



# The Ethiopian Herald

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## Devoting more budgets on education pressing issue for AUC

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA-** Education - taken as continental theme of the year- needs much budget much more than the usual as the population number surges, the African Union Commission (AUC) said.

Commissioners of specialized agencies of AUC recently indicated that millions of youths are facing socio-economic challenges because of lack of skill and education.

During the course of his presser on side event of the 44th Ordinary Session of Executive Council of the African Union (AU) on Wednesday, Commissioner for Economic Development, Tourism, Trade, Industry, and Mining (ETTİM) Albert Muchanga said that in a bid to address quality and inclusivity hindrances on education across the continent, AU has adopted education as theme of the year 2024.

The Commissioner also suggested

*See Devoting more ... page 3*

Photo: Hadush Abreha



# Adwa Museum

## belongs to all Africans : *MoFA*

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA** – The Adwa Victory Memorial Museum that recently inaugurated in Ethiopia is belonged to all Africans as it commemorates African freedom victory, Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said.

The remark was made by MoFA Minister Ambassador Taye Atske-Selassie on last Wednesday's evening while hosting a state dinner for the participants of the 44th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of African Union (AU).

It was also learnt that before the dinner ,the

participants had visited the Adwa Victory Memorial Museum.

At the event, Amb. Taye said that Ethiopia's Adwa Victory Memorial Museum is at the disposal of all Africans as it stands to manifest the victory of Adwa that Africans

*See Adwa Museum ... page 3*



Workneh Gebeyehu (PhD)

## IGAD stepping up efforts to foster regional integration

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## Ethiopia, Turkiye to expand cooperation in trade, investment

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

**ADDIS ABABA** –Ethiopia and the Republic of Turkiye have pledged to explore new opportunities and strengthen existing partnerships.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectorial Association (ECCSA ) organized a business forum yesterday with a view to fostering the engagements of both sides.

Speaking at the forum, Ethiopian Investment Commission Commissioner Hanna Arayaselassie said that government

*See Ethiopia, Turkiye ... page 3*



Commissioner Hanna Arayaselassie



Ambassador Berk Baran



## Unlocking Africa's challenges via quality education

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## Adwa Victory Memorial: Portrayal of shining Victory, bedrock for boosting tourism

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## HFHE hands over houses for veteran families, vulnerable groups

ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA-** Habitat for Humanity Ethiopia (HFHE) has handed over houses, water and sanitation and other facilities to low-income Korean veteran families and vulnerable groups.

Handing over 28 houses built with the financial support of LG Electronics to low-income Korean veteran families and other vulnerable groups in Yeka Woreda 4 and Gulele woreda 2 sub-cities, HFHE National Director Yitna Tekalign said that the support aimed at improving the wellbeing of vulnerable families including the Korean War Veterans.

This would be achieved through the provision of housing, water, hygiene and sanitation facilities as well as capacity building and job creation opportunities, Yitna expressed.

The support, according to the Director, has been facilitated under the "Life is Good, Hope Village" project which funded by LG Electronics for the past three years.

The project beneficiaries are Korean War Veterans, Vulnerable individuals including children, peoples with disability, elders, and unemployed youth who have been impacted by poor housing condition and poor sanitation services provision in slum, Yitna stated.

School girls are benefited directly by school WASH facility construction at a cost of 27 million ETB, he said.

Korean Ambassador to Ethiopia Jung Kang on his part said that Korea and Ethiopia has special diplomatic relationships since the Korean War.

Currently Korea is supporting Ethiopia in terms of peace and security and economic development of Ethiopia, he mentioned.

As to him, the bilateral relation of the two countries should be strengthened in the area of economic cooperation, investment and people to people exchanges.

LG Ethiopia Country Director Seung Hwan Yang said that the company would continue providing support for the vulnerable communities and other development agendas of Ethiopia.

# Almost 100 mln children out of school in Africa: *ESTI*

• Some 19 bln USD requires to reach educational targets

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA** - Almost 100 million school age children are not attending school in African continent, said Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (ESTI).

In his press conference yesterday, Commissioner of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (ESTI) in African Union (AU), Professor Mohammed Belhocine stated that currently, Africa has half billion a school age population. Out of this almost 100 million children aged between 5 and 19 (the period of primary and secondary schooling) are not attending school.

"This is very concerning. We have a mass of 100 million children that are not socially integrated. At this age, the social integration is mainly through school. It would contribute for all sorts of vulnerabilities and crimes."

As to Commissioner, the impact not affects only African continent, but it also affects global community. The draft declaration which will be adopted on the



Prof. Mohammed Belhocine

leaders' session prioritizing education accommodated the forefront concern.

Education, as a forefront concern of the continent, deserves governments' unilateral and collective effort. Governments may have competing priorities to deal with agriculture, trade, industry and other developmental issues. But, the problem happening in all areas will be worsening until the education

sector gets better attention, he said.

African continent needs global support at least to reach universal coverage and to fulfill the commitments of international community towards human rights since it is difficult for some countries to achieve it. It requires 19 billion USD to reach to universal coverage by 2030.

The AU, UN and some other international organizations took bold decision to work on transforming education in Africa. Despite all the efforts, there were genuine and quite important efforts to educate African people. Still now, there are concerning issues in education sector. The duty barriers are primarily the governments. We lose focus on a priority, he added.

"If you take children at the age of 10 and you give them a simple text for understanding, nine of ten children on average in Africa will not read be able to read it properly to give a summary." The education sector needs to do more in term of quality, qualification of teachers, the way we teach the children and others to address basic challenges, he stressed.

## State secures 887 mln Birr revenue from mining

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA**-Oromia State Mineral Development Authority announced that it secured 887 million Birr revenue from mineral development activities over the past six months.

Oromia State Mineral Development Authority Director General, Bezu Wakbeka told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the state has secured about 887 million Birr revenue over the last six months.

According to him, the state had planned to secure about 1.1 billion birr revenue in the last six months.

He further stated that about 3,000 kg was planned to produce gold and tantalum in mid-year, but able to produced 1400 kg gold and tantalum mines.

He said: "The office will work into full production to utilize potential to achieve the stated goal. Many unstable conditions in the state in some areas and to reverse this we will undertake various measures to improve the mining sector performance and achieve the set goal in the rest months.

In the state modern mining extraction companies and traditional one exist



Bezu Wakbeka

and of which some are on exploration, studying mining potential areas at this time."

In the state 60 mining minerals have been identified and so far about 40 are to some extent extracting, exploring and conducting to utilize properly. This year, it has planned to secure 2.2 billion Birr revenue from mining sector in the state, he added.

Contraband and illegal activities are some of hindering factors of the sector underdeveloped.

On the other hand, Amhara State Mines



Haile Abebe

Bureau Head, Haile Abebe on his part told EPA that about 11 investors have taken license to enter to production and 5 are engaging in exploring of mines to extract.

"This year, 16,000 kg opal has been produced and delivered to central market and contributed 600,000 USD. Ten Amhara state universities are conducting research that supported by technology to explore mines, develop the gold, opal granite mines to utilize proper manner and reach into higher level. There are about 45 mines are available in the state," he opined.

# News

## IGAD stepping up efforts to foster regional integration

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDIS ABABA** - The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is striving for cross border cooperation and regional integration amongst member states, Bloc's Executive Secretary said.

Speaking with FBC, IGAD's Executive Secretary Workneh Gebeyehu (PhD) noted that the regional bloc has been undertaking activities to harmonizing policies of Health, Trade and Economy thereby strengthening ties of member states on multilayered areas.

He mentioned that IGAD was able to register

success in mediating member states through its peace and security activities in the region over the years.

