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Perpetual injustice

• Experts repudiate Africa's absence at the UNSC

BY EYUEL KIFLU

Seventy-eight years on since the establishment of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), Africa, the second-largest and most populous continent, remains unrepresented in the world's highest security decision-making

body, a status in what the UN Secretary General and diplomats call it as historical injustice.

Africa is visibly missing in the Council even when its security and political matters are tabled and debated by the world's heavyweight countries with veto powers.

Over the years, the issue of equal and fair representations attracted criticism of the Council as many see it as political tool of the member countries to dictate global geopolitics.

Lately, United Nations Secretary-General

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Medhin Decor

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Ethiopia Doing Quite Lot of Connectivity: ITU Regional Director for Africa

ADDIS ABABA - Connectivity and practically improving daily in this regard, Internationale omunication Union (ITU) Regional Director for Africa Anne-Rachel Inne said.

In an exclusive interview with ENA, Inne said Ethiopia is one of the countries in Africa that has opened up its telecom market.

See Ethiopia Doing Quite ... page 4



Ethiopia, Zimbabwe enhancing trade, economic cooperation

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia and Zimbabwe striving to elevate thier ties through enhancing trade, investment and fostering overall development, Ethiopian Embassy in Harare said.

See Ethiopia, Zimbabwe ... page 4

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA—Ethiopia has an exemplary diplomatic experience from which the world could draw lesson, said a foreigner visiting the Diplomatic Week Exhibition at the Science Museum.

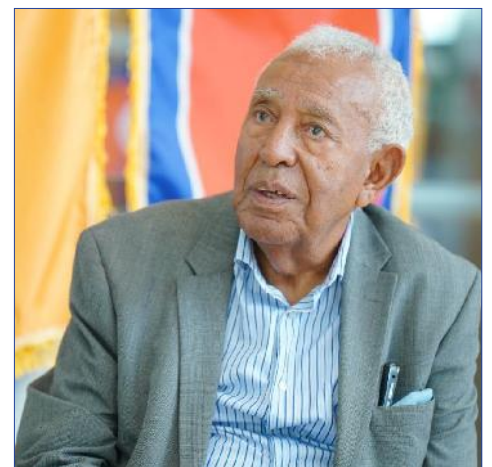
“I came from Poland, I am visiting my friends in Ethiopia and I had the chance to visit half of the exhibition and I found it very interesting. It is really amazing how the history is presented from the beginning”, said Beata Skorupa.

She said there is a part that is dedicated to Ethiopia's diplomacy which allows learning the country and the people contribution to Africa as well as the whole world. Skorupa stressed that the exhibition is highly recommendable for people to come and visit.

Ethiopia exhibits illuminating diplomatic experience: Visitor



She went on saying: “The place is amazing and the Ethiopian diplomatic journey and influence is big that we can learn from it. Though we came from different places, it was shown in the exhibition is about the culture, contribution for world peace and



freedom of black people.” Furthermore, the former Ethiopian movement for the freedom of Africa is important which has continued to these

See Ethiopia exhibits ... page 4



“First Digital Ethiopia Week to take place next week

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA -The Ministry of Innovation and Technology announced that the first national Digital Ethiopia Week will be held from February 26 to March 1, 2024.

The first Digital Ethiopia Week will be held from February 26 to March 1, 2024 with the motto “United efforts for digital Ethiopia,”

In a statement to the media, Yeshurun Alemayehu (PhD), State Minister of Innovation and Technology said that work is being done to enable technology to play a key role in the ten-year development plan. Therefore, Digital Ethiopia Week aims to raise the society’s culture of using technology by creating a movement on digital technology and increasing its contribution to development and economy.

Yishrun said that “we are happy to celebrate the first Digital Ethiopia Week, which aims to spread digital knowledge and empower citizens with technology, and to create the opportunity to increase digital knowledge in the society. Digital Ethiopia Week will play a typical role in informing the society of Ethiopia’s digitization activities to create a citizen who knows and uses digital technology. The world is entering full digitization. It is impossible to live in isolation from the world.”

During the week, a series of forums will organize where stakeholders, policy makers, and industry leaders met in one platform and discussed on various topics, such as government online services, e-Commerce strategy, personal data protection, and more, he stated.

He said that the platform is also an opportunity to create partnerships and collaborations in the use of digital technologies for growth and development. It will also provide an opportunity for participants to meet with various experts in the field, exchange technology demonstrations and learn about digital solutions in various fields.

He called on the media to contribute to the development of digital technology awareness in the society by reporting the events of the week.

Reform in education to immensely support Ethiopia’s transformation

ADDIS ABABA- The reform underway on education in general and higher education in particular will immensely support Ethiopia’s transformation, Addis Ababa University Interim President Samuel Kifle said.

In an exclusive interview with ENA, the interim president noted that Ethiopia has been expanding higher education for decades.

But having more institutions is not enough, he said, adding that the country has to make sure that the institutions are well oriented; and this requires to undertake a reform especially in higher education.”

Samuel recalled that Addis Ababa University has been designated as the first autonomous university for the country.

This will enable the university to focus on its mission and excel in delivering education by undertaking cutting edge researches as well as transforming societies through community engagement services.

According to the interim president, institutional transformation is not a onetime intervention

and Addis Ababa University will be working on its own by setting standards and become exemplary to the other universities in Ethiopia.

Ethiopia, the second most populace nation on the African continent with predominantly youth population is investing in education to make sure that the future depends on knowledge and transformation of the economy, Samuel elaborated.

“Reforming education in general and higher education in particular will immensely support Ethiopia’s transformation and make it the beacon of prosperity for Africa.”

For the president, the Ethiopian government has been generously supportive to higher education and has remained committed to the success of Addis Ababa University.

Addressing the 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU) held last week, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed noted that education is key for sustainable development and faster growth.

“In the last five years, Ethiopia has made significant progress towards universal access to education. We have built over 30,000 kindergarten and primary schools. We are heavily investing in secondary schools and TVETs to ensure quality and skill development as well as meet labor market needs,” he pointed out.

Today new technology and innovative learning models can help the continent to leapfrog into the future, the premier said, adding that technology has taken learning beyond the classroom.

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of AU was held under the theme: “Educate an African fit for the 21st Century --- Building Resilient Education Systems for Increased Access to Inclusive, Lifelong, Quality, and Relevant Learning in Africa.”

During the opening of the summit, African Union Chairperson Mohamed Ould Ghazouani stressed the need for Africa to create a revolution in its educational systems to achieve the plans and strategies of the continent.



Eastern Hararghe witnesses groundbreaking wheat production increment

BY HIZKEL HAILU

HARAR- The Eastern Hararghe Zone announced that it has seen unprecedented surge in summer wheat production with an expected 2.3 million quintals harvest this fiscal year.

In an exclusive interview with The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Zone’s Deputy Chief Administrator Ayalew Takele revealed that the zone’s farmers have been diligently cultivating wheat, coffee, maize, nuts, and various other agricultural crops.

Notably, the summer wheat initiative has seen remarkable progress, with the zone poised to harvest a staggering 2.3 million quintals from 96,000 hectares of land this year, he expressed.

“The zone’s strategic focus on expanding agricultural opportunities and implementing innovative farming techniques has resulted in significant growth and increased productivity. Through effectively utilizing 16,000 and 32,000 hectares of land for the past two years respectively, it was able to achieve yields of 30 and 58 quintals of wheat per hectare,” he said.

On the other hand, Ayalew mentioned that

significant investments have been made over the past six months in irrigation and green legacy activities that enabled the zone planting 45 million seedlings.

This endeavor has not only contributed to increased productivity but has also bolstered forest coverage, which now stands at an impressive 14.5 percent, he stressed.

Recognizing the economic potential of coffee and chat, he emphasized the efforts to promote the renowned Hararghe Coffee brand worldwide. Encouragingly, both local and international investors have already begun exporting wheat, chat, and coffee from the zone, signaling a promising future for the region’s economy, as to the Deputy Chief Administrator.

Additionally, he highlighted the zone’s commitment to preventing contraband trade and maintaining peace.

Through the collaborative efforts of various stakeholders, including women, youth, religious leaders, and security bodies, a slogan of “Protect me, I will protect you” has been adopted so as to ensuring a peaceful

environment conducive to attracting investors, he mentioned.

As to him, the Zone, in partnership with its residents and stakeholders, has dedicated itself to providing citizen-based services worth approximately 53.7 billion Birr over the past five years.

Notably, this includes the construction of 11,972 homes and 1,533 schools, he said, adding that it demonstrates the commitment to improving living conditions and access to education.

Furthermore, Ayalew stated that the zone has supported 42 million Birr to the national defense force and has proudly deployed 25,000 youths as members of the defense force.

With the Eastern Hararghe Zone’s remarkable achievements in summer wheat production, the region is poised to make a significant contribution to Ethiopia’s agricultural sector and pave the way for sustainable economic growth. Furthermore, he pointed out that the peace prevailing across all 23 woredas of the Zone in creating favorable conditions for investment.

Editorial

Moral obligation necessitates buttressing the humanitarian support

Any individual who has an iota of humanitarian feeling could not stand the prink of conscience if s/he stands aloof when fellow human beings are subjected to deprivation and harrowing pains arising from artificial and natural calamities. Aside from being immoral, such apathy could make the subject in point liable to the law.

