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Ethiopia to open Adwa Museum with patriotic fervour today

• Premier credits Mayor Adanech's relentless efforts

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- Addis Ababa Mayor Adanech Abiebie disclosed the successful completion of the Adwa Victory Memorial Museum, revealing the inauguration of the mega project today in the presence of highlevel officials.

It was learned that statues of Ethiopian leaders and higher military officers who fought during the Battle of Adwa have been erected in the museum's compound. Relics of weapons used

by Ethiopians and Italian captives, and logistical and transport facilities are also being displayed in the museum, the city administration's report indicated.

The first *Negarit* (huge traditional drum) which

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Samuel Kifle (PhD)

Investment, leaders' commitment ushering Africa's educational excel

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Africa's education needs more investment and leaders' commitment to nurture citizens that fit the 21st - century thinking and to achieve the desired progress, Addis Ababa University (AAU) Interim President said.

The 37thAfrican Union Summit will be held under the theme: 'Educate an African fit for the

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News Analysis

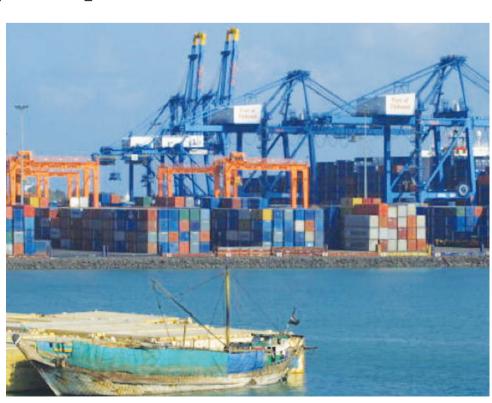
BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

Ethiopia has made the right decision when it makes clear that it would achieve access to sea through applying a give and take approach and strengthening diplomatic ties with neighboring countries and superpowers based in the region, Experts in the sphere suggested.

Ethiopia's lack of direct access to the sea had been hindering country's economic growth, development of military base and created limited geostrategic options in the Horn of Africa and beyond.

Among the existing options, accessing the sea peacefully and diplomatically has a

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News

Dire Dawa eyeing ambitious project to satisfy high water demand

BY HIZKEL HAILU

DIRE DAWA– A ground-breaking water development project worth 1.6 billion Birr is being undertaken in Dire Dawa to satisfy the growing demand,the City Administration said.

City Water and Sewerage Authority Head Eng. Remedan Musa told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA)that the ambitious project which funded by World Bank and expected to be completed next year aims to improve and expand water and sanitation infrastructure across the city.

He further expressed that the project would revolutionize the water and sanitation sector in Dire Dawa.

To him, the project's significant budget indicates the seriousness of the authority's mission to ensure clean water access and proper sanitation facilities for all residents. The development project encompasses various aspects, including the construction of new water treatment plants, the expansion of distribution networks, and the implementation of advanced technologies for efficient water management, Remedan



said.

These measures will enhance the authority's capacity to meet the growing demand for clean water and strengthen its ability to provide uninterrupted services throughout the city, he stressed. By partnering with the World Bank, the authority has gained access to technical expertise and financial resources necessary for implementing large-scale projects, he

expressed.

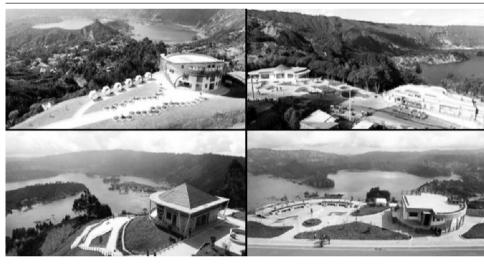
According to him, the collaboration reflects the international community's recognition of the authority's efforts to improve water and sanitation services and its commitment to sustainable development. Remedan expressed his gratitude to the World Bank for its support and highlighted the project's potential to improve public health, enhance economic growth, and

promote a better quality of life for the residents of Dire Dawa.

He also emphasized the authority's dedication to operating in an environmentally sustainable manner, ensuring the preservation of natural resources for future generations. The development project represents a significant step forward in addressing the water and sanitation needs of the city's growing population, he noted.

For Remedan, the authority is well-positioned to achieve its goals and make a lasting impact on the lives of the residents for its commitment, technical expertise, and substantial financial support.

As to him, the authority is poised to bring about positive change in the region with approximately 50,000 customers and a monthly water supply capacity of one million cubic meter. With the completion of this ambitious venture, he said, the Authority aims to become a model for effective water and sanitation management, setting an example for other states and contributing to the overall development and well-being of the city and its people.



Wonchi Dendi Eco-tourism improving livelihoods

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – Apart from providing luxurious tourism facilities, Wenchi Dendi Eco-tourism Project is improving the livelihood of residents, Zone's Administrator, Taye Gudissa said.

South West Zonal Administration of Oromia State Taye Gudissa told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that Wenchi Dendi Eco-Tourism Project which is part of Dine for Ethiopia initiative has created 12,000 jobs and enabled 720 youth to get financial loan for businesses.

As to him, the development of the Wenchi Dendi ecotourism project facilitated with all infrastructural facilities has improved the income of residents in the area.

The youth are working in parking, boat transport, and other hospitality services in both permanent and temporary employment, he said.

Besides, the project also enabled farmers to access standard living houses in addition to the construction of luxurious bedrooms that keep the comfort of visitors, Taye stated. Similarly, some 13 improved dairy cows have been given to the local farmers organized in clusters to supply milk in the area, he said, adding that currently the local farmers are also cultivating vegetables to provide their products to the lodges located in the Wenchi Dendi ecotourism project.

"Formerly, there were existed associations to export honey product to Italy whilst the zone is working hard closely with associations and planned to provide the product to Wanchi's lodges through maximizing the production level soon," he noted.

Taye pointed out that efforts are being made to ensure that the farmers who grow *Enset* (False Banana) supply food items made of this plant like *Kocho*, and *Bulla* to the lodges with adequate quality.

Wenchi Dendi Eco-Tourism Project is reviving the tourism sector, maximizing the benefit of farmers and youth in the zone, according to the Administrator.

It was to be recalled that the Wenchi Dendi Eco-Tourism is registered under the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) a year ago.

Huawei remains Africa's top employer

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABAFor the fourth consecutive year, a Chinese multinational technology corporation Huawei has been recognized by Top Employers Institute as Africa's Top Employer in 2024, according to

the company's press release.

In a press release sent to *The Ethiopian Herald*, the corporation stated that it has been qualified as the top employer in Africa for 2024 in the Institute's newly released list. Accordingly, Huawei stands out by being awarded the regional top employer accreditation in Africa.

Thepress release also said that the company has achieved national recognition in 10 Northern African countries including Algeria, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Mali, Morocco, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, and Tunisia.

Huawei Northern Africa Executive Vice President Jeremy LIN expressed his gratitude to the dedicated teams at Huawei for their annual investment in obtaining the recognition. "We firmly place humans at the heart of our strategy, supporting our teams in achieving their full potential. Our success is propelled by our employees, and together, we aspire to shape a promising future for Africa, encouraging young African talents to stay on the continent and to contribute to its growth."

The Top Employers Institute's certification program evaluates companies through the HR Best Practices Survey, focusing

on six key domains: Steer, Shape, Attract,

We are a Top Employer

on six key domains: Steer, Shape, Attract, Develop, Engage, and Unite, it was learned.

Huawei Northern Africa Human Resources DirectorAndy DU said, "Receiving this distinction for the fourth consecutive year reflects our ongoing commitment to promoting the well-being of our employees and our determination to establish a privileged work environment. It mirrors our social ambition at Huawei, focused on local impact in Africa."

Top Employers Institute CEO David Plink said, "Exceptional times bring out the best in people and organizations. And we have witnessed this in our Top Employers Certification Program this year: exceptional performance from the certified Top Employers 2024. These employers have always shown that they care for the development and well-being of their people. By doing so, they collectively enrich the world of work. "We are proud to announce and celebrate this year's group of leading people-oriented employers: the Top Employers 2024."

In 2024, the Top Employers Institute certified around 2,300 organizations in 121 countries worldwide, the release stated.

Editorial

A living billboard of invincibility

As historical facts and researches clearly depict, prior to the 16th century, amicable Africans were dignified people that basked under own philosophies, cultures, religions and ways of life till the tranquility under their territory was marred by white predators barefacedly hankering to drive the former to sweatshops as black slaves and also to siphon the continent's natural bounty to feed pillaged raw materials to their industries.

As such, dehumanization of Africans continued to the 20th century. A deplorable life was the fate of most Africans for long. The fate of colored people elsewhere was not much different.

It was the 1896 Adwa Victory, with rippling effect and resonating power, which restored the dignity and pride of Africans and freedom fighters across the globe.

The selfless sacrifices our forbearers paid in Adwa's showdown converging one coming from every corner, age-group, rank, gender, religion and ethnicity are attributable for the shinning victory that served beacon light to black aura's of invincibility putting the then predators' mentality topsy-turvy.

Adwa is an emblem of black people's independence. Before this victory, due to the wrong -headed mentality of predators, blacks were put up for sale as commodities dragged by their collars as if they were pack animals. That is why the victory of Adwa positioned Ethiopia to be a trailblazer of invincibility putting the curtain down on blood sucking.

Colonizers that scrambled for Africa did divest off Africans the time to contemplate ways of standing up and fighting for their freedom, rights and justice. Here, it is worth to mention Bob Marley's song verse is in concord with this fact.

