



# The Ethiopian Herald

Vol LXXX No 164 20 March 2024 -Megabit 11 , 2016

Wednesday

Price Birr 10.00

## New office building to feature Ethio-Swiss architectural arts

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA-** Switzerland Embassy in Ethiopia announced planto construct new office blending Ethiopian and Swiss historic architectural designs.

During a groundbreaking ceremony held yesterday, Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis said that the new building is an evident for Switzerland’s commitment to strengthen diplomatic relationship with Ethiopia and the African Union.

A day before the groundbreaking ceremony, he said that Switzerland will cooperate with Ethiopia not only for bilateral issues, but also for multilateral cooperation since Addis Ababa is the third diplomatic hub of the world and the center of the Horn of Africa region.

On the occasion, Ethiopian Foreign MinisterAmbassador TayeAtske Selassie said that the new building having almost the same architectural design with historical

*See New office building...page 3*



**ካስማ ፎርኒቸር ክራፍት**  
 ካስማ ፎርኒቸር ክራፍት!  
 Gurd Sholla Century Mall 3rd floor  
 +251913230014 ዩ.ዲ.ሲ.  
 Kasmafurniture Kasma Furniture  
 Kasma.furniture kasma furniture  
 kasmatur.com



## Ethiopia ‘s quest for sea access deserves Int’l support : MoFA

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA-** It is high time for the international community to support Ethiopia’s desire to own seaport , said Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) .

*See Ethiopia ‘s...page 3*



## Ethiopia records progress in becoming regional power hub

*Page 3*

## Promotion of local products consumption nexus to economic progress

BY ASHENAFLANIMUT

**ADDIS ABABA –** Ethiopia needs to reinforce the consumption of locally produced items to bring about a healthy and competitive market and robust economic growth, experts in the area said.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), an economist and Global Chairman of the Fairfax Africa Fund Zemedeneh Negatu stated that the implementation of rules that enforce institutions to utilize locally- manufactured productsare highly significant to the national development.

According to him, subsidizing domestic manufacturers would enable them to produce quality and competitive products and substitute imported items that would in turn contribute to arrest inflation and ease the forex crunch.



Zemedeneh Negatu



Yinges Alemu (PhD)

Zemedeneh also recommended the governmentconsider a wide range of activities to incentivize local suppliers especially those involved in the import of

inputs and spare parts and take the lead in building the public’s awareness and confidence in local products.

*See Promotion of local ...page 3*

Dancing with the wind

*Page 7*

LPG, a useful “Transitional” fuel for the UN’s clean cooking effort

*Page 8*

NBI – 25 years of progress, survival

*Page 9*

# News

## Ethio telecom sees promising outcomes from reforms

### • Ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> largest operator in Africa

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDIS ABABA**-The institutional and other reforms that Ethio telecom undertakes have brought about significant changes in revenue, service delivery, and customer experience, the CEO said.

Speaking to local media, Ethio telecom CEO Frehiwot Tameru mentioned that the operator has been carrying out several reform activities which have brought promising results in the overall performance.

She also stated that Ethio telecom is the second largest operator in Africa from 195 firms in Africa with over 76 million customers. The state-owned company is also ranked 18th amongst 774 operators globally.

The institutional reform has brought about

tremendous changes in Ethio telecom's revenue and a total of 357.9 billion Birr was generated during the past five and half years. In 2018, the company secured 34 billion Birr while it was able to generate some 75 billion Birr in the 2023 fiscal year, Frehiwot elaborated.

Moreover, the company has earned 43 billion birr in the past six months of the current fiscal year and the performance significantly surpassed that of the 2018 base year. "The revenue growth is achieved through minimizing tariffs from our services such as broadband, voice, and internet."

By giving special priority to key economic sectors, Ethio telecom has provided different services including Smart Education, Smart Agriculture, among others. In this regard, the CEO underlined that the operator has undertaken extensive

activities in terms of skilled labor and modernizing the system.

"Our reforms have allowed banks and other financial institutions to reach wider customers using mobile banking applications."

"The telecommunication sector needs continuous investment and this investment requires immense foreign currency," she noted, adding that the operator has introduced various products and services that could generate substantial forex. Accordingly, the company generated some 84 million USD in the past six months of the current fiscal year.

Noting Ethio telecom's obtaining of 75 million USD in 2018 while providing the aforementioned services, Frehiwot indicated that the company's forex-generating capacity has gone up to 163 percent in six years.



## Japan assists school project in Sidama State

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA**- The government of Japan has extended support to school project in Ethiopia, said Shibata Hironori, Ambassador Extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Japan to Ethiopia

Launching of project expansion of Belega school in Sidama state in Bilate zuira woreda, Ambassador Extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Japan to Ethiopia, Shibata Hironori said that the project for the Expansion of Belega Secondary School in Bilate Zuira Woreda, Sidama state, is of paramount importance in increasing quality education.

Resurrection and Life Development Organization (RLDO) Executive Director Biniyam Belachew on his part said, "The



Japan's Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects, or GGP, which cultivates a direct working relationship between the grass-roots level of society and

the Embassy of Japan here in Addis Ababa."

The Government of Japan has been making efforts to extend its assistance as widely as possible to the people in the rural areas of

Ethiopia, and "we would like to continue to cooperate with the people in rural areas and NGOs working in those areas," Ambassador said.

Resurrection and Life Development Organization, RLDO, is an NGO that has worked in a wide range of development sectors such as education, health and water in Sidama state, and has collaborated with the GGP six times.

It was learnt that the project will support the construction of one furnished school building with four classrooms and one latrine building for female students at Belega Secondary School. The total amount of the project is up to approximately 100,000 USD. This project will enable about 3,000 students, especially female students, to study in a better learning environment.

## AAU, France Technology Group to nurture productive citizens

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA** – Addis Ababa University (AAU) and France Technology Group have reached agreement to nurture students towards success as part of the five-year strategic plan.

Signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with France Technology Group yesterday, AAU's Interim President Samuel Kifle (PhD) said that his institute has been making various agreements with the private sectors focusing on enabling students achieve sustainable success and boosting the productivity of industries.

He noted that the AAU has been working a lot by putting a new strategic plan since it has been organized as an autonomous university.

Among others, the MoU helps the university to get support to achieve its aspirations of

conducting research to solve the country's social and economic problems, and increasing the quality of education and enabling industries to be effective and competitive, according to the President.

"The agreement would help to increase students' creativity, knowledge, skills, and make strong linkage between private sector and industries for development. It is also crucial to create productive, confidential, international competitive and proficient students," he added.

FARIS Technology Group Founder and CEO, Elias Yirdaw on his part said that research and development is one of the crucial areas of the group that create enabling environment to solve problems, create jobs, and generate income.

"As Addis Ababa University is a classic institute, it has a huge potential here that help to solve the country's numbers of



Photo: Dagne Abera

setbacks by exploiting competence. We work to enable students to develop their creativity and become entrepreneurs with the help of technology and to solve the country's problems," he noted.

Furthermore, AAU is also striving to carry out medical, financial activities and researches that would be assisted by artificial intelligence whilst struggling to conduct aerospace exploration, it was learned.

# News

## Ethiopia records progress in becoming regional power hub

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA** – Ethiopia is widely investing in power generation and infrastructural development to become energy hub in Eastern Africa, Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE) said.

Approached by the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) MoWE Minister Eng. Habtamu Itefa said that efforts are underway to make Ethiopia a power hub in East Africa through expanding infrastructure and supplying green energy.

For him, exporting green energy to east African countries emboldens the social bonds among Ethiopians and other citizens in neighboring countries such as Sudan, South Sudan, Kenya, Somalia, Djibouti and Eritrea.

Ethiopia has been mainly working to supply energy by generating power from water, wind solar and other sources as it is one of the means to interconnect the region, he said, adding that energy export is poised to ensure power accessibility of all of neighboring countries.