In cognizance of such responsibility and accountability, the incumbent has been discharging its task of unstintingly reaching out to victims of misfortune with a spectrum of aids. Not confining its support to Ethiopians alone, the government has been extending similar support to refugees who opt to seek a safe haven in Ethiopia.

Apart from citizens that have fallen prey to the conflict that flared up in the northern part of the country and badly in need of food and shelter, the incumbent is reaching out to people hard hit by drought with succors. This testifies its focal humanitarian concern.

Even if victims spike is evident, in concert with development partners and humanitarian agencies, the incumbent is extending unflagging support to victims. Yet, there are quarters that cry foul and feed wrong information on the global limelight turning a blind eye to the government's unceasing support.

For instance, there were attempts in Tigray Regional State to report people that met their ends due to a natural cause to famishment. But facts on the ground indicate quite a different scenario. Deaths that occurred there are ascribable to natural causes not to hunger. Here, it must be noted that there is not an indifferent government that sits its hands crossed when such a tragic scenario unfolds.

From day one the conflict in the northern part of the country flared up the government is striving to dole out due support in areas of need. It as well is doing its level best to reinstate/resettle displaced people in their abode in a bid they get back in shape. It strives to see to their turnaround from aid recipients to productive citizens capable of standing on their feet.

In a strengthened manner supports of the aforementioned nature are due to enter into their fourth round after warming up exercise to this effect is handled. So far, the incumbent has extended support totaling 42 billion birrs. In so doing it has not solely carried out charged responsibility but also forestalled the humanitarian crisis looming large. In accordance with this, in the fourth round, taking out 27 thousand quintals of edible and nutritious food items from the Dire Dewa stores, the incumbent has just dispatched it to 15 Weredas of Tigray.

Here, it is important to note that in the 3rd round it was the government that played the lion's role of support. As humanitarian Agencies have come aboard in the 4th round there is a firm belief that victims will avail themselves of enough support. This support will ripple across Amhara and Afar states.

Foods are being bought from cooperative Unions. As such, the presence of enough foods in preparedness-oriented stores goes without saying.

In the first and second rounds, the government has reached out 7.3 million people identified those in need of support. In the 3rd round 6.5 people have become beneficiaries.

In the diplomatic work carried out to carry across the truth, it was made possible to involve donors in the 3rd and 4th rounds. Donors are still participating in such activities.

The good gesture on the part of active donors is appreciable. Till the problem is addressed in a sustainable manner similar support is expected from development partners and humanitarian agencies. That is why the government stresses that moral obligation makes buttressing humanitarian support mandatory.



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Opinion

Harnessing the potential of natural parks for economic development

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

In Ethiopia, the Travel & Tourism market is expected to generate a revenue of USD 2,297.00m by 2024, with a projected annual growth rate of 5.89% from 2024.

Ecotourism, the main subject of this contribution focuses on visiting natural environments and promoting conservation and sustainability. It involves activities like wildlife watching, nature walks, and visiting national parks.

Chebera Churchura National Park which was established in 2005 adding up to the verdant natural beauty of a constellation of ethereal Ethiopian ecotourism parks including Gorgora, Wonchi, Koischa and Garaalta which to be completed in a year.

The park constitutes a catalogue of eco-tourism parks which were a brain child of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed on his Gebeta Le Hager (Dine for the Nation) Project which is yet to be expanded across the country.

Located on 450 kilometers to the south of Ethiopia in Dawro-Konta Zone, Konta Woreda South West Regional State on the Addis Ababa- Jimma-Chida- Ameya Road, Chebera Churchura National Park rests on 1400 square kilometers combining undulating range of mountains covered with grass and ever green shrubs, flat land with captivating tall grass, breathtaking fresh water lakes including bahey, Bulo, Shita, Koka, Karbala and Chefore joined by bucolic farmlands, natural spa, waterfalls and a total of 50 smaller springs and rivers.

This tantalizing eco-tourism of which little was known has more than 106 species of plants, 137 species of birds with their eye catching and glittering beauty and out of which 6 are endemic make the park a replica of heavenly paradise on earth.

Chebera Churchura NP harbours over 400 Elephants in different herds. The Zigna River, several lakes, waterfalls including a hot spring form hydrological features in the park. The Zigna River is an important tributary of the Omo River. The presence of natural caves is an added attraction. There are facilities for tourists to stay at the park HQ where a simple camp with toilet facilities are available.

Rainfall ranges from 1200 mm to 2300 mm per annum and temperature ranges from 10 to 29 °C. Wet seasons are from March to September and the dry season extends from December to February. Four major vegetation zones, grasslands, woodlands, mountain forests and riverine forests, have been described for the area. Dominant woody vegetation includes Ficus spp., Combretum spp., Ehertia spp and Albizia spp. The natural forests have non-timber forest products of economic value including Coffee, Coriander and Piper sp. Chebera Churchura provides refuge to 37 species of larger mammals. Besides Elephants, the park has populations of Buffalo, Greater Kudu, Defassa Waterbuck, Lion, Leopard, Serval Cats, Hippopotamus and Warthog. It also has 140 species of birds of which 5 are endemic to the country.

Apart from being a natural venue for tourists from within and overseas, Chebera Chrchura could be a magnetic center for botanists, zoologists, taxonomists, environmentalists, experts on traditional medicine and all kinds of researchers from across the world.

The park which will be inaugurated soon will provide employment opportunities for the local youth groups, traditional craftsmen, those engaged in small business. Private entrepreneurs can build high class hotels and recreational centers in the area and could help to contribute both to the local economy of the zone, regional and at federal levels.

The Chebera Churchura National park is built

in tune with most of the types of tourism that are mentioned above and could probably taken as one of the multi-purpose parks the country owns.

This park of administered by the regional government as the main stakeholder and goal owner of the project while federal stakeholders play the role of coordination of activities and other tourism related tasks.

Special budgeted educational tour operations may be conducted for students across the country so that will be able to appreciate the natural resources and beauty of their country. On the other hand, cross cultural domestic and international program exchange activities could help to bring forth multiple sets of advantages for the youth in Ethiopia.

Tourism development is one of the pillars of Ethiopia's Ten Years Perspective Plan and is expected to siphon in foreign exchange earnings that the country needs to further accelerate the national reform program in the areas of agricultural modernization, manufacturing and construction industries for the country.

The writer believes that massive work still remains in marketing and promoting Ethiopia's ecotourism projects to the rest of the world. Local media and press need to prepare special promotional materials like video clippings, promotional flashcards, press kits and other materials to be used by tourists and researchers alike.

All concerned stakeholders need to work hand in hand with each other to improve the service delivery system in eco-tourism sites by introducing modern logistics, digital technologies and all accessories that tourists of all types may need.

Planned casual visit to Chebera Churchura will help tourists to come into close proximity with nature and is important for improving their quality of life. It will also help to revise their way of thinking about the local area and Ethiopia and even the African continent. Moreover, such natural parks have huge educational value in the sense that any person with a higher capacity of observation can promote his or her knowledge about nature.

All eco-tourism projects and historical and natural sites visited by tourists will help to generate foreign exchange for the country and could increase the level of local and national economic development of the country.

All tourist sites in the country play a greater role in preserving the age old cultural heritages of the country including traditional artifacts, handicrafts, cultural costumes that depict the identity of the country and its people.

Commercialization of these artifacts and cultural heritages made by the members of communities will not only economically empower individual citizens but will also play an important role in community empowerment and development.

Ecotourism project including Chebera Churchura play an important role in preserving and conserving the ecology of the area in which they are developed and help to create a balance of nature in their respective areas.

Digitalization of the major services in the ecotourism project sites will increase efficiency of service delivery and will also play a vital role in promoting customer satisfaction. In addition, using IT facilities for marketing and promotion is very important for developing such projects.

Participation of the private sector in tourism development is an important policy option for further developing the sector. The private sector can make further investments in tourism and can increase the GDP of the country over time.

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

Ethiopia Doing Quite...

“Now we have two operators, Ethio telecom and Safaricom,” she said, adding the ITU is the UN agency and all telecommunication operators, just like mobile network operators, are members.

One of the things that the ITU helps countries do in this case, Ethiopia, is to look into what we can help in terms of regulation, policies that are good for the country and good for operators that want to come in the country, according to the director.

“Ethiopia is one of the members of ITU, which means as you have seen, it (Ethiopia) is doing quite a lot in terms of connectivity and improving practically daily. This is wonderful.”

“We are looking to stay behind Ethiopia to make sure that this is for the benefit of its people,” she elaborated.

Moreover, she elaborated that we have been doing quite a lot actually in

telecommunications and infrastructure for connectivity on the continent, including Ethiopia.

We are in the process of mapping countries to see where the schools are and how they can be connected, she said.

Then, we could see if we could supply infrastructure facilities such as fiber and satellites, she said, adding where appropriate, providing trainings to teaches by organizations like UNESCO.

“We are hoping for connecting schools, once we map those schools and we look into how we take connectivity to the schools, it will also help us in terms of augmenting the infrastructure in the countries,” she added.