When the ripe time for the reversal of the wrong-headed predatory mindset presented itself, colonizers unknowingly encroached on Ethiopia's soil botchily expecting usual victory. But they drew a blank, for Ethiopia is a land where black lions stroll and roar battle cries defiant of their

For want of modern and adequate arsenals, Ethiopian soldiers were fighting invaders with a hand tied behind their back. Nonetheless, Ethiopians gifted with natural military prowess spelled the death of invaders in a miraculous way as David knocked out Goliad. As the news was quite strange and jaw-dropping, it went far and wide to find echoes of liberty worldwide.

The victory of Adwa upturned the long-held political mentality of white dominance and equated black and white people when it comes to maintaining freedom. With the change of the equation, the rest of African countries, doing permutation on Ethiopia's tricolor, came to the forth in fighting back for their God-bestowed freedom.

Having the backdrop above in mind, Africans and also freedom fighters must pass down to posterity the message of freedom, independence, unity and invincibility encapsulated in the Adwa's Victory.

Except the Menelik statue there was not a living billboard that conjures up the message in people's mind be it in this generation and the next. Except reading about the traditional arms and utensils forefathers used in the showdown in historic books there was no museum, in the true sense of the word, to showcase the touristic and historic troves. Such Musem was intended to be built in Adwa town. The cornerstone was laid for the construction of Pan African University there to commemorate the Adwa victory.

Following the advent of a government that aims to go through change it was made possible to actualize a museum at the heart of Addis, where the march towards the showdown was started. Seeing completion, the museum will be inaugurated today in the presence of government officials, dignitaries, patriots and freedom lovers.

Aside from making the history memorable, the museum helps to keep its message alive in the minds of posterity.

All those that entertain a belongingness sentiment of Africa and freedom must pay homage to the museum. Not only taking pride in their black identity but also they must see ways how Africa could catapult to affluence dragging its last leg from morasses of different nature as per Agenda 2023. They have to strive to their level best to the fulfillment of this dream.

Ethiopia is marked for maintaining and preserving African History. The Adwa Musem is a typical example to this fact. The move initiates African nations to follow suit in recording their respective fights for freedom in analogues fashion.

Those who come for AU summit are expected to drop in and see for themselves what was like the freedom sentiment of forefathers. It helps to keep the tempo allowing the fight for freedom.



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Opinion

Ethiopia's bold moves for a win-win solution on GERD

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Emerging from the initial stage of the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), Egypt has been transitioning from one technique to another with the purpose of holding back the construction of the colossal dam making use of a wide spectrum of hidden techniques.

Regardless of its recent failures, Egypt has sustained to striving for global support to move forward its unfair and belligerent reaction on the dam. In a tiresome groove of behavior, Egypt has in a different way decided to adopt a customary yet unproductive policy by creating alliances with external interested parties to maneuver information and turn technical matters into political weapons.

The utilization of external stakeholders with the purpose of disseminating Egypt's tale on the dam not only give emphasis to Egypt's unwillingness to resolve the matter through diplomatic means but also divulges a tactical decision to globalize the disagreement with a focus on gaining the upper hand over Ethiopia.

By framing the dam as a problem of regional or global matter rather than a mutual issue between downstream nations, Egypt intends for rallying external support and weakening Ethiopia's position on the dam. This disruptive approach highlights in black and white Egypt's repeated attempts to drive apart Ethiopia and amalgamate its own impact in the region.

It needs to be clarified that Egypt's efforts to give Ethiopia's high profile project a global face added nothing. Besides, its futile endeavors to make the issue an international issue have failed catastrophically and the UN had to refer the matter of the flagship project to the African Union.

Notwithstanding the fact that the country has been moving heaven and earth to resolve conflicts in an atmosphere of calm, Cairo has been adamant in adhering to belligerent acts that cannot help achieve the desired goal. Though Egypt pulled out all the stops to halt the construction of the dam putting a wide spectrum of cock-and-bull stories into effect, all its efforts went for nothing.

Egypt's insistence in favor of pursuing an adversarial stance towards the dam in the face of absences of accomplishment in earlier actions demonstrates a deep-ingrained footdragging to become involved in significant dialogue and obtain mutually advantageous outcomes. By persisting in searching international support for its position on the dam, Egypt has continued amplifying tensions in the region and wrecking the knack for peaceful settlement of the disagreement.

More than a decade ago, Ethiopia has relented in its strong stance to bring Egypt on board and redress any concerns the downstream nations might have on the subject of the construction of the dam. Needless to say, Ethiopia's bold moves are vital to maintain

the signing of the Declaration of Principles. The steps have also been vital in creating mutual trust among the downstream nations

While showing contempt and disregard towards African institutions, Egypt tried to build international pressure on Ethiopia taking the regional issue to the United Nations Security Council at different points of time. These moves were not successful and failed to deliver results in Cairo's favor. Egypt has been trying to impose its will on Ethiopia through its allies in the Arab League. The Arab bloc whose headquarters Egypt hosts has repeatedly been getting off the track making a rather absurd statement regarding the dam.

Regardless of Egypt's continuing endeavors to globalize and put on the agenda the issue of the dam, Ethiopia remains steadfast with the purpose of proceeding with a conversation with all actors involved in the dam. Ethiopia's tactic highlights a willingness to take part in fruitful dialogues and seek jointly beneficial solution, as opposed to Egypt's hostile and disruptive procedures. It is vital for all parties involved to give precedence to diplomacy and cooperation to bring about a long-lasting and equitable resolution.

In violation of international norms, the League has been hostile to Ethiopia meddling in a regional issue that only needs regional solutions. From making the issue of the Nile a permanent agenda to calling on Ethiopia to stop the filling of the dam, the League adopted wrong resolutions and parroted the malicious interest of Egypt.

In its latest move, the Arab League once again published a resolution calling on Ethiopia to refrain from filling the dam without any agreement. This sick jock runs in sharp contradiction to the Declaration of Principles Egypt concluded with Ethiopia and Sudan.

The constant failures of Egypt's efforts to globalize the issue of the dam have not only brought shame on the country but have also messed up the works towards a peaceful outcome. By determinedly striving for boosting the dam's technical details into a global controversy, Egypt has nurtured disharmony and hindered the expertise in constructive dialogue between the concerned

The UN's recommendation of the issue of the dam to the African Union denotes the significance of finding an answer to solution within African agendas.

Regardless of its consistent attempts to portray the dam as a universal concern, Egypt's approach has not gone as planned fashioning diplomatic complexities and stalemates. The UN's resolve to defer the matter to the African Union emphasizes the demand for regional collaboration and dialogue in getting to the bottom of the dam's disagreement put emphasis on the significance of African-led solutions to regional challenges.

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

News

RRS urges media to promote Ethiopia's refugee protection

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

ADAMA - Media outlets ought to advocate Ethiopia's contribution and commitment towards refugee care and treatment, so urged the Ethiopian Refugees and ReturneesService (RRS).

Briefing the media who attended a three-day trainings focusing on Ethiopian refugee proclamation and other legal frameworks as well as humanitarian communication and emergency reporting, RSS Director General, Teyiba Hasssen said Ethiopia hosts over one million refugees from 26 countries.

This is a testimony of the commitment of the people and government of Ethiopia to support refugees, she noted.

Ahead of accepting and endorsing the international conventions towards refugees, Teyiba mentioned that the country has had a history of receiving asylum seekers since the 7th century and even earlier.

"Though it has internal problems, including the recurrent drought, the country has been accepting refugees, coming up with an opendoor policy for refugees. However, this kind of extended commitment by the country had not been well advocated. Media is a powerful instrument that has both negative and positive impacts. If we use it for good,



it would have a positive impact in terms of building a country's image and vice versa," she added.

In this regard, the Director General said, the training helps journalists raise their awareness and further advocate Ethiopia's commitment in refugee care and treatment. The issue of receiving refugees is not only about humanitarianism it rather have also political and security aspects, she stated.

"The Ethiopian refugee admission is a commitment of which we are proud. Thus, we want you to advocate refugee treatment issues," she urged the media.

Experts' insights on Ethiopia's...

positive impact not only for Ethiopia but also for the region.

Approached by the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) Experts in the field stated that Ethiopia would secure access to the sea by strengthening diplomatic ties with neighboring countries and superpowers that have military bases in the Horn of Africa (HoA).

Dilla University History and International Affairs Lecturer and Researcher Mohamed Ali (PhD) said that the Horn of Africa has a huge geopolitical significance in the international arena due to its strategic location where Ethiopiaplays a decisive role as it has been supplying agricultural products and different inputs to the region.

For this reason, he believed that Ethiopia is a blessing for the region. The Ethiopian Airlines is also the backbone of the regional economies for connecting them with the rest of the world.

However, developing cooperation to ensure multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism has been a long awaited task and Ethiopia made the attempt to peacefully access to sea through signing deal with Somaliland.

Contrary to the essence of this diplomatic move, some parties are opposing the agreement that has huge economic and political advantages to the region. This obstruction, according to Mohamed, emanates from looking down Ethiopia's contribution to the peace and security of the region.

On the other hand, he said, some powers might consider Ethiopia as a formidable threat assuming the country having access to the sea with 120 million population and strong defense force.

The fact is that Ethiopia's access to the sea and military base would balance the region's military and economic activities. In this regard, Ethiopia must perform its homework that could be a response for questions or reactions, he underscored.

For his part, Foreign Affairs Institute Asia and Pacific Countries Director-General Anteneh Getachew expressed that Ethiopia's demand is to be the center of economic freedom and power balance. But it requires to achieving the country's national interest peacefully given that the region is volatile.