So far, Eng. Habtamu stated that Ethiopia is exporting power to Sudan, Kenya and Djibouti and exerting maximum efforts to meet Kenya's ever-increasing power demand.

According to him, South Sudan requested for power supply and Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the two countries and resource mobilization activities are underway for implementation.

So far, Ethiopia reached agreements with East African nations to supply

hydropower, a preferable form of energy for attracting industries as it never pollutes the environment, the Minister indicated.

The country has a commendable relation with neighboring countries and would work to transfer power to others including Kenya and Tanzania, he stated.

"The already started infrastructure development activities to connect the region via energy are in good position. Due emphasis has been given for these tasks. The current power generation would be doubled when the Abbay dam construction completed," he said.

The completion of the dam would have great contribution to export abundant power to neighboring countries while enabling Ethiopia to earn better foreign currency, he underscored.

## Promotion ...

Citing the defects and inadequate numbers of locally assembled vehicles, the economist stressed the need to build the capacity of domestic automotive industries thereby enabling them to produce quality products in sufficient numbers.

More importantly, the government should be at the forefront to facilitate the ongoing efforts to amass more gains both in terms of quality and quantity of products.

"It should not only be a matter of choice but also an obligation for local consumers to buy locally-manufactured products. Besides, it is highly substantial to impose similar decisions on domestic buyers that would greatly supplement Ethiopia's productivity."

Sharing the above rationale, another economist Yinges Alemu (PhD) explained that proper utilization of state-owned products and deploying home-grown knowledge and technologies would be an ideal solution to advance national economic growth.

Apart from awareness creation, it is crucial to understand that several developed countries have long been implementing legal frameworks that ensure the use of local products, Yinges emphasized.

The local products consumption initiative would be a significant milestone in promoting the manufacturing industry and encouraging local manufacturers thereby boosting the national economy. "If Ethiopia manages to sustain its agro-industry and industrial service, it will be easier to meaningfully curb inflation and scarcities of products."

Yinges, therefore, advised relevant actors to push the initiative forward and to break the shackles of economic colonization.

## WKU to transform into applied science institute

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA**- Having completed all the necessary preparation in the current year, Wolkite University (WKU) will become an applied science institute starting from the 2024/2025 academic year, the President said.

WKU President Faris Delil (PhD) told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the decision is complying with the Ministry of Education's direction to the specialization of higher learning institutions and to ensure education quality.

Having identified areas of specialization, bold steps have been made to transform the WKU into a full-fledged applied science institute starting from the next academic year. Accordingly, agriculture, engineering and technology, business and economy as well as health studies have become the university's main focus areas.

While identifying such focus areas, the university is taking the area's potential, the community's attitude and other factors into consideration. "There are ample opportunities for the university to



Faris Delil (PhD)

be successful in the identified areas," he elaborated.

According to Faris (PhD), the construction of applied teaching laboratories in all four colleges has been done. The preliminary activities in terms of digitizing the teaching-

learning process are also been made.

Noting the provision of teachers' capacity-building training in collaboration with various stakeholders, he indicated such kind of programs would be strengthened in the future. "By taking the experience of other applied science universities at the international level, important issues are being implemented in the WKU that will be aligning with Ethiopia's vision."

By the same token, an additional data center that will facilitate the penetration of digital education is being executed.

Currently, the WKU is working in collaboration with various industries and it has a plan to provide problem-solving training to the latter. The university's studies and research work are also based on problems that the nearby industries have been facing.

Turning the WKU into an applied science institute will help to create more jobs for graduates and boost production and productivity, strengthen creative and research activities, and bring better service delivery and other benefits at the national level, the president remarked.

## Ethiopia 's...

During the course of the official discussion with Swiss Foreign Minister last Monday, Foreign Affairs Minister, Ambassador Taye Atskeselassie has requested Switzerland to stand with Ethiopia as the latter is now putting utmost efforts to regain a sea outlet.

It was learnt that Ethiopia has been encountering economic and security challenges for decades because of lack of access to sea.

"Ethiopia has been demanding access to sea for decades. The first reason is pretty much of economic; the pursuit flourished this time is also mainly triggered by economic

causes because the economy is over dependent of single port. Besides, Ethiopia has been demanding outlet which become unattainable," according to Amb. Taye.

As to him, it is now high time for Ethiopia to seek additional ports for basic transactions and commercial purposes. Thus, the Ethiopian government is searching for alternative ways to access sea with justifiable modalities.

The Red Sea has becoming a center of insecurities as it has created uncertainty for Ethiopia. It is also becoming very difficult to navigate [without security apparatus], he added.

As to the ambassador, Ethiopia is thus cooperating with countries and multilateral organizations for the stability of the region-Horn of Africa, he said.

Ethiopia is concerned with regional instabilities including the Sudanese case and trying to facilitate mediations with a view to resolving conflicts by conflicting parties' own effort and conciseness, he noted.

Speaking about Sudanese case, he said that Sudan is critical and important for the region; and direct consultation between Sudanese parties would bring stable peace as Sudan has to be led by Sudanese by themselves.

## New office ...

Sheikh Khojale Palace of Ethiopia and ancient Swiss palaces, is a testimony to the growing diplomatic relationship between the two countries.

"It is also not only an indicator for the long-standing historical relationship between our two countries, but also it shows Switzerland's commitment to do business and to do trade and investment in Ethiopia and surrounding areas," he said.

To him, his government attaches strong significance and importance to the relationship between Switzerland and Ethiopia.

"The prolific Engine Alfred Elk has helped (Ethiopia), in modern innovation in the early 20th century. He has built so many Palaces. He helps Ethiopia in building a railway and services like telecommunication and postal services. That means a lot to our longstanding historical relationship," he pronounced.

The new building, designed with a mixture of architectural concepts of the two nations will have a footprint of the historical Sheikh Khojale Palace, located in the northern part of Addis Ababa.

# Opinion

## Ensuring peace: A trying but doable assignment

BY MENGESHA AMARE

The questions ‘where does peace originate? And who are active drivers of its wheel?’ Are easily dealt with, but trying and tough to be replied to so. Agreeably, the vivid response is peace originates from everyone’s mind and all human race is the prime driver of peace vehicle no matter what circumstances are and no matter where individuals come from as well as no matter what race, place of origin, religion and others identifications do they possess.

Peace knows no boundary, in fact, and no one can create their own island in due course of leading life on earth. The meaning of peace and peaceful coexistence has been exercised since human race commenced communal life. In this contemporary world where human relation has been quite sophisticated and well advanced, the issue of peace and coexistence has possessed the wider place and need to be given extraordinary recognition.

Basically, peace could never absolutely be manifested by the absence of gun sound as it has incorporated a number of elements. The demand for peace is tantamount to the need for air, water, food and shelter for human beings, and even other living things, too. Although it is really telling the obvious when one talks about the significance of peace, citizens or people of a given nation are observed when they overlook it and waiting for others to act upon and to bring them peace and tranquility. However, the truth is the issue of peace all the time knocks everyone’s door. If this is so therefore, no one can by any means belittle the value of this priceless and quite intrinsic mental computation.

No doubt, peace is air. Peace is food and water even beyond. It is the fundamental life requirement as the latter is meaningless without the former and a concrete and everlasting mind meal. The good thing is it is in the minds of people and can easily be created and maintained following good faith and positive thinking. However, the normalcy and calm scene would easily be spoiled following the pessimistic and self-centered state of mind.

From this crystal clear and plain truth, one can easily deduce that the careful drivers and reckless motivators of peace are human beings or people themselves. To make the long story short, when people develop optimistic spirit and are capable of interpreting situation as per public good and common value, they can be reliable promoters of peace on the one hand and when they evolve pessimistic gesture and egocentric spirit, lack of peace, chaos,

turmoil and unrest follow on the other. It is definitely in human beings mind that peace originates and gets vanished in clear terms.

Yes, having clashed and creating some sorts of discouragements is natural so long as human nature fluctuates and causes havoc based on circumstances, but failing to address rivalries and disparities is tantamount to leaving the right track that leads to be a pretty rational creature and get oneself willingly inhuman.

