



# The Ethiopian Herald

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## A painkiller to own political illness

• Experts lambast 'disruptors' of Ethio-Somaliland deal

### News Analysis

EYUEL KIFLU

The absurd statement issued by some non-African entities and Ethiopia's arch foe on the heels of Ethiopia-Somali landsea access deal runs in sharp contradiction to Africa's 2063 Agenda, signalled foreign affairs and diplomacy experts.

The statements issued by some countries and bloc according to the foreign affairs expert are unacceptable act and only spill the beans on the futile attempt to use the deal for the entities' own internal and external geopolitical ends.

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, Ethiopia, a landlocked country for over three decades, signed a historic agreement to re-access the sea. The pact was signed between Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Somaliland President Muse BihiAbdi. According to reports, this deal stipulates that Somaliland would lease 20 kilometers of its Gulf Eden coastline to Ethiopia.

See A painkiller to ... page 4



## Dawro Zone intensifies summer wheat farming

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

TARCHA- The Dawro Zone of the South West Ethiopia State disclosed that summer wheat farming has become a new fashion during the past three years and the productivity shows significant development from year to year.

Approached by the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Dawro Zone Agriculture, Environment Protection and Cooperatives Development Department Deputy Head Tadesse Umma said that wheat farming, which was introduced three years ago, has become common in the area.

Starting from covering 63 hectares of land some three years ago, the Dawro zone



harvested 1,078 hectares of land and produced 30,663 quintal last year. The yield per hectare also increases from year to year and many farmers in the zone are getting involved in wheat farming.

For this summer season, Dawro plans to cover 3,445 hectares of land with wheat and plans to harvest 40 quintals per hectare.

See Dawro Zone ... page 4

## MoFA foresees missions' relentless engagement to diplomatic excel

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said Ethiopia's overseas missions should make more of a push to enhance its access, influence and desirability in global diplomacy.

The above remark came when MoFA

Spokesperson Meles Alem (PhD) gave a press conference at the conclusion of the annual summit of Heads of Ethiopian Diplomatic and Consular Missions here yesterday in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Demeke Mekonnen.

See MoFA foresees ... page 4



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## Academicians pledge active involvement in Nat'l Dialogue

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Members of the academic community expressed commitment to play their due role for the success of the National Dialogue in terms of research, publications, and lectures and in advisory activities.

The scholars who took part at the discussion forum the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission organized with the AAU vowed to mainstream the National Dialogue in their day-to-day activities.

Accordingly, AAU Public Relations and Strategic Communication Associate Professor Amanuel Abdisa stated that involving the academic community in each phase of the National Dialogue is of great significance as the former have enjoyed the public's immense respect and attention.

The immense knowledge and experience of the academicians

See Academicians... page 4

## Jimma zone focuses on harvesting industrial, export purpose crops

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

**JIMMA-** Jimma Zone Agriculture office stated that special attention gives for the development of harvesting industrial and export purpose crops and the crop production shows an exponential rise during the past three years.

Jimma Zone Agriculture Office head, Mohammed Taha told Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the zone has untapped potential to develop agricultural cash crop products. "Jimma Zone is known for its coffee production, maize harvesting, various types of fruits, honey production and since recent years rice, wheat and tea production becomes popular in the zone," Mohammed stated.

According to Mohammed, maximizing productivity, ensuring food security, creating job opportunity and increasing agricultural exports and import substitution remains the four pillars in the agriculture sector. Jimma zone is striving to realize



Mohammed Taha

the four pillars, he added. In addition to increasing productivity of the common crops in the zone, the zone gives due focus on harvesting wheat, rice and tea during the past three years.

"Three years ago, we started harvesting rice in 2000 hectare of land within four districts. In 2022/23 harvest season, rice harvesting expands into 30,000 hectare within 12 districts," the head stated. In 2023 harvest season, Jimma zone covers 235,000 hectare of land by rice and produced over 9.2 million quintal product, he added. "Now, Jimma zone is becoming among the top rice producer areas of Ethiopia," Mohammed said and as to him the average rice productivity per hectare is 42 quintals.

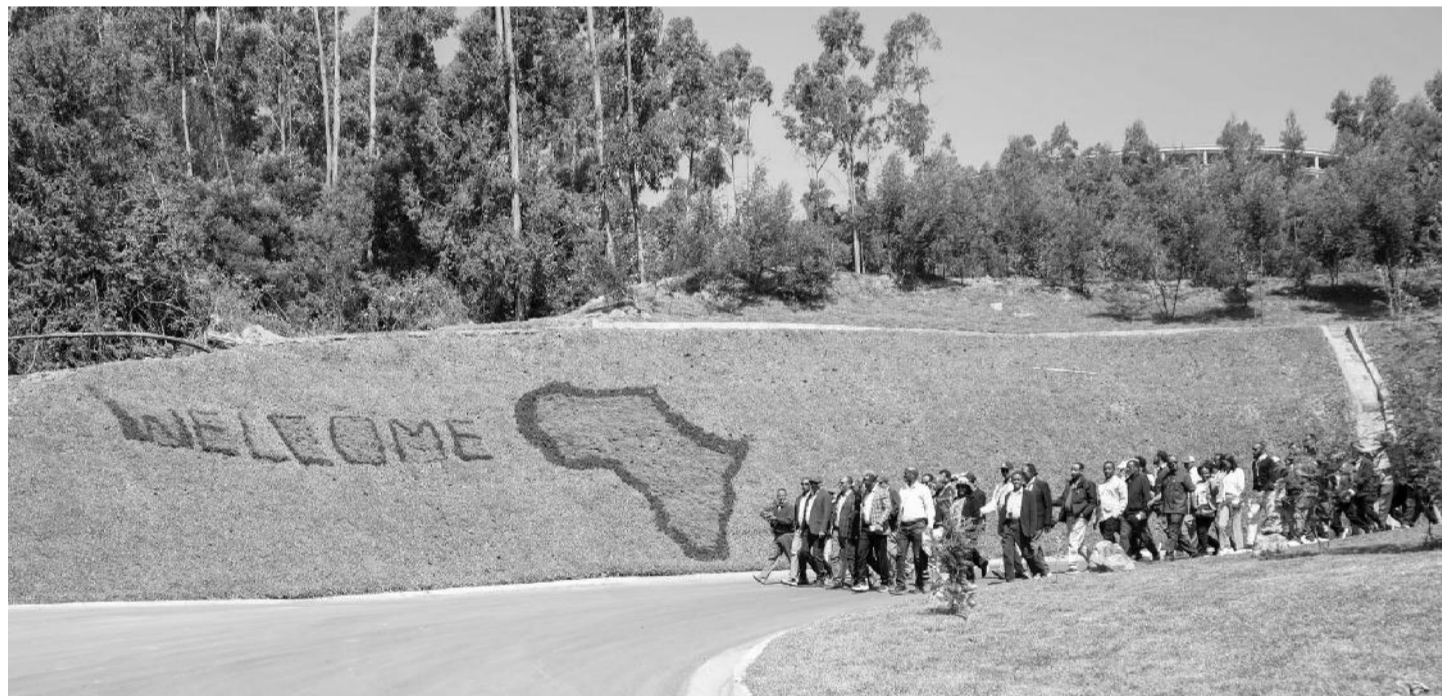
Meanwhile, wheat becomes a strategic crop in Jimma zone during the past three years, Mohammed noted. During the 2020 summer season, Jimma zone started wheat harvesting in 50 hectare of land, Mohammed said adding in 2023 summer wheat production, Jimma zone covers 441,000 hectare of land using irrigation and secured over 16 million quintal product which helped the area to diversify its agricultural exporting products as it

started exporting wheat.

As to him, coffee productivity and export also exponentially increases in Jimma zone and farmers directly started exporting coffee. "416 farmers of Jimma directly started exporting coffee," he added. Mohammed said that last year, Jimma Zone exports 169,000 tone of coffee and during the last six months, the zone exported 75,000 tone of coffee.

Interims of developing coffee coverage, Mohammed said that over 530,000 hectare of land is covered by coffee in Jimma zone. From the total coverage, over 39,000 hectare is clustered coffee and 50 percent of the total coverage was planted during the past four years of Green Legacy initiative.

According to Mohammed crop productivity shows significant increment both in the *meher* harvest season and in the summer production. It was learnt that, during the 2023 mehere season, Jimma zone covers 841,000 hectare by different crops and harvests over 35 million quintals of land.



## Ambassadors hail *Chaka* Project's holistic outcomes

TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA** – The completion of the Chaka Project would greatly contribute to changing Ethiopia's image, to attract global attention and bring other benefits to the national economy, Ethiopian ambassadors to various countries said.

The ambassadors who visited the Chaka project last Friday also hailed the progress of the iconic project and expressed conviction on its immense capacity in image building.

Approached by local media, Ethiopian Ambassador to Canada Fitsum Arega expressed his wonder for the beautiful scenery and the progress of such a large-scale project. "This massive project which is equipped with ultramodern facilities and amenities is difficult to explain and its implementation of the 90/10 system

to preserve indigenous plants is also encouraging."

The project is being executed per the 'let comers advantage' principle that facilitates urbanization while preserving green development. It is also a cost effective project in various ways. Moreover, the project would attract tourists and preserve the area's ecology, Ambassador Fitsum added.

According to the diplomat, the project would enable the creation of another city through an infrastructure junction with Addis Ababa without incurring an extra cost. "The completion of this project would highly contribute to changing Ethiopia's image, attract tourists, and preserve the environment and others."

For his part, Ethiopia's Ambassador to Kenya Bacha Debele stated that the project

is a huge component of the national development while refuting the criticism circulating the Chaka Project. "The rumors are far from reality as the palace is a small component of the project. There has been ongoing development around it."