To this end, Ethiopia has to boost its negotiation capacity and perform strong public relation activities. This could be done through building and strengthening trust with neighboring countries, he said.

Getachew underlined that having access to the sea is an existential issue for Ethiopia. And the country is able achieve this via give and take approach once it became able to consolidate its diplomatic relations with neighboring countries and powers that are found in the region.

Accordingly, implementing the recent deal signed between Ethiopia and Somaliland is significant to boost economic and political cooperation in the region. The House of People's Representatives (HPR) Peace and Foreign Relations Standing Committee Chairperson Dima Negewo believed that the execution the Ethio-Somaliland and MoU is important for the development and security of the region.

He recently told the Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) that Ethiopia's foreign policy prioritizes collaborative endeavors for mutual prosperity and resource utilization with its neighbors. As to Dima, the agreement which facilitates access to the sea through the Somaliland port and a naval base is not only crucial for Ethiopia's progress but also for regional security. "We, therefore, trust that other countries will offer their support and urge the Somali government to recognize the mutually beneficial collaboration," he said.

It was on January first 2024 that Ethiopia and Somaliland announced the agreement that allow Ethiopia to have access to sea and Somaliland to be shareholder of the Africa's profitable Airliner, the Ethiopian Airlines.

Investment, leaders'...

21st Century: Building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality, and relevant learning in Africa.'

Commenting on the issue to local media, AAU Interim President Samuel Kifle (PhD) stated that creating lifelong learners as well as an education that withstands pressure is crucial.

Noting the average age for a primary school in Africa and Ethiopia is low; the scholar indicated that the Sub-Saharan educational accessibility is below 15%. "This contributes limited skilled force in the research and innovation sectors."

Despite Africa's low budget allocation for research and innovation, the outcomes are said to hardly solve the continent's pressing challenges. According to Samuel (PhD), exerting huge investment in education, particularly in higher education is critical.

Moreover, to achieve Agenda 2060, Africans need to integrate as well as facilitate their relation in trade, investment, and better infrastructure. Hence, huge financial readiness and commitment are needed from African leaders to better African education, he emphasized.

Ethiopia to open ...

had been used to mobilize warriors is also kept in the museum.

The museum has been built not only to display history; but it is also equipped with ultramodern facilities and contains meeting halls, amphitheater, cinema, parking, restaurants, gymnasiums, shopping centers, and the model of the Abbay Dam.

The museum is located at the same place where the then-Ethiopian leaders started their march to the Battle of Adwa. The Ethiopians' victory over a major European force inspired many African countries under the yoke of colonization to fight for their independence.

In his televised message about the Museum, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) recognized the city administration's relentless efforts for the execution of the project, saying Mayor Adanech has been following the construction progress each day.

For Adanech, the museum is beyond a project as it displays artifacts and relics used by Ethiopians during the war with Italian invaders at the Battle of Adwa in 1896.

The museum is going to be opened today in connection with the 128th anniversary of the Victory of Adwa, *The Ethiopian Herald* learned.

Opinion

Pushing national dialog into fruition is timely

BY MENGESHA AMARE

It is well recognized that national dialogue is an increasingly popular tool for conflict resolution and political transformation. In reality, it can be manifested into two scenarios. In the first place, it is a means to broaden debate regarding a given country trajectory beyond the usual elite decision makers. Second, it can also misuse and manipulated by leaders to consolidate their power. There is a risk, of course, on the contrary, as national dialogues can be deliberately misused by leaders seeking to further consolidate their grip on power.

It is thus important to abide by a number of principles and governing idea thereby strengthening national dialogue processes and considerations for international actors seeking to support these processes and principles.

Shouldering a target of emancipating itself from the vicious circle of conflict, disagreement and rivalry thereby bringing about real change in all aspects, Ethiopia has been embarking on the first scenario scrupulously looking at and overlooking as well the second version. It has to allow all actors to actively participate in the dialog to make it much more inclusive and participatory. Yes, the national dialog would offer the potential for meaningful conversation about the underlying drivers of conflict, disagreement as well as ways to holistically address these issues.

It is obvious that there is no one-size-fitsall model, but if the nation is determined enough it will have a higher likelihood of making the national dialog a success incorporating the core principles like inclusion, transparency and public participation, a far-reaching agenda, a credible convener, appropriate and clear rules of procedure, and an implementation plan.

National dialogue experiences from Tunisia and Yemen can be sources from which Ethiopia can draw important lessons to make its own a fruitful national consensus and use it as a tool for breaking political deadlock and transforming complex conflicts.

The processes which have been initiated through political pacts, dialog commission, active public participation, civil society activism, and internationally-brokered peace agreements, or other mechanisms, have been used to address a wide variety of concerns thereby coming up with quite stable and well-to-do nation in the long run and make the nation a stable within the shortest time possible. As the concept of an inclusive and holistic national conversation has gained popularity, the term national dialogue has been used to describe an increasingly heterogeneous set of processes.

The national dialog in Ethiopia needs to

focus on addressing a broad set of issues or problems, operating outside of the permanent institutions of governance and under their own rules and procedures as well as having buy-in from a coalition of key stakeholders that are positioned to implement the reconciliations and remedies emerging from the dialogue.

Yes, an effective national dialogue convenes a broad set of stakeholders for a deliberative process. All key interest groups should be invited to participate; including women, youth, and other traditionally marginalized groups to maximize the dialogue's potential to address the real drivers of conflict and disagreement. , True, an inclusive, transparent, and consultative preparatory phase sets the foundation for a genuine national dialogue before the process begins.

It is important that preparations are undertaken carefully and transparently by a preliminary commission and it is expected to make the process comprehensive, too. This could provide the dialog itself with public legitimacy and credibility. Otherwise, the dialogue that excludes fundamental interest groups would risk losing legitimacy and credibility. Here, to secure the participation of a wide variety of stakeholder groups and to avoid perceptions of bias, a credible convener, the national dialog commission in this context, is of the utmost importance. Unequivocally, the national dialogue has sought to reach agreement on key issues facing Ethiopia. Months or even years of pre-negotiation or consultation need to take place to identify and agree upon the cardinal issues, which could include any number of conflict-fueling aspects like the case of the constitution, national flag, national identity, the role of religion in government, political rights, basic freedoms, institutional reform, election procedures, and even the government structure.

In Ethiopia, the national dialogue will have its own set of procedures and rules for making decisions, which should be transparent and carefully tailored to the composition of the group and the nature of the issues. Furthermore, a clear mandate lends purpose and authority to a national dialogue, whether it has been established through a peace agreement, law or any other manner.

National dialogues should feature a settled upon plan to ensure that the resulting recommendations are implemented through a new constitution, law, policy, or other programs as a national dialog takes place within a broader transition, it does often have formal or informal relationships to transitional justice, constitution making, and elections. Without a clear implementation plan, a national dialogue risks consuming extensive time and resources without producing any tangible

outcomes

Basically, it deserves due attention as a tool with the potential to facilitate peaceful political transformation, but it is no magic bullet. Even in the most successful instances, national dialogue is but one step along the long and arduous path of building a peaceful society and a stable nation. These processes consume enormous resources and political energy, sometimes resulting in the government neglecting its basic responsibility to govern and deliver services.

A national dialogue has also been used to refer to processes that incorporate actors who can offer important support on its follow-up. Besides, it is likely that the national dialogue Ethiopia has been capitalizing on will continue to be a prevalent tool in the year to come. In due course of carrying out the national dialogue processes, by identifying best practices for the timing of national dialogue vis-à-vis other processes and the relationships between national dialogue and some concerned institutions, the country will increase the likelihood that a dialogue can achieve meaningful conflict transformation and strengthen the existing independent institutions and well cemented social cohesion. As the dialog has been used as an instrument to resolve political crises and pave the way for political transitions and sustainable peace, Ethiopia has to attach due emphasis to it more than anything else.

As understood via inferring concepts from the move itself, national dialogues has reduced violence by transferring grievances voiced from the street into formalized processes in the short run on the one hand, and has provided an inclusive, broad, and participatory official negotiation format, which can resolve all social, economic and political crises and lead country into inclusive political transitions on the other.

Yes, it is typically accompanied by broader societal consultations designed to communicate results of the negotiations and channel people's demands into the process. This may take the form of consultations, commissions, high-level problem-solving workshops, and/or referendums and game changing scenarios.

Here, the wider population is often indirectly included through broader consultation processes under the auspicious of the national dialogue.

The dialog thus is usually intended as a means of redefining the relationship between the state, political actors, and society through the negotiation of a new social contract. Obviously, in such amazing and historical moments, prochange and anti-change forces emerge. What matters here is the legitimacy of the commission and the transparency of the

process in the eyes of the public fulfilling g the decisive parameters of an inclusive and participatory national dialogues.

In general, national dialogues benefit from a clear, manageable mandate and a welldefined relationship to ongoing political processes which are negotiated prior to the commencement of the dialogue. Citizens and civil society groups decide to invest their time in a dialogue process which they perceive as worthwhile because it is mandated to reach important outputs.

Definitely, representatives of the newly created political parties, religious groups, trade unions, women's groups, students and farming community representatives, among others, are expected to partake in the process of national dialog.

It is important, therefore, that the preparatory defines body certain parameters that all constituencies have to respect as for example: a timeframe encircling all processes, the pre-dialog, while dialog and post dialog steps, conduct of inclusive and transparent consultations within all the selected but comprehensive constituency, inclusion of women and minorities both in the consultations and in the chosen representatives, the way it is being carried out, for example, whether the selection is by consensus or by secret ballot of a publicly declared approach. It is also important that the commission along with its assistants has to closely follow the deliberation within each constituency and assists them in developing their own, internal selection process.