The very important thing that needs to be taken into account in this regard is human beings themselves have to be ready to come up with peace and established a peaceful coexistence so the saying goes, “Human being is a social animal.” True, this peculiar feature itself obliges the human race to act so and live up to the fundamental principles of peace and its accessories.

In so doing, the sources of conflict and minor disagreements that can swell to a grave damages have to get dried forever. Besides, access to decent environment, calm atmosphere and serene working site are contributing factors to peace and serenity, too. As far as this writer’s understanding is concerned, reconstructing social values, fostering social cohesion and peaceful coexistence have to be well embarked on thereby helping people lead stable life and the country record feasible advancement.

What matters here is the long lasting culture, value, spirit of loving one another, sharing situations at both bad and good times and cooperating to carry out undertakings have to be well nurtured and cultivated for they help have peace and peaceful mindset.

It is the duty of every citizen and member of the society, especially in development and emerging nations especially found in third world portion of the globe, Africa and some others including ours, to bring up the new generation bedecked with peace loving feeling and mentality. No doubt, it is only this time lasting peace and stable living fashion can be born to the minds of all. Thus identifying core wisdom, skills and means that can potentially contribute to social cohesion, peaceful coexistence should be well capitalized on.

In so doing, developing concrete strategies and activities to impart accomplishments for social cohesion facilitate citizens’ access to peaceful weapons and build their capacity to contribute to social cohesion and peaceful coexistence in their respective communities would be definitely possible. Furthermore, building a culture of social cohesion and peace in Ethiopia, Africa and other parts of the world which are highly prone to conflicts and myriads of sources of disagreement has to come to the forefront

as it is the unwavering source of lasting peace.

As peace processes involve a series of negotiated steps to end wars and build sustainable peace, developing countries have to work with neighboring nations, diplomats and officials to understand how to effectively manage or facilitate the lucrative peace processes. It is also important to well comprehend how negotiations can be structured and supported as well as put into practical actions. If citizens of a given country do not secure concrete benefits out of peace process and see a notable improvement in all rounded circumstances, they will not support the peace process in the long-run.

Any peace process must therefore, secure the participation and engagement of key members of the society. Such a process would foster negotiators in a peace process thereby coming up with stable and well-to-do nation. It is important to prioritize partnerships and collaborations with the youth generation as they have been change engines and active participants of any peace process if handled properly.

Efforts need to be exerted from top to down and to further fuel peace horizon and undertake myriads of activities that highly promote peace trajectory. The efforts may pertain to ensuring lasting peace and solid stability. Such a lucrative move would be of significantly useful in bolstering peace effort. It would also be important in the early stage of conflict transformation into stability and tranquility.

Since recently, communities in some parts of Africa including Ethiopia have been experiencing conflict, civil war and devastating floods. Following this, citizens’ lives have definitely been disrupted, and the social cohesion is still being highly compromised. To help restore a peaceful coexistence and improve livelihoods, Especially some African nations, Ethiopia and have to seriously work on peace and stability via developing forgiveness, nurturing the culture of peaceful coexistence and reinvigorating the deep entrenched norm for peace building.

True, building a culture of social cohesion and peaceful coexistence is of paramount importance in encouraging communities to adopt conflict mitigation practices that help them to develop and sustain resilience against recurrent conflicts and disagreements due to unknowingly or calculatingly orchestrated wrong doings and social evils. What everyone has to learn is to accept peace within them. That is what makes it possible for them to reach others to help them find peace and tranquility. Otherwise no one can come and delve on behalf of them to create peace and peaceful

environment around themselves.

In conflict prone areas, what traumatizes people and baffle them most is their own anger and pessimistic character. Such sensitivities which are caused by domestic violence, disputes over territories, as well as intra vs. inter-tribes conflicts have to be reined somewhere and at some point in history.

It is today and even this hour and minute that can be the best epoch to act upon. If for instance, people or citizens start exercising tolerance, peaceful coexistence and thinking for one another and living up to truth instead of reaping undeserved benefits at the expense of others, especially of innocent citizens, building peaceful trend and peace hub would be simple and easily attainable.

Basically, when people in a given community are having disagreements, it is quite important to mediate circumstances before the dispute becomes violent and gets out of control. Everyone has to begin by helping people in clash discuss the issue, source of dissonance and reconcile at the end of the day. In addition to this, the impetus of asking forgiveness one another and put the disagreements aside need to be made a cognitive content.

It is also important for parents and elders to play a stronger role in advising the youth, who sometimes are perpetrating more the violence between the local communities and are willing to support anti-peace elements when get annoyed and easily lured by things to be deployed for the purpose of alluring. Without a shadow of doubt, if the younger generation understands that disputes should be resolved without violence, such a positive move would help reduce overall resentment sentiment and inequality within the community.

In sum, more than anything else, peace has to be given due focus. Yes, if there is long-term peace, it can result in sustainable development; people can farm their land, enterprises and trading communities can do business to make money, and this would be a potential means to do away with poverty and to see it off for good and go away, too. In simple terms, one is tired of listing the significance of peace and peaceful coexistence as stated earlier since it is the basis of all sorts of undertakings on earth, let alone nations, which lie on small plots of land.

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

# Editorial

## Toward an integrated Horn

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) inked between Ethiopia and Somaliland would yield sweet fruits not only for the signatory nations but also to the countries of the Horn and even beyond.

The deal, aside from fulfilling Ethiopia's long-standing ambition to have diversified access to the sea, has give-and-take effects for the two countries, and holds substantial returns for the entire region to unlock economic opportunities, strengthen economic integration, address security concerns and ensure peace and stability in the region.

It is an open secret that being a landlocked country has a negative socioeconomic impacts and impose serious constraints on the overall socio-economic development of those countries for the reason that being landlocked causes higher transportation costs to import and export goods to and from global markets, impedes nations' potential to integrate into international markets and exposes them to increased dependency on coastal neighboring countries.

These challenges, in turn, limit the extent of their competitiveness in global markets and restrict their ability to diversify their economy, eventually reducing their economic growth and aborting their effort to achieve sustainable development.

As any landlocked country, Ethiopia has also been challenged and impacted hugely due to lack of direct access to the sea. In this regard, the recent deal made between Ethiopia and Somaliland is a milestone that benefits both nations to advance their cooperation and economic progress. What is more, it is also an accord that holds far-reaching implications beyond the two. It initiates countries of the Horn to work collaboratively for mutual and shared interests, and enhances partnerships and collaboration in all aspects.

The other way round, in this complex geopolitical landscape, and the increasing significance of the Horn region which results in competition among great powers to have some types of influence in the region and beyond, the MoU is decisive to address security concerns and ensure peace and stability in the region. As many politicians could agree, Ethiopia's presence in the area would have incalculable strategic importance in creating a cooperative regional landscape and to address security concerns thereby ensure peace in addition to economic cooperation.

In his recent interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, member of Somaliland House of Parliament Mohamed Hussien Jama Rambo also reaffirmed commitment from the side of Somaliland to implement the sea access deal it entered with Ethiopia.

As to him, Somaliland is not just dedicated but unwavering in its commitment to implement the sea access deal it entered with Ethiopia, and Hargeisa will not succumb to any pressures, he added slamming external intervention.

"We are accustomed to pressures from entities that do not appreciate our development. Yet, we resist these pressures, demonstrating our resilience. We honor agreements. Somaliland will not give in to any pressure. They should not waste their time on such issues," Mohamed underscored.

Singing the same tune, Ethiopia is also working on this same matter determinedly with the principle of give and take. Recently, it has revealed that diplomatic works undertaken in the area are bearing fruits. Today, the global community has started accepting Ethiopia's truth- the necessity to have diversified sea access is being a matter of existence rather than a luxury.