Ethiopia's Ambassador to EU and Benelux countries Hirut Zemene said, "I realized the project's massiveness composing various multipurpose halls, artificial lakes, recreational centers and others. It is interesting that this project has been aligned with nature and preserves the environment."

Since the project is the venue for knowledge and technology transfer, it has also been taking construction and engineering experts' capacity to the highest level, she remarked.

## Authority clarifying citizens on seaport benefits

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA**—Civil Society Organizations Authority said it is working on raising public awareness about the significance of seaport for economic and societal development.

Authority Chief of Staff Befikadu Woldesenbet told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the authority is clarifying the public on the importance of accessing seaport to realize economic and societal development.

Since civil society organizations have a strong relationship with the community, they are working to explain citizens from all walks of life about the importance of seaport to create better understanding in that regard, he noted.

He stated that civil society organizations are expected to discharge their responsibility of clarifying the importance of accessing seaport for economic and societal development.

"Previously we had seaport, so we should still have it, because the country needs a port for its economic and societal holistic development," Befikadu said.

It is very important to have seaport as it is among the major channels that connect the country with the rest of the world to strengthen multifaceted relationships. Therefore, getting the sea-gate through a peaceful approach is a big success in the country's diplomatic efforts, he added.

Ethiopia's better connection and amicable bilateral and multilateral ties with its neighbors helps the nation to access seaport, he highlighted.

# Editorial

## Chemistry with Ethiopia pays off

There is no gainsaying that peace and development cross-fertilize each other. In the absence of enduring peace development's surge to fruition will be hampered. On the other hand, even development presupposes even distribution of wealth, an ingredient for sustainable peace.

Cognizant that peace and development feed on each other working towards creating the right mix is mandatory. Having the neighborhood in mind is also exigent for development and peace could hardly materialize as conflict has a contagious effect and development like infrastructural expansion in the vicinity catalyzes cross-border trade. Investment also takes off the ground if infrastructural facilities are put in place.

Also, the presence of infrastructural facilities and serenity is a sure proof of the smokeless industry.

As it is well known, Ethiopia is a votary of peace and development. That is why it has embraced both.

Ethiopia, boasting citizens that are epitomized freedom icons, is a natural-wealth-abundantly-blessed country situated at the horn of Africa and having a population size of over 120 million. It is a proud nation playing a key role in the global arena. Its pride in itself and its glorious deeds are ascribable for its special place in history. The passage of time could not blur Ethiopia's instrumentality for the liberation of colored people. For the prevalence of peace in its neighborhood, it has been contributing a lot. It is displaying friendly and voluntary gestures at the continental and global levels.

In the UN and AU's peace keeping mission, it had pioneered in deploying around 12000 infantries. In so doing, it had dispatched its soldiers in Congo, Korea, Rwanda, Liberia, Sudan, Somalia, South Sudan and other countries. On the altar of peace, it has consecrated its heroic sons and daughters. Owing to this, it has played its due role for the advent of a relative peace in East Africa. It is still doing so. In the not distant future, it had been playing quite a role for the stability of Somalia that was being rocked by Al-Shebab.

Apart from the declaration of truce between the two warring powers in South Sudan, it had played an immense role in ushering in an enduring solution to their problem. It is trying to do the same in Sudan.

Ethiopia's activities are not confined to the military sphere. Extending its wing to the economic sector and economic cooperation, Ethiopia is aiming at economic integration and growth based on a win-win principle.

Taking into account the recurrent drought in East Africa and its adverse impact in the region, Ethiopia has taken the initiative to drive home the ideals of green legacy. To root out the problem, it has dispatched tree seedlings and diplomats to different countries so that the idea sinks in.

Based on the win-win approach the country is strengthening its ties with neighboring East African countries. Especially to forestall contraband trade that is weakening nations' economy and promoting illegality, Ethiopia is actively doing a lot of work with neighboring countries.

On the other hand, Ethiopia today is exporting its products and services—coffee, chat, vegetables, fruits and water—to neighboring countries and beyond. It is also aiming at trade with Europe. Its quest for ports and common growth based on clicking illumines its peaceful economic diplomacy.

In general in the political, economic and social aspects Ethiopia's role in East Africa in particular and in Africa in general showcases its passion for Africa's tranquility and affluence. This has become a public knowledge. That is why the saying chemistry with Ethiopia pays off.

# Opinion

## Pan-African media to air African views, connect Africans together

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

There is no doubt that the continent of Africa for a vast array of time has been deprived of its own discrete mass media outlets. This scarceness of representation has fashioned null and void Africa's capability to successfully make known and disseminate information in the length and breadth of the country. But to date the sought-after goal has not been accomplished yet.

It is advantageous to the continent to possess a vigorous, wide-ranging and impartial multimedia platform that showers information to all members states on an equal footage. Indeed, the deficit of a united African media landscape has slowed down Africa's ability to demonstrate its extraordinary positions and contributions to the global community.

Devoid of a stage that precisely reveals Africa's miscellaneous values, customs, and socio-political intricacies, Africa's voice is lumbered with the global platform. Reasoning from this fact, the continent has been fundamentally deprived of international media outlets to disseminate its stories.

Taking the continent's size into account it is irrefutably vital for Africa to set up its own significant media gadget. In fact, such a platform would give the green light to African nations to cooperate and support each other nurturing a sense of harmony and shared purpose.

By prioritizing a holistic approach to news reporting and storytelling, a Pan African media can bridge the gaps between member states, promote cultural appreciation, and provide a much-needed platform for dialogue and debate. Furthermore, an impartial African media would serve as a significant step towards combating biases and stereotypes that have snowed under Africa for years.

By prioritizing a holistic approach to news reporting and storytelling, African media can bridge the gaps between member states, promote cultural appreciation and provide a much-needed platform for dialogue and debate. Furthermore, an impartial African media would serve as a significant step towards combating biases and stereotypes that have snowed under Africa for years.

By providing accurate and unbiased news coverage, the continent's media outlets are able to encounter predetermined accepted wisdom, disperse propaganda and familiarize the international community with a comprehensive picture of Africa's multifaceted veracities. This independence over media representation would empower the continent to shape its own narrative, reclaim its identity, and confront external mistaken belief.

By putting appropriate representation and a commitment to impartiality into effect, the continent's media can make available a voice for the continent's assorted

nations, drive out stereotypes and pay a regular contribution to a more well-adjusted worldwide discourse. Taking the aforementioned reality on the ground, the continent should set up an influential media outlet that demonstrates Africa's unique stories, practices and ambitions. More often than not the international media outlets present the continent of Africa in a negative light.

This portrayal is disparaging and degrading and it is likely driven by a thoughtful strategy and agenda. These undesirable and conventional representations not only deceive the rest of the world about Africa but they also shape how Africans perceive themselves. It is vital that we take the inventiveness to tell our own stories and shape our own narratives. This should be our greatest priority. To combat these perversions, it is critical to set up a media organization that is committed to disseminating authoritative news and information about Africa.

By actively playing a part in the media landscape and taking ownership of our own narratives, we can encounter the leading narratives and present a more correct and inclusive picture of Africa's troubles, accomplishments and ambitions. This will not only empower as Africans but also pay a regular contribution to a well-adjusted and nuanced understanding of the continent internationally.

It is recalled that the suggestion for the setting up of a pan-African media put forth by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has garnered unequivocal support from the African Union (AU).

The creation of a pan African media organization is supposed dominant in encouraging Africa's position on the global stage. A pan African media platform has the potential to bring back dignity and intensify the diverse narratives of Africa and its people in the shortest possible time. The AU enthusiastically stands in camaraderie with this promising initiative on the grounds that it is considered as a possible solution to redesign Africa's image and provide a more accurate reflection of its multilayered realities.

This amalgamated endeavor towards setting up a Pan-African media stage give emphasis to the determination to nurturing a more precise and well-adjusted understanding of Africa, both within the continent and all over the world.

As efforts to combat misinformation and present an unbiased portrayal of Africa, the backing of the AU brings hope for media landscape that takes control of Africa's narrative, tells its own stories and amplifies its voices. This united effort towards establishing a pan African media platform underscores the commitment to fostering a more accurate and balanced understanding of Africa both within the continent and internationally.

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



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The Ethiopian Herald

## A painkiller to...

Ethiopia's has repeatedly made it clear that its interest for sea access follows a peaceful, legal and give and take approaches.

In the face of the deal, international reaction has been less despite statements from certain groups. It is toe recalled that IGAD and other organizations have called for calm and urge parties to resolve any disputed issues cool headedly and peacefully.

Addis Ababa through its information office has been saying that the deal will harm no third nations.

Despite Ethiopia's affirmation to the integrity and sovereignty of Somalia, some countries have voiced oppositions since the announcement of the deal in which Ethiopia see as invalid concern and far-fetched acts to impede the country from having sea access.

For the Ethiopian side, the country's historical enemies are using Arab League as Trojan horses to disseminate their cacophony.

The agreement between Ethiopia and Somaliland remains intact, despite the numerous press releases issued by external actors, said the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in its recent presser.

The efforts to impede Ethiopia's access to the sea by certain entities are deemed unacceptable commented Ambassador Shibru Mamo, the

Ethiopian Ambassador to Tanzania, in an exclusive interview with The Ethiopian Herald.

Commending the deal as mutual benefit for the signatories, the ambassador emphasized distracting the accord would hinder progress and demonstrate a lack of readiness for Agenda 2063.

He pointed out that other countries have obtained port access through contractual agreements without significant opposition, and Ethiopia should not face objection in this regard.

He also stressed the need for a continuous and organized diplomatic approach to counter the smear objections and unfounded concerns that followed the agreement, signalling the importance of unity within the country to realize its sea access objectives, urging individuals to fulfil their responsibilities and resolve internal issues.

