



AGI CONSTRUCTING THE FUTURE AFRICA
Abyssinia Group of Industries

Manufacturer of Rebars, Angles, Channels, Flat Bars & Round Bars. Introducing cut & bend service for rebars.

Contact & Address
Tel: +251 116 63 97 55/ 251 116 63 51 22/25
Mob.: +251 962 009 072/ +251 949 440 868
+251 911 45 9790
E-mail: sales@agiethiopia.com
4th Floor, Dabi Building, Bole road Addis Ababa Ethiopia

Ethiopia's migration governance gaining momentum

• 5th Technical, RMFM forum kicks-off



Photo: Gebabo Gebre

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopia has been making strides to facilitate dignified labor mobility and migration governance, the Ministry of Labor and Skills (MoLS), said calling for member's consolidated efforts.

The 5th Regional Ministerial Forum on Migration (RMFM) forum, which is being held under the theme: "Harnessing the Power of Regular Migration Pathways for Youth Employment, Skills Development, and Green Economy," commenced yesterday.

In his opening remark, MoLS State Minister Daniel Teressa said that Ethiopia has been drafting and revising policies, digitalizing overseas employment, revamping TVET sector venturing new initiatives to promote dignified and regular labor mobility and migration governance.

He also remarked that the country has been discharging its responsibilities and laying ground works for the last two years. Indeed, revitalizing and consolidating the national and regional technical committees, the region has registered a significant momentum.

"As a member state and an outgoing chair, Ethiopia stands firm to continue

See Ethiopia's migration .. page 3



Centre to establish huge museum, university

• Elects Demeke Mekonnen as Council President

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - The Global Black History, Heritage and Education Center (GBHHEC) has set to establish huge museum and university to advance black peoples' history, heritage and education.

The GBHHEC elected former Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister Demeke Mekonnen

See Centre to establish .. page 3

Arab League escorts Egypt over Horn politics

BY YESUF ENDRIS

The Arab League has been frequently releasing its statements of concern over the Horn of Africa issues ranging from the Abbay Dam negotiation to the Ethio-Somaliland port deal and it always casts Ethiopia as a guilty party. On the other hand, Ethiopia blames the League for biased remarks and its destructive role in regional politics.

devise a meticulous approach that would make their country heard and understood by the international community, the historian remarked.

Following Ethiopia's signing of a lease-based port use Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Somaliland, the Arab League headmaster and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi affirmed his country's firm support to Somalia in the face-off against Ethiopia. El-Sisi, however, said nothing about Somalia's struggle against the internationally designated terrorist group- Al According to experts on the issue, the Ethio-Somaliland MoU is not an issue of great concern for the League and the latter's remarks on the



Prof Yacob Arsano

subject are masterminded by Egypt. By doing this, the bloc is escorting Egypt, not Somalia in the port deal.

Addis Ababa University Political Science and International Relations Professor Yacob Arsano told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the League has not registered a single success in protecting member states' stability in its over 78 years of existence.



Prof Adem Kamil

Having 22 member states including Sudan, Somalia, and Djibouti, the League has been dominated by Egypt and the others have no place beyond participating in the annual meeting. "As a manifestation of the League's inability, it could nothing important when Iraq and Libya entered into state collapse."

See Arab League escorts .. page 3



Preserving documents vital to make history: Minister

News



Tigray Electric service to fully restore in June

• *EEU invests 1.7 bln Birr*

MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – The Tigray State Electric Utility said the restoration of war-damaged power lines and other electric infrastructure is set to be completed in the coming June.

The Utility's CEO Mesfin Geberemedhin told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the Ethiopian Electric Utility (EEU) has allocated 1.7 billion Birr to repair Tigray's electric infrastructure that was severely damaged by the past war in the state. The war has damaged the electric infrastructure built across Tigray but efforts have been made to overcome the problems and ensure the service provision.

While the replacement of wooden electric poles with concrete ones is well underway, the utility has formed a close partnership with the EEU to complete the rehabilitation of the damaged power lines and to restore the disconnected system.

The CEO also stated that the utility has managed to erect 11, 000 concrete poles out of the 16,000 in plan and to install a significant length of power lines and make the infrastructure ready to transfer electricity.

Along with this, the utility has been building electrical infrastructure in 33 districts of Tigray and has carried out consolidated activities to fill the state's electric service provision gaps.

According Mesfin, a total of 38 electrical sites have been damaged due to the war including big projects in Axum, Shire, Adigrat, Edaga Hamus, Wukero Tsergeda, Mayechew, Adi Shuhu, and others.

Moreover, the limited availability of concrete poles remains a serious problem that is hindering to expediting of the restoration activities. "To address such challenges, we have formed a strong collaboration with the EEU," he remarked.

Due to the prevalence of relative peace in Tigray, consolidated efforts have been made to restore essential infrastructure including electric lines that were damaged by war.

Nation partakes in WTO Ministerial Conference

• *Accession process reaches final stage*

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopian delegation has participated in the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference that is slated to be held in Abu Dhabi from 26-29 February.

Earlier, a high-level delegation led by Gebremeskel Chala, Minister of Trade and Regional Integration of Ethiopia participated in the 12th China Round Table meeting on WTO accessions that held on February 25, 2024 in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

According to local media, the Ethiopian delegation comprised Trade and Regional Integration Minister and Chief Negotiator for Ethiopia's accession to WTO Gebremeskel Chala, Foreign Affairs State Minister Ambassador Mesganu Arga and Finance State Minister Eyob Tekalign (PhD).

Two "ministerial conversations" took place on "Trade and Sustainable Development, including trade and Industrial Policy and Policy Space for Industrial Development" and on "Trade and Inclusion."



The 12th China Round Table meeting was held under the theme, "Arab perspectives on WTO Accessions and the Multilateral Trading System."

Speaking at the meeting, Gebremeskel Chala, emphasized the shared concerns and challenges between the Arab region and Ethiopia, particularly in the context of the WTO accession processes.

With regard to Ethiopia's accession process he said that Ethiopia is at the final stages of preparation for the fifth Working Party Meeting, and reaffirming Ethiopia's unwavering commitment and diligent

efforts to conclude the accession process.

The Minister also underscored the importance of drawing lessons from countries that have successfully completed the accession process and advocated for a comprehensive understanding of domestic environments and institutional coordination.

He acknowledged the intricate nature of the WTO accession process, stressing the need to tackle both internal and external challenges, especially in balancing market access demands with developmental imperatives.

University-industry linkage tool to industrial competitiveness: Ministry

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA - The strong linkage of research institutions, universities, and industries is a tool to address the manufacturing industry's major constraints and to ensure international competitiveness, the Industry State Minister said.

The second national university-industry forum was held over the weekend under the theme: Triple Helix: A Vehicle for National Innovation and Technology Development at the Kaizen Excellence Center.

In his keynote speech, Industry State Minister Hassan Mohammed stated that universities and other research institutions have a major role in enhancing the manufacturing industry's research and development capacity. To this end, those institutions are expected to expedite their involvement in adopting, improving, transferring, and creating new technologies and forge strong partnerships with one another.

Under the Let Ethiopia Produce movement, the Ministry has identified the expansion of incubation centers, the conduct of viable studies, the development of new technologies, and the nurturing of innovative students are priority areas.

The state minister further highlighted that the forum is instrumental in emphasizing the role of institutional linkage to meet the major goals stipulated under the industry policy, capacity development strategy, and



the Let Ethiopia Produce movement.

The forum also has a significant impact on addressing the major challenges in the industrial sector, to create a strong system that would allow institutional linkage and provide recommendations, Hassan remarked.

Presenting a paper titled Evaluate the impact of University-Industry-Government (Triple Helix) linkage to enhance the textile, Apparel, and Leather industries against international practices at the forum, researcher Prof. Daniel Kitaw emphasized the need to apply community-centric Triple Helix.

According to him, the active involvement of community members, their needs, and values in the decision-making processes would benefit the industry sector. Apart from community empowerment, taking social and economic impact, relevance, inclusivity, and collaborative partnership

are also crucial steps to address the sector bottlenecks.

