



# The Ethiopian Herald

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## From patronization to partnership

• Union pledges two-way street relations

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

Africa, through its top diplomats, told global actors at the Italy Africa Summit that it needs to be treated equally and no longer be seen as a junior partner in world politics, a new narrative gaining grounds.

The narrative of treating Africa equally in international relations has begun garnering the attention of African politicians and

leaders. And, countries in the other aisle of the globe are pledging a more equal partnership with the continent.

In what could be said as a bold and blunt speech, the African Union Commission Chairperson Mussa Faki Mahamat said, "I must reiterate some previous statements and strongly underscore that Africa does not extend its hands to partners as a beggar, as asking and not offering anything."

The chairperson added, "We advocate for a paradigm shift, for a new model of partnership that charts the path towards a fairer world and therefore, more relevant to building peace and prosperity through bridges of friendship and not barriers of security, perceived as barriers of hostility."

For many pan-Africanists 'trade than aid' should

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## Ethiopia unveils strategy book on Abay River, Red Sea

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – The Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE) said the unveiling of a water strategy document is instrumental to communicate Ethiopia's stance on water bodies and to utilize the resources for its development.

MoWE Minister Habtamu Itefa (PhD-Eng.) made the above remark yesterday while launching the historical and unique book titled The Grand Strategy of Two Waters, which reflects Ethiopia's position on the Abay River and the Red Sea. The book was prepared by the Institute of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with Walta Media and Communication Corporation and Abrhot Library.

Habtamu also stated that Ethiopia should utilize its synergy and stakeholders' integration and establish various strategies to realize proper utilization of water and ensure sustainable development. "Fostering regional integration with the Horn of Africa countries have a paramount importance in this regard."

"If the current generation expected to repeat the victory of Adwa in poverty, a numbers of strategies

See Ethiopia unveils ... page 3



Ambassador Birtukan Ayano

## Ethiopia's Diplomacy Week attracts quarter million visitors

• MoFA gives thumbs up to EPA

## Scholars assert Adwa's diplomatic, economic dynamism

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA – Adwa victory has been assisting the development of Africa's historic, diplomatic, and economic aspects, experts in the issue said, calling for continental efforts of its celebration.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Global Black Heritage History and Education Centre (GBHHEC) Public Relations and Communication Officer YalewKebede said that Adwa's victory has become a testimony to the real presence and a sense



Yalew Kebede

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Ayana Zewudie (PhD)

## Let Ethiopia Produce movement pays off with 140 mln. USD

• Some 390 manufacturers resume operation

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA**—The Let Ethiopia Produce movement enabled the country to secure about 140 million USD exporting industrial products, Ministry of Industry (MoI) said.

MoI Let Ethiopia Produce Project Coordinator Ayana Zewudie (PhD) told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the government's support and follow up of industries incorporated under the Let Ethiopia Produce movement has helped the country to export over 74,000 tons of manufacturing products. Accordingly, some 140 million USD has been secured in the past seven months of the current fiscal year.

Over 27 billion Birr credit has been supplied to manufacturing industries through the movement and 390 industries have been also resumed their businesses in the stated period, he said.

The country also attracted about 129 foreign direct investments and 292 local investments, he noted.

On the other hand, Ayana mentioned that the ministry has supported about 217 industries to resume production in Tigray state.

According to him, the manufacturing industries created about 120,000 jobs.

Furthermore, the Coordinator stated that the MoI efforts have paid off in terms of improving the industries' operational capacity compared to the previous periods.

The government has launched the Let Ethiopia Produce movement to boost industrial production and substitute import.

## MinT emphasizes stakeholders' commitment to realize Digital Ethiopia 2025

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDIS ABABA**—The Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MinT) said consistent commitment of stakeholders in the domain is critical to maintain the promising steps and to attain the Digital Ethiopia 2025 aspirations.

MinT State Minister Yeshurun Alemayehu (PhD) made the above remark yesterday at the panel discussion that was held as part of the Digital Ethiopia Week.

Speaking at the occasion, the state minister mentioned that Digital Ethiopia 2025 is a journey that requires consistent commitment of stakeholders in the domain. "As per to our national Digital Ethiopia strategy 2025, all country wide efforts shall be geared towards addressing the key pillar issues of the infrastructure, enabling interactive systems and the overall ecosystems as per the stated targets and global standard."

According to him, the aspiration can only be achieved and converted to measurable output items if they are accompanied by continuous effort. In this regard, the government of Ethiopia has been continuously working on variety of sources like ICT and telecommunication

infrastructure expansion, e-government & e-commerce development, national ID, cyber security, among others.

The midterm evaluation of the achievements of Digital Ethiopia 2025 indicated that the process is at a promising stage but a lot is yet to be done to address the demand at national level.

The government is looking for a wider support and contribution from development partners like EU to expand achievements to deliver much more results in this regard, Yeshurun emphasized.

"We have received support from the EU through another channel to develop the national electronic government strategy and the government enterprise architecture. By this project, we have observed that the EU's support is practical and focuses on actual implementation."

Moreover, the BEIC project which is implemented by GIZ and financed by EU is one of the exemplary projects that bring tangible results in the areas of automating public private dialogue, electronic consultation, tax collection and trade expansion.

Appreciating the EU and BEIC for their continuous support and longstanding development partnership with Ethiopia, the state

minister further noted that the conference would be important to support the digital transformation endeavors of Ethiopia.

The EU Economic Governance Team Leader Ionna Alburesco mentioned that the potential of digital transformation in enhancing businesses, and economic development is significant and should be acknowledged.

"Digitalization has transformed people's lives, the way they live and interact with businesses and government institutions."

"Digitalization should be a tool that is accessible to everyone," she noted, adding that EU is leading to digital transformation especially in developing laws and regulatory frameworks to manage and oversee digital transformation.

Commending the Ethiopian government's ambitions in the digital transformation path and the Digital Ethiopia strategy 2025, Alburesco said the commitment in the realization those strategies have been demonstrated by different ministries including the MinT.

"EU has been Ethiopia's trusted partner in digital transformation and it is committed to support your part in the area. We have been and we will continue to be involved and supportive in this process."



## Authority inks MoU to promote capital market integrity, transparency

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA** - Ethiopian Capital Market Authority signed two Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with key seven institutions to strengthen market infrastructure, foster transparency and technological capabilities.

The two MoUs signed between the seven key government institutions yesterday aimed at ensuring capital market integrity, transparency and so forth.

The Authority signed Capital Market Integrity Task Force agreement with the Ministry of Justice, Financial Intelligence Service, Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration, and the Federal Police Commission.

It also signed Capital Market

Intergovernmental Technology Task Force agreement with Information Network Security Administration, Ethiopian Artificial Intelligence Institute and National ID.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Authority Director General Biruk Teye (PhD) said that signing of the two important agreements would hugely contribute to strengthen capital market infrastructure, fostering transparency and bolstering technological capabilities for enhanced market surveillance.

The MoUs would enable to maintain integrity of capital market by identifying, investigating and prosecuting illegal activities in the market place and to ensure that the market operates in an orderly manner, he said.

The Capital Market Integrity Task Force, according to Biruk, will be responsible to

identify and bring to justice companies and promoters who engaged in deceptive and illegal share offering practices that resulted in significant number of investors losing their money.

He stated that, the Capital Market Intergovernmental Technology Task Force agreement would help to leverage cutting-edge technology, ensure secure and efficient environment for market participants, as well as to address potential risks and enhance its overall regulatory framework.

