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EU in favor of Africa's UNSC membership bid

• *Youthful Africa vital to aging Europe, EU Amb. to AU*

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

ADDIS ABABA:- The European Union backs Africa's quest for 'a proportional and permanent representation' in United Nations Security Council (UNSC) said the EU Delegation to the African Union.

EU is in favor of AU's bid for a proper representation not only in UNSC but also in all multilateral forums, Ambassador Javier Nino Perez told *The Ethiopian Herald* exclusively.

The Ambassador recalled that the European bloc has strongly supported AU's accession to the G20. It was even engaged in the dialogue with non-European G20 members supporting the African bid. Later, the continent was admitted to the club of 20.

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Photo: Berhan Tadele

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Addis Chamber, ICRA push for credit rating service introduction

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA-The Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce and Sectorial Associations (Addis Chamber) along with the UAE national International Credit Rating Agency Limited-ICRA recommended the Ethiopian government to launch credit rating service swiftly.

The Addis Ababa Chamber in partnership with the ICRA hosted a workshop here yesterday.

In her opening remark at the workshop, Addis Chamber President Mesenbet Shenkute said that the credit rating service is one of the

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Summit pays heed to social, behavioral change for dev't

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – There is a need to pay serious attention to bringing social and behavioral change and ensure health's sustainable development through stronger partnerships, the Ministry of Health (MoH) said.

The MoH in collaboration with various partners organized yesterday the 3rd National Social and Behavioral Change (SBC) summit under the theme *Social and Behavioral Change for Sustainable Development*.

In her opening remark, Health Minister Mekdes Daba (MD) stated that consolidated efforts are underway to bring social and behavioral change which is a key area to ensure sustainable development in the health sector. The MoH has been exploiting various channels to educate vulnerable citizens and to bring social and behavioral change across the country.

The minister also highlighted that the SBC interventions play an essential role



Photo: Ashenafi Gudeta

in fostering a supportive environment that empowers individuals and communities to make healthier choices, improving health and remarkable outcomes. The SBC is also instrumental in addressing health's underlying determinants, preventing diseases, and enhancing the overall health sector.

UNICEF's Ethiopia Deputy Representative Mariko Kagoshima on her part said that SBC is like the glow that hosts together with community servicing and supplying. UNICEF is committed to realizing the SBC program in Ethiopia and pays prime attention to social-behavioral changes.

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Photo: Gebabo Gebrie

ENDC compiling Diasporas Nat'l Dialogue agendas

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) said it is compiling National Dialogue agendas forwarded from Ethiopians living abroad.

ENDC has been collecting and compiling National Dialogue agendas from members of Diaspora communities participating

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Musical life that flourished standing the test of time

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Funding, policy changes could result in countries reaping benefit of migration

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Revisiting the Victory of Adwa

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News



Ambassador visits archaeological site in Dire Dawa

•Harlaa research archaeological site shows strong UK-Ethiopian partnership
BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA—British Ambassador to Ethiopia visited a 10th century archaeological site of Harlaa, in Dire Dawa city Administration. He praised the UK-Ethiopia collaboration and the positive impact of UK government programs.

According to a statement the British Embassy sent to the Ethiopian Press Agency, Darren Welch UK Ambassador in Ethiopia visited Archaeological Research site of Harlaa in Dire Dawa, a significant early Islamic civilization and medieval trading settlement in Africa, currently funded by a UK philanthropic donation. Besides, he visited a UK-funded WASH facility and met with beneficiaries of the UK's Productive Safety Net Program, providing humanitarian support across Ethiopia.

A British archaeologist, Africanist and the investigation of the Harlaa Archaeological Research project Leader Prof. Timothy Insoll said that the important medieval trading center of Harlaa, is just located outside Dire Dawa. The project has resumed with new excavations of two early mosques (mid-12th to mid-13th centuries).

Accordingly, the research has uncovered remarkable archaeological evidence for international trading links with regions around the Red Sea and Indian Ocean including India, Yemen, Egypt, and China. Harlaa also prospered through trade with the interior of Ethiopia and was a center of bead and jewelry manufacture.

Speaking at the archaeological site, Ambassador Darren Welch said: "It's an honor to be welcomed so warmly to Dire Dawa, Ethiopia's second city. It is inspiring to see such a range of economic and cultural activity. I'm proud to see strong UK-Ethiopia collaboration in unearthing the extraordinary site of Harlaa. I was also pleased to see the positive impact of the UK's partnership with government programs helping to meet people's basic needs."

"It is a privilege to work at Harlaa and this research is an excellent example of the UK-Ethiopian partnership," said Prof. Timothy.

According to the statement the project "Becoming Muslim" which involves the Ethiopian Heritage Authority, the University of Exeter, and the Dire Dawa Culture and Tourism Office started in 2015 and have so far completed seven excavation seasons, with a focus on trade, settlement, and Islamization at Harlaa.

A community museum has been founded at Harlaa and a heritage trail is being established to develop sustainable tourism.

Project to benefit 20 mln youth

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA) and Breakthrough trading have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to train and coach some 20 million youth across the nation over the course of eight years.

During the signing ceremony yesterday, MoWSA Minister Ergogie Tesfaye (PhD) said that the project, which is said to be implemented for eight years, would benefit 20 million youth in 13 cities across the country through training and coaching. Of these, around 10,000 youth would take mentor trainings, it was learnt.

Similarly, the project aspires to create employment opportunity for one million youth.

"The project aims at creating responsible, positive thinker youth with good characteristics that possess the capacity to transform their country," she underscored.

Mentioning that the Ministry is closely working with individuals and institutions that work on youth, she highlighted the activities that the government is undertaking to ensure youth's holistic development in the country.

So far, Ethiopia has over 3,000 youth



Photo: Degne Abera

personality development centers with various services including sport, and other recreational activities.

Project Manager and Breakthrough Trading Board Chairperson Netsanet Zenebe on his part emphasized that the major goal of the project is creating visionary, genuine partner, skilled and well off youths.

He indicated that the project will be commenced by providing training for 10,000 youth in 13 cities of the country.

The plan is to deliver the training for 20 million youth in 2032, at least getting 2 million fully transformed youth and create jobs for one million youth, he added.

So far, around one hundred voluntary mentors have expressed their readiness to join the project, as to him.

MoWSA State Minister Muna Ahmed and Breakthrough Trading Director General Abdulfetah Hussien signed the MoU.

BASF donates vegetable seeds to 4,000 smallholders

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA - BASF in collaboration with Netherlands' development organization (SNV) donated vegetable seeds to 4,000 smallholder farmers residing in conflict and drought affected areas in Ethiopia.

BASF and SNV extend collaboration in donating and supporting smallholder farmers in conflict and drought affected areas in which the latter also support famers' field schools (FFS) to revitalize agriculture and empower communities.

BASF would continue providing support to the smallholder farmers in Ethiopia to restore their livelihoods, so said Ben Depraetere, Managing Director of Nunhems Ethiopia, BASF's vegetable seeds business company.

He added that the donated quality vegetable seeds will reach to 4,000 smallholder farmers living in conflict and drought affected areas in Amhara and Tigray states.

Seed donation is the second round in partnership with SNV and BASF have been working with SNV for four years in different ways in areas of FFS and variety demonstration in different parts of the country that focus on improved vegetable seeds contributed to increasing the productivity of income of smallholder farmers, the Managing Director said.

The BASF handed over seeds include 800 kg of onion, 1,500,000 tomato, 666,000 hot



pepper and 1,500,000 watermelon seeds to smallholder farmers in Tigray and Amhara states supported by SNV that facilitate vital training and distribution of seeds to 4,000 smallholder famers, as to him.