Another researcher, Associate Professor Tamrat Tesfaye who also presented a paper titled The Role of Textile, Apparel and Leather Sector to the Sustainable Economic Development of the Nation indicated that Ethiopia's immense market potential, privileged geographical location, and abundant workforce make it a preferred destination for textile companies.

However, the limited penetration of textile and leather education and limited availability of skilled labor force, technology and intermediate inputs coupled with low competitiveness in domestic and international markets have remained the fashion industry's main constraints.

Collaborative work among industries, research institutions, universities, and government should be a priority to address such challenges, the researcher emphasized.

News

Preserving documents vital to make history:

Minister

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA – Minister of Culture and Sport stressed on the preservation of long-standing archives so as to repeat country's successful history and make new ones.

Minister Kejela Merdasa has made the call during the inauguration of a 17-storey building of Ethiopian National Archives and Library Agency (ENALA) as part of the Agency's 80th anniversary.

At the event, Kejela said that Ethiopia has tangible and intangible cultural aspects including written and unwritten books, religious histories that prove the country is land of origins.

And these histories, indigenous knowledge, civilization and arts should continue passing down through generations, he noted.

ENALA's modern building which equipped with the state-of-the-art technology benefits the society as it helps to access and utilize various manuscripts for development and preserve and transfer them to the next generation, according to the Minister.

ENALA Director General, Yikunoamlak Mezigebe on his part said that the new building comprises halls, cultural hub and public lecture.

Therefore, the building helps individuals to access manuscripts, visual and audiovisual materials information at home or wherever in the world, he said, adding it will maintain video and manuscripts of gigantic Ethiopian historical documents in a digital way.

This new building have manuscript safety electromechanical elements, software integrated library and archive record management system, he mentioned.

The building costs 700 million Birr that covered by the government, according to Yikunoamlak.

CBE Noor backing financial institutions: CBE

• *Amasses over 107 bln. Birr*

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA – CBE Noor banking service has become a game changer in creating inclusive financial institutions and competitive banking industry, the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) said.

CBE Noor 10th year anniversary that has been held under the theme: "Successful journey for brighter future" for the last three months with various awareness creation activities concluded yesterday.

At the closing ceremony, CBE President Abie Sano said that the government has given a wider space for interest free banking system that are contributing a lot to the financial institutions and the developments of the country.

The president has also remarked that the free interest banking service would be valuable to improve an inclusive banking service not only to the Muslim community but also for other financial institution's holistic development and competitive banking industry.

As to Abie, the number of CBE Noor customers has reached 6.8 million and the capital has exceeded 107 billion Birr.

It was also indicated that there are plans to provide loan access to corporates including small and medium enterprises, startups to enhance the private sectors via the system.

During its anniversary celebration, various awareness creation and consultative forums, side events, blood donation among many others were undertaken.

Mentioning the ever expansion of branches especially in the last 5 years, Abie noted that CBE Noor service has been providing the community with reliable service within its 1,939 branches across the country, he added.

The Ethiopian National Bank vice Governor, Solomon Desta for his part stated that interest free banking service is a foundation for facilitating financial inclusion and accessibility, economic development and ensuring equitable beneficiary.

"The service in compliance with the principles of sharia would have of a paramount

importance for the country's economic development, thereby registering a remarkable achievement," the vice governor pinpointed.

In addition to supporting SMS, farmers and pastoralists, he said, adding that the service would be an opportunity to create stable financial flow, job creation, investment, and attract FDI that backs the economy.

He called on the banking sector to give much emphasis and build their capacity in terms of accessibility, capability and technological advancement that help promote the nation's economic integration with the global market.

Given the country's proximity to the Middle East, the service is believed to promote foreign direct investment, he added.

It was learnt the CBE Noor won the award of the most promising Islamic retail banking window in Ethiopia 2023.

At the event, public enterprises such as ENB, MoF, and scholars and other entities that contribute to the development of the interest free banking system are awarded a recognition certificate.

Ethiopia's migration...

its active engagement towards ensuring dignified and humane migration governance in our region and beyond," he reaffirmed.

As to Daniel, the meeting would be a catalyst for enhancing and refining labor migration governance to identify the existing challenges, explore promising opportunities and put insightful decisions that help maximize the positive contributions of migration in the region.

Moreover, he emphasized that it is important to reconnect the issue of labor migration with skills, employment, youth, returnees, gender, job creation and other areas to develop insights to propel the common future.

Senior Regional Policy Liaison Officer IOM/UN Migration Regional Office for East and Horn of Africa Abdi Mohammed (PhD) on his part said that : "It is a collective responsibility to work together to develop comprehensive and inclusive migration policies that prioritize human rights, social cohesion, and economic development."

Highlighting the significance of labor migration in shaping the regional dynamics, Mohammed stressed that emphasized on creating an enabling environment that facilitates safe, orderly, and regular migration while protecting the rights and dignity of all migrant workers.

He called on consolidated cooperation among member states essential to address the complexities of migration and labor migration effectively and create a more inclusive and equitable regional future.

IOM Ethiopia Chief of Mission Abibatou Wane said that as Ethiopia is a country with many young population and center of complex mobility in the region, regular pathways for mobility and skills development have crucial importance on managing the issue.

Commending the efforts made by the government in enhancing migration governance and developing a comprehensive regulatory framework so far, she reaffirmed commitment to continued working cooperatively for further enhancing migration governance.

Centre to establish...

as its first the president of the Global Black Center's (GBC) Council on Saturday.

Holding a conference in connection with the launching of the center in the presence of Julius Garvey (PhD), son of Marcus Garvey, and Professor Earl Taylor and others, GBC elected Julius Garvey as center Petron and Tsegaye Chama as Secretary General.

GBHHEC Council President Demeke Mekonnen on his part at the occasion said that centre's work could be largely promoted by its committed members.

"We must, therefore, put in place a sustainable funding structure focusing on expanding networks around the world. The success of the center will depend on our outreach to black advocacy groups in Africa and around the world," he added.

As to him, the centre shall emerge as a desirable platform to advance black history, culture, heritage and development. "It is appropriate that we are honoring our commitment to put in place a structure fit for such lofty goals of global importance. I would like to highlight the preservation and restoration of African heritage has been given the attention it deserves. Conflicts, lack of due care, and absence of adequate digital technologies are robbing Africans of their heritage. This collaborative approach must be reflected in our strategic plan, preservation and protection of African heritage deserves," he opined.

GBHHEC Secretary General Tsegaye Chama on his part said that Ethiopia has played a leading role in establishing the centre. It has also been leaving blue print for global black center.

Being initiated in November 2021 and established in December 2023, GBHHEC is intended to uphold the history, heritage and education of the black people. It also aimed at uniting the black and focusing on their identity, it was learnt.

Arab League escorts Egypt...

Prof. Yacob added, "The Arab League is an organization that turned a blind eye and deaf ear to the crisis in its member states and it would make nothing impactful other than recapping the crisis. Surprisingly, the League holds meetings and releases statements on every issue that Egypt considers would harm its greedy interests."

Using the League as a tool, Egypt is trying to compensate for its failure in the Abbay

Dam negotiation and to revenge Ethiopia which succeeded in establishing the Nile Basie Initiative, the scholar emphasized.

Sharing the above rationale, historian Adem Kemil said that Egypt has been presiding the League since the first date of its establishment. "At the face value, the League seems a multilateral organization; however, the majority of its member states could not utilize it to protect their national

interests."

"Members are escorting Egypt knowingly or unknowingly and their contribution to the League is below zero too. In Somalia's peacekeeping mission, we see no Egyptian soldier. Ethiopians and other nonmember states of the Arab League are rescuing the country from disintegration."

Adem, who has conducted profound research on Ethio-Arab relations, further noted that

Egypt assigned some 42 journalists to create misleading and deceptive content. "I believe they have the right to scream whatever they want to talk and they are now claiming that Ethiopia should not be benefited from the Red Sea. In case, we also need to do the task that could reverse their conspiracy."

Ethiopian diplomats should worry about not by Arab League's unfounded accusations; they need to

Opinion

Africa:

Translate Promises into practice for real change

BY MENGESHA AMARE

It is well recognized that Ethiopia, great African icon, Addis Ababa, which is in turn continent's diplomatic and politico-diplomatic center, saw off its guests' last well whom it warmly received few days before. Leaders discussed a number of issues peculiarly revolve around peace and security and economic sovereignty as well as the viable ways how the continent can come out of the vicious circle of conflicts, underdevelopment and poverty from which is globally labeled despite its abundant natural resources, productive human labor and cultivatable land mass.

