



# The Ethiopian Herald

Vol. LXXX No 135 15 FEBRUARY 2024 - Yekatit 7, 2016

Thursday

Price Birr 10.00

## AUC Chairperson raises alarm about African conflict hotbeds

• Ethiopia proposes Amharic as new AUC working language

BY YESUF ENDRIS

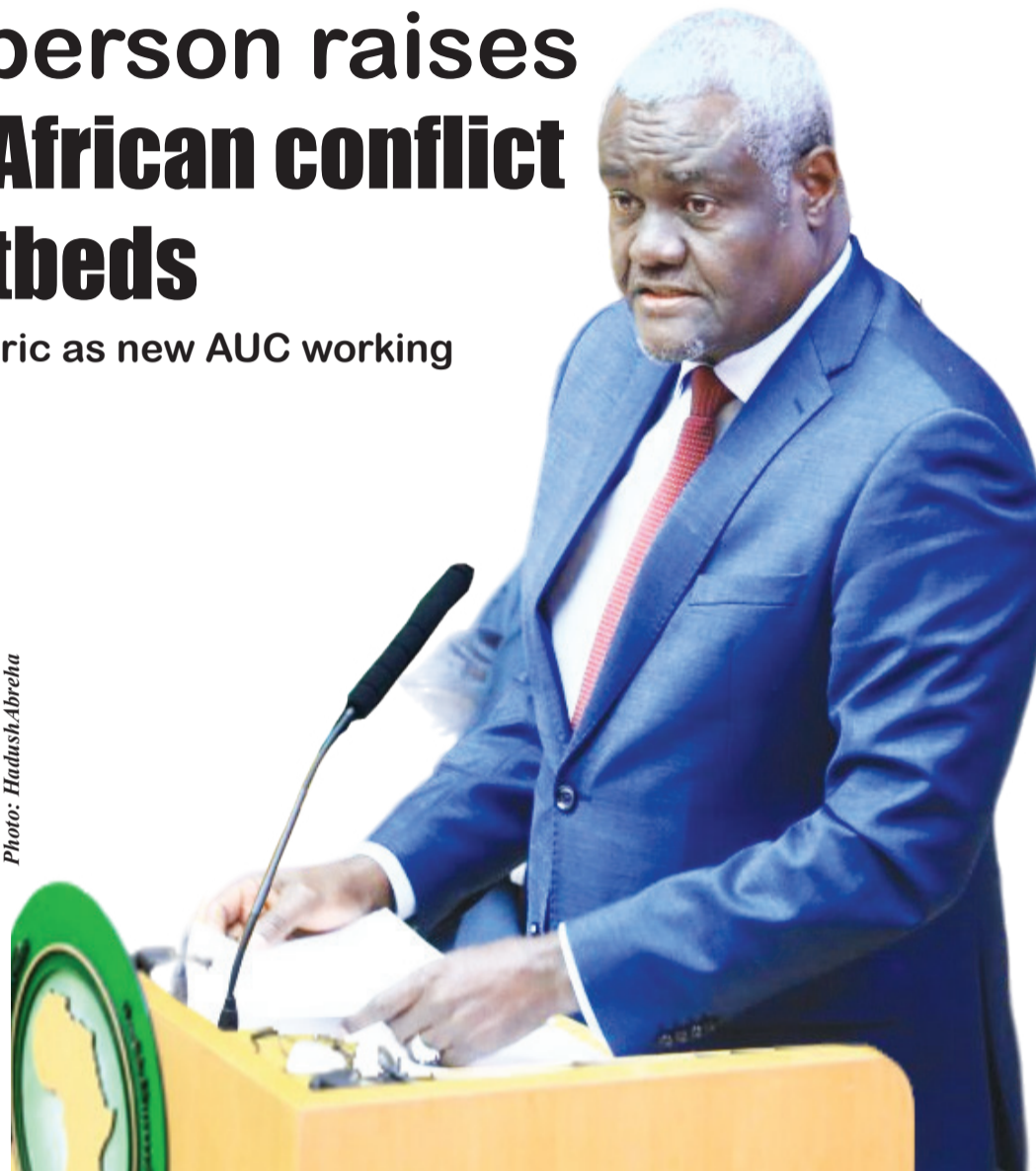
**ADDIS ABABA-** Chairperson of the African Union Commission(AUC) Moussa Faki Mahamat has urged leaders of conflict-ridden countries to strive for the peaceful resolution of conflicts for the sake of their people's wellbeing.

In his opening remark at the 44th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union yesterday, the Chairperson stated that repercussions of the geopolitical fact reach the Continent Africa which unfortunately, is also facing serious situations of armed conflicts.

Sudan is in flames and in incredible devastation, Somalia is still under the Jihadist threat, the Democratic Republic Congo,

*See AUC Chairperson,... Page 3*

Photo: Hadush Abreha



## Harari expanding infrastructure to enhance overall growth

BY HIZKEL HAILU

**HARARI**—Infrastructure expansion works are being intensified in Harari State so as to boost investment and overall development, State Transport and Road Development Bureau announced.

In an interview with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Bureau Deputy Head Architect Fathii Ramadan shed light on the ongoing road projects highlighting the importance of investing in road infrastructure to stimulate economic growth and improve transportation services in both rural and urban areas.

Under the federal and the regional government's commitment to enhancing road infrastructure, an annual budget of over 100 million Birr is allocated for urban road construction and rehabilitation

*See Harari expanding... Page 3*



Photo: Berihu Tadele

Amb. Amin Abdulkadir

## Diplomacy Exhibition worth exploring : Visitor

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA** – The Grand Diplomacy Week and Exhibition manifested Ethiopia's astonishing intergenerational diplomatic achievements, so said Ambassador Amin Abdulkadir.

*See Diplomacy Exhibition ... Page 3*

## Ethio-Somaliland port deal invigorates HoA economic ties

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA** - The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Ethiopia and Somaliland for seaport access would help boost the Horn of Africa (HoA) economic ties and ensure the region's rapid growth, an expert on the issue said.

Addis Ababa University Political Science Lecturer Shimelis Hailu (Ass.Prof.) told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the port deal will also facilitate economic and trade ties, and improve growth and development in the region.

As to him, HoA countries should widen their partnership in the seaport arena to exploit their resources properly and ensure mutual development. "Ensuring direct access to the seaport is not a luxury for Ethiopia; rather

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Climate change adaptation, coffee production sustainability

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Africa's absence as permanent member a "flagrant injustice," says UN chief

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Deterring the growing threats of air sovereignty

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Amanuel Haile (MD)

## Tigray takes significant steps to prevent communicable diseases

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA**-Tigray State Health Bureau said it has successfully controlled communicable diseases including Cholera, HIV, Tuberculosis, and Malaria and helped efforts to build a healthy community.

Bureau Head Amanuel Haile (MD) told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that they have effectively managed communicable diseases and significantly prevented harm to the community's well-being.

Establishing a closer partnership with the Ministry of Health, the Bureau is managed to get health services that were affected by the conflict into operation. "We have also made concrete jobs to control epidemics that have been immensely affecting public health."

Amanuel added, "Some eight years before the outbreak of the war, there were no communicable diseases in Tigray; however, the conflict completely paralyzed public health activities, and most people were affected by communicable diseases. We have managed to deter the deaths of children, women and other vulnerable groups of the society."

Although the Bureau's sole engagement is not sufficient to bring the desired outcomes, it has been able to distribute 48 % of the chemical-infused anti-malaria medicines and diagnostic kits to the community.

The head also said that the Bureau, in partnership with non-governmental agencies, has been donating machines and motorcycles to support the lung cancer diagnosis. Moreover, the Bureau has restored the service to HIV patients and controlled the cholera epidemic that occurred in the southern part of Tigray.

"In addition, we have done a good job in cooperation with the Ministry of Health to resume the vaccinations of children that were disrupted during the war through a campaign. Since children are easily vulnerable to transmittable diseases, we have given this campaign ultimate priority."

Noting the positive outcomes the Pretoria Peace Agreement bring in the state health service, he revealed the bureau's cooperation with relevant stakeholders to restore the health service delivery in the pre-conflict period.

## Ministry, partners toiling efforts to end AIDS by 2030

### • Ethiopia marks Int'l Condom Day

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

**ADDIS ABABA** - The Ministry of Health (MoH) and AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF)- Ethiopia expressed that they are revitalizing efforts to end HIV/AIDS by 2030.

The organizations have disclosed their commitments to control the communicable disease while commemorating the International Condom Day organized by the ministry in collaboration with AHF-Ethiopia on Tuesday under the theme: 'Always in fashion'.

At the event, MoH Media and Communication Lead Executive Officer (LEO) Tegene Regassa (PhD) said that the government along with other partners has been carrying out various interventions to halt the spread of the virus thereby managing to lower the prevalence rate to 0.91%.

The LEO further remarked that commercial sex workers accounted for 18.7% out of the total and newly infected youths, female sex workers and students are among the highly vulnerable groups including refugees and returnees.

"Despite efficient access to information, the prevalence rate is higher in urban areas than rural areas. Similarly, the rate is higher in areas such as school, mega project sites, industrial parks," he added.

