



The Ethiopian Herald

Vol. LXXX 156 10 MARCH 2024 - Megabit 1, 2016

SUNDAY EDITION

Price Birr 10.00

Ethiopia's sea aspiration adheres neighbors' sovereignty

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopia has been working for its clear interests that is securing a sovereign access to the sea and not to infringe the neighboring states' sovereignty, a diplomat in charge of Somalia's affairs said.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Somalia Affairs Desk Officer Mohammed Woliyu told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that Ethiopia's quest to the sea intends to bring security and economic significance and not to harm neighboring states.



See Ethiopia's sea ... page 4

AGI CONSTRUCTING THE FUTURE AFRICA
Abyssinia Group of Industries

Manufacturer of Rebars, Angles, Channels, Flat Bars & Round Bars. Introducing cut & bend service for rebars.

Contact & Address
Tel: +251 116 63 97 55/ 251 116 63 51 22/25
Mob.: +251 962 009 072/ +251 949 440 868
+251 911 45 9790
E-mail: sales@agiethiopia.com
4th Floor, Dabi Building, Bole road Addis Ababa Ethiopia

Medhin Decor

የተገጣሌ ድንቅ የሰርግ አዳራሽ ከነ ሙሉ የውበት ስራ የተሟላ የምግብ ዝግጅት ከሙሉ መስተገግ ጋር

ለሰርግ ለላይት ለገጠም ለላይ ለገጠም

አድራሻ 1ኛ ቦሌ ገብ ኮሚርሽል ጀርባ 2ኛ ከታላቲ ማሰልጠኛ አለፍ ብሎ ቆርኪና ጣሰ ፋብሪካ ገባ ብሎ

Contact Us 0911222993/ 0911208918

Religious fathers urge faithful to uphold kindness, peace

Page 4



Ethiopia set to export electricity to Tanzania

-Plans to supply South Africa in five years

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopia has finalized preparations to export electricity to Tanzania, the Ethiopian Electric Power

See Ethiopia set to export ... page 4

Nation keeps achievements in continental diplomacy

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- The current government's meticulous approach in the Abay Dam negotiation and port deal will keep the country's longstanding success in Africa's diplomacy, an expert in the issue said.

Addis Ababa University former Political Science and International Relations Lecturer Lakew Regassa told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the country has maintained its success in Africa's independence movements in different issues.

Though Ethiopia played a leading role in Africa's independence movements, it has failed to keep its status in the continental diplomacy, the expert added.

Despite the fact that local politics is in transition period, Ethiopia kept its struggle to maintain its identity. In this regard, the current government's diplomatic



Lakew Regassa

endeavors would put the nation at frontier in Africa's diplomatic arena.

"The diplomatic stages that Ethiopia has gone through at various time was different depending on the knowledge, growth and historical phase that the world itself was found. However, Ethiopia's port deal with Somaliland is an eye opener and heralding a major diplomatic chapter."

Noting Ethiopia has come to realize its potentials, Lakew stressed that the remaining task is making use of those potential as a diplomatic tool.

Though Ethiopia's attempts to strengthen its relations with varies countries is subject to different facts, its diplomatic approach regarding the Abbay Dam and access to sea are promising.

The expert further highlighted that the coming of Abbay Dam into reality would showcase how Ethiopia is paving its way to diplomatic and economic prowess.

Yet, due attention should be given to tap precious natural resources for economic progress that would propel Ethiopia efforts to initiate and maintain cordial relations with any country across the world. Ethiopia is also expected to capitalize on its BRICS membership to protect its national interests, Lakew emphasized.

<p>Entrepreneurship: Viable weapon for job creation, economic advancement</p> <p>Page 6</p>	<p>Authority tirelessly combat environmental hazards</p> <p>Page 7</p>	<p>Getachew Kassa, the unsung versatile musician</p> <p>Page 8</p>
--	---	---

Ethiopia to issue digital IDs to 70 mln citizens

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopia has set to issue digital IDs to 70 million citizens within two years, the Ethiopian National ID Program disclosed.

Approached by The Ethiopian Herald the Ethiopian National ID Program Executive Director Yodahe Arayaselassie said that the country is striving to issue digital IDs to four million people during the intensive nationwide rollout phase.

Accessing digital IDs is a key for the overall development of the country that's why the process has been taking place progressively by expanding stations, he said.

As to him, digitalizing ID system would hugely reduce redundancy of data as well



as avoid forgery documents.

The platform also facilitates access to services, reduces fraud, catalyzes economic participation proves individuals'

identity online, Yodahe stressed.

Furthermore, the country has been working to reach 70 million Ethiopians with digital IDs in two years. "Although launching the system lately has challenges, the latecomer advantage has been helping us by enabling to get lessons and experiences from other countries," he added.

Moreover, issuing the national digital ID is not limited to citizens, but it is also launched recently for refugees to access basic services, according to the Executive Director.

Recently, Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) in partnership with National ID Program (NIDP) and UNHCR launched an initiative in Addis Ababa to include refugees and asylum seekers into the Ethiopian Digital ID system.



Scholars persist in win-win approach to access seaport

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – Strengthening a win-win diplomatic approach enables Ethiopia to achieve its ambition of having access to the sea withstanding all hurdles, experts and officials stated.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Addis Ababa University Federalism and Good Governance Lecturer Tesfay Jimma (PhD) highlighted the need to push for give and take diplomatic approach to achieve the country's seaport aspiration thereby build its economy and global influence.

He further stated that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that was signed between Ethiopia and Somaliland in order to accessing seaport to the former is a reasonable agreement that ensures the mutual benefit of the two and promotes sustainable peace and development in the region.

Somaliland has signed various agreements with different countries even these partners came far from the region. So, there is no

legal ground that allows accusing Ethiopia for reaching access to sea agreement with Somaliland.

As to him, some historic enemies have been working day in and day out to affect Ethiopia's economic development and international influence. These countries worry only about their peculiar interests disregarding the role Ethiopia plays for stability and growth of the region.

The Scholar mentioned that Egypt is one of the few countries that try to deter development of Ethiopia. Egypt has been making several false accusations on Ethiopia since the beginning of the construction of Abbay Dam though it does not contribute a drop of water to Abbay (Nile) river.

Civil Service University Political Science Scholar Mulugeta Debebe (PhD) on his part said that Egypt is trying to disrupt Ethiopia's economy because of the Nile River, but it couldn't achieve its ambition despite all the conspiracies.

According to him, accessing seaport is an existential issue for Ethiopia and its people.

However, some countries are attempting to hinder Ethiopia's vision to accessing seaport without any relevant reason.

Mulugeta noted that the fair utilization of sea by the regional countries promotes teamwork, peace and development.

Tesfay on the other hand suggested that Ethiopia should continue applying its give and take approach and encourage diplomats and scholars to advocate mutual development, which is significantly useful for encouraging the social, economic, political linkages and sustainable peace across the horn of Africa region in addition to achieving seaport access.

Supporting the above rationale, Ethiopia's Ambassador to Canada, Fitsum Arega said "The agreement that was signed between Ethiopia and Somaliland has a mutual benefit principle. Therefore, some countries accusation is baseless in that regard. Any agreement in the Ethiopian signed is focused on ensuring the principles of mutual benefit whilst efforts are being carried out to induce this through bilateral and other diplomatic approaches."

Capital market advances Ethiopia's economy: Legal Advisor

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – Capital market helps Ethiopia to witness significant economic growth for its scientific approach and reliable security, so disclosed Meheretab Leul and Associates (MLA) Law Office.

Office, Managing Partner Meheretab Leul told The Ethiopian Herald that capital market helps to advance the Ethiopian economy for enabling traders to buy and sell stocks and bonds with proper security.

It also creates enabling environment for raising financial capital development and reducing risk. As to him, Capital market is "The New Territory to The Growth Momentum of Ethiopia" alike the homegrown economy, the system designed to forwarding the national economy in the years to come.

Besides, he noted, the capital market allows private investors to utilize the system to assist the Ethiopian economic growth thereby facilitating the necessary requirements and special approach to attract foreign direct investment.

According to Meheretab, the capital market has dual significances in encouraging the nation economic growth and reducing the foreign currency crunch.

AXIS Co-Founder, Mark Duffy for his part said "Capital market will benefited Ethiopia through sharing technology, experience, and knowledge from various companies. I have many years' experience in the area and have been sharing my knowledge to Ethiopia in the past over some years so as to encourage economic growth. In my country (Ireland) gaining a plenty of advantages following the utilization of capital market."

He advised that Ethiopia needs to careful preparations on the sharing of external experiences, and the likes to implement the capital market properly and ensure the national interest.

He mentioned that countries which failed to hire foreign advisors lost 20% of the benefit that should have been gained from capital market. He also added that the government of Ethiopia has made a great decision when it committed to implement capital market.

Editorial

Effectiveness as a warrant to affluence

With the country's limited resources and within a specified timeframe, actualizing envisaged plans is a task a developing country like Ethiopia can ill-afford to put on the backburner. The nation must see that forestalling wastefulness of resources and procrastination has sunk in the minds of citizens dreaming affluence getting debilitating poverty behind their backs.