Of which, it takes the lion's share in creating the current federal government of Somalia. Workneh also stated that the organization has also put significant impact on creating 'Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity' in South Sudan.

On the other hand, IGAD has been undertaking several activities in stepping up common market linkage and strengthening border markets, he said, adding that the efforts include harmonizing member states and supporting

activities that nations undertake in the fight against climate change.

The Executive Secretary further indicated that besides the schools that were built at the border of Kenya and Ethiopia four months ago, IGAD has been executing projects to enhance cross border cooperation in Galabat-Metema and Karamoja Cluster where(Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda) share a common border.

With regard to the current situation in Sudan, Workneh stressed that IGAD will further continue its effort to put an end to suffering of the Sudanese people as well as to enable parties to come to the discussion table.

## Ethiopia, Turkiye ...

of Ethiopia has been offering incentives in key priority areas, building infrastructure and series of reforms to improve the business environment thereby registering a significant economic growth.

Cognizant of its strategic location in the Horn and notable investment destination with a huge domestic population, the commissioner further remarked that investing in Ethiopia promotes not only the ever growing domestic market but also for the rest of Africa.

"Due to its proximity and easy access to the Middle East, the country is preferable and ideal destination for investment," the commissioner added.

Furthermore, she said that the government has been also providing basic infrastructure ,road connectivity, Ethio-Djibouti Railway cheap green energy that meets investor's needs and expedites import and export trade which help inject nation's economy

In parallel, the commission has given priorities for agriculture and agro processing, manufacturing, ICT, mining and tourism sectors, she added.

Extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Turkiye, Ambassador Berk Baranfor his part stated that the forum is believed to foster the investment opportunities in Ethiopia.

As the continent in general is shining with a great natural resources potential, the Ambassador emphasized that: "It is important to enhance our win-win comprehensive approach in the continent. Indeed, Ethiopia is the forefront diplomatic capital over the world."

"The Turkish Airlines, which helps its counterpart as a gateway to Europe for the Ethiopian to the Africans, with diverse destinations helps fostering our partnership that benefit our mutual cooperation," the Ambassador noted.

In addition to our long standing diplomatic relations and business to business ties, he said, adding that the both sides have also been entertaining a good people to people.

ECCSA President, Melaku Ezezew (Eng.) sated that Ethiopia and Turkiye have long-standing diplomatic relationships in terms of economic, political, and public relations.

As to Melaku, this platform would help identify opportunities and tackle challenges hindering investment and trade between our nations. Besides, it serves as invaluable platforms for forging new trade and investment partnerships.

He said: "Turkey exported 746 million USD worth of goods Ethiopia, including spacecraft, raw iron bars, and semi-finished iron in 2022. Equally noteworthy is Ethiopia's export to Turkey, amounting to 24.6 million USD in the same period with main products including oily seeds, dried legumes, and coffee."

Moreover, Ethiopian Airlines, Africa's largest carrier, operates direct flights from Addis to Istanbul and other places, allowing businesses to supply their products and services while integrating African economies to the nation.

## Ethiopian FM confers with African Foreign Ministers

BY STAFF REPORTER

**ADDIS ABABA**—Foreign Minister Taye Atske-Selassie has discussed bilateral issues with Foreign Ministers of Zimbabwe, Angola, Central Africa Republic, Tunisia and Portugal since the opening of the ordinary Session of the Executive Council of African Union.

FM Ambassador Taye also signed a memorandum of understanding with Angolan FM Tete Antonio so as to create platforms for bilateral relations and cooperation in multilateral forums. The General Cooperation Agreement helps have further political consultation, according to MoFA.

The Foreign Minister also conferred with his counterparts from central Africa Republic and Tunisia. Ethiopia is now at the right position to cooperate for bilateral and multilateral issues.

In press briefing, MoFA Spokesperson, Ambassador Meles Alem (PhD) said that bilateral and multilateral sessions will continue until AU guests will be seen off.



During the discussion with Foreign Ministers of Central African Republic and Tunisia, an agreement to establish a joint minstrel commission has been reached, according to the Spokesperson.

Ambassador Taye also noted that the government of Ethiopia is committed to expedite continental and bilateral cooperation, it was stated.

In another session of the first date of the Executive Council Meeting, the Foreign Minister also held discussion with his

Portuguese counterpart and agreed upon the need to leverage longstanding diplomatic relations to grow cooperation in economic, education and tourism sectors.

Ethiopia, which is hosting 44th Ordinary Session of the African Union Executive Council and the 37th Ordinary Session of Heads of States and Governments right now, has welcomed more than 51 Countries' delegation and Heads of International Organizations including the Secretary General of the UN, IGAD and the Arab League.

## Adwa Museum ...

achieved in the fight against colonization.

As to the foreign minister, the resistance movements and the victory of Adwa played a pivotal role in promoting Pan-Africanism.

The Adwa victory was a historic triumph that ensured equality among human beings, he stressed.

"It is truly remarkable how this victory continues to inspire and unite African peoples all over the world. The Adwa Victory Memorial Museum belongs to all Africans; it belongs for all of us," Amb. Taye said.

The victory of Adwa is indeed a magnificent revival of the spirit of unity and an embodiment

of patriotic leadership, celebrating and recalling Adwa, he noted.

The special monument is intended to understanding the past, remaking the present and shaping the future of Africa, he underscored.

The Adwa victory is an epoch defining moment in the African history, the FM said, adding the triumph of Ethiopian forces against the colonizer marked the first time an African country has successfully resisted foreign aggression.

By the same time, there were freedom movements in other parts of Africa such as in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Libyan and so forth, according to Amb. Taye.

As to him, these resistance movements and the

victory of Adwa symbolize African resilience and strength.

The Ambassador also invited the African delegation and youths to visit Adwa Victory Memorial Museum and share their history.

Recently, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) President Sahle-Work Zewde officially inaugurated Adwa Victory Memorial Museum in attendance of the House of People's Representatives (HoPR) and the House of Federation, Mayor of Addis Ababa, Adanech Abiebie and other senior officials and gusts.

The 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the AU will take place in Addis Ababa on 17-18 February 2024. The participants are expected to visit the grand museum.

## Devoting more ...

countries having different quality assurance and accreditation system are expected to have common guideline that will help youths to work everywhere they want.

Accordingly, he first aspiration of AU agenda 2063 is seeing prosperous Africa based on inclusive and sustainable growth.

The development of human capital can only

achieved through education, to make citizens skilled and innovative. In this respect, the AUC is facilitating countries' partnership with African Development Bank and specialized agencies, he said.

In another presser, Commissioner of Education Science Technology and Innovation, Prof. Mohammed Belhocin also said that the theme of 2024, which will be officially adopted on the leaders' session prioritizes education since it has been the forefront concern of the continent.

"We have a school age population in Africa of half billion and out of that half billion almost 100 million are not attending school. I am talking about people aged between 5 and 19, meaning, the period of primary and secondary schooling. This is very concerning..." he said.

The AU, UN and some other international organizations took bold decision to work on transforming education in Africa, according to the Commissioner.

# Opinion

## Crucial endeavor to heal long-heaped wounds

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Ethiopia has, these days, been experiencing in its history, of course, a number of ups and downs emanating from myriads of socio-economic, socio-political and even politico-economic spectrums. These hurdles have resulted in severe economic costs and caused the loss of human life and infrastructural damage. Unequivocally, Ethiopia experienced the introduction of written constitution in 1931 for the first time.

The proclamation which explained about the establishment of the constitution reiterated that Ethiopia will have a unitary government led by monarchic system.

It also declared that “by the will of the emperor that citizens are given the right to freedom of expression, association and to elect their representative to the legislative body.”