She elaborated what we are trying is to make sure that locally, all of the schools are known; then we can tell how to connect them, for example, if we ever end up in another case where people

have to stay home that kids will have access to education.

She stressed that connectivity not just for the sake of connectivity but for citizens, for young people, adults, for schools, lifelong education, including people with disabilities, we really want everybody to be included.

“We are connecting schools; we are also hoping that we will augment the infrastructure for connectivity on the African continent,” she said.

Recall that the International Telecommunication Union has launched Digital Transformation Centers (DTC) in Addis Ababa in 2022 with a view to enhancing the digital capacities of citizens in the country.

The DTC initiative will also help Ethiopia to enhance the use of digital technology for teaching and learning, administration, research, among others.

Ethiopia exhibits illuminating...

days like “black lives matters” becoming a trend in the world arising from the U.S., according to her.

By the same token, Moges Mersha, Ethiopian Diaspora who was also visiting the Diplomatic Week Exhibition

at the Science Museum, mentioned that the exhibition showcased the journey of Ethiopia’s diplomacy.

Moges, who stayed in the U.S. for 43 years, further highlighted the incredible changes he witnessed in the city.

“I used to engage in construction and administration activities while I was in Ethiopia. As a professional, I have seen undeniable changes in the country. The nation would soon be covered by buildings” he underscored.

Perpetual...

Antonio Guterres described the non-inclusion of Africa in the UNSC permanent seat as a ‘flagrant injustice’.

Set up in January 17, 1946, the Security Council which only includes United States, Russia, China, the UK, and France as permanent members is mentioned at the heart of unfair global system.

The quest for Africa’s permanent seat at the UNSC has been a long-standing issue raised by the African Union and its member countries on various global stages. However, the issue is placed at back burner and the quest has not received a response to date.

African countries still lack representation and the ability to safeguard their interests at the UNSC for over 70 years, said Ambassador Jorge Catarina Cardoso, a Director of the Africa, Middle East, and Regional Organizations Directorate of the Angolan Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

“Africa has myriads of problems in relation to security and peace, yet discussions on these matters often exclude African nations’ presence and voices, the ambassador told The Ethiopian Herald exclusively.

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

The absence of permanent seats of Africa on the UNSC creates imbalance. This situation fails to adequately represent the interests of the African people, stated Ambassador Salah S. Hammad, Senior Human Rights

Expert of the Department of Political Affairs of AUC highlighted.

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

Also, during the 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government, the issue of securing Africa’s rightful place in the global arena was high on the agenda where AUC Moussa Faki Mahamat Chairperson emphasized the need for concerted efforts to secure Africa’s representation

Ambassador Salah emphasized the urgent need for change to enable Africa to contribute to building a stable, united, prosperous, and peaceful continent. The ongoing negotiations through the C10 aim to secure Africa’s permanent representation in the Security Council, and the ambassador expressed his eagerness for immediate outcomes in this regard.

Africa has been persistently advocating for a permanent seat in order to ensure that the interests of the largest continent are adequately represented in global decision-making processes.

With Africa increasingly becoming a target

of conflicts, militants and coup d’états activities, having a permanent seat on the UNSC would enable Africa to effectively manage its security and peace, also added ambassador Jorge

The push for Africa’s representation in global affairs aligns with Agenda 2063, a strategic framework led by the African Union. The AU is committed to ensuring Africa’s comprehensive representation in the international arena, including UN reform. Furthermore, there is a growing intention to assume leadership positions in various UN agencies, as Africa’s voice needs to be heard on global issues, ambassador Salah said.

Ambassador Jorge noted that Africa has initiated the process of securing at least two permanent seats for the continent, aligning with the Ezulwini Consensus, which outlines Africa’s views on how peace and security issues should be addressed at the UN.

Moussa Faki stressed the importance of collaboration among all concerned parties to foster a strong, peaceful, and prosperous Africa. He highlighted that recurring conflicts, often fueled by militants and coup d’états, have hindered Africa’s progress towards a brighter future.

Mentioning supports of United States, Russia, China, the UK, and France for at least one African permanent member, Guterres expressed hope that a partial reform of the Security Council could correct this injustice and allow Africa to have at least one permanent member.

Ethiopia, Zimbabwe...

Ethiopian Ambassador Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Zimbabwe, Rashid Mohammed told The Ethiopian Herald that both nations have stood together in times of challenge, supporting each other’s endeavors for peace, stability, and development.

Ambassador Rashid, who is also non-resident ambassador to the Republic of Zambia and the Republic of Mauritius, has reaffirmed commitment to strengthening bilateral ties, fostering economic cooperation, and promoting cultural exchange between the two nations.

He stated that both countries supported each other in many fields such as aviation, airforce, education and assistance each other in technical support, capacity-building programs, and humanitarian aid in times of need.

Both are highly elevating their long diplomatic relationship working collaboratively in the areas of trade, economic cooperation and continued to maintain cordial diplomatic ties based on shared interests and mutual respect.

“The diplomatic relationship between Ethiopia and Zimbabwe is generally positive and characterized by mutual respect and both maintained diplomatic missions in each other’s capitals and engaged in bilateral dialogue on various issues of common interest.”

Besides, the two are promoting educational exchanges including academic collaborations, cultural events, and exchanges of students and scholars, engaging in political dialogue on regional and international issues of mutual concern, such as peace and security in Africa, sustainable development, and cooperation within multilateral forums, Rashid noted.

“As we reflect on the challenges and achievements of the past years, we will draw inspiration from our collective resilience and determination to overcome adversity and seize the opportunities that lie ahead to build a future of prosperity and harmony for generations to come,” he said.

Ethiopia and Zimbabwe started diplomatic ties in the 1970s before the latter gained its independence from colonial rule. Ethiopia supported Zimbabwe by training and equipping the Zimbabwe freedom fighters who later played a pivotal role in achieving freedom.

Opinion

The Adwa victory exemplary for unity, resilience against oppression

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

It is common knowledge that Ethiopia occupies an important place in recorded history as a shining example of African self-determination functioning as a motivation for all who have been under the yoke of oppression through colonial authority. Through unflinching determination and unremitting endeavors, Ethiopia has played an essential role in emancipating black people from the chains of subjugation, signifying the power of resilience and harmony in incapacitating daunting encounters.

Along similar lines, the victory of Adwa has witnessed in the global community the fact that Africans can do the whole kit and caboodle without difficulty if they come together. It is recognized that the citizens of the whole world can learn that unity can play a prominent role in fighting internal and external bellicosity and pressure without a hitch. Beyond any doubt, colonial powers encountered what they did not imagine would come to pass.

It is generally acknowledged that the victory of Adwa holds a spot as a witness to the country's persistent spirit of disobedience against coercion and its firm stance to advocate for emancipation and safeguard independence. There is no doubt that this momentous achievement not only marked a critical juncture in the history of Ethiopia but also reverberated in various parts of the world, demonstrating to the world the tremendous potential and know-how of Africans when they come together in support of one another.

It also acted as a very strong message that, with conjoined persistence and common endeavor, there are no boundless limits to what can be accomplished, trendsetting generation to come with its message of optimism and enablement.

It becomes apparent that the victory of Adwa has proved to be noticeable in bringing an end to colonization, injustice, and race-based discrimination, capitalizing on all black people all over the globe, and motivating the harassed to go to bat for their freedom. In fact, the victory has sustained itself as a beacon of hope for black freedom and independence. As the country is accredited for defending colonization, suppression, and domination from the face of the continent of Africa, it has made the unrealizable realizable and the unattainable achievable in the shortest possible time.

By the same token, in the face of Ethiopia's reputation for skirmish, the victory of Adwa has developed into an amalgamation prowess, uniting people from all segments of society to defend their country's independence. This earth-shattering event not only emphasized Ethiopia's resilience but also served as a reuniting cry for the sidelined black population, kindling a basic principle of disobedience against colonial suppression.

The Victory of Adwa is a source of enduring pride and nationalism for Ethiopians. Similarly, it is an inspiration to other Africans who took up the fight for independence to end colonialism. Due to the victory of Adwa, Ethiopia becomes the nation most celebrated on the African continent. Following the victory in Adwa, Ethiopia became a uniting point not just among



Africans but also among African Americans as well. The victory of Ethiopia against Italy, on the battlefield in Adwa, was extraordinary. A so-called backward African army was not supposed to be able to defeat a so-called modern European military. But, Ethiopia did and inspired Africans to do so, Lawrence Freeman, an American political-economic analyst, said during his congratulatory message to Ethiopians on the 127th anniversary of Adwa Victory.

Speaking truthfully, no one would dispute the victory of Adwa, who proved to be a central figure of resilience and liberation, demonstrating 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 achievement also transformed an entrenched story that black people were fated to survive the yoke of subjugation.

Apart from exhibiting the resilience and strength of Ethiopians in the face of adversity, the victory ended up igniting a sense of pride and empowerment among black communities reaffirming their capacity to shape their destinies and challenges. In fact, the importance of the Adwa victory goes above and beyond the chronological narrative functioning as a permanent legacy of African self-determination. This noteworthy demonstration of harmony has left a lifelong impression on the collective intentionality of black population, implanting a grasp of pride and liberation in defiance of seemingly unconquerable difficulties.