Going beyond efficiency that may not weigh output in terms of input like effectiveness, citizens must learn to ensure effectiveness as being showcased in recent executions of flagship projects that barred rooms for corrupt practices. For a nation aspiring to materialize affluence against all odds the aforementioned task is a priority agenda. Hence, an all-out effort is called for, for the government single handed could not actualize a rosy future.

Reportedly, in the first half of this Ethiopian fiscal year a promising performance has been portrayed in the macroeconomic sector that could propel the country forward in the ten-year development avenue it set and mounted on. A performance assessment on the macroeconomic sector and infrastructural expansion has brought this fact to light.

Yet, not leaving the door ajar for complacency, there is a need to bridge gaps manifested in terms of conviction and coordination of officials at every administrative echelon. Working hard zeroing in on service delivery, taming inflation, warranting tranquility and atoning for public displeasures, among others, are called for. From CEOs down to employees at the bottom administrative rung must set the example of a workaholic citizen aiming at effectiveness imbued with the sentiment of serving selflessly. In the budget year, there was a blueprint to achieve 7.9 percent of the plan envisaged including the social sector. Given the heartening performances in multifaceted sectors, topped by the agriculture sector, in the assessment period, it is safe to claim the envisaged plan will turn out a hit. For instance, when we assess crop harvest of last year same period about 480 million quintal harvest was collected. This year's harvest exhibits 16 million harvest leap.

Similarly in horticulture, animal husbandry, fishery development and other agricultural undertakings heartwarming turnarounds are witnessed. When it comes to wheat irrigation a plan was set to cover 3 million hectares of land with wheat crop in the first half of the fiscal year. Favorably, over 2.9 hectares of land is covered with seeds that foreshadow bumper wheat harvest. Apart from the agriculture sector, an upward trajectory is witnessed in the industry, service delivery and tax collection.

Timely assessing projects, bolstering virtuous deeds, mending wrong turns, igniting passions, setting examples ensuring convictions and upholding servant leadership it is quite possible to let the country catapult to the required level of affluence. Bringing all stakeholders aboard to brainstorm on such burning issues it is also possible to chalk out the country's path of development in consonance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS).

As peace and development cross fertilize each other ironing out differences through national dialogue we must ensure the chemistry of the former and the latter.

The bottom line is effectiveness is a warrant to affluence. But effectiveness is not a cakewalk or manna from the sky. It requires individual exertion as well as devotion. So let everyone of us do our part. The wholesome result will crystalize the sought-for goal. As we miraculously made the impossible possible let us repeat that a similar astounding feat again in plan/project executions nationwide.



The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays
By The Ethiopian Press Agency

Office of the CEO

Tel. 011-126-42-22
Fax. 251-011-156-98-62
email- epa@press.et

Advertisement and Dist. Department

email: etpresspromotion@gmail.com
Tel. 011-156-98-73/011-811-13-15
Telegram :- 0976084707 - press

Editor-in-Chief: Worku Belachew

email- workubelachew@press.et
Address- Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-city

Woreda - 05, House No----
Tel- +251 111 26 41 98

Managing Editor: Wakuman Kudama

Email: wakuma220@gmail.com

Deputy Editors-in-Chief:

Alem Hailu
Elizabeth Mengistu
Zekarias Woldemariam
Desta Geberehiwot
Daniel Beyene

Website: www.press.et
email: ethiopianherald@press.et
Fb//Ethiopian Press Agency/
The Ethiopian Herald

Opinion

Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD): A triumph over historical injustice

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

From the moment that the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) set in motion, Ethiopians residing at home and abroad have been devotedly playing a part in contributing their share with the purpose of making the colossal dam a reality.

In point of fact, motivated by a strong sense of willpower and commitment to their motherland, Ethiopians from all walks of life have enthusiastically unified their role in pressing forward the flagship project, which is the pride of all Ethiopians. For the sake of truth, following the determination and hard work of the government the whole thing on the subject of the dam is heading in the right direction igniting a sense of unity and harmony among all nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia.

In the face of oppositions brought by downstream nations, Ethiopia keeps its nose to the grindstone in its pledge to the dam. More often than not these nations make reference to colonial-era pacts that dictate the sharing of water resources from the Nile River utilizing as a basis for their antagonism. However, Ethiopia sees the construction of the dam as a means to rectify persistent historical wrongs and secure its appropriate place in managing the waters of the Nile River.

According to sources, the Ethiopian Grand Renaissance Dam (GERD) built on the Blue Nile, is the biggest hydroelectric project in Africa and the 10th in the world. This life changing magnificent and historical infrastructure will mutually benefit the 400million Nile basin citizens and the region by producing up to 6000MW electricity. It is going to transform the economic development of Ethiopia, that of the region, the riparian countries including Sudan and Egypt too. Unfortunately Egypt left no stone unturned to sabotage its construction and operation, turn it to be the most politicized development project rather than exploiting the ample opportunity for almost half a billion population.

In actual fact, the dam has passed through twists and turns to reach where it is at this point in time. A lot of sacrifices have been paid to realize the flagship project. The journey was not a low-hanging fruit. Though tripartite talks have been held at various points in time on the basis of international principles and mutual benefits, the predetermined target has not been achieved yet.

It is true that since the onset of the construction of the dam, Ethiopians have been determinedly and proudly contributing their share with a focus on making the dam see the light of day at the earliest possible juncture. In the face of discordances coming from the downstream nations under the veil of the colonial agreements on the water share of the River Nile, Ethiopia managed to turn the historical injustice through the launching of the torchbearer project.

In spite of the fact that Ethiopia around the clock jumped through hoops with the purpose of making the international community conversant with the fact that the dam connects millions of Ethiopians to the power grid without making any significant harm

happen, the downstream nations sustained baffling the worldwide community with fake news stories.

“Since time immemorial Ethiopia feeds Egypt through the main Nile with 86% of her fresh water and thousands of tonnes of fertile soil; but can't feed its children. Not only Ethiopia, but all the other upstream riparian countries have been greedily denied of their fair and equitable share by Egypt and Sudan for centuries. Ethiopia at the forefront, the 9 majority riparian upstream Africans have said “enough is enough”, and are now determined to catch up to use their precious common resource-the Nile River to eradicate the chronic poverty they are indulged in.”

In the present circumstances, the dam has turned out to be a unifying power that plays a huge role in bringing together the people of Ethiopia residing in the length and breadth of the world skies. Notwithstanding the fact that a lot has been said following the laying of the cornerstone for the dam, Ethiopia has been realizing its dreams against all odds and achieving the intended target.

By launching the colossal project, Ethiopia has taken a considerable step forward in challenging the unfair water allocation agreements of the past.

Even though Ethiopia in a number of cases sustained moving heaven and earth to get to the bottom of the problem in a peaceful atmosphere adhering itself to international principles, the downstream nations kept on straying from the path and discouraging the tripartite negotiations.

Some 95 percent of the construction of the Abbay Dam is completed, the coordination office said, urging Ethiopians and foreigners of Ethiopian origin to reinforce their support.

In a press briefing she gave, Abbay Dam National Coordination Office Deputy Director Fikirte Tamir said that the construction of the dam has been executed carefully, responsibly and without interruption. Accordingly, the dam has been transferred from water filling to power generation phase in the last four consecutive years.

She further stated that the government has given top priority to the project, which would be an engine to the industrialization of the country. The successful execution of the dam has also created a great enthusiasm among the community in replicating such noble achievement in political, economic and social arenas.

“Apart from generating power, the project, which is also Ethiopia's policy landmark, is now on the final stage of completion and becoming a means for the society's social cohesion and common legacy.”

During the briefing, it was indicated that the dam managed to amass over 42 billion meter cubic water in the past four consecutive water filling phases.

Through holistic participation and support of Ethiopians and foreigners of Ethiopian origin living at home and abroad, the office has managed to collect over 18.9 billion Birr since the inception of the iconic project, she added.

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

Authority proposes a draft bill combat env't crimes

BY FIKAD BELAY

ADDIS ABABA- In order to address the escalating environmental damage in Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Environmental Protection Authority (EEPA) is making strides towards enacting a comprehensive draft law on environmental crime prevention and litigation.

Mesfin Tadesse, head of the law and standard desk representative at EEPA, told the Ethiopian Press Agency that the draft bill aims to establish a specialized court and enhance the pressing need for stronger regulations to safeguard the environment.

He mentioned the insufficiency of existing rules for protecting the environment and stressed the urgency of elevating environmental protection efforts to the required level.

He stated that the EEPA has meticulously crafted a draft bill that includes provisions for the establishment of a specialized court dedicated to environmental resource conservation.

Drawing inspiration from successful



models implemented in various countries, the proposed legislation aims to address the dearth of a dedicated court system to handle environmental criminals, he added.

He underscored that the bill incorporates specialized strategies tailored to the unique nature of environmental crimes,

taking into account the current state of affairs across the country.