Anteneh Getachew, a researcher specializing in Asia and the Pacific at the Institute of Foreign Affairs, stated that oppositions from distant geopolitical regions regarding the Ethio-Somaliland sea access deal are unacceptable.

"It is evident that the issue of a sea outlet is of existential significance to Ethiopia, and achieving this objective requires diplomatic negotiations, trust-building, and engagement

with neighbouring countries. The researcher highlighted the necessity of organized international public relations efforts to counter objections and doubts raised by certain foreign entities."

Another researcher in Arab countries affairs Adem Kamil, approached by The Ethiopian Herald, asserted that Egypt is exploiting the Ethio-Somaliland deal for its internal political consumption. He claimed that Egypt has been using the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) issue for the past twelve years to deceive its people with false information and maintain its internal politics. When Cairo realized it could not halt the GERD, it shifted its attention to Ethiopia's sea access for its usual internal political agenda.

Ambassador Meles Alem, the spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stated in a recent press briefing that similar statements (opposed Ethiopia's development action) have been emanating from Cairo for years, with the initiation of war even being televised. However, Ethiopia has not halted the construction of the Renaissance Dam, nor has it abandoned its pursuit of sea access. The ambassador emphasized that Ethiopia is a resilient nation that does not succumb to fear any unjustified statements, and diplomatic efforts are underway to clarify the country's sea access.

For the question raised by journalists about China the spokesperson emphasized Ethiopia's long-standing support for the One-China policy as a cornerstone of its unwavering foreign policy. "Our stance on this issue remains unchanged," he said.

Certain countries have attempted to link Ethiopia's activities with their own geopolitical crises. Nevertheless, Ethiopia's diplomatic stance is evidently aligned with the non-aligned movement. Anteneh added that effectively managing objections raised by certain countries regarding the Ethio-Somaliland Memorandum of Understanding requires organized international public relations and bilateral talks with the objecting nations and entities.

Ambassador Shibru, on his part, stressed the importance of sharing resources with neighbouring countries for regional peace and security.

He warned that isolation may lead to instability and hinder regional growth. He also mentioned Ethiopia's historical ownership of a port, which was lost due to past circumstances. Highlighting the sacrifices made by Ethiopian troops in ensuring stability in Somalia and the region, he underscored the need for reciprocal support from neighbouring countries for Ethiopia's port access.

## Dawro Zone intensifies...

"We aim to cover 3,445 hectares of land by wheat using irrigation and so far, we have covered over 900 hectares of land and efforts are underway to achieve the plan. To this end, necessary inputs and support are being provided to farmers."

Though 60 percent of the area is lowland, the Dawro zone is suitable for summer wheat using the available water resources and continues to exploit the potential.

Tadesse further noted that by covering 78,000 hectares of land with different crops during the Meher season, the zone has secured 1.2 million quintals of product. During the Belg season, in addition to wheat, the zone plans to cover 40,000 hectares of land by different crops, mainly maize.

In the area, farmers are participating in summer wheat farming, which was not common before. Among them is Werabo Dima, a father-of-10, from the Gena District of Dawro Zone.

Werabo told EPA that he started harvesting wheat last summer for the first time in his long career as a farmer. "Wheat farming was not common in this area, when the agricultural experts advised us

to start cultivating wheat, it was something odd. But, I started to harvest wheat in one hectares of land last year with the support of irrigation and obtained around 18 quintals.

This summer, Werabo already covers four hectare of land with wheat using a water pump irrigation system. The revenue he secured from last year wheat production has brought significant revenue and helped to improve the livelihoods of his household.

Having learned from last years' experience, he is currently exerting his maximum capacity to increase productivity. "I am using improved seed, adequate fertilizers and other necessary inputs, and the land was prepared well. I am hoping to harvest up to 30 quintals per hectare this summer."

"The summer wheat production initiative is a new blessing for farmers. The land was with us for years, but we had not even tried to harvest wheat. But now, thanks to Prime Minister Abiy's initiative, in addition to the Meher season, we are harvesting in the previously non-harvesting season and bringing additional incomes for our households," the farmer stated.

## MoFA foresees missions'...

According to the spokesperson, ambassadors who are assigned to various countries have been instructed to protect Ethiopia's national interests, strengthen mutual benefit as well as to engage in multilateral diplomacy. "The ambassadors have also been instructed to carry out extensive diplomatic activities."

Ambassador Meles further highlighted that ambassadors who represented Ethiopia should carry out tasks that will enable the country to become an influential player in global diplomacy and active player in international relations.

It was also pointed out in the meeting that overseas missions should work more to strengthen Ethiopia's bilateral relations with neighboring countries and to seek new partnerships across the globe. "In addition to bilateral relations, the country should continue to be an active participant in multilateral platforms," Demeke was quoted as saying.

The meeting also emphasized that the diplomatic activity should reach the

concerned parties first. Accordingly, the ambassadors should not only represent Ethiopia in international forums, but also make the field of diplomacy stand out, he added.

Direction was given to the ambassadors to work in the actual situation of their country of deployment and to achieve results by building Ethiopia's image, attracting investors, promoting various tourist destinations, finding appropriate markets for Ethiopian products, and focusing on financial and technical support activities.

According to the spokesperson; in the two-week long meeting of mission leaders, there was a wide discussion on issues that could be further strengthened in Ethiopia's bilateral relations.

In addition, mission leaders assigned to different countries visited various development projects in Ethiopia. Ambassador Meles announced that they have been invited to contribute to the success of the projects.

## Academicians pledge...

acquainted with long years of learning and research coupled with their higher value among the society would give them the leverage to persuade the community and facilitate the National Dialogue.

Amanuel expressed his and fellow academicians' desire to play a major role in encouraging the Diaspora community's involvement in the National Dialogue and helping the efforts to make the process inclusive and transparent.

According to him, the media and communication sector has limitations to discharge its responsibility in serving as the open forum for debate and discussion and supplement the agenda identification

process for the National Dialogue.

For Saint Paul Hospital Millennium Medical College Vice Provost Sena Dugassa (MD), the academic community needs to see the National Dialogue with the sense of belongingness and huge responsibility.

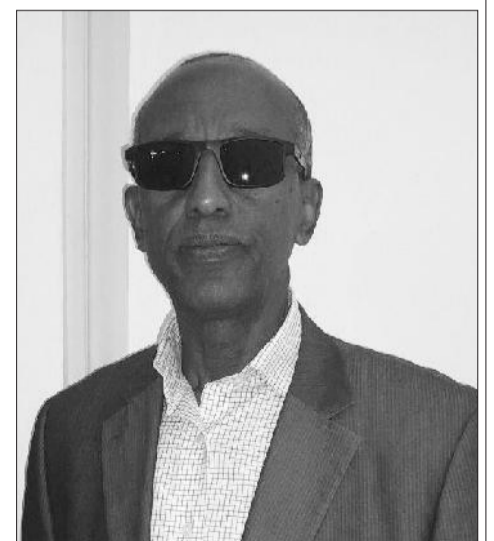
Shaping the public's opinion is the responsibility of the elite and thus, the academic community should be a role model for the public in resolving disagreements through dialogue. "In this regard, we need to take the lead and encourage the society to follow our suit."

"Scholars are the hopes of this nation. Putting aside the age long false and divisive

narratives, we need to focus on the future of the country and seize this opportunity to put Ethiopia in a better position."

Apart from making active participation in the National Dialogue, the academia are also expected to nurture the culture of dialogue into the public through their respective fields, she added.

By the same token, Awolia College Head Seid Asmare emphasized the need to prioritize the National Dialogue where academicians play an active role for its success. "Pushing the importance of winning ideas by ideas is the responsibility of scholars. We need to take the lion share in resolving differences in a peaceful way. To this end, we need to work by giving due emphasis to free the nation from current challenges."



Professor Amanuel Abdisa

# Opinion

## Diplomatic missions should revamp efforts to realize national interest

BY GETACHEW MINAS

Diplomatic missions of any country are often represented by embassies or consulates. The staff of these embassies have crucial role to play in facilitating the smooth process of international relations. In so doing, they have the goal of promoting the interests of their home countries. The diplomatic missions comprise of key personnel that are skilled in the implementation of the foreign policy of their countries. In critical situations they become vague through double talk until they receive clearance on issues from concerned officials from their home countries. Generally, the key functions and roles of diplomatic missions begin with State representation.

Diplomatic missions serve as the official representation of a country's government in another country. Ambassadors or heads of missions engage with the host country's government. Ethiopia hosts a large number of embassies with offices in Addis Ababa, as this city is a seat of AU and other international organizations.

The embassies have a major role of representing their citizens. They have detailed knowledge of the needs of their people wherever they are. These embassies have to defend the interests and rights of their citizens that are residing in different countries as peaceful individuals. In this regard, embassies and consulates provide assistance and protection to their citizens abroad. They deliver consular services such as issuing visas, handling legal matters, and responding to emergencies.

Wherever Ethiopians are denied their basic rights, embassies have the obligation to redress complaints if there are any, of their citizens. In this regard, these missions have the duty of promoting their national interests. These interests may be reflected in different ways related to the situations of Ethiopians living abroad. Moreover, these missions have the responsibility of advancing the political, economic, and strategic interests of their home countries. Politically, Ethiopia has its well-defined approach in handling political issues at home and abroad. These issues are addressed in line with the policies of the Government as reflected in its declarations and public statements.

The Diplomatic Missions are well-versed with the economic developments in Ethiopia. They follow-up the periodic growth and development programs, projects and activities which are prepared reflecting the needs of the Ethiopian people. They analyze the role of donors in the respective countries

they are assigned to. The embassy staffs contact the concerned ministries, authorities, agencies and corporations which are responsible for annual budget allocation and implementation. Such information is vital for Diplomatic Missions who endeavor to attract investors to Ethiopia. They engage in negotiations, advocacy, and diplomacy to achieve national objectives, including economic progress.

