, his modus operandi remains obscure. Does he finish polishing his poems the day they were created or is he simply writing poems that are polished in his imagination and then thrown onto the paper?

My guess is that he must have certainly selected some of them for his collection in the audio book recently released. This is not however the first time that Lemn is releasing a collection of poems. He is rather a poet be calling and the author of other works like "My Name is Why" and other works.

The reviewer Fiona tells us that, "Let the Light Pour in" is an "experiment in hope". For 10 years, the "My Name is Why" author been rising at dawn each day, writing a poem and posting it on social media. Those poems have since been turned into songs and tattoos, and emblazoned as mural on

city walls."

Commenting on his newly found habit of rising at dawn to write poems, Sissay says that poetry is "a daily practice. My meditation. It can take minutes or hours. A friend advised me to, 'rise with enthusiasm to the dawning of each day' I like that cause when I write I feel like I am opening the windows to let the light pour in."

Fiona Sturges has presented in her review a sample of Sissay's poems that are short, vivid, imaginative and stylistically diverse. She says that, "The poems, narrated with verve and charm by the author, feature conversations between night and light.-

How do you do it?" said night

How do you wake up and shine?

I keep it simple said light

One day at a time

And between head and heart.

While there is a tendency towards mawkishness in some, others are witty or profound., telling of love, resilience and the power of nature and the elements:

The moon tells the sky

The sky tells the sea

The sea tells the tide

And the tide tells me.

Fiona quotes another poem: In this season of short days and long dark nights/Let the Light Pour in's bite-size verse seeks to remind us that darkness is fleeting and that, whatever may be bringing us down light

is around the corner. As Sissay's ten year old habit of rising every day at dawn with the sun and sitting down to write poetry is something that needs not only appreciation but also great discipline.

Many authors of African origins have thrived in Great Britain, some of whom reaching the highest rang in the ladder of achievements and fame. If there is any "benefit" African writers have reaped from the colonial or post-colonial era, is probably the chance to get quality education in the land of Shakespeare, where their talent could find free expression and gratification.

Lemn Sissay may be a British writer, as the media in Britain refer to him and yet his African and Ethiopian roots or identities cannot be denied or ignored. This is reflected in Lemn's works, both his dramatic and poetic ones. Alienation, loneliness, hope, waiting, and the mystery of existence are ever present in Lemn's works. This may be a reflection of the sense of real alienation he and his fellow Africans may be experiencing in their land of adoption where racism, class and ethnic division are real day to day challenges to millions of immigrants.

The British media are fond of elevating their idols, be them soccer players, sportsmen in general, writers or politicians, to the ranks of real life gods. They do this simply because being British in itself is traditionally regarded as joining the ranks of exceptionally talented people or the people who have been ruling over half of the world. This is a modern myth that was rampant particularly in post-colonial Britain. The "crisis of empire" has left a psychological scar in the British psyche to the extent that adoring and mystifying everything British has contributed to make up for the loss of empire.

Lemn Sissay's literary rise is not yet over. He is going to surprise us now and then before he may one day turn into an officially knighted literary icon. The sad story is that he is not even widely known in African and Ethiopian cultural circles and this ignorance has diminished the poet's status as a rising international star. On the other hand the fact that Lemn Sissay is still exclusively sticking to European and British themes in his works may turn him into a willing symbol of African literary success in Europe.

Lemn Sissay should therefore go back to his African and Ethiopian roots and explore the same themes of alienation and sadness in the context of the colonial and post-colonial realities. This maybe the sole alternative for the writer's self-alienation that would only be overcome the moment he starts writing about the land of his ancestors and the struggles of his people. Ten years from now, Lemn may make the critical transition from being British in his soul to one of being African in his spirits. And that would be his final salvation from being referred by posterity as the British writer who wrote sadly about us into one who "overcame his alienation to embrace his roots and his ancestors.