It is generally acknowledged that the victory of Adwa has proved to be a crucial embodiment of liberation demonstrating the forces of unity and resilience in defiance of hostile invasion in addition to a new historical period to the continent of Africa. Ethiopia's victory at Adwa serves as a symbol of determination and firm resolve of the people of Africa functioning as a glorious adventure in the transformative power of collective efforts and overall objective.

Ethiopia is acclaimed for its historical armed confrontations, perceived an extraordinary even in the victory of Adwa. This achievement

amalgamated inhabitants of varying backgrounds putting aside their differences. The victory functioned as a critical moment particularly authorizing black population domineered by colonial troops to rise above their state of affairs. The historic victory marked a significant change in the history of colonial hegemony exemplifying the influence of harmony and resolve in surmounting coercion.

Needless to say the Victory of Adwa brought a new historic juncture to the people of Africa and black population residing under the world skies. The triumph also changed irrefutable testimonies that black people were under the full control of subjugated soldiers. Aside from rescuing the black communities, the victory made a meaningful difference in the fight for independence.

Giving priority to the victory of Adwa the federal government of Ethiopia has recently built an eye-catching Adwa victory memorial which serves as a wide-ranging and precise depiction of the Adwa Victory record flickering dialogues and drawing attention from extensive audience.

Following the construction of the Adwa Victory Memorial Museum, people from all kinds of backgrounds have been articulating their feelings, ideas and thoughts in a number of respects. Most of them are in a state of bliss. Reasoning from this fact, the government deserves respect and appreciation for bringing the project into reality at the earliest possible moment. By presenting this thorough and unvarnished depiction, the government intends for making sure that the real implication and influence of the victory are recognized and privileged in a suitable manner.

The victory of Adwa transformed a long-established falsification that black populations were assured to bump into ill-treatment. More to the point, this achievement fetched a powerful message to colonial powers electrifying hope among downgraded black community. It also persists in standing as a demonstration of resistance and unbending spirit for black population around the world.

During the war, Ethiopians came together putting their differences into storage and fighting back as one to overthrow the Italians in a humiliating manner.

The victory of Ethiopia over Italy traumatized the links of coercion and dismantled the perception of colonialism streamlining the deeply-rooted preconceptions in the Western world towards the black community.

Adwa Victory Memorial Museum is a living African pride, independence and glory, so said Prime Minister of Chad, Succès Masra.

After paying a visit to the recently inaugurated Adwa Victory Memorial Museum, Prime Minister Succès Masra told to local media that the grand memorial is an asset for all Africans. "As an African I really feel honored and proud to come here and see that there is this Africa that we don't talk a lot of. I think this is a time for all Africans to remember that here in Ethiopia, here in Africa some from day one were free in their mindset, in their battle and they remain free." the PM underscored.

He went on saying: "As prime minister of Chad, I think I would like to thank the Prime Minister of Ethiopia and people of the country for making sure that this Ethiopian and African spirit for freedom is alive so that every African can come here and go back with a lot of pride and knowing it would be possible to be free and should remain free so that we will be able to handle our future."

Commending Ethiopia for the principle of humanity that its people demonstrated during the battle of Adwa, which is a great lesson to humanity, the Premier also urged all Africans to further strengthen their unity to ensure their freedom in all aspects.

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

Business & Economy

Zone's agricultural success vital to propel economic growth, attract investors

BY HIZKEL HAILU

The Eastern Hararghe Zone, located in Ethiopia's Oromia region, has emerged as a thriving agricultural hub, experiencing remarkable success in recent years. The zone's administration is actively working to boost the local economy and attract both local and international investors. With its diverse range of crops, successful agricultural initiatives, commitment to peace and security, burgeoning tourism potential, and job creation efforts, the Eastern Hararghe Zone presents a promising destination for those seeking investment opportunities in Ethiopia.

Approached by *The Ethiopian Herald*, Zone's Deputy Administrator Ayalew Takele said that the agricultural sector in the Eastern Hararghe Zone is flourishing. Being thankful for the vast potential and dedication to maximizing productivity, he mentioned that farmers in the zone cultivate a diverse range of crops, including wheat, coffee, maize, nuts, and various other agricultural products.

As to him, among its notable achievements is the successful summer wheat initiative. In the current fiscal year, the zone is expected to harvest a record-breaking 2.3 million quintals of wheat from a total of 96,000 hectares of land. The productivity of summer wheat has been steadily increasing, with the zone utilizing 16,000 and 32,000 hectares of land to produce 30 and 58 quintals of wheat, respectively.

To enhance productivity and sustainability, the Eastern Hararghe Zone has implemented various measures. These include irrigation systems and green legacy activities aimed at environmental conservation. Over the past six months, an impressive 45 million seedlings have been planted across the zone, contributing to increased agricultural output and a rise in forest coverage, which now stands at 14.5%. These sustainable practices not only boost the economy but also preserve the environment for future generations.

One of the zone's significant agricultural assets is Hararghe Coffee, which has gained recognition worldwide as a high-quality specialty coffee. Efforts are underway to promote Hararghe Coffee globally, attracting attention from coffee enthusiasts and connoisseurs. This presents attractive export opportunities for investors looking to capitalize on the growing demand for Ethiopian coffee. Additionally, the zone's agricultural exports extend beyond coffee, encompassing wheat, chat, and other products, further contributing to economic growth and attracting investment.

Maintaining peace and security is a top priority for the Eastern Hararghe Zone, he explained, adding that the zone has adopted a collaborative approach, involving various sectors of society such as women, youth, religious leaders, and security bodies, to sustain peace. The slogan "Protect me, I will protect you" reflects the collective responsibility to safeguard the well-being



Babile Elephant Sanctuary – East Hararghe Zone

of the community. The commitment to peace and security has created a favorable investment climate in the zone, ensuring a conducive environment for investors to thrive and contribute to the local economy.

In addition to its agricultural prosperity, the Eastern Hararghe Zone showcases significant potential for tourism. The zone boasts natural attractions that captivate visitors, including the Babile elephants and Kundudo wild horses. The Babile Elephants offer a unique wildlife experience, allowing tourists to witness these majestic creatures in their natural habitat. Kundudo wild horses, found exclusively in Ethiopia, roam picturesque landscapes, making them a favorite spot for nature enthusiasts and adventure seekers. The zone's administration actively promotes tourism, recognizing its potential to contribute to the local economy through increased visitor numbers and revenue generation.

"Job creation is a crucial aspect of the Eastern Hararghe Zone's development strategy. The zone is committed to providing employment opportunities, particularly for the youth. Initiatives in animal farming, honey production, and market chain integration have been implemented to create jobs and empower the local community. Furthermore, the zone welcomes investments from diaspora communities, recognizing their contributions to the economic growth of the zone and the country as a whole.

The administration additionally offers comprehensive investment support services to diaspora investors. These services may include assistance with business registration, permits, licenses, and access to financial resources. By providing a supportive ecosystem for investment, the administration aims to facilitate the entry and success of diaspora-led ventures in the zone".

As to him, the Zone has also actively sought investments from diaspora communities, recognizing their significant role in fostering

economic growth. The zone administration has implemented various strategies to attract and engage diaspora investors, leveraging their expertise, resources, and connections to drive development in the region.

The zone administration has actively promoted investment opportunities within the diaspora community through targeted marketing campaigns and outreach initiatives. This includes participation in investment forums, conferences, and exhibitions specifically aimed at engaging diaspora investors. By highlighting the zone's agricultural potential, tourism attractions, and job creation initiatives, the administration has effectively showcased the opportunities available to diaspora investors.

Moreover, the Zonal administration has fostered partnerships and networks with diaspora organizations, associations, and individuals. Collaborative efforts have been made to establish channels of communication and build relationships with diaspora communities. For him, these partnerships serve as a bridge between the zone administration and the diaspora, facilitating knowledge transfer, investment facilitation, and collaboration on development projects.

Ayalew further mentioned that the zone has introduced attractive investment incentives to encourage diaspora investment. These incentives include tax breaks, streamlined administrative processes, access to land, and other benefits designed to facilitate investment and reduce barriers to entry. By offering favorable conditions, the zone has created a welcoming environment for diaspora investors, encouraging them to contribute to the local economy.

On its way to increase the engagement of Diaspora community in the Zone, the office also established dedicated platforms and mechanisms. These platforms provide information, facilitate dialogue, and address concerns and queries from potential

investors. The administration actively communicates updates on investment opportunities, policies, and regulations, ensuring transparency and clarity for diaspora investors, he noted.

Recognizing the expertise and knowledge diaspora communities possess, the Eastern Hararghe Zone actively seeks to leverage their skills and experiences. The administration encourages diaspora investors to contribute not only financially but also through knowledge transfer, technology sharing, and capacity building initiatives. This exchange of expertise benefits both the diaspora investors and the local community, fostering sustainable growth and development.

Through these strategies, the Eastern Hararghe Zone has successfully attracted investments from diaspora communities. By recognizing the value of diaspora engagement and providing an enabling environment, the zone administration has tapped into the resources and contributions of diaspora investors, driving economic growth, job creation, and development in the region, he added.

The Eastern Hararghe Zone stands as a shining example of successful rural development, driven by its dedication to sustainable agriculture, peace and security, tourism potential, and job creation. The administration's proactive approach and collaborative efforts have created an environment conducive to economic growth and investment.