The agreements will be critical collaborations in fulfilling the powers and duties ensuring market integrity and transactions to safeguard investors. Furthermore, the signed MoUs promote confidence in the country's capital market, Biruk noted.



# News

## Ethiopia's Diplomacy Week attracts quarter million visitors

### • MoFA gives thumbs up to EPA

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA**—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) announced that more than quarter a million people have visited Ethiopia's Diplomacy Week and Exhibition.

In a press briefing held yesterday, MoFA State Minister, Ambassador Birtukan Ayano said that about 250,000 people have visited the Diplomacy Week and Exhibition that was displayed for 48 days at Science Museum.

She stated that some 639 public and private institutions' delegations have paid a visit to the exhibition that demonstrated country's successful diplomatic journey.

During the presser, Ambassador Birtukan

recognized institutions which contributed a significant role in making the exhibition attractive and meaningful.

"Since the launching to the closing, the Ethiopian Press Agency was playing critical role. It had been contributing fine works of audio-visual products and designs until the closing of the exhibition," she said.

The Diplomacy Week and Exhibition vividly showcased the historic diplomatic journey of Ethiopia not only to Ethiopians, but also to all diplomatic communities residing here in Addis Ababa, according to the State Minister.

It was aimed to display the past, present and future diplomacy and all tasks have been successfully done accordingly.

Diplomatic community members, guests of the African Union ordinary summit, and celebrities have visited the exhibition, she stated.

Alongside the exhibition, Ambassador Birtukan mentioned that two diplomatic journals, highlighting Ethiopia's bilateral and multilateral diplomatic engagements, and the 116 years of diplomatic journey of MoFA have been launched.

So, the exhibition has accomplished all planned targets, she expressed.

Inaugurated by President Shalework Zewudie, the Diplomacy Week and Exhibition was displayed for 48 days since January 11, *The Ethiopian Herald* learnt.

## Ethiopia unveils...

expected to encourage unity, sovereignty, national interest, and prosperity. In this regard, the MoWE is partnering with various universities to address a number of constraints related with water bodies through research and scientific based approach."

The minister advised the media to use proper expression about the country's water potential and be cautious when using the usual 'Ethiopia is the water tower of Africa' phrase when the reality is far from this. "We are called a water tower because we are in a high place, not because we have enough water."

"We are not called water tower because we have water. Ethiopia's historical enemies take this word and make it a water tower. They have attempted to attack by saying that Ethiopia has rain and river. But this is far from reality."

The IFA's Executive Director Jafar Bedru on his part said that the book would be supplanting the holistic development of Ethiopia in particular and the East African region in general due to its focus on cooperative development, give and take approaches, regional integration, and sustainable peace.

The director added, "The book focuses in detail in Abbay-Nile basin and the Red Sea as strategic arenas for Ethiopia's national security to help the country's effort to return the Red Sea access and get the ownership of sea outlet. Besides, Abay and Red Sea are determinant issue on geopolitics, social, and strategic approaches of Ethiopia."

Sharing the above rationale, Walta Media and Communication Corporate (WMCC) CEO Mohammed Hassen on his part said that the Red Sea and Abay River is the lifeline of Ethiopia whilst the book discussed about the way of reducing external pressures and protect mutual interest. "Some historical enemies still accusing Ethiopia without any ground when the country promotes mutual development."

The Grand Strategy of Two Waters would play a pivotal role to media institutions, facilitate regional trade, ensure security, encourage social interaction, combat terrorism, reduce illegal human trafficking, and the likes across the Horn of Africa region, he remarked.

## Scholars assert Adwa's...

of continental pride among the black people.

"It is high time for the black people to draw lessons from the victory of Adwa and celebrate on a common basis, taking it as a common attesting moment for the oppressed."

Noting the preparations to build a huge global black museum, Yalew expressed his belief that the museum would help Africans to showcase their own values, culture and assets to the rest of the world and serve as the continental heritage.

In addition to presenting the true history of the black people and build Ethiopia's positive image, the center would also make the country a center of excellence in promoting the tourism sector.

According to him, Adwa victory has been a

key fueling secret for Ethiopia's successful engagements in international relations and elevating its cooperation with global actors and sustaining its dignity. The victory is also inspired many African countries under the yoke of colonization to fight for their independence.

Apart from being a source of inspiration and pride, the center would also be not only the heritage of Africans but for all black people, he noted.

A Historian and Researcher Semahegn Gashaw on his part stated that apart from its notable benefits for economic and social cohesion, the newly inaugurated Adwa Memorial Museum would have a paramount importance towards maintaining history and to pass it down to posterity.

The historian further highlighted that

Ethiopia's victory in the Battle of Adwa was among the root causes that contributed for the inception of Pan African movements and the country's selection for a seat of the Organization for African Unity (OAU).

"Such a great historical event should not only be commemorated by Ethiopians but also fellow Africans are expected to take part. Besides, Ethiopians; victory over a major European force should be given a proper place among those who believe in freedom and equality of human kind."

Furthermore, Adwa victory helps for a swift revitalization of the tourism sector, center of gravity for other countries as well as a symbol of freedom and heroism. Also, it strengthens the spirit of mutuality and brotherhood both at the national and continental level, Semahegn remarked.

## From patronization ...

be the continent's relation with external nations and blocs. Pan- Pan-Africanists have also pushed to the limit on treating Africa as an equal partner, not a junior subordinate.

This narration is a striking chord with at least some leaders of the world. In the same event where Italy launched a new development initiative, Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni promised a new paradigm shift in her country's relations with Africa.

"We believe it is possible to envision and write a new chapter in the history of our relationship that is the cooperation among equals and it is far from any predatory imposition or charitable stance towards Africa. There is a natural inclination for Italy to be a bridge between Africa and Europe. The whole world cannot think about the future without Africa."

Meloni's position is very much echoed by the European Union. In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, Head of the EU Delegation to the African Union Ambassador Javier Nino Perez said that the Union adds up itself with the priorities

of Africa, adding "We will carefully adapt to the strategies and priorities of Africa as established in the Agenda 2063."

"Without the consent of a country in question, we cannot invest. The relation between the two blocs has been a partnership of equals. "The cooperation has been a two-way street. They listen, learn, and respect each other and build together."

He added, "We have been traditionally working on development cooperation and humanitarian assistance, but we want to bring this to a more sophisticated level through the 'Global Gateway' project. Europe is the largest development and humanitarian assistance coupled with the largest trade partner of Africa."

"I am very optimistic about the future of Africa. The continent has an articulated vision in 2063. We are confident that EU and Africa working together can make a difference when it comes to prosperity and stability always under the leadership and ownership of Africa."

Back in the Rome meeting, the AUC

Chairperson also highlighted Africa's strong desire to be equally respected and become a partner so there must be a paradigm shift.

According to him, Africa wants to be consulted about its priorities and emphasized the need to honor commitments. Africa engages in a balanced relationship, with mutual and shared benefits. "This is what will make our partnership attractive and with incentive."

Development initiatives are declared by donors without the prior consent of Africa and its leaders. Such a move shows a negative picture towards partnership, he insisted.

"I want to insist here on the need to move from words to actions. You can well understand that we can no longer be satisfied with mere promises that are often not kept."

Speaking to the EPA, an ex-diplomat Ambassador Tiruneh Zena stated that historically, global affairs have been dominated by wealthy Western countries, leaving many nations in the Global South

struggling to assert their sovereignty and address related issues. "However, recent developments suggest that these difficulties are beginning to pay off."

The veteran diplomat further emphasized that the vibrant movement of the BRICS reflects the progress made in the struggle for a fairer and more just world. The bloc's primary objective is to reconstruct an unfair global order and create opportunities for inclusive growth. As such, it holds the potential to address the development challenges faced by many countries in the Global South including Africa.