"We are not only donating seeds and advice, but we also hoping to have a clear impact on livelihoods and nutrition of those conflict affected farmers," he added.

Netherlands Development organization (SNV) Ethiopia Country Director, Julie Graham on her part noted that project is targeting war-affected areas and the partnership with BASF bringing positive outcomes.

She said SNV provide training and transfer knowledge to smallholder farmers how to grow such crops and seeds provided by BASF.

SNV has been working with Ministry of Agriculture to support famers' field schools using extension methodology to enhance famers' practical knowledge and skills

to solve challenges on production and productivity, she stated.

She said SNV operates in 147 districts of seven states that benefiting around 80,000 famers annually through FFS by applying new farming technology and methodologies and core practices.

She added the FFS members who received the first batch of seed support benefited from improved productivity, disease resistance and higher market values.

State Minister of Agriculture, Melese Mekonnen (PhD) expressed that the farmers who are in need of agricultural inputs are identified thereby receive the donated seeds.

"The delivered seeds can develop 291 hectares of lands and is great support for farmers.

We are very successful in this FFS approach SNV support technical and make them sustainable to produce crops," he said.

News

University support boosting productivity in Oromia

BY FIKADU BELAY

BALE ROBE – Technical and material support provided by Madda Walabu University (MWU) has enabled local farmers experience an increased agricultural productivity.

Habte Wolde, a model farmer in Sinana Woreda, Bale Zone of Oromia state, told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the farmers in the region have witnessed remarkable improvements in both wheat yields and their overall livelihoods as a result of the university's agricultural equipment and expertise support.

“We have been able to enhance our production and productivity through the university's involvement in cluster farming,” he said.

He stated that the university's support extends throughout the entire agricultural process, from seed preparation to harvesting.

The increase in productivity can be attributed to several factors, including the provision of high-quality seeds and fertilizers as well as the university's commitment to equipping

farmers with the best available resources, he mentioned.

As a result, local farmers have achieved an impressive yield of 40 to 55 quintals per hectare of land during the production season, he noted.

He remarked that in addition to providing resources, MWU has conducted comprehensive training programs aimed at enhancing farmers' skills. These programs cover various aspects such as effective fertilizer and crop utilization, financial management, and seed control.

In addition, farmers have eagerly embraced these learning opportunities, recognizing their importance in empowering them to overcome challenges and maximize their potential, he said.

He mentioned that during the 2015/16 production season, farmers faced difficulties with weeds and others.

However, through collaborative efforts with MWU's Chemtex Chemical Supply PLC department and other partners, an effective solution was found. The application of a chemical called Palas Super proved successful in combating weeds, ensuring

healthier crop yields for the farmers, he added.

Alo Abdi, a farmer in the Goro Woreda, said in his part, “Previously, we were only able to achieve a yield of 30 quintals per hectare from our local produce. But now, with the assistance and oversight of the university, we have reached an impressive 43 quintals per hectare.”

He emphasized that MWU's unwavering commitment to supporting farmers and revolutionizing agricultural practices has not only boosted production and productivity but has also improved the lives of numerous families in the region. These promising results have renewed hope for a thriving agricultural sector and a prosperous future for the cluster farming community.

In addition to showcasing MWU's active involvement in a number of areas, including agriculture, tourism, biodiversity, and societal health, President Ahmed Kalil pledged that the university would keep providing capacity-building training, technical support, and oversight to help farmers, address their inquiries and meet their needs for agricultural inputs and equipment.

Summit pays...

Ethiopian Health Education Promotion Experts Association President Eshetu Girma told *The Ethiopian Herald* that changing the social and behavioral attitudes should not solely left to a single entity and the situation needs a meaningful effort of every stakeholder.

“The Association has 150 members that are actively involved in knowledge and experience sharing, improving the health science and in other related activities to bring a significant outcome in social and behavioral change.”

Over 400 participants drawn from various sectors including SBC implementers, academicians, donors, private sector representatives, and community health advocates were in attendance at the summit.

It is to be recalled that the SBC program is being held every two years, usually following the international SBC summit.

Addis Chamber, ...

timely and unique services that the government is expected to provide to the business community. To this end, the government ought to form partnerships with different stakeholders.

“Considering the already outlined enormous advantages to businesses and the capital market ecosystem in general, the advent of credit rating service in Ethiopia is expected to herald a new era for our businesses by providing transparent and comprehensive risk assessments that enable them make well-informed financial decisions, navigate and reach financial sources, and seize opportunities for growth and prosperity.”

The president also expressed Addis Chamber's partnership with Dubai-based Rating Agency named ICRA, which is one of the fastest growing companies in providing Credit Rating Services.

In facilitating the introduction of credit rating services to businesses in Ethiopia, this partnership is instrumental to create awareness on the subject and for the official launching of the long awaited service, she emphasized.

ICRA Global General Manager Zeeshan Khan for his part said that Ethiopia's decision to launch the credit rating service will attract investment as credit service boosts creditors' and investors' confidence.



It is very difficult to assess the feasibility of business if companies are not rated. Creditors need tangible information accredited by credit rating service providers, he added.

Commenting on the issue, Dashen Bank

President Asfaw Alemu insisted that the launching of the service will provide accurate information for lending institutions including banks and enable them to have a better picture about companies that are applying for loan. “So far, we are providing credits based on our own assessments. If the credit rating service launched, then we will have only few steps to know about debtors' profiles.”

The Ethiopian Capital Market Authority Director General Brook Taye (PhD) also acknowledged the two chamber's recommendation; expressing the authority's readiness to take all the necessary steps to introduce the service and to make the finance sector trustworthy for investment.

EU in favor...

This is an example to follow to reform other multilateral institutions like the UNSC.

“We are extremely pleased that AU will sit together with its sister organizations. This reflects the logic of having Africa more meaningfully represented in the international forum,” said the Ambassador.

Accordingly, UNSC, as to the Ambassador, is to be reform necessitates the consent of the five permanent members where four of which are not European nations. “What Africa needs to do is to engage in a dialogue with those five permanent states and with the rest of international communities to reform the security bloc,” he said.

Similarly, the Ambassador stated that the majority of EU countries see migration as a positive development; adding, “Europe

is a continent that is aging that necessitates young people, and Africa is the youngest continent.”

The two blocs are working through a process that builds on integration, protection, settlement and development. “We work on not just migrants coming to Europe; we are trying to work on the root causes that lead many Africans leave their countries. We want to create conditions that will enable the majority of Africans to stay in their countries. That is what we all want,” the Ambassador elaborated.

“There are statistics that clearly signal that there is no link between high levels of migrants with insecurity; rather figures show positive impact of migrants coming to Europe.”

ENDC compiling...

virtually categorized based on their regions, Commissioner Ambaye Ogato (PhD) said.

He told *The Ethiopian Herald* that the Commission is identifying participants and compiling the agendas forwarded by tens of thousands of Ethiopians living overseas.

During the discussions, some of the Diaspora members have promised to provide expertise support to the commission so as to make a successful National Dialogue process, he said.

As to him, members of the Diaspora community would directly or indirectly participate in the process.

Identifying participants of the National

Dialogue is not an easy task because of the Diasporas residing in various parts of the globe and other reasons, according to the Commissioner.

Since the task is not linear, various activities are ongoing in parallel, he noted.

Moreover, Ambaye said, the commission has been trying to participate all parties including armed groups and other marginalized communities to conduct inclusive National Dialogue as much as possible.

Elaborating about the overall process of National Dialogue, he stated that the commission has tackled various challenges that required huge logistics to identify district level participants and other activities.