The proclamation also declared that the legislative branch of the government was bicameral with two chambers which are the first stance legislation and the legal decision making body. It also affirmed that above the two chambers the emperor had the ultimate say on legislation process and unless the emperor confirmed no new legislation will not be enacted. This implied that the emperor had a power to select the members of the upper house of the chamber and absolute power over the countries affairs.

Though the constitution declared that citizens had the right to elect their representatives until 1957 the voting rights were rendered to the princes and lords. In general, due to the absence of strong and independent institutions, the rights enshrined in the constitution were not well addressed on the ground. Under such situation, Ethiopians had not attained the status of citizens rather they found themselves as the subject to the monarchic system manifested by exploiting and oppression of peoples.

The economic system was backward in which feudal and the majority of the tenants were landless. They paid tribute to the land lords in terms of cash, kind and in forced labor.

With their subsistence living farmers were unable to ensure their family food security and in time of drought facing severe challenges including famine and eviction were common.

Even though farmers suffered from the feudal exploitation, they had no avenue to appeal their plea to get justice and the only option left to them were praying to God to get relief.

The feudal system played pivotal role for the construction of infrastructure such as roads, market places, educational institutions, hospitals and others though the system was repressive.

However, though the government aggressively engaged in expanding educational institutions from elementary to

tertiary level, it did not show any interest to respond to the political and economic questions of the students and the elite class.

Among the slogans forwarded by the students since 1950's were “land to the tiller” and addressing the questions of “nations and nationalities, to the protection of cultural and language rights and to self-rule”

In 1960 some parliamentarians flouted the question of “land to the tillers” for the debate but did not get the majority support and as a result, it halted.

In the international arena, Ethiopia had been signal to the international conventions which stipulate to respect the rights of citizens including adhering to various conventions.

Ethiopia is the founding member of the league of nations before the outbreak of the First World War which lasted from 1914 to 1918. It was also a founding member of the United Nations and ratified the universal declaration of human rights in 1948 after the end of the World War II in San-Francisco, California USA.

Nevertheless, Ethiopia did not establish independent and strong institutions which enabled to accommodate and implement the rights that are enshrined in the conventions it ratified.

The imperial government continued as it was established in 1931 instead of improving the political situation by recognizing citizen rights and allow them to exercise.

In 1974 the imperial regime was overthrown by the popular revolution however, the movement was derailed by the military regime and instead of resolving the generation long social, economic and political problems, the new regime dragged the nation into protracted civil war. Citizens' rights were continued to be overridden. Violence, operation and the introduction of new ideology further divided the political elite class. In addition, it created political polarization and categorizing other groups as enemy. The victims of the political violence lasted for 17 years did not get justice.

The EPRDF regime which overthrew the military regime assumed power in 1991.

It introduced new constitution which enshrined both group and individual rights but similar to the past regimes it failed to abide by law. Rather it adamantly violated citizens' rights.

It failed to conduct free and fair election which was stipulated by the constitution and based on the universal declaration of human rights in which the country is signal. Violence, extrajudicial arrest, killing and abduction continued as the order of the day.

It did not put in place the separation of power among the three branches of the government, the legislative, executive and the judiciary. Power instead of institutionalized rather it became personalized. The introducing of ethnic based federal system divided the

population among the indigenous and none indigenous groups. In the imperial and the Dergue era conflicts were vertical between the oppressed and the oppressor. The EPRDF regime changed in to horizontal among peoples which incurred loss of thousands of life and eviction of millions from their place in which they lived for many generations.

Currently, political polarization has been common and the past mistakes committed by the political forces, governments and none state actors contributed a great deal to the occurrence of such enmity, rivalry and disagreement. Therefore, citizens should understand that there is no way unless healing the past wound through national dialogue.

The reformist government which took power five years ago showed commitment for conducting national dialogue. Cognizant of the fact that the dialog would be a viable remedy to heal the sores and severe wounds, the government established commission and appointed commissioners.

It provided offices, equipment, employed staff and allocated budget. It is obvious that in Ethiopia there are differences among the political and opinion making citizens and to narrow the gap. Hence, conducting nationwide consultation in an inclusive and participatory manner is quite indispensable. Such a plausible situation would pave the way for establishing trust among various groups who have their own ideology and attitude towards resolving the nation generational long political differences.

To facilitate the dialogue new laws are introduced by the government and it is working hard, of course in collaboration with development partners and those bodies which would love Ethiopia's stability and the journey towards development and prosperity.

In order to develop public confidence and get acceptance on the process, the commission showed its neutrality to the public on several occasions.

True, as discussing matters with regard to national issues highly requires identifying the agenda that should be raised based on conducting studies, the Commission has been gathering opinions from the public and utilizing the ideas as inputs.

Discussion must be based on truth and discussants should come together for dialogue free from emotion and anger and aiming at reaching consensus. It also must be a win-win game and creates an ecosystem that makes all winners.

Since rejecting others ideas and dwelling on one's idea, intention only to win and to defeat others do not pave the way which take discussants to consensus, being partisan matters.

The national dialogue must be inclusive which comprises all peoples with their own identities such as linguistics, religion, culture, ideas, and tradition and the outcome

also must serve to contain the ongoing conflicts among political groups and pave the way for making social contract between the government and the governed.

Social groups which have broad mass representation such as farmers, pastoral communities, civic associations, women and youth associations, the disabled national association, religious and cultural leaders, business men, government and opposition party members should be part of the national dialogue.

The national dialogue should not be regarded as the replacement of traditional negotiation and council of elders it needs rather to be one ways of getting solutions for generational long conflicts and healing the past wound.

The dialogue also can serve as tool for the developing democratic political system, up holding trust among various groups, to create good relation between the government and the public at large. It also serves as cultivating the culture of dialogue and resolving differences only in a peace full manner and attaining long lasting peace and stability. It also paves the way to create concrete foundation for new nation building project.

For its effectiveness disseminating the discussion through various media outlets, the participation of all the members of the society, creating sense of ownership on the participants of the dialogue and comprising allstake holders are essential.

As mentioned above, Ethiopia passed through various political tumult which has affected people, economically, psychologically, emotionally and resolving the problems needs tedious efforts.

Though the nation is an ancient country with its own civilization, its nation building project in its modern history is not successful. As a result, it still finds itself in the cycle of violence. The country has not experienced political continuity and starting doing things from new is a usual matter rather than an exception.

The governments that assumed power in the last hundred years blamed the past regimes for their failure to bring stability. True, instead of addressing the past problems, they have created new problems and add it on the already existing problems. Hence, now it is high time to stand together and bring better solutions and start new era of peace and stability.

In fact, healing the past wounds is not an easy task as it needs patience, tolerance and steady dialogue and trust and cognizant of these, citizens should play their part for the successful achievement of the national dialogue.

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

# Editorial

## AU ought to adopt Amharic as official language!

Africa has successfully decolonized the continent geographically; it is yet to free itself from the shackles of political, economic, and cultural imperialisms. Colonial legacies are still prevalent and visible in many aspects with calls for embracing an African identity has got louder and tenser over the years.

Although Africa has come a long way in terms of political emancipation, nations are still dependent on foreign aid and economies. Africa's solution for Africa's problems has become a catchword echoed by African leaders, pundits, and proponents of pan-Africanism.

Living up to the aspiration although seemingly appears to be tough, there have been headways in terms of resolving continental predicaments using continental mechanisms and wisdom. The Pretoria Peace Deal in Ethiopia is a solid indicator. Exploring indigenous knowledge is imperative to unleash the potential of the continent and meet shared ambitions. Adopting African-origin languages and cultural values will be instrumental to realizing socioeconomic and political goals. Sharing African values with one another will put the continent on a glide path toward unity and collective growth.