He further stated that the draft law promises to improve information gathering and the environmental administration of justice, while also delineating the roles of courts, police, prosecutors, and judges in preventing environmental crimes within

the community. This holistic approach ensures that all stakeholders are actively involved in preserving the nation's precious natural resources, he said.

The authority's commitment to combating environmental crimes, it has engaged to fruitful discussions with the Ethiopian Police University. As a result, an agreement has been reached to introduce educational courses on environmental criminality, enhancing the knowledge and skills of law enforcement personnel in effectively tackling these offenses, he said.

With the proposed legislation and the collaboration between the EEPA and law enforcement agencies, Ethiopia is poised to take a significant stride forward in preserving its environment and holding environmental crimes accountable, he said.

He remarked that the draft law marks a pivotal moment in the country's commitment to sustainable development and underscores its determination to protect its natural heritage for future generations.

Religious fathers urge faithful to uphold kindness, peace

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – The Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahdo Church and the Ethiopian Islamic Affairs Supreme Council called on the respective adherents to observe the fasting season by exercising empathy and upholding their contribution for peace.

Unique for many countries across the globe, followers of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church and Ethiopian Muslims will fast the first 30 days of Easter fasting and Ramadan simultaneously.

Accordingly, the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahdo Church Holy Trinity Theological University Lecturer Daniel Seifemichal said the faithful should create harmonious relationship not only with God, but also with fellow brothers and sisters.

Daniel told the Ethiopian Press

Agency (EPA) that fasting is not only mean refraining from food and water, but also refraining from wrong doings. "Followers are expected to extend support to people affected by the current situation of the country and uphold their collaboration with different actors in safeguarding their own peace."

"Strengthening the much-cherished Ethiopian culture of sharing bread with the disfavored is essential during the fasting season. Moreover, peace would not be attainable by merely interest and it requires the actual involvement of adherents."

Meanwhile, the Ethiopian Islamic Affairs Supreme Council (EIASC) has called on Muslims to observe the fasting month of Ramadan by supporting the needy and exercising empathy.

In a message he delivered in

connection with the 1445th Ramadan, EIASC President Sheikh Haji Ibrahim Tufa reminded Muslims that the month has a special place in Islam.

"It is the time to strive to connect with Allah and shun materialism. The month is when we exercise patience, control our emotion, and understand hunger that will increase compassion and empathy."

Haji Ibrahim advised the faithful to work and pray for peace and to show kindness and genuine love during the fasting period.

Alongside this, he urged the Muslim community to joint efforts in defending the destructive activities of extremists in mosques and localities.

Remembering victims of the current situation of the country and supporting them is essential, the president emphasized.

Ethiopia's sea...

"Ethiopia mediated Somalia and Somalia and helped them to resolve their differences amicability and our support to Somalia is still great in the peace keeping mission. So, there will be no intention to harm Somalia or any other state from the Ethiopian side."

Ethiopia's Foreign Policy is based on cooperation and the port deal with Somaliland is also with respect to ensuring mutual benefits among the parties involved.

The diplomat further highlighted that several regional and global actors have a growing military presence in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden regions. The United Arab Emirates, for example, has maintained eight military bases in the Horn of Africa (HoA). Similarly, Türkiye, United States, China, Saudi Arabia, and some other countries have also military bases in the region.

"If all these countries have the right to establish military bases in the strategic region, so why Ethiopia stays out?" he emphasized.

Landlocked Ethiopia has been neutral of the Red Sea for the past 30 and plus years and its 95 percent import-export trade is carried out via Djibouti ports. Now, it becomes clear that Ethiopia could not stay long in the same condition as its economic and population growth surge.

The diplomacy world is driven by the countries' efforts to preserve national interests and nothing unique or Ethiopia. But, the country will never play in the cost of its neighbors and it has a longstanding tradition of negotiating over disputable issues.

Ethiopia's all-inclusive diplomatic approach is gaining acceptance amid the dynamism in the global diplomacy. The inclusive foreign policy prioritizes economic diplomacy and as the economic integration among HoA countries grows, Ethiopia will have more acceptances, Mohammed remarked.

Ethiopia set to export...

(EEP) said, expressing plans to reach South Africa in five years.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), EEP Corporate Communications Director Moges Mekonnen said that the country's power export volume has been registering a significant improvement through time.

Moges further remarked that EEP has been carrying out the necessary preparations to supply electric power to Tanzania soon. Likewise, there are also plans to export power to South Africa in the coming five years.

Up on the completion of the construction of Abbay Dam [that reached 95%] and other power units, the country's power export volume will be increased while the local power supply gets improved simultaneously, he underscored.

As to him, some 90% of the total mass production from the national grid is used for local consumption while the balance is exported to various countries.

Moreover, he emphasized that the export income curbs shortage of foreign currency thereby creating the opportunity to expand infrastructures and import electric inputs.

He said: "Earlier to exporting to Kenya, the nation had managed to secure 95 million USD and joining the latter we generated the amount exceeding 100 million USD."

Effectuating the contract with Kenya last December, Moges expressed that Ethiopia is exporting about 65 megawatt power constantly on peak-hour and 200 megawatt at normal time variability for the next three years with the possibilities of extending the amount to 400 megawatt.

Ethiopia exports 10% of its total electric power to neighboring countries such as Sudan, Djibouti, and Kenya.

Opinion

Inclusive National Dialog for lasting peace and serenity

BY MENGESHA AMARE

As its name bespeaks, national dialog has been used and is being employed as an instrument to resolve political crises and prettily pave the path for meaningful political transition and lasting peace. Cognizant of the fact that peace and stability can be brought about following close talks, amicable dialog and round table discussion, Ethiopia has several times capitalized on such a locally made and long entrenched means to deal with its problems unknowingly or calculatingly heaped for years and have caused a number of mishaps.

Truly speaking, no one can come to Ethiopia and act accordingly to ensure peace and security in the county except Ethiopians themselves at home and abroad. Taking the significance of heartily dialog and genuine conversation centering major national issues into account, Ethiopians have themselves devised possible solutions to the problems by their own right as the peace effort forwarded by external forces could never be everlasting and perpetual one. The country set up a National Dialog Commission for a similar end. Yes, the need for inclusive dialogue is beyond politics, economic supremacy and even peace itself as all the latter can definitely be born to the former.

To this end, the National Dialog Commission has been practically running a range of activities. The future of conflict resolution in Ethiopia has to be quite fruitful via addressing the continuing pattern of internal conflicts. It has also sought to demonstrate that, for legal, material, and political reasons, commission's achievement has to be strong in dealing with such cases, and might continue to be so.

The Ethiopian scenario these days has to end somewhere without causing too much damage and claiming a number of lives putting the effort of the commission into practice. It should be a well-respected entity and shall be encouraged to act actively so. The commission has to come up with a promising experience with the presence of a watchdog or equilibrium, which would be instrumental in reducing controversial aspects.

Hence, the commission would be a platform to discuss issues, an organizer of the answer to crises, a legitimate intervention, and a watchdog ensuring the respect of the mandate upon the nation. This means that the necessity to go further than the limit to preventive diplomacy or small peacekeeping or observer forces.

The commission has indeed opened avenue for fostering reconcile between/among citizens as there are disagreements here and there. National dialogue and Peace talks are key takeaways from our latest approach fostered by the commission. True, the commission is generally conceived as a formally mandated multi-stakeholder negotiation in which large segments of

society and politics are represented, intended to address a broad range of societal, political, and economic issues concerning the entire country.

A range of factors determine the exact nature of the commission foremost among them is for what purpose is it set beyond the aforesaid concern. The commission's mandates can prettily promote the political reform, constitution-making, and peacemaking. Besides, the commission accommodates views of different stakeholders, varied interests and distinct views of potential gains and the ways in which they look to use dialogue and close talks.

No doubt, the commission can also be an instrument of power in other ways: in certain contexts, the participation of civil society actors has paved the way for their subsequent assumption of a formal political role.

Obviously, national dialog should thus be inclusive in essence but not always inclusive in reality. This is often a mixture of inclusion on the one hand facilitated by elements such as inclusive selection and decision-making criteria, but also patterns of exclusion commonly due to comprehensive resistance.

National Dialogues and peace talks can positively reinforce each other, sometimes both phenomena can occur at different moments within a given peace or political transition process.

Peace talks which have been ongoing in parallel to the national dialog produced have to incorporate ideas of opposition parties, who had been previously reticent, joined the commission. This increased level of political and civil society participation helped to sustain the national dialogue despite the collapse of the parallel peace talks. In principle, the space for discussion and close peace talks has to be made rife and every citizen needs to forward their views circulating in their mind as a cumulative effect of the varied standpoints helps pass sound decision. Even it would ultimately help meaningfully convince and address the causes of armed conflict, too.

The national dialog has now been carrying out remarkable activities and has conducted a range of dialogues with a number of representatives of the society here and there. The discussions have toughed up on experiences, aspirations, and influence to bear in these spaces, the greater the likelihood that these spaces and the overall processes will give rise to more inclusive outcomes that can sustainably resolve disagreements, rivalries and conflict with a view to paving the way for more peaceful, just, and inclusive societies.