The zone's agricultural achievements, including the summer wheat initiative and the promotion of Hararghe Coffee, have positioned it as an attractive destination for investors seeking opportunities in Ethiopia's thriving agricultural sector. The Eastern Hararghe Zone's commitment to sustainable development and its promising future make it a compelling choice for stakeholders and investors alike. With its ongoing efforts, the zone is poised for continued economic prosperity and sustainable growth.

Planet Earth

Countries acknowledge Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Ethiopia has faced extensive deforestation over the years, which has resulted in biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation, and increased vulnerability to natural disasters like droughts and floods. Taking this instance into account, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed officially launched the Ethiopian Green Legacy Initiative on May 26, 2019. The initiative was born out of recognition of the significant environmental challenges facing Ethiopia, including soil erosion, climate change, and deforestation.

In response to these issues, the Ethiopian government decided to take action, initiating the Green Legacy Initiative, a countrywide reforestation initiative. The first phase of the green legacy program ran from 2019 to 2022. The objective of planting 4 billion trees was set to solve the country's critical reforestation needs and rehabilitate degraded areas. The project sought to not only alleviate the effects of deforestation and climate change but also to promote sustainable development and enhance the livelihoods of people who rely on forest resources.

Following the completion and evaluation of the first phase, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed(PhD) started the second phase of the Green Legacy Initiative in the Afar area in June 2023, with the theme "Let's Plant the Future Today." According to the Prime, planting trees is in harmony with nature since it provides food, and beauty, and helps to mitigate the effects of climate change. "If we want to leave anything good for the following generation, one of the simplest things is to plant our future now. If we have trees for our children in every field and mountain, they will provide food and medicine while also deterring the world's growing menace of climate change."

According to him, during the second phase of the green legacy, 25 billion tree seedlings are planned to be planted. When combined with the 25 billion seedlings planted in the first phase, Ethiopia becomes the first country to develop forests by planting 50 billion saplings. He also emphasized that the Green Legacy initiative prioritizes quality over quantity. The Prime Minister went on to say that the program will prioritize indigenous seedlings that can endure the effects of climate change and have superior food and medical applications.

He also stated that combined forestry is part of Ethiopia's attempts to become food self-sufficient and that indigenous trees as well as edible fruit trees such as apples would be planted. The second phase of the Green Legacy Program will plant 60 percent mixed plantation seedlings, 35 percent forest seedlings, and 5 percent urban beauty seedlings.

Because of this, the Green Legacy

Initiative soon gained acceptance and support from a range of societal groups, including corporations, non-governmental organizations, government agencies, educational institutions, and so on. Millions of Ethiopians were inspired to take part in tree-planting events by the campaign, which had as its main goal educating and inspiring young people about the value of environmental preservation.

Furthermore, from its inception, the Initiative has symbolized Ethiopia's commitment to environmental sustainability and climate change. The effort has attracted international attention and support, with other governments showing interest in replicating similar projects to battle deforestation and encourage reforestation throughout the globe.

In 2022, for example, Alhaji Fall, who represented Ahunna Eziakonwa, Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa at the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), said that the initiative was a first step toward a better future for Ethiopia. Hence, he commended Ethiopia for setting the standard in the fight against climate change and for promoting community resilience while announcing the UNDP's commitment to share Ethiopia's experiences with around ten other nations and make the Green Legacy Initiative Pan-African.

In addition to neighboring countries that support and share the goals of the Ethiopian Green Legacy effort, a few other European countries have begun to see the initiative's benefits. They agreed with the initiative's aim and acknowledged the importance of the "green legacy" program.

Portuguese Foreign Minister João Gomes Cravinho said Ethiopia should serve as a model for other nations to follow in its Green Legacy Initiative. "The initiative that Ethiopia is taking on could be very interesting for us to be able to replicate the model so that other countries could learn from Ethiopia's experience."

Recall that Ethiopia, through Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's initiative has planted over 32.5 billion tree seedlings since 2019. According to him, renewable energy and public administration in digital transition are among the potential areas where the two countries can cooperate. "We have already been strengthening our embassy here in Addis Ababa. We would like to have an Ethiopian embassy in Lisbon. Not only in the fields of the economy but also in cultural exchange language, and tourism. We have a lot of growth ahead."

Ethiopia, under Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's initiative, has planted over 32.5 billion tree seedlings since 2019. He cites renewable energy and public administration in the digital transformation as possible areas for collaboration between



Portuguese Foreign Minister João Gomes Cravinho



Dan Jorgensen, Danish Minister for Development Cooperation and Global Climate Policy

In addition to neighboring countries that support and share the goals of the Ethiopian Green Legacy effort, a few other European countries have begun to see the initiative's benefits. They agreed with the initiative's aim and acknowledged the importance of the "green legacy" program

the two countries. Not just in the economic sector, but also in cultural interaction, language learning, and tourism. We have a lot of room to expand", he added.

Dan Jorgensen, Danish Minister for Development Cooperation and Global Climate Policy, noted that his country is very interested in working with Ethiopia to mitigate climate change. He also highlighted his country's willingness to help Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative. Ethiopian practical efforts to prevent climate change show that billions of seedlings have been planted in Ethiopia during the previous four years as part of the National Green Legacy Initiative. The government is unwaveringly committed to achieving the world's goal of a carbon-free planet.

The Czech Republic Ambassador to Ethiopia Ambassador Miroslav Kosek once said that climate change is a global issue that affects people everywhere. Climate change is no longer a distant danger; it is a reality that is already affecting the lives of millions.

As a result, Ethiopia has been attempting to mitigate the consequences of climate change and create a more resilient ecosystem. One of the most notable accomplishments to date in this area is the Green Legacy Initiative, which has resulted in the planting of billions of tree seedlings around the country. Hence, the Czech Republic reiterated its commitment to supporting Ethiopia in its efforts to improve climate resilience.

In general, since its inception, the Green Legacy Initiative has been a symbol of Ethiopia's commitment to combat the negative effects of climate change. The movement has received international notice and support, with other governments interested in replicating similar projects to battle deforestation and encourage reforestation throughout the world. Therefore, the Ethiopian government should be supported since it is aiming to attain the lofty goal of planting 50 billion trees as part of its efforts to create a greener and more resilient future for the country and the globe as a whole.

Art & Culture

Love mustn't be a typhoon

BY ALEM HAILU G/KRISTOS

“As you are bewitched
By my beauty
Allow me
To be a bit naughty!

Expect not
Pleasure to gain
without a little pain.

Take me to
The most expensive
Restaurants that exist,
Let me order dishes top
On the menu list.
Hurry let us go
To another place
Having
For an open-kitchen
A space.
Don't you doubt
I have interest for



A none-stop bout.

Buy me

Expensive cosmetics

And shoes

Dresses, an overcoat

And what not?

Not forgetting money

For transport.

Though when
You got me first broke
I had a pride strong
Like a rock! “

Although you seem
A dove,
A wolf in a sheep's skin,
You are blind to
A genuine love,
Hence, I have decided
The problem to solve!
Before you jilt me
When I have nothing
For you to siphon,
Finish with you
I must
As love must not be
A typhoon.
Helpless, may help you
God who is above!

Hear me when I call

BY GEDION CECIL

Hear my prayers my God on High,
Take me away beyond the skies.
Let me see your magnificent face,
Take me away from sins and disgrace.
Hear me my God when I call,
Grab me like an eagle when I fall.
You are the breath of the placid wind,
You are my love breathing in my mind.
Extend my days on earth to do Thy Will,
Teach me to love as you watch me still.
Hear my prayers when my heart bleeds,
For the poor and destitute to help in need.
Bless me to help those who are in sorrow,
Wipe away their tears as I pray for
A glorious tomorrow.
Invade me like the sea waves in my soul,
Teach me to love you in the heat and
cold.
Hear my prayers for every race and na-
tion,
Save their souls by your love and salva-
tion.

Do you think there's a chance

BY TSION YEHUALA

Do you believe in love
Do you know what it means
To give your heart to someone
Do you believe in fairytales
That true love lasts forever
Do you know the feeling
That breaks the bottom of your heart
Do you hear the words
That comes out of the song
Do you think it's easy
To fall in love with me
To start a new story
Do you think there's a chance
That you could be with me
Have you ever thought about it
And I want you to remember me
No matter what happens after this
That's why I wrote this poem for you
To express my feelings to you
And to show you how much I love you.



Refuge



Refuge

BY SARA TSEDALE

From my spirit's grey defeat,
From my pulse's flagging beat,
From my hopes that turned to sand
Sifting through my close-clenched hand
From my own fault's slavery
If I can sing, I still am free.

For with my singing I can make
A refugee for my spirit's sake
A house of shining words, to be
My fragile immortality

August

By Naomi Alem

Do you know that scary feeling of time
going by too quickly?
One more month left of summer
I've procrastinated a lot
I need more time to waste my time
When we have no pressure I crumble and
lay there confused about what to do

So many days wishing for more time
and now I lay here
as time goes by...