Yet, Africanizing African institutions require work at the top. Africa is still living under linguistic colonialism with colonial languages still being the working languages of the Union. The move from Eurocentric to Afrocentric values starts with embracing African languages as the working languages of the continental bloc.

Rethinking the neglected yet precious indigenous knowledge and challenging the imposed Western values is vital to utterly emancipate the continent from all forms of colonialism.

The African Union also set Vision 2063 to expedite the economic integration unity of the 1.4 billion people of the continent. Depending on Eurocentric values almost annihilates the African indigenous knowledge production system.

In what could be said a leapfrog step towards strengthening African values, the Union has adopted Kiswahili as its working language. Including African languages in the lists of its working languages will foster integration among states and enrich African indigenous assets. This week, Ethiopia proposes Amharic to be the working language of the bloc, a timely and must-do task. Ethiopia has been the linchpin of Africa as an ardent supporter of the anti-colonial movement and headquarters of the African Union. It is proper to consider the country's proposal. These days, with Ethiopia's influence growing worldwide, non-African nations are also teaching Amharic in their universities. So, including Amharic as the working language of the continental bloc will be the right decision that would pave the way for others to follow.

The newly-appointed Ethiopian Foreign Minister proposed the inclusion of Amharic as the official language of the African Union. This is in accordance with the AU Agenda 2063 and the goal for empowering indigenous African languages to contribute to the continent's progress, said Taye in his remarks at the 44th session of the AU Executive Council Foreign Ministers held on Wednesday at the African Union headquarters.

It is worth noting that the OAU Charter was initially signed in four languages, including Amharic. Adopting Amharic as one of the official languages of the Union would honor Africa's linguistic diversity and strengthen our collective identity as Africans, Taye underscored.

Embracing more indigenous languages in the Union will help free and empower the Africans. And, it contributes to mental decolonization. Amharic which is an indigenous language to Africa with millions of speakers and easy to learn ticks the entire box to be the working language of the Union. It requires the continental bloc to go back to the drawing board to integrate African values into its institutions.



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# Opinion

## Victory of Adwa:

### A beacon of hope for black freedom and independence

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Notwithstanding the fact that Ethiopia is known for its long-standing tradition of war, the victory of Adwa is a noteworthy experience that brought people from all walks of life together regardless of gender, ethnic origin, religion and other related aspects with the intention of safeguarding the sovereignty of their nation. As a matter of fact, the victory turned out to be a leaping point for black communities that were under the yoke of the colonial powers.

There is no denying the fact that Ethiopia is a symbol of African independence and freedom that helped unshackle black people from the yoke of oppression and colonialism with determination and hard work. The victory has also shown the entire world that Africans can do everything if they stand together and nothing shall be impossible.

It is evident that the victory turned out to be visible in ending imperialism, unfairness and white supremacy imposed on all black people all over the world and inspired the beleaguered to stand up for their freedom at the earliest possible juncture. In actual fact, the victory of Adwa has continued being a beacon of hope for black freedom and independence. As Ethiopia is recognized for shielding colonization, subjugation, and oppression from the face of the continent of Africa, it has made the impossible possible and the unthinkable thinkable and won the hearts and minds of all and sundry.

As the colonial forces did not have a we-drop of idea about the fact that Ethiopia's long track record of bravery and strength, they ended up invading Ethiopia in the hope that they can achieve the sought after goal in the shortest possible time.

It is a well-known fact that the victory of Adwa turned out to be a fundamental symbol of resilience and liberation showing in black and white the forces of unity and resilience in the face of offensive intrusion in addition to a new historical period to the continent of Africa. The triumph also changed a deep-rooted narrative that black people were fated to survive held captive by subjugation.

In a similar manner, the victory has witnessed the global community the fact that Africans can do the whole thing effortlessly if they come together. It is understood that the global community can learn the fact that unity can play a fundamental role in struggling internal and external belligerence and pressure with flying colors. For sure, colonial powers stumbled upon what they did not expect to take place.

At that specific point in time, when the news of the victory broke out in every nook and cranny of the world, the whole world failed to believe their ears and eyes. The victory in next to no time turned out to be the talk of every Tom, Dick, and Harry. Apart from paying the eventual price to defend the country's sovereignty, Ethiopians played a huge role in emancipating their motherland held in captive by colonialists.



It goes without saying the Victory of Adwa brought a new historical moment to the people of Africa and all black communities residing in the left, right and center of the world. The triumph also transformed a firmly-established narrative that black people were under the full control of colonial forces. In addition to liberating the black communities residing under the world skies, the victory of Adwa made a significance difference in the fight for freedom.

In March 1896 a well-disciplined and massive Ethiopian army did the unthinkable - it routed an invading Italian force and brought Italy's war of conquest in Africa to an end. In an age of relentless European expansion, Ethiopia had successfully defended its independence and cast doubt upon an unshakable certainty of the age - that sooner or later all Africans would fall under the rule of Europeans. This event opened a breach that would lead, in the aftermath of world war fifty years later, to the continent's painful struggle for freedom from colonial rule, according to a source.

The victory served as an emblem of African independence and liberation. Apart from setting a lesson that a harmonious assembly can prevail over colonial power, Adwa is a living example of what Africans can do if they stand together.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), History and Heritage Lecture at Debre Tabor University Meseret Ewekew in a previous interview stated that Adwa inspired the oppressed to fight for their freedom. Though Ethiopia has a long history of war, Adwa was unique in that all Ethiopians regardless of different backgrounds, stood together to uphold the sovereignty of their country. Thus, important lessons should be drawn from the command, leadership, tactic, and diplomacy that both Emperor Menelik and Empress Taytu Bitul showed throughout the war, he added.

It is worth considering that Ethiopia's selection for the seat of the then Organization of African Unity (OAU) was not gained by the country's level of development. The selection was motivated by the fact that Ethiopia served as the symbol of independence for Africa.

"Ethiopia fought the African war in the battle of Adwa, as their victory was good news for those who had been struggling under colonial rule. This is one of the main reasons for the emergence of the pan-African movement."

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

# Business & Economy

## Jima zone scoring remarkable performance in agricultural productivity

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

Ethiopia gives special attention to the development of the agriculture sector aiming at ensuring food security. The country sets four basic pillars in the agriculture sector with the goal of maximizing the productivity and enhancing the sector's contribution to the nation's economy. Increasing production and productivity, exporting of agricultural products, ensuring food security, import substitution and creating huge job opportunities in the sector remains the basic pillars.

To meet the target, the country has introduced new initiatives to increase the product and productivity through practicing dry weather irrigated farming. The ongoing summer wheat initiative is among the game changers in the sector. In addition to the continuous efforts in the development of irrigation, expansion of agricultural mechanization, diversifying crops and supplying basic agricultural inputs is also on the pipeline. The initiative is helping the country to modernize the sector.

With immense potential the Jimma zone gives due focus to the development of all agricultural activities and the ongoing efforts is showing significant positive impact on the sector, according to zone's Agriculture Office head.

Jimma Zone Agriculture Office head, Mohammed-Taha Abafita told The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the zone is working for the holistic development of the agriculture sector so as to exploit its potential. "Jimma zone has untapped potential in crop production, coffee harvesting, milk production, beekeeping, tea farming and conserving the supportive ecosystem for boosting agricultural activities".

As to Mohammed-Taha, efforts are underway to exploit this potential especially during the past three years during which meaningful achievements were registered.