True, Africa, mother continent, which houses close to 3 billion of the global population, has long been regarded as and even these days is known for its being place of contrast: endowed with untapped wealth and copious natural resources and intermittently or continually suffering from hunger poverty, underdevelopment, conflict, corruption and poor working culture though the degree varies.

It is unquestionable that Africa is on a major ascendance path, and, the continent has experienced unprecedented growth despite the global economic downturn of recent years. While erratic at times, there has been progress in the reduction of poverty, and the improved quality of life has brought economic opportunities for many Africans and the ever-progressing ones like Ethiopia.

As trade has significant potential to help achieve sustainable development and has increasingly played an important role in the strong economic performance of African economies during the past decade, Leaders were underscoring during their summit. Still, Africa needs to look at its continuous economic growth in light of the three pillars of sustainable development – economic, environmental and social – and assess whether its development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Intra-regional formal trade in Africa has historically hovered and still trade within regional economic communities is growing faster than African exports to the rest of Africa, and to the rest of the world. The very point here is the continent has to well capitalize on its trade potential, economic affluence and human labor latent.

Regional value chains, if properly exploited, can help Africa gain the critical capacity needed to compete as the continent moves up the global value chain, promoting cross-border opportunities that allow countries to contribute with different inputs to the production of intermediate and finalized products. This could lead to a multitude of positive outcomes, such as employment creation, productivity gains, income generation and the creation of job opportunities that could lift millions of people out of poverty.

It is also well comprehended that developing the capacity and improving the quality of its human resources is another way for Africa to enhance its competitiveness. African leaders and governments have to play a better role through proper regulation of production, and put in place the right mix of trade and industrial policies needed to support local manufacturing industries that provide employment and create jobs across the nation.

Moreover, African leaders must implement policies that ensure access to capital, technology and labor, corruption continent and stable one. Measures must be put in place that create equity in global trade negotiations, ensuring fair trade and import tariff regimes for the continent's growing industries. The provision of regular, affordable and reliable energy to industries must also be assured. And there must be adherence to minimum standards of sustainability in the exploration of mineral and natural resources if the African continent is to be ready to make a difference in all aspects.

Many opportunities also exist for the growth of the green economy through several ongoing initiatives at national, regional and continental levels focused on mitigating the adverse impacts of climate change, poverty, underdevelopment and maladministration. In addition, efforts are on the way to develop sub-regional strategies for low-carbon economic growth. These efforts, when finalized, could help the continent make giant leaps towards sustainable energy solutions.

As what was discussed in the 37th African Leaders' summit, Africa has been a mere price taker in global trade relations, having little to no influence on markets. It now has an opportunity to transform itself into the next step.

The summit really discussed the fundamentals of policy making; infrastructure, capital financing and ensuring linkages between trade and other parts of the economy must be worked upon to make this a sustainable reality.

True, with 54 countries at different stages of growth, different economic structures, and diverse resource endowments, the pass-through effects of global shocks always differ by region and by country.

In recent years, an "Africa rising" narrative has foretold a continent of growing economic and strategic importance—a continent coming into its own. There is truth to the storyline that Africa is becoming increasingly important in the global economic order, and that it will further grow in strength and influence over time. This is partly because Africa has for too long been marginalized and insufficiently integrated into the global economy, and partly because of the region's great potential.

It is hardly revolutionary to note that leadership and political will lay at the crux of governance and economic development; nevertheless, realizing Africa's immense potential will require the region's leaders

to pursue significant policy reforms—some of which will not be easy. Specifically, Africa's leaders need to confront three fundamental needs: making economic growth more inclusive and sustainable, engaging and providing opportunities for a young population; and strengthening democratic institutions that potentially emancipate it from being dependent.

Africa has enormous economic potential and has been experiencing incredible economic growth, indeed! Such concerted efforts to improve the investment climate—particularly in providing policy consistency and reforming tax regimes and regulatory environments—and strengthen economic governance send the right signals to foreign investors.

No doubt, the youth boom in Africa will have dramatic effects on the global workforce as well as continental one. In many cases, however, before delving into policy specifics on education, entrepreneurship, and job creation, there is a first order political question that needs to be answered by African heads of state. Simply, the question is in what way the youth generation can engage in various sectors.

Not only can African leaders face poor economic performance but they also encounter destabilizing consequences if they could hardly address massive demographic shifts risk systematically. In addition to the obvious political instability that can result from a large, dis-empowered, and young population, disaffected youth can also be more vulnerable to radicalization and extremism.

In simple terms, the continent has to focus on its youth resources thereby bringing about remarkable change in social, economic and even political trajectories with respect to the role of civil society, multiparty politics, and the nascent role of decision makers toward real change. Politically speaking, all African countries need to join hands and merge resources to be much more powerful. Besides, they are expected to demonstrate commitment to open governance including with respect to fiscal transparency and citizen engagement so as to governance by improving transparency and management of revenues in the extractive industries.

Unequivocally, corruption remains a persistent governance challenge as well as a frequent reason cited by potential investors who take a skittish approach to the East African region in particular and to the entire continent in general. Hence, leaders should device lasting remedy for it. Yes, it is vital to understand that corruption is in no way limited to or unique to Africa, and it is regrettable and misguided that some investors are less inclined to confront and navigate governance challenges in Africa. Here Africa must be the continent of its vision translating promises and pledges its leaders make in various summits.

The path to deep and sustained regional economic growth is clear, even if challenging

to follow. Indeed, pursuing many reforms to strengthen economic and political governance will be difficult—though doing what is right, and not simply what is easy, is certainly the essence of leadership—and in some cases it means taking on entrenched interests. The policies and regulations crafted by African leaders have to be the right path for every reason—advancing human dignity, providing opportunities to future generations, and enhancing prosperity—in addition to being necessary to attract investment. The question is whether individual leaders have the political will and resolve needed to rise to the challenge—and fully realize Africa's massive potential. Wake up Africa! It is time for you to make real difference.

Enhancing resilience by boosting intra-Africa trade, manufacturing products to cushion economies from volatile commodity prices, accelerating structural reforms to build tax administration capacity and investments in digitization and e-governance to enhance transparency would indeed help reduce illicit financial flows, and scale up domestic resource mobilization. Improving institutional governance and enacting policies can also enable Africa to leverage the private sector financing especially in climate-proof and pandemic-proof Greenfield projects—and mobilizing continent's resources for inclusive and sustainable development.

Yes, Africa has a significant role to play in driving inclusive growth and sustainable development globally. There are many smart investment opportunities in key sectors: agriculture, energy markets, minerals, health infrastructure and pharmaceutical industries, light manufacturing, transport and logistics, digital economy and more.

Leaders have to work to help their continent preclude and/or end conflict. True, it is about equipping individual citizens, groups, associations, parties, communities on the ground, especially those in conflict parts, with the operational tools and feasible peaceful weapons they need to mediate with groups in conflict or negotiate a peace settlement. Unquestionably, as preventing conflict is a cost-effective national security strategy at any time in any country, Africa has to make it a culture. If nations of the continent are capable of resolving more conflicts without resorting to violence, they can be in a position to conserve capabilities for those times when they really need it and save social, economic and even political volume. Africa! Say no to armed conflict as it costs money—big money, claims precious human life and deep sucks resources.

Last word, Africa, its leaders, should translate promises and oaths made in various summits into practice for real change!

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

Editorial

Commission's efforts ought to be supported to make National Dialogue fruitful

Taking the presence of myriads of national issues on which citizens have to reach consensus, Ethiopia has set up a National Dialogue Commission duty bound to foster activities targeting at coming up with meaningful accord at national level. A number of activities have been carried out and a range of segments of the society across the nation have been met to discuss a multitude of national issues to come up with a stable and peaceful nation. In so doing, the National Dialogue commission of the country has been the forerunner since its establishment.