Society

When unwavering determination, resilience lead to professional excellence: Sheka Pasta's inspiring success

BY HIZKEL HAILU

In the vibrant city of Dire Dawa resides a remarkable individual who has become a beloved figure among the community. Mohamed Abdurahman, affectionately known as "Sheka Pasta," is a 76-year-old man with an extraordinary life story. Born in Hamaressa, Harar, South Eastern Ethiopia, Mohammed embarked on a journey to Dire Dawa in 1964, where he has since made a name for himself as a pioneer in the local culinary scene.

The Ethiopian Herald met with this culinary man during a field visit to Dire Dawa and approached him to share his experience with readers.

According to him, he earned his nickname; "Sheka Pasta" due to his groundbreaking venture in 1974 as the first person to introduce pasta for sale in the Conel area of Dire Dawa City Administration. Meals sold for 1 birr, *Sheka Pasta's* affordable and delicious pasta quickly gained popularity among the locals. His culinary skills, entrepreneurial spirit coupled with his courtesy made him a household name, and his humble eatery became a favorite spot for residents and visitors alike.

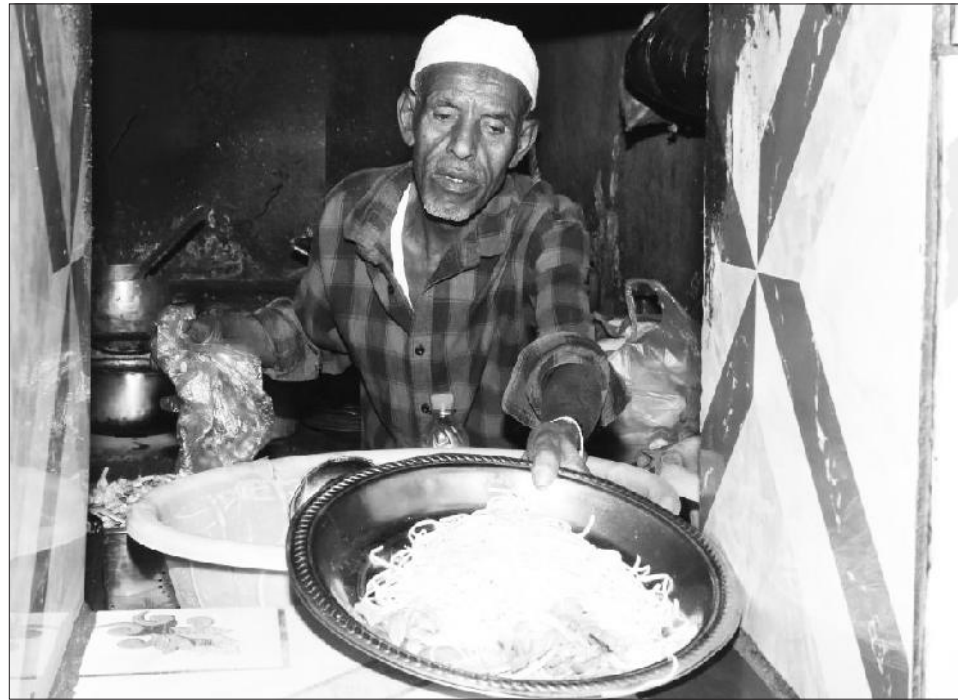
Beyond his culinary prowess, *Sheka Pasta's* nickname also pays homage to his family. His presence and righteous reputation are so deeply ingrained with the area and if any visitor has to ask someone for directions to *Sheka Pasta*, they would immediately and directly locate to the route because they know both the place and the man himself well.

Despite his age, *Sheka Pasta's* strength and tenacity continue shining through. He can often be seen riding his bicycle, effortlessly balancing large quantities of Injera or a sack of charcoal with one hand while steering his bicycle with the other. This iconic sight has become a symbol of his unwavering dedication to his skill and his commitment to serving his customers.

"My menu goes beyond traditional Ethiopian dishes, incorporating flavors and techniques from various cuisines. My willingness to experiment and blend different culinary traditions has created a unique dining experience for my customers. Through my dishes, I showcase the harmonious coexistence of different cultures within Dire Dawa".

Aside from his proficiency in culinary art and his success, *Sheka Pasta's* personal life is equally fascinating. He is a proud father of 18 children and a loving grandfather of 22 grandchildren, a testament to the rich and fulfilling life he has built. His family extends across 13 different marriages, highlighting the diverse and interconnected nature of his relationships and religious views.

In the bustling city of Dire Dawa, Mohamed is not only a culinary pioneer but also a compassionate soul who always extends a



Sheka Pasta's eatery has become more than just a restaurant; it has evolved into a community gathering place. Locals and visitors flock to his establishment not only to have delicious food but also for the warm and welcoming atmosphere

helping hand to those in need. Beyond his thriving business and culinary expertise, *Sheka Pasta's* generosity is reflected in his selfless act of offering free meals to those who find themselves without means to pay.

Sheka Pasta's commitment to serving his community goes beyond profit margins and business transactions. He understands that hardships can befall anyone, and he firmly believes that no one goes hungry. With this compassionate and caring mindset, he has made it a practice to offer free meals to those who find themselves without a penny in their pocket.



Sheka Pasta, an exemplary man for hard work, integrity, deep sense of compassion, and a helping attitude

His heartwarming gesture has touched the lives of many individuals in Dire Dawa. Whether it is a struggling student, a weary traveler, or someone facing temporary financial challenges, *Sheka Pasta* opens his doors and provides food without hesitation or judgment. His act of kindness not only fills empty stomachs but also brings hope and a sense of belonging to those who need it most.

Sheka Pasta's generosity is a testament to his deep-rooted values and his understanding of the struggles faced by his fellow community members. He recognizes that a meal can be a source of comfort and dignity, and he ensures that everyone who walks through his doors is treated with respect and compassion.

In a world often driven by profit and self-interest, *Sheka Pasta* stands out as a shining star that beams rays of hope and depicts the power of empathy and generosity.

His willingness to offer sustenance to the unfortunate one highlight the importance of community support and reminds us that small act of kindness can have a profound impact on people's lives.

The impact of *Sheka Pasta's* free meals extends far beyond the nourishment provided. It fosters a sense of unity and solidarity within the community, inspiring others to follow suit and lend a helping hand to those less fortunate. His actions have sparked a ripple effect, encouraging others to embrace the spirit of giving and promoting a culture of compassion in Dire Dawa. Of course the residents of Dire Dawa are widely known for sharing everything they have with one another.

It is through the combination of his culinary mastery and his compassionate nature that *Sheka Pasta* has become an icon in Dire Dawa. His legacy extends beyond the walls of his café, touching the hearts and lives of countless individuals. Through his selfless act of offering free meals, he has become a beacon of hope, reminding us all of the power of kindness and the strength of community.

Sheka Pasta's eatery has become more than just a restaurant; it has evolved into a community gathering place. Locals and visitors flock to his establishment not only to have delicious food but also for the warm and welcoming atmosphere. The restaurant serves as a hub for social interactions, where people come together to share stories, exchange ideas, and reinforce connections.

His contributions to the culinary world and his dedication to the community have not gone unnoticed. As to him, he has received several accolades and awards for his culinary expertise, entrepreneurship, and philanthropy. His achievements have brought recognition to Dire Dawa and inspired others to follow in his footsteps.

All in all, *Sheka Pasta's* story is one of resilience, compassion, and the pursuit of excellence. From his humble beginnings in Hamaressa to becoming a beloved figure in Dire Dawa, he has left an indelible mark on the community through his culinary prowess and selfless acts of kindness. His introduction of pasta to the local scene and his commitment to offering free meals to those in need have made him an icon, inspiring others to embrace the spirit of giving and fostering a culture of compassion.

His legacy serves as a reminder that small acts of kindness can have a profound impact on people's lives, and his journey exemplifies the power of individuals to shape their communities. As Dire Dawa continues to evolve, *Sheka Pasta* remains a symbol of tradition, and the enduring human spirit. His story is a testament to the richness of a community found in the stories of its people, and his presence will continue to inspire generations to come. As Dire Dawa continues to evolve, *Sheka Pasta* remains an enduring symbol of tradition, community, and the pursuit of excellence.

Law & Politics

The heritage of 'Yekatit 12'

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

Eighty-seven years ago, on February 19, a few Ethiopian patriots attempted to kill the colonial leaders of the Fascist forces stationed in Addis in open defiance of their occupation of their country. There was a ceremony being held at the Sidist Kilo Imperial Palace of the Emperor Haile Selassie, now part of the Addis Ababa University, where the Fascist leadership had called poor residents of Addis to celebrate the birth of one of the children of a prince in Italy and use the occasion to give them gifts and thus create a good image of their 'mission' in Ethiopia.

It was a propaganda event staged to gather support from the large masses of Ethiopians and present themselves as generous and kind. Thousands of Addis residents were present at the premises of the palace grounds, but for Ethiopian patriots, this was seen as a good occasion to eliminate the top leadership of the fascist regime stationed in Ethiopia. There was hence a plot to kill Marshal Graziani when he was speaking to the public, along with other hierarchies of the regime. The key individuals were two by the names of Abraha Deboch and Moges Asgedom, who threw several hand grenades towards the podium when the fascist leader was speaking.