Opinion

Ethiopia needs to exploit its untapped bamboo resources

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

The author of this article has earlier written a contribution regarding the state of indigenous technologies in Ethiopia. This particular article refers to one of these technologies, focusing on bamboo technology.

There are several countries that widely use bamboo technology in various applications. Some of these countries include: China, Indonesia, Colombia, Vietnam, Ecuador, India and Costa Rica.

China has a long history of using bamboo in construction, furniture, and other applications. They have developed advanced techniques for bamboo processing and have incorporated them into modern architecture and design.

Bamboo is widely used in Indonesia for construction, furniture, handicrafts, and even as a sustainable alternative to plastic. The country has a rich tradition of bamboo craftsmanship and has been promoting its use in various industries.

Colombia has been using bamboo for construction purposes for many years. The country has developed innovative techniques for building houses, bridges, and other structures using bamboo. They have also established bamboo plantations to ensure a sustainable supply of raw materials.

Bamboo is an integral part of Vietnamese culture and is widely used in construction, furniture, and handicrafts. The country has been promoting bamboo as a sustainable and eco-friendly material and has invested in research and development to improve its quality and durability.

Bamboo is extensively used in Ecuador for construction, furniture, and even as a source of renewable energy. The country has been actively promoting bamboo as a sustainable alternative to traditional building materials and has established bamboo plantations for commercial production.

Bamboo is widely used in India too, for construction, furniture, handicrafts, and even as a source of renewable energy. The country has a rich tradition of bamboo craftsmanship and has been promoting its use in various industries.

Costa Rica has been using bamboo for construction purposes for many years. The country has developed innovative techniques for building houses, bridges, and other structures using bamboo. They have also established bamboo plantations to ensure a sustainable supply of raw material.

Technologies on bamboo refer to the use of bamboo as a sustainable and versatile material in various industries and applications across the world. Examples of bamboo technology in the world include various sectors.

Bamboo is used as a building material in many parts of the world. It is lightweight, strong, and flexible, making it suitable for constructing houses, bridges, and other structures. Bamboo-based composites are also used for flooring, roofing, and wall panels.

Moreover, bamboo is widely used in the

production of furniture, including chairs, tables, and shelves. Its natural beauty and durability make it a popular choice for interior design elements such as flooring, wall coverings, and decorative items.

Among other things, bamboo fibers are used to create soft and breathable fabrics. Bamboo clothing is known for its comfort, moisture-wicking properties, and antibacterial qualities. It is also used in the production of towels, bed sheets, and other textiles.

Bamboo is a fast-growing plant that can be used as a renewable source of energy. It can be converted into biofuels, such as charcoal and ethanol, which can be used for cooking, heating, and electricity generation.

It is also used in agricultural practices, such as erosion control, water purification, and as a source of organic fertilizer. It is also used in horticulture for landscaping, as a windbreak, and for creating privacy screens.

Bamboo is used in water management systems, such as wastewater treatment and rainwater harvesting. Its high absorption capacity and filtration properties make it effective in purifying water and preventing soil erosion.

It is used in the production of bicycles, boats, and other forms of transportation. Its strength-to-weight ratio makes it an ideal material for lightweight and eco-friendly vehicles.

Bamboo fibers are used in the production of paper and packaging materials. Bamboo paper is known for its strength, durability, and eco-friendliness compared to traditional wood-based paper.

Extracts from bamboo and derivatives are used in traditional medicine for various purposes, including wound healing, pain relief, and as an anti-inflammatory agent. Bamboo charcoal is also used in skincare products for its detoxifying properties.

Bamboo plays a crucial role in environmental conservation by reducing deforestation and promoting biodiversity. Its extensive root system helps prevent soil erosion, and its fast growth rate makes it an excellent carbon sink.

Overall, bamboo technology offers sustainable and innovative solutions across various industries, promoting environmental conservation and supporting local economies.

Bamboo technology in Ethiopia is slowly gaining popularity as a sustainable and eco-friendly alternative to traditional construction materials. Bamboo is a fast-growing plant that can be harvested within a few years, making it a renewable resource. It is also known for its strength and durability, making it suitable for various construction purposes.

In Ethiopia, bamboo is being used for a range of applications, including housing, furniture, and handicrafts. The Ethiopian government has recognized the potential of bamboo and has been promoting its use in construction projects. The Ethiopian Bamboo Development Agency (EBDA) was established in 2012 to promote the sustainable development of bamboo resources in the

country. One notable example of bamboo technology in Ethiopia is the Addis Ababa Light Rail Transit (LRT) system. The LRT stations were constructed using bamboo as a primary building material. Bamboo was chosen for its strength, flexibility, and aesthetic appeal. The use of bamboo in the LRT stations not only reduced the project's environmental impact but also provided employment opportunities for local communities involved in bamboo cultivation and processing.

Bamboo technology is also being utilized in the construction of affordable housing in Ethiopia. Bamboo houses are being built as a cost-effective and sustainable solution to the country's housing shortage. These houses are not only affordable but also provide a comfortable living environment, as bamboo has natural insulation properties.

Furthermore, bamboo technology is being used in the production of furniture and handicrafts in Ethiopia. Bamboo furniture is gaining popularity due to its durability, lightweight, and aesthetic appeal. Local artisans are also using bamboo to create various handicrafts, such as baskets, mats, and decorative items.

Overall, bamboo technology in Ethiopia can contribute to sustainable development, create employment opportunities, and promote eco-friendly construction practices. The government's support and initiatives, along with the growing awareness of bamboo's benefits, are expected to further drive the adoption of bamboo technology in the country.

Despite the abundant bamboo resources in the country, Ethiopia has not been able to effectively utilize her bamboo natural endowments.

Ethiopia owns 67 percent of bamboo groves in Sub-Saharan Africa, with a potential of commercially untapped one million hectares of land. Two of the bamboo varieties are indigenous to Ethiopia and are highly demanded at world markets.

According to nationwide research conducted by the Ethiopian Forest and Climate Change Commission, bamboo, also known as the "green gold of Ethiopia" contributes Birr 56,250,000 to the country's GDP annually, engaging well over 750,000 farmers in the sector.

According to the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR), the potential revenue and employment from bamboo for Ethiopia is immense: potentially three million hectares of plantations, 5 billion dollars in revenue and 1.3 million jobs.

Bamboo could play an important role not only in the overall economic development of the country but could also contribute to sustainable land management and livelihood improvement for those engaged in the sector. Bamboo matures in 3 years of plantation, while lumber trees can take up to 30 years to mature. It is a substitute for lumber in the pulp industry, for furniture and for import substitution in the paper industries.

Furthermore, bamboo could immensely contribute to controlling soil and land degradation while also contributing to the replacement of timber. In addition, bamboo

converts 35% more carbon dioxide into oxygen than a regular tree. In this context, bamboo helps to stimulate economic development while achieving climate change mitigation goals.

Traditional skills in bamboo production are mostly restricted to utilizing bamboo for house construction, fencing and building traditional household grain silos. The Federal Micro and Small Enterprise Development Agency, in cooperation with INBAR (International Bamboo and Rattan Organization), has been training individuals who have been working on traditional bamboo furniture with the objective of technological transfer to transform traditional production into modern industry.

Only few factories engaged in industrial production of bamboo products are gradually developing in the country. Addisu Owner of S.A Bamboo Works plc said that his factory has already started to export some bamboo products to some European countries. The factory produces bamboo floor tiles, carpenter and curtains, various eight types of furniture and sticks for incense producers and tooth picks.

As part of the national effort to enhance the development of bamboo technology in Ethiopia, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission came up with a new strategic document entitled "Ethiopian Bamboo Development Strategy that will be operational from 2019 – 2030 for a period of ten years.