Currently, over 55 million condoms are being dispatched to the most vulnerable areas and hot spot sites, Tegene expressed.

AHF-Ethiopia Country Program Director Mengistu Gebremichael (PhD) on his part stated that the foundation has been delivering a comprehensive HIV prevention and treatment advocacy services in various



Tegene Regassa (PhD)

African countries including Ethiopia.

As to him, lack of awareness, carelessness and other related factors are worsening the problem. Therefore, he said, streamlined condom distribution and media sensitization should be made in advance.

He indicated that the self-standing clinic in collaboration with the ministry has been commemorating the day thereby registering a significant achievement. Besides, testing, community mobilization and sensitization interventions should be further strengthened.

Lauding the government for its response to partners, restructure and other commitments to curb the epidemic, Mengistu said that the center also indicated that about 2.5 million brand condoms are on the pipeline to be imported.

AHF-Ethiopia Prevention, Africa Union Liaison and Advocacy Manager Tolessa Olana said that propelling guidelines and special programs, the government along with their organization has been exerting efforts to avert the epidemic.

Apart from marking the day, he emphasized



Mengistu Gebremichael (PhD)

on the need to sensitize the issue with the media to create awareness especially Valentine's Day and other gatherings by framing various platforms.

As HIV spreads primarily through unprotected sexual intercourse, Tolessa said that changing behavior to promote safer sexual practices, including using condom consistently and correctly, is fundamental to controlling the epidemic.

Articulating the national policy and strategy documents, he said the ministry is also carrying out social and commercial markets to provide the communities with condoms.

The manager reaffirmed commitment to work with the ministry to improve the current condom shortage in the country in the long term. It was learnt that AHF-Ethiopia in collaboration with MoH launched a new AHF-branded LOVE Condom in the presence of all regional health bureaus in 2015.



## USAID launches 70 mln USD community nutrition project

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA**- The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has launched a 70 million USD Feed the Future Ethiopia Community Nutrition Activity.

USAID Mission Director Scott Hocklander and former Health Minister Lia Tadesse (MD) launched the project last Monday.

In his opening remark, Hocklander said the project aligns with the U.S. government's sustained, comprehensive investments in health, agriculture, WASH, education, and other sectors

to address high malnutrition situation in Ethiopia.

The director also stated that the community nutrition activity focuses on women, children, and adolescent girls throughout the stages of their lives, from birth, through school, to becoming a mother and grandmother. "This is how to break the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition."

Moreover, the community nutrition activity provides nutritional support in humanitarian emergencies by re-establishing routine services and interventions. Women and children will receive essential nutritional support during an emergency and once the situation improves, they continue to get services from the health facilities

and extension workers, he elaborated.

The Community Nutrition Activity will be implemented by Family Health International 360 and its consortium partners in more than 155 districts of Afar, Amhara, Central Ethiopia, Oromia, Sidama, Somali, Southwest Ethiopia, South Ethiopia, and Tigray states as well as Dire Dawa city.

Ethiopia and the U.S. have 120 years-long diplomatic relations and they are partnered in health, education, agriculture, food security, science and the environment, and many other areas to improve the lives of all Ethiopians.



# Ethiopia, Italy agree to strengthen military cooperation

**ADDIS ABABA-** Ethiopian Chief of Staff Field Marshal Birhanu Jula received and held a discussion about ways of further strengthening cooperation with his Italian counterpart Admiral Giuseppe Cavo Dragone yesterday.

The two officials also discussed and exchanged views on the security challenges that the Horn Africa region is currently facing.

During the occasion, Field Marshal Birhanu said that Ethiopia and Italy have special and unique relationship that dates back a long time.

“These days this friendship and historical ties are flourishing to the highest level ever.”

He added, “In this fast evolving environment, Ethiopia and Italy are on the right track to work together through formulating mutual cooperation that reflects the dynamics and the need of the region.”

Birhanu further the remarkable support of Italy when Ethiopia needed assistance. “Italy has special heart in the hearts and minds of our people and the Ethiopian Defense Force since your contribution and support were immense and unforgettable during the hard times.”

“We are always grateful for your assistance in the field of military and other aspects of development. I honestly believe that this official visit will contribute to our brotherhood, close and long-lasting relationship,” Field Marshal Birhanu emphasized.

Italian Chief of Staff, Admiral Giuseppe Cavo Dragone said on his part that the frequent visit of the two countries is fostering the existing good relationship.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) and Italian Prime Minister, Giorgia Meloni have already put directions and this is the continuation, he said,



and added “We need to make things happen”.

This has to be translated into effective and practical implementation on the ground, Admiral Giuseppe Cavo added.

The Italian Chief of Staff further pointed out that his country’s readiness to cooperating in AI, cyber security, and cognitive warfare.

“More cooperation, increase formation, capacity building; and I would like to say on both sides it

will be a two-way experience. We will try to give what is in our capability to share with Ethiopian armed forces and we will get something from your experience and that will be golden pay back for us too.”

Speaking of the return of “Tsehay”, the first aircraft built in Ethiopia in 1935, Admiral Giuseppe Cavo noted that this is the result of the fruitful diplomatic engagement between the two countries top leaders, ENA reported.

## Harari expanding...

projects for Harari state, he noted.

“This year, with a total budget of 100,297 thousand Birr, the Bureau aims to increase investment flow in the state. Notably, three rural road construction projects covering a total distance of more than 11 kilometers have been commenced during the current fiscal year. Of these projects, two are already completed while the rest one has reached 72 % completion.”

Furthermore, a 5.69-kilometer urban road rehabilitation and construction project, divided into three segments, is set to

commence soon, Fathii said, adding that his bureau has signed a working agreement with the China State Construction Engineering Corporation, with an expected completion time of eight months.

The focus is on repairing existing roads and constructing new ones in investment areas, benefiting the local economy and improving accessibility to markets and basic services in rural regions, he stated.

Addressing transportation challenges in urban areas, Fathii highlighted the significance of sustainable solutions that prioritize public

transport and reduce congestion on city roads.

With a growing population and increasing urbanization, the existing infrastructure often struggles to meet the rising demand for efficient transportation services. As to him, his office is committed to developing strategies that address these challenges effectively.

The bureau’s six month performance report appeared to be satisfying for the progress made in improving the region’s road infrastructure and transportation services, Fathii said, attributing the success to effective planning, implementation, and collaboration

with relevant stakeholders.

Looking ahead, the office aims to continue its efforts to enhance road infrastructure and transportation services, he expressed.

Through prioritizing collaborative approaches, involving local communities, and closely coordinating with government agencies, the office seeks to create a more accessible and efficient transport network to support economic development, improve the quality of life for residents, and foster overall growth of the state, according to the Deputy Head.

## Diplomacy Exhibition...

Ethiopian Embassy in Canada, Diaspora Affairs Head Ambassador Amin Abdulkadir told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the grand diplomacy week and exhibition that highlighted country’s 116 years diplomatic journey has displayed Ethiopia’s successful diplomatic transformation across generations.

The exhibition showcased Ethiopia’s past, present, and future diplomatic perspectives, he said.

According to Amb. Amin, contributing multifaceted values for Africa and the world has enabled Ethiopia to become

preferable diplomatic hub in the world.

For him, the exhibition is a showcase of this reality.

Furthermore, the country has been registering remarkable achievements following the reform in 2018, he said, adding that the nation has a potential to be the center of African prosperity in the future given that the ongoing grand projects are progressing well.

He appreciated the way that the diplomacy week exhibition presented the historic experiences in a proper manner that teaches future generations.

Recently, Ethiopia’s Diplomacy Week and Exhibition was officially opened by President Sahle-Work Zewde and former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Demeke Mekonnen at the Science Museum under the theme “From an African Hub to the World”.

The exhibition is aimed at inspiring Ethiopians to discover more about their country’s diplomatic history and to help them appreciate its potential, and play their role in the future. High government officials, members of the diplomatic community based in Addis Ababa, diplomats, among others have attended the event.

## Ethio-Somaliland port...

it is the determinant factor of its sovereignty, economy, security and political stability.”

The academician further stated that the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden have an immense impact on the regional security and stability and the well-being of the global economy and Ethiopia’s aspiration to have direct access to the strategic region is a decisive diplomatic move.

“The HoA countries have extensive, yet undeveloped coastlines in the Red Sea region and Ethiopia’s quest for sea outlets would bring viable opportunities to those countries to capitalize on the former’s aspiration to ensure mutual growth and bring new dynamism in their respective economies.”

“Ethiopia and South Sudan have no seaport in the HoA region whilst the former depends only on one port and a corridor. Sudan, Kenya, Somalia, Djibouti and Eritrea can provide alternative seaports to Ethiopia. Therefore, searching and exploring alternative approaches should obtain prime attention.”

Shimelis pointed out that Ethiopia’s sovereignty is determined by activities in the HoA, the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean. “Therefore, achieving sovereign access to the seaport is an important step to change Ethiopia’s future.”

The expert called on all concerned bodies to encourage internal unity, ensure national interest, and strive for constructive diplomacy to bring remarkable outcomes across the HoA region.