Immediately mayhem followed. The guards began to shoot on the public indiscriminately in utter panic. There was a lot of confusion and people were trying to save their lives by running away from the premises but many were immediately killed by the bullets of the Fascist armed groups. The reports from neutral eyewitnesses said that there was no coordination nor plans but continuous shooting on the public in attendance. The leader of the fascists was immediately taken away for treatment as he was injured by the shrapnel's of the bombs. Only one of the people on the podium was reportedly killed while several others were injured.

The reaction to the attempt was one of immediate and uncontrolled ferocious revenge by taking as targets everyone in the city taken as part of the conspiracy to kill the leaders. What followed was an atrocious and ruthless massacre of Addis residents for three days in a row, and the city was full of dreadful scenes of piles of corpses and blood staining the streets. Reports say that as many as thirty thousand residents were massacred by not only bullets but also other sharp weapons such as machetes. There was no mercy for anyone. Their houses were burned down even with people in them, and there was no distinction between men and women, nor old and young.

It was just a blind revenge full of rage. Only an order from the highest authorities

deliver justice expected from a 'civilized' nation. The Fascists however inquired in to who could be behind such bold attempt and they concluded that it was the educated and well informed that could organize such an attempt and all those who were suspected of opposing the regime such as the clergy who preached their faithful followers not to submit to the invading forces at any cost. Hence the Fascists began their campaign to look for the educated youths and the clergy and went even to the monastery of Debre Libanos where many members of the church live and pray some hundred kilometers outside Addis. They went there to perpetrate more massacres of the clergy and the faithful waiting for a religious holiday when thousands would gather to pray and worship. They knew that the clergy of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church were capable of influencing well the mentality of their followers by ordering them not to abide by the rules of the occupiers and the reaction of the Fascists was to wait for the gathering of as many of them as possible and physically eliminate them.

February 19, 1937 has gone into the annals of Ethiopian history as an extremely tragic day when thousands of innocent Addis residents were summarily massacred without any distinction between their age and gender. It was the ultimate sacrifice that Ethiopians paid for the conservation of their dignity, pride and sovereignty.

The history of Ethiopia shows that there has never been compromise with invading forces that humiliate citizens degrading them as if they were not humans with sacred rights. Ethiopians never accepted succumbing to foreign invaders and when this happened they put aside their internal differences and disagreements to stand united to fight the alien invader head on together. The invading forces of Fascist Italy came to Ethiopia to take their revenge for the humiliating defeat they had suffered at Adwa forty years earlier.

In fact the Fascist leader Mussolini had always bragged about restoring the dignity and pride of his nation to the level of the Roman Empire times and the beginning of this plan was to colonize Ethiopia and expand what they called the Italian East Africa. That was basically why the Fascists invaded Ethiopia in 1935. However, even if it had succeeded to conquer the capital city and occupied it by its forces and try to expand to certain areas of the rural Ethiopia, Ethiopians never accepted the legitimacy of the imposed regime. There was widespread patriotic resistance movement in multiple areas across the country.

The Fascists tried to present themselves as emancipators of the oppressed citizens of the country by the monarchy and aristocrats and restore their rights propagating that they would be treated

well by the Fascist regime. They tried to lure them to submission and by promising that all of the citizens from all ethnic groups would be treated equally and not as it used to happen under the feudal system. They also tried to sow differences and enmity among the Ethiopian diverse population and exploit it for their political agenda. However, Ethiopians did not trust the Fascists and did not give in to their propaganda. The attempt to divide them under religious and ethnic lines hence did not succeed.

One of the landmarks of the resistance movement to the Fascist regime was the incident that took place at the Grand Palace on *Yekatit 12*, 1929 Eth Calendar, or February 19, 1937. Ethiopians were even more motivated to oppose and fight the Fascist rule having witnessed the atrocities the regime committed on that fatal day. The resistance movement spread throughout the country like wild fire and the key word was liberation from the occupation using every tactic possible.

The immense sacrifice of *Yekatit 12* is a testimony to the resilience of Ethiopians in resisting against any form of foreign domination. It is often stated that this attitude is in fact part of the DNA of every Ethiopian. That is why it is often said Ethiopia has never settled to be ruled by alien forces and the current generation of Ethiopians must cherish such heritage and tradition and conserve it to pass it to the coming generation. It is a huge value to be preserved and maintained come what may.

Hence, Ethiopians observe this day with pride and dignity because it reminds them how expensive the fight for liberation and resistance from any form of subjugation can be. Historians have noted that the sacrifice of this day remains one of the most atrocious ones recorded in African history.

As we observe this day every year we must never forget that the current free country we have today has been handed to us with tremendous sacrifice and toil as well as sufferance. Hence the current generation of youths must be inspired by this event and put aside the superficial disagreements we have and unite to keep the country not only free and strong but also prosperous enough to be able to resist the negative influences of alien forces that try to dominate us and eventually subject us to an indirect form of colonialism and dependence on their generosity.

There is a lot to learn from our brave forefathers and foremothers. Freedom and dignity are not cheap merchandizes to be acquired for free but involve huge, protracted struggle and tremendous sacrifice in blood and toil. That was what our history has taught us and the events of *Yekatit 12* are just one tragic chapter of those sacrifices for freedom.

The immense sacrifice of Yekatit 12 is a testimony to the resilience of Ethiopians in resisting against any form of foreign domination. It is often stated that this attitude is in fact part of the DNA of every Ethiopian

in Rome after several days of reported ferocities was the massacre stopped. The world reacted by condemning the atrocities that this was not the way to



Ephrem Endale
Contributor

Between you & me

“How About You and Me Getting Drunk!”

A guy I know was on a weekend outing with old time school chums a month or so back. There were around twenty of them, five of them female. He says for much of the time, until early afternoon, they had a wonderful time at a place on the outskirts of the city dining and wining and talking about the old times which are loaded with sweet and sour memories. As the afternoon progressed they decided to return to the city and go to a fairly large bar and restaurant. Some three or four of them decide to call it a day and leave for him. It was at this time my friend witnessed the other selves of his old chums. They keep on drinking with behaviors slowly changing from good to not so good. Words which could come out only from undisciplined folk start infecting their measured and disciplined language. Suddenly most of them looked complete strangers to this friend of mine. The way they were gulping bottle after bottle, glass after glass looked like they'll never be drinking again. And also being a father of two and a committed family guy the words and terms he was hearing disturbs him to the point of searching for excuses to make an early exit. Then one female says they should make cocktail, the name of which my friend couldn't catch and most agree. So they mix five or six of alcoholic spirits and downed them fast all the time boisterously laughing, giggling, shouting at the top of their voices and saying all sorts of the most despicable

things. My friend and a couple of them chose to stick to their draught beer. It was suddenly Armageddon! No one especially the other beer guys didn't see it coming. Chaos was in the making as most members of the group left their chairs and there were all sorts of pushing, jostling and a few punches thrown. Even the females were part of the brawl. The staff of the bar come in numbers and after much quite difficult efforts managed to stop all the chaos. Then the bar owner comes and tells the group that they will be served no more. He in fact asks them to "...please, leave!" My friend didn't need to hear a second reminder as he sprang and made it out of the bar. It was days later he heard that some of his chums had cuts and bruises.

Now the question he raised was "Is our drinking problem so severe?" His chums are all in their latter middle age and also most were heads of families. How can they go so low? Especially about that special cocktail drink, he heard that it was common. Why so popular? Well the talk is that the mix works on ones nerves faster and make you drunk in no time. Wait a minute here; do people really drink with getting drunk as the main goal. "Yes!" That was what my friend said. Not only the adults, he says, more and more underage kids are drinking sometimes openly and getting drunk seems to have become some sort of 'fashion.' Scary! My friend asks if mixing drinks really gets someone drunk

faster. "Hey, are you asking me?" he smiles. It could have been anywhere between a year and a year and half since I had my last beer! Now I'm not sure if that's something to 'boast' about.

Talking of being drunk how about this piece of joke!

A guy was in a bar drinking beer.

He would finish his beer, pull out his wallet, and look at a picture of his wife. He did this several times. Finally the bartender asks; "Why after you finish a beer you take your wallet and look at the picture of your wife?"

The guy says, "As soon as she starts looking good to me I go home." Ha! At least he doesn't forget he has a home and a spouse to go to. Believe me, though only for a few hours, there are many who do forget they have a place and a family to go to.

Just for the sake of not being left behind I browse the net to get an idea or two about the logic and effect of mixing drinks and here is what I came across.

"No matter how much we might convince ourselves that mixing different type of booth makes us drunker or more hangover it simply isn't the case. The existing evidence suggests hangovers can't be blamed on mixing drinks. Most experts say what makes you drunk is the amount of alcohol you consume, not the order or form in which you consume it." How about that!

It astounds me to hear that there are people who drink just to get drunk! I thought drunk came without one's consent maybe as nature's yellow card warning saying, "If you go past this round you'll end up drunk!" people are so determined that they create cocktails like the one raised earlier not because of taste or anything like that but just for the simple reason of getting drunk! There were times when you felt sorry and gave yourself a dressing down for being drunk. After all, people watch and any talk like, "So and so was dead drunk last night," seldom win you any medals. Now things seem to have changed and it seems getting drunk has become a matter of choice.

"Hey, how about us going on the town Saturday night and getting drunk!"