According to a data the author has received from the Ethiopian Investment Commission, out of 16 investment ventures licensed by the Investment Commission only one has been fully operational while a number of them are yet engaged in bamboo plantation development. However, four local developers are already engaged in producing some types of bamboo products at factory level.

Ethiopia hosts the East African regional office of International Bamboo and Rattan. INBAR is a multi-lateral development organization that promotes environmentally sustainable development using bamboo and rattan. The organization is engaged in building the capacity of countries in modern bamboo management practices, promoting bamboo nurseries and training farmers in income generating schemes based on bamboo technology.

Bamboo technology is yet to develop in Ethiopia. Over the next 10 years, the country is expected to generate foreign currency from the sector. Two Chinese companies have concluded a deal with Ethiopian government to invest a total of \$2 billion to process Ethiopia's bamboo and produce paper products for both local and export market.

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

Editorial

Opinion

New Pan African center ushering in momentum in Pan Africanism

The most anticipated Global Black History, Heritage and Education Center (GBHHEC) has made a decision to establish a huge museum and university in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The establishment of the center aims to recollect the scattered history, heritage and artifacts of Africans, to preserve and correct narrations that have been presented about black people in twisted manner, to tell the stories that have been left untold for long, revive the spirit of Pan-Africanism and ensure that the voices of black people are heard on the global stage.

In fact, the history, culture, successes and development of black people in Africa and elsewhere have always been left unnoticed or presented in a dissipated way purposefully, contrary to the reality on the ground. Even great deals of cultural heritages and artifacts that can vividly portray Africans rich history, culture, wisdom, knowledge are found dispersed in various countries around the globe which in turn limited the efforts.

Obviously, most of Africans' history and culture were written and recorded by non-Africans, which opened the door to misconception and disparaging rhetoric.

Establishment of a well-organized and equipped center where the true image, history, civilization and dignity of black people is studied, documented and taught is mandatory to correct the diminutive narratives of the past against black people.

Ethiopia is a symbol of resistance, freedom and unity for Africans and black people throughout the world. It is also a beacon of hope and a nation that has a special place among Africans and black people around the globe for being a symbol of freedom and pride.

And in this regard, the decision made by the Board to establish a museum and a university in the capital Addis Ababa is the right decision that takes into consideration the nation's unwavering contributions to Black history in Africa and worldwide and its energy for Pan Africanism.

On top of its thousands of years of history as a black people's nation, the selection of Ethiopia's capital to host the center is a wise decision as this par African city already host other prominent Pan African institutions like the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

In this regard, the decision made by Global Black History, Heritage, and Education Center's to establish a major museum and university in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, is a fundamental move and would have tremendous importance in realizing center's mission. It helps in correcting the distorted and misrepresented history of black peoples in the entire world, letting them understand and appreciate Blacks' culture, history, and heritage as well as documenting and passing on the untold stories of Africans to the young generation.

Besides, it strengthens solidarity among people who share the same history, culture, and heritage; and of course the same destiny. It is also a milestone that provides an insight for the young generation to know their roots, reconnecting and to introduce to black excellence at the highest level.

The other way round, the construction of the museum and the university in the capital Addis Ababa, will add up some important values to Ethiopia. It will make the capital a vibrant hub for research and education for scholars, researchers, historians and students who want to conduct study and learn about black peoples' history, culture and wisdom.

Equally, it further strengthens Ethiopia's effort to strengthen solidarity between and among black peoples and; reinvigorates the spirit of Pan Africanism.

The truth behind Ethiopia's seaport access deal with Somaliland

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

It is a well-known fact that the Red Sea has been caught at the cross fires of a wide spectrum of bodies and deputations in the length and breadth of the horn of Africa. From time to time, the situation in the area has been going from the frying pan into the fire and turning out to be an epic center of terrorism, human trafficking, illicit arms, smuggling and other things of a similar kind.

In consideration of the foregoing, the whole kit and caboodle in the area is turning out to be the hot spot of global crisis which demands coordinated efforts. As the region is transforming to be the breeding grounds for all security threats, Ethiopia has been working around the clock to fight terrorist groups and bringing an end to their existence once and for all and breathe an atmosphere of peace in the region.

The memorandum of understanding signed between Ethiopia and Somaliland is part and parcel of this genuine cause. Though this is the existing reality on the ground, some entities have been spreading bull and cock stories with the intention of moving the horn of Africa into uncharted territory and sow the seeds of discord and hatred between the people of Ethiopia and Somalia. Even worse some groups left no stone unturned to portray Ethiopia which has been an advocate for peace as an aggressor and violator of Somalia's sovereignty which is far from the truth.

In the face of this smear campaign by some entities, Ethiopia has continued fighting the terrorist group that have been working unceasingly to back the region into a corner and bring its hidden agenda into fruition. No matter what doomsayers say Ethiopia's contribution to Somalia peace and stability is a best example of comradesly and friendliness.

Needless to say, the memorandum of understanding signed between Ethiopia and Somaliland to access the sea demonstrates in black and white Ethiopia's commitment to oiling the wheels of regional peace and stability and becoming involved with nearby nations in a mutually advantageous manner.

The country's role as a regional peacemaker is obvious in its heaping over a million refugees from Somalia, showcasing its charitable endeavors to backing those in reduced circumstance. What is more, Ethiopia has positioned peacekeeping troops in Somalia to contribute to the maintenance of harmonious coexistence in the region. These proceedings give emphasis to Ethiopia's pledge to nurturing stronger linkages with Somalia and giving center stage to the well-being of its people.

It is true that Ethiopia has been always fighting to annihilate terrorist groups from left, right and center of Somalia and the horn region once and for all and ensure lasting peace in the horn of Africa more than ever before. In the face of slanderous attack Ethiopia has continued fighting the

criminal groups.

The Ethiopia-Somaliland seaport access deal is vital to ensure stability across Red Sea region that recently has seen an increasing turmoil, former U.S. diplomat said.

In an interview with a local media, former U.S. Secretary of State for African Affairs, Tibor Nagy recently expressed that the seaport access agreement signed between Ethiopia and Somaliland is promising to stabilize the Red Sea region and secure transport along the route.

According to Nagy, the Red Sea faced terrible instability problems including piracy because of Somalia's inability to control its coastline or for the Houthis who are shooting rockets targeting ships going through the route. He expressed that Ethiopia as a major nation, could absolutely contribute to the stability of the Red Sea if it gets a port and a navy. And it could also provide training to the Somaliland's navy, he added.

He considers that there are countries that oppose the agreement including Somalia, Egypt and the US considering the deal from their point of views.

However, these countries are jumping up and down and protest the deal for the wrong selfish reason that has nothing to do with the deal which would benefit the region, the ex-diplomat noted.

He mentioned that Egypt opposes the deal because of its disagreement with Ethiopia over the Abbay Dam even though the deal benefits its interest as it helps to ensure stability along the Red Sea route that allow the free movement of ships through the Suez Canal. The deal is even in Somalia's interest because it brings a greater stability across the Red Sea region and the coastal water that would cut down piracy which is going on at the cost of Somalia.

"The deal with Somaliland should thus be viewed from a positive perspective and as millstone for regional integration and is considered as a timely action that take note of the fragile situation in the Red Sea."

Further than humanitarian assistance and efforts towards peace, Ethiopia has also played an active role in strengthening Somalia's risk management infrastructure. By offering military maneuvers to Somalia's security personnel and providing political assistant to Somalia, Ethiopia has vigorously assisted in the growth of Somalia's competences to tackle internal stability. This coordinated approach has been influential in paving the way for the resilience and effectiveness of Somalia's institutions.