## AUC Chairperson raises...

Libya, divided and constantly exposed to instability meanwhile the Sahel is always exposed to the terrorist danger.

Moreover, the resurgence of military coups, pre- and post-electoral violence, and humanitarian crises linked to war and/or the effects of Climate Change are all very serious sources of concern for Africa. These issues seriously threaten to obliterate the signs of the emergence of Africa, of which its people are proud, Mahamat emphasized.

The Chairperson further noted that during the first decade of the AU Agenda 2063, which has already been concluded in

2023, the Union had been working on institutional reforms, strengthening and establishing specialized agencies, and enduring financial administration including budgetary management system.

He is also expected to report the annual performance of the AUC in facilitating the African Free Trade Area-AfCTA to the Executive Council.

The recently appointed Ethiopian Foreign Minister Taye Atskeselassie in his opening remark said that Amharic, having many millions of speakers, should be adopted as AU’s official language. “The adoption

of Amharic as AU official language will strengthen the collective identity of AU member states.”

The Minister also expressed Ethiopia’s commitment to contribute its ultimate effort to make the AU’s vision real. “Ethiopia has been registering remarkable achievements in the educational sector which the AU is also working for.”

The Ordinary Session of the Executive Council is expected to adopt the agenda that will be referred to the leaders’ summit, *The Ethiopian Herald* learned.

# Opinion

## Patriotism: A spectacular culture of loving one's country

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Ethiopia is one of the few countries of the African continent endowed with an ancient civilization, societal cohesion and history of government. The nation is located in the very strategic regions of east Africa, which is flanked by the Indian Ocean, Gulf of Aden and red sea.

The country is also the place where Blue Nile River (Abbay) originates and such a situation has left the country to be envied by foreign countries.

Its existence came across various challenges particularly from foreign intruders, but thanks to our forefathers and foremothers sacrifice, the foreigners' malicious intention was reversed and the nation's territorial integrity and sovereignty was protected.

Putting aside the earlier attempts, since the sixteenth centuries on wards invaders such as Turkish, Egyptians, Dervish, British and Italians exerted energy to conquer our country but their attempt was rebuffed by our gallant fighters.

Since the 16 century, Othman Turks had been a dominant power in the Middle-East and in the red sea root and partially had power over the Gulf of Aden and in the north eastern part of Indian Ocean.

In 1557 the Turkish conquered port of Massawa and repeatedly expedited to the plateau of Bahre Negash territory of Ethiopia but the then emperor Sertse Dingile defeated and repulsed them.

The Turkish also intervened in the internal affairs of Ethiopia during the war between emperor Libne-Dingil and Ahmed Gagn which lasted from 1529 to 1543 by supporting Gagn in terms of material and morale. Their intention was to install puppet regime backed by them but their objective remained futile.

In the 17th century, a British explorer started his Journey from Egypt to trace the origin of River Abbay and arrived in Ethiopia. He was able to understand the society culture, religion, language which he employed to intrude into the country in the later decades.

In 1820 the Egyptian Military leader Mohamed Ali conquered Sudan and recruited soldiers to advance his military adventure to western part of Ethiopia through pursuing the river basin of Abbay but in various occasions his invasion was repulsed by the Ethiopian patriots through paying life scarification.

When Emperor Tewodros II assumed power in 1943, his major priorities were unifying the country which was fragmented under the rule of princes which lasted for 80 years and defending the territorial integrity of the country.

After appointing his loyal governors in the regions such as Tigray, Wollo, Gonder, Gojam and Shewa, he rebuffed Egyptians intruders who crossed the Ethio-Sudan border.

It had been common to see conflicts among the various lords and princes in that era but when foreign intruders attempted to conquer the country, Ethiopians had developed a culture of narrowing their internal differences and unified their forces and repealed the enemy and such strategic alliance enabled them to sustain the nation existence.

In 1869, the Suez Canal was opened, greatly reducing the distance between Europe and Asia by some 4,500 miles as ships no longer needed to travel round southern Africa. This made foreigners to focus on the eastern Africa and their ambition to conquer the areas got momentum.

In 1875 the Egyptian occupation forces were engulfed by the Sudan Dervish forces in the eastern region of Sudan in the place known as "Kufit".

The British government who backed the Egyptians understood that Egyptians had no longer to be its partner and decided to change them by other partner. But before that it decided that Egyptian forces must be liberated and to that end Major Hewette of the British forces came to the court of Emperor Yohannes IV of Ethiopia in Adwa and agreed to dispatch the Ethiopian forces to Kufit and to liberate the curtailed Egyptian forces in eastern Sudan and in return to give back port of Massawa to Ethiopia by repealing Egyptians.

Based on the agreement the Ethiopian forces led by Ras Allula Aba Nega expedited to the place and liberated the trapped Egyptian forces by defeating the Dervish forces. However, instead of ceding Massawa port to Emperor Yohannes they gave it to the Italians who later used the place as the launching pad to conquer the high land parts of Ethiopia known as that time Bahre Negash province.

In 1885 500 Italian troops based in Massawa encroached the high land parts of Bahre Negash province but the Ethiopian forces led by Ras Alulla Aba Nega routed out in the place where known as "Dogale" 50 kilometers away from Massawa.

Five years later, the Dervish forces in order to revenge Ethiopia because of their support to Egyptians, invaded Ethiopia and came up to Gondar town and burnt out various churches and heritages.

It was a sad news to the emperor but sooner the Dervish forces were repelled from Gondar by Ethiopian fighters and later the final war took place in Metema where the Emperor himself was killed.

These all show that how Ethiopians from the ordinary citizens up to the Kings sacrificed their life to defend the nations freedom.

Taking advantage of the death of Emperor Yohannes IV, the Italians conquered the high land parts of Bahre Negash province and established the newly created colony of Eritrea in 1891.

However, Italians colonial ambition to concur Ethiopia was not rested there. They began their excursion to the neighboring Tigray region.

Some 8 months later after the death of Emperor Yohannes, the then Shewan Emperor Menelik II enthroned and became king of Kings of Ethiopia.

Emperor Menelik while he was king of Shewa under the King of Kings of Yohannes of Ethiopia, in order to pay tribute to Yohannes and to strengthen himself militarily as well as economically, he expedited and conquered the Southern regions of Ethiopia in which helped to prepare himself to the unavoidable war of Adwa.

Initially Emperor Menelik tried to resolve the problem through negotiation but Italians did not give up their colonial ambition to conquer Ethiopia in clandestine manner.

The immediate cases of the Adwa war was the disagreement between emperor Menelik and the Italians on the Wuchale agreement of article 17 in which the Italian version of the article gave systematic power to Italy to dominate Ethiopia. It further said that if Ethiopia wanted to have diplomatic contact with European countries, it must have use the diplomatic corridor of Italy.

Ethiopia rejected the agreement and announced that it intended to resolve the problem in the battle field.

Emperor Menelik by combining his own forces and from all over Ethiopia including the forces of Ras Tekle Haymanot of Gojam, Ras Mekonen of Haraghe, Ras Balcha Safo of Sidama, Ras Mikael of Wollo, king Jima Abba Jifar and Jote Tullu of Wollega marched to Adwa.

The Battle lasted for one day and all the Italian forces were routed out and once again Ethiopians scarified their life to protect the nation territorial integrity from Colonial powers.

Right after the defeat of Italians in the battle of Adwa, European powers recognized the sovereignty of Ethiopia and opened their diplomatic mission here in the capital. Countries such as France, Great Britain, France, Germany and USA can be mentioned as the case in point in this regard.

However, the Colonial ambition to reconquering Ethiopia was not ended. While Emperor Menelik was physically incapacitated because of his deteriorating health the neighboring colonial powers such as Great Britain, France and Italy in 1906 agreed to claim the sovereign rights over Ethiopian territories and to redraw the map of Ethiopia in line with their interest but their ambition was nullified.

Italy which obtained colonial territory at the door step of Ethiopia such as Eritrea and Somalia prepared militarily, logistically, manpower and finance for 40 years for the final conquest of Ethiopia. In 1936 Italy

launched its offence from the northern front, in Eritrea and from East from Somalia. This time unlike during Battle of Adwa, Italy deployed tanks, fighter jets, armored vehicles, sophisticated machine guns and artilleries.

The ill fed and ill equipped Ethiopian army similar to the Adwa time went to Mychew through utilizing animals as means of transportation.

Italy bombarded Ethiopian soldiers trenches and utilized master gas which was prohibited that time by the then league of nations and within a month fascist forces reached to the capital and claimed that Ethiopia was under their rule.

Angered by the conquest of their country Ethiopian fighters who returned from the north and eastern fronts began their patriotic movements and paid heavy price to evict the fascist forces from Ethiopia. Five years later in 1941 the Ethiopian Sovereignty was reinstated and the emperor who was in exile during the war came back to his country.

The challenge which the nation faced with regard to territorial annexation both from far and from near was a common phenomenon.

In 1978, forty years later after the second invasion of Italy, Somalia regime led by Ziad Bare invaded the eastern part of Ethiopia and entered up to 700 kilo meters in land. In the first months of the invasion Ethiopian army members diligently fought the enemy forces and fallen for the protection of the nation territorial integrity.