## 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](mailto:epa@press.et)

### Advertisement and Dist.

#### Department

email: [etpresspromotion@gmail.com](mailto:etpresspromotion@gmail.com)

Tel. 011-156-98-73/011-811-13-15

Telegram :- 0976084707 - press

Editor-in-Chief: Worku Belachew

email- [workubelachew@press.et](mailto: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](mailto:wakuma220@gmail.com)

### Deputy Editors-in-Chief:

Alem Hailu

Elizabeth Mengistu

Zekarias Woldemariam

Desta Geberehiwot

Daniel Beyene

Website: [www.press.et](http://www.press.et)

email: [ethiopianherald@press.et](mailto:ethiopianherald@press.et)

Fb/ [Ethiopian Press Agency/](https://www.facebook.com/EthiopianPressAgency/)

[The Ethiopian Herald](https://www.facebook.com/EthiopianHerald/)

# Opinion

## Ethiopia's diplomatic momentum amid regional, global twists and turns

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

Last week and over this week the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) has held series of discussions and other milestone engagements with diplomats and missions of various countries that are believed to scale up the diplomatic ties of the country a step forward.

The discussions were held with Ambassadors of Malta, Switzerland, Korea, Kenya where the two sides held fruitful of foreign relations with the countries of the world. During these times, it has produced many friendly countries. Especially in terms of the country's strategic landscape; It is a preferred country for diplomatic relations. Furthermore, it is also the center of African diplomacy. discussions to further uphold the existing strong ties between the countries. Ethiopia has a long history

Promoting strategic alliance with major countries of the world and international partners is a major component of Ethiopia's foreign policy and diplomatic objectives but what does strategic alliance with this countries entail and how does this synchronize with the nation's vision of becoming a middle level developed country over the coming years? What benefits could Ethiopia expect from such expanded relations? What should Ethiopia do to ensure her national interest by promoting strategic alliance with countries of the world?

In the context of foreign relations and diplomacy, a strategic alliance implies a formal or informal agreement between two or more entities to collaborate for mutual benefit. These entities, which can be companies, organizations, or even countries, come together to achieve common objectives, share resources, and create synergies. Strategic alliances are formed for various purposes, including expanding market reach, accessing new technologies, reducing risks, and capitalizing on complementary strengths.

Strategic alliance may take various forms including joint ventures to create a new legal entity, combining resources and sharing ownership. The recent agreement between Ethiopia and Somaliland and on port development can grow to such a level that both signatories can acquire multiple benefits for their people.

Partners in strategic alliance acquire equity stakes in each other's companies in the form of equity strategic alliance or non-equity strategic alliance in which partnerships are formed without the exchange of equity, often based on contractual agreements.

On the other hand, global strategic alliances are partnerships formed between entities from different countries to access global markets. Ethiopia's quest to join the WTO over time is a good example for such alliance and partnership. Collaboration focused on developing or offering specific products or services is also another form of strategic alliance between countries.

Ethiopia's objective of pursuing strategic alliances pertains to shared vision and common goals that align with the interests of all parties involved. The major content of Ethiopia's strategic alliance with countries and international organizations involves working together, often combining their resources, expertise, and capabilities to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. How is Ethiopia working towards achieving such strategic objectives?

Ethiopia has already started to share her hydropower resources with her neighbors in a bid to promote strategic alliance with countries like Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan, Djibouti and possibly with Somalia and Eretria, Tanzania and possibly as well with Somaliland. The nation is also helping to build the defense capability of South Sudan, Somalia and other African countries to ensure peace in the Horn of Africa.

Strategic partnerships are essential for economic growth and development in Africa. Collaboration among different entities, whether public or private,

can lead to the creation of new ideas, technologies, and business opportunities that can spur growth and development on the continent.

Strategic partnerships refer to collaborations among different entities, such as businesses, governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and academia, to achieve common goals. These partnerships are essential for economic growth and development as they bring together different perspectives, resources, and expertise to solve complex problems and create new opportunities. It is also in line with SDG 17 which seeks to revitalize global partnerships for sustainable development.

Ethiopia entered into wide range of strategic agreements with countries like Russia, China, Turkiye, South Korea, India, UAE, Check Republic, USA, EU based on sharing expertise, financial supports, transfer of technology, education, cultural relations mutually beneficial economic relations, tourism development, cooperation on peace building to not only promote her wide range of national interests but also to work towards fair and equitable socio-economic relations between countries.

In strategic alliance among nations, risks and rewards are typically shared among the alliance partners, fostering a sense of collective responsibility. Entities in a strategic alliance may share various resources, including technology, knowledge, distribution channels, or production capabilities. Ethiopia is indeed following the right path in this respect and is ready to open up with countries across the world to share available resources for common development goals.

In addition, Ethiopia's strategic alliances can take various forms, including non-equity alliances (contractual agreements) or equity-based alliances (joint ventures or partnerships with shared ownership). What strategic benefits can Ethiopia gain from strategic alliances with countries?

Alliances provide opportunities for Ethiopia to enter new markets or expand existing ones through shared distribution channels. Ethiopia's geostrategic and geopolitical position on the Horn of Africa gives the country comparative advantages for such an opportunity.

Ethiopia is well positioned and rooted in Africa and possesses most of the resources required to enhance strategic alliance both with African countries and the developed countries in the world. Ethiopia's important position in the AU, the NAM, UN and other international organizations gives the country a better position to negotiate on issues of strategic alliance.

Among other things, Ethiopia can have access to resources such as technology in the areas of digital technology AI, agricultural mechanization, and other technologies which are of crucial importance for enhancing the country's defense and security capabilities.

Moreover, the country can share risks and responsibilities to reduce the financial and operational burden on individual partners by using her membership in international organizations like BRICS.

Ethiopia's strategic alliance with countries can result in cost savings through economies of scale, shared infrastructure, or joint procurement. Ethiopia can benefit from strategic alliances as this can enhance competitiveness by leveraging each partner's strengths.

Being in strategic alliance Ethiopia can learn from other countries, fostering professional development and knowledge transfer. Ethiopia can create synergies, allowing entities to achieve more together than they could separately.

Strategic alliances are dynamic and require effective communication, trust, and ongoing collaboration to succeed. While they offer numerous benefits, they also come with challenges, and managing the alliance effectively is critical for achieving long-term success.

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

# Business & Economy

## Driving economic growth: Rise of industrial parks' development in Ethiopia

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

Ethiopia, a country located in the Horn of Africa, has been making significant strides in its economic development over the past decades. One of the key drivers of this growth has been the establishment and expansion of industrial parks across the country. These industrial parks have transformed Ethiopia into a burgeoning hub for manufacturing and investment, attracting both domestic and foreign companies. In this article, we will explore the remarkable growth of industrial parks' development in Ethiopia and its implications for the country's economy.

Ethiopia's industrial park development is part of the government's ambitious plan to achieve middle-income status by 2025. The vision is to transform Ethiopia's predominantly agrarian economy into an industrialized and manufacturing-led economy. The development of industrial parks plays a crucial role in realizing this vision, as they provide a strategic platform for attracting investment, creating employment opportunities, and driving economic diversification.

Industrial parks in Ethiopia are strategically located near major cities and transportation hubs, ensuring easy access to markets and transportation networks. They are equipped with modern infrastructure, including reliable power supply, water resources, ICT connectivity, and transportation facilities. This infrastructure ensures that businesses operating within the parks have the necessary resources and support to thrive.

The Ethiopian government has implemented a range of investment incentives and favorable policies to attract both domestic and foreign investors to its industrial parks. These incentives include tax holidays, duty-free importation of machinery and equipment, access to credit facilities, and simplified administrative procedures. Additionally, the government has established a one-stop-shop service to streamline the investment process and enhance the ease of doing business within the parks.

Industrial parks' development has been a catalyst for job creation in Ethiopia. These parks have created a significant number of employment opportunities, particularly for the country's growing young and skilled workforce. By providing training and skill development programs, the parks contribute to human capital development, equipping the workforce with the necessary skills to meet the demands of the manufacturing sector.