Over the years, China, the U.S., and Europe have been vying to forge strong partnerships with Africa promising a more equal relationship with the latter.

While outlining the Biden Administration's policy toward Africa in his 2021 Abuja visit, the U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said his country sees African countries as equal partners. "The U.S firmly believes that it is the time to stop treating Africa as a subject of geopolitics- and start treating it as the major geopolitical player."

# Opinion

## Ethiopia's victory at Adwa:

### A defining moment in struggle against colonial powers

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

The Victory of Adwa was not only a noteworthy triumph for Ethiopia, but also a strong symbol of harmony for each and every African country and the all-embracing black community. The downfall of the colonial forces, who were well-stocked with sophisticated weapons demonstrated that when all and sundry work together and remain resolute, they can conquer even the most challenging colonial masters.

This historical event stimulated the black population all over the world to band together for their freedom and emancipate themselves from coercion and dictatorship at the earliest possible moment.

There is no gainsaying the fact that the Victory of Adwa unquestionably made the people of the continent of Africa and the entire black people residing throughout the world to band together during the fight against the colonial masters and emancipate themselves from the imposition on coercion no matter what the cost may be.

It goes without saying the influence of the Victory of Adwa was felt far beyond the boundaries of Ethiopia. It functioned as a uniting cry for Africans all over the place to counterattack the forces of enslavement and manipulation. In actual fact, the bravery and resilience showed by the Ethiopian troops in the face of devastating odds inspired a perception of pride and cohesion among the black community, as they comprehended the strength that comes from standing together in the face of hardship.

The victory displayed that no matter how powerful the adversary may seem, with harmony and resolve, freedom and independence are at fingertips. In the aftermath of Ethiopia's victory over the Italian troops armed with a wide range of modern weapons at the battle of Adwa stimulated the black community to fight for their independence in the face of challenges.

It is widely known that the victory of Adwa has inspired the people of the continent of Africa and all black communities living in the length and breadth of the world to fight together against their common rivals working around the clock to scramble Africa and move the continent into uncharted waters.

As a matter of fact, as the continent of Africa is flooded with miscellaneous unexploited natural resources, the colonizing powers had been moving heaven and earth to make use of the unused resources as their own discretion.

As one would expect, following the victory of Adwa, the people of the continent of Africa made every possible effort to chase away the invading forces and make freedom and independence certain in the left, right and center of their respective territories at the earliest possible juncture.

In that very moment, the Italian troops' embarrassing defeat was a painful necessity to accept for the colonizing powers as per the fact that the victory dragged their reputation



through the mud and inspired the entire black community to stand up for their rights in a little while. More to the point, the victory of Adwa that kindled the entire black community to stand up for their freedom across the globe ended up breaking the hearts of many colonial powers.

In fact, in a noteworthy gesture and acknowledgement, the headquarters of the previously Organization of African Unity (OAU) now has become African Union (AU) is positioned in Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia. The reality on the ground in black and white demonstrates the historical implication of the Victory of Adwa and the huge role it played in bringing the Pan-African moment into play.

Similarly, the victory of Adwa was chronicled occurring for the first time in the recent history as a momentous episode in which a European colonial power had been conclusively trodden and defeated by an African nation. This incident humiliated Italy on a worldwide scale. Besides, it is noted down in history that Ethiopia was one of the few African countries to uphold its freedom in the course of the era of colonization.

Along the same line, the victory which is a representation of emancipation, courage, and more of the same, made colonial powers brush up their attitude toward Africa and come up with new effective strategies. However, no matter how hard they made an effort to make their dream become a reality, all their efforts went for nothing.

It is true that as the colonial powers disparaged the continent of Africa and its people, they did not imagine they would suffer a humiliating defeat and become the talk of the world almost immediately.

In addition to serving as a source of pride and indomitability for the entire black community in the world, Ethiopia's victory has paved the way for Africa's freedom and struggle for freedom. For the sake of truth, the conquest of the colonial powers at the battle of Adwa has hugely assisted the progress

of the amalgamation of Ethiopian unity and nationalistic identity.

The defeat of Italy by Ethiopia on March 1, 1896 at the Battle of Adwa not only demonstrated the resilience and patriotism of Ethiopians but also made Ethiopia the steward of future hopes for the emancipation of the other nations that were subjugated under foreign rule. For example, Japan, used Ethiopia's experience as its model and developed a strategy to fight against Russia in 1904.

However, for a number of the European colonialists, when they heard that Italy was defeated by the heroic Ethiopian army at the Battle of Adwa in 1896, they were surprised and humiliated that members of the white race had lost. They suddenly had to rethink their ideas and policies about Africa being predominantly inhabited by primitive people that needed colonial rule in order to advance into a modern world, according to sources.

"The battle of Adwa is historically significant not only for Ethiopia but for its fountain of pride and inspiration to millions who cherish the black heritage. To arouse his supporters against white racism in Jamaica and in the United States in 1914 and 1917, the well-known African nationalist, Marcus Garvey stressed heavily the Ethiopian victory against Italian aggression at the Battle of Adwa. Using phrases such as "Ethiopia thou land of our fathers," the legendary Garvey was able to inspire and marshal his followers to consume his "Back to Africa Movement" slogans."

Notwithstanding the fact that a great deal of efforts had been made by colonial powers to dismantle the continent of Africa with the intention of making the most of its untapped resources, Africans ended up pouring cold water on their efforts. The victory activated the black communities residing under the world skies to fight for their freedom by driving out their invading troops from every nook and cranny of the continent of Africa and beyond.

If truth be told, the triumph has sustained acting as a glimmer of the Pan-African movement across the continent of Africa in bringing

the people of Africa together. In addition to functioning as a victory for the whole black community, Adwa assumes the role of drive to the besieged people of the continent of Africa. Other than that the victory gives a lesson to the global community about the fact that Africans have the capability to defend their territorial integrity from colonial powers and other entities.

The Victory of Adwa was not only for Ethiopia, but it was a victory for Africa. It was a wakeup call for all Africans to stand up and fight for their rights," South Sudan Foreign Affairs Minister James P. Morgan said.

In an exclusive interview with ENA, the foreign minister noted that Adwa was a victory for Africa and "we are all proud as Africans."

According to him, "Adwa victory was a wakeup call for all Africans to stand up and fight for their rights." So, Morgan reiterated that Africans will continue to celebrate the Victory of Adwa with Ethiopian brothers and sisters.

"Ethiopians represented the African people in the Battle of Adwa. (Therefore) we will join Ethiopians in their celebration, whether physically with those of our people who are here in Ethiopia or we will celebrate spiritually when we are far away from you people of Ethiopia." The foreign minister said that Victory of Adwa will remain a memory that continues to be celebrated by generations to generations because it was the "victory of dignity of African people."

He also congratulated Ethiopians in advance and said wants to remind them the spirit of Adwa, was the "unity of Ethiopian people that brought that victory."

The unity of the Ethiopian people remains a key to the success of Ethiopia since then as it is the same now; and it will be the same forever, Morgan noted.

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



# Editorial

## Addressing the water paradox needs proper policies

Oxymoron is what best describes Ethiopia's natural resource status. The country rich in water resources does have a poor water supply rate, a paradoxical situation in which the country has been trying to create a delicate balance over the last few years. Having sharp population growth and burgeoning demand for basic services, Ethiopia has been trying to explore and exploit its natural resources.