In some cases, the dialogue processes may not reach their formal goals but may still manage to avert conflict and to convince political actors to continue engaging with the political process. In other cases, national dialogue may reach all their formal goals but essentially fail because they have not included the major political forces of the country and to maintain a level of support for the political process among the public. Such a destructing move has to be corrected in due course of conducting the national dialog in Ethiopia.

Therefore, a national dialogue which manages to expand participation in the political process, to keep the various stakeholders engaged in the process, and to design the next stage of the transition may be deemed as effective. The role of national dialogues in transitional processes and their relationship to existing institutions needs to be clear in order to reduce disputes and to make itself manageable, realistic and well communicated.

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

Business & Economy

Conserving the varieties,

diversifying economic benefits of Inset plant through research

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

Research indicated that Inset crop is found to be a principal diet in the central and southern parts of Ethiopia where more than 20 million people relay. It is also plays significant role in benefiting the people economically within the Inset producing areas. Inset is growing in the densely populated area in the small plots but feed huge population.

Guraghe zone, a zone found within the Central Ethiopia regional state is among the popular Inset producing areas of Ethiopia. Kocho, a food made from Inset rich in carbohydrate remains the known staple cultural food in the zone, similar to other Inset producing areas. It is also with high nutritive content and consumed with other diets. The crop supports the community in ensuring food and nutrition security and the overall economy of the people of Guraghe zone.

So far, this important crop is not well researched scientifically while the process of preparing food out of Inset remains traditional and tiresome. The features, the varieties and the process of making diet from Inset need to be examined. In this regard, higher educational institutions located in the Inset producing areas have the responsibility to study the varieties, exploring the nutritional aspect and improving the process of making food from the crop.

Wolkite University and Arba Minch University are conducting various research activities on Inset crop in the past several years.

Yohannes Gebru (PhD) is Vice President of Wolkite University on the Department of Research, Community Service and Technology Transfer. He said that the university is undertaking various research activities and community service tasks to support the development endeavors of the society in the surrounding areas of the town.

As to him, the university's research and community servicing activities focuses on solving problems of the day to day life of the community and to exploit the available potential resources for the development.

Among the priority tasks that the university is undertaking for years is conducting research on Inset crop. Located in the Guraghe Zone's capital, Wolkite town, the university's research activities give due priority to study the nature, features and modernizing the process of preparing food from Inset, according to Yohannes.

The university has conducted continuous researches for the past eight years on Inset and it already has established an Inset research site in the surrounding fields.

The Vice president stated that Wolkite University's researches on Inset mainly focus on three basic areas. First, conservation of Inset and its varieties remain the first priority of the research activities. He further said that, Inset has many varieties and conserving all

Tolkite University and Arba Minch University are conducting various research activities on Inset crop in the past several years



Dr. Yohannes Gebru, Research and Community Service Vice President at Wolkite University

the varieties and researching the types of each variety is the priority topics of the university. "In our Fereze site, that was prepared to conserve Inset, the university already conserved around 71 different varieties of Inset," Yohannes stated.

Each variety of Insets has its own character and benefits, as to the vice president. "Even the growing ecology varies from place to place," he noted.

Therefore, to protect the crop from climate change and global warming, conserving all varieties of Inset remains crucial. In terms of benefits, some varieties are useful for medication while others are important for meeting food demand, this makes conserving all varieties crucial, he added.

Yohannes reiterated that due to some natural calamities, most varieties are becoming disappearing from the fields of the farmers. Hence, by collecting each variety from different areas, the university conserved all the varieties it knows so far and has continued researching the varieties so as to collect and conserve all of them. "We have conserved the varieties and by multiplying each variety through biotechnology tissue culture, the university is distributing the varieties seedlings to the community," he stated.

The second priority of the university's research focuses on Inset disease protection. Disease remains among the serious threat for the survival of Inset, Yoahannes said.

The disease named Bacteria Wilt threatens the crop's existence. So far, a lot of researches have been conducted to save Inset from extinction and researches still continued. "Recently, Addis Ababa University announced a new finding on protecting Inset from disease and this is a good move," Yohannes reiterated.

The third focus area of the research of the university related to food making, according to the vice president. the traditional process of making food from Inset consumes time and energy. "The process of making food from Inset is tiresome. Women waste a lot of energy and time during the process of making a diet from Inset," Yohannes said adding to solve the problem with regard to the process, efforts are underway to produce a modern machine that can easily process the plant for food. As to him, women are suffering and wasting a lot of time in processing Inset and the university continued efforts to find modern way of preparation.

"Wolkite University gives special focus for Inset, because the community around the university is Inset producer and consumer," Yohannes stated. "We have the highest responsibility in this regard and we are investing our maximum efforts in developing the researches and utilize the findings as inputs for improving the crop variety". Especially, in simplifying the traditional food production processing, and in that regard, university's researchers invented a modern processing machine. "In our university, Dr. Helen Woldemichael invented two machines that can be able to process Inset through modern way," the vice president said adding that the invented machines were tested and are properly functional.

As to him, the Biotechnology Institute of the university played pivotal role in inventing and tasting of the machine functionality and the demo was successful. However, still, the machines need a little adjustment to make it perfect. After the adjustment, manufacturing the machines and supplying it to the community will be the next step.

As to him, the production and supply of the machines to the market at large scale needs a large amount of finance. The university is looking for grants in reaching the community in this regard.

Meanwhile research is also conducted on effects of bio-slurry on Inset, the positive and negative effect of slur on the environment, diversifying the types of food and recycling the waste.

The second research project which is conducted by Food Science Engineering targets at diversifying the diets produced from Inset. The research project aims to produce Inset juice like Banana juice. The third project targets to use the wastages of Inset for other purposes. "We have come to learn that a paper can be produced from Bi - products of Inset and that its bi products can be mixed with sand to make asphalt," Yohannes stated. Civil Engineering department is conducting a research in this regard.

The forth research project focus area is climate impact of Inset. "The areas with rich Inset production have better food security comparably" Yohannes said. This shows that Inset is drought resistant and expanding Inset plant to other parts of Ethiopia may help to ensure food security, he added. Researches are also being conducted on the food security and economic benefits of Inset by the Department of Agricultural Economics. The University is also working to expand harvesting and developing the consumption habit of the crop in the other parts of the country.

Planet Earth

Africa needs more funding to cope with impacts of climate change

BY FIKADU BELAY

African countries and some parts of the world are unable to produce wealth as a result of climate change, which also lowers GDP and has an impact on national security and human rights. Climate change is already having a negative impact on the environment. It is worsening desertification and biodiversity loss, endangering global food and economic security, and weakening the resilience of economies.

The negative consequences of climate change, which present several obstacles to the African continent's economic growth, natural resource availability, and human livelihoods, are especially likely to affect it.

Ethiopia, like many African countries, is experiencing the repercussions of climate change. One of the most notable effects is the increased frequency and severity of extreme weather occasions. Droughts, floods, and heat waves have become more frequent, leading to significant disruptions in agriculture, water availability, and energy production.

Agriculture is a critical sector for Ethiopia's economy, employing a large portion of the population and contributing to the country's GDP. However, changing weather patterns and prolonged droughts have caused crop failures, reduced agricultural productivity, and increased food insecurity.

According to the World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) report, Ethiopia experienced severe droughts in recent years, resulting in widespread crop losses and a significant humanitarian crisis. These climate-related challenges have been exacerbated by population growth, limited access to irrigation, and inadequate infrastructure for water management.

According to global humanitarian overview, In Ethiopia, the worsening drought and impact of conflict and violence in parts of the country and resulting waves of displacement mean that 28.6 million people will need humanitarian assistance in 2023.

The lack of sufficient financial assistance from developed countries to underdeveloped poses significant obstacles for African countries that endeavor to combat climate change, impeding their progress and hampering their ability to implement effective solutions, Nassim Oulmane (PhD), Director of Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resource Management Division Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) told *The Ethiopian Herald*.

In the COP28 meeting, a number of encouraging promises and projects were made public. However, without quickly offering fresh, substantial, regular, and accessible funding, many of these plans will remain unfulfilled, he mentioned.

The country faces significant funding needs: nearly 5.9 trillion USD will be required for the implementation of nationally determined contributions by 2030, while 215 - 387 billion



Nassim Oulmane (PhD)

USD will be required annually for adaptation, and 4.3 trillion USD will be required for cleanenergy investment. These are huge amounts of money that are not readily available from existing public funds, he said.

COP28 meeting also disclosed, a large number of new pledges announced, including pledges to the Green Climate Fund, a global pledge on renewable energy and energy efficiency, and an oil and gas decarburization charter, questions remain regarding the extent to which these funds and pledges are new, concessional, and additional.

For Africa, adaptation finance remains the priority. However, COP28 did not signal sufficient urgency in addressing the huge gap in adaptation finance, and little progress was made in finalizing a global goal on adaptation, he said.

Obviously, the provision of affordable finance, debt restructuring, incentivizing new and innovative forms of finance, and reforming international financial institutions and systems will be essential to meeting both development and climate goals.

He also stated that the need for accessible, predictable, and new financing to bridge the financing gap required for implementing climate change initiatives.

Furthermore, the climate crisis has impacted Ethiopia's water resources; decreased rainfall and prolonged dry spells have led to reduced water availability in rivers, lakes, and basins. This has not only affected agricultural activities but also hampered energy production from hydropower, which is a significant component of Ethiopia's energy mix.