In addition to working for enhancing the development of agricultural crops and other livestock production, the zone has introduced new crops. It focuses on diversifying the agricultural products and incentivizes farmers for cultivating crops that can be utilized as inputs for agro-industries that enhance the volume of export trade, according to the head. Through this initiative, the zone has shown increased performance in the production of honey, milk, crops, fruits and coffee during the past three consecutive years.

### Crop Production

The zone focuses on the production of ten crop varieties. By introducing new technology based farming, properly using agricultural inputs and increasing



Photo credit: Hadush Abraba

Mohammed-Taha Abafita, Jimma Zone Agriculture Office Head

the coverage of farm land, the zone's productivity is increasing year by year. "In 2022 harvest season, Jimma zone has covered 578,000 hectares of land by different crops. In 2023 Mehere season, by adding over 200,000 hectares of land, the zone cultivated 841,000 hectares of land by crops," Mohammed-Taha said.

He added that out of the total arable land in the zone about 235,000 hectare was covered by rice in 2023, which is a new experience for the place. Wheat, maize, barley, teff and other oilseeds were also cultivated in the rest of the farming areas, as to him.

He further said that, the productivity per hectare in 2022 was 31 quintals while in 2023, increased to 33.8 quintals. Accordingly, during the 2023 harvest season, Jimma zone harvested over 35 million quintals of products which shows 15 million quintals growth compared to the previous year, he added. The head stated that Jimma zone is becoming popular in rice production at national level especially this year.

Jimma zone started rice harvesting in 2021 in four districts covering 2000 hectares of farm land.

"In 2022 harvest season, the coverage of rice increased to 30,000 hectares of land within 12 districts. And in 2023 harvest season, the coverage of rice increased from 30,000 hectares to 235,000 hectares, which shows an exponential development," Mohammed-Taha said. The zone has harvested over 9 million quintals of rice in 2023 mehere season.

Similarly, Jimma zone started summer wheat farming four years ago in 50 hectares of land which now develops to 441,000 hectares. Within four years, the coverage of summer wheat farming has increased from 50 hectares of land to 441,000 hectares of land in Jimma zone and it also harvests over 16 million quintals of wheat.

The effectiveness of the interventions can be seen in that they have enabled the zone to export wheat for the first time, in addition to coffee. For him, urbanization and



**The zone has suitable agro ecologic zones for the cultivation of various crops which helps farmers to enhance their income generation capacity**

population growth is witnessed at high rate that demands changes in the way of farming. To feed the growing population, the farming must focus on crops with high productivity and rice and wheat are the preferable crops in this regard, he said.

As to him, considering the productivity, the zone is focusing for the development of rice and wheat harvesting parallel to the common crops.

"It is difficult to feed the population through the business as usual method of farming" he said.

He also mentioned that there is a potential of producing up to 83 quintals of wheat per hectare and up to 130 quintals of rice in the zone though the average productivity currently is 39 and 42, respectively.

Similarly, coffee, fruits and tea farming are also showing exponential growth in the zone. Jimma is known for coffee and the zone focuses on maximizing coffee's contribution to the nation economic growth. Jimma has a coffee 'gene bank' that conserves over 6,500 varieties of coffee.

The zone has suitable agro ecologic zones for the cultivation of various crops which helps farmers to enhance their income generation capacity. The zone in addition to surface and underground water it obtains sufficient "belg" and rain seasons water. It has also abundant wild coffee which supports in raising farmer's income.

Currently, the coverage of coffee plant in the zone reached 530,000 hectares of land. Mohammed-Taha stated that, over 50 percent from the total coverage was planted during the past four years through Green Legacy initiative. 39,000 hectares of coffee

farm is clustered. Similarly, to develop the quality, the zone rebrands Jimma coffee. "So far there was no known Jimma coffee brand. But now Jimma coffee, Limu Inarya Coffee and Katamuduga coffee brands are given recognition for coffee producers in Jimma Zone" he added.

Similarly, to benefit farmers more from their coffee products, the zone supports them to export their products directly without the involvement of brokers in the value chain.

Currently, 416 farmers in Jimma zone with the land holding over two hectares of coffee farm are exporting their products directly, he added. "For example, one of the farmers, Mustafa Abakenaw exported his coffee directly and contributed to the nation to garner over one million USD.

In addition, 150 farmers from the surrounding of Jimma town were participated in the Cup of Excellence," a ceremony which stages competition among coffee producing farmers through testing their products by prepared coffee drinks.

### Milk, Honey production

Jimma zone is popular for its forest honey. But, since 2021, Beekeeping has been introduced in a better manner. "The zone has the largest forest areas that are suitable for apiculture" the head stated adding "Oromia issued the "Jimma Declaration in 2021 to make honey production a new initiative in the state."

Following the declaration of the initiative the zone is striving for the development of apiculture. To achieve the target, the zone focuses on changing the traditional beehives in to modern ones as they are believed to increase productivity.

"When the initiative was declared, Jimma zone has only 62,000 modern beehives. That year, we distributed 13,000 modern beehives to the farmers and in 2022, we provided 62,000 additional modern beehives." Mohammed-Taha stated that in last budget year, the zone has distributed 84,000 modern beehives and 167,000 during the past six months of this budget year.

By investing on bee farming, the zone has a plan to harvest 54,000 tons of honey products this fiscal year. Mohammed-Taha also said that, out of the total production, about 10,000 tons is planned to be exported.

Different measures are also being applied to increase the productivity of milk in the zone including artificial insemination of varieties of cows. In this budget year, Jimma zone plans to produce over 1.1 billion litter milk. During the past six months, over 560 million litters' milk was produced, according to the head.

To maintain the sustainability of agricultural productivity, the zone gives special focus for environmental protection and soil acidity treatment, the Office Head indicated.

# Art & Culture

## Turning African Languages into tools of integration and development

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

One of the vestiges of colonialism is the imposition of European languages of the colonizers on the indigenous communities. English, French and to a lesser extent Portuguese are spoken in many African countries. This was done not with the consent of Africans but by using those languages as tools of spreading colonial cultures and for political control. Native Africans were, through time, forced to shun their languages and adopt the European languages whether they liked them or not.

Instead of allowing African native languages to flourish, during the colonial era, "Indo-European languages such as Africans, English, French, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish are widely spoken generally as *lingua franca* and had held official status in many countries." So far so good about the effects of colonialism on language and economic development. In order to have a fuller picture of this cause-and-effect relationship, it would also be relevant to consider the post-independence period in African attempts to conjugate language development with economic growth.

Linguistic colonialism in Africa is less than 100 years old but the vestiges are still continuing to produce and reproduce the indirect cultural domination of Africa by the old metropolises. Although the challenges are formidable, some of the African languages have managed to become the dominant linguistic groups in many African countries. This was not due to the fact that one language is superior to another one in Africa; but because a few African languages had witnessed the opportunity or coincidence to be the languages of the majority of the people in many African countries.

According to Wikipedia, "The total number of languages spoken in Africa is variously estimated (depending on the delineation languages versus dialects) at between 1,250 and 2,100 and by some counts at over 3000. Nigeria alone has over 500 languages, one of the greatest concentrations of linguistic diversity in the world."

Generally speaking, language, whether in multicultural societies or in mono-cultural and mono-linguistic ones, plays a defining role in the development or backwardness of a continent or a country. Africa is no exception. While hundreds if not thousands of languages or dialects are spoken across Africa, the continent is still economically backward because these languages have not been so far adopted to the needs of economic and social development as well as modernization in general.

The predominance of one national language in many countries of the world has served as a unifying factor, a potent input for economic development. This is due to the fact that a country where only one language is spoken by the majority of the people not only lead to less conflicts but also it becomes a weapon of stability that is indispensable if that country wants to achieve socio-economic development. China is a good example of this kind of process. In China, the Han nationality forms more than 90%

the Chinese people and this has proved a blessing for stability and for the Chinese economic miracle of the last 70 years.