Besides, different forums can also play complementary roles taking important lessons from countries implementing national dialog as properly and legitimately as possible. The discussions in the peer exchange echoed a clear message from

previous public discussions. In reality, a national dialogue has to be conclusive and inclusive as much as possible by allowing almost every citizen to participate in the decisive national agenda.

Yes, this is because national dialogue and peace talks are just two of the distinct moments and spaces within the ecosystem of forums and both formal and informal approached to which peace processes and political transitions are born.

Needless to state, Ethiopia does have the opportunity to come to the right track in fostering peace, security, concord and harmonious way of living across the nation. Hence, the role National Dialogues can play in helping the country take the way towards consensus in though tough social, economic and political environments are facing the nation.

The community has indeed helped the entire community members to create a vision of the future and the kind of community they would like to live in the years to come. The goal of such an exercise should be to assist the nation agree on a shared vision. It is then possible to work with a range of entities to develop obligations and responsibilities for making that shared vision a reality.

The mechanisms of the commission are indeed of paramount importance in promoting peace and serenity in the country.

This process has been proven to lay a strong foundation for sustainable peace and recovery and to create conducive environment for locally-owned justice and accountability, which ultimately contributes to the stability of the nation as a whole and would immensely help it bring about real change in all aspects thereby defeating poverty within the shortest time possible.

It is well recognized that Ethiopia faces enormous and urgent reconciliation and peace building needs and requirements. Coupled with the national dialogue process, peace agreement, close talks, round table discussion is unwavering milestone, indeed, to enable the country to come up with remarkable social, economic and even political spheres.

Albeit escalated conflict patterns, deep divisions, and unfettered ethnic-based attacks and violence, there was a lack of a sufficient and coherent strategy, with foresight and early action to prevent a full-blown violent conflict, through dialogue and political settlement.

Following the Proclamation No. 1265/2021, the National Dialogue Commission was set up and mandated to identify fundamental national issues; lead an inclusive and transparent dialogue process; improve the relationship among different segments of the society; support the implementation of the recommendation of the dialogue outcomes; develop a political culture that can solve internal problems and lay a firm foundation

for national consensus.

For some, the national dialogue is seen as a platform to discuss power-sharing arrangements, for others, it is perceived as an all-inclusive process to discuss contending national issues or an elite bargaining space to negotiate the vision for Ethiopia. As such, the national dialogue remains a widely open-for-interpretation matter where the expectations on the list of agenda and how it can deliver consensus-based new social contract remain unclear.

The commitment from political elite is a key factor to making or breaking all peacemaking efforts including the national dialogue. Considering the rapidly evolving context and the unstructured nature of elite bargains, the national dialogue commission must also adopt agile and flexible working arrangements, where they build on the outcomes of high-level political settlements, to inform parallel dialogue processes at various levels.

It is imperative that building credibility and ensuring that the steps taken to create dialogue spaces are genuine and inclusive along with the systematic move to change the public discourse. The inclusion of actors who are disgruntled and marginalized, would essentially improve the peace building landscape, through further elite bargains and/or other informal processes to forge the needed coherence, longevity, and success of the implementation of the existing/future peace processes.

Making substantive moves by maintaining accord pressure to coax parties, be they are locally moving elements, who are residing abroad and even warring in some localities have to come to the track to make the dialogue fruitful. The success of the dialogue, nationally held one of course, would help increase humanitarian assistance, provide technical support in operational areas, and help broaden/deepen the peace effort through inclusive engagement as such a viable step is one of the vital ingredients by the use of consolidating the pragmatic momentum. Keeping the milestones in check will not only help increase the credibility of the process, but also ensure the documentation of the progress and hold parties to account.

Generally, the commission Ethiopia set some years back has to work hard, in fact in close collaboration with a number of partners, to have a peaceful, stable, and well-to-do and great nation. It is really high time for Ethiopia to recalibrate its resources and capacities to capitalize on recent gains through a coherent peacemaking strategy that promotes non-violent methods.

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

Business & Economy

Entrepreneurship: Viable weapon for job creation, economic advancement

BY MENGESHA AMARE

It is well comprehended that maximizing and capitalizing on micro, small and medium enterprises is essential for Ethiopia in particular and for Sub-Saharan Africa in general as all the factors relating to economic growth help make change. For inventors and innovators, who sometimes come from established firms, setting up their own business often appears to be the only way to commercialize ideas.

Entrepreneurship is a key driver of economic growth and development. It leads to an increase in gross national product and per capita income by creating new businesses and jobs. This is particularly important for developing countries like ours, where poverty and unemployment are the major concerns to be well dealt with.

Cognizant of this fact, *The Ethiopian Herald* had a stay with Sifen Balcha, who graduated from Addis Ababa University in Marketing Management, working as an entrepreneur consultant as well as at present engaged in entrepreneurial orb.

She said, "Without a shadow of doubt, the role of entrepreneurship in economic development is substantial. After all, entrepreneurs don't just build businesses and grow their personal wealth; they also impact the economy by creating new jobs and opportunities, driving innovation, and developing new markets, products, and services. The importance of Entrepreneurship for real change is now well comprehended in Ethiopia."

As to Sifen, entrepreneurship drives the growth and diversification of the economy and is of paramount importance in driving economic growth, creating new job, encouraging innovation by bringing new ideas, products, and services to the market, contributing to social change by developing products or services that reduce people's dependence on outdated technologies, addressing social and economic problems by creating solutions that meet the needs of society as well as enabling competition which improves business efficiency and lowers prices for consumers.

Besides, she added the role of entrepreneurship in economic development has different salient takeaways like it has helped raise standard of living. This means that a significant role of entrepreneurship in economic development is that it can greatly enhance the standard of living for individuals and communities by setting up industries and creating wealth and new positions.

"Not only does the move provide large-scale employment and ways to generate income, it also has the potential to improve the quality of individual life by developing products and services that are affordable, safe to use, and add value to their lives," she opined.



Besides, entrepreneurship reduces the nation's dependence on imported goods and services and promotes self-reliance. The manufactured goods and services can also be exported to foreign markets, leading to expansion, self-reliance, currency inflow, and economic independence.

According to Sifen, entrepreneurs identify market needs and develop solutions through their products and services to begin their business venture. By starting new firms and businesses, they play a key role in shaping the economy and creating a more dynamic and diverse business landscape.

As to her, entrepreneurship also promotes innovation and competition, leading to new and improved products and services that contribute to economic growth and development. It also helps operators and other beneficiaries boost capital formation and foster the process of accumulating resources, such as savings and investments, to fund new business ventures and support economic growth.

Truly speaking she said the ultimate goal of entrepreneur is to lift people out of poverty by generating employment and stimulating economic activity. Entrepreneurship also contributes to the development of local economies and helps improve the overall standard of living. Equally, operators work can help build stronger, more vibrant communities and promote social and economic development.

Entrepreneurship can also help identify market opportunities and allocate resources in the most effective way possible. It also plays a key role in developing innovative products and services that meet the needs of customers while optimizing the use of available resources, she added.

At the end of the day, entrepreneurship contributes a lot to national economic growth as it can play a significant role in increasing economic growth and prosperity by increasing Gross National Product (GNP) and Per Capita Income, as to Sifen.

Yes, entrepreneurs often create new technologies, introduce new products or process innovations, and open up new markets. By establishing new businesses, they intensify competition for existing businesses; stimulate employment growth by generating new jobs when they enter

the market. There is a direct employment effect from new businesses that arises from the new jobs being created, she noted.

According to Sifen, entrepreneurship is considered crucial to a dynamic economy, and entrepreneurs create employment opportunities not only for themselves but for others as well. Entrepreneurial activities may influence a country's economic performance by bringing new products, methods, and production processes to the market and by boosting productivity and competition more broadly.

Sifen said, "Realizing the fact that these advantages require institutions that contribute to an environment that is friendly to entrepreneurs, the government policies and strategies have to be appealing and doable in terms of shaping country's innovativeness. Protecting material property rights ensures that any wealth creation stays with the entrepreneur, while protecting intellectual property rights fosters entrepreneurship and innovation. The nation needs to capitalize on these aspects, too."

Entrepreneurship, with its focus on opportunities, is often seen as one of the cornerstones of poverty alleviation in developing nations like Ethiopia. One of the key objectives of modern economics is to determine factors that influence the economic development. In fact, entrepreneurship is the engine of economic growth and it has come to be perceived as a catalytic agent for expansion and promotion of productive activities in every sphere of economic life, indeed! Entrepreneurship is generally described as the ability of an individual or a group of individuals to create or discover an opportunity and utilizes it to the benefit of the society, which, in turn, will bring success to the innovators and their organization thereby coming up with economically strong nation, she underlined.

Here, she said both the economists and policy makers recognize the role of entrepreneurship on the economy of a country. In fact, entrepreneurship has been considered as the engine of economic growth and it has come to be perceived as a change engine for expansion and promotion of productive activities and economic advancement.