Ethiopia's industrial parks are designed to attract a wide range of industries, including textiles and garments, leather and footwear, agro-processing, pharmaceuticals, and electronics. This diversification of sectors helps reduce the country's reliance on traditional agricultural exports and promotes value addition and export-oriented manufacturing. The export-focused nature of the parks contributes to foreign exchange earnings and promotes Ethiopia as a competitive manufacturing destination



on the global stage.

As Ethiopia pursues industrialization, it is also committed to sustainable development. Industrial parks in the country are developed with an emphasis on environmental sustainability. Efforts are made to incorporate green technologies and practices, such as renewable energy sources, waste management systems, and water conservation measures. Additionally, the establishment of industrial parks in rural areas has the potential to drive regional development and uplift local communities through job creation and infrastructure development.

According to ENA, Yirgalem Integrated Agro-Industrial Park, located in Ethiopia's Sidama Region, has been creating economic benefits for the local community by strengthening their participation in the supply chain.

The Park, which covers 294.5 hectares, concentrates on processing organic dairy, avocado, and coffee for export, is also playing a pivotal role in the national economy by exporting its products abroad and enhancing import substitution.

The Park's Chief Executive Officer, Hailu Yetera said that more than 16,000 citizens have been able to benefit from the park by engaging in the supply chain.

The park is assisting youngsters in the area in preparing seedlings of various plants, including avocado, in order to enable them to supply the seedlings for local farmers, he added.

Hailu further stated that efforts are also underway to enhance the benefits of the local community around the park by designing development projects, citing activities being carried out in the production of honey and other agricultural products as well as the construction of schools, health facility and the supply of potable water.

Indicating that the park was officially inaugurated three years ago, the CEO revealed that the park has secured 15.5 million USD from the export trade of edible oil extracted from the pulp of avocados during the stated period.

Yirgalem Integrated Agro-Industrial Park has also enabled the nation to save close to 14 million USD through value added products of milk and other agricultural outputs to domestic market, the CEO

pointed out.

There are three Rural Transformation Centers (RTCs) situated within a 100-kilometer radius of the park at Bensa Daye, Aletawondo and Morocho.

The RTCs are rural development initiatives of the Government of Ethiopia that not only facilitate inclusive rural development, but also serve as a linkage to Yirgalem Integrated Agro-Industrial Park in terms of raw material supply.

For most farmers, the RTCs are the main point of contact with commercial agricultural value chains, according to the park.

In addition to the Industrial parks of manufacturing sector, the government of Ethiopia has given a great deal of attention to the development of Integrated Agro-Industrial Parks with a view to accelerating rural transformation.

The development of industrial parks in Ethiopia has been a transformative force, propelling the country's economic growth and industrialization agenda. By creating an environment conducive to investment, job creation, and sector diversification, these parks have attracted both domestic and foreign companies, positioning Ethiopia as a competitive manufacturing hub in Africa, as the country continues to advance its industrial parks' development; it is poised to reap the benefits of sustainable economic growth, increased exports, and improved living standards for its people.

To attract more investment in industrial parks, the government of Ethiopia can undertake several measures: The government should enhance its efforts to promote industrial parks and highlight the advantages and opportunities they offer to potential investors. This can be achieved through targeted marketing campaigns, participation in international trade fairs and investment forums, and engagement with potential investors through road shows and investment missions.

Continued investment in infrastructure development is crucial to attract more investment. The government has to focus on improving transportation networks, expanding power generation capacity, ensuring reliable water supply, and enhancing ICT connectivity within and around industrial parks. Upgrading infrastructure

will increase the attractiveness of the parks and provide conducive environment for businesses to operate.

Streamlining administrative procedures and reducing bureaucratic hurdles is essential to attract more investment. The government can further simplify licensing and permit processes, establish a dedicated one-stop-shop service for investors, and introduce online platforms for faster and more efficient business registration and approvals. By prioritizing ease of doing business, Ethiopia can create a favorable investment climate.

The government is needed continuously review and refine its investment incentives and policies to align with changing market dynamics and investor needs. This may include extending tax incentives, offering customized incentives for specific industries or types of investments, and providing support for research and development activities. Regular assessments and consultations with investors can help identify areas for improvement.

A skilled workforce is crucial for industrial development. The government should collaborate with educational institutions, vocational training centers, and industry stakeholders to develop programs that align with the skills required by industries operating in the parks. By establishing training centers within or near the parks, the government can enhance the availability of a skilled labor force and attract investors looking for a capable workforce.

Collaboration between the government and the private sector is vital for the success of industrial park development. The government can encourage public-private partnerships by facilitating dialogue, providing support for joint ventures, and creating platforms for engagement between investors and government officials. By working together, the government and the private sector can address challenges, share resources, and jointly promote industrial parks' development.

A stable political environment is crucial for attracting investment. The government should maintain political stability, ensure the rule of law, and provide a secure environment for businesses to operate. This includes protecting intellectual property rights, enforcing contracts, and addressing any security concerns promptly.

The government can promote the development of industrial clusters within the parks by creating linkages between companies in related industries. By clustering companies with complementary products or services, economies of scale can be achieved, supply chains can be strengthened, and knowledge sharing can take place, making the parks more attractive to investors.

By implementing these measures, the government of Ethiopia can create a more investor-friendly environment, enhance the competitiveness of its industrial parks, and attract a higher influx of domestic and foreign investment. This will contribute to further economic growth, job creation, and the development of a vibrant and diversified manufacturing sector.

# Art & Culture

## Dancing with the wind

BY YACOB BERHANOU

### Part I

Argentine writer Jorge Luis Borges once said - "There are only four stories to tell: a love story between two people, a love story between three people, the struggle for power, and the voyage. All of us writers rewrite these same stories infinitum."

If that is so, in which one of the four narratives would the story of this person be told has he been a fictitious character? Just in a mere voyage? Nuh-uh... At the very first encounter, this man's story would become something strange, something fabulous for listeners and even a narrator. Yet, again, the chronicles of world heroes would be incomplete without the story of this man.

When this strange person emerged that night, he resemble a gawky genie who returned from a two hundred years eerie journey, or been drawn out of a river by some clever spell, or been descending from decades of seclusion of a mountain. It was dead of night. Life outstretched in full inclination everywhere. The night resonated like abstract music in the entire scenery. Though it was late after midnight, the night's splendor was heavy over the whole panorama. I sat down turning my back on the small town of Aykel perfectly still as if I were inanimate and gazing on this stranger in dismay. I sat on a huge stone to the right side of the sidewalk and slowly rotated my rosary.

While this stranger advances towards me, I hurriedly pocketed my rosary and carefully watched his steps. However, at about five steps away, he rather sat on one of the stacked stones instead of showing a sign of hostility. For a moment he simply kept quiet as if I wasn't there. I noticed him struggling to tighten the worn-out soldier's boot on his right foot, which had separated from its sole. He twisted the strap beneath the sole for a hasty repair.

In front of us stretched a main pedestrian street that extended from Axum to Aykel, Khartoum, Cairo, Damascus, Babylon, and beyond. The heavy silence of this man made the night even scarier. The night was moonless and the sky was devoid of clouds. Despite the darkness, with the help of the starlight glow I could see delicately down to the river and the valley. On the left side from afar, St. Michael church seen in a luminescence view. On the right near side, there was a solitary Adbar tree (spirit confiscated tree) - Emete (meaning madam in Amharic and Qemant language) Aykel. Emete Aykel is believed to have grown on the gravesite of Noah's wife. Qemant People have worshipped it for thousands of years.

Suddenly, the man turned his head back and looked at the nearby tree behind us, then asked the opening question...

"If you knew it my Lord, what is this tree?" As he spoke to me, I have noticed that he had a deep and hoarse voice.

"Eh... it seems like a wild fig." I responded in an unprepared voice.

"But I think it is a sycamore fig."

"That makes no difference." Was my response. And yet of course, what difference does it really make?