In addition to the challenges in agriculture and water resources, the climate crisis has also contributed to environmental degradation and ecosystem vulnerability in Ethiopia. Deforestation, land degradation, and desertification have become more prevalent, threatening biodiversity, soil fertility, and the overall health of ecosystems.

Building climate resilience is the foremost obligation that African countries face in the interventions needed to combat the impacts of extreme climate events. This is unavoidable considering that all the key development sectors, such as agriculture, water, energy, and transport, are increasingly and severely disrupted by climate occasions.

He stated that recently, the AUC, ECA, and regional partners launched the African Union climate resilient development strategy and action plan, which will complement already existing national-level climate policies. Further, African countries continue to integrate climate change into their national development visions and blueprints.

One of the weaknesses of development programs in Africa is the limited use of climate information services (CIS) to guide decision-making. This is why African countries are investing in filling gaps in the available CIS, addressing the institutional weaknesses of national hydrological and meteorological services, and weakening the integration of climate services into national planning and decision-making processes, he added.

Non-state actors, including civil society organizations are gaining momentum and making inroads in creating awareness of climate issues and fighting for climate justice in Africa. Through these efforts, vulnerable groups such as women, farmers, and the youth have gained a voice on climate change matters that impact their livelihoods, he said.

The impacts of climate change have forced the country to explore alternative sources of energy and invest in renewable energy projects. In this sense, the Ethiopian government implemented various activities related to renewable energy. Such as, wind, solar power, and geothermal power. These environmental changes have implications for sustainable development, including tourism, which is an important source of revenue for Ethiopia.

The WESP and UNECA data also estimate that climate-related disasters and procedures cost Africans countries an average of 7 billion USD annually. These costs include both direct damages, such as infrastructure destruction and crop losses, as well as indirect impacts on health, education, and productivity. The economic burden of climate change hinders poverty reduction efforts, undermines

economic growth, and perpetuates social inequality.

After four years, Ethiopia has taken significant steps towards addressing the climate crisis. The country has developed a Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) strategy, which aims to build a climate-resilient and low-carbon economy. The CRGE strategy focuses on sectors such as agriculture, forestry, energy, and transport, with the goal of promoting sustainable development while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Under the green legacy initiative, Ethiopia has been planted about 32.5 billion seedlings in the past five years. This green initiative indicates that the country has also been proactive in international climate negotiations and has made commitments under the Paris Agreement. The country objectives to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and has set ambitious targets for renewable energy generation, reforestation, and climate adaptation measures.

He stated that the Green Legacy Initiative, particularly in the Afar, Amhara, Oromia, and Somali regional states, serves as a showcase for addressing the challenges of drought in the region. Not only is it to prevent the country's drought, but it is also a novel and noble intervention in a Horn of Africa region that continues to suffer incessant cycles of drought, he added.

ECA recently implemented the Nature-Based Solutions for Water resources infrastructure and community resilience with the Ministry of Water, Irrigation, and Energy and followed these activities to build capacities for the fabrication and distribution of clean cook stoves to reduce the exposure of women and girls to indoor particulate pollution and to improve the health of participating communities, he said.

Moreover, additional support from the international community is crucial to assisting Ethiopia and other African countries in addressing the climate crisis effectively. The WESP report emphasizes the need for financial resources, technology transfer, and capacity building to strengthen climate resilience and support sustainable development in Africa. International cooperation, including the fulfillment of climate finance commitments, is vital in assisting African nations in their efforts to mitigate and adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change.

Besides, the adverse effects on agriculture, water resources, and ecosystems are threatening livelihoods, development, and social well-being. Ethiopia has taken steps to address the climate crisis through its CRGE strategy and international commitments. However, additional support is needed to strengthen climate resilience, promote sustainable development, and ensure a just transition to a low-carbon economy. It is crucial for the international community to fulfill its commitments and provide the necessary resources to help African countries navigate the challenges of the climate crisis and build a sustainable and prosperous future.

Art & Culture

Two loaves of bread (Moral Story of the day)

BY CHIMA DICKSON

An elderly man had two loaves of freshly baked bread. As he walked along the street, three poor and hungry young girls quickly approached him. Their stomachs yearned for the loaves.

"Please sir, help us with food" each of the girls begged.

The man noticed that one of the girls was deaf and dumb as she was expressively using sign language. He said.

"I only have two loaves. How do I share them among the three of you?"

Suddenly, one of the girls whispered.

"You can share the loaves among the two of us who are able to speak and hear. The deaf and dumb girl can get nothing"

The man asked.

"But why won't she get a share?"
The girl responded.

"Because she's different from us"

The elderly man was quiet for a second, and then he said.

"Well... you know what, actually, I think you have a point there. The two of you who are able to speak and hear, will each get a loaf of bread. But the girl who is deaf and unable to speak, will get nothing, absolutely nothing for her"

Quickly, he handed the two loaves to the two girls and walked away. The girls jumped for joy and clapped their hands in excitement.

Meanwhile, the deaf and dumb girl felt sad and dejected. She couldn't hold back her tears as she watched the other girls walk away happily.

A few hours later, the elderly man came to the street with a bag of food and fresh milk. Seeing him again, the three poor girls rushed towards him.

But surprisingly, he handed the bag of food and fresh milk to the deaf and dumb girl. She was utterly amazed. Then he gave her a piece of paper. She read it.

"Maybe if you don't get what you want, something better awaits you"

Many times, we feel sad and dejected when life doesn't give us what we want. We grieve so much over the things we've lost in life that we find it very difficult to look on the bright side of it. The truth is, some of these things we want, don't usually come to us, not because we don't deserve it, but because we deserve so much more. Yes, so much more.



The March to Adwa, at Addis Ababa's northern gate (Emperor Menilik II)

An enemy
That covets
Your land, your
Gold-bestowed
Natural wealth
And your wife
Creating a strife
Stripping you of
Your liberty
And identity
Is all out
To mar your life!

This blatant aggression
Standing together

It is better we deter.

So, if intentionally
Or otherwise
On you, if
I might
Have posed
A grievance
To date,
I ask apology
Let us bury
The hatchet.

Among us,

An axe to grind For a divisive wedge An enemy cruel & wild Must not find.

Thus, while
In full command
Of your health
If you fail
To march
To the front
I will take that
To the dignity of

And me
An affront.

I swear to God
I swear to God

Our sovereign nation

I swear to God
I swear to God
Up on return
There is
No restraint
My anger
My punitive
Measures against
Such malingers
Back to hold.

Of course,

We need
The prayer
Of the feeble
And the old,
The heavily-a

And the old, The heavily-armed Invading army When all-in-one We fight Supper bold.

I assure you
By the grace
Of God
Victory for us
Is what
The future does hold.

(The Chief of the provision wing)

Women of the nation Pull your sleeves;
As provision
Dry food—
Roasted chickpeas
Roasted peas
Dry meat—
If you prepare
It will be good.
Also to boost

Immunity in
The original way
Prepare and ready
Garlic, red chili
And ginger
In a form of
A powder.

(The principal of transport)

Array pack animals Provisions to transport From every corner Of the nation, The palace To the battlefront. S/he who has A horse or a mule Must come along With some hays For its fuel.

(The master of musicians)

Take on board Musical instrumentalists Vocalists, who War songs that chant About victory At hand not hesitant.

(Traditional Health Professionals)

Also take aboard Women, herbalists That will nurse The wounded Back into shape Also the recuperating To fight back Who help.

(The logistic head)

Our resource gap to fill
While in the battle mill
We have to take along
Bullet swaggers
Ammunition repairers.
Utilizing such skill
Would allow us
With limited resource
More troops to kill.
This way

The cavalry
And infantry
Will fight
About logistic
With little worry.

(Menilik II)

Let us march
Let us march
To the place of
Showdown
To write
Golden history
Like Golead & David
That has no match!

Let us be
A standard bearer
If united
Freedom fighters
Could a giant enemy
Like Goliad deter.

On my sword I have engraved Menilik's power Is Almighty God So behold Those who pick Against the peaceful A sword Will perish by The sword.

About colonization
As I earlier grabbed
The import
I had accessed
Enough arsenal
Via the port.
If divide & conquer
Is their aim
With Ethiopians'
Oneness & unity
I will foil
Their game
They will have
Themselves to blame.

In the meantime
King Aba Jifar
Taking over inland
Maladministration,
disorder
Will bar
In such a way
Ethiopians' chemistry
Will be heard
Wide and far.

Society

Utilizing media for socio-economic dev't

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Media plays a crucial role in shaping societies and driving socio-economic development. In Ethiopia, a country of diverse cultures and rapid economic growth, the media has emerged as a powerful tool for disseminating information, promoting and fostering positive change. Media can contribute to socio-economic development in Ethiopia if utilized properly. in this regard, widening the media landscape will have greater impact towards promoting sustainable socio-economic development, facilitating government policies and initiatives, and becoming a forum for thorough discussions on various national challenges and opportunities, among others.

According to media experts, media acts as a catalyst for development by disseminating information, raising awareness, and mobilizing communities. It has the power to educate, inspire, and empower individuals to take action, leading to positive social and economic change. Whether it is through print, broadcast, or digital platforms, media has the ability to reach a wide audience and bridge gaps in knowledge and access.

Accordingly, media is not just about entertainment and news; it is a powerful tool for socio-economic development. In a rapidly changing world, access to information is an essential element for progress, and media serves as a conduit knowledge-sharing, connecting people with resources, opportunities, and ideas.