Playing a crucial role in increasing the

competition of emerging sectors, new small businesses are critical to economic growth and innovative capacity in Ethiopia. Job creation, economic growth and poverty reduction are usually the main political interests in entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship is therefore, a driving force within the economy, particularly due to entrepreneurs' innovative nature, Sifen underscored.

Moreover, she added the fact about entrepreneurship and what it can do to bolster Ethiopian economy remain inevitable; that is why entrepreneurship is identified as an important driver of employment creation. It boosts economic growth by introducing innovative technologies, products, and services. It also provides new job opportunities in the short and long term. Such a bold move helps the nation record remarkable development towards economic progress leading to poverty reduction; stimulate employment as well as fast-tracking poverty reduction across the nation.

"Of course, innovation, entrepreneurship curriculum training and education, individual entrepreneurial characteristics, the participation of micro, small and medium enterprises, youth empowerment, the collaboration of government-university-industry are the key tool for entrepreneurship development which is stimulating employment are eventually alleviating poverty," Sifen accentuated.

Policy makers must identify the priorities in which resources should be invested in order to stimulate growth. Necessity-driven entrepreneurship and informal entrepreneurship are unproductive, indeed. Entrepreneurship can also fuel economic growth under the right conditions and when people become entrepreneurs for the right reasons. It is not, however, a magic bullet for growth, particularly in less-developed economies such as Ethiopia. Social entrepreneurship can attempt to deliver both profits and societal good though it is often accompanied with mixed results.

In a nut shell, entrepreneurship is the process of creating or starting a new business venture in order to make a profit by identifying a need in the market and fulfilling it and contributing a lot to national economic progress at the end of the day. This can include developing new products or services, finding new ways to produce or deliver existing ones, or creating new business models. The relationship between entrepreneurship and economic development is thus complex, but it is generally agreed that entrepreneurship plays a crucial role in driving economic growth, development and prosperity. It has also helped citizens create new businesses and jobs, generate innovation, and stimulate competition, all of which contribute to a more productive and efficient national economy.

Planet Earth

Authority's tireless efforts to combat environmental hazards

BY FIKADU BELAY

The Ethiopian mountains offer numerous environmental benefits to the surrounding city and regional towns. From conservation efforts that preserve biodiversity to the positive impact on air quality and the creation of natural wind barriers, these mountains play a crucial role in maintaining the ecological balance and enhancing the overall quality of life in Ethiopia.

In Ethiopia, the mountains are home to diverse ecosystems and endemic species. Conservation efforts aimed at protecting these mountains help safeguard the unique flora and fauna found in the region. City and regional towns benefit from the presence of these protected areas as they attract nature enthusiasts and researchers interested in studying and observing the rich biodiversity. The conservation of these habitats contributes to the ecological health of the surrounding areas, maintaining a balance in the local ecosystems.

The Ethiopian mountains serve as natural air purifiers, playing a vital role in improving air quality. The dense vegetation in these mountains helps filter pollutants from the air, reducing the impact of air pollution on nearby cities and towns. As prevailing winds carry air masses across the mountains, particulate matter and pollutants are trapped, leading to cleaner air in the surrounding areas.

It provides invaluable environmental benefits to the city and regional towns in a country. Through conservation efforts, they preserve biodiversity and protect unique ecosystems. These mountains contribute to improved air quality and reduce the impact of air pollution on nearby communities. Additionally, their role as a natural wind guardian shields the surrounding areas from strong winds, ensuring the safety of human settlements. Also, this natural wind protection helps prevent damage to infrastructure and agricultural lands, ensuring the safety and well-being of the local population.

Moreover, the scenic landscapes and picturesque valleys contribute to the tourism industry in these areas. The revenue generated from tourism helps support local businesses, infrastructure development, and community projects, creating a sustainable source of income for the region. Overall, the Ethiopian mountains serve as vital environmental assets, enhancing the quality of life for those living in the city and regional towns.

Currently, in Ethiopia, due to the rise of population and urbanization, mountains offer abundant natural resources that serve as essential building materials for construction projects. The mountains are rich in resources such as stone, sand, gravel, and timber. These materials are extracted from the mountains and used for various construction purposes, including building foundations, walls, roads, bridges, and other infrastructure projects. The availability of these resources locally reduces construction costs and supports

the development of robust and sustainable infrastructure.

Director, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Directorate at EEPA, Tolosa Yadessa, told the Ethiopian Press Agency that despite the fact that mountains are a source of construction and other infrastructure, they are vulnerable to deforestation and land degradation in the Ethiopian mountains.

He also stated that the need for raw materials impacts biodiversity, ecosystem services, and the overall health of the mountains. Also, unsustainable agricultural practices, such as overgrazing and uncontrolled farming, degrade the mountains' ecosystems and contribute to soil erosion.

In this sense, issues with restoration are seen when mountains are mined because of the desire for sources of different building materials. Also, the authority would carry out a study in collaboration with several stakeholders when projects aim to extract building materials from mountains.

He stated that he would oversee and take charge of the restoration of mountains that had been dug out for buildings, roads, bridges, and other industrial purposes.

He further stated that mountains, beyond their importance, play a crucial role in mitigating natural disasters such as landslides and floods. The mountains act as natural barriers, protecting cities and regional towns from the destructive forces of these events. Also, this natural protection allows for safer urban planning and development, reducing the risks associated with natural disasters and ensuring the long-term sustainability of infrastructure projects, he added.

So, to address these challenges, the government promotes sustainable agricultural practices, including terracing, crop rotation, and agroforestry, to prevent soil erosion and maintain soil fertility. Provide training and support to farmers, encouraging them to adopt sustainable land-use practices. Implement land-use planning strategies that consider the ecological carrying capacity of the mountains, he added.

To address the issues of environmental damage in Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Environmental Protection Authority (EEPA) is making strides towards enacting a comprehensive draft law on environmental crime prevention and litigation. Mesfin Tadesse, who spoke on behalf of the Head of Law and Regulations Desk at EEPA, emphasized the pressing need for stronger regulations to safeguard the environment.

He told The Ethiopian Press Agency, that the insufficiency of existing rules in protecting the environment and stressed the urgency of elevating environmental protection efforts to the required level. In this sense, the EEPA has meticulously crafted a draft bill that includes provisions for the establishment of a specialist court dedicated to environmental resource conservation.



Tolosa Yadessa



Mesfin Tadesse

This natural protection allows for safer urban planning and development, reducing the risks associated with natural disasters and ensuring the long-term sustainability of infrastructure projects

in preventing environmental crimes within the community. This holistic approach ensures that all stakeholders are actively involved in preserving the nation's precious natural resources, he added.

Tolesa remarked that we should enhance capacity-building programs to empower local communities, equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge for sustainable resource management, and foster collaboration between government agencies, NGOs, local communities, and the private sector to develop comprehensive strategies for conservation and sustainable development.

Conduct awareness campaigns to educate local communities about the importance of conservation, the value of natural resources, and the benefits of sustainable practices. by uses various channels, such as workshops, community meetings, radio programs, and social media, to disseminate information effectively, he said.

Mesfin stated that in his part to provide environmental education in schools, incorporating conservation topics into the curriculum. He further stated that, in a further display of commitment to combating environmental crimes, the EEPA has engaged in fruitful discussions with the Ethiopian Police University. As a result, an agreement has been reached to introduce educational courses on environmental criminality, enhancing the knowledge and skills of law enforcement personnel in effectively tackling these offenses.

This helps instill a sense of environmental stewardship from an early age and empowers the younger generation to actively participate in conservation efforts. Also, encourage a sense of ownership and empowerment by involving local communities in decision-making processes related to conservation initiatives.

With the proposed legislation and the collaboration between the EEPA and law enforcement agencies, Ethiopia is poised to take a significant stride forward in preserving its environment and holding criminals of environmental crimes accountable. The draft law marks a pivotal moment in the country's commitment to sustainable development and underscores its determination to protect its natural heritage for future generations.

He stated that, drawing inspiration from successful models implemented in various countries, the proposed bill aims to address the dearth of a dedicated court system to handle environmental criminals. He emphasized that the bill incorporates specialized strategies tailored to the unique nature of environmental crimes, taking into account the current state of affairs across the country.

He further stated that the draft bill aims to improve information gathering and improve the environmental administration of justice, while also delineating the roles of courts, police, prosecutors, and judges

Art & Culture

Getachew Kassa, the unsung versatile musician

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

Many people remember or know Artist Getachew Kassa for his classic song called 'Tizita' or 'memories' but they do not know how many 'historic' songs he has played and composed, and how many musical instruments he played. Many others believe that Getachew Kassa is only a vocalist. However, they would be surprised if they knew that he was an accomplished musical instrument player such as drum, the piano and flute and was also an able composer of melodies and their lyrics. For fifty years he has remained and thrived in the very difficult musical world not only in Ethiopia but also in the USA where he lived for twenty-eight years in two spells, the first one for about six years and the rest in another spell. He was very much welcome in the US and people wanted him to play his music in many areas for the numerous Ethiopian community residing in the US. He always said that his life is dedicated to music because he adored it. He then returned back home to continue presenting his beloved songs to his faithful fans and admirers who longed for his physical presence.