Notably, the National Dialogue Commission alongside Ethiopian partners comprising the national, regional and even international bodies has been working hard to make all citizens, basically selected representatives, the Diaspora community, too, well aware of the significance of the National Dialogue.

The commission has so far convened a number of Ethiopians, representatives of all segments of the society at home and from abroad with a view to exchanging views on the current dynamics, future risks and political mechanisms to manage the transition process. This bold move is worth appreciating, indeed!

Stimulated by first-hand experiences from various contexts, discussions focused on how to transform dynamics and bridge competing visions were widely conducted. To this end, a clear call for a comprehensive and structured dialogue process to manage the transition process was well entertained. The notion of an Ethiopian National Dialogue gained momentum not only among participants but also with the wider public as the idea was incorporated into the political discourse by subsequent media coverage.

True, commission's engagements have contributed a lot to opening a wider conversation on the Ethiopian transition process and fostering the idea of political talks in a manner full of civility. Undeniably, building an enabling environment via collaborating with partners is of significantly useful in running broad-based, Ethiopian-owned and driven National Dialogue process, as well as parallel side tracks linked to this national venture.

As National Dialogue and constitution-making processes are increasingly part of political settlements, Ethiopians need to amend it if doing so would get the roots of all turmoil and chaos dried for good.

The purpose of the National Dialogue Commission is guiding for comprehensively designed and implemented conversation. True, such an appealing move helps improve inclusive national close talks and enhance the capacities and contributions of divergent parties and even external actors towards their successful execution.

All the activities run right this time are definitely processes to end violent conflict, break political deadlocks and engage the society in a wide array of dialogs as inclusive and extensive exchange of ideas can build trust, expand possibilities, and eventually help generate consensus about the future shape of the nation and the society it has housed.

What the commission has exerted would enable the nation to drive the socio-economic and political dynamics wheel well since nothing would be beyond the circle of peaceful engagement.

The commission, as a responsible body, has to fuel an inclusive and deliberative move towards facilitating widespread public debate via engaging specific interest groups and the public at large in the National Dialogue process.

The importance of maintaining good contact with citizens and developing ways in which they can participate is usually recognized in large, inclusive and participatory dialogues. It is in this way that ensuring peace and creating a peaceful country can be absolutely possible. In both constitution making processes and political dialogues, increased openness and inclusiveness in even wider conversations may lead to more durable outcomes.

In sum, the effort geared towards creating a stable nation has to be supported by national, regional, continental and even international partners. Friends of Ethiopia, development partners, regional, continental and international entities thus need to provide the Ethiopian government with potential support and necessary assistances to make the National Dialogue fruitful.

Opinion

Global Black Center (GBC) should retell the true story of Africa

BY ZEKARIAS WOLDEMARIAM

The world is estimated to have some 8 billion people with diverse ethnic, and racial identities. Based on their physical appearance people fall in different categories. Black people are among the prominent racial categories in the world.

Though people with black and sometimes dark brown skin are found in Asia and Australia too, they are usually attributed to be from the African continent and hence in countries like the USA they are usually referred to as African Americans rather than black. Black people have shown special traits in history, art, sports ... etc. in different periods.

Contrary to their remarkable history, however, black people were given negative attributes or bad reputations like backwardness, poverty, crime ... etc. All these mistreatments were made against them mostly through intentional attempts to smear their reputable history, civilization and special qualities where they excel.

They have been suffering from massive levels of injustice and discrimination, massacre, and economic and political subjugation from different sides. One of the historically notable injustices perpetrated against black people of the world is the slave trade. Black people especially in Africa have been massively targeted as subjects of the slave trade. During the 15th and 16th centuries, the growth of cotton and sugar cane plantations in the Americas triggered the rapid increase in the demand for cheap slave labour. The African population became prone to the attention of the slave traders. As a result, a considerable number of Africans were enslaved across the Atlantic to the north and south Americas where they spent a miserable life the centuries.

Their suffering did not end even After the abolition of slavery in the 1860s by President Abraham Lincoln. Blacks in the USA and other countries have continued to face another form of injustice from racial discrimination which is sometimes legally sanctioned against them. For instance, in the USA blacks until the 1900s and later, had no right to use public amenities on an equal basis with whites.

In addition to USA blacks face discrimination anywhere they live regardless of their number, socioeconomic status or religion, among others. The other historically worse level of injustice committed against black people came during the colonization of Africa. The content which is believed to be the origin of many black people in the world fell under the colonial rule of the Europeans, especially after the Berlin Conference of 1889 which ushered in the partition of Africa.

Since then the people of Africa have been massively oppressed, persecuted and dispossessed of the history, culture, language and overall dignity and rights as humans. Coupled with the long-ingrained impact of the slave trade, colonization has also left Africa highly impoverished. As a result of this many countries have fallen into poverty, civil war, unrest, and migration, among others.

This has in turn rendered the people desperate and economically and socially subjugated both in and out of Africa. Such conditions have

exacerbated the mistreatment and violation of their rights and prolonged their discrimination. Blacks have never tolerated or submitted to the discrimination and mistreatment they faced at different times. Among the prominent ones are the rebellion of Haitians against their French rulers which managed to rout them from their territories. In the USA black residents of Harlem in New York also are also remembered for their strong movement for their rights. The Zulu King Shaka, in South Africa, had also waged a fierce resistance against the British.

The other monumental battle against the white colonialists and expansionist forces was the victory at Adwa which Ethiopians won against Italian occupational forces and all other Europeans behind them. The victory is a milestone in the history of black people's resistance movement as it unfolded in the wake of the partition of Africa.

This set a milestone in the resistance of blacks against discrimination and injustice that many other historical movements have appeared then after. In the USA, Rosa Parks a black woman is noted for her audacious refusal to leave her seat on a city bus for a white man which was an unprecedented type of defiance of the order of the day. She ended up setting the date, 8 March as the annual date for the commemoration of women's right for equality.

The globally renewed black rights advocate, Martin Luther King also posed one of the biggest challenges against the discrimination of blacks in the USA. His activities were pivotal in reversing the most excruciating violation of the rights of blacks in modern-day USA.

Blacks still face many forms of discrimination and violence everywhere in the world. As a result, the resistance of blacks also needed to be redoubled and this has been done till this day. One of the salient movements to mention about their struggle for the respect of their rights is the black lives matter (BLM).

After the Victory at Adwa Ethiopians have also resumed their struggle to safeguard the human rights, sovereignty and equality of blacks and/or Africans. It has fought hard for the formation of the continental umbrella organization OAU/AU. It is also actively working towards the empowerment of black people in global political and economic Arena.

The latest development in the struggle to change the unjust and skewed perception and treatment of the rights, history and reputation of blacks is the establishment of the Global Black Center (GBC). The centre comes at the right time to intensify the efforts to ensure that blacks are gaining the right place and treatment in the world's political and economic activities.

Compared to the massive extent of the suppression of black people's culture, history, and reputation, there is a need for a strong movement to retell their history. In this regard, the centre is bestowed with the responsibility of transforming the centuries-old bias, injustice and discrimination against the black people of the world.

It should work hard to tell the world that blacks have a unique history of civilization, and have also contributed equally, if not more, with other peoples in the art, sport, science and technology, among others to the world.

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



The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays
By The Ethiopian Press Agency

Office of the CEO

Tel. 011-126-42-22

Fax. 251-011-156-98-62

email- epa@press.et

Advertisement and Dist.

Department

email: etpresspromotion@gmail.com

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

Telegram :- 0976084707 - press

Editor-in-Chief: Worku Belachew

email- workubelachew@press.et

Address- Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-city

Woreda - 05, House No----

Tel- +251 111 26 41 98

Managing Editor: Wakuman Kudama

Email: wakuma220@gmail.com

Deputy Editors-in-Chief:

Alem Hailu

Elizabeth Mengistu

Zekarias Woldemariam

Desta Geberehiwot

Daniel Beyene

Website: www.press.et

email: ethiopianherald@press.et

Fb/ /Ethiopian Press Agency/

The Ethiopian Herald

Business & Economy

Role of Participatory Agriculture, Climate Transformation (PACT) Programme to reduce poverty

BY BAHIRU SETEGNE

In an effort to reduce poverty, enhance food security, and build resilience to climate shocks, Ethiopia has embarked on a ground breaking programme called the Participatory Agriculture and Climate Transformation (PACT). This ambitious program aims to uplift rural households by improving their incomes and nutrition security while promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

The Programme Development Objective (PDO), specifically, targets the sustainable improvement of incomes, food and nutrition security, and climate resilience for rural households, including men, women, youth, and persons with disabilities.

