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## Ethiopia's diplomatic push to grow by leaps, bounds : Scholar

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDISABABA** – The appointment of Ethiopia's new foreign minister showcases government's assiduousness on meritocracy to enduring country's successful diplomatic journey, Scholar said.

The appointment of Ambassador Teye Atske Selassie as Foreign Minister of Ethiopia exhibits the government's commitment to enhance the longstanding country's successful diplomatic history through assigning the right person in the right position since he is a carrier diplomat who has been promoted from attaché level, Political Science Scholar and Former Diplomat, Brook Hailu (Prof.) said.

Brook, who recently visited the ongoing "Diplomacy Week Exhibition" that exhibited country's astonishing historic diplomatic journey supported by audiovisual documents, told *The Ethiopian Herald* that proficient diplomats are crucial to persist and strengthen the country's successful diplomatic works and ensure competitiveness in the international arena.

As to the professor, in addition to awaking the generation about the successful diplomatic history of the country, Ethiopia needs to employ more efforts on expanding digital diplomacy to ensure global competitiveness in the sphere.

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# Adwa museum

## keeps African victory alive to posterity

BY STAFF REPORTER

**ADDIS ABABA**- Apart from keeping African victory alive, the Adwa Victory Memorial Museum paves the way to the noble sacrifices Ethiopian patriots paid

for freedom to get a proper place in world history, President Sahle-Work Zewde said.

The President made the above remark during the lavish inauguration of the museum on Sunday in the presence of high-level

government officials and other dignitaries.

She also stated on the occasion that the museum is a gift of recognition to the patriots' commitment and sacrifice to fend off invaders. Ethiopians'

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# ENDC introduces hotline, website to reach society

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDIS ABABA**- The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) announced the introduction of a new hotline service as well as a website that would make it closer to the public at large.

During the launching of the two services, ENDC Chief Commissioner

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# Economists push for policy shift, import substitution

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

**ADDIS ABABA** – Policy reforms and import substitution would play a crucial role to curb hyperinflation and debit distress, experts in the area said, emphasizing the role of peace to this

end.

Approached by the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Senior Economist and African Chamber of Commerce President Kibur Gena said that the government should revise and frame viable

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# News



Addiswork Tilahun (PhD)

## University announces to publish 7 Conflict Resolution researches

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA** – Hawassa University (HU) announced that it is working hard to publish seven researches focusing on conflict resolution.

Universe's Associate Dean of Research and Technology Transfer at Law and Administration College, Addiswork Tilahun (PhD) told The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that they would be published researches findings have focused on urban and rural conflict resolution schemes. The university is working hard to conduct a real solution research outcome to benefit the community at large.

She said, "The University is conducting some eight researches in close collaboration with British council. In this regard, the researchers would present their research works following what they have obtained like adequate skills from British Council. Among the seven conflict resolution researches, two of them were revolving around University's students."

"Currently, researcher feedback is providing for the researchers from domestic and foreign examiners whilst each researcher will send their work to publication after developing the research and organized workshop," she added.

She further stated that the researches would bring a significant outcome via identifying the real problems and directing to potential solution. Besides, they will help know new things, share experiences, and the likes. When the research proceedings are over, the findings will be published in recognized Journals in Ethiopia and in the internationally known Scopus Database, too.

## Office toiling to attract more investments in Somali State

BY HIZKEL HAILU

**JJIGA**- Having the vision to become a preferred investment destination and attract large-scale businesses, the Somali State is offering attractive opportunities to potential stakeholders, the State Investment and Industry Office disclosed.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Office's Deputy Head Ibrahim Ahmed said that the state presents lucrative opportunities for domestic and international businesses in diverse sectors.

According to Ahmed, the door is 'widely' open to both local and foreign enterprises in the priority agriculture, manufacturing, and service sectors among others and the office sets a conducive business climate for labour-intensive ventures.

Somali State currently boasts 309 industries, showcasing its potential for business expansion and development. Furthermore, in the past six months, the office has issued 171 investment licenses, indicating the growing demand for business in the area.

With an aggregate 3.6 billion Birr total investment, these projects have already made a substantial impact on the state economy and changed the society's



livelihoods. Also, this influx of capital is expected to stimulate economic activities and job creation. Accordingly, it was able to create an impressive 6,116 jobs of which 2,907 are permanent, ensuring long-term stability. While 3,209 jobs are temporary, catering to immediate labor market needs, he elaborated.

The state government is proactively promoting collaboration with Diaspora, domestic, and foreign investors through identifying investment opportunities, issuing licenses, and establishing channels of communication and support through the Office. "These efforts aim to attract investment, drive economic growth, stimulate job creation, and contribute to the state development and

national prosperity."

"Notably, 14 members of the Ethiopian Diaspora are engaged in various projects including water and tin factories, car assembly plants, and other large-scale ventures. Their engagement showcases the trust and confidence placed in the state's growth potential by the Diaspora community."

Ahmed further emphasized the positive outcome of the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ethiopia and Somaliland, stating that it will significantly contribute to the state's industrial development.

He also extended the invitation to Diasporas, domestic, and foreign investors to collaborate with the Investment and Industry Office, promoting the state's progress and the overall advancement of the nation.

The Somali State's burgeoning industrial growth, coupled with the active involvement of Diaspora investors and the promising prospects brought by the MoU, positions it as a fertile ground for investment. As the state continues to attract capital and foster job creation, it is well on its way to becoming an economic powerhouse, driving local development and national prosperity, the deputy head remarked.

## Ministry strives to tap Ethiopia's immense ground water potential

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

**ADDIS ABABA** - The Ministry of Irrigation and Lowlands (MILLs) said that it is carrying out multifaceted projects to mitigate nature-caused calamities and ensure food security.

Irrigation Sector State Minister Birhanu Lenjiso (PhD) told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the ministry is exerting utmost efforts to leverage the country's immense ground water potential in a bid to nullify flood, drought and ensure food security sustainably.

Along with respective regions, Berhanu underscored that his ministry has been conducting meaningful feasibility studies and designs thereby contributing hundreds of development documents annually.

So far, it has developed a total of 1.6 million hectares of land in a regular irrigation scheme and many more are on pipeline, he said, adding that some 800 million hectares are their remaining home works.

"Despite some glitches in the irrigation

development projects, the country has been registering a remarkable achievement in the last two years," he noted.

Two ground water and two surface water projects have resumed operation in Oromia, Afar and Somali regions this fiscal year despite many challenges in regard to shortage of inputs, security and natural disaster, he said.

Currently, the ministry is undertaking about 17 projects at the federal level, he added.

Similarly, other projects are being undertaken in other parts of that country. Furthermore, the ministry is also engaging in some rehabilitation activities on Megech, Rib, Arjo-Dedesa and many other irrigation projects.

As the country's agricultural activity is more based on a rain fed system, he emphasized that the irrigation project has a huge significance to build climate resilience, enhance production cycle and productivity to help ensure food security.

In the same vein, irrigation projects



Birhanu Lenjiso (PhD)

would be of paramount importance to tackle flood and drought vulnerability, thus acquiring about 30,000 hectares of land from floods over last year, he noted.

Lack of experts and companies in the area, capital, land compensation fee, security and design related problems are impacting the sector, he pointed out.



# News

## Ethiopia's foreign trade hits 1.53 bln USD in six-month

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA** –The country has earned 1.53 billion USD through exporting agricultural, manufacturing and mining products, Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration (MoTRI) announced.