The diplomatic staff may reveal to new investors about the economic opportunities in different sectors of Ethiopia. The staff may conduct advocacy programs to attract tourists to the country. Of course, Ethiopian diplomats play great role in achieving national objectives in the country of their assignment. Diplomats engage in negotiations with their counterparts to resolve conflicts, establish agreements, and address issues of mutual concern.

Ethiopian diplomats have been engaged in negotiations with officials of different agencies in the country of their assignment. They have been able to skillfully resolve conflicts between their country and other countries as they appear to germinate. They also facilitate the agreements between contending parties abroad. They constantly endeavor to address conflicting issues of mutual concern. This involves finding common ground and building relationships in a mutual manner. All these efforts depended on skilled diplomacy, which are based on information gathering and reporting. The information should be based on reliable sources.

Equally important is the methods and techniques of information gathering. Wrong means of accessing information leads to unreliable conclusions. All these render diplomatic exchange of reports fake and unacceptable. If diplomatic report is based on false information, it becomes difficult to repair it. As a result, true political pictures appear to be false.

Diplomatic missions collect information about the host country's political, economic, and social landscape. The political pictures may be misleading unless the Ethiopian diplomats are scrutinizing them carefully. The host country may misinform the diplomatic mission unless the staffs are skillful in screening messages and unfurling and disclosing the truth. Even the use of words and facial expressions in meetings has its diplomatic meaning.

Ambassadors and diplomats provide detailed reports to their home governments to inform on policy of host countries on specific issues. These reports should be secret depending on the issue at hand. Key staffs of the

embassy should be highly qualified in handling secret services. It is a sign of disloyalty and treachery if every secret of the Ethiopian government is leaked through its diplomatic mission to the host country. It is, however, difficult to screen who is loyal and disloyal in his service to the country. There may be assessment of performance of the diplomatic staff that may reveal honesty in duty.

Honesty of diplomats secures respect for the country they represent. They may also encourage cultural exchange programs between their country and the host country. Those who have the chance to participate in such programs create links of friendship between citizens of the two countries. Ethiopian diplomats should, therefore, work on exchange programs in detail. They may introduce the cultural heritage of Ethiopia to the various communities of the host country. In this process, they may engage in educational initiatives, including short visits, training programs and scholarships for Ethiopians. Such programs help in accessing latest technological developments in the host country. Trainees may acquire the skills for imbibing and absorbing the fundamental and essential nature of technologies that are appropriate to the Ethiopian reality. Moreover, people-to-people connections, links and ties through the diplomatic missions enhance and strengthen mutual understanding.

Diplomatic missions work to strengthen economic ties between their home countries and host countries. Ethiopian diplomats have to promote trade relations that benefit both countries. They have to make sure that the balance of payment is positive without any negative impact on foreign exchange earnings. They have to introduce the natural resources of the country to would be investors of the host country. They have to arrange with the home agencies in the preparation of brochures revealing investment opportunities in Ethiopia. Both trade and investment have to be covered by official economic cooperation that benefits both countries. Moreover, consulates within diplomatic missions have to provide consular services to Ethiopians living or traveling abroad. These services include visa issuance, passport renewal, and assistance during emergency and legal support.

The most critical service of diplomatic missions is conflict resolution. They play a role in peace building efforts. It is obvious that in the absence of peace, it is nearly impossible to conduct positive relationship between countries. Therefore, the staffs of the missions have to analyze new developments, their cause and effects on Ethiopia. They

have to engage in diplomatic initiatives to prevent, manage, or resolve conflicts between countries. This is an effort in crisis management. During crises such as political upheavals or natural disasters, diplomatic missions are responsible for ensuring the safety and well-being of their citizens abroad. They coordinate evacuation efforts and provide consular assistance to Ethiopians facing such crises. However, in time of peace, they also engage in protocol and ceremonial functions. These activities are important diplomatic efforts and endeavors at home and abroad.

A critical function of diplomatic missions is representation in international organizations. These organizations may be highly specialized focusing on specific issues such as food, health, education, labor and other related activities. The missions have to be skillful to identify the support Ethiopia acquires from these organizations. These require public diplomacy that wins friends to the causes of the country. Diplomacy secures proper support, including material, financial and professional assistance.

In the case of professional staff coming into the country, the missions have to facilitate visa and immigration services. They have also the duty to provide the same services to citizens. Another critical and important duty of the diplomatic mission is to facilitating international agreements, which demands skills in negotiations. A country may lose its benefits due to lack of skills by its diplomats in negotiating agreements in favor of their countries.

In conclusion, diplomatic missions are essential components of international relations. If there are slight errors they may become irreversible depending on the nature of relations between countries or donor agencies. In this respect, the missions play critical role as in making relations favorable to Ethiopia.

In so doing, they serve as the primary channels for communication and cooperation between countries and international organizations. The missions fulfill various set of functions designed for promoting national interests. These are aimed at advancing the interests of the country. It is a primary duty of diplomatic missions to foster positive relations for promoting international cooperation and understanding that favor Ethiopia.

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

# Business & Economy

## Joining forces for augmenting economic growth, regional integration

BY HIZKEL HAILU

The Ministry of Irrigation and Low Lands (MILLs) stated that the Pastoralists Day witnessed the active involvement of the cooperation of East African stakeholders. This move is expected to have significant implications for fostering social, cultural, economic, and diplomatic ties within the region. The event will take place in Addis Ababa from January 26 to February 1, aims to address pastoralists' issues, improve their livelihoods, and explore the tourism and investment potential of pastoralist areas.

Furthermore, Ethiopia is set to host the "Horn of Africa Pastoralist Expo" in February 2024 emphasizing the collaborative efforts of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and promoting regional unity and progress.

MILLs State Minister Endrias Geta (PhD) told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the 19th Pastoralists Day with East African representatives' attendance will be fruit full.

Noting that previously the day was marked at the national level, he revealed that this year festival is conducted uniquely with the involvement of pastoralist representatives from neighboring countries as well as high-level government officials, diplomats and others.

According to Endrias, the festival aims to create networking opportunities among East African pastoralists, strengthen cultural and economic ties, and provide a platform for discussing shared concerns such as drought and other challenges. Apart from improving the livelihoods of pastoralists' communities, such event has a great contribution to exploiting tourism and investment potentials in the pastoralists' areas and supporting the development of the country.

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

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

Besides promoting the pastoralist areas' tourism and investment opportunities; the festival would also facilitate experience sharing and enhance the business ties in the sector. The participation of East African stakeholders in the Pastoralists Day and the Horn of Africa Pastoralist Expo holds several economic benefits for the region.



Endrias Geta (PhD)

The involvement of high-level government officials, diplomats, and agricultural experts from neighboring countries will create a platform for fostering economic cooperation and trade. It provides an opportunity for pastoralist communities to showcase their products, such as livestock, textiles, handicrafts, and agricultural products, leading to potential business partnerships and increased trade within the region, he remarked.

Moreover, the exposure of pastoralist areas and their tourism and investment potential during the events can attract domestic and foreign investors. The festival serves as a gateway to showcase the untapped opportunities in the pastoralist regions, encouraging investment in infrastructure development, agribusiness, ecotourism, and other sectors. This, in turn, can stimulate economic growth, job creation, and income generation for the local communities.

Apart from these, the event will draw attention to the unique cultural heritage, landscapes, and traditional practices of the pastoralist communities. This can enhance the tourism sector in the region, attracting domestic and international visitors interested in experiencing the rich cultural traditions and natural beauty of the pastoralist areas. Increased tourism can contribute to local economic development through the creation of tourism-related businesses, accommodation providers, and the preservation of cultural practices.

The involvement of East African stakeholders in this event will also foster regional integration and cooperation. Through addressing common challenges, sharing experiences, and promoting dialogue, the events contribute to building stronger economic ties and mutual understanding among countries in the region. This collaboration can lead to the development of joint projects, regional initiatives, and policy frameworks that support economic growth, stability, and sustainable development in the pastoralist areas.

Hon. Salah Maalim Alio Regional Minister for Lands, Physical Planning, Housing, Urban Development, Circular Economy, Solid Waste Management and Sanitation-Mandera County Government in Kenya is amongst the participants and panelist on



Hon. Salah Maalim Alio

the event. Approached by *The Ethiopian Herald* through Email, he said that the Expo is not just a national event adding that it will represent a significant regional milestone for the region.

As to him, the expo will showcase the collaborative efforts of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in fostering unity and progress. The involvement of IGAD's Land Governance unit underscores the significance of this expo, elevating it from a national celebration to a platform for shared experiences, learning, and dialogue on crucial issues facing pastoral communities across borders learning and dialoguing on Pathways for Resilience in Pastoral Settings through Sustainable Land Governance.

Mentioning that this expo marks the 19th National Pastoralist Day event and stands as a testament to Ethiopia's commitment to regional integration, he noted that the expo becomes a vital space for exchanging knowledge, fostering cooperation, and laying the groundwork for future collaborations among IGAD member states.

"The initiative's focus on inclusive and conflict-sensitive land use planning has proven instrumental in transforming pastoral landscapes. Through participatory approaches, gender-responsive alternative dispute resolution, and collaboration with local and national governments, IGAD is driving positive change in the region among many other themes including supporting and nurturing pastoral land governance, heritage and indigenous practices in a dynamic economic and political environment.

Apart from this, alternative dispute resolution (ADR) and or traditional dispute in organizations and communities, youth and land governance as well as strengthening the promotion of customary land tenure and securing the indigenous knowledge within it are amongst the IGAD's focus points.

In the expo panel discussion sessions on inclusive land use planning, gender-responsive dispute resolution, and leveraging youth potentials in land governance will also highlight IGAD's

commitment to holistic and sustainable interventions. The session will also provide a unique opportunity for stakeholders to share successes, approaches, and lessons learned, create a foundation for future initiatives that can promote resilience, sustainable livestock systems, and inclusive land governance, he noted.