The man disdained my answer and kept forth investigating the tree. As I was just beginning to convince myself that the conversation was over, he once again enquired me.

"Do you think it bear fruits?"

"No..." I replied after contemplating for a while.

"Even if it is sycamore, the season isn't for sycamore's blossoming."

Now, I became convinced that he is in a deep state of craving for food, as if he had rolled out of a grave after three days. Perhaps the reason why he asked me about the fruiting of this sycamore tree was to assuage his hunger a little.

Then why wasn't I motivated to do something for help?

As I slipped to drop the pebble, I saw him casually playing, twisting his fingers around the muzzle of his rifle. Although I suspected this man was a soldier from his outfit, I was not aware of his rifle. I felt calm afterwards. Why? Maybe because I stood impotent with my pebble in contrast with his rifle. Before he noticed it, carefully, I slid the pebble and landed it on the ground.

"I was following a man who carried a single harnessing York Starting from the dried stream. I hurried to reach up to him. But the more I approached him, he simply strode further and suddenly vanished. Did you see him passing by, sir?"

Though I believe it wouldn't make any difference - I replied,

"This could really going to be amazing. I think I saw the man you watched while going towards the direction you came. As you said, he was carrying a Jingla (bull harnessing triangular York)..."

"I left the main road just to follow him."

"What was he wearing anyway? Did you notice that?"

"I think he wore a Gabi (traditional blanket)... He never gave me a chance to approach closer. How can I evaluate his appearance any better, sir? When I called him, he marched even swiftly and disappeared in an instant."

"What makes it strange is that when I saw him, part of his body was naked... Anyway, did he cast a shadow? In any case, have you noticed that?"

"I told you sir, he didn't give me the chance to get closer to him. But why shadow sir? Why does it matter my lord..."

"This person might be Gargi. It is told that Gargi came out of Anzaimerku cave. When he saw guests arriving, he tried to disclose himself in some strange manner."

"Who is he sir, who is Ga...Gi?"

"Ah... it's a long story. The city has a reputation for a certain foretelling myth



that has been feared and hoped for more than a century. They say that Gargi, who entered through the Antra Cave hundred years ago, will travel thirty five kilometers inland for hundred years and come out through the Anzheimerku Cave. It has been rumoured that he has already come out of Anzheimerku cave. Or maybe this person would be Ahasver... but if he is Ahasver, he couldn't cast a shadow just because he was cursed. However, he could be the one who ought to the carry Jingla."

"Who do you say sir... ah...Ross? Who is he, my lord?"

"Why do you call me my lord? I think it is not a soldier's manner."

"Pardon me sir, but I rather believe it is a soldier's mandate to respect everybody, child or elder."

"Do you read the Bible anyway?"

"No, no, no sir,"

"Do you know the story of the Jew who slapped Jesus on the night he was handed over to the priests for inquisition?"

"Sir, I have been an enlisted man serving under the orders of my masters. How could I know?"

"Good. Then I will tell you. As it is read in the Gospel of John, chapter 18, 20-22, on the Thursday night when Jesus was betrayed, and being held in probation by the higher priests about the nature his religious teachings. Jesus answered, 'Why do you ask me again what I taught in public, in the synagogue, as if it was done in secret?' Immediately, one of the servants of the high priest who was nearer slapped him and declared, 'How do you dare talk to the high priest like that?' Though the Bible never mentioned anything about the name or destiny of this Jewish slave, in other Gnostic Jewish narratives there is a story that this Jew was cursed to be wander through out the surface of the earth alive until Jesus comes back for apocalypse."

This man's name believed to be Ahasver. Ahasver said to appear in discreet forms in many different places. May be he is wandering here in Africa. Because he is cursed, he strode everywhere 'shadowless'. He runs away every time to avoid being identified. He travelled always with a burden. It may or may not be true. Maybe

that person whom we saw caring Jingla would be 'Joshua' himself. Who knows? We live in a world where truth and treacherous intermingled. However, whoever that person might be, it won't make any difference. The basic color of life never changed, no matter how much you multiply it, no matter how much you enchant it; it is the same and never changed for perpetuity. Rather, it the night which is real, which could make a real difference."

"Pardon me sir, but how could one be shadowless and why shadow matters?"

"Ah... It is yet another Biblical Narrative. In the book of Genesis after Cain killed his brother Abel, he was forced to go out from the land of God. Then the Lord put a mark on Cain, so that no one who encounters him on the road would kill him. Nobody knows what mark the lord put on him. But I believe it was shadow that God marked on Cain to protect him. Out of that mercy we all beings and things wore a tapestry of shadow. For me it manifested his clemency."

He seemed apathetic for my response. As I spoke to him, he kept yawning. He repeatedly gaped and shows a sign of indifference for our chitchat. The man sat down nonchalantly. Then he suddenly became interested and asked me a question that I wasn't able to answer - as if my response could made a difference.

"My lord, listen carefully, what is been said about the war?"

"About the war? ... I don't know." I said, worriedly. After some moment of silence and hesitation I added.

"I myself am on the front of another war. I am exploring some subtle transition with my whole being, so I didn't follow up the rumors and news of the war much. I think the important issue is not the purpose of the war, but the fact that war seemed our inevitable existential facet. In the Gospel of Thomas, Jesus said 'Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth - I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.' Anyway, please allow me ask you a single question - I can see that you wore soldier uniforms with rifle on your hand, so where are you venturing with full package readiness alone?"

He suddenly became alert and answered with deep sense of passion.

# Global Affairs

## LPG, a useful “Transitional” fuel for the UN’s clean cooking effort

One of the key efforts under the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals is to provide poor households with access to clean cooking technologies to replace, in particular, the burning of solid biomass (e.g., fuelwood and charcoal) in traditional open stoves that kills millions of women and children.

To date, one of the preferred options has involved the substitution of solid biomass with bottled liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). This approach, however, can be seen to run afoul of the climate change-driven opposition to fossil fuel use generally. However, LPG for clean cooking can and should be permitted as a transitional fuel to save lives in the short-term until we can provide universal access to alternative low-emissions clean cooking systems.

Africa is disproportionately burdened by a lack of access to clean cooking technologies, with over 60 percent of its population relying on biomass. That increases to over 85 percent in rural Africa. In Asia, over 45 percent of the rural population relies on biomass for cooking.

The poorest 50 percent of the world’s population (which includes those households currently relying on biomass) are responsible for a mere 8 percent of greenhouse emissions, a figure that would be marginally affected by the adoption of LPG

Enabling women to transition quickly from traditional cookstoves to cleaner technologies would save millions of lives, especially in poorer rural areas where biomass use is concentrated.

As report after report has documented, several million women and children die each year from the adverse impact of the much localized air pollution created by burning fuelwood and other solid biomass on open cookstoves (often used indoors without adequate ventilation).

Shifting away from unsustainable harvesting and use of biomass would, in addition to avoiding these negative health impacts, generate important greenhouse gas mitigation and other environmental benefits.

There are a variety of clean cooking technologies that would address this issue. One solution is replacing biomass use with stoves fueled by LPG. Other alternatives include electric stoves and stoves that burn the biomass more efficiently.

Notably, electric stoves, when powered with renewable electricity, are near-zero emitting solutions. In contrast, even though LPG stoves potentially result in fewer greenhouse gas emissions than the traditional use of biomass, its promotion can be criticized as running counter to the climate change-related campaigns to eliminate all fossil fuel combustion and related emissions.

Efforts to phase out fossil fuels have gained momentum in the climate change discussions, as reflected in the discussion



*Enabling women to transition quickly from traditional cookstoves to cleaner technologies would save millions of lives, especially in poorer rural areas where biomass use is concentrated*

at COP 28 that targeted all forms of fossil fuels (i.e., coal, oil and gas), as compared to, for example, COP 26 which was focused on coal.