Artist Getachew has always been wanted and cherished by many owners of night clubs, hotels and recreation venues because his peculiar vocal qualities have always been demanded and admired by his audience. In fact he has played in multiple hotels and night clubs including Hilton Addis, for years. He was also often flooded by the gifts of admirers when he was performing on the platform.

Many people argue that Getachew Kassa has been one of the most brilliant expressions of modern Ethiopian music of the last half a century writing his own chapter in the Ethiopian musical book well reputed for his characteristically powerful voice. His contemporaries are the glorious artists such as Tilahun Gessesse, Menelik Wessinachew, Alemayehu Eshete, Mahmoud Ahmed, Ali Bira, Hiruth Bekele, Bezunesh Bekele, Asnakech Worku just to name a few, all of whom have left their brilliant legacy on the Ethiopian musical scene.

Getachew was an Addis Ababa born and resident artist who however had a spell of performances for years in the East of Ethiopia around Dire Dawa. In fact he has sung one of the most celebrated songs on the city of Addis Ababa, a track which is still very popular even if scores of songs have been since written and sung on the Ethiopian capital.

Getachew's father's real name is not Kassa but Tsegaye. But because his father did not want his name to be associated with a singer or 'azmari' as the profession was called in derogatory terms then, Getachew had to adopt another name, the father's



Getachew Kassa has been one of the most brilliant expressions of modern Ethiopian music of the last half a century writing his own chapter in the Ethiopian musical book well reputed for his characteristically powerful voice

name of his girlfriend. It was the old days when families, particularly those who were considered well off did not want to have their children join the profession of musician as it was not considered a noble job.

Getachew Kassa was known for his fervid nationalist feeling and he has a famous song which is considered as an alternative national anthem called 'Don't Touch My Motherland' or don't tamper with my country, 'Aghereen Atinkuat! He sings in praise of his native land, and this song has been attached to the emotions of Ethiopians who are very much in love of their motherland. It is a sort of

a 'warning' for all those who try to attack Ethiopia or encroach on its sovereignty in any way. It is a song that is always played on the media especially when there are national celebrations or when military campaigns are declared.

Among the lyrics of this song there is reference to the past heroes and patriots who have sacrificed their lives for Ethiopia. He singles out two historical battles, the Battle of Adwa and that of Maichew where Ethiopian troops fought with maximum fervour and commitment for the sovereignty of the motherland. Getachew sings, 'do not touch my country for which thousands have sacrificed their precious lives' and we cannot tolerate that happening under our watch. Implicitly he seems to warn of negative consequences against whoever tries to tamper with his motherland. It is a song that appeals to the emotions of citizens and incites everyone to stand up and fight back resisting any threats of aggression on Ethiopia.

Getachew Kassa was first introduced to his audience with a song called 'I wish' or Emegnalehu. It is a song that talks about his wishes and desires and about the struggles of every day life in which he tries to make ends meet. It is a fast paced melody that invites the audience to dance. As soon as the song was released it attracted the attention and favour of the fans and Getachew became very famous.

Getachew Kassa may not have produced as many songs as his contemporaries who lived a long life in the musical world as him did. But the songs he played have resulted to be liked across the generations and his voice was so unique compared to many others because it was such a loud tenor-type voice. Even when he speaks his voice is very attractive and conquers the attention of his audience easily. Getachew Kassa was also a witty person who liked to crack jokes while speaking in conversations during interviews.

Many people say that Getachew Kassa has not been publicized and celebrated among the current generation of musical fans as he would deserve. Only the older generation of audience know him very well and admire his works which however are so classic and of very good quality that they are liked by many youths of the current generation as well.

The songs such as 'Tizita' or 'memories' have had a huge success even among non Ethiopian international audience and were contained in a collection of African tunes gathered by the great Bob Dylan. Francis Falcetto, another fan of Ethiopian songs, has included the classic songs of Getachew Kassa in his selected pieces on discs along with the likes of Tilahun Gessesse, Bezunesh Bekele, Mahmoud Ahmed, Alemayehu Eshete and others. The characteristic songs of Getachew Kassa are difficult not to be admired. His vibrant voice is so special that it transmits emotions. He was indeed a wonderful, unparalleled vocalist, a good musical instrument player and author of many melodies and lyrics. Hence he was an all round accomplished artist that we will certainly miss.

When Getachew Kassa passed away a few weeks ago at the age of seventy-seven, he was accorded an emotional farewell ceremony at the Ethiopian National Theatre in the presence of high ranking government officials, his family, his fans and admirers as well as his colleagues who knew him very well. His artistic life and works were remembered and celebrated with a deserved tribute and appreciation before he was laid to rest at the majestic basilica of St Trinity Cathedral at Arat Kilo. Getachew Kassa will live in us with his wonderful songs.

Society

Empowering young generation through STEM

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

The world has recognized the importance of nurturing scientific curiosity in children. Developed nations credit their success to a strong foundation in education, particularly in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields. A skilled workforce equipped with STEM knowledge has greater potential for innovation, job creation, which are crucial to ensure sustainable development.

Understanding the numerous benefits of STEM, Sub-Saharan African countries, Ethiopia in particular, are prioritizing the expansion of STEM education and strengthening the program because the fields of science and technology are cornerstone for national development.

In view of this, *The Ethiopian Herald* approached Ministry of Education Community Engagement and Indigenous Knowledge Desk Head Selam Alemu to learn the progress made so far in empowering students in STEM education as well as the works ongoing in collaboration to achieve success.

According to her, the Ministry is working with higher education institutions in their respective school catchment areas to offer community services to provide quality STEM education.

As of now, 40 STEM centers with the state of the art laboratory equipment from the catchment areas were selected through set standards. Each center is providing STEM training for free for students from 7-12 graders and eligible into the Ministry's context.

Ethiopia is working on strengthening the STEM program in all ladders of education level because it lets students get hands-on training making them entrepreneurs and promoting students creativity and building up innovation capacity.

It is clear that the nation has put in place seventy-thirty ration in intake of higher education, seventy for natural science and thirty for social sciences. "These set quotas could not work because we simply wrote or talked about them. We should come up with a practicable working approach that could just support students and empower them to join hard science enthusiastically. As to her, Now STEM is budgeted and has got structure under the community service of universities.

Ethiopia is also striving to empower girls by joining hands with various stakeholders and strengthening STEM education. For instance, universities have special programs such as "Girls can Code" which only female students participate in and a platform that awards only girls who have scored higher



Selam Alemu, Community Engagement and Indigenous Knowledge Desk Head with the Ministry of Education

marks. What is more, universities have selection criteria that consider girls, Selam added.

STEM Synergy Ethiopia Country Director Aseggedech Shawl for her part said that STEM Synergy has been implementing various STEM education programs using different platforms such as by establishing STEM centers in different areas of the country engaging in summer outreach programs, participate in local and national science fairs, as well as holding robotics and coding programs for youths.

These STEM education programs planned to be implemented throughout the country are believed to bring about significant impact towards mainstreaming STEM programs in the education system of Ethiopia. Its versatile positive impact was reflected in the findings of "The Impact Assessment" done in 2021 for five years of the organization's journey. It is also confirmed by the students' academic achievement that is the result of grade 12 students who sat for National Secondary School leaving Exam for two consecutive years 2022 and 2023. As to her, almost 100 percent of the students who passed the exam were those who had access to learn in the STEM Centers, she said referring to Bahir Dar University STEM Center, Kotebe University Science Shared Campus/STEM Center, Wolaita Sodo University STEM Center.

On the other hand, widening its strategy, STEM Synergy also engaged in providing STEM-focused short term capacity development training to STEM subject primary and secondary school teachers and Leaders; graduating class university students; different levels of Coding and Robotics training for youth. All these have a significant impact on producing a competent citizen.

She further noted that STEM Synergy is one of the prominent institutions established with the aim of nurturing science in a child with the target to inspire children to the area and develop



Bitaniya Mekuanint student at Dalcha Secondary School

Ethiopia is working on strengthening the STEM program in all ladders of education level because it lets students get hands-on training making them entrepreneurs and promoting students creativity and building up innovation capacity



Aseggedech Shawl, STEM Synergy Ethiopia Country Director

a qualified human resource to the economy.

As part of this effort, STEM Synergy is working to strengthen and expand STEM education in Ethiopia and till now the organization has established 22 STEM Centers (with 71 laboratories) that has been serving as a platform for executing a number of STEM activities aimed at nurturing STEM Education and building the future scientists, technologists and engineers by inculcating hands-on trainings in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, AI, Robotics and related fields.

Bitaniya Mekuanint, a student from Dalcha Secondary School also shared her experience with the Girls Camp Program, a collaboration program carried out between Debre Tabor University and STEM Synergy.