"As the team leader of the delegation from Mandera County Government and a panelist at the expo, well experience gained and shared insights will undoubtedly contribute to the region's development. The event's regional impact lies in its potential to mobilize stakeholders, foster increased investment in inclusive land use planning, and address critical issues like tenure security, food security, and climate resilience, Salah explained.

The participation of stakeholders, experts, and policymakers from different countries fosters knowledge exchange, sharing of best practices, and capacity building. This can lead to the transfer of skills, technologies, and innovative approaches in areas such as sustainable land use planning, livestock management, agribusiness, and pastoralist livelihood diversification. The acquisition of new knowledge and skills can enhance productivity, efficiency, and competitiveness, ultimately benefiting the economic development of the region.

Additionally, the event will provide networking opportunities for pastoralist communities, entrepreneurs, and investors. Through interactions, participants can establish business connections, explore potential partnerships, and access new markets. This can enable pastoralist communities to expand their customer base, improve market access, and increase their incomes by reaching broader regional and international markets.

The participation of East African stakeholders in the Pastoralists Day and Expo therefore, will signify a significant step toward regional collaboration, unity, and progress. These events provide platforms for shared experiences, dialogue, and learning, with a focus on addressing challenges faced by pastoral communities across borders. By leveraging land governance, inclusive planning, and sustainable practices, the region aims to build resilience, improve livelihoods, and foster economic growth. The successful implementation of these initiatives will require ongoing collaboration among governments, organizations, and communities, ensuring a prosperous future for pastoralist communities in East Africa.

Overall, the economic benefits of the participation of East African stakeholders in the Pastoralists Day lie in the potential for increased trade, investment, tourism development, knowledge exchange, business networking, regional integration, and cooperation. These benefits can contribute to poverty reduction, improved livelihoods, and the overall economic prosperity of the region.

# Planet Earth

## COP 28 and Ethiopia's innovations on battling effects of climate change

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

As a pioneering champion of the battle against the effects of climate change since 2011 when the nation developed Climate Change Resilient Green Economy Policy and Strategy, Ethiopia has declared a bold departure from expensive fossil fuel based economy to climate resilient green economy and zero carbon emission by 2050 in a document entitled "Ethiopia's Long Term Low Emission and Climate Resilient Development Strategy (2020-2050) in Line with the Paris Agreement and also delivered Nationally Determined Contribution to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Both documents were effectively synchronized with Ethiopia's Ten Years Perspective Plan and other pertinent development strategies related to CRGES.

Ethiopia has participated in all COP conferences, including the recently conducted COP 28, which was conducted in Dubai, UAE from November 30 to December 12. Reporting on the deliberations of the Conference, the Ministry of Planning and Development Ethiopia staged an exhibition on various projects the country has conducted over the past several years in response to mitigating climate change in Ethiopia. On this conference in which 150 countries were represented, Prime Minister Abiy stated that Ethiopia has so far planted 32.5 billion seedlings in the National Green Legacy Initiative in response to mitigating the effects of climate change globally and at the national level. He mentioned the achievements Ethiopia has made in being self-sufficient in wheat and the efforts underway to develop and expand renewable energy resources across the country. During the Conference Ethiopia signed 600 million USD agreements with a company named UAE MEA to build a wind power plant which can generate 300 MW. Ethiopia also signed 8 million euros with the Government of Italy for environmental development and climate change mitigation projects.

Ethiopia participated in COP28 as a leading member of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) and Africa Group of Negotiators/AGN) and Least Developed countries Group (LDC). Ethiopia played a crucial role in coordinating African nations to consolidate their voice and negotiate in a unified manner as the current president of AMCEN.

On the side of the climate change conference, Ethiopia has presented its success stories through 35 forums highlighting the areas it has been praised for globally including the Green Legacy Initiative, sustainable agriculture and food self-sufficiency, renewable energy supply and water use, urban development, transportation, low-carbon incentive system and the ongoing participation of the private sector in climate change and green development.

At the end of the Conference, various resolutions were made regarding The loss and damage fund designed to support climate-vulnerable developing countries was brought to life on the first day of the COP. Countries have pledged hundreds

of millions of dollars so far for the fund; Commitments of worth \$3.5 billion to replenish the resources of the Green Climate Fund; New announcements totaling over \$150 million for the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDC) and Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF).

An increase of \$9 billion annually by the World Bank to finance climate-related projects (2024 and 2025);

Nearly 120 countries backed COP28 UAE Climate and Health Declaration to accelerate actions to protect people's health from growing climate impacts;

Over 130 countries have signed up to COP28 UAE Declaration on Agriculture, Food, and Climate to support food security while combatting climate change; and

Global Cooling Pledge has been endorsed by 66 countries to reduce cooling related emissions by 68% from today.

Ethiopia's Dine for the Nation, Dine for Sheger, Dine for the Generation and other eco-tourism projects blend the development of tourism Ethiopia with greening the country and conserving the natural resources of the nation.

These projects are not only limited to their contribution in tourism and natural resources conservation but play an important role in promoting food security, unemployment, scientific researches on biomass and water resources of Ethiopia.

Food forests that are being developed in the context of National Green Legacy Initiative bring forth multiple benefits for food security in Ethiopia. What actually are food forests?

A food forest, also known as a forest garden or a perennial polyculture, is a sustainable agro-ecosystem designed to mimic the structure and functions of a natural forest while producing a variety of food, medicinal plants, and other useful products. Food forests are characterized by diverse layers of plants, including trees, shrubs, herbs, and groundcovers, creating a self-sustaining and biodiverse environment. Here are key features and principles associated with food forests:

Food forests incorporate a wide variety of edible and non-edible plants, imitating the layers found in natural ecosystems, such as canopy trees, understory trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants, vines, and groundcovers.

Food forests promote sustainable agricultural practices by reducing the need for external inputs and fostering ecological balance.

By imitating natural ecosystems, food forests support biodiversity and contribute to conservation efforts.

Diverse plant species and polyculture enhance the resilience of food forests to climate variations and extreme weather events.

The mix of plants in a food forest contributes to efficient nutrient cycling, reducing the reliance on synthetic fertilizers.

Once established, food forests can be relatively low-maintenance compared to traditional annual crop systems.

***When it comes to combating the effects of climate change, it is also very important to consider the most outstanding international legal instruments that were issued to protect the global flora and fauna to ensure the balance of nature across the world***

Food forests can provide a sustainable source of diverse produce, contributing to local food security and potential income generation.

Food forests are gaining popularity as a sustainable and regenerative approach to food production, aligning with principles of permaculture and agroecology. Their design and implementation can vary based on climate, soil conditions, and local ecosystems.

It must be stressed that all these projects of regional and global significance have been initiated by the leadership of the country strictly based on using local resources for national development.

On the other hand, if we take specific projects like Lemat Trufat, over the last couple of years, Ethiopia has managed to produce five billion liters of milk and three billion eggs with more potential in store for the nation.

In terms of keeping the atmospheric temperature to well below 2 degree Celsius, Ethiopia can comfortably achieve this target through her carbon in a relatively shorter period of time.

Medicinal plants are also part of the forest resources of the country. Some researches indicate that the country has more than 7000 species of plants that can potentially be used as sources for herbal medicine.

When it comes to combating the effects of climate change, it is also very important to consider the most outstanding international legal instruments that were issued to protect the global flora and fauna to ensure the balance of nature across the world.

Legal protection for biodiversity resources involves a complex framework of national and international laws and regulations aimed at conserving and sustaining the diversity of life on Earth. These legal instruments address various aspects, including the protection of ecosystems, endangered species, genetic resources, and traditional knowledge associated with biodiversity. Here are some key elements of legal protection for biodiversity:

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): Adopted in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, the CBD is a comprehensive international treaty that addresses the conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, and

the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources. It includes the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization.

CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora):

CITES is an international agreement aimed at ensuring that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. It regulates and restricts the trade of species listed in its appendices.

Ramsar Convention: The Convention on Wetlands, known as the Ramsar Convention, focuses on the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. It addresses the interconnectedness of wetlands with biodiversity, water resources, and human well-being.

World Heritage Convention: The World Heritage Convention, adopted by UNESCO, identifies and protects cultural and natural heritage sites of outstanding value, including those with significant biodiversity. Natural sites on the World Heritage List are recognized for their unique ecological importance.

Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization: A supplementary agreement to the CBD, the Nagoya Protocol focuses on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization.

Although many countries have ratified all or a number of the above mentioned conventions, the situation around the world clearly indicates that they are not properly observed.

Wildlife, nature and species in Ethiopia are preserved in protected areas. When it comes to institutions, we have the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority, which manages 13 of our national parks, wildlife reserves and sanctuaries, measuring over 3.75 million hectares of natural habitat, including 1.8 million hectares of forest and woodlands. This represents almost 20% of the total remaining natural forest cover in Ethiopia. Consequently, this is one of the key initiatives to address the issue of biodiversity conservation, and our policies also support the establishment of this institution. The Ethiopian Institute of Biodiversity Conservation (IBC), the Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society, regional park authorities, and botanical and zoological gardens, which are mainly located in Addis Ababa City as well as in regional cities and universities, play an important role in this context.

The author of this contribution believes that as Ethiopia is already a leading country in the global efforts to roll back the effects of climate change, it is very important to ensure proper coordination with public and private as well as CSO organizations to maximize the outputs underway regarding the national and global efforts to reduce the dangerous effects of climate change on the livelihood humankind.