From the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam to the recently signed sea access deal with Somaliland, the country looks to use all opportunities to meet the growing demands of its economy. The resource-abundant nation is determined to envisage policies and strategies that strike chords with national regional and global hydro-political dynamism.

Unlocking its water resource mainly is focused on supplying the much-needed energy demand of its expanding industries. The consecutive economic growth is resulting in a high uptick in energy demand, thus the country is investing hugely in energy schemes. And, the principle of no harm is well placed in the foreign policy of the country.

Tapping the water potentials has become a must as the country witnesses an alarmingly growing population and expanding economy. Despite the headways in the last few years, still significant portion of the country remains off the grid and has no access to drinking water. This paradoxical situation shall be addressed, and through mega projects, the reality could be reversed. Turning the resources into benefits needs proper policies and strategies. And, the tools should be followed by an effective implementation process as well.

It is true that the country's water policy and diplomacy are based on a win-win approach and have a positive impetus in regional cooperation.

Ethiopia has been at the forefront of efforts to guarantee just and equitable use of the world's longest river, providing a practical example. Ethiopia began building the Abbay dam in 2011, which will help the region greatly. In addition, the nation extended an invitation to downstream nations to engage in dialogue to resolve any issues. There have been advancements over the years that qualify as breakthroughs. Two astute examples are the signing of the Memorandum of Understandings and the Declarations of Principles. Though the Abbay dam is a national and sovereign project solely funded and constructed by Ethiopians, the country has been doing its level best not only to bring the downstream countries on board but also to find a common ground where the three countries would be able to benefit from the colossal dam.

Recently, the country has been exploring ways to carve out a path which would enable it to ensure socioeconomic security and political interest in the Red Sea which is only 60 KM away from the country. Finding reliable and alternative ports or sea outlets has also become the major priority of the country entering a deal with Somaliland recently. Again, the country's quest for sea access harms no other parties; it rather cements regional integration and fosters collective growth. Yesterday, the country launched its first water strategy on the Abbay Rivers and the Red Sea. The six-chapter document mainly highlights Ethiopia's journey to get sovereign access to the sea. It would be an important input for scholars who wish to conduct research and studies on historical and political issues. The strategy will guide the country's stance on water bodies. The new policy document reflects the country's stand on the Abbay River and the Red Sea. The country should in place the required policies and strategies to realize its mega ambitions in the Abbay Rivers and the Red Sea. In this regard, the launching of the strategy is a mammoth step that requires additional work.

# Opinion

## The Adwa Memorial Museum, a showcase of African glory

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

Majestically perched on the center of Addis Ababa, locally known as Arada Georges with its ultra-modern architectural design and with close proximity to the Addis Ababa City Administration complex and the first of its kind in Ethiopian and African history, Adwa Memorial Museum symbolizes the valor and tenacity of black Africa exhibited against colonial forces who branded Africa as the "Dark Continent"

The Adwa Victory Memorial Museum commemorates the historic Battle of Adwa, which took place on March 1, 1896. The battle was a significant event in Ethiopian history, as it marked Ethiopia's victory over Italian forces and ensured the country's independence and sovereignty during the Scramble for Africa setting a historic example for the independence movement of African countries back in 1960s.

The museum serves as a tribute to the bravery, resilience, and heroism of 120,000 peasant Ethiopian soldiers and leaders who defended their homeland against colonial aggression. It houses a collection of artifacts, documents, photographs, and exhibits related to the Battle of Adwa, Ethiopian history, and the struggle against colonialism.

Visitors to the Adwa Victory Memorial Museum can learn about the events leading up to the battle, the strategies and tactics employed by both sides, and the impact of the victory on Ethiopia's national identity and the global anti-colonial movement. The museum also highlights the contributions of key figures such as Emperor Menelik II, Empress Taytu Betul, and some 12 generals who led the Ethiopian victory in a battle that took only 5 hours.

In addition to its historical significance, the Adwa Victory Memorial Museum serves as a symbol of pride, unity, and resilience for the Ethiopian people and Africa at large. It is a place of remembrance, reflection, and education, preserving the memory of the Battle of Adwa and its enduring legacy for future generations.

The Adwa Memorial Museum has 7 modern assembly halls that can accommodate more than 4000 persons, amphitheater, modern restaurants and cafe, green area and a gymnasium, under round parking area for visitor's vehicles and other amenities which could provide social services for visitors. The museum is composed of 11 blocks. It also houses the Office of Addis Ababa City Council and related IT center.

The museum is expected to be one of the main tourist attraction centers in the city and will also serve as a search center for scholars' who wish to work on Ethiopian history.

Adwa Memorial Museum symbolizes interrelated factors that vividly depict the future of Ethiopia and Africa. The museum is a gift from the current generation of Ethiopians to the future generation that is expected to carry over the historical feats of the Battle of Adwa. It clearly shows the link between Ethiopian patriotism and Pan Africanism as well as the extent to which Ethiopia is rooted and positioned both in African history and the socio-cultural fabrics in which all Africans and colored people are woven.

Nonetheless, the unique architectural design of the museum is prepared by chief Ethiopian architect who skillfully blended modern and traditional designs introducing another input into architectural technology by Ethiopian professionals of the highest caliber.

Apart from conspicuously depicting unity of purpose and vision of united Ethiopia, it clearly shows the multi-ethnic and age composition

of the barefooted peasant soldiers who shed their blood not only for the unity, peace and sovereignty of the country but also for African decolonization more than a century ago.

The museum adds up to the learning and research centers not only for Ethiopian universities but also for pan African universities across the African region. It depicts how home grown African culture blended with anti-colonial mindset effectively frustrated imperial colonial ambitions of the western governments of those days.

This museum is a unique magnet that can attract tourists, sociologists, architects, town planners, historians and sociologists alike. Documenting the content of the museum and the artifacts that are displayed in it will be a memorable assignment for the current generation of Ethiopians.

Nonetheless, the museum is an economic and educational investment for the future generation that is expected to build up on knowledge based development programs of Ethiopia. This museum resonates a message on the historical fact that Ethiopians and Africans can achieve anything they plan based on combining modern and home grown traditional knowledge and technology.

This museum is a symbol of peace among all Ethiopians here and overseas and a good reminder for the current generation to focus not on individual and isolated narrative but a common national narrative that could help to uplift the country to a higher level of development.

Adwa Memorial Museum clearly shows the military history of the country during the era of the Scramble for Africa whereby the European colonial powers vowed to share the resources of Africa among themselves.

Ethiopian historians and those from overseas can conduct their researches in a splendid location equipped with modern digital technologies that are installed in the museum.

The various facilities in the museum provide an excellent venue for promotion of both Ethiopian and African creative arts. It could serve as exhibitions center for African arts from various countries in the continent. Musical festivals from various African countries and local ones could be staged in the halls of the museum particularly designed for such events.

Universities and secondary schools in the country can organize cross cultural educational tours to Ethiopia for foreign students in Africa and elsewhere making the Adwa Memorial Museum a hub of such educational tour exchange programs between African students and students across the world.

The museum enables students all over the world to have a glimpse of the history of Ethiopia and Africa and will help them to have a positive mindset about Ethiopia and Africa.

Although it may be perceived as a war museum, the Adwa Memorial Museum is a living memorial of Ethiopian and African self-assertion and the importance of unity to achieve victory over any challenge including the battle against poverty. As stated by the author on several contributions, Ethiopia has set a comprehensive example for unity of purpose among African countries.

The museum is a venue in which peace and friendship can be cultivated and developed among African youth in their contribution to African economic integration as envisaged in Agenda 2063.