The program has provided practical learning opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and English.

Bitaniya emphasized the high demand for qualified personnel in STEM fields and the crucial role of the programs in bridging the gap. She acknowledges the program's transformative effect on her understanding regarding science and her newfound confidence in applying STEM skills to solve problems.

Empowering girls should be strengthened further because there are a number of girls who have the potential; but lost the opportunity in the hinterlands.

Aseggedech finally said that it is worth mentioning that cultural transformation which enhances children to explore more on science and technology fields must be appreciated as it supports children to have a good background in these areas. Therefore, strengthening and expanding STEM education in Ethiopia is very important. This invariably follows a cohesive learning paradigm based on the real-world.

Law & Politics

Karamara, another Adwa

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

It was on March 6, 1978 that Ethiopian forces inflicted a huge defeat on the arrogant Somali invading forces that came in to Ethiopian sovereign territory led by their president Siad Barre. Ethiopia was then in a state of dynamic change with various forces struggling against the ruling Derg government. Opposition forces were trying to destabilize the country and depose the military government by force. There were rebels in the north of the country with Eritrean guerrilla forces trying to drive away Ethiopian forces from the control of the regional state. At the same time there were Tigray rebels who in collaboration with their comrades in arms were creating a lot of tension in the northern region. Moreover, the Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Party, EPRP, was the other front active with the dissident student movement, recruiting in its ranks as many students and youths as possible both from the university campuses as well as from high schools. There was a lot of propaganda going on in the country on the part of EPRP manifestos distributed in leaflets inciting against the military government accusing it of being oppressive and fascist with an authoritarian stance on any number of social issues the opposition were raising. The students were convinced that their struggle was hijacked by the military and wanted to depose it using what ever means was available to them. In fact it was a well organized body in secret cells everywhere having recruited able students where discussion groups were formed secretly and meetings were held to articulate their opposition and ideological underpinnings against the military machinery while the government was engaged in multiple fronts and hence overstretched. There were also other nationalistic ethnic based movements trying to assert their interests against the military establishment.

That was why the Somali forces tried to take the opportunity to invade Ethiopian territory and capture as much as they could alleging that every inch of land in which there were native Somalis and their camels was Somali sovereign land. The design of the Greater Somalia Republic was the dream of the Somali president Mohammed Siad Barre and they had it sealed on their flag with a star of five angles depicting the five parts of the Greater Somalia that included territories from Ethiopia in the Ogaden, Kenya called the Northern Frontier District and Djibouti as well as the northern part of Somalia referred to as Somaliland and the southern part where the capital Mogadishu is situated. It was a sort of pan Somali movement to form a state with all ethnic Somalis under one big state.

Somalia then was under the influence of the USSR, Union of Soviet Socialist Republic, and according to their bilateral agreements the 'socialist' government

of Mogadishu was in the so called camp of the USSR and the Eastern European socialist group. President Mohammed Siad Barre was heard openly professing 'scientific socialism' as the ideological base of his government and this enabled him to have massive military assistance and training by the USSR. It was armed to the teeth and when it observed that the Ethiopian military government was very much busy and engaged in multiple fronts struggling against opposition forces Siad Barre wanted to seize the 'ideal' occasion to invade Ethiopian territory in the east by arming a faction of Somali people in Ethiopia organized under the name of Western Somali Liberation Front. It was a surprise for Ethiopia because it did not anticipate such a move from its close neighbour and as there was a large contingent of Ethiopian forces deployed

Ethiopia's sovereignty was never put under doubt and Ethiopians showed once again their unity and resilience in front of enemy forces that dared invade Ethiopian sovereign land

in multiple fronts in the north to foil the rebellion of guerrilla forces, Somalia got the occasion to attack and seize some Ethiopian sovereign land. The news of their advances was propagated throughout the world and all headlines were about the 'liberation' of Somali territory from the 'expansionist' Ethiopian forces. The USSR however did not approve of the invasion because Ethiopia as well was considered a precious ally in the socialist camp and it was unimaginable for a socialist country to invade another socialist country. Siad Barre did not listen to their advice and eventually Somalia and the USSR parted ways.

However, the 'victories' of Somalis were short lived because Ethiopia began to mobilize fresh forces in defence of the motherland. President Mengistu Haile Mariam made an urgent appeal for the defense of the country. The Somali forces were boasting for successive advances in Ethiopian land expanding their forces but the reaction of Ethiopian forces was not to delay. In a few months new recruits joined the regular armed forces and took fast training and then got deployed to the front. Some 300,000 troops were ready and there was air and ground counter offensive of Ethiopia encircling the enemy forces. Soon things were to change in favour of Ethiopia.

It was at Karamara that the decisive battle took place where an all rounded victory was registered. It was March 6, 1978. The Somali forces began to retreat in disarray. Thousands were captured, others were killed and Ethiopia declared victory and its sovereign land was reconquered. Karamara was to be labeled as another Adwa. Ethiopians once again demonstrated to the world their resilience against invaders and that there was no manner of tampering with Ethiopian sovereignty even under prohibitive circumstances.

In the case of Adwa, Ethiopia was in difficult situation with the crops harvest not in sufficient quantity. There was hardship everywhere and Ethiopia was exposed to dangers. A long campaign such as the one carried out at Adwa needed lots of resources in terms of human deployment, food provisions for the thousands of troops to take part in the defence of the country. There was need of traveling long distances on foot and animals were also necessary to carry provisions and all the things that were required for the campaign. And yet despite the severe hardship, Ethiopians managed to stand together and inflicted a massive defeat on the better armed and trained invaders.

It was stated that at Karamara the exploit of Adwa was repeated years later. The end result is the same. Ethiopia's sovereignty was never put under doubt and Ethiopians showed once again their unity and resilience in front of enemy forces that dared invade Ethiopian sovereign land. Somalis were driven out of Ethiopian land

in disarray and humiliation and the dream of occupying Ethiopia's land turned out to be a nightmare. Once again Ethiopia reasserted its sovereignty and once again the news of Ethiopian victory filled the air of international media. One thing has certainly been confirmed that Ethiopians never back down and surrender when they are attacked or invaded and Karamara was another glorious chapter in the history of modern day Ethiopia.

As we observe the victory at Karamara, we give credit to all the martyrs of this huge campaign who restored Ethiopia's sovereignty and dignity with their immense sacrifice. The current generation has a lot to learn from such historical events as Adwa and Karamara. Even in a distance of decades the spirit of Ethiopians is the same and whoever invades Ethiopia needs to know that registering a permanent defeat against Ethiopian forces is impossible. There could be a misleading impression of temporary defeat on the part of Ethiopia but it can't last long. Ethiopians mobilize, rearm, reorganize and conduct a huge campaign of counteroffensive resulting in shining victory. Ethiopians never accept defeat; they prefer to die in dignity and pride. That is what its history tells us.

Today Ethiopia may be facing multiple challenges with obstacles in its efforts to grow big and be a huge economic power, but even if there are problems the conviction of citizens matters to overcome them with hard work and eventually succeed. The recent joining of Ethiopia the BRICS group is an indication of how it is committed to expand its growth to the levels its citizens deserve and it also shows how considered and accepted it is in the international sphere.

Ethiopia is a country with a huge potential with a large population, vast land and economists have, many times, predicted that it is only a matter of time before it achieves the objectives it has set with multiple ten years development plans. The potential is concrete. What is important is never to be demoralized by momentary challenges such as the negative propaganda that may emanate from alien forces. Citizens must unite under one front against poverty and underdevelopment and change the image of this country once and for all. In the mean time, we must put aside our internal, superficial differences or disputes and join hands to defeat poverty, maintain the peace stability and sovereignty of our country. The foreign plots of trying to disseminate discord amongst citizens must fail and there is no doubt it will have no effect on us or will not succeed as long as we stand in unison and give them little space to have an influence on us.

The future is in our hands and not in the hands of foreign influence or intervention. We must always follow the spirit of Adwa and Karamara where unity was the key to record shining and lasting victory.



Ephrem Endale
Contributor

Between you & me

The Dark Faces of Toxicity!

Keep away from toxic personalities! So the self-help books and numerous articles on the subject tell you. In fact 'tell' is a very feeble word in this context; better to replace it with 'warn.' Those in the know of the sciences warn us to set our boundaries when dealing with the toxic people. Toxicity is the last behavior you would want to experience just for the sake of knowing how it really feels. Of course no one in their right minds try such foolish experiments. The price to pay will be heavy. In fact a closer look at people who display toxic behaviors makes you wonder how in the world they don't feel the itches and aches at realizing their actions offend others. But then that must be another feeble question. They probably believe they are on the right side of the fence when it comes to behaviors.

Are there really that many toxic people these days to give the issue that much attention and for us to worry? You bet there are! And lots and lots of them, too! It is safe to say that toxicity is one of the front row curses which have made this world such a difficult, uncomfortable and terribly unwelcoming place. Don't you feel hearing at all that is happening all over the place that this world is becoming more and more uninhabitable. The level of toxicity that seems to have become some sort of a pandemic seems to be pulling the entire planet down under. Too many of us seem to have decided those are the very behaviors that would carry us across the mountains and gorges to a better

place in life; 'a better place' being subjective as subjective would be.