The Somali regime exploited the internal discontent due to ideological difference between various political factions in Ethiopia. President Mengistu Haile Mariam rallied all Ethiopians in the motto of "Revolutionary mother land or death" and deployed 300 thousand militia men in the eastern front.

The unrestrained support of USSR, Cuba and South Yemen in terms of military hard ware, soldiers and advising enabled Ethiopia to repeal the enemy only within 6 months. Ethiopians scarification to defend their territorial integrity and sovereignty still not properly documented and transferred to the successive generations as the result the youth suffers from ignorant of history and identity crises.

Ethiopians defended their country from foreign invaders regardless of their ethnic, cultural, language and religious differences. Even in the time of hard ship, Ethiopians did not let the nation territories to be annexed by foreign enemies.

Therefore, when we celebrate the day of martyrdom, we should commemorate the patriotic struggle of our forefathers.

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



# Editorial

# Opinion

## Irrigation: Key in boosting production, productivity

In his latest supervisory tour to Somali State, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) has visited irrigated farms and their productivity. The thriving irrigation development in the country in general and in Somali state in particular is an endeavor that kindles big hope in transforming the poor, traditional farming practice and helping the nation to become food self-sufficient.

For centuries, majority of the population in Somali State largely relied on animal husbandry and pastoralism to make a living. Though the pastoralism animal husbandry economy has its own merits, it also comes with its own shortcomings given the needs of the people to lead a decent and stable living that fits with the time.

As it is well known pastoralists used to spend most of their time travelling here and there in search of pasture and water for their cattle. This exposes them to various problems in their livelihood like loss of their cattle due to accidents, predatory wild animals attack, and conflict with other communities due to resource competition, loss of the weight and quality of their cattle due to long tiresome travel, among others.

Furthermore, their movement from place to place exposes the environment for degradation. Hence, the efforts of the government to introduce a sedentary farming and animal husbandry in places like Somali State are an intervention with multiple impacts.

Pastoralists occupy a large area in the country. Therefore, enabling the people in these areas to sedentary and irrigation farming means adding a huge sum of economic force to the country's growing agriculture sector. In addition to changing their lives, they have a potential to change the economic growth trend of the entire nation.

The government is actually promoting irrigation farming throughout the country. These activities are also bearing results in reaping increased volume of agricultural produces. This has a potential to address the multifaceted problems of the country whether economic, political or social.

With its rising population and rapidly growing demand for food, the country needs to encourage similar development projects that exponentially raise its food productivity and help its food self-sufficiency and food sovereignty.

Indeed, the country has a lot of arable land that can produce adequate food crops sufficient to feed the country and even supply to export market. However, the backward method that has long reigned in the country had fettered its farmers from producing to their maximum potential. As a result, the country was well-known in the past for being vulnerable to chronic food insecurity as well as danger during drought seasons. But ensuring food security and becoming food sovereign is an all rounded solution to the multifaceted problems of the country.

Once the country covers its own food supply in terms of quantity, it can continue to stabilize the food market enabling the low income earners overcome the soaring cost of living.

The local production of the food crops like wheat is important as the country could save its hard currency. It's well-known that the government has been obliged to spend hard won foreign currency to the import of wheat sometime in the past since it has to give priority to rescue people imminent scarcity of food. Since the country can increase its productivity, it is possible to divert the currency to other priorities.

In order to further uphold and diversify the benefits of the agricultural productivity, the government must continue supporting the sector with agricultural technology, trained human resource as well as financial support, among others.

## International law on statehood and access to sea and ports

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

The author of this article has been monitoring and carefully observing a number of polarized polemics on the issues of statehood and access to sea and ports which is in fact triggered by the recent MoU inked between Ethiopia and Somaliland regarding access to sea port and related issues. A lot of dust has continued to blow up on a genuine and legally valid demand for ports. It is therefore important to clear out some of the confusions and opinions that do not hold water by any standard. The purpose of this article is therefore to analyze the basic elements and principles from the perspectives of international law.

The Montevideo Convention, adopted in 1933 in Montevideo, Uruguay, defines a state as possessing the following qualifications: a permanent population, a defined territory, a government, and the capacity to enter into relations with other states.

According to the convention, a political entity must meet the criteria of having a permanent population, defined territory, government, and capacity to engage in international relations in order to be considered a sovereign state under international law.

The convention does not explicitly address the issue of how statehood is recognized but rather sets out the criteria that entities must fulfill to be considered states. Recognition of statehood is often a matter of political decision-making by other states and international organizations. This is therefore left to the political decision of states.

The Montevideo Convention has had a significant impact on the development of international law, particularly in defining the legal attributes and rights of sovereign states in the international system.

Despite being adopted in the early 20th century, the Montevideo Convention remains an important reference point for discussions about statehood, sovereignty, and the rights and duties of states under international law.

Overall, the Montevideo Convention provides a foundational framework for understanding the concept of statehood and has contributed to the codification of principles related to international relations and the conduct of states in the international community.

According to international law, both Ethiopia and Somaliland qualify for statehood and can therefore intern into agreement that is valid by international law.

International law regarding accession to ports primarily involves agreements, treaties, and customary practices governing the rights and obligations of states concerning access to ports and related maritime activities. Several key principles and legal instruments shape the framework for access to ports:

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) is the primary international legal framework governing maritime rights and responsibilities, including access to ports. UNCLOS establishes rules regarding the territorial sea, exclusive economic zones, and the rights of ships to innocent passage through international waters.

Article 3.1 of UNCLOS provides "In order to

enjoy the freedom of the seas on equal terms with coastal States, States having no sea coast should have free access to the sea. To this end States situated between the sea and a State having no sea coast shall by common agreement with the latter, and in conformity with existing international conventions, accord:

- (a) To the State having no sea coast, on a basis of reciprocity, free transit through their territory; and
- (b) To ships flying the flag of that State treatment equal to that accorded to their own ships, or to the ships of any other States, as regards access to seaports and the use of such ports.

2. States situated between the sea and a State having no sea coast shall settle, by mutual agreement with the latter, and taking into account the rights of the coastal State or State of transit and the special conditions of the State having no sea coast, all matters relating to freedom of transit and equal treatment in ports, in case such States are not already parties to existing international conventions.

UNCLOS enshrines the principle of freedom of navigation, ensuring that ships of all states enjoy the right to navigate through international waters, including access to ports, subject to certain limitations and regulations.

Port states have the sovereign authority to regulate activities within their ports, including inspection, enforcement of laws and regulations, and collection of fees and charges. However, port states are generally required to treat foreign vessels in a non-discriminatory manner consistent with international law.

States may enter into bilateral or multilateral agreements to govern access to ports, establish port facilities, regulate port operations, and facilitate international maritime trade and transportation. These agreements often address issues such as port fees, customs procedures, security arrangements, and environmental protection.

International Maritime Organization (IMO) Regulations: The IMO, a specialized agency of the United Nations, develops international regulations and standards for maritime safety, security, and environmental protection. IMO regulations may include provisions related to port access, port facilities, and port state control measures.

Customary International Law: Customary international law, based on consistent state practice and opinion juris (belief in legal obligation), also plays a significant role in shaping norms and practices related to access to ports and maritime activities. International human rights law and refugee law impose obligations on states to ensure access to ports for asylum seekers and refugees fleeing persecution or violence. States are generally prohibited from returning individuals to a territory where they face serious threats to their life or freedom.

Overall, international law on accession to ports is multifaceted, reflecting the complex legal, economic, security, and environmental considerations associated with maritime transportation and trade. States are expected to adhere to their legal obligations under relevant international instruments and customary practices while promoting the safe, efficient, and environmentally sustainable operation of ports and maritime activities.

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



## The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays  
By The Ethiopian Press Agency

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Tel. 011-126-42-22  
Fax. 251-011-156-98-62  
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Advertisement and Dist.  
Department

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Tel. 011-156-98-73/011-811-13-15  
Telegram :- 0976084707 - press

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Fb/ /Ethiopian Press Agency/  
The Ethiopian Herald



# Business & Economy

## Climate change adaptation, coffee production sustainability

BY MENGESHA AMARE

It has been well proven that the need for climate adaptation is particularly relevant to the coffee industry, as a wide array of rural localities in Africa have grown coffee beans. They have so far been sown, nurtured, picked up, roasted and made ready to be used in a scattered fashion across African continent in general and the east African nations like Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, among others.

Coffee-farming families and organizations recognize the need for sustainability and the ways in which climate change could be adapted. Most coffee farmers in Ethiopia in particular and on the continent of Africa in general are dependent on coffee alone, a product that provides inadequate income as they lack the resources needed to invest in alternatives. Hence, it is highly important to work towards producing fair trade, organic-certified coffees via ensuring sustainability thereby producing enough coffee to achieve an adequate livelihood.

It is crystal clear that the future sustainability of coffee production depends on effective mitigation strategies and investments from both farmers and coffee brands. Investing in infrastructure projects, and working with the farming community to build resilience to changing conditions by taking an active role in supporting sustainable farming practices, it can be deduced that coffee production remains viable in the face of climate change. It is only through collective efforts in the area that coffee producers can secure a sustainable future for all involved in the coffee supply chain.