Ultimately, the Adwa Memorial Museum is a living bridge linking Ethiopia with the rest of the world in every aspect of inclusive global socio-economic development.

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



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# Business & Economy

## Strengthening economic sectors to fortify nation's growth

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

The three leading sectors of the economy such as agriculture, manufacturing industry and services play pivotal role for achieving growth. Agriculture has created employment opportunities to almost 80% of the labor force, contributed for foreign exchange earnings, and supplied food to the market at least at subsistence level and raw materials to the manufacturing industry. Tourism, hotel and trade are categorized as service sectors also play crucial role in creating job and income generation.

*The Ethiopian Herald* made a stay with Solomon Zegeye, an economist working as a consultant for various firms. As to him, currently, agriculture contributes 45% to the nation's Gross Domestic Production (GDP). For the double digit economic growth registered in the past two successive decades, the sector played significant role and the utilization of modern agricultural inputs such as fertilizer, pesticides and herbicides have attributed to increase production and productivity.

He also said that even though agriculture is the main stay of the nation's economy, its contribution to the GDP is declining and this indicates that the nation is experiencing structural change and the contribution of manufacturing and service sectors to the GDP is growing.

Textile and garment, leather and shoe and agro business are the backbone of the Manufacturing sector. The textile industry has essentially created job opportunity to thousands but it is also dependent on the importation of cotton. It supplies its products mainly to the foreign markets and garners foreign currency.

The leather and leather products' sub sector garners hard currency by exporting its products to foreign markets in addition to creating job. The agro business sub sector also plays key role in processing agricultural products and producing food supplied to local market. Although it has a potential in transforming the economy to the higher productivity rate, it is still in its infancy. The sector is dependent on imported inputs and spare parts, faces power interruption and other shortcomings. Currently, due to foreign currency crunch in the banks, opening Letter of Credit (LC) for securing hard currency is too much cumbersome and takes months. As a result, firms are forced to reduce their production volume.

The service sector mostly characterized by tourism, hotels and entertainment is flourishing in urban centers. It created job opportunities for tens of thousands and heavily utilizes locally produced agricultural products and created link with the other sectors. Tourism is one of the service sectors which play pivotal role in job creation and foreign currency earnings.

The government is working aggressively on the expansion of lodges and parks which can attract local and foreign tourists by allocating huge amount of budget. The availing of parks and animals' zoo in the city further stimulates the sector.

As to Solomon, the Growth and



*Agro-industry is flourishing in Ethiopia-photo google*

Transformation program which was implemented earlier to the current reformist government had its own weakness because it had tried to implement an imported economic plan ignoring the nation's context. As a result, it was unable to achieve structural change which was targeted to be achieved by 2020.

As to him, the 10 years perspective economic development plan introduced by the current government goes in line with the reality on the ground and has a potential to attain structural change. It is prepared based on the actor institutions implementing capacity in a bottom up approach.

To lay ground for industrialization, the agriculture sector must ensure the nation's food self-sufficiency so that, citizens productivity and creativity will be enhanced which in turn drive the economy on the right track. But if it is not, the nation will continue to import food and other agricultural products and the nation will continue to spend its meager foreign currency resource for the importation of agricultural products.

The expansion of manufacturing changes the economy driven by low economic performance in to the higher productivity, creates job opportunities, boosts export, support import substitution, creates linkage with the agriculture, and attracts both local and foreign investment.

However, to attain sustainable development, the state of the nation's macro economy should be healthy. Some of the indicators of the macro economic situation are total employment rate, national fiscal policy, government revenue and expenditure. Money supply, interest rate and the nation's foreign currency earnings serve as the backbone of the economy.

The fiscal aspect of the nation also can be mentioned as a major indicator of the macro economic status of the country. Whether the total budget of the country is covered by local sources or not or part of it is covered by foreign loan or aid, determines the healthiness of the economy. Whether the nation is financing its mega projects by local sources or not, it defines

the characteristics of the macro economy.

As to Solomon, policy makers, before talking about economic development, should think that how could they feed the population. When there are shortfalls in meeting the basic needs, aspiring big things remains a day dreaming.

When the food price becomes lower, citizens' income will rise. For instance, a person who earns 10 thousand Birr per month and spends five thousand for house rent and the rest four thousand for food and other expenses, we can say that he lives in a hand to mouth income brackets. In such a situation, the society will be vulnerable to various economic shocks. Therefore, to stabilize the living situation of the society, agricultural productivity must be increased.

However, as mentioned above, though agriculture is the main stay of the nation's economy, it is subsistence, vulnerable to extreme climate variation, and land fragmentation due to population pressure. In addition to these, as farmers lack sense of ownership of land, raising productivity becomes a challenge.

Asked whether there are possibilities to overcome the aforementioned problems and uplifting the farming sector, Solomon said that despite the sector is subsistence, adopting technology and utilizing more agricultural inputs can be taken as a way out.

He further said that countries which have predominantly arid areas proved the possibility of raising agricultural productivity through adopting better technology. But as to Solomon, utilizing cutting edge technology requires huge amount of money which Ethiopia ill affords.

To achieve structural change, planning strategy to shift the stranded labor force in the rural part to the urban center and get employment in manufacturing and service sectors is essential. Moving the labor force from farming to none farming also helps to establish extensive farm which utilizes modern farm inputs that helps attaining raising productivity.

Currently, the practicing of farming in a collective way by small holder farmers

proved the possibility of improving productivity.

As to Solomon, in Ethiopia, there is abundant natural resource which can be used as input to agriculture but due to the absence of finance, technology and skill, the nation is unable to tap the resources. Thus, the sector utilizes less inputs with less output. As a result, it has remained subsistence.

If the situation is changed to the better, the probability of ensuring food security in the near future will be high. To that end, exploring and exploiting the water resources of the country is essential. The government's endeavor in this regard is appreciable.

According to the report from Ministry of Irrigation and Law Land Areas Development, Ethiopia utilized only five percent of its water resources for irrigation and the arable land that can be used for extensive farming particularly found in its law land parts remains idle.

Modern irrigation farms were introduced in Ethiopia by Netherlands Company in 1960s. Large farms were cultivated in the upper, middle and lower Awash River valley. Sugar cane was used as inputs for sugar factory located in Mattahara town of Oromia region which has still continued its production. In the lower Awash River valley, cotton plantation was underway and the product was supplied to local and export market but now it is ceased to exist. Large scale farms also were flourished in the north western parts of the country in the areas of Humera and Mattama towns since 1960. The farms produce oil seeds and supply their products to local and foreign markets.

The dry season wheat farm is cultivated by small scale farmers through clustering system could bring tremendous results in meeting the local wheat demand. Some of the products also are exported to the neighboring countries and support the nation's hard currency earning capacity.

Such achievement can be taken as a showcase that the nation has the potential to raise agricultural productivity and ensuring food security.



# Art & Culture

## Dawro's tourist attractions that lend force to its magnetic pulls (The blessing of Koyssha Project in promoting Dawro)

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

Recently, with a team of the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) journalists I had visited Dawro zone for media coverage. After we visited the Dawro Ethnographic Museum, which houses over 4,500 historical and traditional heritages and artifacts of Dawro people, the museum's guide Lakew Betela advised us to visit a cultural restaurant. "If you come to Dawro, you must not miss enjoying the mouthwatering Dawro cultural foods," Lakew convinced us. It was for the first time I visited Dawro zone's capital, Tarcha town.