The Participatory Agriculture and Climate Transformation (PACT) Programme, with a total budget of US\$180.64 million, is poised to make a lasting impact on the lives of 150,000 households across nine regional states (Amhara, Oromia, Tigray, South Ethiopia, Central Ethiopia, South West Ethiopia, Sidama, Somali, and Afar). Consequently, The PACT Programme's geographic reach spans 90 food-insecure woredas across such the nine regions.

The PACT Programme, with a seven-year implementation plan, is a collaborative effort between international organizations, the Ethiopian government, and private sector entities. It aims to empower rural communities, promote sustainable practices, and strengthen institutions to drive long-term economic growth and improved livelihoods.

The programme's key objectives include sustainable improvements in income, food and nutrition security, and climate resilience for rural households.

By fostering community-led climate-smart production, agribusiness development, and institutional and policy strengthening, the PACT Programme seeks to create a conducive environment for sustainable agriculture and inclusive growth.

The PACT Programme is a collaborative effort supported by various partners or stakeholders and its total cost is US\$180.64 million. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and the European Commission (EC) and others have contributed significant funding to the program.

Additionally, the Ethiopian government and private sector entities as well as beneficiaries themselves are actively involved in financing and implementing.

By enhancing sustainable and equitable access to natural resources, expanding market opportunities, and strengthening institutions, the programme aims to uplift rural communities, increase agricultural productivity, and create economic opportunities.

The PACT Programme represents a



significant step towards a brighter future for Ethiopia's rural communities and sustainable agricultural development.

The speeches by the Minister of Agriculture, Girma Amente (PhD), the IFAD Country Director, Mawira Chitima, the State Minister of Agriculture Professor Eyasu Elias and the Manager of PACT Nuredin Asaro emphasized the collaborative nature of the program. They highlighted the importance of strong alliances between governments, development partners, research institutions, and the private sector to address the complex challenges faced by the agricultural sector.

The Minister of Agriculture acknowledged the daily struggles faced by rural communities, including climate change, poverty, and other challenges. He emphasized the need to go beyond conventional approaches and embrace innovation to find sustainable solutions. He highlighted Ethiopia's rich agricultural heritage and the crucial role of small-scale farmers in ensuring food security for the nation.

Dr.Girma emphasized the importance of harnessing the power of innovation to empower these communities and enable them to thrive in a changing world. He mentioned the home-grown economic reform agenda, which focuses on inclusive economic growth, poverty reduction, and improving the well-being of the Ethiopian population. The Minister underlined the transformation of the agricultural sector as a prerequisite for economic growth and food security.

“Although we have been challenged by decades of climate-change induced weather variability, the transformation of the agricultural sector in Ethiopia is mandatory to ensure overall economic growth and to achieve food and nutrition security for growing national population,” he mentioned.

“Accordingly, in collaboration with our development partners, we are consistently working towards fostering green and climate-resilient agricultural growth,” he

said.

As of him, no single entity can address the complex challenges they face alone. They must forage strong alliance between governments, development partners, research institutions, and the private sector. Together they can pool their resources, share best practices, and amplify the impact of their efforts.

The nation plans to plant 50 billion seedlings by 2026 and 32.5 billion seedlings of various trees have been planted with survival rate of over 80 %. Fruit trees such as avocado that were planted as part of agro forestry system have enabled Ethiopia to become amongst the top producer and exporter of avocado fruits in Africa, as to the Minister.

“Tomorrow begins today, the decision we make, the actions we take, and the commitments we forage will shape the future of rural communities” the Minister underlined.

According to Girma, the launching of this program is a significant milestone for Ethiopia's agricultural sector which is expected to address the challenges facing the sector, particularly in terms of climate change, land degradation water scarcity.

Moreover, the programme will have a significant impact on the lives of millions of Ethiopians, especially smallholder farmers who are the backbone of the sector through sustainable improvement of incomes, food, and nutrition security, and resilience to climate shocks, the Minister stated.

The Ministry of Agriculture will take every possible measure required for the successful implementation of the program, the Minister promised.

IFAD Country Director, Mawira Chitima expressed admiration for Ethiopia's initiatives in climate change adaptation and achieving food self-sufficiency. He mentioned IFAD's support for smallholder farmers and its significant contribution to such activities.

Chitima emphasized IFAD's commitment to empowering women and youth in selected rural areas of Ethiopia. He highlighted

the importance of partnerships with organizations like IFAD, which support small-scale irrigation development and sustainable natural resource management.

Chitima acknowledged the transboundary impacts of climate change and emphasized the need for collaborative efforts to bring about meaningful change. He commended the launching of the PACT programme as a pivotal moment for Ethiopia's agricultural sector and its commitment to resilience, innovation, and sustainability.

Professor Eyasu Elias, State Minister of Agriculture, stated that the PACT Programme aimed to implement sustainable and innovative practices to enhance the resilience of agricultural systems. He mentions the adoption of climate-smart technologies, promotion of water-efficient irrigation methods, and the dissemination of knowledge and best practices among the farming communities.

Professor Eyasu highlighted the community-led approach of the PACT Programme, which places local communities at the centre of decision-making processes. He acknowledged IFAD as a key partner in supporting small-scale irrigation development and sustainable natural resource management.

Professor Eyasu emphasized the significance of partnerships with IFAD and other donors and their role in creating meaningful change. He sees the launching of the PACT programme as a crucial step toward building a resilient and sustainable agricultural sector.

Nuredin Asaro, Manager of PACT, provided an overview of the PACT Programme, stating that it will span seven years of implementation and benefit 150,000 households across the nine regional states. He mentioned the targeted woredas and regions where the program will be executed.

Nuredin highlighted the Programme Development Objective (PDO) of sustainable improvements in income, food and nutrition security, and climate resilience for rural households.

The manager explained the three interdependent components of the PACT Programme: community-led climate-smart production and landscapes, agribusiness development, and institutional and policy strengthening.

Nuredin emphasized the collaborative nature of the program, with support and resources from international organizations, the Ethiopian government, and the private sector. He sees the PACT Programme as transformative, focusing on poverty alleviation, food security, and climate resilience.

By empowering rural households, promoting sustainable practices, and strengthening institutions, the program sets the stage for long-term economic growth and improved livelihoods, the manager concluded.

In the Sphere of Diplomacy

An enduring partnership

BY EYUEL KIFLU

Ethiopia and Kenya enjoy longstanding and excellent bilateral relations. The official diplomatic relations of the two countries dates to 1954 when Ethiopia established its Honorary Consulate office in Kenya. Ethiopia appointed its first Ambassador to Kenya in 1961 and Kenya opened its Embassy in Ethiopia in 1967.

Over the years, the two countries have developed cooperation mechanisms such as the Ethio-Kenya Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) and the Joint Border Administrators' and Commissioners' meeting, which have held 36 and 32 meetings, respectively. These mechanisms have fostered regular high-level engagements, including visits between the heads of government and officials.

The two nations have long enjoyed a strong and enduring relationship, with historical ties that span centuries. These two East African nations have collaborated in various fields, including trade, security, and diplomacy.

One of the key factors contributing to the close bond between Ethiopia and Kenya is their geographical proximity. Sharing a border that stretches over 800 kilometers, the two countries naturally engage in regional affairs. This proximity has facilitated the movement of people, goods, and ideas, further strengthening their relationship. Additionally, they face similar regional challenges, which necessitate collaboration to ensure the stability of the dynamic and unstable region.

The two nations are also share border with Somalia so this makes the countries to work in collaboration in fighting counter terrorism and in fighting al-Shabab they works together.

In recent years, Ethiopia and Kenya have embarked on important initiatives aimed at promoting peace and stability in the region. One such initiative is the Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) corridor project. This project aims to connect Ethiopia to the Kenyan coast through an extensive network of roads, railways, and pipelines. By bolstering trade and enhancing economic development, the LAPSSET corridor has the potential to benefit both countries.