Most of the time it takes time to see toxic behavior for what it is; TOXIC! It is that we don't immediately ascribe the behaviors of difficult people to toxicity. We might just brush things off with, "Oh, no wonder the guy is so alienated. Given all the mess he creates and his hostility toward others he's not the kind of nice man anyone would want to befriend."

"She is just that arrogant person who seems to have big issues to settle with everybody else! Can you imagine someone who hates practically everybody else? That's her." I mean when someone acts and talks as if that they dislike or even hate almost everyone there must be a very big problem.

Take arrogance for example. The literature on the issue tells you that if you constantly fail at being on time it's probably a sign of arrogance. You are late too often? Then you can be arrogant and better spend some time on the psychotherapists couch. I mean almost everyone of us could be late once in a while; late because of some believable reasons like you were feeling unwell and had to drop by at a drug store or clinic on your way, or the bus you were on breaks down in the middle of nowhere and it takes a while for help to arrive. But when you do it constantly that, sir, is a problem that should be looked into.

Let's face it most of us seem to be taking appointments like one of those things you

don't have to task your brains with. "Hey, your appointment is at four and it is already a quarter to five. Better run!"

"Oh don't worry. No one comes on time. Even if they do they'll go nowhere not because they explicitly approve of our being late but because we, over the years seem to have been programmed to accept being late as just another natural process. That age old belief that people of this country aren't serious about being on time, (the 'Yehabesha Ketero' thing!) seems to have prevented us from polishing our acts.

According to 'Yehabesha Ketero' citizens of this country take being late for granted in that probably no one would raise it as an issue. The irony of it all is that people who report on time don't get encouragement or praise they deserve. If they do get encouragement and praise then they should celebrate. No, no!

"Are you alright?"

"Yes, I am. Why do you ask?"

"Well you came on time! Not even a minute late!" Ha, ha! Some guys spoil the team mood, don't they? You know if things that aren't commonly observed like coming right on time when the table for the brass wasn't yet set. So if you, that nice guy who give big importance to such issues arrive on time and notice some eyebrows being raised don't be surprised. You're the odd guy out which isn't actually bad in this case. "I heard the guy came on time. Who does this bum think he is coming at that hour!

He must be up to his neck in some conspiracy!"

But then being constantly late being taken for one of the signs of arrogance, well, some uncomfortable questions come knocking; uncomfortable questions which couldn't be answered with ease and conviction!

We were talking about toxicity. It is said toxic people are 24/7 complainers and negative. Maybe, just maybe some names would crop up in your mind giving you the itches and aches. You might even feel guilty! But, then however nice one would like to act there those moments you could do nothing about. To put in another way, the mental archives are there and there is no reason to feel guilty if files from those archives crop up indiscriminately in your mind. You're not the one acting judge and jury here!

To be frank especially these days many of us have tons of complaints as life becomes tougher. Just because you've a few complaints it doesn't mean that you're that heartache who has nothing to say but complain. The point here is after complaints are voiced the next step should be what to do about them. "How the hell am I to make things right?" As they say some things are easier said than done.

Anyways we could go on talking about toxicity and the damage it causes to human relations and the cracks it creates within communities and societies. But it all boils down to the fact toxicity being so damaging maybe it's high time we turned the mirror towards ourselves. Self-criticism could be of the ways out!

"No, Thank You!"

I tell you many times the hardest thing to do is say "No!" Many times you find yourself in a situation where you are, as they, say between a rock and a hard place. It might be because the prevailing situation goes against your principles in life; those very principles you've been building and strengthening all your life. I mean principles don't come easy. They are not as easy as reading a couple of self-help books and articles and setting your principles overnight. After all, it would be naïve of me to try to tell you having clear cut principles in life which you cling to whatever come may isn't easy. But breaking them, or going against some of your principles just to keep some waters from being disturbed doesn't seem to be the brightest thing to do when you come to living by your books and not anyone else's. It might be about that dilemma between saying "No!" and losing a friend or two while keeping our life intact. Now on the surface the question as to which one is ...it's obvious that holding tight to their principles might be a gold medal move. But then looking at things from various directions and saying, "After all, we're not living in a perfect world and for me to seek perfection is either stupidity inbound or an outright mental case. But I'm not going to lose a friend just because of 'perfection' which is just another term in the dictionary and that's all.

When it comes to interacting with others say one of your principles is respect. You know, respect everyone equally without

any ifs and buts and treating king and subject equally. What was that? That was treating king and subject equally; anything wrong with that? There would be many who would say a big "Yes, there is!" In fact, they could take this not as an accidental slip of the tongue but even blasphemy! "How in the world could you treat king and subject equally! This crazy!" It is like saying "How can you treat the CEO and the low level clerk equally? Somehow over the ages we seem to have developed different kinds of respect for different sections of the society. "That's the right of doing it! You can't address the boss and the low clerk with the same level of respect!"

"So what is the right way to do this?"

"The right way to do is give the boss the highest respect and treat the low clerk like the low clerk they are."

It seems that when we are talking about respect we're talking about human beings in spite of their status in the society. Yes, the educated and the uneducated, the brass and the foot soldiers, the filthy rich and the horrifically poor, those in holding the sprawling offices on the upper floors and those tending for vehicles in the underground car park are all first human beings. At the places of work, they might be what they are: boss, low level staff and the like. I think most of us easily slip in those places. We tend to equate social status with actual humanity as if we were born differently with the tags attached to us like 'High Level Human Being;' 'Middle Level Human Being;' 'Low

Level Human Being.' It wouldn't be thinking over the board to say that there actually would be many who see things with such spectacles. And that reality causes us to fail in expressing the correct respect for our fellow humans.

We were talking about saying "No!" to things which go against our life principles. We raised 'respect' because it is one solid life principle which experts advise us to make ours. Indeed, what a wonderful addition it would to our voyage through the lows and highs of life if we realize respect is about treating everyone equally. Period!

Problems come when you face things which you don't believe in or aren't accustomed to do. Say you are not a raw meat enthusiast. In fact you never tasted it and never had the thought of having a bite or two just to see why so many have become so committed addicts of raw meat. Someone close but not close enough to know your dietary habits offers to invite you raw meat.

"You know what we'll do on Saturday! We'll go a famous house where a kilo of meat costs two thousand birr and have our fill. After dining we'll have the best tej ever made anywhere in Addis. All is on me."

"Thanks; but I neither eat raw meat nor drink tej."

The guy wouldn't take it easily as he has been mulling about inviting you for some time; and you turn down his invitation! Now that's not a very friendly reaction.

Look, we'll be out only for a couple of hours. I've been thinking about this for some time." Oh really! This might touch a nerve or two.

"Sorry, but..."

"I'm not pushing you to do anything you don't like. I'm asking to have lunch with me after a long time and turning me down..." The voice trails off as the veins across the face begin speaking for themselves. This touches not only a couple of nerves but an entire battalion of nerves. Believe me, it takes really iron-strong nerves and the conviction to accept what may to stick to principles and say, "No, thank you!"

That's why to easily slip and give in. "Look, I'm doing this for you just this time only. I don't want you to be sore with me. But..."

The guy's face is already sparkling with a hundred twinkling lights and whatever you say next makes no sense to him as he has got what he wanted. Since many of us don't want to break friendships at a time when real friends are hard to come by. These days all kinds of people try to convince you of things you despise and even hate. There is so much going on being in fields like politics, religion and a host of other issues the scouts are out looking for people to join them. And among the scouts could be people who are close to you and try to use friendship and camaraderie to pull you into one shallow pit or another!

"No, thank you!"

Ethiopia this Week

Ethiopia and Denmark expressed desires to further bolster existing strategic bilateral relations as well as regional and continental issues of common interest. Foreign Affairs Minister TayeAtske Selassie held discussion with his Denmark's counterpart, Lars LøkkeRasmussen on issues of common interest.



The annually marked Women's Day was held at the Adwa Victory Memorial Museum in the capital city under the theme: "Let's Empower Women and Ensure Development and Peace". President Sahle-Work Zewde attended the ceremony joined by Women and Social Affairs Minister Ergogie Tesfaye, Addis Ababa Mayor Adanech Abebie, other federal and regional government officials, and invited dignitaries and women.

Ethiopian and German parliamentarians have discussed about ways of buttressing existing ties during a meeting held in Addis Ababa. House of People's Representatives (HPR) Foreign Relations and Peace Affairs Standing Committee Chairperson Dima Negewo and German Federal Parliament's (Bundestag) Foreign Affairs Committee delegation head Stefan Keuter held the talks.



Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (Dr) said Ethiopia's partnership with the African Development Bank (AfDB) continued to be productive.

The premier received and held discussions with African Development Bank's East Africa Regional Deputy Director General, Abdul Kamara on AfDB's projects in Ethiopia.