After we concluded our daily task, as per Lakew's advice we headed to *Dubusha Cultural Restaurant* to have a dinner. A waiter approached us with a sunny face and a menu. *Burato, Uta, Terancha, Siliso, Kochkocho, Bachira, Qaswa, Tinchowa, Tencho, Kitfo* were among the locality's famous cultural dishes listed in the menu. Except *Kitfo*, the dishes listed in the menu were strange to me. Though the restaurant had also foods common elsewhere, we wanted to try and know firsthand the traditional foods of Dawro and asked the waiter to brief us about the foods.

Meat, cheese, false banana, cabbage and butter seasoned with local testy spices, among others, were the top ingredients the dishes were comprised of. Though we were six we ordered for five different cultural foods.

"Oh God," we wowed as the arrayed dishes were delicious and tasty. Especially, *Siliso*, which we gourmandized, was incredible. It was an amazingly delicious food. We cannot but wonder why these cultural foods are not paraded in big restaurants in the main cities.

After a while, the owner of *Dubusha Cultural Restaurant*, a young lady, *Mulalem Gizaw* joined us. We asked *Mulalem* about the traditional and cultural foods of Dawro. "*Dubusha* is Dawro people's traditional reconciliation system and the name of the restaurant is derived from this system," she said and added "Dawro is rich in traditional, historical, natural, cultural and manmade values. The same holds true when it comes to its delicious cultural foods. *Dubusha* restaurant makes Dawro's cultural foods available for visitors and tourists thereby promoting the culture of Dawro," *Mulalem* added.

*Mulalem* noted during the inauguration of the *Halala Kella Resort* it was that *Dubusha Cultural Restaurant* that paraded the dishes, the 'Dine for Nation' project launched in Dawro zone of *Halala Kella* area which was inaugurated last April. For *Mulalem* the *Halala Kella* project is drawing attention to and promoting the beautiful cultural traditions of the people of Dawro. As to her, Dawro has over 20 different cultural foods.

Approached by EPA, Dawro Zone Culture, Tourism and Sport Department head, *Getahun Girma* said "Dawro abounds in traditional, historical, cultural, manmade



(*Mulalem Gizaw* (center) and waiters of *Dubusha Cultural Restaurant* attired in Dawro's costumes and parading Dawro's cultural dishes.)



*Dawro* artists wearing Dawro cultural clothes at the get of *Dawro Ethnographic Museum* taking *Dinka*, the longest traditional wind instrument serving like Flute).

and natural values. Dawro's unique wedding ceremony, *Tokibea* festival (Dawro New Year), *Dubusha* traditional reconciliation system, and its history, the *King Halala Wall* coupled with traditional practices affords the area a magnetic pull.

### The Social construction of Dawro

*Lakew Betela*, Museum Director and guide within Dawro Zone's Culture, Tourism and Sport Department said that in Dawro language, *Kawteta* means a traditional administrative structure equivalent with zonal administration. As to him, today's Dawro zone was the seat of traditionally *Kawteta* administration.

According to *Lakew*, traditionally, *Kawteta* (province) was administered by *Kawa* (King of Dawro). *Kawteta* is made-up of seven *Werabateta* administrations and the Dawro king administers seven *Werabatetas*. The *Werabateta* is also made-up of seven *Rashateta* while one *Rashateta* is formed from seven *Danatetas*. And the *Danateta* was made up of seven *Godatetas* whereas the *Godateta* from seven *Gudatetas*. "Just like current administrative layers that stretches from kebele to the federal level, the traditional administrative system of Dawro was stretched from *Gudateta* to the *Kawteta* level which had seven structures,"

*Lakew* said. During the traditional administrative system, Dawro had seven main gates which were symbols of the seven administrative structures. Today, Dawro is a zonal administration with 10 districts and two municipal cities. *Tarcha* town is its capital.

*King Halala* had built a defense wall to protect Dawro from external enemies from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century. The wall has seven main gates and today this wall has become a tourist attraction site. The recently inaugurated *Halala Kella Resort* was built around one side of this wall. With these historical traditions, Dawro has a magnificent history, culture, tradition and heritages.

The *Dawro Ethnographic Museum*, built in line with the traditional triangular house-making style of Dawro, named *Guduma Keta* tells loud Dawro's rich history. According to *Lakew*, the Museum comprises over 4,500 heritages. In addition to the heritages in the museum, the *Halala Kella* wall, the *Chebera Churchura National Park* (found within Dawro and *Konta* zones), king-making places where Kings declared their reign, hot springs, caves, traditional festivals, the *Dawro New Year* (*Tokibea*) are but to mention the prominent tourism attraction sites of Dawro, *Getahun* for his part said.

Culturally, Dawro has unique allurements like *Tokibea* (New Year festival), dressing style, own music instruments including *Dinka*, longest traditional wind music instrument Flute, unique traditional wedding ceremony and other beautiful traditions, as to *Getahun*.

Today, thanks to the *Koyssha* cluster of 'Dine for Nation' initiative, Dawro's traditional, historical, natural and manmade attractions are being promoted to allow visitors feast their eyes on. *Koyssha* cluster Project has five sub projects three of which are within Dawro zone while the remaining two, including the recently inaugurated *Elephant Paw Lodge* in *Chebera Churchura National Park* are in *Konta* zone, *Getahun* said.

*Halala Kella Resort*, which was inaugurated last April, is one of the *Koyssha* clusters while basement works are underway to bring to completion the remaining two envisaged clusters in Dawro zone. Basement works are underway in *Gudumu*. *Boka* clusters are found in *Isara* and *Techi* districts of Dawro, he stated. *Koyssha* cluster of 'Dine for Nation' initiative aims to interconnect the *Halala Kella* cluster with the other *Koyssha* clusters. "The *Koyssha* Project cluster is helpful to harness, promote and unveil the untapped tourism potential of Dawro and *Konta* zones. It also helps to develop the infrastructural development of the zones and stimulate local tourists," *Getahun* stated.

*Dawro Zone Chief Administrator*, *Dawit Gebeyehu* for his part stated that *Halala Kella Lodge* is an icebreaker and a game changer in Dawro tourism. It promotes the tourism potential of the zone, traditional and historical values of Dawro and the infrastructure of tourist destination sites.

"In terms of revenue, *Halala Kella Resort* is generating two to three million birr monthly for the zone," *Dawit* said adding this income is helping the zone to fill its budget deficit. *Dawit* invited tourists to visit and enjoy the magnificence of Dawro.

Almost all people of Dawro are humble, cooperative, trusted, promise-keeping and ethical ones. Personally, I have enjoyed the humbleness, kindness and cordiality of the society. I recommend anyone to visit Dawro and its lovely people to enjoy the natural and traditional attractions of the area. You will have the happiest and unforgettable travel memory in your life. I hope the *Dine for Nation* projects of *Koyssha* cluster will further promote the area and more people will enjoy the magnificent values, history and cultural activities of Dawro.



# Science & Technology



Belete Molla (PhD), Minister of Innovation and Technology, Abdisa Yilma, Director-General of Space Science and Technology Institute, Bishoftu City Mayor cutting the Ribbon during the inauguration ceremony in Bishoftu

## Towards Smart City: Bishoftu becomes icebreaker in applying Digital Address System

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

Bishoftu City, with its seven beautiful lakes, its luxury resorts and its proximity to the capital makes the city among the best tourist destination and conference center of Ethiopia. Due to its proximity to the capital, its suitable weather condition and water and land availability, it is among the destinations of big investments. Bishoftu is the rising city and it is the busiest city during the weekends due to its suitability for weekend vacations.

These comparative advantages coupled with its hard-working and hospitable inhabitants make the city among the fast growing cities of Ethiopia. Considering its rapid growth, the city is applying various efforts to make the city favorable for its residents and its guests by introducing technological advancements.