True, having one majority ethnic group and one or two languages greatly facilitates communication, trade and development. But having one language is not a prerequisite for getting 'fast and furious' development like what happened in China since the 1960s. There are many countries in Africa and elsewhere that have fewer languages but have not achieved development while countries that have linguistic diversity have attained higher levels of socio-economic development.

What educated intellectuals, or the educated elites, have so far failed to do in Africa is to promote language in such a way as to make it a catalyst of economic development and/or modernization in order to overcome the old colonial legacy and the continent's own inherent economic retardation. We should not blame colonialism for all the cultural and political mess that is a reality in many countries. This kind of approach is not only fair but is sometimes used to cover up our own policy failures as far as linguistic and cultural unification of Africa is concerned.

It is true that colonialism did retard European colonialism had broken the backbone of Africa's potential economic development by prohibiting its peoples to communicate, trade and express themselves in their God-given native languages. African educated elites have also failed the continent and its people in this regard. As someone observed, "Colonialism not only blocked further political development but indirect rule made local elites less accountable to their citizens."

In the introduction to a study entitled, "Language and Colonialism", Bettina Midge says that, "the literature on colonialism tends to focus on Europe's economic exploitation many regions and peoples around the world and Europeans' use of excessive force towards the natives. While these issues are undoubtedly of great importance, it is equally important to understand the cultural and specifically the linguistic and discursive practices that came to be associated with European colonial rule. These practices played an instrumental role in assigning low prestige to non-European languages and cultures, including cultural and linguistic forms that emerged due to Europe's colonial expansion and in establishing the superiority of the colonizer's language and culture."

With the end of colonialism, Africans could reclaim their sovereignty, control over their destiny as well as the opportunity to restore their language diversity not only as an expression of free use of their native tongues but also as agents of continental communication and the promotion of economic activities both horizontally and vertically between the diverse tribal and ethnic identities and with the new decolonized but divided world between the center and periphery of the international system.

In a book entitled *Language and Development in Africa-Perceptions, Ideologies and Challenges*, H. Eckhart

**Competence in one or a few major languages at the national and continental levels is considered a good thing while the need to strike a balance with the prevailing diversity is a major challenge because linguistic diversity if properly managed would be an asset for economic development**

Wolff, says that, "Development is based on communication through language. With more than 2000 languages being used in Africa language becomes a highly relevant factor in all sectors of political, social, cultural and economic life. This important socio-linguistic dimension hitherto remains under-rated and under-researched in Western mainstream development studies."

Herein lies the failure of our educated elites who are rather focused or obsessed on getting their higher education in English or French but also serve the same language after they graduated. If at all they decide to go back to their countries, they often use these same languages to advance their personal interests or political careers instead of building up linguistic uniformity in many regions as possible tool of mutual understanding and economic integration.

Competence in one or a few major languages at the national and continental levels is considered a good thing while the need to strike a balance with the prevailing diversity is a major challenge because linguistic diversity if properly managed would be an asset for economic development. As the choice of working language may demonstrate in certain African contexts, we cannot exclude one at the cost of the other and adopt a single policy or try to apply both at the same time. In other words, we may not succeed in adopting the one to the detriment of the other if we want to avoid chaos. People might think that language barriers may hinder communication under certain circumstances but the proliferation of languages in the African context is an asset rather than a liability.

As experts in the field maintain, "Economic studies have shown that fluency in a dominant language is important to economic success and increases economic efficiency. However, maintaining linguistic diversity also has value since language is also the expression of people's culture." Without a balanced approach it may be difficult to attain the desired developmental objective

while in the worst case a kind of functional chaos may result with failure to reconcile the two.

The process of language integration in Africa cannot be promoted by individual African countries. This is rather a process that can only be promoted by the African Union (AU) one of whose objectives is to realize the economic integration of the continent as well as the integration and adoption of African languages as working languages. The official languages of the African union are Arabic, English, French Portuguese, Spanish and "any other African language". The primary working languages of the AU are English and French."

Other languages are being added in the process and Swahili, the widely used language in East Africa has become one of the AU's working languages back in 2004. The story of Swahili's rise to prominence by becoming the most widely spoken language in Africa is interesting and instructive as to the way an African language can be adopted as the AU language. John M. Mugabe, A Harvard academic, in an article entitled "The Story of How Swahili Became Africa's Most Spoken Language writes that, what was "once just an obscure island dialect on an African Bantu tongue, Swahili has evolved into Africa's most internationally recognized language. It is peer to the few languages of the world that boast over 200 million users."

The process of selecting African languages to meet the objectives of continental integration as well as expediting economic development and modernization will continue to dominate the cultural agenda of the organization in the years and decades to come. Other African languages are bound to join the ranks of most important languages and join the other candidates.

According to available data, the most important African languages are, Amharic from Ethiopia, Hausa from Nigeria, Arabic from North Africa well as Yoruba from Nigeria again and Zulu from South Africa. These are not languages that are only widely spoken in individual African countries but also serving as linguistic tools to promote regional communication if not regional integration as their major function.

The benefits of speaking many languages or learning a new language are many, according to available data, learning a new language expands your mind and worldview. It opens you up to new cultures and to the fruits of diversity. Speaking a second and third language boosts self-confidence and increases self-esteem. In a globalizing world, knowing a second or third language give people an advantage in terms of careers.

It can also facilitate interaction among different cultures and promotes trade among communities in many African countries that were divided by colonialism. So language integration can be seen as language facilitation both at individual, community, national and global levels. At the end of the day, all these factors add up to make languages the drivers of economic development or modernization in Africa.

# Science & Technology

## Exploring, honing youth talents in cyber industry to ensure digital sovereignty

- INSA graduates second batch cyber talent trainee youths

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

The cyber industry demands well-educated and talented experts in the sector. The world is growingly dependent on the cyber industry and the industry is growing unpredictably. With its sophisticated and complex nature, the cyber industry demands well-organized institutions, well-equipped and educated professionals and the latest technological advancements to secure the industry.

Despite the sector requires well-trained cyber professionals to exploit the sector's potential for development and to secure the cyber infrastructure, there is a huge gap in trained professionals in the sector at worldwide, according to Information Network Security Administration (INSA). There is a huge gap in trained human resources in the cyber security sector in Ethiopia as well and INSA is working to develop skilled human resources in the cyber industry. In addition to the education and continuous capacity building of experts in the sector, INSA established the Ethio Cyber Talent Development Center to cultivate and develop the skills of talented youths in the cyber industry.

With this task, Ethio Cyber Talent Development Center, a center under INSA, started providing summer course training to develop the skills of the youths. For the first time, Ethio Cyber Talent Development Center has trained and graduated the first batch of 60 trainees in 2022 Ethiopian summer season. The first batch of graduates was trained and developed different products in website development, cyber security, and hardware development. The center is accepting talented youths starting from age nine up to high school students.

In 2023 summer camp training program, INSA's Cyber Talent Development Center has accepted 120 youth trainees after a short assessment from the applicants. Two weeks ago, the 120 trainees graduated in the presence of higher government officials including INSA's Director-General, Solomon Soka (replace a week ago by Tigist Hamid), and Minister of Innovation and Technology, Belete Molla (PhD).

A week ago, the Information Network Security Administration (INSA) has graduated second batch of cyber security graduates trained at the Ethio Cyber Talent Center of INSA.