In connection with the path to ensure coffee production sustainability and climate change adaptation, the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority has been working hard to the coffee farming community a much bigger beneficiary of the coffee sector.

Speaking at the 20th African Fine Coffee Conference and Exhibition, hosted by Rainforest Alliance under the theme “Brewing a Greener Future: Navigating Coffee Farming in a Changing Climate,” Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority Director General Adugna Debela stated that each of the coffee-producing countries is expected to embark on coffee sustainability to help their respective farming communities benefit from coffee production..

He said, “Adapting coffee production systems and landscapes to climate change requires innovation, creativity, engagement of different experts, and, above all, partnership within the coffee sector and willingness to work together towards climate resilience. Without the adequate implementation of proven practices and effective climate approaches such as coffee and climate methodology, the coffee industry might not only lose significant sourcing regions but also make the next generation of smallholders disappear over time.”

As to him, governments of the African

coffee producing communities should build the capacity of the latter and use proper tools to become resilient towards climate change in coffee production in particular and in all agricultural engagements in general.

The coffee-producing community is part of the answer to effective climate action, and they are the driving force behind innovations, the use of digital solutions or the creation and implementation of a new and future oriented version of their coffee district.

Rainforest Alliance Country Director, Denu Lemma said that the rainforest alliance is creating a more sustainable world by using social and market forces to protect nature and improve the lives of farmers and forest communities. The alliance has been partnered with diverse allies around the world to drive positive change across global supply chains and in many of the most critically important natural landscapes so as to achieve its mission.

As to him, the alliance includes farmers and forest communities, companies, governments, civil society and millions of individuals and it is arduously working to protect forests and biodiversity, take action on climate and promote human rights and improve the livelihood of rural people.

He said, “The Alliance has capitalized on four thematic areas, which are all interconnected and have been designed to drive sustainability in the sectors and landscapes where a big difference for people and nature can be made. Certification—providing a path toward more resilient and inclusive agricultural practices, with a focus on cocoa, coffee, tea, bananas, and other tropical crops, Landscape Management—developing and implementing long-term conservation and community development programs in a number of critically important tropical landscapes, Advocacy—working with governments, companies and civil society organizations to advance policies that support rural producers who invest in sustainability transformation and Supply chain services—providing customized support to help companies define and achieve their sustainability commitments within certification and beyond.”

He further elucidated that the rainforest alliance is committed to helping the world meet both its climate mitigation and adaptation goals across farm, forests and rural landscape. Coffee growers are increasingly adapting sustainable farming methods such as shade-grown coffee and organic farming to mitigate the impact of climate change.

As to him, building the resilience of producers and rural communities, advancing policies, programs, and investments and promoting national-level climate adaptation and mitigation plan is of paramount importance in coming up with a difference in due course of producing quality coffee.

Kenya Coffee Platform Chairman, Mr. Karugu Macharia on his part said that

make a significant difference.”

Climate change is no longer a distant threat but a present reality that is reshaping the landscape of coffee production. Rising temperatures and unpredictable rainfall are altering the conditions under which coffee plants are grown, leading to decreased yields and increased vulnerability coffee crops face, such as pests and diseases, he added.

Coffee brands can invest in infrastructure projects in coffee producing countries to make coffee production more efficient and effective. This includes investing in irrigation systems, greenhouses, and other technologies for tropical agriculture, he opined.

As changing weather patterns leading to prolonged dry spells, water shortages, hailstorms, and irregularities in seasons, among other challenges, not only have a strong impact on coffee production, all African nations have to work in collaboration to deal with all problems the coffee farming community are facing right now.

Adapting coffee production systems and landscapes to climate change requires innovation, creativity, engagement of different experts, and, above all, partnership within the coffee sector and willingness to work together towards climate resilience, he underscored.

Without the adequate implementation of proven practices and effective climate approaches such as coffee and climate methodology, the coffee industry might not only lose significant sourcing regions but also make the next generation of smallholders disappear over time. Hence, coffee producing areas in Africa have to capitalize on viable ways to make coffee-producing systems modern.

Yes, he said young people in coffee regions are part of the answer to effective climate action as they are the driving force behind innovations, the use of digital solutions or the creation and implementation of a new and future oriented version of their coffee region.

In addition, these systems offer ecological diversity, further income sources, closed nutrient cycles, with less input use, and protection of natural resources, he pointed out.

As to him, providing smallholder families with financial rewards for investing and maintaining in agro-forestry production systems is a first step towards resilient livelihoods.

In sum, as farms shrank, smallholder coffee farmers earned less, and have been unable to invest in the farm improvements that would help them earn more from their coffee, leading to further decreases in production and sales, coffee producing nations of Africa need to capitalize on the sustainability aspects with a view to helping the coffee farming community benefit greatly from the coffee sector..

**Without the adequate implementation of proven practices and effective climate approaches such as coffee and climate methodology, the coffee industry might not only lose significant sourcing regions but also make the next generation of smallholders disappear over time**

Coffee is one of the most widely traded and consumed commodities in the world, the demand for coffee is also growing, perhaps due to increased demand from emerging economies. Despite its wide consumption in developed countries, coffee is overwhelmingly grown in less developed economies. Even though smallholders and developing economies produce most of the world’s coffee, they reap few of the benefits.

He also said that the effects of climate change on the coffee tree triggers an increase of pest and disease pressure in many coffee regions. Although climate smart practices are the best choice for an integrated pest and disease management, many smallholder families lack the knowledge on biological or “traditional” control mechanisms.

According to Karugu, Supporting sustainable coffee farming practices can support coffee producers in adopting sustainable farming that reduces their environmental footprint and preserve the quality of the land. These practices for coffee growers often include techniques such as agroforestry, cover crops, and shade-grown coffee.

Coffee growers are increasingly adopting sustainable farming methods, such as shade-grown coffee and organic farming, to mitigate the impact of climate change. These practices help maintain soil health, conserve water, and provide habitats for wildlife.

He said, “Educating consumers about the impact of their coffee choices can promote sustainability. Encouraging the purchase of coffee from regions that prioritize environmental and social responsibility can

# Art & Culture

## Tangible evidence that history is on the making by this generation

BY STAFF REPORTER

*“Adwa forbearers’ skeleton heritage*

*Blood-soaked sod its belt*

*From slavery with martyrdom salivation*

*With blood promise of offer*

*For freedom*

*A day grandparents paid sacrifices...”*

This poem is an excerpt from Tsegaye G/Medhin’s poem “Fire or Flower...” The poem clearly depicts the selfless and bitter sacrifices made as well as the sweet victory that culminated the war waged to reverse the blatant aggression by colonizers on a sovereign state.

The victory achieved on March 2, 1896, was not a sheer victory. It was a multifaceted triumph and the message it still conveys is multilayered. The unimaginable was sought by the lion-hearted Ethiopians—challenging one’s limit or convention. And the unthinkable was made possible in a time when putting black people on equal footing with whites was remote in the extreme and also when scrambling Africa by white vampires was the order of the day.

It was the belief of many that Ethiopians who marched to Adwa for a showdown with traditional weapons would be vanquished by the Italian troops armed to the teeth.

But our forbearers, armed with moral stamina and national feeling, did emerge with flying colors, locking horns with the heavily armed Italian troops. In so doing, they have foiled the unjust aggression mounted against them by a war fueled by a just cause.

Though aggressors tried to belittle heroic forbearers, the former failed to cushion the blow the latter dealt them, pouring out from their respective domiciles like honeybee swarms. Nor could the former resist the hornet stings the latter surprised them with. The latter ready for martyrdom showed conviction to fight to the finish. The victory achieved does not simply go down the annals of history recorded in golden ink but also lingers seared in the minds of black people and freedom fighters worldwide.

In the wake of Adwa, fighting with the never say die sentiment, the rest of African countries did manage to acquire freedom and independence. In 1963, the then OAU (now AU) was brought into play by 32

signatory countries. The seminal seed the triumph contributed to the ever-resonating motto of Pan Africanism is immense. There is no gainsaying that it was an eye-opener, trailblazer and harbinger for the realization of the continent’s dream of shaking off the yoke of tyranny.

The Adwa victory still marks a watershed history. In order for the victory to resonate going down the lane of generation and in order for posterity to have a better grasp of the meaning of the victory, it is high time we prepare a backpack from this history for current use.

The Adwa Memorial Museum that crystallized right in the heart of Addis reveals a sagacious and patriotic deed that keeps alive the sentiment of Pan-Africanism.

Adwa’s chain of mountains, horses that marched to Adwa, places reserved for valorous women patriots, unity corner and tidbits of Africa’s freedom, Ethiopian patriots’ march to the place of showdown are but to mention a few of what the museum houses.

Placing this victory that is a manifestation of our characteristic feature on the spotlight putting in place this kind of a memorial museum to such level deserves a high five. Yet additional works are called for. The fact that the museum took shape in Africa’s capital, 3rd seat of diplomatic community, and a place where national and international organizations are found lends power to its significance making it more vivid.