# Verbatim and Caption

## Ethiopia's Diplomatic...



Foreign Policy Advisor to H.E. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Minister, H.E. Ambassador Taye Atske-Selassie briefed the envoys on the need to protect the national interests of Ethiopia with a better understanding of the global situation and to foster foreign relations predicated on forging consensus, friendship, cooperation and diversification of partnerships.

Diplomacy is a multi-stakeholder endeavour that requires seamless synergy and cooperation among key stakeholders to achieve key foreign policy priorities, Ambassador Taye stated.

State Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Ambassador Mesganu Arga said, Ethiopia's diplomats together with partners should champion an assertive diplomatic posture and heads of missions overseas ought to discharge their leadership duties in manner that is cognizant of major geopolitical dynamics.

Multiplying partnerships and alliances should also be the hallmark of Ethiopia's foreign relations that is geared towards protecting and promoting our national interests, the State Minister stressed.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Demeke Mekonnen said, consolidated diplomatic engagement at the headquarters and mission's level is expected to advance Ethiopia national interests.

During the annual ambassadors' retreat as part of the ongoing Diplomatic Week and Exhibition, DPM and FM Demeke briefed the heads of Ethiopian diplomatic and consular missions overseas on current affairs.

He said, heads of missions near and far are expected to protect our national interests through diversification of friends, combatting incendiary narratives through an all-rounded and inclusive diplomatic engagement.

Diplomatic excellence must be at the heart of Ethiopia's ever-inclusive and diversified foreign relations in bilateral, regional, continental and international venues.

### INVITATION TO BID

#### INTERNATIONAL RE-TENDER NO. CIC-AMCF 06/2024

Chemical Industry Corporation Awash Melkasa Chemical Factory (CIC-AMCF) Invites all Eligible, resourceful and competitive bidders for supply of following items.

1. Lot-1- 800 metric Ton of Aluminum hydroxide 64.5% content by why W/W on dry basis. All interested bidders may obtain bid documents from our branch office located in Addis Ababa, saris Abo Merti building and D/ General Manager Office at Awash Melkassa Chemical Factory against a Payable of non -refundable birr 200 (two hundred birr).
1. Bidders should present their registration certificate from Ministry of finance and economic development of Ethiopia, renewed trade license for the current budget year and VAT registration certificate.
2. The bid must be accompanied by bid bond of at least 2% of the total value of bid price in the form of CPO certified by Bank Guarantee issued in favor of CIC-AMCF.
- 3 The bidders should submit their bids in two separate envelopes technical offer and financial offers each having one original and two copies.
4. The bid must be deposited in Addis Ababa Branch Office (CIC-AMCF) located in saris Abo Merti Building before February 14/2024 at 10:00 AM.
5. Tender closing date will be on Wednesday February 14/2024 at 10:00AM. and technical offer will be opened on Wednesday Feb 14/2024 at 10:30 AM in the presence of bidders or their legal representatives at Saris Abo Merti Building as indicated under article 4 above.
6. Financial offer will be opened on Wednesday February 21/2024 at 10:00 A.M in the presence of bidders or their legal representatives at the address indicated under article 4 above.
7. CIC-AMCF reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason what so ever.

Address:

Tel: 022220266/0222250245

Mobile: 0920935336/0911382231

**Chemical Industry Corporation Awash  
Melkassa-Chemical Factory  
(CIC-AMCF)**

### NOTICE

“HAILAY AND TSEHAY FOUNDATION” has applied to the FDRE Authority for Civil Society Organizations register as an CHARITABLE ENDOWMENT. Any individual or organization opposing the name is here by requested to report to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Authority for Civil Society Organizations around Tewoderos Square Hibre Insurance Building 4<sup>th</sup> floor office no. 407 Until February , 2024 at 9:00A.M

**Authority for Civil Society Organizations**

### NOTICE

“CENTER FOR PEACEBUILDING MIGRATION AND REHABILITATION” has applied to the FDRE Authority for Civil Society Organization to register as A Board-led Organization. Any individual or organization opposing the name is hereby requested to report to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Authority for Civil Society Organization, United Insurance Building, 4<sup>th</sup> floor office no. 406, until February 05, 2024, at 9: 00A.M