Kalkidan Fekadu is among the youths who graduated from the Ethio Cyber Talent Center. The fresh university student, Kalkidan said that the training helped her not only to secure critical knowledge in the cyber security sector but also life skills, time management, and self-care during her stay in the center. Website development, cyber security, and embedded systems are among the training being provided for the youth trainees in the center, Kalkidan said. "The

**I**t is critically important to invest in capacity building of cyber professionals and cultivating talented youths so as to build strong national cyber army

training includes sport, time management, psychology, self-care training, and cyber-related professional training," Kalkidan said adding that in addition to developing cyber security knowledge, the training helped her and all trainees as well to develop additional life skills.

As to her, monitors were assigned from INSA for the trainees to support the activities of the youth that helped them to develop their skills and to realize their projects during their stay in the center. Kalkidan joined the center a year ago at the Science Museum. "Last year, I visited the Ethiopia Science Museum during its inauguration and the first batch of the Summer Camp cyber security trainee talented youths were exhibiting their products at the museum. I had an interest in the sector and after I saw the products of the youths, I asked the coordinators about the way of joining the center. I registered to join the center and after some evaluations by INSA, I joined the Cyber Talent Development Center," she said.

During the training, Kalkidan produced her product in the programming sector. "With my team, we produced a Super App to be applied in Ethiopia like China's Wechat," Kalkidan said. As to her, they will continue working on developing their project to realize it. Like Kalkidan, the remaining 120 trainees also produced different types of products in hardware, software programming and cyber security sectors. Kalkidan's team are thinking to develop the teamwork to



company and she is excited to develop her skills in the cyber security sector.

For his part, Samuel Fasil, member of the second batch Cyber Security Talent graduates, said that the training equipped him to develop his talents in the cyber security sector. "The training helped me to improve my knowledge in the cyber security sector and I will continue to develop my skills in the sector to become a professional expert in the cyber industry," Samuel added.

During the event, the then INSA Director General, Samuel Soka said that the universality, fast growing, borderless, complex, and variability nature of the cyber industry makes the sector sophisticated. The sector's technology is also advancing from time to time that demands well trained cyber professionals. Considering the sector's development, it is critically important to invest in capacity building of cyber professionals and cultivating talented youths so as to build strong national cyber army, Solomon underlined.

As to him, in the current world, sustaining development, protecting national sovereignty and national security is impossible without building strong and resilient national cyber army. In this regard, Ethiopia is investing its maximum capacity to develop the country's cyber security. Solomon stated that skilled human resource development in the cyber sector, technology ownership and strong governing system of the sector are the first priorities INSA is undertaking in developing the cyber industry in Ethiopia.

As INSA focuses on building strong national cyber army, in addition to invest on the current professionals, it gathers talented youths and cultivating their talents to develop their knowledge. "Graduates of the second batch of the cyber talent are evidences that INSA is working to create strong cyber institution that equipped with talented professionals. These graduates

are responsible to protect Ethiopia's cyber security for the future," Solomon stated.

For his part, Innovation and Technology Minister, Belete Molla (PhD) said that cyber-attack is increasing gradually and the damages from cyber-attack causing serious problems in the development and security of countries. Cyber-attacks are unpredictable and borderless that makes the sector so difficult; Belete said adding that to protect a country's national interest, building resilient cyber industry with well trained professional army is a must for every nation.

Cyber-attack attacks are exposing a given country to economic deficiency, infrastructural damage, threatening its security and affect human's wellbeing. Therefore, producing creative citizens, providing continuous training and the like would bring significant outcomes in the sector and INSA's efforts is bringing meaningful improvement in the sector, he stated.

Meanwhile, recently INSA announced that 4,623 attempted cyber-attacks targeting critical government and private institutions were registered during the past six months of this budget year. According to the institution, thanks to the 24 hours alerted cyber army, INSA has successfully thwarted 98.56 percent of the cyber-attack attempts during the past six months of this budget year.

Solomon said that if the attempted attacks were succeeded, the country could have loss over 10.5 billion birr. As to him, this shows that protecting the cyber infrastructure remains critical to ensure economic development and secure national interest. In addition, the cyber-attack attempts are targeting critical development and financial sectors. In addition to the efforts of INSA to secure the nation's cyber sector, Solomon accentuated the need for collective action of individuals and institutions in awareness creation of citizens.



# Society

## Unlocking Africa's challenges via quality education

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

The political reformation that brought a radical change in the country's political milieu has inspired other sectors to apply the same measures to improve their performance. The educational sector is one of the areas that prove reformation is the best way to ensure educational quality and produce educated and responsible citizens to Ethiopia.

As recently indicated by Foreign Affairs Minister Amb. Teye Atske Selassie on the 44<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Executive Council Session of the African Union (AU), over the past five years, the government of Ethiopia has been investing hugely and working persistently to enhance quality education.

Speaking at the meeting organized under the theme "Educate an African fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century: Building a resilient education system for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality and relevant learning in Africa", Amb. Teye said that the African Union theme for the year 2024 resonates deeply with the expectation of people across the continent for progress and development. The theme underscores the urgent need to build a strong and resilient education system that provides increased access, aspires to promote exclusivity and to respond to lifelong education thereby ensuring education for all children in Africa.

Concerning Ethiopia's effort towards ensuring quality education, the Minister said that the country is exerting utmost effort to realize quality education. This includes a school feeding program that enables millions of children to attend their education attentively, without distraction.

"Through our nationwide school feeding programs, feeding over six million students daily, we have ensured participation and witnessed the positive impact education can have on the lives of our people. Through deliberate policy intervention, the government increased the number of public boarding schools and remote learning centers, which allow children living in rural areas to benefit from inclusive and quality education programs who once had been left behind from the world of education because of infrastructure related problems," FM Teye remarked.

Realizing the power of quality education to gear up other sectors, the government is investing huge amounts of capital and resources to access and ensure quality education. As part of this effort it has implemented various reforms.

Stating that policy intervention is one factor to ensure quality education, Amb. Teye underscored the vital contribution of unified effort for African countries to benefit from the fruits of education.



The active participation in the G-20 would provide the continent a unique platform to contribute to global economic governance and decision making. "We must therefore ensure that the voice of Africa is heard and that our participation is meaningful," the FM underlined.

Indeed, the issue of quality education needs combined effort from all African countries and other development partners. As indicated by AU's Economic Development, Tourism, Trade, Industry, and Mining (ETTIM) Commissioner Albert Muchanga also said that Africa needs to invest in education and skills training to keep pace with the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

As reported by ENA, the Commissioner emphasized the dangers of Africa falling behind in digitalization and Artificial Intelligence. He said that Africa must not be left behind. According to him, the crippling burden of debt servicing in many countries also undermines investments in education and health.

The Commissioner further indicated that various challenges are still preventing African children from attending school and accessing quality education. In this regard the need for inclusivity is not something to be compromised with.

"In the ever changing world learning unceasingly- from the cradle to the grave-

is a key to lead quality life. This means that lifelong learning is not a luxury, it is indispensable. And for our children of today and tomorrow, education equips them employability, including self-employment; and this is of great relevance."

Regarding skill mismatch and unemployment in the continent the Commissioner indicated that nearly half of African youths' skill does not align with the available job in the market. What is more, Africa's rapidly growing young population is outpacing job creation and many youth are unemployed, uneducated or untrained.

"The quality of education in Africa must (therefore) meet the minimum global standards. If its relevance is to go beyond our borders in this world of interdependence, countries will continue to depend on each other through migration, even as we undergo the disruption of global supply chains and the consequent fragmentation of international trade."

As a means to tackle faced economic challenges, Muchanga stressed that Africa's low productivity necessitates specific skill development strategies that focuses on fundamental, soft and technical skills which are relevant to its various economic sectors, specially, agro-industries, ICT and tourism.