Following the call by city Mayor regional states, individuals and organizations are handing over relics and heritages related with Adwa to officials. This has to continue in a strengthened manner as it underpins the magnifying plan of the victory and hammering home the message encapsulated in the museum in coming generation’s mind in a better way.

Arming ourselves with the required information and introducing it to other individuals as well are tasks expected from us. We Ethiopians must not remain relators of our old history, history commemorators but also people who pass down golden history in all fronts to coming generations. The case in point clearly conveys this virtue of ours.

Different residents of Addis approached by journalists gave the following comments

“Africa is the main seat of AU. I’m experiencing euphoria emanating from the knowledge that the memorial museum

a word of appreciation.”

“The fact that the Adwa Victory memorial museum, which speaks loud about black peoples’ right for freedom, is built here in Addis has afforded me unmatched satisfaction. The victory is our hallmark. It has left its seal in the psyche of every one of us. I have itched shield and sword on my right arm reminiscent of the victory. In a diametrically opposite manner the barefooted grandparents of ours did foil the well-armed colonizers. Imbued with a national sentiment they got mobilized with a unified spirit and soul. We must not be oblivious to the sentiment of unity Adwa symbolizes. That is why I itched shield and sword on my arm. We must press ahead with the aura of invincibility that featured our forbearers. We must also see to it that that feeling sinks in the fecund mind of coming generation. A word of appreciation is due to those who built the museum.”

“It was from history books I used to get information about Adwa Victory. But I saw the overarching victory personified in the heart of Addis. What a wonderful task. It helps the youth to ponder on the significance of the victory. We must learn to brush aside divisive, racist and inimical seeds of discord and stand united.”

“Witnessing the actualization of such a museum has made me entertain a pride as an Ethiopian. Whenever I revert back to the Adwa victory tears breakaway from my eyes. I run out of words to express my ecstasy arising from the coming into view of the museum. It is the pride of Africans as such by defector our invaluable wealth. A jewel on Addis’ crown, it has also lent beauty to the city. I felt as if I saw the Adwa Mountains in person. I used to see the mountains in TV documentaries. When I saw the logo “Adwa black people’s pride” on the façade of the museum I felt an overriding euphoria. Instead of dinning divisive ideas in the ears of our children we better let our children know our country is built by the blood sacrifices of our forbearers. When my child sees our tricolor he points his finger mother Ethiopia. We must teach our children about this. As a responsible parent it is my accountability. This generation like its grandparents must stand united and love its nation.

“Seeing is better than hearing. It invokes stamina, perseverance and national feeling. We may not be expected picking arms. If we rally behind issues that allow us to concur our country could serge forward. Let brainstorming for consent take the lead then all the rest will fall in place.

**The Adwa Memorial Museum that crystallized right in the heart of Addis reveals a sagacious and patriotic deed that keeps alive the sentiment of Pan-Africanism**

is built here. When Africans come to AU summit apart from paying homage to AU they will drop in at the memorial museum to broaden their horizon about Adwa. The museum sets the bar up not only that of Ethiopia but also that of the rest of Africa. As an individual I am a bit satisfied. In the victory of Adwa Ethiopians all-out did take part. The museum makes the memory indelible. All those who pay visit to the museum do not go without uttering



# Indepth

## Africa's absence as permanent member a "flagrant injustice," says UN chief

As the UN continues its never-ending saga on the reform of the Security Council (UNSC), one of the political anomalies that keep cropping up is the absence of Africa, among the five permanent members (P5)—a privilege bestowed only on the US, UK, France, China and the Russian Federation.

The African continent, which has been shut out, consists of 55 states with a total population of over 1.4 billion people.

Providing a list of his "priorities for 2024", Secretary-General Antonio Guterres singled out the reform of the Security Council—a lingering issue in an institution which is nearly 79 years old—when he told delegates on February 7, "it is totally unacceptable that the African continent is still waiting for a permanent seat"

Guterres said: "And indeed our world badly needs: Reform of the Security Council; Reform of the international financial system; the meaningful engagement of youth in decision-making; a Global Digital Compact to maximize the benefits of new technologies and minimize the risks and an emergency platform to improve the international response to complex global shocks."

Responding to a question at a press conference during the South Summit in Uganda last month, Guterres was critical of what he called "a clear injustice, a flagrant injustice, that there is not one single African permanent member of the Security Council".

And, he said, one of the reasons was that most of the countries of Africa were not independent when the UN institutions were created.

"But in recent public declarations, I've seen the permanent members being favourable to at least one African permanent member. United States said so, the Russian Federation said so, China has been positive in this regard, UK and France too".

"So, for the first time, I'm hopeful that at least a partial reform of the UN Security Council could be possible for this flagrant injustice to be corrected and for Africa to have at least one permanent member in the Security Council".

But it is not guaranteed, he cautioned, because nothing depends on the Secretary-General. "It depends exclusively on Member States, on the General Assembly, but for the first time I think there are reasons to be hopeful."

Meanwhile, the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region, which has over 670 million people, with 12 Latin American countries and 21 self-governing territories, mostly in the Caribbean, is also missing from permanent membership in the UNSC.

Martin S. Edwards, Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs, School of Diplomacy and International Relations, at Seton Hall University in New Jersey, told IPS: "I think that we should be talking



Credit: United Nations

seriously about issues of representation in the Security Council, but the challenge is how to move from rhetoric to a serious proposal".

There are different ways to frame this, he pointed out.

"The G20 added the African Union (AU) as a member, and of course, we could also think about regional seats along the lines of the Human Rights Council. But this having been said, the key issue is what is the ask."

The US position has been to increase regional representation without a veto. "I realize that this might not go as far as advocates would want, but since there is already a significant movement underway to delegitimize the veto, insisting on the veto would put those efforts at cross purposes."

But the bigger and unaddressed challenge for all proposals for reform is that they do not respect the realities of US domestic politics.

The US Senate would have to approve any proposed change to the charter, and the window for any proposed reform is now largely shut because of the realities of the US electoral calendar, declared Edwards.

Responding to a question at a news briefing last month, UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said the Secretary-General's opinion is reflective of a lot of people's opinion.

"That you have a whole continent, where in fact, a lot of the UN's peace and security work is ongoing. And no Member State from that continent sits on the body that discusses and decides policies relating to peace and security".

"And he's talked about the injustice of those countries that were former colonies that were penalized twice — once by being colonized and second, by not even being at the table

when the architecture of the multilateral system was discussed."

"How Member States decide on Security Council reform, what that will look like, will be up to them. He's made his feelings known, and I think it's not the first time he's said something like that. But in the end, it will be up to Member States themselves to decide. And whether or not they take into account the view of António Guterres is, we will see", said Dujarric.

Purnima Mane, Past President and Executive Director, Pathfinder International and a former Assistant Secretary General (ASG) and Deputy Executive Director (Programmes) at UNFPA, told IPS the Secretary-General's regret at the injustice of the absence of even a single African permanent member of the Security Council opens up a long-standing debate on the relevance of the original framework used in the appointment of permanent members of the Security Council.

She said the discussion on the relevance of the current permanent membership of the Security Council is not new but has not really gone anywhere. The issue of the relevance in the modern world of permanent membership based on historical reasons has been somewhat circumvented by establishing the possibility of non-permanent membership.

"The SG in his comments stated that each of the five current permanent members has expressed their openness to this change but when the rubber hits the road, coming to clear rules of implementation will not be easy.

She posed several pertinent questions: "Will the existing rules of the UN SC membership be altered entirely? How many such permanent positions will be created? And

will this membership be limited to a specific country like the current membership, or based on regional allocation like Africa as the SG suggests? "

And what will be the process for determining which country gets this privilege and will it also be in perpetuity or a rotating membership like the non-permanent membership? asked Mane.

She said there will be lots of questions will come up, including the willingness of the five permanent members to act on what the SG refers to as their openness to having an African country join the cadre of permanent membership, and the response from other regions which are not represented in the permanent membership currently.

"Knowing how complex the processes in the UN can be, any change process in the membership model is bound to be long, complex and resisted by some countries. If the issue of justice and fairness is to be raised, UN member countries might well question the relevance in today's world of the need for maintaining the historical reasons for the establishment of permanent membership of the Security Council" she argued.

This certainly opens the door for a broader definition of membership of the Security Council, challenging the hierarchy of privileges which might be seen as unjust in today's world.

The UN could certainly benefit from a discussion of this nature. Even if this discussion will involve lengthy and complex processes to come to any resolution, it is surely worth the effort in order to ensure that UN membership is seen as equal, in essence, in the eyes of all its members.

SOURCE: INTER PRESS SERVICE



# Law & Politics

## Deterring the growing threats of air sovereignty

BY EYUEL KIFLU

Both manned and unmanned drone technology has experienced rapid expansion in recent years, widely used in many fields, from military operations to commercial deliveries. While the benefits of this technology are undeniable, there are also concerns regarding its potential impact on a country's air sovereignty.

The advancement of drone technology, particularly in the field of armament, has raised concerns about its accessibility to terrorist groups and individuals. The increasing use of advanced and sophisticated unmanned drones on the battlefield and for spying purposes has further compounded these concerns. The technology represents a threat to a country's sovereignty because it can be easily purchased and used by people or terrorists.