MoTRI Communication Executive Belaynesh Regassa, told the Ethiopia Press Agency (EPA) that the ministry has generated 1.53 billion USD of the planned 2.39 billion dollars planned to be secured from agricultural, manufacturing and mining product export within six months.

She mentioned that the country has secured the revenue exporting fruits and vegetables, cut flower, coffee, gold, chat, leather and leather products, textiles and other products mainly to India, Pakistan, Singapore, Vietnam, United Arab Emirates, Kenya, the U.S and Japan.

Of the income, some 285.53 million USD was obtained by exporting 128,370 tons of grains and 61,603 tons of oilseeds which has a 163.97 million USD increment compared to the income earned last year



in the same period, she said.

In addition, coffee and cut flower export have also shown an increased income, the Communication Executive noted.

She stated that lack of product quality, credit availability and illegal trading are among challenges that halt the nation from acquiring an improved income.

According to Belaynesh, the ministry is working in coordination with stakeholders

to strengthen export performance in the coming months.

She said that MoTRI would continue its duty of monitoring and supporting producers to ensure market stability and improved revenue.

She called on the exporters to make business systems and legal frameworks practical for timeliness and accelerated export.

## Adwa museum...

commitment to independence was fueled by the strong self-image of national pride, a 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.”

President SahleWork commended Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) and Addis Ababa Mayor Adanech Abibie's relentless leadership that was demonstrated in the meticulous execution of the museum. “I am really surprised by the architecture of the museum; however, I desire to emphasize its historical value. All Ethiopians should draw the lesson from the spirit which the museum has been built.”

Prime Minister Abiy also said at the

inauguration that the project is the current generation's historical contribution since it is the first of its kind being dedicated to the Adwa Victory.

“Ethiopia has survived 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.”

Speaking to the Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation, Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage (ARCCH) Director General Abebaw Ayalew stated that the Adwa Victory is just a pride to all blacks across the world and it deserves the history-telling museums.

According to Abebaw, there was almost no memorial dedicated to Ethiopia's immortal victory until the inauguration of the museum. “We only named roads

and bridges after Adwa. But, there was no such memorial that comprises storytelling weapons and remnants or statues of patriots... The anniversary of the Adwa Victory was marked once a year basically with songs.”

The museum has 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.”

The role of leaders, patriot soldiers, farmers, pastoralists, ironsmith workers, and singers is represented well in the Museum.

The AU Assembly will be held this week and the 128th anniversary of Adwa Victory will be also marked after a few weeks. Plus, February is Black History Month which is being celebrated across the world. Put all these together, it is safe to say the museum is being inaugurated at the right time, the historian emphasized.

## Economists push for...

financial systems that help to curb the present economic challenges.

Quoting the global debt burden experience, the economist explained that Ethiopia is currently experiencing some economic challenges in terms of inflation and shortages of foreign currency.

Kibur, therefore, advised the government to prioritize mechanized agriculture systems that help substitute imported items and promote overseas jobs that generate remittance. “Beyond enhancing productivity and export capacity, remittance needs to be given the utmost priority in order to improve the inflow of foreign currency.”

“Financial devaluation and the ever increasing amount of interest fee are also the main contributing factors for the aggravating debt burden.”

Access to credit is synonymous with a sword, if appropriately utilized it boosts the nation's holistic economic development unless it pulls down the overall economy that results in absolute poverty and debt distress, he emphasized.

Indeed, the country needs to establish a well-managed and guided import substitution strategy to address forex shortage and ease the current spike in the price of goods and services that leads to inflation and the existing national debt burden, Kibur pointed out.

Political-Economy Analyst She waferahu Shitaw on his part stated that it is highly important to put financial policy restructuring and gearing up capital intensive agricultural systems that are firmly believed to halt forex and debt crunches. The country also needs to

have land and manpower as contributing factors to curb inflation and bring about a vibrant economic development.

Citing Ethiopia's development experience, the economist recommended the country to engage in industrial park development, infrastructure and educating manpower. Moreover, it is critical to consolidate efforts to link the farming community with manufacturers and investors to produce more yields and irrigation projects should be enhanced as the country's economy is mainly based on a rain-fed agricultural system.

Apart from policy and other paradigm shifts, the experts recommended the government to give due emphasis to peace and security, hold dialogues and other fueling factors to attract FDI and bring remarkable development.

## Ethiopia's

The newly appointed foreign minister, therefore, helps the nation to achieve its interests through employing his potentials and longstanding experiences, the Scholar said.

Amb. Taye is a career diplomat who has notable experiences in international relations as he was representing Ethiopia in various countries including Sweden, Egypt, and the U.S., Brook expressed.

He further stated that Amb. Taye worked as permanent Envoy of Ethiopia and played a pivotal role in disproving the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) accusation of Ethiopia regarding the construction of Abbay Dam.

Brook indicated that this practical expertise would enable the FM to do more for his motherland in consolidating the cooperation between Ethiopia and the rest of the world.

For him, the assigning of Amb. Taye as the FM of Ethiopia is an epitome of appointing the right person in the right position as it helps proficient experts to utilize their aptitude to ensure the national interest of the country.

It is to be recalled that, recently, the House of Peoples Representatives (HoPR) has approved the appointment of Amb. Taye Atske Selassie as Foreign Minister of Ethiopia after he was nominated by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD).

## ENDC introduces...

Prof. Mesfin Araya stated that the commission has introduced the ‘8112’ hotline service and ‘<http://ethiondc.org.et>’ website aiming to make the entire process of the National Dialogue get closer to the society.

Both services are said to allow the society to present an agenda as well as suggestions for the commission while accessing ample background information regarding the latter's activities.

Highlighting the commission's attention to enhancing accessibility, the chief commissioner has extended gratitude for the activities carried out by media institutions so far.

While reviewing the activities carried out by the ENDC, he also mentioned that they will commence

agenda-setting in all districts where participant identification has already been carried out across the country.

Apart from participant identification, essential experiences that would back the National Dialogue were gained through the activities undertaken by the commission.

“Except Tigray and Amhara states, discussions have been held across 1,400 districts in the country,” he noted, adding that similar activities would be carried out in Tigray, Amhara and a few areas in Oromia.

Agenda will be gathered at state, federal as well as Diaspora levels in the upcoming phases. Once it is gathered, the agenda will be sent to the commission to identify the major issues that would be put for the national discussion.

Furthermore, the ENDC has made the utmost effort to make the National Dialogue process participatory as well as inclusive, Prof. Mesfin remarked.

The National Dialogue is the most anticipated activity that is believed by the government, the elite and the public to address Ethiopia's age-long contentious issues.



# Opinion

## Ethiopia's agro industries convey or belts to industry let economy in Ethiopia

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

The history of the development of agro industry in Ethiopia dates back to the early 1960s and 1970s in which a number of foreign companies from Europe established sugar, cotton farms and textile industries in the country.

To date agro industry in Ethiopia plays an important role in the country's economic development, contributing to employment, income generation, food security, and export earnings. Ethiopia's diverse agro-climatic conditions and abundant natural resources make it well-suited for agriculture and agro industry development. Here are some key aspects of agro industry in Ethiopia:

Ethiopia produces a wide range of agricultural products, including cereals (such as teff, wheat, maize, and barley), pulses (such as chickpeas, lentils, and beans), oilseeds (such as sesame), coffee, tea, spices, fruits, and vegetables. Livestock farming, including cattle, sheep, goats, and poultry, is also an integral part of the agricultural sector.