Pressing ahead with its efforts to modernize the city, Bishoftu City officially launched Digital Addressing System (eDAS) last week, which makes the city the first city to apply eDAS in Ethiopia. The Digital Address System, which was developed by the Ethiopian Space Science and Geospatial Institute (SSGI) aims to provide accurate location identification service, which is crucial for its residents and visitors of the city. The system is expected to facilitate service delivery and digitalizing the city's activities which will play its role in enhancing the development of the city.

According to Space Science and Geospatial Institute (SSGI), which develops the system, the eDAS initiative applied in Bishoftu city will have multiple functions for especially to easily identify locations of institutions, public service providing offices, hotels and other basic locations of the city. Among its benefits of the system is that it enables to provide precise location for residents, businesses and eases emergency services. The accurate address information using the

new digital system will make movement of people easy.

The system would facilitate service delivery, accelerate logistics and transform businesses within the city. Similarly, it would help for quick emergency responses in case of incidents in the city, using the accurate location identification. This can improve the effectiveness and timely response of emergency services that helps to protect the safety and well-being of the city. The system can stimulate and facilitate efficiency of businesses by easing the logistics and making easy delivery services.

Similarly, eDAS would play vital role to apply better urban planning through providing valuable data on the distribution of residents, commercial areas and public spaces and the infrastructure of the city, according to SSGI. This, finally, would play its role for the development of smart city initiative that enables digitalizing every system of cities. In the near future, the system would help to apply internet of things (IoT) applications and other technologies that rely on accurate and standardized location and data. It promotes trade transactions, creates smooth traffic flow.

To manage the fast growing cities in Ethiopia, applying digital address system in cities gets new attention in recent years. In this regard, efforts are underway to develop Digital Address System in 73 cities across Ethiopia, according to Ministry of Innovation and Technology. Speaking during the inauguration ceremony of the Bishoftu Digital Addressing System last week, Minister of Innovation and Technology, Belete Molla (PhD) said that due attention has been given for infrastructural development and networking in Digital Ethiopia 2025 Strategy. 'Digital Addressing System is among the key players in creating suitable ecosystem to realize Digital Economy in urban areas,'

Belete said.

According to the Minister, applying fully functional digital addressing system helps to have a digital address for every building and roads in a city. This would help to create enabling ecosystem for other national platforms and digital infrastructures. eDAS is crucial to develop tourist flow and to ease movement of tourists within the city, movement of residents within the city and to realize and accelerates electronic payments.

Belete further stated that the development of urbanization is fast in Ethiopia and demands are growing parallel to the expansion and growth of cities. "The digital addressing system will have a significant contribution in making cities suitable for their residents and ease the lifestyle, to make effective and efficient service delivery of institutions," he added. It would improve the effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery of administrative, economic and social service delivery institutions within the cities.

"Achieving digital economy is unthinkable without having appropriate and functional Digital Addressing System in cities" Belete said adding the system is crucial to deliver services timely and in an efficient and in cost-effective way. According to the minister, ensuring and realizing digital economy is among the priority areas of the ten years perspective plan adding based on this plan, efforts are underway to apply Digital Address System in 73 big and medium cities in Ethiopia.

As to him, the system applied in Bishoftu city is the first of its type in Ethiopia and becomes exemplary for other cities; Belete stated appreciating SSGI's efforts to develop the system and calls the institute to accelerate its endeavors to apply the system in other cities. He officially announced that official opening of the Bishoftu Digital System which started its function since February 21, 2024.

For his part, Space Science and Geospatial Institute (SSGI) Director-General Abdisa Yilma stated that Bishoftu becomes an icebreaker in applying digital addressing system in Ethiopia. It is a new lesson for Ethiopia in interconnecting geospatial information and digital technology for easing urban lifestyle. As to him, applying technological advancements is crucial to go parallel with world's fast growing technological advancements so as to maintain Ethiopia's economic development sustainably.

Taking the lessons from its first project applied in Bishoftu, Abdisa stated that the institute will work to apply the system in other cities of Ethiopia. "SSGI is working with Adama and Addis Ababa cities to apply the system" Abdisa said adding the Adama's eDAS installing system has completed 70% of the work so far and Addis Ababa's system development work has officially started.

Bishoftu City Mayor, Alemayehu Assefa stated for his part that Bishoftu city is home to seven beautiful lakes, suitable and non-variable weather condition, a city hosting cultural and religious festivals, destination for many local and foreign tourists. In the near future there is a plan to build an international airport four times bigger than Addis Ababa Bole International Airport and the city is home to big industries and its proximity to the capital makes the city fast growing city and hosts a lot of tourists and guests.

This implies that, Alemayehu stated, the city is growing in to an international destination and trade center, in addition to the growing population of the city. Similarly, Bishoftu is identified among the tourist destination cities of Oromia and gets new attention to develop the potential. Hence, the newly implemented Digital Addressing System is a timely action and would play crucial role for the development of the city and to make the city suitable for its residents and guests.



# Society

## “Harnessing regular migration pathways for youth employment skills dev’t”

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

Africa is a continent that is characterized by the highest number of the youngest population in the world. According to the 2023 World Youth Report issued by the United Nations, the Sub-Saharan African region has the largest percentage of young people of any region, with an estimated 70% of the population under the age of 30.

Such a high number of young population, as many agreed, if empowered, given appropriate opportunities to work, actively involved in their respective countries’ overall activities and utilized accordingly, is an opportunity for the continent’s growth.

However, due to a number of push and pull factors, hundreds of thousands of young people run away from their homelands, seeking better opportunities in other countries. Unfortunately, in most cases, the journeys are carried out in an irregular way, exposing themselves to unpredictable risks and dangers.

Seeing the importance of legal migration, countries are endeavoring unwaveringly to curb illegal migration through devising strategies and creating awareness among the youth to take the safest way—regular migration.

As part of this effort, over the past four days, ministers in the East and Horn of Africa held discussions and deliberated on ways to harmonize labor migration policies in the East and Horn of Africa through a united approach to safe, regular, and human labor migration thereby maximize the benefits of greater regional integration on human mobility.

At this forum- the 5th Regional Ministerial Forum on Migration (RMFM) - held in Addis Ababa under the theme “Harnessing the power of regular migration pathways for youth employment, skills development, and green economy”, ministers and technical delegates drawn from 11 countries in the region including Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Uganda took part, ENA reported.

Speaking at the event, in which Ethiopia was chairing, Labor and Skills State Minister, Daniel Teressa, said that within the past few months, the RMFM has been gaining momentum through the revitalization of National and Regional Technical Committees as per the Operating Modalities of the RMFM.

This cooperation between and among countries will make migration management in the region easier. The forum is of great importance to allow free movement of people in the region, to make the works undertaken in the sector effective, to share experiences, protect



the rights of migrants and identify gaps in the area.

Ethiopia has discharged its responsibilities as chair for nearly two years in terms of laying ground works for the Regional Ministerial Forum Meeting in addition to hosting two technical working group meetings and high-level forums.

According to him, as a member of RMFM and the outgoing chair, Ethiopia, will continue supports the efforts of RMFM to achieve its noble visions of ensuring dignified human migration governance in the region and beyond. He further stressed that by integrating the aspects of labor migration with critical domains such as skills development, employment opportunities for youth, reintegration of returnees, gender considerations in migration, job creation, consular services, and diaspora engagement, members will anticipate obtaining valuable perspectives to advance the Regular Migration for Employment (RMFE) Initiative.