The growing use of drones has led to an increased concern that national sovereignty could be compromised. Especially unmanned drones by its remotely operated behavior, it's too hard to control them. Drones have the ability to enter restricted airspace undetected, posing a significant threat to national security. Recent terrorist attacks in the Red Sea region have highlighted the risks associated with this technology and its potential implications for global trade and the world economy.

Controlling the rapidly expanding use of unmanned drones may be the future homework of world leaders. According to the Joint Air Power Competence Center website, the world has entered the "second drone age." This new era of drone warfare is defined by the global expansion of military Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) and weaponized commercial drones, with both state and non-state entities battling for power in the skies above (and beyond) declared zones of conflict.

Civilians are at greater risk in this altered state of conflict. Ethical difficulties from the first drone age have been aggravated by the increasing usage of distant lethal robots, making it harder to discern between perpetrators of drone atrocities and assaults or accidents.

However, in response to these concerns, many countries have implemented strict regulations governing the use of drones. These laws often include restrictions on flight patterns, altitude limits, and the sorts of technology that drones may carry. Additionally, certain countries have established no-fly zones where drones are strictly prohibited from entering.

**E**thiopia is actively building a stronger air sovereignty prevention system and has achieved an impressive audit result of 89.8 in terms of aerial safety, as conducted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

Also, the use of drones for military and surveillance purposes has expanded significantly and is now used by many countries and entities. Powerful nations and militant groups alike have deployed drones in strategic locations, including the Red Sea. Recognizing the vulnerability posed by the recent turmoil in the Red Sea region, Ethiopia has taken steps to protect its airspace from potential threats, including drones. The Ethiopian Air Force (ETAF) has reaffirmed its capacity and commitment to deterring any air attacks that may undermine the country's sovereignty as it celebrates its 88th anniversary.

Yohannes Abera, the Director of Air Traffic Management at the Ethiopia Civil Aviation Authority (ECAA), stated in a recent interview with The Ethiopian Herald that the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has designated an air boundary, requiring any flying object to obtain permission before crossing it. The ECAA employs various technologies, such as Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) and multilateration observational machines, to detect flying objects in Ethiopian airspace. These technologies enable the agency to establish immediate contact with the ETAF when unauthorized flying objects, whether manned or unmanned, are detected.

Whenever unauthorized or threatening manned or unmanned aircraft enter the



country's airspace, the ECAA promptly contacts the ETAF, initiating immediate collaboration between the two entities. Yohannes adds that drones weighing over 150 kg are considered aircraft, and the ECAA collaborates with the ETAF and the Information Network Security Administration (INSA) to protect air sovereignty.

While significant threats to aviation have been absent, the director highlighted the potential use of privately-owned drones for illicit purposes or as threats to border cities. The ECAA collaborates with law enforcement agencies, such as the Federal Police, ETAF, and the Ethiopian National Defense Forces, to ensure the country is protected from these potential threats at all times.

If permission is not granted, the ETAF implements interception procedures, such as directing the aircraft to land or avoid the airspace as required. Yohannes emphasized that there have been no observed high-level airspace breaches due to the presence of a strong Air Force.

Colonel Meseret Getachew, Deputy Chief of Aviation Heavy Maintenance at the ETAF, emphasized the commitment of the ETAF to national interests, extending beyond land territories.

He recalled that the ETAF successfully safeguarded maritime interests by escorting ships across the Indian Ocean and ensuring their safe arrival in port. Additionally, the air force has played a critical role in neutralizing security threats posed by terrorist and militant groups, notably al-Shabaab, with strongholds in neighboring Somalia.

Colonel Meseret added that the ETAF has taken significant steps to enhance its defense capability and protect the country's airspace from potential adversaries. Continuous advancements in capability, management, and technological

competence have been made to effectively deter potential threats.

As technology rapidly evolves, the officer stresses the need for continuous updates and adaptation to effectively counter emerging airspace threats. The ETAF's operational methods and training align with the dynamic nature of technology, ensuring preparedness in the face of emerging threats. The ETAF possesses the capacity to predict and analyze potential threats before they materialize into attacks, thanks to sophisticated technology and meticulous analysis.

The ETAF has successfully countered numerous potential threats to Ethiopia's air sovereignty, repelling intruders and forcing them to retreat. The Air Force's primary focus lies in the early stages of airspace violations, aiming to swiftly predict and identify potential threats. Leveraging their electronic warfare capabilities, the ETAF can accurately assess the nature and capabilities of impending threats, allowing for timely and decisive responses, he said.

Colonel Meseret elaborated that electronic warfare (EW), which involves detecting, interpreting, controlling, or disrupting signals in the electromagnetic spectrum, plays a crucial role in protecting military assets from potential threats.

Briefly, while the expansion of drones has brought numerous benefits, it has also contributed to terrorist attacks. Regulation and robust prevention systems are necessary to mitigate the potential harm caused by drones. Ethiopia is actively building a stronger air sovereignty prevention system and has achieved an impressive audit result of 89.8 in terms of aerial safety, as conducted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). This high level of safety indicates that Ethiopia's measures are on par with the global average of 60.



# Women in Focus

## “Successful women have an aura that says I belong in this seat”

### COMPILED BY STAFF REPORTER

Senait Fisseha is an Ethiopian-American Physician, Lawyer and Obstetrician-Gynecologist, with a specialization in Endocrinology from the University of Michigan. She is currently Vice-President of International Programs at the Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation.

She was born in Addis Ababa and raised in an extended family where she was the third youngest of ten siblings. Unlike her older siblings who were interested in engineering and physics, Senait showed an interest in medicine from a very young age.

After concluding her high school education, Senait studied at Tikur Anbessa (Black Lion Medical School) in Addis Ababa. In 1989, she relocated to the United States, enrolling at Rosary College (now Dominican University), where she earned her Bachelor of Science Degree. Subsequently, she received funding from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute to pursue research at the University of Michigan. While at the University of Michigan, Senait developed new interests in the field of medical malpractice, specifically in the fields of obstetrics and gynecology.

This, combined with an interest in international women’s health and women’s rights, led to pursuit of a joint Juris Doctor (J.D.)/Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) program. In 1999, she graduated with honors from Southern Illinois University, and was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society. She finalized her residency in obstetrics and gynecology in 2003, and completed a fellowship in reproductive endocrinology and infertility in 2006 at the University of Michigan medical center.

She established the Center for International Reproductive Health Training (CIRHT) at the University of Michigan in 2014 and she remained Center’s Executive Director until 2015. CIRHT was founded to serve as a collaboration platform for University of Michigan faculty and faculty from medical institutions in sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia where the reported maternal mortality rates are high. The goal of the center is to alleviate the burden of maternal mortality and to promote reproductive health and reproductive justice in these regions.

As part of the partnership, a pre-service training module was developed for the physicians, nurses, and midwives. After the successful first implementations of the module in Saint Paul’s Millennium Medical College, it was adopted by nine other institutions in the country.

She has received her Juris Doctor from Southern Illinois University and is

recognized for her advocacy in global reproductive health, rights and gender equality. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she became an advocate for global equity, collaborating closely with African leaders and institutions in her capacity as an advisor and thought leader.

Senait is the founder of the Center for International Reproductive Health Training (CIRHT) at the University of Michigan. She also chaired the election campaign and transition of Tedros Adhanom, the first African Director General of the World Health Organization, in 2016-17.

Her dedication has contributed to a period of reduced maternal mortality rates. Moreover, she has been instrumental in the establishment of MICHU, a progressive family planning and reproductive health center in Ethiopia. The successful implementation of the CIRHT model in Ethiopia has paved the way for its expansion into Rwanda and Uganda.

Senait has also been a member of various global health boards and committees, including the Lancet–SIGHT Commission on Peaceful Societies Through Health and Gender Equality, chaired by Tarja Halonen and the WHO’s Council on the Economics of Health For All, chaired by Mariana Mazzucato. In 2022, she joined the Commission for Universal Health convened by Chatham House and co-chaired by Helen Clark and Jakaya Kikwete.

Over her career, Senait has been part of various associations and fellowships including the American Society of Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), European Society for Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE), American College of Legal Medicine (ACLM), Norman F. Miller Gynecologic Society, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologist and American Association of Ultrasound Medicine (AAUM).

In addition, Senait served on various positions: such as in Global Health, Member of the Senior Advisory Board (since 2020), Global Health, Member of the Advisory Council, Harvard Ministerial Leadership Program (of Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard Kennedy School of Government, and, Member of the Board of Directors (since 2015), Ethio-American Doctors Group, Director, Global Initiative for Better Health, Member of the Advisory Board, Hamlin Fistula Foundation, Member of the Board of Directors, Willows Foundation for Reproductive Health (Istanbul, Turkey), and many more.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Senait emerged as a prominent advocate addressing global health disparities related to policy and vaccine distribution. She has

**Prof. Senait published over 50 scientific publications on infertility, including the use of alternative medicine, the reproductive potential of cancer patients after chemotherapy, and postmenopausal reproduction**



Senait Fisseha

health order with capacity building in local manufacturing of medical products including vaccines and maternal health commodities for the Global South.