Smallholder farmers play a crucial role in Ethiopia's agriculture, accounting for the majority of agricultural production. The government implements various programs and initiatives through various institutions like the Ministry of Agriculture Ministry of Industry, Agricultural Transformation Agency, Agricultural Marketing Corporation, and Agricultural Mechanization Agency to support smallholder farmers, including access to credit, extension services, inputs, and market linkages.

Over the last several decades, there has been increasing interest and investment in commercial farming and agro industry ventures in Ethiopia. Large-scale commercial farms, including foreign-owned and domestic enterprises, operate in various parts of the country, focusing on cash crops, horticulture, floriculture, and livestock production.

Ethiopia's agro industry sector is increasingly focused on producing crops and products for export markets. Coffee is one of Ethiopia's primary export commodities, renowned for its high quality and unique flavor profiles. Other export-oriented products include oilseeds, pulses, flowers, fruits, vegetables, and spices.

There is growing emphasis on value addition and agro-processing in Ethiopia to increase the value and competitiveness of agricultural products. The government encourages investment in agro-industrial parks, food processing facilities, agro-processing technologies, and value chain development initiatives.

Agro industry activities, including farming, processing, packaging, and marketing, provide employment and income opportunities for millions of Ethiopians, particularly in rural areas where agriculture is the primary livelihood source.

Despite its potential, the Ethiopian agro industry sector faces various challenges, including limited access to finance, inadequate infrastructure, post-harvest losses, low productivity, climate variability, and market access constraints. Addressing these challenges requires coordinated

efforts from government, private sector stakeholders, development partners, and civil society organizations.

The Ethiopian government has developed various policies, strategies, and programs to promote agricultural development, agro industry investment, value chain development, market access, and agribusiness competitiveness. These initiatives aim to transform the agricultural sector into a modern, resilient, and sustainable engine of economic growth and development.

Overall, agro industry in Ethiopia has significant potential to contribute to poverty reduction, rural development, food security, export earnings, and economic transformation. Continued investment, innovation, and policy support are essential to unlock the full potential of Ethiopia's agricultural sector and realize its socio-economic benefits for the country and its people.

Integrated agro-industrial parks in Ethiopia represent a strategic approach to boosting agricultural production, value addition, and industrialization in the country. These parks aim to create synergies between agricultural production, agro-processing, manufacturing, and related services within a single location. By integrating various components of the agricultural value chain, these parks seek to enhance efficiency, competitiveness, and sustainability in the agricultural sector. Here are some key features and examples of integrated agro-industrial parks in Ethiopia.

Integrated agro-industrial parks are equipped with modern infrastructure, including roads, utilities, warehouses, processing facilities, cold storage, and other amenities to support agricultural activities and agro-processing operations.

These parks are designed to accommodate multiple industries and businesses across the agricultural value chain, including crop production, livestock farming, food processing, packaging, logistics, and marketing. The clustering of diverse activities fosters collaboration, innovation, and economies of scale.

Integrated agro-industrial parks focus on adding value to agricultural products through processing, packaging, and value chain integration. This helps farmers capture more value from their produce, reduce post-harvest losses, and access higher-value markets.

These parks facilitate access to domestic and international markets by providing infrastructure and logistics support for transportation, distribution, and export. They also promote linkages with global value chains and facilitate trade and investment in agricultural products and processed goods.

Integrated agro-industrial parks leverage technology and innovation to enhance productivity, quality, and sustainability in agriculture and agro-processing. They support research and development initiatives, technology transfer, and skill development programs to improve agricultural practices and value chain efficiency.

These parks promote environmentally sustainable agriculture and agro-industry practices, including resource-efficient farming techniques, waste management,

renewable energy adoption, and conservation of natural resources.

Integrated Agro-Industrial Parks (IAIPs) are a tool for agricultural modernization and agribusiness development. IAIPs are Special Economic Zones, with state-of-the-art infrastructure facilities to provide a conducive environment for companies engaged in agro-inputs, high-tech greenhouse cultivation, focus crop processing, other agro commodities processing, food processing, agri-engineering and associated areas.

Examples of integrated agro-industrial parks in Ethiopia include: Jimma Agro-Industrial Park, currently under development, aims to integrate coffee production, processing, and marketing activities within a single location. It seeks to enhance the competitiveness of Ethiopia's coffee industry and promote value addition.

These integrated agro-industrial parks represent Ethiopia's commitment to promoting agricultural transformation, industrialization, and economic growth through innovative approaches to value chain development and agribusiness investment. They serve as hubs for collaboration, investment, and knowledge sharing to drive sustainable development in the agricultural sector and improve the livelihoods of rural communities.

Yirgalem Integrated Agro-Industrial Park (Yirgalem IAIP) is located about 40km south of Hawassa (315km south of Addis Ababa) in south-central Sidama Region. It is under the Sidama Industrial Parks Development Corporation.

Easily accessible from other places in southern Ethiopia and Lake Langano, Yirgalem IAIP sits on 294.5 Hectares. Yirgalem is gifted with lush, fertile and sub-tropical land and the IAIP specializes in agro-processing.

Yirgalem IAIP plays an important role in the country's economy, reducing poverty and creating a better environment for investors in agro-food and allied sectors. It is situated within 100-kilometer radius of the park at Bensa Daye, Aletawondo and Morocho. The RTCs are rural development initiatives of the Government of Ethiopia that not only facilitate inclusive rural development, but also serve as a linkage to Yirgalem IAIP in terms of raw material supply. At the RTCs, agricultural produce is collected, sorted, stored and may undergo primary processing before onward transport. For most farmers, the RTCs are the main point of contact with commercial agricultural value chains.

Bure Integrated Agro-Industrial Park (Bure IAIP) is located 411 kms north of the capital Addis Ababa and 156 kms south-west of Bahir Dar, in Bure town in the West Gojjam Zone of the Amhara Region found in the Western Ethiopia. It is under the Amhara Industrial Parks Development Corporation.

Bure enjoys a flourishing business environment and serves as a connection point for businesses between Wolega, Gondar and Shewa. The main modern industrial opportunities in the town are an agricultural training college. Bure IAIP, located on 260.5 hectares of land in the first phase, is complete with water, electricity and telecom

connectivity, roads and other infrastructure, including offices, factory sheds and staff accommodation.

There are 7 Rural Transformation Centers (RTCs) situated within a 100-kilometer radius of the park at Merawi, Finote Selam, Dangila, Enjibara, Chagni, Amanuel and Motta. The RTCs are rural development initiatives of the Government of Ethiopia that not only facilitate inclusive rural development, but also serve as a linkage to Bure IAIP in terms of raw material supply. At the RTCs, agricultural produce is collected, sorted, stored, checked for quality and may undergo primary processing before onward transport. For most farmers, the RTCs are the main point of contact with commercial agricultural value chains.

The Bulbula Integrated Agro Industrial Park, built on 271 hectares of land in Western Oromia, has been fully equipped with the necessary infrastructures and facilities to accommodate 135 investors in the space of processing of agro-value chains that include fruits and vegetables, dairy, honey, and poultry.

The companies in the agreement are involved in tomato processing, avocado oil production, animal fodder, and dairy products and will supply the products to domestic and foreign markets.

The companies are also believed will play a significant role in import substitution, particularly in food-related product items, and improve the nation's foreign currency earnings.