# Art & Culture

## Ethiopia

### should also export its coffee culture to China, the world

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

China is doing fine not only in the export of Ethiopian coffee but also in the rate of economic growth that is impressive and serve as an inspiration to developing countries in particular. According to the latest global economic ranking of the ten top economies in the world, China is standing number two after the United States. What is of most interest for Africans is that China is one of the leading importers of Ethiopia's agricultural products in general. No doubt that China's growing economy has created a great market for Ethiopian goods.

Speaking of Ethiopian coffee, there is no doubt that it is the leading one as far as the quality of its Arabica brand is concerned. It is eagerly sought by leading global importers and hugely demanded in coffee markets and coffee shops across Europe and the United States with brand names such as Sturbacks and others.

I was jotting the following notes as I was sitting at the famous Kaldi's coffee shop in down town Addis, my cup of hot Ethiopian Arabica brand steaming and forming a thin film of foam on the surface of the dark beverage underneath. The inspiration for this article came to me as I finished my first cup and started to fidget for another one. Soon, I remembered that French writer, whose name I forgot for now and I have no time to Google because I was in a hurry to write down my first impressions for this article as they came in small cascades, before they would escape or disappear out of my head.

The French writer is said to have left an immortal saying as far as his coffee drinking habit was concerned. He noted that ideas for his books came in torrents cascades as soon as he finished his morning coffee ritual and sat down at his desk. Different writers have their own morning rituals. I presume that most of them drink coffee after breakfast and before they start their daily writing journey.

According to a January 5-2024 report, China "has become one of the largest importer of Ethiopian coffee according to Tefera Derebew Ethiopia Ambassador to China. Speaking at the recent at a Chinese international coffee expo, in Yunnan province, Pu'er city, with the theme of "Pu'er Coffee shared Worldwide", the Ambassador said that he was delighted that the exhibition was dedicated to coffee origins that gives Ethiopia a chance as the place of origin of coffee which a precious gift to the world.

By the particular coffee shop where I was taking my morning sips as I wrote this article is named after the Ethiopian shepherd called Kaldi who is the first to discover the coffee bean at a place called



Kefa in Ethiopia's Oromia region. It is believed and generally agreed that coffee originated from this place and spread throughout Ethiopia then crossed the Red Sea and became a famous beverage in Yemen and then throughout the Arab world.

Kaldi's story of discovery may sound like a myth or a legend and its recognition as the boy shepherd. One fated morning, Kaldi stumbled across a field in his home village where he noticed a herd of goats jumping up and down in the field in apparent joy as if they were in high spirits. The boy apparently reported his discovery to the elders in the village who made additional observations and even experimented by chewing and then roasting the same beans that sent the goats on a roller-coaster of great energy.

After a series of trials, the farmers agreed with the positive effects of the magic beans on animals as well as on humans. They spread the news far and large and the magic caught fire everywhere it was tested and consumed. That was in brief the Ethiopian story of the origin of coffee. However, it took an unfairly long time before the farmers received their due recognition while Kaldi's name was resurrected only recently and turned into a modern brand name.

The Ethiopian ambassador at the Hunan international coffee expo was also reported as saying that coffee is part and parcel of Ethiopia's social fabric and any guest visiting Ethiopia will certainly feel the profound coffee culture deeply imbedded in the identity of the Ethiopian people, adding that, "being one of the world's three main beverages, coffee is like a bridge connecting all countries in the world, crossing borders and races, narrowing the distance between people in the global village, and letting coffee plug in wings through coffee cultural exchanges promoting the great integration and development of excellent

cultures among all human being in the world."

I continued sipping from my second cup of coffee as I was sifting through the news report and my thought was particularly captured by the idea that coffee in nowadays general and Ethiopian coffee in particular is presently recognized throughout the world as a bridge among different cultures. This is also a powerful idea. How many thousands of beverages are there in the world? Coffee is finally recognized as one of the top beverages in the world. It has made the long temporal journey from the village in Keffa district to the various international coffee markets and expos. This is a fantastic story and this story is potentially significant in many ways and with a potential for more stories.

Ethiopia is the undisputed birthplace of coffee but it has not yet gotten the recognition it deserves. Had coffee originated in some European or American region, it could have been elevated to the status of best drink in the world and its story could have been elevated as one of the best international discoveries in the culture and history of best foods and beverages. Unfortunately Ethiopia has not so far deserved more than a passing remark in international media reports, more emphasis put on the volume of exports rather than in the fantastic story of its origin and development.

However, it is not too late to put Ethiopian coffee on the international map as not only the best but also the first crop that revolutionized the way we welcome our mornings for eternity. By the way, and according to available records, the discovery of tea was made in China. All ancient discoveries like those of tea and coffee started as legends. "According to legend, in 2037 BC the Chinese emperor Shen Nung was sitting beneath a tree while his servant boiled drinking water, when some leaves from the trees blew

into the water. Shen Nung, a renowned herbalist, decided to try the infusion that his servant had accidentally created."

It all happened the same way that Kaldi discovered coffee in the Ethiopian village field while observing the behavior of his good goats. Chinese tea migrated to the rest of the world after the discovery by the emperor while Ethiopian coffee gained little recognition or the chance to spread to the rest of the world like Asia or America. Again, it is never to play catch up and give Ethiopian coffee the place and it deserves.

As I keep on sipping my coffee almost absent mindedly as I was caught in the mental whirlwind those stories about the origins of coffee and tea, another idea flashed in my mind. Why not start by erecting a permanent exhibition right here in Addis Ababa for the great Ethiopian coffee replete with the stories of its origins. Books can be written about it and be turned into films to be seen by the thousands of international exhibitors and tourists who come to the Addis exhibition centre.

Why not build similar Ethiopian international and permanent exhibition for Ethiopian coffee across the major continents and city of the world so that its fame and merits can be recognized and appreciated while at the same time boosting its demand and popularity until it becomes a household name in families, coffee shops and at gatherings and at global expos. This job can perhaps be done with the cooperation of the Ethiopian ministry of trade, coffee and tea development as well as the Addis Ababa Trade Centre and other affiliated bodies. The job can be started at a modest level and modest pace until it gathers enough energy and starts to roll on with its own momentum. This idea can also be implemented as a joint-venture or a bilateral initiative with other interested parties or governmental authorities.

The Ethiopian ministry of culture and tourism the local and international media may have a role to play as part and parcel of the current drive to boost tourism and attract more visitors every year. The private sector actors can also take part in this coordinated work given the immense potentials it is bound to generate once the momentum for growth gathers steam with greater recognition and greater impact. It may be in this way that Kaldi and Ethiopian coffee would be honored with memorial for their contribution to present day world culture and cooperation in a lasting way. This may also be a gift to future generations of young inventors and farmers who will be inspired by the story Kaldi and his fellow villagers left behind for posterity.



# Society

## Universities' specialization for quality education!

BY TEWODROS KASSA

In Ethiopia, the pursuit of higher education and specialization has long been a priority for individuals seeking to advance their careers and contribute to the development of the nation. As the country continues to make strides in various sectors, it is essential to assess the quality of education provided by its universities and the importance of specialization in shaping the future of Ethiopia.

With the growing emphasis placed on the importance of quality education, the Ethiopian government has taken various measures to ensure that universities in the country offer programs that meet the highest standards.

University specialization plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of Ethiopia by addressing specific knowledge gaps and meeting the demands of various sectors. By focusing on specific fields of study, universities can provide students with in-depth knowledge, skills, and expertise that are relevant and applicable to real-world scenarios. This targeted approach ensures that graduates are equipped to meet the challenges of their respective fields and contribute meaningfully to their chosen industries.

University specialization refers to the practice of universities focusing on particular areas of study or disciplines. By doing so, they can allocate their resources more effectively; attract renowned faculty members, and develop state-of-the-art facilities and infrastructure. This specialization allows universities to delve deeper into specific fields, fostering excellence.

Specialized universities offer several advantages over generalist institutions. By narrowing their focus to a specific field, universities can tailor their curriculum to provide broad knowledge and practical skills to students. This enables graduates to be better prepared for the workforce and contribute significantly to their chosen fields upon graduation.

Furthermore, specialized universities often attract top-notch faculty members who are experts in their respective fields. These faculty members bring a wealth of knowledge and experience, creating an environment conducive to enhanced learning and research.

What is more, quality education plays a vital role in the development of any nation. It equips individuals with the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in their chosen professions and contributes to the overall well-being of society. In Ethiopia, the government has made quality education a priority and has taken various steps to ensure that universities provide the best possible education to their students.

To ensure quality education, Ethiopian universities are evaluated and accredited



**University specialization plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of Ethiopia by addressing specific knowledge gaps and meeting the demands of various sectors**

by the Ethiopian Higher Education Reliance and Quality Agency (HERQA). This agency assesses universities based on a set of standards and criteria, including faculty qualification, curriculum relevance, infrastructure, and availability of learning resources.

Additionally, the Ethiopian government

has partnered with international organizations and institutions to enhance the quality of education in the country. Collaborative efforts with renowned universities abroad have led to the establishment of joint programs, faculty exchanges, and research collaborations, further enhancing the quality of education provided in Ethiopia.

According to experts in the field, the focus on universities' specialization and quality education benefits students in multiple ways. Firstly, students will have access to programs tailored to their specific interests, allowing them to pursue their passion and excel in their chosen field. This sense of fulfillment fosters a positive learning environment and motivates students to achieve their full potential.

Secondly, a quality education equips students with the skills and knowledge necessary to make meaningful contributions to their communities and the nation as a whole. As they enter the workforce, students from specialized universities become assets to their employers, bringing practical skills and expertise that are in high demand.

Moreover, specialization fosters innovation and research in specific areas, allowing Ethiopia to make significant advancements in various sectors. Whether it is in the fields of agriculture, technology, or healthcare, specialized education serves as a catalyst for progress and development. It enables Ethiopia to become self-reliant in critical sectors, reducing dependence on external expertise and contributing to overall economic growth and stability.