However, this broader and strengthened effort is occurring after many developing countries have already launched substantial clean cooking programs premised on the use of LPG. For instance, India introduced a program in 2013 to achieve universal access to LPG. Cameroon is executing a master plan to increase the share of LPG for cooking from less than 20 percent to 58 percent by 2035.

Many of these programs attempt to target one of the problems with LPG, namely its affordability for poorer households. For example, Indonesia’s Zero Kero Program (a program initially targeting kerosene but then extended to solid biomass users) provides a free stove and first cylinder and subsidized LPG thereafter.

India’s flagship cooking energy program, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, launched in 2016 provides a subsidy and loan for the upfront cost of adopting an LPG connection and has resulted in an uptake by over 80 million households. Many ongoing LPG programs enjoy degrees of institutional momentum that would be difficult to replicate quickly if replaced by new efforts premised on a different choice of cooking technology.

Climate sustainability forces generally align with anti-poverty efforts such as the UN goal to achieve universal access to clean cooking, but the use of LPG presents tensions.

While shifting to LPG for cooking can

generate the above-referenced health and other benefits for poor households currently relying on biomass, these same households are also amongst the most vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change induced by fossil fuel emissions.

And in the context of the climate change campaigns to reduce emissions, it is arguably strategic to adopt straightforward and clear goals and communications, such as “phasing down/out fossil fuels”, rather than a nuanced message that targets “most but not all fossil fuels.”

Given this context – one in which the poor are adversely affected by biomass use but also by emissions-induced climate change – how should LPG cooking programs be treated?

In deciding which and whose emissions to prioritize in the effort to advance global climate goals, and specifically how to address emissions from LPG-based cooking, it is useful to place the discussion and choices in the broader emissions inequality context.

As pointed out by a recent Oxfam report on the topic, the poorest 50 percent of the world’s population (which includes those households currently relying on biomass) are responsible for a mere 8 percent of greenhouse emissions, a figure that would be marginally affected by the adoption of LPG. In contrast, the wealthiest 10 percent is responsible for 50 percent, and the top 50 percent for 92 percent.

Moreover, the use of fossil fuels for cooking is something that manifests itself at all income levels. For example, the US government has just issued regulations

that tighten efficiency requirements for gas stoves, thereby also, implicitly, legitimizing their continued use for years to come.

The consumers targeted by the US regulations fall within the top 10 percent richest of the world’s population, while the women using unhealthy traditional cookstoves fall within the world’s poorest segment.

Given the lives of poor women and children that can be saved today by LPG-based cooking, coupled with the minute per capita emissions of these consumers, LPG-based efforts should continue and potentially even be expanded under a ‘transitional regime, with the focus of emissions-reduction activities in the near-term targeted at the activities of the world’s richest top 10 percent responsible for 50 percent of global emissions.

Importantly, this transitional regime would include a sunset provision on the use of LPG with a clear second transition to renewables-based electric and other non-emitting cooking solutions. The primary objective is to save lives that would otherwise be lost to cooking-related pollution in the short to medium term, while also supporting net-zero emissions over the longer run.

LPG has a productive role to play in poverty-alleviation efforts and specifically the UN’s goal of achieving universal access to clean cooking. However, the use of LPG for cooking is a strategy which, given its attendant carbon dioxide emissions, should be structured as transitional pending the fuller deployment of low-emissions clean cooking alternatives.

**SOURCE: INTER PRESS SERVICE**



# Law & Politics

## NBI – 25 years of progress, survival

BY SOLOMON WASSIHUN

There are several situations that occur around the current state of Nile politics which lead us to conclusions with fair level of confidence. When Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) was established in 1999, it was not meant to stay for a quarter of a century, rather it was only to serve as a temporary or provisional body for just a few years that lay foundation for the establishment of a permanent regional organization responsible for ensuring peaceful, equitable and sustainable use of the Nile. “The NBI was meant to serve an ad-hoc arrangement until the Nile river riparian member countries agree on a permanent legal and institutional framework for sustainable development of the Nile Basin” wrote a researcher.

It took over a decade for the Nile riparian states to negotiate and reach a consensus to carve out an agreement document. The Nile River Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) in 2009/10. Even if it is long overdue, it was a landmark achievement in the Nile politics, as the previous agreements made among riparian states were non-inclusive, do not recognize equality of rights of co-riparian and do not work towards equitable share of the river’s resources.

The Nile agreements made before CFA were either about technical corporation at best [like Hydromet, UNDUGU, and TECCONILE] or providing exclusive rights to Egypt and Sudan to exploit the Nile waters with total disregard to the other riparian states as if they do not exist [like the 1959 Nile water agreement]. The extent of unfairness of this agreement can be easily felt by the fact that it effectively bestows the full utilization rights of Nile water to the two lower riparian states which account for only one fifth of the total population in the Nile basin.

However, even after taking over a decade time to come up with CFA document, the document is still incomplete. To put it differently, there is no final draft of CFA that won the approval of all riparian states. Section B of Article 14 of the document, which deals with the contentious issue of water security still remain blank, waiting for the future commission yet to be established, The Nile River Basin Commission, to fill it.

What is more, as indicated in the document itself the CFA was supposed to be signed by all riparian states within two years after it has been finalized, that is by 2011. But it turned out that, until this year, in 2024, only six of the 11 riparian states have signed it and only five have ratified it. There is no surprise in finding Sudan and Egypt in the list of riparian states that refused to sign and ratify the document. The reason is clear. The document is meant to put an end to the long standing inequitable use of the

Nile water.

“The CFA was indeed a departure in the management of the Nile, for its objective was equitable utilization that would erode the so called “historic rights”, and it has sought to ease the traditionally hostile Nile riparian’s and create a spirit of cooperation among them, says a Nile scholar.

What is intriguing is why Kenya wants to stay away from the act of ratifying CFA? Why such upper stream countries like DR Congo, South-Sudan, Eritrea decide not to even sign the document let alone to ratify it in to law?

This question is essay to explain for the one who scrutinized the intense defense and economic diplomacy the Egyptians have been doing over the last few years with those upper stream states who are purposely dragging their feet and procrastinating to sign and /or ratify the CFA. It is a public secret that Egypt is maneuvering an intensive charm offensive in Nile basin states through high budget military, intelligence, and economic cooperation with the aim of luring them away from their commitment to the NBI.

Cairo recently emerged as a very active and influential player in the Central and East Africa in general and in the Nile Basin in particular. Kenya has become the primary tool of Egypt’s Nile strategy. That happened following the signing of a defense cooperation pact in May 2021 between the two states, and Egypt’s pledged of support for development projects in Kenya.

A month later, in June 2021, Egypt signed military cooperation agreement with the Democratic Republic of the Congo to deepen joint military and security cooperation with Kinshasa, in addition to providing technical and operational assistance to the Congolese military.

During 2020, South Sudan used to deny its secret diplomatic courtship with Egypt for defense agreement. But in 2023 it become public that Egypt and South Sudan signed a military agreement that covers various areas of military cooperation, including military training, exchange of information, and joint military exercises

Generally, it appears that Egypt is pursuing a Nile strategy that it believe would enable it to maintain its geopolitical influence in the region and thus protect its unrealistic and outdated ‘historical rights’ over the Nile waters. Sadly the strategy seems to be working so far, as many of the riparian states are falling for Egyptian offers which are just unsustainable individual gains paying only lip service to the sustainable collective development potential promised in the NBI objectives.

So the Matter boils down to real commitment. After a quarter of a century, NBI is still a multinational partnership with no political and legal power more

like regional knowledge center rather than dynamic center working to bring change in the Nile politics. The reason for this is all of its member are not genuinely sharing the goal of the initiative and exert equal effort for the realization of its goals.

Above all things the pivotal task enforcing the CFA should have done at least during the Past decade, enabling it a binding law that would become a game changer in the politics and a foundation for peaceful and equitable utilization of the Nile resources.

In a speech she made at an event held to observe the 25th anniversary NBI the Ugandan Vice president, Jessica Alupo, recently emphasized the paramount importance of CFA and the urgent need to ensure its entry into force.