At a press conference held recently, Addis Ababa University (AAU) Interim President Samuel Kifle (PhD) also underscored the significance of governments' commitment and investing meaningfully to advance continent's education sector, produce citizens that fit the 21<sup>st</sup> century thinking, so that realize the set sustainable development goals.

While speaking in relation to AU's 2024 theme, Samuel said: "Africa's education needs more investment and leaders' commitment to nurture citizens that fit the 21<sup>st</sup> century thinking."

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

Despite Africa's low budget allocation for research and innovation, the outcomes are said to hardly solve the continent's pressing challenges. To such an end, exerting huge investment in education, particularly in higher education is critical, Samuel remarked.

What is more, Africans, to achieve Agenda 2063, need to integrate as well as facilitate their relations in trade, investment, and focus on expanding better infrastructure.

Hence, huge financial readiness and commitment are needed from African leaders to improve African education, he emphasized.

True, capitalizing on Africa's education system and accessing quality education for all African children is like a make or break matter for Africa for the reason education is one of the major instruments to realize the continent's development goals and detach its citizens from the cycle of poverty. In this regard, African governments should take significant actions, backed by deeds, and discharge their responsibilities expressively; going far beyond words.



## Adwa Victory Memorial: ...

several challenges because of its children's unity and integrity.

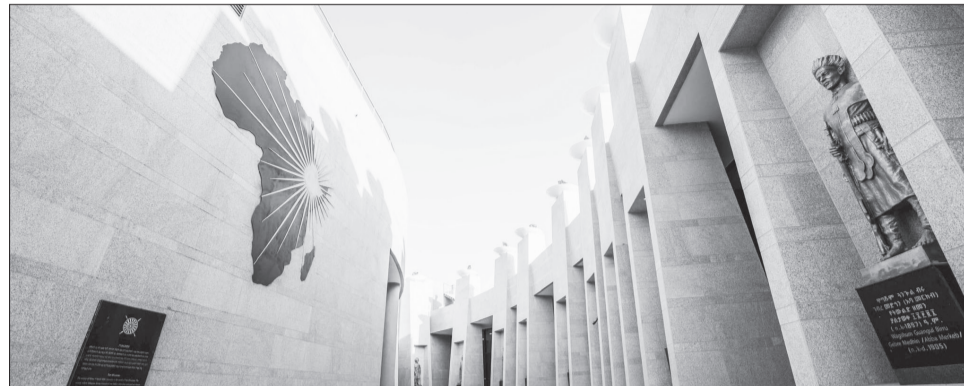
"We should also put our swords into scabbards like what our ancestors did at hard times. We need to contribute to ensure the peace that we all are waiting for."

Accordingly, the Museum holds weapons and traditional logistic materials which were used during the war. All those materials displayed in the museum tell this generation how our ancestors defeated a major European force.

By commemorating the Adwa Victory, the Museum instills a sense of national pride among Ethiopians and visitors alike. The exhibits celebrate the courage and resilience of the Ethiopian people, emphasizing the importance of unity, perseverance, and the preservation of cultural heritage.

In addition, the Adwa Victory Memorial Museum serves as a reminder of the nation's triumph over adversity and the ongoing struggle for peace and sovereignty.

Moreover, the Adwa Victory Memorial Museum has become a must-visit destination for history enthusiasts, researchers, and tourists from around



the world. Its unique collection of artifacts and its role in commemorating a significant event in African history make it a captivating attraction. The Museum's ability to showcase Ethiopia's rich cultural heritage and contribution to global history contributes to the country's appeal as a tourist destination.

What is more, Adwa Victory Memorial Museum serves as a remarkable testament to Ethiopia's rich history and cultural heritage. Situated in the center of Addis, the museum commemorates the country's momentous victory over the Italian colonial forces. With its array of intriguing exhibits and immersive displays, the Museum plays

a significant role in boosting Ethiopia's tourism sector.

So far, the increased interest in visiting the Adwa Victory Memorial Museum sought not only to boost Ethiopia's tourism but also will have a positive impact on the local economy. The influx of visitors supports local businesses such as hotels, restaurants, and transportation services. This, in turn, generates employment opportunities for the community, promoting economic growth and development.

In sum, one of the primary functions of the Adwa Victory Memorial Museum is to preserve and showcase Ethiopia's rich history and cultural heritage. The Museum

diligently collects and exhibits artifacts, photographs, and documents related to the Battle of Adwa, providing visitors with a comprehensive understanding of the country's past. Travelers can explore the various galleries, each meticulously curated to depict the chronology of events leading up to the victorious Battle of Adwa. In addition to its historical and cultural significance, the Adwa Victory Memorial Museum plays a fundamental role in boosting Ethiopia's economy. As tourists flock to the Museum, they contribute hugely to the local economy by patronizing hotels, restaurants, and souvenir shops.

The Adwa Victory Museum stands as a testament to the courage and resilience of the Ethiopian people. By showcasing the significance of the Battle of Adwa and offering a captivating journey through history, the Museum plays a vital role in boosting Ethiopia's tourism sector. It attracts visitors from around the world, fosters a sense of national pride, and contributes to the local economy. The Adwa Victory Memorial Museum serves as a gateway to Ethiopia's rich cultural heritage, allowing visitors to appreciate the nation's past while embracing its vibrant present.



# This is Ethiopia



Emperor Menelik II

## Adwa Victory Memorial:

### Portrayal of shining Victory, bedrock for boosting tourism

BY TEWODROS KASSA

The Battle of Adwa was a pivotal event in Ethiopian history, marking the resistance of Ethiopians against the Fascist Italy's attempt to colonize the country. In 1896, the great Ethiopian Emperor Menelik II led an army of around 100,000 soldiers and successfully repelled the invading Italian forces. This groundbreaking victory made Ethiopia the first African nation to decisively defeat a European colonial power.

Since then, the triumph at Adwa holds immense cultural and geopolitical significance. It served as a beacon of hope for other African and Caribbean countries in their struggle against colonialism, inspiring movements for independence throughout the continent and beyond. The victory also solidified Ethiopia's reputation as a sovereign and independent nation, reaffirming its rich heritage and traditions.

Ethiopia, a country steeped in rich cultural

heritage and historical significance, has recently emerged as a popular tourist destination. Contributing to the flourishing tourism industry is the Adwa Victory Memorial Museum, showcasing the country's iconic victory over the Italian colonial rule. Located at the center of the African Capital, Addis Ababa, the Adwa Victory Memorial Museum offers visitors a captivating journey through Ethiopia's past, showcasing artifacts, documents, and multimedia displays that highlight the events leading up to the battle and its aftermath. From maps and weaponry to personal belongings of key figures, the Museum provides an immersive experience that transports visitors back in time.

The Museum does not only depict the bravery of Ethiopian warriors but also sheds light on the political and social context surrounding the Battle of Adwa. Visitors gain a deeper understanding of the diplomatic maneuvers, cultural dynamics, and military strategies that ultimately led to

the triumph. Through interactive displays and educational panels, visitors can engage with history and learn valuable lessons from this significant chapter in Ethiopian history.

During the inauguration of the Museum, President Sahle-Work Zewde said that the Museum is a gift of recognition to the patriots' commitment and sacrifice to fend off invaders. Ethiopians' commitment to independence was fueled by the strong self-image of national pride, love of freedom and human dignity they nurtured through a long history of nationhood.

"As the museum displays, Ethiopians regardless of ethnic, religious and gender differences stood against oppression and defeated foreign invaders. We need to draw this lesson which we are now failing to do so," she added.

On his part, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) said that Ethiopia has survived

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