The author of this contribution believes that integrating agro industrial sector with the current national campaigns of Lemat Trufat, Ethiopia Tamirt will help not only to boost the development of value added agricultural products but will also increase inputs for the growing textile and food processing industries in the country.

However, the nation still needs to create a conducive and peaceful environment for integrated agro industrial parks and other similar industries outside the park areas.

On the other hand, the small scale farms and clustered farmlands that are enjoying integrated support from the government need to do their part in making the parks hubs for export oriented industries.

Strengthening logistics networks in and around the parks and ensuring smooth linkup with the major land, air and sea transport systems is of crucial importance for the development of the sector. International standards of packing and cold storage system need to be in place for shipping and transiting agro industrial commodities

Promotion of export standard quality agro processed commodities for the international markets need to be considered. As Ethiopia is closing up on securing ports and access to the sea, the future of agro industry in the country is bright but the major challenges in the sector including technology, managerial skills and access to raw material should be carefully considered.

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



# Editorial

## Opportune step to sustain spirit of Black Victory!

Enormously laid on a five ha of land at the heart of nation's capital, Addis Ababa, the Adwa Victory Memorial Museum signifies the gallantry and firmness of Ethiopians against the Italian invaders. It also holds statues of Emperor Menelik II, Empress Taitu, the twelve warlords and Ethiopians who participated in the war and other artifacts and works of art that feature the heroism of Ethiopians at the Battle of Adwa.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) along with senior government officials inaugurated this mammoth memorial with a view to commemorating Ethiopia's victory against the Italian invaders in 1896. Besides, President Sahle-Work Zewdie laid a wreath of flowers at the bottom of the memorial monument of the Adwa Victory.

The ever-remembered Adwa victory ignited African as well as global resistance against colonizers and resulted in the freedom and independence of all nations which were under oppression. The memorial is built after 128 years of Adwa Victory to be a reflection of the country's courageousness and architecture in such a way that it can be transcended from generation to generation.

The memorial, which is a living testimony to the legendary 1896 Battle of Adwa, stands as a beacon of Ethiopian resilience. True, Ethiopians are expected to triplicate the ancestral history and victory over foreign invaders against poverty and underdevelopment if they are to create a stable and well-to-do nation via equipping all aspects with latest techs.

Being Ethiopians is becoming lucky following the fact that the nation is an icon of African liberty, anti-colonialism and continental independence. Following Ethiopia's freedom motor, a number of African nations have shared ancestry and embodied the spirit of heroes and unique legacy.

Building such an amazing memorial is of paramount importance in beefing up the spirit of vanguard forefathers of Ethiopians like Minilik, Balcha, or Alula, and being an Ethiopian is a privilege with which all citizens are endowed. The point here is all walks of life are expected to preserve the shining victory the country had recorded and transferred to the generations to come as they had caused to realize this memorial through struggle and endeavor.

The Adwa Victory Memorial has exactly fitted Ethiopia status quo, its stride towards prosperity and change, and state of being an African emblem for all rounded transformation. Ethiopians forefathers/foremothers had known on what issue they became cooperative and made differences, indeed! They also knew the difference between the government and the interests of the country that is why the country has sustained a patriotic spirit and love of the nation.

The establishment of the memorial would be a viable weapon to cement Ethiopians unity, fraternity, peaceful co-existence and societal cohesion. Interestingly, the newly built memorial could definitely be the outcome of wisdom towards reflecting a crucial inheritance on which citizens should embark.

In sum, the new generation has to reap the fruits of the victory of Adwa via harnessing the true spirit of Adwa's victors. All have to march against poverty and deficiency repeating the great deed ancestors did. What matters here is in what means the generation to come can sustain Ethiopia's victory to get it well acknowledged as a symbol of all blacks across the globe. Since the Adwa Victory Memorial Museum serves as a tribute to the bravery, resilience, and heroism of Ethiopian soldiers and leaders who defended their homeland against colonial aggression, it needs to be scrupulously nurtured to be an eternal African legacy. Here, Ethiopians are expected to inherit the positive assets of their forefathers and foremothers from the victory of Adwa to solve contemporary challenges emanate from minor differences and build prosperous Ethiopia, and the new generation is urged to sustain their country's victory, which has become the icon of black people across the globe.

# Opinion

## Adwa Victory memorial provides authentic portray of entirety of Adwa Victory's narrative

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

The government of Ethiopia has built a high-status Adwa victory memorial that demonstrates in black and white the significance of the victory and its general significance, for the most part for downtrodden black communities. This memorial acts as a comprehensive and accurate portrayal of the Adwa Victory chronicle flickering dialogues and drawing attention from extensive audience.

Following the construction of the Adwa victory memorial, people from all walks of life have been expressing their feelings, ideas and thoughts in a number of respects. Most of them are feeling on top of the world. On the basis thereof, the federal government deserves respect and appreciation for bringing the project into fruition in the shortest possible time.

By presenting this thorough and genuine representation, the government aims to ascertain that the real significance and influence of the Adwa Victory are recognized and honored in an appropriate manner.

It is a well-known fact that the victory of Adwa metamorphosed a time-honored fabrication that dark-skinned individuals were doomed to encounter mistreatment. This achievement brought a very strong message to colonial troops breathing life into hope among relegated black populace nationwide. The victory persists in standing as a demonstration of resistance and unbending spirit for black population around the world.

In the course of the war, the people of Ethiopia came together stashing away their dissimilarities and struggled as one to defeat the Italians in a humiliating manner that cannot be completely described in words. The victory of Ethiopia over Italy traumatized the bonds of coercion and pulled to pieces the grip of imperialism restructuring firmly established standpoints and preconceptions in the Western world towards the black community and changing the global circumstances. In actual fact, the victory of Adwa remains a dynamic attestation to the untiring endurance and courageous sacrifices of the people of Ethiopia maintaining their integrity and freedom.

It stands as a powerful reminder that a unified populace has the aptitude to conquer even the most challenging race based discrimination in the shortest possible time. As witnessed in various historical incidents, Ethiopia's leaders including the most-revered ones had been sacrificing their lives for the dignity and sovereignty of their country alongside the men and women patriot warriors of Ethiopians.

Some even had fallen on battlefields fighting foreign aggressors. In Ethiopia, whether the leader is a king or president or prime minister nobody shies away from paying even the ultimate price to safeguard the sacred values of sovereignty, and dignity. In fact, millions of heroes and heroines of

Ethiopians had paid the ultimate price to defend their freedom and perpetuate the sovereignty of the country.

Adwa echoed the spirit of winning the minds and hearts of the generation in Africa and beyond. The victory of Adwa is still an engine for many Ethiopians to stand together for every national interest. All Ethiopians remember how their forefathers turned out to be victorious over the Italian army. And they always become motivated to fight, internal and external enemies of their motherland together. Every twelve months, Ethiopians celebrate this great day, unlike other nations that mark Independence Day.

The spirit acts as an encouraging and great indication of the country's courage in defiance of unprecedented aggression. It showcases our resolute and unity in defending our sovereignty. The younger generation should renew the bottom line of Adwa and the sacrifice the patriots made for the independence of the nation to tackle today's confrontations remarkably neocolonialist inclinations.