Ethiopia's reliable encouragement for Somalia's peace and stability give emphasis to the commonality of interest and principles that bring together the two nations. By attaching great significance to cooperation and mutual assistance, they can sustain building a solid foundation for everlasting peace and affluence in the region.

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



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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

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The Ethiopian Herald

Business & Economy

Promising performance in the mining sector, potential to boost economy

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

Ethiopia, a country located in the Horn of Africa, has made significant strides in developing its mining sector in recent years. Rich in mineral resources, Ethiopia has the potential to transform its economy through the sustainable extraction and utilization of its mineral wealth.

Ethiopia's performance in the mining sector, highlights key achievements, and discusses the bright hopes that lie ahead for the country's economic growth. Ethiopia boasts a diverse range of mineral resources, including gold, tantalum, potash, platinum, copper, and natural gas, among others. However, the majority of these valuable resources remain untapped. The country's untapped mineral potential presents a substantial opportunity for economic growth and development.

To attract domestic and foreign investors, Ethiopia has implemented various legislative reforms and investment incentives in the mining sector. The country's mining laws have been revised to provide a transparent and investor-friendly regulatory framework. Additionally, the government offers tax breaks, customs duty exemptions, and streamlined licensing procedures to encourage investment in the sector.

Ethiopia has a long history of gold mining, and the sector has experienced significant growth in recent years. The country has attracted international mining companies, such as MIDROC Gold, KEFI Minerals, and Niota Minerals, which have invested in exploration and production activities. These efforts have led to the discovery of new gold deposits and increased gold production, contributing to the country's export earnings, according to documents.

Empirics further unveiled that Ethiopia possesses substantial reserves of potash, a key ingredient in agricultural fertilizers. The Danakil Depression in northeastern Ethiopia is estimated to hold one of the world's largest potash deposits. In collaboration with international partners, the Ethiopian government has initiated the development of potash mines in the region. The extraction and export of potash are expected to generate substantial revenue and create employment opportunities.

Ethiopia is also known for its significant tantalum reserves, a critical mineral used in electronic devices. The country has attracted interest from international companies for tantalum exploration and mining. Furthermore, there are ongoing efforts to explore and exploit other minerals, such as copper, platinum,



Ethiopian emeralds comes in light to vivid green color

and natural gas. These resources hold immense potential to diversify Ethiopia's economy and increase its export earnings.

Realizing the importance of infrastructure for the mining sector, Ethiopia has prioritized infrastructure development projects. These include the construction of roads, railways, and power infrastructure to facilitate the transportation of minerals and provide reliable energy sources to mining operations. Improved infrastructure will not only support the mining sector but also benefit other industries and enhance overall economic growth.

The development of the mining sector in Ethiopia has the potential to create numerous job opportunities, particularly in rural areas where unemployment rates are high. By employing local workers and engaging with local communities, mining companies can contribute to poverty reduction and social development. Additionally, the government is implementing programs to enhance the skills of the local workforce to meet the demands of the mining industry.

Ethiopia recognizes the importance of sustainable mining practices and environmental conservation. The government has introduced regulations to ensure responsible mining operations, including land reclamation and environmental impact assessments. By promoting sustainable mining practices, Ethiopia aims to minimize the ecological footprint of the sector and protect its natural resources for future generations.

Ethiopia's mining sector has made significant progress in recent years, unlocking its vast mineral potential and attracting domestic and foreign investment. With ongoing exploration and development activities, particularly in gold, potash, tantalum, and other minerals, Ethiopia is poised to further enhance its economy and create

sustainable growth. By implementing robust regulatory frameworks, investing in infrastructure, and promoting responsible mining practices, Ethiopia can harness the full potential of its mineral resources and improve the livelihoods of its people.

Nestled in the Northeastern corner of Africa, Ethiopia is a land of rich cultural heritage, breathtaking landscapes, and vast untapped resources. Among its hidden treasures lie a wealth of gemstones, emeralds, and other precious stones that have the potential to establish the country as a major player in the global gemstone industry. With its diverse geological formations and promising mining prospects, Ethiopia is poised to emerge as a significant source of high-quality gemstones. In this article, we explore Ethiopia's untapped potential and the prospects it holds for the production of gemstones and emeralds.

Ethiopia's geological landscape is a tapestry of diverse terrains, ranging from rugged mountains to vast plateaus and fertile valleys. This geological diversity contributes to the country's abundant mineral resources, including gemstones and emeralds. The presence of several gem-bearing rock formations, such as the Adola gold belt, the Kenticha belt, and the Yita Ridge, offers promising prospects for mining precious stones.

Ethiopia is home to some of the world's most significant emerald deposits. The country's emeralds are primarily found in the southern part, notably in the regions of Sidama, Shakiso, and Kenticha. These emeralds possess exceptional clarity, vibrant green hues, and often exhibit unique internal formations. The emerald deposits in Ethiopia are believed to be of hydrothermal origin, associated with granitic intrusions, making them highly sought after by gem enthusiasts and collectors alike.

In addition to emeralds, Ethiopia boasts

an array of other precious stones that have the potential to captivate the global market. Sapphires, rubies, opals, garnets, and tourmalines are among the precious stones found in various regions of the country. The north Wollo zone, in particular, is renowned for its opal deposits, producing opals with mesmerizing play-of-color and exceptional transparency. With proper exploration and mining techniques, Ethiopia has the opportunity to showcase its diverse array of gemstones.

While Ethiopia's gemstone industry holds immense potential, it also faces certain challenges that need to be addressed. These challenges include limited infrastructure, a lack of modern mining technologies, and the need for skilled labor. However, the Ethiopian government has recognized the significance of the gemstone sector and has taken steps to attract both domestic and foreign investments. Efforts to improve infrastructure, promote sustainable mining practices, and provide training opportunities for local artisans and miners are underway.

Ethiopia has the opportunity to position itself as a leader in ethical and sustainable gemstone mining practices. Unlike some regions known for unethical mining practices, such as human rights abuses and environmental degradation, Ethiopia can establish a responsible and transparent supply chain. By implementing fair trade practices, ensuring workers' welfare, and adopting environmentally friendly mining techniques, Ethiopia can build a reputation as a trusted source of ethically sourced gemstones and emeralds.

In recent years, Ethiopia's gemstone industry has garnered international recognition, drawing the attention of gem dealers, jewelry designers, and collectors worldwide. The unique characteristics of Ethiopian emeralds and other gemstones have led to collaborations with international jewelry brands, resulting in increased market visibility and demand. This growing interest presents a significant opportunity for Ethiopia to establish itself as a key player in the global gemstone trade.

Ethiopia's vast untapped potential in producing gemstones and emeralds is an exciting prospect for the country's economic growth and global recognition. With its diverse geological formations, rich deposits, and commitment to ethical and sustainable mining practices, Ethiopia has the opportunity to carve a niche in the gemstone industry. By addressing challenges, investing in infrastructure, and promoting skilled labor, Ethiopia can harness its natural resources to become a leading provider of high-quality gemstones, captivating the world with its hidden treasures.

Art & Culture

Musical life

that flourished standing the test of time

BY ALEM HAILU G/KRISTOS

The late Getachew Kassa was one of the prominent vocalists that took center stage in the timeline referred to Ethiopian Golden Age of Music (the 1960th and 1970th). What made him stick out from his contemporaries was his peculiar singing style. He basked under the standing ovation of his fans from three generations.

Last week Getachew passed away aged 79.

In his musical career that stretched for half a century he had played different musical beats along with Fetan Band, Shebele Band and Venus Band and later with Waliya's band.