During a recent interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, Moi Lemoshira, the Kenyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Director General of Political and Diplomatic Affairs, announced that his country has extended the LAPSSET Corridor Project. Also, the two nations have agreed to extend the agreement that allows Ethiopia to utilize land at Lamu Port. The FM emphasized that several activities are underway to support each other and develop the infrastructure linking Lamu Port in Kenya to the Ethiopian border town of Moyalle.

At the recently concluded 36th Ethio-Kenya Joint Ministerial Commission Meeting in Addis Ababa, the two countries discussed



the full implementation of previously signed agreements. Kenya reaffirmed its commitment to expedite infrastructure-driven interconnectedness with Ethiopia to ensure mutual growth and benefits. The meeting aimed to review bilateral relations, evaluate the implementation of memorandums of understanding, and chart the future path of the comprehensive Ethio-Kenya partnership. Given the significant benefits of infrastructural integration for both countries, it received prime attention.

A week ago, the 36th Ethio-Kenya Joint Ministerial Commission Meeting took place in Addis Ababa after a seven-year interruption which is being in the 1963. Speaking at the meeting's opening, Ambassador Fiseha Shawel, the Director General of African Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, highlighted the geographic, cultural, historical, and economic bonds that intertwine Ethiopia and Kenya. The joint ministerial commission serves as a foundation for deepening cooperation in addressing regional challenges such as terrorism, migration, human trafficking, illegal trade, and climate change through robust partnership.

Despite delays caused by various factors, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the ministerial meeting has played an instrumental role in enhancing social, economic, and political interactions between the two countries, according to Ambassador Fiseha.

Ambassador Moi Lemoshira also underscored the high-level participation of officials in the meeting as evidence of the shared desire to advance the multifaceted relations between the two countries. Both sides evaluated the implementation of memorandums of understanding and bilateral cooperation, reaching a consensus on a shared path of development in all areas.

To further strengthen their partnership, Ethiopia and Kenya signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) in seven different fields of cooperation during the Joint Ministerial Commission Meeting. The MoUs cover areas such as tourism, culture, wildlife protection, capacity building, education, prison services, fish farming, and the petroleum sector.

During the signing ceremony, Ethiopian Foreign Minister Ambassador Taye Atskeselassie emphasized the need for cooperation to address challenges such as human trafficking, terrorism, and climate change in the East African region. The two countries also agreed to share counter-terrorism information and enhance cooperation in the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS).

Ambassador Taye further affirmed Ethiopia's commitment to developing together with neighbouring countries, including Kenya.

Collaboration on security issues, particularly in combating terrorism and cross-border crime, has been a key aspect of their partnership. The countries have shared intelligence and coordinated efforts to address common security challenges, including extremist groups operating in the region. The recently agreement between the countries shows how they are working for the regional peace and stability.

According to CAPITAL NEWS report the two countries are agreed on time-bound monitoring, including a midterm review in February 2025 to assess progress and prepare for the next JMC in 2026. Kenya will host the midterm review.

"We agreed to promote parliamentary diplomacy through exchange visits by Speakers of Kenya's National Assembly and Ethiopia's House of Peoples Representatives," said Mudavadi.

Moreover, the cultural exchanges between Ethiopia and Kenya have also played a significant role in strengthening their ties. Both countries have rich cultural traditions that they have shared through music, dance, art, and literature. These exchanges have fostered mutual understanding and appreciation between the people of Ethiopia and Kenya. Additionally, the presence of the Oromo tribe in both countries further reinforces the people-to-people ties.

Economic exchanges between Addis Ababa and Nairobi are also gaining momentum. The presence of Safaricom Ethiopia, a telecom service provider currently operating in Ethiopia and owned by Kenya, exemplifies the economic ties between the two nations. FM Mudavadi of Kenya recently highlighted the importance of eliminating trade barriers, including tariffs and non-tariff obstacles, to mutually benefit both countries.

The longstanding relationship between the two nations is a testament to the deep historical bonds that unite these two countries. As they continue to work together on various fronts, their partnership is expected to remain strong in the years to come.

Lately, also Ethiopian Ambassador to Kenya, Bacha Debele, expressed confidence in the two sides' commitment to further bilateral engagements, stating that several detailed agreements will be signed in the upcoming months, indicating a bolstering of relations between the two nations.

The longstanding relationship between the two nations is a testament to the deep historical bonds that unite these two countries. As they continue to work together on various fronts, their partnership is expected to remain strong in the years to come

Law & Politics

Towards inclusive global system

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

As the globe enters trying times with ever increasing socioeconomic and political crisis, reforming the existing international system in a way that would redress present-day troubles effectively has become a priority. Having going through myriads of woes, the world needs concrete and collective actions. To tackle the issues, the international system, many argue needs to be fair and participatory.

And, the matter of fair and equal representation has turned out to be an elephant in the room in the international bloc. The proponents of UN reforms argue that UN should accommodate diverse voices and be rearranged in way that gives equal voices to all.

The absence of Africa and other continents at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) they argue stifled the voices of the majority and gave more powers to few countries to steer global geopolitics in their interests. And, with global situation going through rapid transformation, the need for reforming the international system is appearing to be a must-do task. For many, the time is now to undo past mistakes and re-correct the global system.

However, Africa, with more than 1.4 billion populations, has no representative in the highest global decision making bodies like UNSC. Over the years, as the continent witnessed rapid economic growth with increasing political power, it has been calling for equal treatment and presentation in the world's biggest arena.

The continent marred by external intervention has been urging the international community to make global system more inclusive so that all continents are part of international system. Africa calls for equal representation in such unions so that the continent can maintain its sovereignty and advantages like other nations have been doing in the past.

The idea of including Africa in such bloc is also accepted by many nations, blocs, and leaders. Back in 2023, The United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres who was in Addis Ababa to participate at the 36th African Union summit said that it is entirely fair that the representation of Africa at the UNSC with a permanent member would be granted.

The secretary general elucidated, "The African countries did not yet exist with the exception of Ethiopia when the UNSC was formed. And it is entirely fair that the representation of Africa in the Security Council with a permanent



Africa needs not promises or support; it needs an implementation for its inclusion. The continent needs unified hands to put a maximum pressure to achieve the objective of being included and represent

member would be granted. Of course it doesn't depend on me; it depends on the member states. But it is very understandable and just aspiration."

Besides, international media outlet reports revealed that permanent members like United Kingdom (UK) backed the idea of African inclusion. UK Foreign Secretary James Cleverly previously stated, "We want to see permanent African representation and membership extended to India, Brazil, Germany and Japan," adding, "I know this is a bold reform. But it will usher the Security Council into the 2020s." The minister has also outlined his backing for a permanent seat for Latin America, and supported bids from Japan and India.

The report further noted that developing nations have long complained about not having a say on the council, where the five permanent members wield veto power, and argued the imbalance risked making the body obsolete. But so far, repeated calls for reform have come to nothing, and experts doubt that the permanent five will give up their powers, despite the persuasive argument for change.

The United States of America President Joe Biden also mentioned his support for Africa to get a permanent seat in the UNSC. Germany did the same also. Many more nations like China have shown their support for Africa on the issue.

Further, Ambassador Jorge Catarino Cardoso, a Director of the Africa, Middle East, and Regional Organizations Directorate of the Angolan Ministry of Foreign Affairs told *The Ethiopian Herald* exclusively said, "Africa has myriads of problems in relation to security and peace, yet discussions on these matters often exclude African nations presence and voices.

"Africa is currently represented on the UNSC through the A3, a group of non-permanent members," he said stressing the need to transform this non-permanency into a permanent feature of the Security Council.

By the same token, the absence of permanent seats of Africa on the UNSC creates imbalance. This situation fails to adequately represent the interests of the African people, stated Ambassador Salah S. Hammad, Senior Human Rights Expert of the Department of Political Affairs of AUC highlighted.

He elucidated that to address this imbalance, the African Union established the C10, a committee of ten heads of state and government, chaired by the President of Sierra Leone. "The committee's mandate is to facilitate an African position on the reform of the UNSC, advocating for a minimum of two permanent seats for Africa and an increase in non-permanent seats to five, ensuring representation from each region of Africa in a rotational manner,"

he added.