The Adwa Victory Memorial is a place where the future generation will learn the whole truth about the history and significance of Adwa victory, Mayor of Addis Ababa City Administration, Adanech Abiebie said. The Adwa Victory Memorial, which was built in the center of Addis Ababa to honor those who resisted the Italian invaders and left an independent Ethiopia, was officially inaugurated by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, according to information obtained from ENA.

The inauguration ceremony was also attended by President Sahle-Work Zewde, chief administrators of regional states, high ranking government officials, diplomatic corps and other invited guests.

Speaking at the occasion, Mayor of Addis Ababa City Administration congratulated all Ethiopians for reaching on the landmark of inaugurating the Adwa Victory Memorial. This monument serves as inspiration for other Black people around the globe to struggle for their freedom, it was indicated.

Adwa's victory has not been commemorated and remembered in a way that befits its greatness she said, adding the newly inaugurated Adwa Victory Memorial has been built in a manner that remembers the extraordinary bravery of Ethiopians whose stories had not yet received enough attention in addition to including historical occurrences that had been overlooked.

Thus, she elaborated that the timeless history of Ethiopians has been built in the memorial with the initiative of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. She said that the victory of Adwa is the victory that inspired the black race to resist oppression and fight for their independence. Addis Ababa has now become a center that represents the black people of the world due to this grand memorial museum, adding Adwa Victory Memorial is an additional destination for visitors.

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



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The Ethiopian Herald



# Business & Economy

## Supporting the struggling manufacturing sector

BY STAFF REPORTER

The growth of the manufacturing sector is essential to build national technological capacity, create broad based job opportunity and raise citizen's income, change the economy from low productivity to the higher one, attract both local and foreign investment, broaden the role of the private sector in the economy, promote import substitution, boost export and create linkage with the agriculture.

In addition to these, the development of manufacturing helps to improve the total factor productivity and competitiveness of the overall economy and can have a trickle-down effect on the ordinary citizen by creating strong supply chain. Because of the existence of a number of comparative advantages in the country and to strengthen its competitiveness the Government offered multiple incentives for the growth of the manufacturing sector among others tax holidays, provision of working places in fair price, building industrial parks helpful to accommodate firms, supplying of clean water, banking services and electric power in fair price.

Though the manufacturing sector paves the way for sustainable economic development, its growth is not without challenges.

The major ones include unskilled labor forces with limited experience; limited infrastructure; external pressure from global market, shallow industrial research and development activities, underdeveloped market information system, problems related to trade logistics and limited promotion made on the resources and others.

Manufacturing sector is playing significant role for economic growth in many developing countries worldwide, including Ethiopia. Since the manufacturing sector is very important to the growth of the economy, knowledge of its relationship with the macroeconomic determinant present in its economic environment is crucial.

Currently, due to foreign currency crunch and power interruption significant number of manufacturing produce below their average production capacity.

However, manufacturing share to employment is 5 % and by 2030 the government planned to reach 15% by creating 5 million new job opportunities, according to Ministry of Industry.

The update's focus on addressing barriers to expanding the manufacturing sector and creating jobs comes amid challenges to diversifying the economy. Several constraints such as limited access to credit and land, and unreliable electricity make it difficult for entrepreneurs in Ethiopia to start new companies.

In an article by Eyasu Zekarias entitled "New report shows how Ethiopia's manufacturing sector can swing to benefit the economy" explained that, despite Ethiopia's current low manufacturing state, a new report reveals that the country has considerable potential to become a manufacturing power hub with exporting up to USD 10 billion by 2030 while creating thousands of jobs in the process.



Ethiopia's manufacturing sector which still remains nascent currently meets only 38 % of domestic demand while the remainder is attributed to imports. Moreover, the role of manufacturing in export as compared to agriculture, it is insignificant.

According to the United Nation Development Program (UNDP), there are 18 industrial parks in Ethiopia, 5 privately built and 13 public parks. These industrial parks have attracted more than 60 foreign investors with 740 million dollars of foreign direct investment and have created employment opportunities for 150,000 people.

On December 8, 2023, to give an overview of its report, the UNDP made discussion on the results of the study conducted on the manufacturing sector in Ethiopia with pertinent stakeholders in attendance.

As UNDP revealed in the second annual development conference, "The exports remain anchored on coffee, horticulture, and oilseeds. The introduction of industrial parks in 2015 has been promising but adversely impacted by shocks."

"The share of manufacturing as a percent of GDP has declined from 5.9 % in 2019 to 4.4 % in 2022, in part due to the combined domestic and exogenous shocks, and, according to the Ministry of Industry 446 firms have been closed in 2022. Moreover, investors have been leaving the industrial parks," alarmed UNDP.

"The UNDP analysis acknowledges the progress Ethiopia has made over the past two decades. However, our working paper argues that this progress has not yet translated into a meaningful structural transformation in the economy. UNDP also proposes policy options for Ethiopian policymakers to consider," underscored CharuBist, UNDP Resident Representative at the conference.

As depicted, despite policy interventions, there has been limited product diversification and a lack of export complexity, with 50 % of the total production focused on food products, beverages, non-metallic minerals, and textile or apparel.

The study found that there are more than 20 conglomerates that are family-run sit at the apex of the industrial system and span multiple sectors, with most of them

private. The large and medium firms are 75 % value-added but have not had sufficient employment creation in recent years, and there has been limited graduation of small and medium firms to the larger size.

The study reflected that Ethiopia's economic policy framework still favored importers and traders, with the gap between imports and exports reaching USD 14 billion in 2022 and USD 13.5 billion in 2023. Those engaged in light manufacturing were also noted to serve domestic markets, with little traction made in the creation of exports and quality jobs.

"The government had a tight fiscal position, and defense and debt servicing precluded social spending in the budget. The debt-to-GDP ratio has risen to 52 %, and bank credit is expanding to support the challenge," explained State Minister, Tarekgn Bululta, Ministry of Industry, at the forum where he discussed and debated manufacturing opportunities and challenges in Ethiopia.

"Security problems in parts of the country affect the macroeconomic balance. The challenge Ethiopia will face in the coming years is to fundamentally change the quality and impact of its development path," he elaborated.

"While the country's growth record has been impressive at both the continental and global levels, it has not brought about change – that is, structural change in productivity, output, exports and employment – and has not created enough good jobs to meet demand," he added.

According to the State Minister, the focus on macro-growth rates obscures significant microeconomic issues that indicate deficiencies in important markets for goods and services, such as agriculture.

"In 2022, the national savings and investment rates were as low as 15 and 25.3 % of GDP respectively. The S&I average for 2017-22 was 22 %. Both are well below the levels of around 30 % of GDP in dynamic Asian economies," Tarekgn contrasted.

"Industrial development is the center of Ethiopia's development policy. Both the ten-year development plan and the domestic economic reform agenda have identified the manufacturing sector as one of the main sectors that have been given special attention," he signified new hope showing

government's shift and priority focus.

As Tarekgn cited, huge investments are being made in industrial parks, integrated industrial clusters, and infrastructure developments in roads, railways and logistics.

Ethiopia is the populous country with more than 120 million next to Nigeria in the continent. It has abundant natural resources including arable lands and diversified agro ecology, surface and underground water with adequate rainfall in the rainy season, mining and forests.

However, due to shortage of technology, finance and well trained man power, the resources are not exploited sufficiently. To tap the resources constructing infrastructure such as roads and rail ways, airports, industrial parks and developing various energy sources are essential because they are key for the development of manufacturing.