He is well remembered for the fast memory-provoking beats. Here it is important to note that memory and music have a deep-seated connection.

Among the cherished songs he played are found "Hageren Atenkuat" (Do not raise my country in bad), Web Addis Ababa (Mesmeric Addis Ababa), "Tiz Balegn Gize" (When I reminisced), Yekereme fikre (Old flame), Mehede New (I'm due to depart) and Sayesh Esasalehu (I feel pity whenever I see you—the apple of my eye.) These songs, among other songs of his, had won him widespread fame. One of his songs of umbilical cord attachment to one's motherland runs as follows,

To many of us

A motherland,

Which we call

Our fortress,

Don't raise the name of

My country in bad!

In Adwa and Maychew

For her sake

The valorous martyred

Kids and elders alike

Got slashed neck;

My country

With citizens

To aggression intolerant

Also if provoked indignant

Let my country from hassle

Take a rest

As it is my nest.

This is one of the best song verses charged with nationalistic sentiment. Despite



the passage of time and the coming and departing of generations the song's acceptability shows an upward swing indicating that it is taken a jewel among such songs of similar nature. In this digital age too it is enjoying a high hit and widespread likes expanding Getachew's fan base.

Originally the classic song's verse put above was written in Amharic by the famous author-poet and veteran journalist Abera Lemma. It was written during the counter offensive Ethiopia mounted to reverse Said Bare's aggression in 1977 G.C.

On a TV interview, an electronic media conducted with Getachew, he was heard mentioning that it was after he saw this poem published on Addis Zemen Newspaper an interest welled up in him to sing the verse asking the permission of the author of the song verse.

With his melodious voice Getachew sang the verse in the best way possible.

Another song of his that won him fame is "Mesmeric Addis Ababa". It would not be a hyperbole if one claims "it is best of the best songs about Addis. It is unmatched by other songs of similar nature to date." "Addis Ababa home sweet home" by Alemayehu Eshete is in the same wave length.

Mesmeric Addis my abode

My village Merkato

Where I grew up

My life from toddler

To a grown up

Seared on my heart

And stamped on my being

Trails before my eyes

Everything.

Sheger town

Mesmeric Addis Ababa

Pillar of my love

And upkeep,

Buried in my being deep

Life's flower

Addis Ababa...

Getachew was born and brought up in Merkato the bustling corner of Addis Ababa. Merkato was once the spawning ground of musicians. It was populated by giant audio-music publishers.

Moreover there were two cinema houses in Merkato namely Ras Theatre and Cinema Ketema where artistic works were staged. As such it was the hub of artists that could wield influence on those that wanted to sniff and follow their footprints. Getachew's song 'Mesmeric Addis' is reflective of tidbits of such memory.

According to studies, Getachew's paradigm shift on songs revolving around fond memories by changing them from lamentation to ones that evoke the passion of attendees for dance added hues to his fame. He became the talk of the town.

In the Ethiopia Radio's music buffets conducted as per the choices of the audience. More often than not his name bubbled up to the top. The unfolding facilitated ways for the emergence of Additional publishers such as Kalifa Records that joined the industry publishing Getachew's songs. Getachew added

additional songs foregrounded by Waliya's band

Following Waliya's band tour abroad, Getachew preferred to seek asylum. Leading a solitary life didn't deter him from releasing albums packed with mellifluous songs. His dulcet voice synchronizing with his grooving style had helped him to stamp his footprint on Ethiopia's music history.

Getachew lived in America for 28 years. During his stay there he did stage his works on various podiums. Returning back home he was staging songs in different variety shows and night clubs.

The soft spoken, polite and cordial Getachew is survived by his daughter. His works make a living billboard of his musical knack. Ever since the news of his demise has been heard a cross section of society that cuts a large swath including dignitaries is expressing condolences to the bereaved family members and his fans.

The following comments about the deceased Getachew are excerpts from the Facebook pages of famous artists

"Sadly, Getachew had departed. His songs will go down generation's lane to echo his fame that arises from his time defying works."

"His melodic voice is hard to forget."

"Getachew was not only a vocalist. He was also song verse writer and instrumentalist."

He was laid to rest in the Holy trinity cemetery after a parting ceremony was conducted to him at the National Theatre in the presence of president of the Ethiopian Musical Society Dawit Yefru who also presided over the committee that saw to the funeral procession.

Global Affairs

Funding, policy changes could result in countries reaping benefit of migration

Amid an escalation of global conflict and climate change-induced displacements, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is escalating its donor campaign.

For the first time since the organization's formation in 1951, the IOM says it is "proactively approaching all partners to fund this vital appeal," at a time when the number of migrants making perilous intercontinental journeys has increased.

"Irregular and forced migration have reached unprecedented levels and the challenges we face are increasingly complex," said IOM Director General Amy Pope at the launch of the Global Appeal in Geneva in January.

It added to its appeal this week, asking for USD 112 million to provide urgent humanitarian and development assistance to over 1.4 million migrants and host communities in the Horn of Africa, Yemen, and Southern Africa. Routes from the Horn of Africa to Yemen and the Gulf States, and the Southern route from the Horn of Africa through Kenya and Tanzania to Southern Africa, are among the most dangerous, complex, and under-reported migratory routes in the world. In 2023, nearly 400,000 movements were recorded across the Eastern route, while an additional 80,000 movements were recorded on the Southern route, particularly to South Africa, the statement read.

"The evidence is overwhelming that migration, when well-managed, is a major contributor to global prosperity and progress. We are at a critical moment in time, and we have designed this appeal to help deliver on that promise. We can and must do better," Pope said at the launch.

"Full funding would allow IOM to serve almost 140 million people, including internally displaced people and the local communities that host them. Crucially, it would also allow for an expansion of the IOM's development work, which helps prevent further displacement," the IOM said in a media briefing.

However, experts and researchers say the global migration that has peaked in recent years has deeper, more complex roots that will require more than just responding to after the fact.

"What we're seeing is a willingness from officials and citizens to thoroughly dehumanize migrants," said Loren Landau, professor and chair at the University of Witwatersrand African Centre for Migration and Society.



The African Unions Migration Policy Framework for Africa (2018-2030) provides guidelines to manage migration and reap the benefits of well managed migration which contribute to global prosperity and progress. Credit: UNHCR

"Not only can they be left to suffer, but they should be made to suffer. Only by doing this can 'we' send a message that others are unwelcome. The policies of the EU, Australia, and even South Africa are all designed to broadcast this sentiment," Landau told IPS.

The IOM estimates that there are more than 140 million displaced people, and its global appeal for donor support will "save lives and protect people on the move, drive solutions to displacement, and facilitate safe pathways for regular migration."

Thousands continue to make efforts to illegally enter Europe and the USA with assistance from traffickers.

According to the IOM's Missing Migrants Project, 60,000 people have died or disappeared on perilous journeys to seek economic opportunities over the last nine years.

Migration has in recent years become a political hot button, with right-wing political parties in Europe accused of whipping up public sentiment against migrants.

However, Landau says global inequality has worsened the displacement of millions of people.

"Migration has long been a crisis, although it has often been framed differently. There have always been displaced people. There has long been violence and corruption on the border. However, it has now moved from the edge of public debate to the center,"

Loren said.

"Global inequality, labor demand, conflict, and environmental factors are encouraging people to move, but movement is natural," he told IPS.

Claims that migrants steal jobs from locals and force governments to divert social spending to accommodate migrants have fueled anti-immigrant sentiment.

Researchers, however, have always questioned those claims as the IOM ups its efforts to assist migrants in their new domiciles.