"Of course! You wouldn't believe how I crave to get myself drunk! It's almost a month since I last was drunk; and that's a hell lot of time."

So the next time a drunk slams into you in the middle of the road the slamming might be some coincidence but his drunkenness might be a goal achieved. He'd be calling a few friends and breaking the news, "Would you believe it! I got myself drunk as I've never experienced before."

"You don't say! I hope you'll tell me how you managed to do it."

"I've a better idea. We'll make it on the spot training and you're paying."

"Agreed!"

Dreams, Dreams, More Dreams!

Sometimes back a few of us were talking about dreams. It all began with one guy saying he wanted us to decode a particular and rather lengthy dream for him. Not that any of us had any 'experience' in such things, not that we had made reputations as 'dream code breakers.' He was so worried about this particular dream he saw and he wanted to talk to someone. By the way he was a family man with kids in their mid and late teens and he has been married for about a quarter of a century. And his was one of those marriages which has managed to go through all the rain and shine over the years and still remained intact with both concerns about each other as they have been before tying the knot. That by itself is sort of breaking news in this age when it seems more divorces than marriages being registered in most places. Now, when this guy narrated his dream at first it sounded like he was reading an entire chapter from some romantic melodrama where all the wrong things you could think of happen. Then in the same dream things take sudden turn and he finds himself in the most beautiful of places with his family. Nice sounding, wouldn't you say? But wait till you hear what comes next. His family was a different one! His wife is a lady he has never seen before though a stunning young beauty and his children were toddlers barely learning to walk.

"What do you think it means?" Now this was the kind of dream beyond imagination and very difficult to attach with anything. If it had been the conventional dream where you either laugh or cry and where

both emotions don't come in the same storyline it would have been easy to play the dream decoder role. You stick to the good dream; bad reality, bad dream-good reality 'dream formula' and no one would accuse of not knowing what you're talking about. This guy's question is still hanging even after a few weeks. Though the guy isn't given to take things too far, though he never showed signs of being worried about some dream or nightmare this time around he's worried if something was to happen to his marriage and eventually his family.

Can dreams really predict the future? It seems that when the going gets tough and life becomes almost unbearable we tend to pay more attention to our dreams. We seem to be content with discovering the meaning of our dreams than the real reasons on the ground which make our lives practically intolerable.

"You know, last night I had dream and I'm not feeling comfortable."

"Why? What did you see?"

"Well I dreamt of driving the biggest limousine you have ever seen. It was so big by the time I woke up I haven't even been able to see the whole of it."

"You're a very lucky guy."

"I don't understand..."

"You just told me you've dreamt of driving the biggest limousine! Do you know what that means?"

"Tell me."

"You'll become so rich that you wouldn't even know the amount of your true wealth."

"No that isn't the case. In fact I'd be facing so much trouble that the future would be very tough for my family."

'Typical pessimism' you might say. Of course there might be some dose of pessimism in such statements. But then it doesn't mean the words just fell down from within the thin air!

I haven't the slightest idea where such a conclusion came from. But for decades we've been hearing if you see good dreams the actual outcome would be sad. Sometimes you can't help wondering why people are attaching so much attention to their dreams; at other times you convince yourself away they might be using it as some sort of therapy to give meaning to their tough lives. The underlying craving seems to be being told of a better future and an end to all the problems of the day. Of course we're still waiting for research that would dream could predict what might come tomorrow and beyond. It's written on a certain site;

"At this time there is little scientific evidence suggesting that dreams can predict the future. Some research suggests that certain types of dreams may help predict the onset of illness or mental decline in the dream, however. There are some online reports that Abraham Lincoln dreamt his own assassination. They say also Robert Kennedy's assassination was potentially predicted by a person's dream." Oh!

By the way did you know that researchers say that on average most people dream for around two hours per night? Ok; but does that mean that if you don't dream for

a couple of hours each night there must be something wrong with you?

I know a person for whom every dream was an issue. In fact, ay times she acted upon her dreams. At first there was this village lady, friend of her family, who dissected her dreams for her. Later she started seeing the dreams who did all the heavy lifting for her. She interpreted the young lady's dreams in the most confident of voices. What's interesting is she held to age old dream interpretation most of us have grown hearing. Dreams are the exact opposite of what will happen in reality. Say if the love of your life whom you have been trying to impress since two US election ago is seen kissing you. Just a minute! Maybe going to the nearest pub and celebrating might not be a very nice idea. Common dream interpretation had it that the kiss in dreams might be real fights on the ground! The paradise in dreams might mean real hell on the ground! better beat it while you can. It would be hell!

Speaking of trying to get to the meaning of dreams how about this little joke;

A. Doctor, I have a problem; every night I dream of rats playing football.

B. Take this medicine and this nightmare will stop.

C. Thank you; I'll start taking it tomorrow.

D. Why tomorrow?

E. Well, today they are playing the final. (Ha! Ha!)

Well, at least he sees rats. If I told you what sorts of creatures I used to see in my 'dreams' years back you'd have wondered why I didn't become a sci-fi writer!

In Pictures

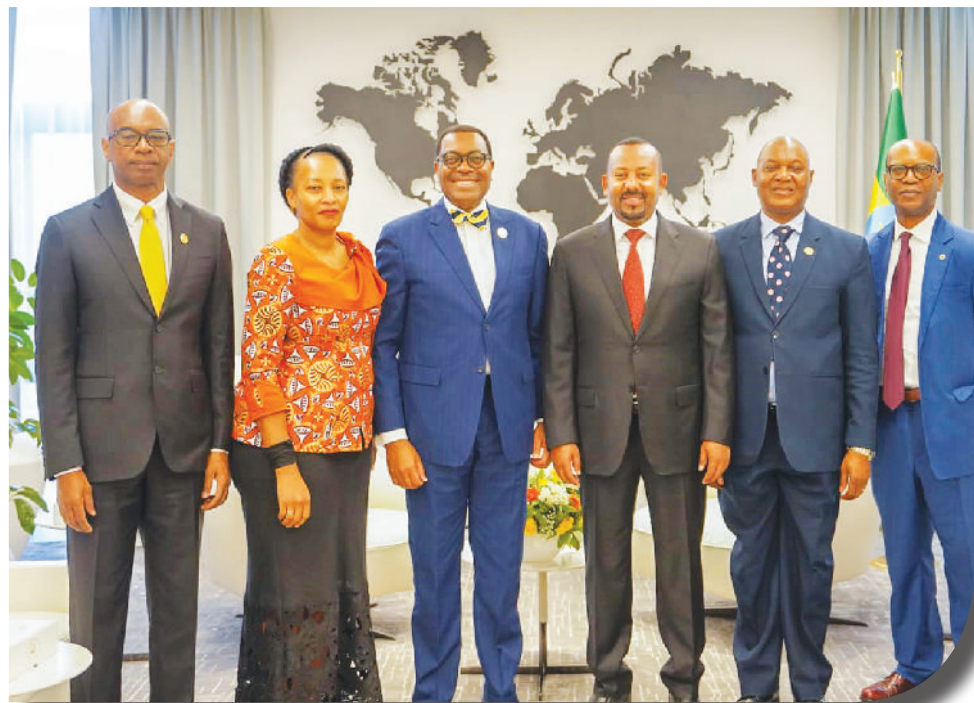
Ethiopia's multilateral, bilateral diplomatic activities during the 37th AU Ordinary Session

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

PM Abiy attends Nyerere's statue unveil

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) joins other African leaders for the unveiling of the former Tanzanian President, Julius Nyerere's statue. Nyerere's statue, installed at the compound of the African Union here in Addis Ababa, was inaugurated last during the 37th Ordinary Session of the African Heads of States and Governments.

During the statue unveiling, the current Tanzanian President, Samia Suluhu Hassaen and other African countries heads of states and governments attended the program. Nyerere is among the African founding fathers of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Predecessor of the African Union.



PM Abiy discusses with Africa Development Bank President

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) held a bilateral discussion with the President of Africa Development Bank Group, Akinwumi Adesina. The discussion which was held at the Prime Minister Office here in Addis Ababa alongside the 37th AU Ordinary Session focuses on the Bank's continued work in Ethiopia.

PM Abiy, Kenyan President at the Golden Jubilee Palace

Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Abiy Ahmed (PhD) and the President of the Republic of Kenya, William Ruto walking on the Addey Ababa carpet while entering to the gala diner organized for the AU 37th Ordinary Session guests at the Golden Jubilee Palace.

Meanwhile, Ethiopia and Kenya signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) on seven sectors to work together following the two countries ministerial meeting organized here in Addis Ababa after the conclusion of the AU session. The ministerial meeting was attended by Foreign Affairs ministers of the two countries.



African Leaders at the Golden Jubilee Palace

Various African leaders have visited the Golden Jubilee Palace, which currently is on its final phase to be open for visitors. The Golden Jubilee Palace, until recently was serving as office of the President. The palace is currently on renewing to make a museum.

The beautiful and historic palace which contains a lot of historical artifacts and facts of Ethiopia is on its final phase to be open for visitors.

During the 37th AU Ordinary Session, the Ethiopian Government organized a dinner for the guests of the AU.



PM Abiy met President Kagame

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) held bilateral meeting with the President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame alongside the 37th Ordinary Session of the AU.