In the last two decades and half the government tried its level best to construct and expand energy plants by exploiting sources such as hydro power, wind, solar and geothermal but as compared to the energy demand it needs to do more.

Currently due to various reasons power experiencing power interruption has been common which intern hampered manufacturing not to produce in their full capacity, hence addressing the matter properly is a task that should not left for tomorrow.

The vast arable land can be cultivated for grain production so that it lay ground for the establishment of agro-industries which produce, Macaroni, Pasta, Bread and Cake so that can supply food to the market.

Cultivating barely which can be used as inputs to the emerging bear wary is vital and such scheme in addition to supply the product to the local market it helps to substitute inputs. Ethiopia is reach in live stoke resources but its economic value is below from what is expected. If the sector is fully exploited and modernized creating inputs for leather and leather producing manufacturing is possible in addition creating job for thousands is possible.

Hence through tapping the available resources expanding manufacturing boosting the economy is vital.



# In the Sphere of Diplomacy

## A boon to continental grand vision

BY STAFF REPORTER

Continental integration is one of the priority areas that Africa has been pushing for as per Agenda 2063. The Future also identifies key Flagship Programmes that can boost Africa's economic growth and development and lead to the rapid transformation of the continent. From the continental free trade zone to the LAPSSET initiative, Africa has been toiling to realize integration with various countries entering bilateral and multilateral accords that would build on the aspiration.

Agenda 2063 is the continent's blueprint and master plan for becoming a global powerhouse with a strategic framework of inclusive and sustainable development. With the Agenda, Africa focuses on inclusive social and economic development, continental and regional integration, democratic governance, peace, and security, among other issues intended to reposition Africa to become a dominant player in the global arena, in contrast to previous times when the continent was primarily focused on decolonization and political freedom.

African nations, both together and apart, have been striving to put bricks on the aspiration. Additionally, nations like Ethiopia have taken the lead in promoting economic integration. Through the provision of energy and power supplies to its neighbors, the nation has been at the forefront of regional integration. The nation's massive construction projects are advantageous to its borders.

Over the years, the nation has been making significant investments in joint infrastructure initiatives that support regional growth. Ethiopia's inclusive growth is centered on efforts to connect the nation to Djibouti, Sudan, Kenya, and South Sudan via electricity, road, and rail transportation; after the Abbay Dam is built, the nation will be exporting to distant nations.

The recent agreement between Ethiopia and Somaliland on sea access is a significant development that opens the door to much-needed regional integration.

The agreement is highly crucial to regional and continental goals and has increased hope for an integrated Horn. To the level-headed, the agreement even presents a clever illustration of a give-and-take tactic. It is in the best interests of the regional nations to share resources and integrate the Horn region, as population growth is expected to be rapid, and economic growth is expected to continue.

Ethiopia's recent move to enter an

agreement with Somaliland is meant to reduce dependence on a single transportation route and expand trade opportunities through the provision of export destinations. Securing port access eases transaction hurdles and stabilizes the economy.

Geographic proximity, infrastructural development, and cost efficiency also play into the country's aspiration. In addition to significance to national socio-economic development, port deals with neighboring nations also cement regional cooperation. Having multiple ports access or direct sea outlets can be vital in providing a quicker and more effective route for transporting commodities. Ensuring economically and geographically advantageous ports will help reduce the time and money needed for shipping products

Ethiopia's accord with Somaliland is a continuation of its decades of amicable comradely and reciprocal foreign policy, not a farfetched move to breach the sovereignty of another country, so argue experts, stressing the need to have direct sea access to secure national interests in the fiercely-contested region.

In contradiction to the sacred objective of the deal, some entities have been trying to twist the deal into their own propaganda and lopsided narrations. Experts however slammed the doubts and supersized interpretations of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Partnership and Cooperation between Ethiopia and Somaliland while describing the agreement as valid and reciprocal actions which would serve the entire region.

Ethiopia has not reinvented something new, its agreement with Somaliland is part and parcel of its three decades of foreign policy towards Hargeisa, said Dr. Abdu Mohamed, History and International Affairs analyst at Dilla University speaking to *The Ethiopian Herald*.

Ethiopia and Somaliland have been forging commercial and other diplomatic relations devoid of external reactions and standpoints. And, the country needs to view the ongoing reactions carefully from diplomacy and peace perspectives, Dr. Abdu added.

Ethiopian airlines have been flying to Hergisa and Ethiopia has a share in the Berbera port. So, the recent MoU is not a new phenomenon, it is normal for two parties to seal a mutual agreement so long as it does not affect others, Fekadu Deriba, a law instructor at Hawassa University said slamming the wrong characterization of the agreement by some entities.

"Ethiopia needs to study the reactions

following the signing carefully and craft appropriate response mechanisms and continue to create clarity."

No external entity should dictate Ethiopia as to when and with whom it should enter into agreements. It is up to Ethiopia to decide on its foreign policy, said Fekadu adding: "The country's quest for access to a sea outlet is historical, legal and geopolitical rational. Its interest can be achieved through various means. A mutual agreement is one path."

Ethiopia's quest is purely economic and reciprocal; its agreement with Somaliland is neither an invasion nor a violation of sovereignty, argued Awel Ali political Science and Philosophy Instructor at Hawassa University. That is why it needs alternative port access or sovereign access to the sea. Most of the time threats or attacks are launched from the sea and having sea access will give the country to freely import the armament it needs to protect its security.

Expressing his delight over the recent development, that agreement should be followed by concrete actions by the parties to it. Both parties need to work more on the details and translate the accord into action.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Partnership and Cooperation would give Ethiopia, already besieged by natural and man-made disasters, the chance to establish a port and station a naval force in the Red Sea, as well as give Somaliland a stake in Ethiopia's public sector. Both parties to the agreement have clear and sincere aims, which are to promote common growth.

The agreement once realized will be a unifying force and an example to promote unity in the fractured area, in contrast to some incorrect responses from some entities.

The agreement also suggests that a new era is emerging in the unstable area. Additionally, it is the ongoing manifestation of Ethiopia's persistent determination to foster close friendship and cordial relations with its neighbors. Ethiopia has already signed agreements to construct infrastructure cooperatively with its neighbors. The agreement with Somaliland is also the same.

The agreement also suggests that a new era in the unstable area is about to dawn. Furthermore, it represents Ethiopia's ongoing commitment to fostering close friendship and cordial relations with its neighbors. Ethiopia has already signed agreements to cooperate on cooperative infrastructure development with neighboring countries. The Memorandum of Understanding with Somaliland is the same.

**The recent agreement between Ethiopia and Somaliland on sea access is a significant development that opens the door to much-needed regional integration**

# Law & Politics



Night bird view of Adwa Victory Memorial in the Center of Addis

## A testament of triumph, a reminder black bravery

BY EYUEL KIFLU

The victory of Adwa was a turning point in African history as it marked the first time that a black people successfully defeated a European colonial power. The Ethiopian forces, led by Emperor Menelik II, demonstrated incredible bravery and strategic ability in defeating the Italian army, despite being armed with modern weapons and superior technology.

The Victory was not just a military triumph but also a victory of unity among the diverse peoples of Ethiopia. Menelik II was able to gather support from various ethnic groups and regions within Ethiopia to stand together against the common enemy. This spirit of unity and solidarity was crucial in securing victory on the battlefield.

Furthermore, the Adwa Victory was a powerful assertion of freedom and self-determination for all African nations. It sent a clear message to colonial powers that Africans were capable of defending their land and sovereignty against foreign aggression. The victory inspired other African nations to resist colonial rule and fight for their independence.