"Migrants are generally not why fewer people have secure employment, social protection, or feel their cultures and values are under threat. But in light of those anxieties, migrants have become the fetish on which politicians and the public fixate," Landau added.

In its appeal for donor funding, the IOM says well-managed migration "has the potential to advance development outcomes, contribute to climate change adaptation, and promote a safer and more peaceful, sustainable, prosperous, and equitable future."

"The consequences of underfunded, piecemeal assistance come at a greater cost, not just in terms of money but in greater danger to migrants through irregular migration, trafficking, and smuggling," said Pope.

"Getting the job done requires greater investment from governments, the private sector, individual donors, and

other partners," said Pope.

The African Union, which has seen the bulk of global migration, says the continent has witnessed changing patterns of migration, "a phenomenon that has become both dynamic and extremely complex."

As part of efforts to address this and in what is expected to aid the work being done by the IOM, the AU set up the Migration Policy Framework for Africa (2018-2030).

The Framework provides "guidelines to manage migration in a coherent manner and therefore reap the benefits of migration."

Those benefits are captured in IOM findings that "281 million international migrants generate 9.4% of global GDP."

Despite the dangers that have come to define migrant experiences, especially on the high seas, the factors that drive millions to leave their homelands remain unresolved.

"There are immediate practical concerns about ensuring people can migrate safely," said Landau.

"Beyond this, there is a broader need to recalibrate how we speak about these issues. Migration is not going anywhere so there's a need to shift the framing from one of crisis to one of 'the new normal', Landau told IPS.

SOURCE: INTER PRESS SERVICE

Law & Politics

Revisiting the Victory of Adwa

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

The Victory of Adwa has changed the history of Ethiopia. It has also changed the history of Africa. Most importantly, it has changed the relationship between colonizers and colonies. It has opened a new chapter in the dynamics of relations between the new world and the old world. People's perception of Africa has changed because no one before Adwa thought of Africans as capable of winning a war against a developed European army. It was also stated that it was just a huge blow to the mentality of 'superiority' of the white man over the black man. It is hence appropriate to say that there is no doubt therefore that the Victory of Adwa has opened a new chapter in the relations between the 'white' world and the African world.

Adwa is not considered a victory only for Menelik, the Ethiopians, and Africans, but ultimately a victory of the oppressed over the oppressors; it was a victory against injustice and exploitation in a broader sense. It was a victory of good over evil. The scramble for Africa was flying high on African skies with the division of the entire continent by European powers, who raced to conquer as many areas as possible in every part of the continent. England and France had the lion's share of the African continent, but others as well took an active part such as the Belgians, the Portuguese, and the Germans. One of the newcomers was the Italians and to catch up, they tried to colonize Ethiopia, which has been free and not conquered. That was why Italy embarked on the campaign against the Ethiopians. But evidently, the Italians did not know that Ethiopians were people who always fought for their freedom and sovereignty and that before Adwa they had inflicted defeats over other invaders from around the vicinity of the borders of the country.

History books record that Ethiopia's history is full of warfare and battles after battles and that Ethiopians have always fought hardly to foil the invaders because there were at one time the Turks, the Egyptians, and the Sudanese who on one occasion or another, did try to invade or occupy parts of Ethiopian land and subject them to their jurisdiction. Academics would say that given the geopolitical significance of the location of Ethiopia, it was always in the eye of the cyclone. It was always in the minds of many states that considered themselves powerful enough to conquer Ethiopia. The fact that it is adjacent to the blood line of international trade on the Red Sea routes, and because of the pressure of the origin of the mighty Nile, the geopolitical importance of Ethiopia was undeniably significant. That is why there was a lot of interest in the country.

But Ethiopians have always had the antique tradition of fighting back against any alien force who would try to sneak into

their territory, foiling every aggression successfully and conserving their sovereignty. When the invading Italian forces came to Ethiopia, they evidently did not have enough awareness about the essence of Ethiopians. Ethiopians could have a range of differences, disputes, and discrepancies amongst themselves, but when an alien force tries to attack their land, they immediately leave aside their internal differences, disregard their disputes, and stand united to defend their territorial integrity and sovereignty. That has happened several times in Ethiopia because they say their internal fights can take place only if in the first place they have a country that they can call their own. That is what happened at Adwa and that was what had happened before Adwa.

The Victory of Adwa has many protagonists, but the ones we are always well informed about and shine over others are the Emperor Menelik, his spouse, Empress Taitu, and several other war leaders such as Ras Mekonnen, Ras Mengesha, Dejazmach Balcha, Fitawrari Habte Giorgis, etc. But Adwa was much greater than the usual leaders. Thousands of people contributed to the victory of Adwa, and without their input, it could not have succeeded in any way. The estimated one hundred twenty thousand troops did not reach the battle front without the assistance of other thousands of people who took part in preparing and providing all the necessary materials to be able to take part in the battle.

The thousands of women who took part in the preparation of the necessary provisions for the troops should now be mentioned here as part of the battle because the campaign was known to take months and the issue of the survival of the troops physically fit and well-nourished as well as armed was a key factor in the entire campaign. The logistics were a huge task because horses, mules, and donkeys were used to transport the provisions, the tents where the troops would sleep at night, and other stuff necessary for the campaign.

Besides food and water, there was also the need to take care of all those who might feel ill during the campaign and the wounded during the various battles, even before Adwa. Emergency assistance was indispensable, and every action that was scheduled to take place during the campaign needed to be well organized, timed, and carried out without chaos. There was an efficient line of command, and everybody knew what their roles and contributions would be. That was why the campaign needed to be well planned and directed.

The role of the women was hence equally significant and decisive as that of the men. There was also a group of health officers who took care of those who needed any type of medical assistance during the entire campaign.

The battle of Adwa is hence a huge victory

against a formidable enemy who was well trained, organized, and armed, but it was the resolve of Ethiopian patriots who just gathered without training to defend their country with every traditional weapon they could avail of, such as spears, old rifles, guns, shields, and swords, but above all, they had the courage to face the enemy head-on and emerge in face-to-face confrontation. Thousands faced unavoidable death, but that did not bother them at all. They knew they were fighting for the right and sublime cause. They knew they were obeying the order and leadership of their king, and they knew that the stakes were not only their freedom but also their religion, their culture, and their families' existence. That was why they never hesitated to put their lives in the line of fire without budging, or trying to hide.

The Victory of Adwa has perpetuated the myth of unbeatable Ethiopia in any battle that had at stake their sovereignty, dignity, and freedom. Adwa's light continues to shine, and Africans have continued to be inspired by it. Many books have been written about Adwa, but evidently not enough, and not to the deserved extent or detail. A lot of research needs to be undertaken, and all those who were forgotten need to be recalled and obtain due credit because the intricacies of this battle were enormous. The protagonists are not only the usual few who continue to be recalled at any event that relates to Adwa.

Credit must be due to many thousands, and definitely there may be several stories of each one of those who took part in the campaign who might have told their story to family members or friends before dying, and those in turn must share their stories with others and may keep records of them so that every light is shed on the story from multiple perspectives by multiple story tellers.

The newly constructed Adwa Victory Memorial has done some justice to this huge historical event, and all Africans can come to Addis and refresh their memory by visiting it. For many, the construction of the monument is long overdue, and the Abiy Ahmed government deservedly takes credit for realizing this project right at the heart of Addis Ababa, the capital of Africa, and filling a huge gap. From now on, many people, especially those of African descent, will have another extra stimulus to come to Addis and take their time to visit this memorial, majestically placed at the center of the city and very easily accessible. It is also an inspiration for the coming generation and a deserved tribute to all those who sacrificed their lives to give us a free country, full of pride and dignity. We must be grateful to them. One way of expressing our gratitude is by preserving their spirit of union and cohesion that kept the country intact. In the event we do the contrary we are betraying their cause and their sacrifice.