Recently, the Ministry of Education (MoE) revealed a plan to restructure the higher education system that puts institutions of higher learning in specific academic areas in the coming 10 years.

Approached by *The Ethiopia Herald*, Higher Education Curriculum and Programs Desk Head with MoE Tesfaye Negewo stated that the process of academic concentration is well underway and universities would be assigned into

different areas of specialty in the coming decade.

The Head further noted that higher education reform is one of the core education sector reform strategies and it is planned to assign the universities in specific academic areas that would enable them to produce a skilled and competent labor force. "The reform also aims to bring a new dynamism in the universities' teaching-learning culture and enhance the leadership's capacity."

About the funding, the MoE would allot the finance for universities based on their areas of concentration and the latter is not allowed to run programs which are not included in their focus areas. Accordingly, programs could be modified, merged or closed based on each university's area of specialty and instructors and other staff may be placed from one university to another.

The continuation of the current system that makes universities give diverse programs and lack of specialty would not bring the desired outcome in higher education and hinder efforts to equip graduates with the desired skills and knowledge. "Although there is higher education institutions' expansion, the sector's quality and competitiveness was under question mark because of the absence of specialization," Tesfaye emphasized.

Per the 10-year plan, public universities are categorized as research, applied, comprehensive, specialized and education universities. The categorization is taking resources nearby universities, international criteria, universities' potential and interest and economic viability into account.

According to him, flagship universities would be categorized under research institutions based on study. The university's categorization is in the first phase and it needs the support of all concerned bodies.

Due attention has been given to make research to solve the community's problems and the categorization would contribute to ease youth unemployment and create more jobs, the Head remarked.

In sum, the emphasis on university specialization and quality education in Ethiopia marks a significant step in the country's education system. By focusing on specific fields, universities can deliver a comprehensive and specialized education that prepares students for success in their chosen professions. The efforts made by the Ethiopian government, in collaboration with international partners, ensure that students receive a well-rounded education that meets international standards. As more specialized universities emerge in Ethiopia, the nation will continue to produce highly skilled graduates who contribute to the country's socio-economic development.

# Law & Politics

## Justified cause, against distorted interpretation, malign hypocrisy

BY SOLOMON WASSIHUN

Ethiopia's quest for access to the sea is justified and timely, and most importantly, it serves to ensure sustainable peace and development not only for the country itself, but for the entire region. One analyst described the recently signed MoU between the government of Somaliland and Ethiopia as a single act that would change the geopolitical and socio-economic dynamics of the Horn of Africa for the better if finalized and implemented.

In the weeks following the signing of the MoU, Ethiopian diplomats have taken every opportunity to explain the logical reason for Ethiopia's pursuit of access to the sea. One such opportunity was the consultation the National Security Advisor to the Premier held with the representatives diplomatic community in particular military attaches based here in Addis Ababa.

It appears that the effort of the Ethiopians in explaining their motives and strategies to the world appears to be working. The hullabaloo that started following the announcement of the MoU is now ebbing down. Major world powers and international agencies are choosing to wait and see and begin to get the sense that Ethiopia's quest for sea access is justified.

There is no better instance available proving the above assessment than the statement made by IGAD at the end of its extraordinary meeting held last week in Uganda. The emergency meeting was held at the request of Somalia, with the desperate and naive expectation that IGAD member states and the observers of the summit like the US and the EU would unanimously condemn Ethiopia for signing the MoU on New Year's Day with Somaliland.

Somalia's leader could not hide his frustration over the cautious and neutral stance taken by the IGAD statement and the speech made by the representatives of the observers. The outcome of the summit signals the diplomatic plot Shikeh Mohammed orchestrating against Ethiopia, with the backing of Egypt would eventually end in a fiasco.

It may be to recuperate from his frustration with IGAD that Shiek Mahmoud left Uganda directly to Cairo, where he stood beside el-Sisi to give a joint press statement denouncing the MoU. During his stay in Egypt, he described it as "our strategic ally", Shiek Mahmoud gave an interview to the Egyptian media, in which he exposed his purposely distorted interpretation of the MoU. He wrongly described the preliminary agreement as a plan of unlawful annexation of a foreign land, while the truth is it is just lawful leasing of a strip coastline for a specific period.

**Ethiopia's well thought peaceful strategy to regain access to the sea without violating international conventions and laws and the sovereign rights of other nations would soon be a success story, and other landlocked countries would consider it as an achievement worth emulating**

Sheik Mahamud did not explain why Somalia kept quiet when the UAE signed a similar deal with Somaliland in 2017. and why he remain silent when US President Biden signed an act, NDAA 2024, allowing Somaliland to 'participate in US military programs, and why he turned a deaf ear to the news of Egypt trying to acquire a military base in Somaliland?

The Twitter comment made by the National Security Advisor to the Ethiopian Premier a few days ago reveals Shiek Mahmoud's deliberate misrepresentation of the MoU and Ethiopia's time-tested policy of

peaceful coexistence and mutual benefit toward its neighbors including Somalia.

Obviously, the international community is beginning to realize that Ethiopia's quest for sea access is based on three guiding principles. First, Ethiopia's strategies to regain sea access adhere to peaceful approaches, engaging in unconditional dialogue. That is exactly what the IGAD statement issued last week underscored. "The IGAD assembly called upon the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Federal Republic of Somalia to de-escalate tensions and instead engage in constructive dialogue."

It is Sheik Mahamud and his cheerleaders who are seen standing against the recommendation of IGAD, beating the war drum, and refusing to hold civilized discussions with their Ethiopian counterparts, who are ready to sit for talks without any preconditions to make and build peace.

Second, Ethiopia's quest for sea access is lawful. It is supported by such international conventions like the UN convention, Right of Access of Land Locked states to and from The Sea and freedom of Transit. Ethiopian authorities have made it clear that they are not intending to infringe on the sovereignty of their neighbors and take away their land as some Somalian authorities wrongly describe it.

Third, Ethiopians want to regain sea access with a quid pro quo approach, sharing resources to achieve mutual benefits and prosperity. Ethiopia has several tantalizing natural resources and world-class lucrative development enterprises that it can share with its neighbors who allow it to have direct sea access on a lease basis.

With the finalization of the detailed works of the MoU and its implementation, Ethiopia's well thought peaceful strategy to regain access to the sea without violating international conventions and laws and the sovereign rights of other nations would soon be a success story, and other landlocked countries would consider it as an achievement worth emulating.

The progress in the ongoing follow-up to the MoU by the parties is an evolving diplomatic story that is being watched with growing optimism by the international community, with the exception of some foreign powers that are reluctant to accept the inevitable future of a peaceful and prosperous economic bloc in the Horn of Africa.

Much of what happened in reaction to the signing of the MoU is more or less the expected, but few expect that Egypt would react with such vigor and rigor. The more crucial content of the MoU that unsettled and surprised both Egypt and Somalia was the provision of establishment an Ethiopian military base on the Gulf of Aden.

Everybody knows that the real motive for Egypt behind its overreaction to the news of the MoU is not what is being reiterated in the press statement and the press releases of the Egyptian government. Nobody would be fool enough to buy Cairo's rhetoric that the reason for their eagerness to trigger conflict in a place thousands of miles away from their border is their commitment to Arab brotherhood with Somalia. Why is Egypt the only Arab League state that took such a unilateral overzealous diplomatic move against the MoU?

The real reason behind Egypt's anger and infuriation over the MOU can be traced to its challenged ambition of getting ahead in the militerisation race of the Horn, and thereby maintaining strong political leverage in the sub-region. In the current situation when the GERD negotiation is wallowing in a deadlock, Egypts provides high priority to escalate its military presence in the Horn, with the hope of imposing its will with gunboat diplomacy.

For several years now, Egypt has been pursuing a strategy of building military bases in all countries sharing borders with Ethiopia. It already has a military cooperation agreement with Somalia, Sudan, and more recently with South Sudan. They are courting the remaining Ethiopia's neighbors to do the same, including Somaliland.

In 2019, the Egyptians initiated a negotiation to make a deal similar to the one done between Ethiopia and Somaliland earlier this month. But with the continual advice of the Ethiopian diplomats, the wise Somaliland leaders foresaw the consequence of Egyptian malign presence in the region and chose not to rush to the Egyptian offers.

We do not know the current actual status of the negotiations between Egypt and Somaliland, but we do know that Ethiopia has pre-empted Egypt in securing a similar port agreement with Somaliland, a lease of a coastal strip for a certain period of time for military and commercial maritime purposes.

The anger and frustration the Egyptians felt when they heard the news of MoU on the New Year's Day must have been similar to what Paul Tergat felt in 2000 at Sydney Olympics ,when Gebre-Selassie surprised him with his scintillating sprint finish at the last seconds, snatching from him the prize he was coveting, Gold Medal for the 10,000 meters.

So, the Egyptians assume that it is a constructive security measure for them to establish a military base in one of the most strategic locations in the Horn of Africa, Somaliland, while it would be a destructive and destabilizing measure and violate Somalia's sovereignty for Ethiopia to do the same. This is absolute hypocrisy.



Ephrem Endale  
Contributor

# Between you & me

## 'Old' Friends; 'New' Problems!

I've this question; is there anything more frustrating than being misunderstood? Especially in these difficult times for all humanity being misunderstood is that last thing you want to happen to you. It is not nice that all your good intentions and nice words don't do the job you expect to do; the human mind could be so elastic in every way possible you don't even recognize your thoughts when the reactions come. They've been so viciously mauled, pulled face down across the deserts and all inhospitable terrain and practically denied of any air what you see isn't your original thought but some lifeless caricature from which ever whiff of life-supporting oxygen has been drained.