During the recent inauguration ceremony of the Adwa Victory Memorial Museum, President Sahlework Zewde stated that the Victory of Adwa had given hope not only to Ethiopians but also to people across the globe that fought for freedom. She emphasized that, the Adwa Victory was not only significant for Ethiopia but also for the entire continent and beyond, as it demonstrated the defeat of unequalled aggressors who came to invade and colonize Africa.

On February 11, the Adwa Victory Memorial was inaugurated that located in the heart of Addis Ababa to commemorate

the bravery of the forefathers and as a gift from the current generation of Ethiopians to future generations who are expected to carry on the historical legacy of the Battle of Adwa.

Until now, there had been no museum reminding people of the history of the Adwa victory. However, thanks to the initiative of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, the memorial museum was built to honor the victory. The museum serves as a testament to the triumph and tells the story of the victory to both current and future generations, becoming an iconic symbol of African victory.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) highlighted in his message at the inauguration of the museum that the Adwa Victory Memorial museum is very important in order to transfer Ethiopia with its honor and independence to the next generation.

The Prime Minister urged his fellow Ethiopians not to surrender to invaders, drawing inspiration from the sacrifices made by their forefathers who fought with spears, shields, and horses to liberate Ethiopia and become a symbol of freedom for the black people. He expressed that the inheritance that we follow from our forefathers should be freedom, honor, and unity, rather than conflict. He emphasized that, Ethiopia would undoubtedly prosper, and nothing could deter us from pursuing our goals.

Abiy urged all Ethiopians to uphold their forebears' values and wisdom in order to preserve the nation's unity and development. He asked the current generation to inherit their forefathers' wisdom and use it to resolve conflicts, maintain unity, and defend the nation's sovereignty.

"Being sons and daughters of heroes and heroines who bravely fought the battle of Adwa is a reward uniquely bestowed upon Ethiopians," the leader of the government remarked.

Speaking at the occasion, Mayor of Addis Ababa City Administration, Adanech Abiebie, congratulated all Ethiopians on the landmark inauguration of the Adwa Victory Memorial. She acknowledged that Adwa's victory had not been commemorated and remembered in a manner befitting its greatness. The newly inaugurated memorial was built to honor the extraordinary bravery of Ethiopians and to shed light on their stories that had previously received insufficient attention, including overlooked historical occurrences. She elaborated that the timeless history of Ethiopians has been built in the memorial with the initiative of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. Adding that the victory of Adwa is the victory that inspired the black race to resist oppression and fight for their independence.

Addis Ababa has now become a center that represents the black people of the world due to this grand memorial museum, Adwa Victory Memorial is an additional destination for visitors, she added.

"Our capital, Addis Ababa, is not only the diplomatic center of the world and the seat of the African Union, but it is also a major tourist attraction that has a memory of the victory of all black people," she described.

In a recent speech for ENA Nicaragua, Ambassador Ali Waters Garth emphasized the museum's importance to Ethiopians, Africans, and Caribbean nations, noting its role in comprehending "a turning point for the black struggle against colonialism."

The ambassador highlighted comparisons between Nicaragua's fight against colonialism and the shared Afro-descendant heritage that connects the Caribbean and Africa, emphasizing the importance of the museum in preserving black people's history.

"We went to the museum and learned about Ethiopia's history; the victory influenced other African and American countries as well. So it's a significant turning point in history against colonialism."

As Nicaraguans, we are stunned by and share the African battle, the African fight against colonialism, and the history that surrounds it, Ambassador Garth stated.

In addition, the memorial features various entries named East Heroes Gate, West Heroes Gate, North Heroes Gate, South Heroes Gate, Patriots Gate, and Pan-Africanism Gate. It also includes statues of Emperor Menelik II, Empress Taitu, the twelve warlords, and Ethiopians who participated in the war, as well as other artifacts and works of art that showcase the gallantry of Ethiopians at the Battle of Adwa.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, President Sahlework Zewde, Speakers of the House of People's Representatives and the House of Federation, Mayor of Addis Ababa, Adanech Abiebie, along with other high-ranking government officials and guests, attended the inauguration ceremony.

The Adwa Victory also represented a significant moment of black triumph in a world dominated by European imperialism. It shattered stereotypes of African inferiority and showcased the strength and resilience of black people in the face of oppression. The triumph at Adwa served as an inspiration for future generations of Africans fighting for liberation and equality.



# Society

## Adwa Victory Memorial: An emblem of Ethiopians' unity, resilience, self-determination

BY STAFF REPORTER

"In this Monument, the valiant heroes of Adwa in 1896 fought with great courage to safeguard their nation's sovereignty and shield their people from colonial oppression, even at the cost of their lives. Their heroic memories have become an indelible part of the fabric of our nation and black people around the globe. This monument stands as a timeless tribute to their bravery and the unwavering spirit of our people, forever preserving their legacy", read a memorial inscription written at a monument erected at the premises of the newly inaugurated Adwa Memorial Museum to honoring the people who sacrificed their lives at the Battle of Adwa resisting the invading Italian Fascist forces and to commemorate the Victory.

Last Sunday, the Museum was inaugurated officially in the presence of President Sahlework Zewde, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, Deputy Prime Minister Temesgen Tiruneh, Supreme Court President Tedros Mihret, House of Peoples Representatives Speaker Tadesse Chafo, Prosperity Party Deputy Chairman, Army Chief of Staff Field Marshal Birhanu Jula, high-ranking government officials, chief administrators of regional states, high ranking government officials, diplomatic corps and other invited guests.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, President Sahlework Zewde said that, the Victory of Adwa is the victory of all black people across the globe. The victory is celebrated by all the people who fought against oppression. Thus, preserving it well and passing on it to the next generation is important.

Following the unity of Ethiopian forefathers and the selfless sacrifice paid against the invading troops, Ethiopia can beat the enemy and herald victory. The current generation should draw essential lesson and maintain unity, she stressed.

"We should always celebrate and most of all learn from the Victory of Adwa that reverberated across Africa, the Caribbean and the entire world," President Sahlework underlined.

Stating that it was a regretting thing for not constructing a memorial museum over the past 127 years, the President lauded Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Mayor Adanech Abiebie, as well as those who took part in the accomplishment of the Museum for their outstanding achievement for the victory memorial Museum.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed on his part said: "We, Ethiopians, are inherently fortunate. This very identity, being Ethiopian, is a privilege we possess. We all Ethiopians here are lucky. What makes us lucky is the fact that we are Ethiopians."



Partial view of the newly inaugurated Adwa Victory Memorial

"Other countries with black people can build such amazing monuments, but they cannot be the sons of Menelik, Balcha, or Alula. Ethiopianness is a privilege we are endowed with. But we realized this memorial through struggle and endeavor. We inaugurated this Adwa victory memorial here, in a manner that matches Ethiopia, after 128 years today, through hard work, struggle and endeavor to pass it to the next generation," Abiy said.

According to the Premier, our forefathers were wise and knew on what issue they should stand in unison and made a difference. They understood the power of unity and discernment and distinguished between the government and the true interests of the nation.

Mentioning that Ethiopia's journey has not been without its thorns, Prime Minister Abiy said that this generation should inherit forefathers' wisdom to solve contemporary challenges and to build a prosperous Ethiopia.