In addition, Dire Dawa University Political Science and International Relations Researcher and Lecturer Surafel Getahun said that Africa needs to play a pivotal role in detaching Africa from western policies as well as making policy reforms to have a permanent seat (representation) in the UNSC according to its population, he added.

As to him, it is high time to strengthening Africans issues, increasing trust among countries of augmenting continental projects, and accomplishing diplomatic activities to enable young qualified Pan-Africanists to join AU.

All and all, though most nations and bloc approve and want to support Africa in its quest of getting a permanent seat in the high tables, there is no such bold move to change the promises and support to reality and put African representative to the table. Africa needs not promises or support; it needs an implementation for its inclusion. The continent needs unified hands to put a maximum pressure to achieve the objective of being included and represent.

With all the efforts and commitments Africa and its continental bloc sacrificed, African has still trying to fulfilling its objective to create the Africa its people want. There are so many important steps that Africa should take in order to have an equal presentation and power.

Society

Addressing education challenges in Africa

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Education is a fundamental right that every child should have access to, regardless of their geographic location or socio-economic background. However, in many parts of Africa, this basic right is still a major challenge. From lack of infrastructure to limited resources, there are various obstacles that hinder the provision of quality education in the continent.

One of the main challenges facing education in Africa is the lack of access to schools. Many children in rural areas have to walk long distances to reach the nearest school, which can be a significant barrier to their education. Additionally, the cost of education, including school fees and uniforms can also prevent children from attending school. Without access to education, these children are at a higher risk of being trapped in a cycle of poverty.

Another challenge in Africa is the quality of education being provided. Many schools lack qualified teachers, textbooks, and basic educational resources, leading to a poor learning environment and outcomes for students. As a result, many children graduate from school without the necessary skills to succeed in the workforce.

Addressing education challenges in Africa is a critical endeavor that requires a comprehensive understanding of the current landscape and the factors that contribute to these obstacles. With disparities in access to quality education, socio-economic barriers, and a need for innovative solutions, the education sector in Africa faces multifaceted challenges.

Recently, the 37th African Union (AU) Summit discussed on the continental-wide measures towards taking steps to address education challenges in Africa.

Accordingly, the achievement of Aspiration 1 of Agenda 2063 for "A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development" requires that Africa makes significant investments in education with the aim of developing human and social capital through an education and skills revolution emphasizing innovation, science, and technology.

In its press release, the AU stated that even with a substantial increase in the number of African children with access to basic education, large number school-aged children still remain out of school. This reality calls for concern.

The AU, through its Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA), is vying to expand access not just to quality education, but also to education that is relevant to the needs of the continent given that the continent's population is rapidly increasing. The CESA aims to reorient Africa's education and training systems to meet the knowledge, competencies, skills, innovation, and creativity required



to nurture African core values and promote sustainable development at the national, sub-regional and continental levels.

In his opening remarks Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) also reminded that Africa is endowed with myriads of resources and a large youth population that embody the great potential of the continent. In that regard, Africans should not be seeking aid but exploit their own natural resources to ensure self-sufficiency.

"Ethiopia has been taking extensive strides in the education sector to achieve development goals. Advancements in the education sector will enable African youth to unleash their entrepreneurial spirit, elevate problem solving skills, and determination to overcome challenges on Africa's development path."

Moreover, the African Union Theme of the Year 2024 on Education will help amplify the collective mobilization of Member States, stakeholders, partner organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs), and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) dealing with education and the African citizens in general, to massively contribute to the development and enhancement of quality education for all.

Commissioner for Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation (ESTI) of the African Union Prof. Mohammed Belhocine on his part said that comprehensive, quality and inclusive education is a fundamental human right and a powerful tool for fostering development, peace and progress.

It is worth noting that, an estimated 244 million children and young people between the ages of 6 and 18 worldwide

are out of school, with 129 million of these children being girls. Girls' education is about ensuring that girls learn and feel safe while in or around school and be given the opportunity to complete all levels of education. It is about acquiring knowledge and skills to be fit for the labor market; gain socio-emotional life skills necessary to adapt to a changing world; make decisions about their own lives; and contribute to their communities and the world.

Although there is some progress made by member States in girls' access to schooling, girls still face unique and multiple barriers to education; mostly caused by economic inequalities, poverty, harmful traditional norms and practices such as child marriages, poor infrastructure, violence, food insecurity, armed conflicts, displacements, and the climate and humanitarian crises. These challenges disrupt educational trajectories, robbing girls of their right to learn.

Non-access to education has a huge socio-economic cost to the continent. A recent World Bank study estimates that the "limited educational opportunities for girls, and barriers to completing 12 years of education, cost countries between 15 trillion USD and 30 trillion USD in lost lifetime productivity and earnings."

Therefore, to address the issue of access to education in Africa, it is important to invest in building more schools in rural areas and providing scholarships to children from low-income families. By increasing the number of schools and making education more affordable, it is possible to ensure that all children have the opportunity to receive a quality education in the continent, experts recommended.

In sum, addressing the education challenges in Africa requires a multi-faceted approach that focuses on improving access, quality, and gender equality in the sector. By investing in these areas, we can ensure that all children in Africa have the opportunity to receive a quality education and build a better future for themselves and their communities. In addition, the ongoing moves by the AU are a promising effort towards advancing the education sector in all African countries.

The 2023 UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report notes that more than one in four (29 percent) school-age children were still out of school on the continent, a worrying statistic revealing that the out-of-school population in sub-Saharan Africa increased by 12 million over the 2015-2021 periods. Quality is also a concern, even for those who are in school: 9 out of 10 children in sub-Saharan Africa cannot read and understand simple text by the age of 10.

The 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union made this year's AU theme on education, "Educate an African fit for the 21st Century: Building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality, and relevant learning in Africa".

The theme aims to catalyze follow-up to the commitments of the 2022 United Nations Education Transformation Summit (TES), mobilizing governments and development partners to rethink and transform education to contribute to the vision of "Education for All", set out in the African Union's Agenda 2063: "The Africa We Want".

Planet Earth

GGGI supports Ethiopia's leading role...

which sell carbon to the rich countries and the institute strives to make the carbon trading as much as fair and based on the countries interest.

According to MS. Helena, Ethiopia is one of the most beautiful countries in the world but it is also suffering from the effect of climate change and global warming. There are more extreme weather events less regular and unpredictable rain fall which has a massive impact on soil fertility and hampers growing of sufficient food.

This is a very serious situation but there are easy ways enable to mitigate the problems and enable the country to create high yield of crops and these are types of solutions the institute brought to Ethiopia with many other options.

In addition, it works with the collaboration of the government to scaling up the efforts and to benefit as much as large numbers of people. The institute also works to link up this financial instrument to be a major hope to the country through integrating to the wider economic development endeavor. Improved yield also supports the nation efforts for attaining food security to millions of people in Ethiopia

rather than just thousands of people.

Side by side with these, to sustain the achievements, the ongoing conservation works will be strengthening at a very large scale.

Reflecting her view on the nation efforts to mitigate climate change through planting billions of seedlings annually through green legacy initiative she told that, Ethiopia as a country has before and now is not emitting very much carbon to the atmosphere. It is not one of the countries that caused problems on the environment and has made commitment on cut carbon emission. But the deforestation going on in Ethiopia contributes to carbon emission and affects the fertility of soil.

Therefore, tree planting program is very significant in balancing the ecosystem because it can be said as win-win game between rich and poor countries. It also absorbs carbon from the environment, create job to thousands and increase fertility of soil. It would also protect cities from flooding, global warming and keeps biodiversity from any threats.

The government ambition on tree planting

is what the world is needed and it is a leading in that sense. It is also took bold measure to support tree planting efforts on the green legacy program by allocating one percent of its expenditure each year.

As to her, when she met an official from the Ethiopian Forestry Development last week he told her that, he was keen to work together on clean development mechanism /CDM/ and to take concrete action on the ground by next year. She also said that Ethiopia plays a leading role in Africa in terms of climate action for many years and GGGI is happy to support the government.