As we turn the pages of the calendar on the wall the days are becoming stranger, weirder and more unpredictable. Unpredictable in ways where what happens and what's supposed to happen are things you never expected to witness; you know on one hand it's like taking a couple of paragraphs from some golden age classing literature and on the other hand a few paragraphs from one of those full-speed-ahead supermarket novellas. The fact is that the things you knew about yesterday are altered so much that you find yourself back on square one in many instances. More and more questions hound you and you feel that all of a sudden your IQ has gone into the red! You could say most of us are in no man's land and feel entirely alien to things we use take for granted as the recycling jobs are so through.

I can tell you that especially when it comes to old acquaintances you run into by accident or whatever things could push to the edge of losing all hope on humanity.

Say you meet a classmate whom you haven't seen for three or more decades. For all you can see he's as happy as you are. Well he should be, and there should be no news in that he's happy to see you! After all, there are all the adventures (they were 'adventures' weren't we? You know the little secret fling you had with his little sister and you never told him about!) As most of you must have experienced by now especially politics of the last few decades has made people change so drastically you don't know how to react.

No wonder that people side on the different sides of the political universe. In many places, from the avalanche of news you're subjected to, it's safe to think that in most parts if the world the last thing the so-called politicians know is politics. That's one reason why things are so muddled up is that the very last thing you expect from the fatally uninformed is reasonable, content-rich debate or discussions. The tattoo of that famous Che Guevara picture on your arm makes you no more a politician than the number 10 jersey you're fond of makes you a Messi.

Going to back to what I was trying to say, socializing with old acquaintances is becoming more difficult I that there seem to be issues more urgent than politics.

Now when you run into your old friends and acquaintances after years or decades few could be as comfortably enlightening daily experiences. Of course on many issues you could be on different sides of the spectrum. Say in the old days your friend might have been a soft spoken intelligent guy; you know; the sort of guys with whom a half hour small chat could match an hours-long of best lectures on subsequent issues. But when you run into him again he's a nonstop talker with tons of words and practically no substance and you have to give him all kinds of nervous signs that he was talking too much. Or he might have been someone who took life as it comes and never tries to dump his frustrations on others who are already frustrated about a lot of things. This time he's a complainer about everything even his so-called economic woes. Mind you we're talking here about someone who has joined the rich club God knows and he complains about the economy to poor you who tested the last bite of real meat almost two months to the day!

And of course don't forget your life partner back in the house and if you decide to rekindle strong relations with an old friend you better tell your partner because you never know how the story unfolds. I know people who regretted bonding up with old friends for reasons which usually come from the other side; reasons which force you to conclude, "This guy had it all planned before he even me! The meeting wasn't accidental but intentional!"

You know since more and more our lives have been embroiled in the tsunami of rising prices of food items and basic household necessities we can't be expected to play it nice when the nicer things are practically melting into the air. So when you come across and old friend maybe the first thing to think about is the fact the guy is in the same boat as us, because he is! The simple fact of being in the same boat while not telling the whole story means there are things common for us. So the 140 birr per kilo onion affect his household too. Hmmm... does it really! I mean there are examples of people in roughly the same economic condition as you but still manage to have it all and seldom talk about the fewer dishes on the table.

While we're at it a question frequently raised is that how is that the bars and drinking holes across the city are crowded at most hours of the day (even not much later than daybreak in some places!) Isn't that what all of us are asking? We're sorry we couldn't adequately answer that question to our diaspora friends. In fact someone told me even Western prominent economists are struggling to convincingly analyze the whole economic thing back here.

Anyways we were talking about an old friends and acquaintances. Don't despair if you face conditions you never expected. That, dear Sir/Ms, has become the way of the world. Just be on the lookout for the unseen quicksand spots because there might be a lot of them across the way!

## The 'Them & Us' Scourge!

Someone was recently telling me about a group of guys who are planning to create one strong group where people could talk about important issues without having to worry about political or other differences on multiple issues. They say the youngsters are of the conviction that the basic reason for most of the problems haunting us is the fact that we couldn't live together with our differences. We are in times differences of opinions and beliefs aren't respected and are in fact are sources of unwanted and uncalled enmity among people. That the youngsters realized that the lack of respect for differences of opinions and our failure to talk about them with no string attached are the real problems which seem to be preventing us to move forward as a society.

Encouraging moves and intentions should be given the thumbs up without any hesitation. That's why the youngster's intentions though yet at the idea or suggestion level should be hailed. These young people, in spite of multiple problems they face, seem to be adamant in carrying the idea through. Of course in our society such lofty ideas with far-reaching consequences aren't lucky to be on the freeways. No, that never has been the case. In fact the traffic stops, the unseen obstacles, the sudden cliffs and ravens conspire to keep their movement to the minimum and even stop them. "This is the end of the road!" After all, this is a country where the greater percentage of the inhabitants are young people and that is why its potential for growth is said to be better than most other places. In fact in any society the greatest call to arms is for the young as they are the inheritors of everything. The older generation should be willing and ready to enjoy a good hearted

"Sayonara!" But then the wisdom of the old and the creativity and vitality of the young is a great mix and we are not talking about generational house cleaning.

Of course as we say many things even when we know they are the best options seldom get the green light from every post along the road. That's one stumbling block over which we're tripping and falling over and again. And the stumbling block might have many reasons but much of it is man-made! Yes most of our problems are man-made! The idea of the group I mentioned earlier indeed is very illuminating. Whatever the details might be it shows we've young people who are so concerned that they are trying to play their roles in making things easier and more reasonable; in bringing citizens of this country to the discussing and debating table and talk their hearts.

I mean you can and must ask why people of various political beliefs couldn't live together? Everyone isn't expected to have the same political beliefs, the same social principles, the same religious affiliations and the like? Not that ours has been a place where the things we mentioned above were perfect. No! However despite the many problems over the decades there were times where people lived with much better social cohesion, where there was respect for others while we seek react for ourselves.

The youngsters must be moving with the conviction that everybody should have the platform to make their voices heard and this was the right time to create a good conversation culture where we could sit together and talk about everything. "I don't agree with what he said; but I respect his ideas." Isn't what is expected of us? The

words of Voltaire has put this issue to rest; 'I detest what you say; I will defend to the death your right to say it.'

I mean is the fact we keep ourselves away from real conversations unpreventable ignorance, or innocent, and intended missteps? Look, these days ignorant is not only about not being keeping pace with the times. No way. Ignorance comes through so-called information, breaking news.

The tragedy of it all is that in even the very few instances we talk to each other we don't come within a couple of oceans and mountains closer to agreeing because we, whom the world has made ignorant of, seem to be afflicted with "they are with 'them'; they're with 'us'!" scourge, and they are talking about politics. "So what's the big deal about this?"

You might ask. Everything is big deal. The 'them' and 'us' line of thinking makes and breaks everything these days. A year or so back this guy who spent most of his years abroad returns to the motherland for good. Him having been in societies who are supposed to be loaded with refined ideas on everything and anything pole expected much of him, even more than the good old dollar! One day he sits with friends for a few shots of his favorite drinks and some small talk. One guy was missing and he asked why he wasn't there. He was told that they have nothing to do with him anymore. That came as a shock for him. He must have thought "So good old Lucifer has managed to break that wonderful friendship?"

"Are you guys not on speaking terms?"

"No we're not."

"Why?"

The answer, for all practical purposes, should have shocked him out of his seat and maybe forced him to reconsider his decision to return home. One of the guys answers him; "He's with them?"

"What the hell do you mean with 'he's with them?'" Have you people become collectively crazy! That's something you should have expected but never came. And the guest replies,

"I always suspected him that he will jump to the other side; that good for nothing..." Your OMG moment, wouldn't you say? Someone who was considered to have been more exposed to the idea of living side by side with all the political and other differences going so low! Yes, ours is a hopelessly weird world.

The group of youngsters I was telling you about might have the best intentions in the world. I only hope they aren't acting only due to moments of those adrenaline bursts. We've seen such situations repeatedly and usually take such info with much skepticism. These are issues where emotions and fast conclusions should be put in the back the room and reason take place. It's strange. Marriages have broken apart and families dispersed because of political (and ethnic) differences between hubby and wife and there are even more horrifying examples as to how the scourge of failing to live together with our differences is preventing us from strengthening societies.

Unless we are able to prevent ourselves from being haunted with the 'them & us' believe me the future would be harder than the past!

## In Pictures

### The Global Women Leaders Voices held a Dialogue program in Madrid under the theme “It is her turn to reshape the Future”

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

*In a fireside chat on women in politics and what the world would be if they were in power President Sahle-Work said the imperative is to hold real political power, where structural impediments are addressed, more women in political parties, in parliaments.... what keeps us going is the service to our countries, that we have a place & role.*



### Prosperity party’s executive committee visits Adwa Zero Km



*The prosperity party Executive Committee recently visited the historic Adwa Zero Km Mega Project which is being constructed in the vicinity of Addis Ababa City Administration.*

*The project, which includes multipurpose units including the Adwa Memorial Museum, an amphitheater, libraries and youth centres, was also visited as a memorial centre of the African Victory, Adwa centre is expected to serve as a platform for reinvigoration of the spirit of Pan Africanism*

### Farewell to Demeke Mekonnen



*The Central Committee of Prosperity Party, which is now leading the country, unanimously accorded a farewell ceremony to Demeke Mekonnen at its conclusion meeting. Adhering to the principle of succession and procedure of the party’s leadership, by a majority vote, the party elected as the party’s chief executive, Temesgen Turuneh, as vice president.*

### Ethiopia vows to elevate MoU with Somaliland to ‘a practical agreement

*Ethiopia has expressed its commitment to elevating the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with Somaliland to a “practical agreement.” In a resolution issued at the conclusion of meetings by members of the Executive and Central Committee, the party stated that the MoU with Somaliland is a testament to “Ethiopia’s position for regional economic and cultural ties.”*