By highlighting success stories, the media can inspire entrepreneurship and innovation, driving economic growth. It can also raise awareness about social issues, mobilizing communities to address poverty, inequality, and other development challenges. Furthermore, media can foster dialogue, encourage civic participation, and hold governments accountable, creating a more inclusive and transparent society.

In Ethiopia, traditional media platforms such as television, radio, and newspapers have long been the primary sources of information for the population.

So far, with the advent of technology, digital media and social media platforms have gained popularity in Ethiopia. The increasing affordability of smartphones and internet connectivity has led to a significant rise in digital media consumption.

Social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram serve as channels for information dissemination, citizen journalism and community engagement. provide opportunities individuals and organizations to share their stories, advocate for causes, and connect with like-minded people.

Moreover, while media accessibility has improved in urban areas, challenges persist in rural areas of Ethiopia. Limited infrastructure, including electricity and internet connectivity, hampers media reach and engagement in these areas. Efforts are being made to bridge this gap through initiatives such as community radio stations and mobile-based information services. To harness the full potential of media for socio-economic development, it is imperative to ensure equitable access and reach across different states of Ethiopia, leaving no one behind.

Recently, the Government Service (GCS) Communication announced that the media and communication sector made significant contributions Ethiopia's economic and diplomatic accomplishments over the past six

According to GSC, the government recognized the positive impact of the media towards shaping the future of the country and providing better reinforcement to the sector.

The Communication service held a meeting with media and communication entities in Adama City to review the performance of the sector over the first half of 2016, Ethiopian fiscal year.

The meeting reviewed reports of performance of selected ministries and deliberate on major activities which have been accomplished in the same period.

During the occasion, Government Minister, Communication Service Legesse Tulu said that the media and communication services have been organized at all levels to fulfill duties

Accordingly, lots of impressive results have been made, focusing on five economic pillars identified as priorities of the government, the Minister said.

He added that in upholding rule of law, ensuring good governance, durable pace, and diplomacy, encouraging activities have been carried out.

"The media and communication sector played a major role in the country's accomplishments across these areas," the Minister said.

However, challenges including fake news remain unsolved, calling for collaborative efforts to overcome in the second six months of the fiscal year.

The two-day conference draws media executives and communication officials from federal, regional and city administrations across the nation.

More importantly, access to information is vital for empowering communities and individuals. Media serves as a platform for disseminating essential information on topics such as health, agriculture,





entrepreneurship. education, and By providing relevant and timely information, media enables individuals to make informed decisions, leading to improved livelihoods and socioeconomic progress.

The media continues to play a pivotal role in promoting economic growth and ntrepreneurship in Ethiopia. Through various programs and platforms, media showcases success stories, innovative and investment business models, opportunities. This exposure not only inspires entrepreneurs but also attracts investments and collaboration, boosting the country's economy and creating job opportunities.

What is more, education and awareness are fundamental pillars of socio-economic development. Media acts as a medium for disseminating educational content, raising awareness on social issues, and promoting behavior change. Whether through informative documentaries, educational programs, or public service announcements, media has the power to enhance education, instill values, and create a more informed and conscientious society.

In sum, the Ethiopian government recognizes the role of media in socioeconomic development and has implemented policies and regulations to support its growth. The Media Law and Press Proclamation aim to ensure press freedom, protect journalists' rights, and nurture an enabling environment for media organizations to thrive. The government has also initiated collaborative efforts with media organizations to harness media's potential for development. Partnerships are being formed to train journalists, improve media ethics, and promote responsible journalism. These collaborations foster a healthy media environment and ensure the effective utilization of media for socio-economic progress. The power of the media in driving socio-economic development in Ethiopia cannot be underestimated.

Law & Politics

Ethiopia's indelible mark in Somalia's path to stability

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

At the recent Q and A between the members of parliament and Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (Ph.D.) there were several crucial questions the MPs posed to the premier. He gave answers and explanations on the issues underlining Ethiopia's stance clearly. There were questions that related to several regional problems that the representatives wanted to know about and what his government's stance was. There were issues that related to the ever present crucial questions that had at the core the economy of the country and its future trajectory. There were also issues of security and peace that have been a source of many controversies on the various private media as well as social networks. The MPs wanted the view of the premier and what the government was doing to address them.

The recent diplomatic request that Ethiopia made to the international community to help it earn a commercial arrangement which would guarantee it access to sea because a country of more than 120 million people could not be condemned to live landlocked when there are various options to get rid of this problem diplomatically and legally without harming any other nation has also been raised.

Curiously the recent agreement signed between Ethiopia and Somaliland has been a focus of attention not only with the countries that are directly implicated in the arrangement but also others who have little to do with the issue. The typical stance taken by the Arab League on the issue is one of these surprising reactions as the League has no right in mingling in the affairs of Ethiopia and Somaliland and even Somalia for that matter. Ethiopia has made it clear that the MoU signed between Ethiopia and Somaliland is an affair that concerns the two entities and as it is done to help Ethiopia have a say in the security and safety of the Red Sea area, there is nothing unnatural on the part of Ethiopia's diplomatic move.

The premier explained Ethiopia's position on the issue in an elaborate manner. To begin with he said Ethiopia's diplomatic moves are always based on the national interests of the country as is the diplomatic moves of any country in the world. No sovereign country would put itself at a disadvantage when it comes to diplomatic negotiations and policies and the same is true of Ethiopia. The premier insisted that access to sea for 'landlocked Ethiopia' is a key priority especially now that the Red Sea area is becoming a hot bed of uncertainties and potential dangers.

Ethiopia has a huge and vital interest in what is going on in the Red Sea area because all its international trade relations are carried out through the ports located on the sea. For the moment 95 % of Ethiopia's transactions are carried out through the port of Djibouti and anything that happens around that port and near it affects inevitably Ethiopia's security and existence. Ethiopia has the right to have a say in whatever may happen there because it is a matter of life or death for its

The recent diplomatic request that Ethiopia made to the international community to help it earn a commercial arrangement which would guarantee it access to sea because a country of more than 120 million people could not be condemned to live landlocked when there are various options to get rid of this problem diplomatically and legally without harming any other nation has also been raised

economy and for its survival as a sovereign nation. That is why the recent MoU between Ethiopia and Somaliland has been sealed in a diplomatic 'give and take' process.

The reaction that came from Somalia is unusual because Ethiopia has always been a friend of Somalia and Ethiopia's soldiers have sacrificed their precious lives to defend the integrity and sovereignty

of Somalia the premier recalled and any allegation that Ethiopia is aiming to hurt Somalia or undermine its sovereignty is absurd. The premier said that Ethiopia more than any other country in the world has been caring for Somalia's integrity and peace and contributed thousands of Ethiopia's troops in the efforts aimed at guaranteeing Somalia's peace and stability and the Somali government officials as well as the Somali people are aware of this. Ethiopia is indeed the closest country to Somalia in many ways and the fate of Somalia is intertwined with that of Ethiopia. Anything that is bound to harm Somalia is unacceptable for Ethiopia and so should it be for Somalia. The peoples of the two countries are brothers and sisters with similar stock of people living on both sides of the artificial border that separates the two. If there are countries that try to instigate enmity between the two countries they can only be enemies of both and do not want the two nations to prosper and grow together. Trying to incite a war or hostilities between the two brotherly countries however cannot succeed according to the

Ethiopia and Somalia will always resolve any issues or misunderstandings with negotiations and talks and not through shooting at one another to the delight of certain forces that want to make the most out of such conflict. Those days are gone because no African country can benefit by jumping to armed conflicts while peaceful diplomatic negotiations can resolve every issue. The experience of the past has shown that no resort to guns has resulted in durable peace other than creating further problems and an interminable cycle of violence and destruction.

Ethiopia has made its position clear to all. It has the right to have access to sea in a peaceful and diplomatic manner without using any threats or resorting to military might. It has international law behind it because no country should be condemned to remain landlocked when nearby there are thousands of miles of sea coasts that could be offered in exchange for mutual benefits. In the case of Somaliland Ethiopia will have access to the sea around Berbera where it could build the necessary infrastructure not only to use it commercially but also to protect the safety of the area with its marine corps because the geopolitical position of the sea has been attracting various forces not all necessarily with peaceful or positive intentions. Ethiopia's sovereignty is at risk and it cannot sit idle and accept similar situation developing when it can reach a diplomatic, reasonable and legal deal with any one of the entities around the coastal area and provide for the safeguarding and protection of its national interests. In doing so Ethiopia has made it clear that it won't encroach in any country's sovereignty nor territorial integrity and the result of such arrangement is a give and take process whereby all parties benefit economically.

The fact that Ethiopia can continue to grow and prosper by taking full advantage of the access to sea via the arrangement made with Somaliland will only be a catalyst for the economic growth of the entire region because the exchange of trade would multiply and each of the nations in the region would benefit. The very idea of the integration of Africa not only economically but also politically in the long run is by engaging in similar deals and not by discouraging them or dismissing them as dangerous specially when they are orchestrated by distant and foreign countries that do not feel comfortable to see a stronger Horn of Africa countries capable of defending their interest in the area and more integration for Africa as a whole. Such moves must on the contrary be encouraged because in the long run they do comply with the Vision of Africa 2063 and not condemn such moves as an encroachment of others' rights.