By exploring the intersections between these areas, member states have a goal to gain insights that will drive RMFE forward and enhance its effectiveness in addressing the various dimensions of labor migration.

This integrated approach will enable member countries to leverage the potential of labor migration to not only fill skill gaps and create employment opportunities but also ensure inclusive and gender-responsive migration policies, support returning migrants, and harness the expertise and resources of diaspora communities for the benefit of both origin and destination countries, he remarked.

Speaking on her part, Chief of Mission with IOM Ethiopia, Abibatou Wane Fall said that in a region with a young

population, regular pathways for mobility and skills development have crucial importance for individual migrants as well as countries.

“The RMFM serves as a valuable platform for interstate cooperation, to exchange ideas and perspectives, policies and practice alignments on labor migration and the welfare of migrant workers. In this regard, IOM stands firmly alongside the governments in the region, offering its technical assistance and support.”

The efforts of the Ethiopian government in enhancing migration governance over the years and developing a comprehensive regulatory framework should be hailed, she further said.

As it is rapidly stated by several literatures and the experiences of some countries indicated, regular migration pathway has greater advantage to individual migrants, countries of origins and destinations because it allows the youth to have a safe journey, to protect their rights and their interests in host countries.

In this regard, the regular pathway has a significant role in promoting youth employment, skills development, and the green economy in East African countries and in the region. By establishing mechanisms for legal and orderly migration, these pathways can facilitate the movement of young people to countries where there is demand for skilled and semi-skilled human capital, while also providing opportunities for them to acquire new knowledge and experience. It also enables them to acquire the needed skill development as young people gain new knowledge and experience through exposure to different work environments, technologies and practices. In other words, by experiencing regular migration, youth can obtain the valuable skills that are in demand for their country as well as for their future.

In this respect, the Regional Ministerial Forum on Migration (RMFM) will have considerable benefits in strengthening cooperation among member countries in the Horn and the region, and curbing problems associated with illegal migration, sensitizing the young people pertaining to the risky journey and helping them to follow the safest way.

The 5th Regional Ministerial Forum on Migration (RMFM) was organized by the Ministry of Labor and Skills in collaboration with UN International Organization for Migration (IOM).

At the forum, including Ethiopia, member countries in the region, representatives from the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Eastern Africa, and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, official’s member countries participated.

***By establishing mechanisms for legal and orderly migration, these pathways can facilitate the movement of young people to countries where there is demand for skilled and semi-skilled human capital, while also providing opportunities for them to acquire new knowledge and experience***





# This is Ethiopia

## Commemorating Adwa patriots, lessons to the new generation

BY TEWODROS KASSA

On March 1, 1896, a significant battle took place on the mountains of Adwa, Ethiopia. This battle, known as the Battle of Adwa, marked a pivotal moment and a decisive victory in Ethiopian history, as it was the first time that an African nation successfully defeated a European colonial power.

The Victory at Adwa has become a symbol of Ethiopian unity, pride, and resilience as well as an emblem of dignity, and independence for Africans and black people all over the world. Every year, Ethiopians gather to commemorate the brave patriots who fought in the Battle of Adwa and to celebrate their triumph counted over adversity.

Commemorating the Adwa patriots is essential to honoring the struggle and the sacrifice Ethiopian patriots paid for Ethiopia's independence. By remembering the heroes of Adwa, we pay tribute to their courage and determination in the face of overwhelming odds. The Battle of Adwa represents a defining moment in the history of Ethiopia, showcasing the strength, devotedness and resilience of the Ethiopian people.

The Adwa patriots played a crucial role in shaping Ethiopian history and safeguarding the country's sovereignty. Led by Emperor Menelik II and Empress Taytu Betul, Ethiopian forces successfully defended their land against the invading Italian army. The patriots' unwavering commitment to freedom and independence inspired future generations to stand up against oppression and injustice.

There are several ways to honor the legacy of the Adwa patriots. One way is to participate in commemorative events and ceremonies held annually to mark the Victory of Adwa. These events often include speeches, parades, and cultural performances that highlight the significance of the battle and the sacrifices made by the patriots. Additionally, visiting historical sites related to the Battle of Adwa, such as the Adwa Museum, can help keep the memory of the patriots alive.

Senior Intangible Heritages Expert at the Addis Ababa City Administration Culture and Tourism Bureau Memhir Mekibib Gebremariam told this writer that the victory at Adwa was not just a military triumph but a symbolic one as well.

Currently, Addis Ababa City embraces paramount Adwa commemorating heritages, places, Museum, among others. The Menelik II Square, Adwa bridge, Ras Mekonnen Bridge, Adwa war leaders'



villages and homes, among others are the major Adwa commemorating heritages found in Addis Ababa city.

So far, the Adwa Victory represents a triumph of the human spirit and continues to serve as a beacon of hope and inspiration for future generations. Therefore, it is important to note that this pivotal moment in Ethiopian history remind the enduring legacy of resilience and pride that defines the Ethiopian people.

Accordingly, the lessons of Adwa victory are not just confined to the pages of history but are timeless and relevant to the present and future generations of Ethiopians. By embracing the values of unity, courage, strategic thinking, resilience, and perseverance, we can honor the legacy of our ancestors and build a brighter future for Ethiopia.

The Victory shattered the notion of European superiority and colonial invincibility, inspiring other African nations to fight for their independence and sovereignty. The lessons learned from Adwa are timeless and invaluable to the new generations of Ethiopians.

The following are the major lessons that the new generation could instill from the Adwa patriots.

The first is upholding unity and solidarity. The Battle of Adwa united the Ethiopian

people from different religious background and ethnic groups to stand as one against a common enemy. It teaches us the importance of unity and solidarity in facing challenges and achieving goals. As the new generations of Ethiopians, we must strive to put aside our differences and work together for the greater good of our country

The second is courage and determination. The Ethiopian soldiers at Adwa displayed unmatched courage and determination in the face of a powerful adversary. They were willing to sacrifice everything to defend their homeland and freedom. This serves as a reminder to the new generations that true strength comes from within, and we must be willing to stand up for what we believe in, no matter the odds.

And the third is strategic thinking. Emperor Menelik II's strategic planning and military tactics played a crucial role in the victory at Adwa. The lesson here is that careful planning, foresight, and strategic thinking are essential in achieving success, both on the battlefield and in life. As the new Ethiopian generations, we must learn to think ahead, adapt to changing circumstances, and we always need to have a clear goal in mind.

Finally, this generation should learn resilience and perseverance from our forefathers. The Ethiopian forces faced numerous challenges and setbacks during the Battle of Adwa, but they never wavered

in their resolve. Their resilience and perseverance in the face of adversity are inspiring examples for the new generations. We must learn to overcome obstacles, stay focused on our objectives, and never give up, no matter how tough the situation may seem.

In sum, commemorating the Adwa patriots is not just a historical obligation but a way to pay tribute to the brave men and women who fought for Ethiopia's freedom. It is a history that portrays Ethiopians' unity, determination, and patriotic love for their nation both in good and times of adversities. Their sacrifices and triumph at Adwa has made Ethiopia a source of pride for the entire black aside from enabling us to live in peace and freedom. The victory continues to inspire and unite Ethiopians across the globe.

By honoring the legacy of the Adwa patriots, we ensure that their courage and resilience are never forgotten; but it passes down to generations, remaining a glittering victory scored against invading Italian forces. In addition, it is also high time to give priority to our own historical and cultural assets to attract more tourists.

What is more, the new generation should also be well aware of the Battle and the Victory Adwa so as to keep the tangible and intangible assets related with the grand Victory.