**Authority for Civil Society Organizations**

### NOTICE

“ETHIOPIAN LEGEND INTERNATIONAL PRO-TECKWONDO ASSOCIATION” has applied to the FDRE Authority for Civil Society Organization to register as professional association. Any individual or organization opposing the name is hereby requested to report to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Authority for Civil Society Organization, United Insurance Building, 4<sup>th</sup> floor office no. 406, until February 2, 2024 at 9:00A.M

**Authority for Civil Society Organizations**

### NOTICE

Regarding the case of Plaintiff: FEDERAL PROSECUTION GENERAL and Defendant: 1<sup>st</sup> DINO MOBILE AMERACH P.L.C. AND 2<sup>nd</sup> HAING CHEN on the Contraband case held at F/F/I/Court Lideta Bench 5<sup>th</sup> Criminal Tribunal; the court has rendered order so the defendants appear before the court dated 02/02/2024 on 10:00. The court has rendered order to release a newspaper summon for the defendants mentioning that; if the defendants don't appear on the next appointment, the court will issue judgment in the ex-parte of defendants.

**The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia  
Federal First Instance Court**

# Verbatim and Caption

## Ethiopia's Diplomatic Efforts: A fruitful pursuit of bilateral, multilateral diplomacy



Together with H.E. Dan Jorgan, the Danish Minister for Global Climate Policy and Development Cooperation, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister H.E. Demeke Mekonnen had a discussion.

Demeke stated during the conversation that Ethiopia wished to deepen the two nations' long-standing ties even more.

He went on to discuss Ethiopia's actual efforts to slow down global warming, pointing out that in the past four years, billions of seedlings have been planted there as part of the National Green Legacy Initiative.

According to the Deputy Prime Minister, this initiative demonstrates Ethiopia's steadfast dedication to achieving the global goal of a carbon-free environment.

Demeke also urged the parties involved to provide Ethiopia real support for its outstanding Green initiative.

Dan Jorgan, on his part, stated that his country is highly interested in cooperating with Ethiopia in mitigating climate change and he also expressed his country's readiness to support Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative.

H.E. Ambassador Mesganu Arga, State Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, conferred with H.E. Eamon Gilmore, the EU Special Representative for Human Rights.

During the discussion, Ambassador Mesganu Arga highlighted the significant progress made in finalizing the Transitional Justice Policy, which aims to provide a sustainable resolution to issues in Northern Ethiopia.

The policy focuses on establishing accountability, fostering peace, and enhancing overall security in the region.

The EU Special Representative for Human Rights, H.E. Eamon Gilmore, acknowledged Ethiopia's commitment and emphasized the importance of the full implementation of the Pretoria Peace Agreement.

He stressed the importance of transitional justice and accountability in ensuring lasting peace and stability.



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**Published Weekly in Collaboration with  
Addis Ababa Culture, Arts & Tourism Bureau**

**The Vibrant Hub of Africa**

## AACATB launches eighth city-wide reading festival

BY DIRRIBA TESHOME

The eighth five days long city-wide reading festival was officially launched under the theme of "Reading Generation for Nation Prosperity" on Thursday at Addis Ababa Museum.

On the event, Dr. Atome Abebe, Chairman of Trade and Investment Standing Committee, stated that reading is important to lead the country with knowledge and wisdom.

She said that activities that enhance the reading experience should be strengthened in order to produce a knowledge-based future generation that should take over the country.

In addition to the efforts of the government, participation of parents, schools and the entire society should be added to it, she insisted.

By the same token, Addis Ababa Culture, Arts and Tourism Bureau Deputy Head Asfaw Kuma stated that the importance of reading is beyond individual benefit in that it is the



Dr. Atome Abebe leading the launching ceremony

foundation of a country. "The main purpose of the reading festival has taken this into account that we should work to create necessary and comfortable

conditions for reading."

The launching of the reading festival at Addis Ababa Museum was attended by senior officials of the federal and city

administrations and other guests.

The festival will be held for five consecutive days at the Addis Ababa Museum with various events.