Ethiopia the premier said has paid every sacrifice possible for Somalia and it has even tried to mediate between Somaliland and Somalia so that their differences and disputes could be resolved amicably. Moreover, Ethiopia has trained thousands of law enforcement officials in Ethiopian Military Academies and just recently hundreds of Somalis graduated at Hurso Military Academy and joined their compatriots back home. Is this something that a country with ill intentions would do to another? the premier wondered. Prime Minister Abiy insisted that the diplomatic moves of Ethiopia are never intended to hurt the interests of other nations while even trying to pursue its legitimate national interests but using the diplomatic rules and international laws that regulate nations. Ethiopia has no record of invading other nations and at the same time would never let others invade her and least of all succeed in subduing it because it has never happened throughout its history. Rather its record of contribution to international peace and security can be testified by bodies such as the United Nations Organization. Hence the rhetoric that Ethiopia is being hostile to Somalia while sealing a deal with Somaliland is farfetched and is the stance of countries that are not necessarily friendly with neither Somalia nor Ethiopia.

Besides the premier told parliament that Ethiopia is always ready to negotiate peacefully with any force that opposes its foreign policy not only with regards the access to sea but also with the issue of the GERD that has created not simple disputes with Egypt primarily and to a certain extent Sudan. Furthermore, Ethiopia is also ready to negotiate with any forces even within Ethiopia that have been creating havoc and destruction in certain localities in desperate attempt to come to power through violence.

The premier underlined that this was impossible and the government cannot let this happen under its watch even being always ready at any given time to sit around a table and discuss the issues with any of these forces if they respect the laws and constitutional order of the country. The premier said the military establishment of the country is so strong that there is no way of subduing to these irregular forces that create only havoc here and there.



Ephrem Endale **Contributer**

Between you & me

New Employee; New World!

It was one of these special days in one life; a day when one chapter closes and another opens. This young man got his college degree more than three years back. But looking for a job had been one frustrating and unending again his life as it was difficult to find open doors. He scanned every vacancy notice published in newspapers and also pasted on walls in various parts of the city. College wasn't even half difficult as the search for employment was. Coming from a struggling family who have done everything they can to see him through college one can imagine how bad his feelings could be at not being able to support them. With a younger brother and two sisters still in school his family's tale wasn't a very happy one. Though dad and mom always tried to put up happy faces in the presence of their children it didn't always work. By the way it is heart wrenching to see so many college and other higher education institutions graduates out of work in these difficult times.

Finally nearly a month back that news his family, relatives and friends have been waiting for came; a mid-level private enterprise takes him in. As those who witnessed the whole spectacle told me the joy the news brought was so much so that there were much tears of happiness rather than boisterous laughter one would expect at such happenings.

"We are looking forward to your joining our offices." Isn't that nice! Isn't that very nice, indeed! With such nice words you'll probably be the happiest guy in town at least for a couple of weeks or months.

One thing missing was that those close enough who know about being new employee anywhere else failed to give him a few words of caution. You know, having gone through so much ups and downs the young man, by the sheer luck of being employed, might think everything would be sunny in the future. "I'm employed what more would I want?" Well, that would have been nice if being employed by itself was the final nail in the box of ordeals and problems anticipated or otherwise. It didn't take long for the young man to realize that the initial broad smiles and strong, empathic handshakes weren't meant to stay.

It's not because the staff of his new employers are naughty or didn't want him there. It isn't because they have any personal thing against him. Being subject to those occasional side glances and stares as a new employee is mostly part of the game. There would definitely be those "Who's this guy and where did he come from?" "Is he a relative of the boss?" "Was he sent from headquarters by the brass there?" "Maybe he's sent not to work but to spy on us!" Though some of those behind such thoughts are outright malicious people who don't want the good of anyone, most are just reacting based on past stories real or imagined.

Of course it has been some time in this country when we have been talking about job offerings. In many instances they advertise the vacancies just to make things appear legitimate as many believe. The posts, so the conventional wisdom goes, are already filled. In fact sometimes the requirements for prospective applicants are written in such interesting details you'd be pardoned to think the only part they missed is the name of the person! Ha! Of course, such a person would in some way be affiliated with someone on upstairs.

"Did you see the new lady in the finance department?"

"Yes, I did. What about her?"

"They say she's probably the mistress of the boss."

"You don't say!"

"Well that's the story that's making the rounds of the office."

Being a new employee isn't always an event where you'd go running to your nearest supermarket, buy a bottle of champagne and just sending the cork up into the sky. "Hip, hip' hooray!" It'd take some time for any new employee to see the real picture of his new work place. The young man I told you about despite having finally joined the work force after quite trying times now and then wears that frown that comes with being confused, so they say. Of course a few months later he would be part of the crowd. that's it.

Many offices in this country don't give the proper orientation to new employees. The new employee is just given the employment papers, assigned some table and chair and that's it! I tell you despite the so-called digital age rushing toward us top speed, in many ways we're still way back in doing things the way the times

demand.

While we are at it is the debate about the benefits of being a civil servant or a private enterprise employee still on? I mean times have changed. Yes, we had our beliefs about a civil servant or an employee of a private enterprise. In the old days it was a big plus being a civil servant! Yes that was how the narrative went. You're a civil servant? The three cheers for you. You have landed a lifetime job!

"Did you hear so and so has become a civil

"You mean he's employed in a government enterprise?"

"Yes, he is."

"What a lucky guy he is!"

At least once you're a civil servant you're almost sure to go all the way to old age and retirement, if you can make it that far. It's supposed to be secure, buddy! Seldom would someone come and kick you out just like it happens in many poorly structured private enterprises. Seldom would you find your office sealed when you report for work some morning. Such things had been common in alter days.

People craved to be civil servants because of not beefy salaries, not wonderful working environments and not additional benefits. Once you make it through your retirement is assured! It isn't interesting that the young who are employed as civil servants think of their old age retirement pay still decades away? yes, times have really changed. But times have changed.

For Better or Worse...

The story we hear about thing happenings in minibuses never fail to amaze us and, may time shock us! I tell you there's a whole world out there. As there are stories which bring much needed smiles there are also stories which scare the hell out of you. "Isn't there someone or some institution supposedly responsible to do something about the many abuses passengers face?" A very legitimate and timely question, wouldn't you say?

Recently a friend of mine was in this minibus riding to the center of town. Along the way a passenger whom he said was probably in his early thirties goes into argument with the fare collector. As the fare collector unlike many of them was a heavily built middle twentyish guy so my friend tells me. The passengers were asked to pay twenty birr while the actual official rate was fifteen birr. Almost everyone pays without any opposition. The sad story here is that many passengers hate to go into arguments with the unruly minibus guys because many times they would be arguments they wouldn't win. Even if they did it would be after being pummeled with all the four later words in the books despite the passengers being of any age.

This one person refuses to budge. He stood his ground and says he wouldn't pay a single cent more. Will things got ugly as the fare collector called him all kinds of the foulest names he could think of. The passenger kept completely quite. He just kept on fumbling with his smart phone. When they arrived at their destination the man as soon as he disembarks grabs the collar of his tormentor. The chauffer pushes open his door comes around and tells the passenger to take his hands off.

Now the ugliest scene was other nimbus operators waiting for their turns to take passengers come rushing to the help of their colleagues without having the vaguest idea of what actually happened. My friend said with the passengers refusing to budge it seemed he was in for some real beating. Then out of nowhere a group of heavily built muscular guys come rushing, push their way to the center and all of a sudden things take a complete turn. Many of the minibus operators who rushed like agitated lions a little earlier slowly melted back. Something was happening! And the fare collector? Well, my friend said he was a very sorry sight as his every cell quivered at seeing the group. Finally it was the abused passenger who held back his friends. They warn the fare collector never again to be seen on any minibus in the city. The chauffeur who acted like an agitated Tyson got a few shoves and pushes and he also got his warning. And the very person was that was so much abused in the minibus finally had the heart to defuse tensions and save his abusers from real bad harm.

The story here is that the group was famous in the area for being a no-nonsense group and all who knew them were scared of them. I tell you this city has so many stories happening every day. Film makers could plan interesting documentaries!

By the way I can tell you riding in minibuses in this city could be one hell an experience. It's on place where you see humanity in its many shades. By the way I'm almost always amazed by passengers who talk on the smart phones as they were the only ones in the wilderness! It is as if actual loudspeakers were attached to their vocal chords.

The interesting thing is that such people many times talk about some multimillion birr merchandises. And you miss a beat or two when you hear things like, "I'll transfer eight million birr to your account this afternoon." Eight million! Did that not very impressively dressed guy say eight million! What the hell is you

doing on our turf. Yes, minibuses are our turf! Sorry, just not to be left out in the cold, we've a question; is it so easy to say you'll transfer eight million birr like it was something where you just pull out from your wallet?

One thing about such minibus talks is that most of them are fake and have some malicious goals. Is it easy to do that? Yes, it is. After all you are one of a handful of strangers and no one knows your real identity. You're just another talkative guy in minibus. That does it. The minibus is a collection of strangers and strangers would find it hard to drag your name and reputation in the dust. The village rumor mill wouldn't have your name as raw material since in minibuses you're somebody and nobody without a name! Of course once in a while recognition might come in the most unexpected of places, like in the streets.

"Do you see that guy over there?"

'Which one?"

Which one is he?"

"The one with that hand-me-down jacket." (Ha!)

"Yes, I see him. What about him?"

"He is the guy I told you about the other day."
"You tell me about so many guys I don't know.

"You know, the guy in a minibus who was talking about the eight million birr!"

"What!"

"Yes, that was the guy!"

"But I know this guy! We work in the same office."

"Are you saying he isn't a businessman?"