The Victory of Adwa has perpetuated the myth of unbeatable Ethiopia in any battle that had at stake their sovereignty, dignity, and freedom. Adwa's light continues to shine, and Africans have continued to be inspired by it

Planet Earth

University's support...

continued from page 14

various research institutions to implement cluster wheat farming methods and provide necessary resources to nearby districts and local farmers.

He stated that the university's support to farmers covers the entire agricultural process, from preparation of farm plots to harvesting yields. The increase in productivity can be attributed to several factors, including the provision of high-quality seeds and fertilizers as well as the university's commitment to equipping farmers with the best available resources. As a result, local farmers have achieved an impressive yield of 40 to 55 quintals per hectare of land during the production season, he noted.

The collaboration efforts ensure that farmers have access to improved seeds, fertilizers, and other agricultural inputs, contributing to enhanced productivity and food security. In the current cropping season alone, MWU has supported farmers organized in clusters for wheat production on over 140 hectares of farmland in seven districts across Bale, West Arsi, and East Bale zones, Bezabih said.

He stated that MWU recognizes the significance of providing professional assistance to farmers to optimize their agricultural practices, such as crop disease management, pesticide usage, and fertilizer application. By equipping farmers with knowledge and expertise in these areas, MWU empowers them to effectively manage crop diseases, use pesticides judiciously, and

apply fertilizers in a manner that maximizes productivity and minimizes environmental impact. This support contributes to improved agricultural practices and increased wheat productivity among farmers.

"We have been able to enhance our production and productivity through the university's involvement in cluster farming." Says Habte Wolde another wheat farmer in Sinana Woreda of Bale Zone.

"The farmers in the region have witnessed remarkable improvements in both their wheat yields and their overall livelihoods as a result of the university's agricultural equipment and expertise," he mentioned.

Habte remarked that in addition to providing resources, MWU has conducted comprehensive training programs aimed at enhancing farmers' skills. These programs cover various aspects, such as effective fertilizer and crop utilization, financial management, and seed control.

In addition, farmers have eagerly embraced these learning opportunities, recognizing their importance in empowering them to overcome challenges and maximize their potential, he said.

He mentioned that during the previous and current harvest seasons, farmers faced difficulties with weeds and others. However, through collaborative efforts with Chemtex Chemical Supply PLC and other partners, an effective solution was found. The application of a chemical called Palas Super proved

successful in combating the weed, ensuring healthier crop yields for the farmers, he added.

The National Research Symposium on Wheat Productivity which MWU hosted recently was a valuable opportunity to identify possibilities and overcome challenges faced by the agricultural sector. Experts and stakeholders gathered to exchange knowledge, share best practices, and explore innovative solutions to enhance wheat productivity and ensure food security.

Through implementing cluster wheat farming methods and providing improved seeds, fertilizers, and agricultural inputs, MWU is empowering farmers and contributing to increased productivity. The university's involvement in community development and its role as a center of excellence in farming further signify its dedication to sustainable agricultural practices.

As MWU continues to prioritize research, capacity building, and technological advancements, it is poised to play a significant role in transforming Ethiopia's agricultural sector and ensuring long-term food security for the nation, Ahmed said.

MWU's attempt to conserve agriculture involves practices such as maintaining soil cover through crop residue management and crop rotation. These practices help reduce soil erosion, improve soil health and moisture retention, and enhance carbon sequestration, he noted.

Agro forestry integrates trees with crops or livestock, providing multiple benefits such as improved soil fertility, biodiversity conservation, and carbon sequestration. Planting trees on farms can provide shade, windbreaks, and fodder while also contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

He said that the university is working to implement efficient water management practices, such as drip irrigation, precision irrigation, and rainwater harvesting that can help optimize water use and reduce water stress on crops. Proper water management techniques enhance crop productivity, conserve water resources, and make farming more resilient to droughts and erratic rainfall patterns.

He further stated that MWU Promoting crop diversification encourages farmers to cultivate a variety of crops, including drought-tolerant and pest-resistant varieties. Diversification reduces the risk of crop failure due to climate-related factors and enhances food security by ensuring a range of nutritious crops are available.

In addition to showcasing MWU's active involvement in a number of areas, including agriculture, tourism, biodiversity, and societal health, President Ahmed Kalil pledged that the university would keep providing capacity-building training, technical support, and oversight to help farmers address their inquiries and meet their needs for agricultural inputs and equipment.

Planet Earth

University's support transforming wheat farmer's productivity in Bale

BY FIKADU BELAY

Alo Abdi, is a farmer in the Goro Woreda, Bale Zone of Oromia State. Many farmers like him make a living by producing wheat in the plots of land they own. Though the entire area is well known for wheat productivity, they carry out their farming through the traditional mode of production that they fail to earn better.

Recently, however, Mada Walabu University (MWU), one of the public higher education institutions operating in their locality, is implementing an agricultural productivity improvement research and support programs for the local farmers. This has heralded a new and better chapter of life for farmers including Alo who are now able to harvest far more crops than the past.

"Previously, we were only able to achieve a yield of 30 quintals per hectare from our farm plots. But now, with the assistance and oversight of the University, we have reached an impressive level of harvesting 43 quintals per hectare."

He emphasized that MWU's unwavering

commitment to supporting farmers and revolutionizing agricultural practices has not only boosted production and productivity but has also improved the lives of numerous families in the region. These promising results have renewed hope for a thriving agricultural sector and a prosperous future for the cluster farming community.

MWU President Ahmed Kalil stated that the university has active involvement in various fields for the benefit of the community. Not only is the university actively engaged in its efforts in agriculture, but it is also actively engaged in promoting tourism, biodiversity conservation, and public health. By diversifying its contributions, MWU aims to create a holistic impact on the community and foster sustainable development.

The university's commitment to becoming a center of excellence in farming is evident through its involvement in research symposiums, capacity building training, monitoring, and technical support, he said.

It also goes in line with the national level program of the federal government to improve wheat productivity which is an

integral part of the effort to become food self-sufficient.

The government of Ethiopia has implemented various initiatives to promote the wheat production and productivity of the country, contributing significantly to its food security and improving its overall agricultural productivity. These initiatives include the provision of improved seed varieties, access to credit facilities for farmers, and the development of agricultural extension services to disseminate knowledge and best practices in wheat farming.

Despite these efforts, Ethiopia still faces challenges in its wheat productivity. Limited access to modern farming technologies, such as mechanization and irrigation, poses a significant constraint on increasing productivity. Additionally, fluctuations in weather patterns, including droughts and erratic rainfall, can adversely affect wheat yields and pose risks to farmers' livelihoods.

To address these challenges, the Ethiopian government, in collaboration with international partners, has been working on expanding irrigation infrastructure and

promoting the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices. These efforts aim to enhance the resilience of wheat farming systems and improve productivity in the face of climate change.

Through various initiatives and ongoing investments, Ethiopia continues to strive towards increasing wheat production, ensuring food security, and promoting sustainable agricultural development.

Located in Bale Robe town, MWU had recently hosted a national research symposium focused on enhancing wheat productivity to ensure food security in the country. Through the university's commitment to addressing wheat productivity improvement through collaboration with Chemtex PLC and various research institutions, implementing cluster wheat farming methods, and providing improved seeds, fertilizers, and agricultural inputs to local farmers, MWU aims to play a pivotal role in securing the nation's food supply.

Bezabih Wendimu (PhD), Vice President of WMU, told the Ethiopian Press Agency that the university has collaborated with

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