Ethiopia has become an exemplary role model for other member state of the NBI by becoming the very first state that ratified into law the Nile Basin CFA in June 13, 2013, even far earlier than the country that is the host nation of NBI, Uganda. Thus Ethiopia has practically proven its commitment to ensuring equitable and reasonable utilization of the Nile as well as investing in transformative water and energy infrastructure projects.

Standing firm against various unfair diplomatic and economic pressures, Ethiopia has also exercised its rights to develop its natural resources with in its sovereign territories, a right enshrined in CFA, and is sharing the fruits of its development efforts with its neighbors to promote mutual benefits and regional economic integration. In doing so, one can say that, Ethiopia has already began implementing the Nile Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement”, which is to achieve sustainable socioeconomic development through equitable utilization of, and mutual benefit from, the common Nile Basin resources.

So, what is the future holds for NBI and for the realization of equitable use of the Nile waters among the riparian states? Undoubtedly there is a long way of diplomatic struggle to reach there. NBI’s motto which says; one river, one people, one vision, will remain a mirage, unless all the upper riparian states follow Ethiopia’s example, and emulate Ethiopia’s determination. The difficulty of this struggle is indicated by the speech made last September by the former Ethiopian Deputy Premier: “The lack of political will and hegemonic tendencies over shared resources immensely contribute to little or no cooperation. These challenges will continue to stand against shared aspirations of riparian countries to ensure sustainable development. It is high time to redouble efforts to deal with the challenges building on the great strides the countries have made in the past to ensure equitable and reasonable use of trans-boundary resources.”, he said.

**Ethiopia has become an exemplary role model for other member state of the NBI by becoming the very first state that ratified into law the Nile Basin CFA in June 13, 2013, even far earlier than the country that is the host nation of NBI, Uganda**

# Planet Earth

## Nature-based environmental protection work brings promising results

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Working to preserve and conserve the environment using natural methods is known as “nature-based environmental protection.” Reforestation, wetland restoration, habitat preservation, and sustainable land management techniques are a few examples of these. These methods can assist in addressing environmental issues including water pollution, biodiversity loss, and climate change sustainably and cost-effectively by cooperating with nature rather than against it.

Conversely, man-made or designed interventions or remedies to environmental problems are referred to as artificial environmental protection work. This can include tools, processes, and procedures intended to lessen pollution, cut carbon emissions, and save ecosystems.

While artificial environmental protection work can be useful in solving environmental issues, several drawbacks should be taken into account. For instance, artificial environmental protection technologies and infrastructure can be costly. Cost is the most crucial consideration when establishing and maintaining them. The two artificial environmental protection concerns that need major energy inputs or resources to function are energy and resource use. Since they occasionally have the potential to affect the environment, deplete resources, and increase carbon emissions. One example of a significant carbon footprint is the production and installation of infrastructure for renewable energy.

There are also challenges with maintenance and operation. Limited efficacy is another challenge that may fail to address the fundamental causes of environmental problems or provide long-term sustainable solutions. Some solutions may just cure symptoms or temporarily reduce pollution without addressing the underlying systemic concerns. Most crucially, implementing artificial environmental protection measures without consulting local people or taking into account their needs and views might result in resistance, skepticism, or lack of support for these initiatives. Community involvement and participation are critical to the effectiveness and acceptability of environmental projects.

As a result, it is critical to address these weaknesses when developing and conducting artificial environmental protection activities to ensure that interventions are successful, sustainable, and linked with larger goals of environmental conservation and sustainability.

Hence, to address the issues and develop more comprehensive and durable solutions for environmental protection, activists, subject-matter specialists, environmental protection agencies, other relevant authorities, and so on are recommended to integrate nature-based methods. For nature-based environmental protection efforts encompass the establishment of marine protected areas, the employment

of agroforestry techniques, and the development of green infrastructure.

In Ethiopia, nature-based environmental protection work is critical because of the country’s massive biodiversity and natural resources, which are threatened by deforestation, land degradation, and climate change. Reforestation and afforestation are two of the country’s nature-based environmental preservation activities. Ethiopia has established ambitious tree-planting efforts, such as the Green Legacy Initiative, which seeks to plant billions of trees to battle deforestation, repair damaged landscapes, and reduce the effects of climate change.

Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture State Minister Prof. Eyasu Elias said that Ethiopia has implemented an integrated nature-based approach to environmental preservation and natural resource conservation. As a result, agricultural developments have undergone significant changes.

Furthermore, nature-based environmental protection efforts are underway to safeguard biodiversity and maintain food security in the long term. In recent years, actions aimed at protecting natural resources have contributed to significant outcomes in agriculture. He noted that Lemat Turufat and summer irrigated wheat farming, as well as the Green Legacy Initiative and other agricultural sectors, have made substantial contributions, particularly in beekeeping, cattle breeding, and fattening.

Based on the nature of the country, the measures undertaken to conserve natural resources have not only reduced flood threats but have also created a favorable environment for green areas and food security. In particular, natural resource conservation operations carried out in recent years have not only helped agricultural development activities but have also enabled the government to create job opportunities for youths in a variety of settings, he explained.

According to him, nature-based environmental protection and greenery developments rehabilitate degraded lands while increasing output and productivity. As a result, nature-based environmental preservation efforts have proved beneficial in conserving and protecting the environment while also assuring food security.

Indeed, putting into practice nature-based environmental protection tasks supports the country in implementing sustainable land management techniques, such as agroforestry, soil conservation, and watershed management. These techniques support agricultural productivity and ecosystem well-being by enhancing soil fertility, improving water retention, and preventing erosion. A further crucial component of natural-based environmental preservation efforts is wetland restoration since rehabilitating degraded lands contributes to the preservation of significant animal habitats as well as vital ecosystem

functions like carbon sequestration, flood control, and water filtering.

Other measures the country takes to safeguard the environment naturally include protected areas and biodiversity protection. Hence, Ethiopia has created national parks, animal reserves, and community conservation zones to save its distinct ecosystems and biodiversity, which includes threatened species like the Walia ibex and the Ethiopian wolf. In addition, the country is attempting to use climate-smart farming techniques including organic farming, sustainable crop rotation, and agro ecology to assist farmers in mitigating the effects of climate change, enhancing soil health, and cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Addis Ababa University Vegetation Ecology and Biodiversity Management at Center for Environmental Science Associate Professor Dr Gemedo Dalle stated that initiatives such as the Green Legacy Initiative that promote environmental conservation through nature are a good way to counteract the negative effects of climate change.

Every year, watershed management developments provide optimistic results. This is because nature-based environmental protection operations enable the development of lost resources and the expansion of fish farming. It also helps many barren places become productive, raises groundwater, improves summer irrigation for wheat agriculture, and boosts yield. As a result, researchers in the field should take an active part in sustaining and expanding the sector’s current successes, he said.

Ethiopian Biologists Association Vice President Dr. Bezawork Afework in her part noted that natural-based environmental preservation measures in Ethiopia have allowed for an increase in forest cover. As a result, she advised that to maintain Ethiopia’s successful forest development, research-supported activities should be expanded.

In general, Ethiopia’s efforts to maintain its natural heritage, promote sustainable development, and increase resilience to environmental problems are largely dependent on nature-based environmental preservation. These illustrate how conservation efforts, community involvement, and sustainable natural resource management are crucial to preserving Ethiopia’s rich biodiversity and ecosystems for the coming generations. It also shows the beneficial effects of nature-based environmental protection initiatives in Ethiopia.

Notwithstanding the success, it’s still critical to solve the issues preventing nature-based environmental works. To support sustainable natural-based resource management and environmental conservation in Ethiopia, stakeholders, governmental bodies, civil society groups, local communities, and international partners should collaborate.

***In Ethiopia, nature-based environmental protection work is critical because of the country’s massive biodiversity and natural resources, which are threatened by deforestation, land degradation, and climate change***