In 2018, she was recognized as one of the 100 most influential Africans by the New Africa Magazine. She also recently received Award of Merit from the African Leadership University, recognizing her foundational contributions to global healthcare. In 2013, the Ethiopian Ministry of Health bestowed upon her its highest honor for her significant impact on the healthcare sector.

Moreover, she received the early distinguished career achievement award from the University of Michigan medical center alumni society and she was one of only 20 individuals to be honored with the University of Michigan Bicentennial Alumni Award for her global leadership in expanding reproductive health services in developing nations in 2016.

Additionally, the Association of Women in Business (AWiB) in Ethiopia nominated her for their “Women of Excellence” award in 2016. Senait was named one of the 100 Most Influential People in Gender Policy in 2019 and was listed among the ‘Top Forty Most Forward-Thinking Women’ in 2020 by Athena40.

Prof. Senait published over 50 scientific publications on infertility, including the use of alternative medicine, the reproductive potential of cancer patients after chemotherapy, and postmenopausal reproduction.

*The article was taken from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia and portrayed in a way that fits the page.*

worked closely with African leaders and the African Center for Diseases Control in promoting a new public health order that emphasizing global cooperation. Notably, she served as a Commissioner in the African Union COVID-19 Commission chaired by Cryl Ramaphosa of South Africa.

She was the founder and co-chair of the first International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA) which was held virtually in December 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic. More than 12,000 people participated in the conference including several African Heads of Government to help accelerate progress in the response against COVID-19 by forging African expertise and resources. The Conference has been a major annual public health event of the continent since then and she continues to serve as one of the co-Chairs. In the aftermath of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Senait has also been an advocate for a new global public



# Society

## Ensuring prenatal care, support to improve birth outcomes

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

It is an undeniable fact that enhancing the quality of prenatal care is a fundamental move toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals' targets set by the United Nations to reduce maternal and newborn mortality.

To improve the quality of health services for mothers and newborns and to achieve the desired goal, countries are undertaking a number of activities, including enhancing access to health facilities and providing healthcare services with skilled human power.

According to documents, from 2000 to 2020, the global maternal mortality ratio (MMR) declined by 34 percent – from 339 deaths to 223 deaths per 100,000 live births, an average annual rate of reduction of 2.1 percent, according to UN inter-agency estimates.

This is about one third of the 6.4 percent annual rate needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of 70 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030.

The maternal mortality ratio in the African Region in 2020 was estimated at 531 deaths per 100,000 live births. Countries with extremely high maternal mortality rates are South Sudan with 1223 deaths, followed by Chad with 1063 deaths and Nigeria with 1047 deaths per 100,000 live births.

In this respect, enhancing prenatal care is instrumental in improving women's experiences, and reducing maternal and perinatal mortality. Adequate antenatal care can prevent 26 percent, and increased access to quality obstetric care can prevent 48 percent. This demonstrates that improving prenatal coverage and high-quality prenatal service delivery are unquestionably required to meet SDGs after 10 years.

Even though the percentage of women attending prenatal care has increased nationwide making maternal and neonatal mortality is remaining high; so working in a more organized fashion to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 3, of universal health coverage and reducing the maternal mortality rate (MMR) to less than 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030, the quality of the services needs to be addressed.

Lately, the Ministry of Health has organized a platform that discusses ways to enhance prenatal care to reduce the morbidity and mortality of mothers and newborn babies.

The Ministry of Health has been celebrating Healthy Motherhood Month for the 18th time at national level and the 37th at the global level with the theme, "We will ensure equitable and quality antenatal care on time to save motherhood."

Maternal Health Desk Head with the Ministry of Health, Zemzem Mohamed, said that prenatal care should get priority in order to reduce the morbidity and mortality rates of mothers and their children.

Maternal and infant mortality rates are 26 percent lower compared to those without gynecological care. According to the



recommendations of the World Health Organization, all pregnant mothers should have at least eight antenatal visits; she said, referring to studies conducted in the area.

Following this, Ethiopia has been implementing the Focused Antenatal Care (FANC) model, a newer and better approach to antenatal care and pregnant women, which has been implemented for the past years, based on the recommendations of the World Health Organization, she said.

She said, "According to the WHO's recommendation, all pregnant women should start antenatal care sessions before the gestational age of 12 weeks of pregnancy. Early pregnancy monitoring helps prevent and control problems that occur during pregnancy. However, the 2019 National Minor Demographic and Questionnaire Survey indicated that the average time for mothers to start antenatal care is 4 months. Therefore, the media and stakeholders should work on raising the awareness of the public on this issue."

Senior Advisor to Health State Minister, Sileshi Garoma, said that among the works being done to improve the health of mothers are the expansion of health facilities that provide emergency childbirth and infant health services, the purchase and distribution of ambulances, the strengthening of mentorships around the region, providing support to regional budgets, offering professional support, capacity building, backing districts through data analysis, and many other works.

In an exclusive interview with Ayer Tena Health Science and Business College Instructor Mulatu Gebremariam, he said that the government's effort to address the challenge associated with maternal health is commendable. The effort in availing reproductive health services to the rural and metropolitan areas should be strengthened further.

According to him, there is a problem of the influx of migrants of fellow citizens who are under active reproductive age to urban areas. This influx is creating an impact on



**The government and pertinent stakeholders should step up efforts in training skilled human power, which could help in providing quality prenatal services**

health service delivery; one of the impacts falls on the quality of providing prenatal care services. Moreover, communities in the remote areas of the country and also in metropolitan areas are the beneficiaries of the services, which are not at the desired level for various reasons, including a lack of health facilities.

To access the services, the Ministry along

with pertinent stakeholders should sort the communities through community outreach programs and develop a strategy that could help to ensure the nation provides quality prenatal care services.

"In my view, all parents and their newborn babies should get improved birth services. I recommend the government and development partners to provide services through mobile reproductive healthcare clinics directly to communities who are living in the hinterlands and needing the services."

The government and pertinent stakeholders should step up efforts in training skilled human power, which could help in providing quality prenatal services.

As the use of health facilities is significantly related to prenatal care contacts, and adequate prenatal care entails both the use of services and the sufficiency of the content within the service, the federal and regional states should focus on availing health facilities at the proximity of communities.

"I am optimistic that if concerted efforts are exerted to increase access to the services, Ethiopia will make significant strides in meeting prenatal care standards through providing quality services to all citizens," he opined.





## Published Weekly in Collaboration with Haramaya University

### HU collaborative efforts on Haramaya Lake sanitary

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Haramaya University (HU) has been working on various watershed management tasks in collaboration with governmental and non-governmental, as well as the local community that lives in the basin, to ensure the existence and cleanliness of Lake Haramaya.

As a consequence, positive outcomes have been achieved by focusing on a variety of works that include preventing wastes from entering the lake. It also measures the lake's water level twice a year and gathers research data.

HU Research and Community Engagement Vice President Dr. Yishak Yousuf said that HU does not only measure the lake's water twice a year but also collaborates with the local community on a variety of important projects.

This includes planting saplings around the lake and its basins to improve the level of water while decreasing the quantity of silt entering the lake. HU has also safeguarded the land from animal and human touch which helps the lake to recover dramatically, he explained.



*Dr. Yishak Yousuf*

Moreover, the university has been maintaining the ecosystem of the lake basin and monitoring the condition of the planted saplings with the help of drones. It has also been made clear that work is being done to monitor with the help of satellites and by providing information on the website so that studies and research on the lake can be supported with sufficient information.

More importantly, in collaboration with the Ministry of Water and Energy, a study is being conducted by taking the water level of the lake twice a year using modern water measuring equipment. HU is also providing modern material and training support to the local community since they have been doing protective works.



*Dine Rashid*

For him, expanding and expansion works are anticipated from all concerned bodies since maintaining and caring for the natural resources offers a comfortable environment for humans to live in.

Haramaya University Integrated Lake Haramaya Watershed Development Project Coordinator Dine Rashid said HU proposed a project to rehabilitate the lake ten years ago. Then it has constructed terraces, gabion works, and planted seedlings to rehabilitate the depleted lands in the lake basin and natural resources. As a result, the lake was rehabilitated and restored to normal condition.

After rehabilitating the lake, HU has been studying its present status while also caring for the planted trees and environment.

It has also conducted different training and awareness-creation programs. As a consequence, the local community took ownership of the activities and implemented several protective measures to ensure the lake's continued existence and cleanliness.

He noted that, for the fourth time, HU collaborated with the Ministry of Water and Energy to undertake research by measuring the lake's water level twice a year throughout the summer and winter months. This allows the HU to not only identify the reasons that cause the water level to increase and decrease, but it also serves as a foundation for lake study.

Furthermore, while the latest measurement of the lake's water level has to be studied, compared to the last measurement, the lake's water level has grown and it now holds more than 8.9 million cubic meters of water, with an average depth of 4.5 meters. He added that since the first beneficiary of the lake's restoration is the local community, he called on them to act as owners in preventing things that harm the lake.