He also urged the younger generation to not simply inherit the "fires" of the past, but to harness the true spirit of Adwa's Victory and move forward to eradicate poverty, unwavering defense against invaders, the preservation of dignity, and the achievement of food sovereignty.

Furthermore, Abiy underscored the enduring lesson of separating government interests from the national good, a wisdom that was gleaned from the triumphs of Ethiopia's ancestors.

Mayor Adanech Abiebie on her part said that, the Adwa Victory Memorial Museum is a place where the future generation will learn the whole truth about the history and the significance of Adwa Victory.



Located in the Horn of Africa, Ethiopia is a country known for its fascinating history and diverse cultural heritage. Adwa Victory Memorial depicts the full picture and the truth of Adwa Victory.

According to the Mayor, Adwa's Victory has not been commemorated and remembered in a way that befits its greatness. However, the newly inaugurated Adwa Victory Memorial has been built in a manner that remembers the extraordinary bravery of Ethiopians whose stories had not yet received enough attention in addition to including historical occurrences that had been overlooked. Thus, the timeless history of Ethiopians has been built in the memorial with the initiative of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, she remarked.

Addis Ababa has now become a center that represents the black people of the world due to this grand memorial museum, adding Adwa Victory Memorial as an additional destination for visitors. "The victory of Adwa is the victory that inspired the black race to resist oppression and fight for their independence."

"Our capital, Addis Ababa, is not only the diplomatic center of the world and the seat of the African Union, but it is also a major tourist attraction that has a memory of the victory of all black people," she described.

Finally, she extended her gratitude to all who engaged in the construction of the project including contractors, consultants, historians, artists, officials of the city administration and all others. She also congratulated all Ethiopians.

The Adwa Victory Memorial, a monumental project located at the center of the capital, encompasses a museum, meeting halls, amphitheater, library, art gallery, exhibition center, and other facilities, all dedicated to honoring the heroes and heroines of the historic triumph and Africans.

The memorial also holds statues of Emperor Menelik II, Empress Taitu, the twelve war lords and Ethiopians who participated in the war and other artifacts and works of art that feature the gallantry of Ethiopians at the Battle of Adwa, ENA reported.



# Planet Earth

## Climate change mitigate efforts prioritize drought-affected areas

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

The Horn of Africa, including Ethiopia, has been experiencing recurring droughts, which have been connected to climate change. Climate change is altering rainfall patterns, resulting in longer and more extreme dry seasons in the region. This has had a disastrous effect on agriculture, food security, and water supply in the region.

The population is now experiencing food shortages and hunger as a result of crop failures, animal mortality, and water scarcity brought on by the droughts. In rural regions, where many people depend on subsistence farming for a living, the situation is especially bad.

The Ethiopian government, along with international organizations, has been implementing steps for adaptation and mitigation in response to the droughts and the wider difficulties brought about by climate change. Among these, strengthening early warning systems for extreme weather occurrences, encouraging sustainable agricultural methods, and water management are worth mentioning.

In addition, the government has put in place several initiatives and methods to deal with the problems impacted communities confront. As a result, it offers individuals impacted by the drought immediate relief aid. For people affected by drought, the government offers emergency relief assistance, such as food assistance, water supplies, and medical treatment. This lessens the immediate requirements and averts serious humanitarian emergencies. Additionally, early warning systems have been put in place by the government to keep an eye on meteorological trends, evaluate the likelihood of a drought, and promptly notify populations that are in danger. This enhances readiness and emergency response activities before a crisis occurs.

The country also implements drought resilience initiatives, which center on enhancing communities' ability to deal with and adjust to drought situations. This includes encouraging methods for sustainable agriculture, conserving water, managing water shade, diversifying sources of income, and so on. In particular, the government has designed programs for mitigating and adapting to climate change, such as Yelemat Turufat and the Green Legacy Initiative. The nation has also made investments in climate-smart agriculture methods, forestry initiatives, and renewable energy. To increase resistance to drought and other climate-related difficulties, it has given priority to climate change adaptation efforts.



Though a lot has been done to address the effects of the drought, some individuals and groups have attempted to politicize the matter. They even make use of numbers that don't match the available information. In response, the Ethiopian National Disaster Risk Management Commission denounced individuals who have been politicizing the country's drought, noting that assessments by the government, other relevant parties, and international organizations have established that Ethiopia is experiencing a drought rather than a famine.

According to Disaster Risk Management Commission Commissioner Shiferaw Teklemariam, recurring drought affects not just Ethiopia but also parts of the region. As a result, it is unnecessary to politicize humanitarian aid and encourage all players to contribute to the country's humanitarian response. He stressed that the federal government's obligation is consistent with how we are organized, pointing out that the government has provided emergency humanitarian relief and coordinated solutions to the crisis.

He stated that "there are political and propaganda intentions that want to use the current humanitarian situation for something else." If the drought worsens and becomes a famine, the government would halt all other activity, including all development projects, all meetings, and so on, to assist the victims."

He further noted that each player at every level of the government system, including local governments, states, and the business sector, must have a role to play. Using the gross assessment, he stated that "the worst period will be during July-September, which is now equivalent to 10.8 million beneficiaries

when we reach that season." He then went on to mention early warning and early action results, village assessment survey, household economic analysis, displacement tracking metrics, and any rapid onset type of disasters concluded for the year. However, as of right now, the beneficiary counts for January, February, and March stand at 6.6." The government, acting through the commission, is now allocating a substantial sum of money to assist the most vulnerable citizens.

In the previous five or six months, it might have reached as much as 200 million US dollars. Moreover, we are investing around 50 million USD for the next season, as I speak. About 3.5 million of the 6.6 beneficiaries, who are mostly from Northern Ethiopia, are receiving a sizeable contribution from the federal government to the regional states. This is the Amhara region, Afar, and Tigray.

He continued, saying that in addition to other areas of the nation, there are difficulties in the Somali and Oromia regions. "As a result, the federal response that we are undertaking must be complemented by the regional responses as well." In addition to the federal government, municipalities, regional governments, and the business sector all need to play a significant role in combating the drought. He emphasizes that to help those in need, everyone must make a material contribution.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, on his part, stated that the government of Ethiopia will continue to help drought-affected areas and save residents' lives at any cost. The Prime Minister indicated that drought has happened in some sections of Tigray, Amhara, and Oromia, which is not unusual for Ethiopia. Using

the drought as a political tool, however, is inappropriate because the drought was not caused by the government.

The premier emphasized that last year's cooperation to help Borena residents afflicted by the drought was excellent and asked for further cooperation to preserve lives in drought-stricken areas. While collaboration is essential to preventing any drought-related deaths, it is harmful to use the drought as a political instrument.

According to the premier, "We will do our best to help our people to pass such a difficult time," and the government would continue to support the people to the fullest extent of its capabilities. Claiming to refute the unfounded charge that his administration neglected the issue, he said that the government has set aside 15 billion Birr to assist drought victims.

He underlined the importance of improving output and productivity to deal with the recurring drought. As a result, the nation planted wheat over 300,000 hectares of land during the last Ethiopian harvest season from which over 120 million quintals of harvest are expected. This demonstrates that citizens should maintain government-initiated food security measures.

Generally, to address the root causes of the droughts and increase resilience to the effects of climate change in the future, however, much more work has to be done. To achieve this, coordinated national measures to lower greenhouse gas emissions, promote sustainable development, and improve community resilience to climate-related issues would be needed.