"Business my #%@! He doesn't know what the number million means let alone having a million birr! The guy is a smalltime clerk in the office!" In this case the place where you work would have some talking point' for a few weeks until yours is upgraded by an even more bizarre piece

Also may times you hear stories so melodramatic they could put Hollywood writers to shame. You can't help blinking multiple times. Sometimes the passion the person talking is so much so they might be.

Your best info about the rising cost of living and the horribly inflated prices on almost everything is in minibuses. People might be going to the market or returning from one.

And there is the request for 'cooperation.' "Can you please move a little? There is one passenger." On seats designed for two three people crowd together. In the beginning such things weren't as bad. The fare collector would kindly ask you if they could add a third person by your side. Believe me many times than not you agree as it would beef up your claim for a place in Heaven! What's a few minutes of discomfort to help someone who might be late for work or some important errand! Of course by helping the extra passenger you're helping put extra money in the owners' pocket. Good for you. You'll get your dividends in the other life!

These days things are a whole lot different. When some person refuses to comply with requests (more of 'orders; these days!) things could take real nasty turns. That person would surely be called names. Names which could even make the four letter obscenities sound harmless. The remaining passengers aren't all silent observers. In fact, some try to play the Good Samaritan roles saying "What's the problem if you cooperate!"

Someone should do a deep study of the human behavior in minibuses and I can tell you we would be offered some of the most interesting narratives of the times we live in. After all, for better or worse we'd be stuck with minibuses for the foreseeable future!

International News

African Great Lakes Annual Meeting Shows Why Intercontinental Collaboration Is Essential

African Center for Aquatic Research and Education

Africa's Great Lakes span ten countries, provide over 25 percent of the earth's fresh water and are critical to the livelihoods of over 62 million people, according to the African Center for Aquatic Research and Education.

Kisumu — As the snow and frost and ice and seemingly inhumane levels of cold continue to plague North America in the midst of their 'arctic' winter, here in Kenya we decided to cut some of our American and Canadian cousins some slack.

We invited many of them to head to Kisumu, on the shores of beautiful Lake Victoria, to take part in an important meeting of minds.

Over 200 scientists converged from 3-6 February for the Annual Meeting of the African Great Lakes Stakeholder Network. This unprecedented collaboration brings together freshwater experts, managers and policy makers.

Despite the thousands of kilometers, differences in climate and landscapes, the air miles and the jetlag, the North American and African freshwater researchers had far more in common than you might think. They shared expertise, data, and innovative approaches to tackle common challenges through a unique lens. By comparing and contrasting the two ecosystems, we hope to unlock solutions with far-reaching impact.

Shared searches for similar challenges can unlock solutions that benefit the world.

Despite some clear differences, freshwater lakes around the world can be surprisingly similar — in overall structure, whom they support, the issues that plague them, and possible solutions.

First there are some obvious differences.

The seven African Great Lakes are housed within ten countries in east and central Africa, whereas the five North American (or Laurentian) Great Lakes are



housed between Canada and the United States. Both sets of lakes, however, support the lives and livelihoods of tens of millions of denizens who live in the immediate surrounding areas, but also tens of millions more who live further afield.

Growing pressures on precious freshwater resources must be addressed together.

This support can encompass immediate needs, such as drinking water and fish for sustenance, but also can support for livelihoods and recreational activities. Africa's population is expected to double by 2050, putting increasingly intense pressure on the continent's freshwater resources from growing industries, farms, and power needs.

Both sets of lakes are vital to the continents in which they live. Similarities continue when you consider what ails them. Concerns about the sustainability of fisheries; algal blooms; invasive species; microplastics.

The role and voices of local and Indigenous communities is another important concern.

All of these questions and more affect water bodies on both continents, and across the world for that matter.

That's why I was excited to see the continents' greatest limnological minds—the scientists who study biological, chemical, and physical features of lakes and other bodies of fresh water—gather in person to hash out shared solutions for shared problems. Their ideas aren't confined to academic journals. They will translate into tangible action, empowering communities to protect their precious water resources.

But I would love to see more.

Funding for bridge-building is money well spent.

This collaboration isn't just about scientific breakthroughs; it's about building bridges. We need more opportunities for North American and African scientists who work not only on freshwater issues but a whole host of environmental issues to meet in person and explore complementarities.

Why not more funding for African scientists

to address the challenges in a harmonized manner through exchange visits and regular meetings with an action-oriented agenda, fostering trust and effective information exchange?

Why not more support for emerging female scientists whose careers and the impact they make could be greatly enhanced with more opportunities to learn from their peers?

Why not strengthened links between African freshwater experts and their North American counterparts providing opportunities for collaboration on projects, plans and ideas for on-the-ground work?

Having worked in both continents myself, one thing has always struck me quite plainly: we are more similar than we are different. So, let's not unnecessarily duplicate effort when we can build more bridges, and share what is already at our fingertips — solutions to shared environmental problems.

Source: Allafrica.com

Museveni, Kenyatta Discuss Regional Mission for DR Congo

Ugandan President YoweriMuseveni on Wednesday, February 7, received former Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta for a discussion about regional peace efforts for DR Congo.

Kenyatta is the facilitator of the East African Community's peace process for eastern DR Congo, a region that is home to more than 130 armed groups.

Museveni said on the X platform that with Kenyatta they discussed the recent developments in the eastern DR Congo.

Museveni and Kenyatta's meeting comes less than a month after a US-brokered ceasefire by the government-led coalition and the M23 failed to hold and fighting flared up again in North Kivu, one of the provinces of the eastern region that has been volatile for nearly three decades.

The EAC-led peace initiative known as Nairobi process has been in a stalemate for months as the conflict continues.

The Congolese army is accused of integrating militias whose members the government was supposed to disarm and demobilise as part of the Nairobi process.

The fourth round of dialogue between the Congolese government and a host of armed groups was initially slated for February 2023, but a year has elapsed without a clear

way forward.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, reports between the government coalition and M23 said fighting was approaching Goma city, the province's capital, though the rebel group said it "has no intention" to take control of the city.

Museveni and Kenyatta met less than two months after an EAC regional force withdrew all its troops from eastern DR Congo after the Congolese government refused to renew its one-year-old mandate in the troubled east.

Observers said the regional force's withdrawal over misunderstandings with

Kinshasa was "premature" and that it undermined the regional efforts to seek peace.

The EAC says it is still committed to the efforts to restore peace and security in eastern DR Congo.

On January 26, as the regional force commander officially concluded the mission by handing back the EAC flag back to the Secretariat, Secretary General Peter Mathuki said his office would "seek to strengthen its ability to respond to peace and security challenges" the eight-member

Source: New Times.

In Pictures

AdWa Victory Memorial Museum's inaguration

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

The newly built Adwa Memorial building in Addis Ababa, the Adwa 00 km Project has fully seen its construction and is readied for inauguration today. The structure of Adwa Center is designed in a way to commemorate the victory of Adwa and Ethiopian Patriots.

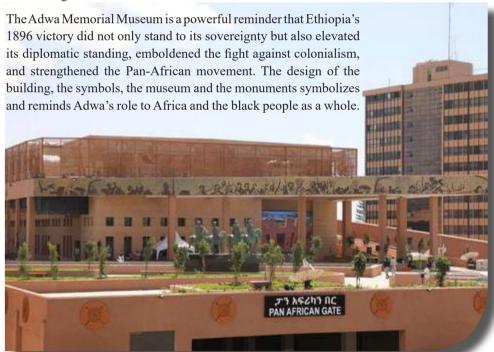
Adwa center consists of a museum, meeting halls with a total capacity of accommodating over 2000 people. It also houses three smaller auditoriums with a capacity of 400 people, a 1000 car capacity parking space, a cinema theater, a library, a gym, cafeterias and a childcare center among other.

Adwa Memorial center is located in the Piasa area of the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa where the Ethiopian heroes and heroines started their march to Adwa for a showdown. Adwa Memorial Museum saw the days light 128 years after the Victory of Adwa. Memorial monument of Emperor Menelik-II and Empress Taytu, the emperor and empress of the era, is depicted in the picture.

Adwa center symbolizes Ethiopia's victory over colonialism, Pan-Africanism



Victory of Adwa is the base for Pan-Africanism and other black right movements. Ethiopia's victory over the colonial Italy at Adwa in 1996 inspired other African freedom fights.



Leaders of Ethiopia, Union of Comoros discusses

This week, the President of the Union of Comoros, Azali Assoumani arrived in Addis Ababa for an official visit to Ethiopia. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) warmly welcomed the President at his office.

In a series of productive discussions, the two leaders delved into a wide range of topics covering bilateral, regional, and multilateral issues. "Our conversations underscored a mutual commitment to strengthening the bonds between our nations, exploring avenues for cooperation, and addressing continent-wide and regional challenges together," PM Abiy said following the discussion.



"Tsehay" aircraft placed in Adwa center

week ago, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) announced that the Government

agreed to bring "Tsehay" aircraft, the first aircraft built in Ethiopia in 1935, to Ethiopia from Italy.

"Tsehay" aircraft arrived on late Friday, this week, in Addis Ababa from Rome. Yesterday, Addis Ababa



City Mayor, Adanech Abiebie announced that "Tsehay" aircraft has set to reside in the Adwa Memorial center. "Tsehay" aircraft is placed at the memorial center for visitors.



PM Abiy evaluates Tigray Interim Administration's performance

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has embarked on an in-depth review of the initiatives and progress in the Tigray Region since the inception of the Interim Regional Administration. This significant evaluation of Federal and Regional actors focuses on the critical areas of post-conflict reconstruction and the implementation of the peace agreement.