As to her tree planting has positive global effect through sequestering carbon emitted from industrialized countries. At the same time clearing forest for various purposes in developing countries is a major contributor of carbon emission. Hence side by side with tree planting attention should be given to protecting the existing forests and to that end enforcing laws strictly is essential.

In fact, old trees are cut for forestry and other purposes but when this happen replacing the cut tree by the new one is

vital.

The rich countries also have obligation that in line with buying carbon from poor countries, they should full fill their pledge to cut their carbon emission as they agreed on various climate negotiations and take serious actions. Carbon trading brings substantial money to the developing countries vital to build their capacity in mitigating climate change and import technology which support the sustainable development goals. Therefore, carbon trading can be said a win-win game between the developed and poor countries.

Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) is an international, inter-governmental organization established in 2012 (where Ethiopia is a founding member) to support developing countries in the transformation to a green economy. The projects target economic growth that is environmentally sustainable, and socially inclusive. GGGI works across four priority areas considered to be essential to transforming national economies- including sustainable energy, water and sanitation, sustainable landscapes and green cities.

ECOWAS lifts sanctions against Guinea and Mali

These decisions mark a step by ECOWAS towards resuming dialogue with the Sahel juntas. Burkina Faso, one of the four states governed by military regimes since 2020, also subjected to ECOWAS sanctions, is not mentioned.

After Niger, Guinea, and Mali. In a statement released on Sunday, February 25, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) announced "lifting financial and economic sanctions against the Republic of Guinea" and "lifting restrictions on the recruitment of citizens of the Republic of Mali for positions within ECOWAS institutions."

The regional organization had convened a new extraordinary summit on Saturday to discuss "politics, peace, and security in the Republic of Niger," as well as "recent developments in the region." The lifting of sanctions against Guinea and Mali was not specified during the final address by Omar Aliou Touray, the President of the ECOWAS Commission on Saturday evening.

In Guinea, ECOWAS had banned financial transactions with its member institutions a year after Colonel Mamadi Doumbouya took power, overthrowing President Alpha Condé in September 2021. On Monday, the junta

leader announced by decree the dissolution of the government in office since July 2022.

In Mali, which has experienced two coups, in 2020 and 2021, the regional bloc had imposed economic and financial sanctions, which it lifted in July 2022 when the ruling junta announced its transition timetable.

ECOWAS "decided to immediately lift" the heaviest sanctions imposed on Niger since the military regime took power in Niamey, overthrowing elected President Mohamed Bazoum in July, announced Mr. Aliou Touray on Saturday afternoon.

Burkina Faso, one of the four states governed by military regimes since 2020, also subjected to ECOWAS sanctions, is not mentioned in the regional organization's final statement.

These decisions mark a step by ECOWAS towards resuming dialogue with these three military regimes, as Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso, which have notably turned away from France and drawn closer to Russia, announced in January their intention to leave ECOWAS. The three countries have grouped together within the Alliance of Sahel States (AES).

Source: Africa News

Egypt inks 'historic' \$35bn deal with UAE, hoping to ease dollar squeeze, save economy

Egypt and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have signed a landmark \$35 billion investment deal to develop Ras al-Hekma peninsula on the Mediterranean coast that, economists say, will inject \$35 billion of foreign direct investment into the struggling Egyptian economy, helping it to bolster economic growth and address a hard currency crisis.

The deal is the largest foreign direct investment in an urban development project in Egypt's modern history, Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly said on Friday (23 February) after weeks of speculation. It is a partnership between the Egyptian government and an Emirati consortium led by ADQ, he added. The country's main recipe for attracting foreign capital has relied on making big bets on natural gas exploration, expanding the Suez Canal, expanding tourism infrastructure in a restive region, and pouring billions of dollars into megaprojects, most notably a huge new administrative capital. But now that this recipe has stopped working and Cairo may be hesitant to implement reforms of the country's military-dominated economic

model as demanded by the IMF in exchange for a bailout, the government is doubling down on the same approach.

Meanwhile, news about the sale has triggered condemnation by critics of the government, who blame it for selling what is the land in one of Egypt's most valuable coastal locations and that it should be developed by local investors. But Madbouly sought to alleviate these concerns by saying that the Egyptian state will have a 35% share of the profits from this project, although it is a private investment with the majority of shares held by the UAE consortium. According to Khaled Ikram, an economist and former director of the World Bank Egypt department, "this event should strengthen the hand of the Egyptian authorities in negotiations with the IMF." The deal should "ease up on fears of Egypt's defaulting on its external obligations" as well as "reassure creditors and investors that they should stop speaking of waning support for Egypt's economy from the Gulf countries," Ikram added.

Source: North Africa Post

Qatar Sets Ambitious Goal To Increase LNG Production by 2030

Qatar plans to significantly boost its liquefied natural gas (LNG) production capacity to 142 million tons annually by 2030, Energy Minister Saad bin Sherida Al Kaabi announced on Sunday. The North Field

West project aims to increase the country's output by nearly 85% from its current levels, solidifying its position as a global LNG leader. Al Kaabi, who also serves as the president and CEO of QatarEnergy,

revealed the discovery of an additional 240 trillion cubic feet of gas in the North Field, pushing Qatar's total gas reserves beyond 2,000 trillion cubic feet. This expansion and discovery mark a monumental step toward

enhancing Qatar's gas industry and its global energy contributions, with the nation targeting to supply 40% of the world's new LNG by 2029.

Source: The media line

Planet Earth

GGGI supports Ethiopia's leading role in climate action: Helena McLeod

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

In 2007, Ethiopia announced that it pursues Climate Resilient Green Economy development and since then to realize the objectives, it has been taking various measures. Among others, as part of adaptation programs, tree planting, watersheds management, balancing ecosystem through protecting natural resources and proper waste management system have been carried out.

As part of mitigation program, developing renewable energy sources such as wind, hydro power, solar and geothermal can be mentioned in these regard. The expanding of the utilization of renewable energy sources enabled the nation to reduce the utilization of petrochemical based energy sources which have hazardous effect on the environment. It also enabled the country to save hard currency that would have been allocated for purchasing of carbon based energy.

Ethiopia's Climate Resilient Green Economy program is appreciated by various partners and stake holders because its afforestation program is supporting the international efforts in fighting climate



change and global warming. The forests planted in Ethiopia plays pivotal role in sequestering carbon emitted somewhere else in the globe.

Recently the writer of this article had an opportunity to meet the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) Deputy Director General (DDG), Ms. Helena McLeod during her weeklong business mission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Upon her arrival, she was warmly welcomed by the GGGI Ethiopia

team including the Country Representative, Okechukwu Daniel Ogbonnaya. She convened a meeting with the staff members and was briefed on GGGI Ethiopia projects' highlights, implementation status and investment opportunities in the country.

Also, Ms. Helena made an experience sharing field visit at Lume woreda of the Oromia regional state and held discussions with development agents and farmers at horticultural life project's nursery sites and youth cooperatives at Mojo area of the region.

Moreover, the DDG held courtesy visits and bilateral meetings with different government and development partners as well as with the AU continental body that GGGI is working with, to cement the already existing amicable cooperation, explore further potential areas of partnership, and thereby backing up the government of Ethiopia's development priorities in pursuit of green growth and climate actions.

As to her, GGGI is working on supporting Ethiopia's green growth plan through garnering climate finance from various stake holders. She also said that climate finance can help to tackle challenges facing the economy. It has also enough capacity to take advantage of the opportunity. In 2021

GGGI supported Peru through providing the largest sovereign green bond in the world at that point in history which was over 4 billion US Dollars and still the organization works in collaboration with 20 countries across the globe on different types of bonds such as, sustainability bond and green bond. She further said that her institute is going to use that experience and bring to Ethiopia to see whether that mechanism can bring more investment to tackle climate change and other issues.

In line with these, creating new jobs that can also benefit the economy through carbon trading is feasible. She also explained that the scheme has high potential area to bring additional funding in to the country.

The institute is also engaged in capacity building to the member countries of GGGI and works in collaboration with them. In addition, it has set up the motivation mechanisms that could go in line with the national frame works devised to receive carbon money.

She also said that GGGI works with rich countries that are buying carbon and countries that are selling carbon such as Ethiopia. Ethiopia is one of the countries

See GGGI supports .. page 15