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Contact Us 0911222993/ 0911208918



Photo: Berihu Tadele



ENDF expresses readiness to safeguard Adwa's legacy

• Ethiopians mark 128th Adwa Victory Day colorfully

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - The Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) expressed vigilance to repeat the Adwa Victory's legacy in defending the country from any potential threats.

The 128th Anniversary of the Victory of Adwa was marked yesterday colorfully across the country, mainly at the newly- inaugurated

Adwa Victory Memorial Museum.

Addressing the gathering, the ENDF Chief of Staff Field Marshal Birhanu Jula said that Adwa is a symbol of unity, strength and triumph for Ethiopians as well as all black people. "It is our historical virtue and we are committed to maintain this virtue and turn it into more success."

"The Adwa Victory resulted from our unity,

resilience and bravery. Marking the 128th commencement at the time of finalizing the construction of the Abay Dam and preparing for inauguration makes it unique. Accordingly, the ENDF is ready to maintain peace and stability to ensure that the ongoing development activities advance well."

As always, the ENDF is fully prepared to

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Historians underscore passing down Adwa's values to posterity

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – Apart from passing down Adwa Victory's values to the posterity, all concerned bodies are expected to play due role in using the day to create unison towards safeguarding national interest, said Historians.

See Historians ... page 4



Photo: Gebabo Gebre

Ethiopia Africa's gateway to do business: Maltese Ambassador

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- After opening an embassy in Addis two years ago, Malta sees market and investment opportunities in Ethiopia besides considering it as a gateway into the growing African market, according to the Ambassador.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, Maltese Ambassador to Ethiopia Ronald Micallef said his country

See Ethiopia Africa ... page 4

Vertical market linkage favors Ethiopia's coffee: Authority

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority (ECTA) disclosed that the vertical coffee market linkage is benefiting farmers, export associations, and coffee suppliers thereby avoiding manipulators.

Authority Director General Adugna Debela (PhD) told The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the Authority is working on alternative approaches to legal coffee producers and suppliers in order to benefit them and the country sustainably as well.

Accordingly, he said, the Authority is establishing a platform of vertical integration system in which the farmers directly provide their coffee product to the international market, creating close relation amongst farmers and coffee suppliers, facilitating an environment for suppliers to involve as producers, and widening the benefit of women through "Women in Coffee" schemes.

The Authority secured 620 million USD

See Vertical market ... page 4



'Let Ethiopia Produce' contributing to build competitive economy: Ministry

• Launches 'Let Ethiopia Produce' 2024 expo

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – The 'Let Ethiopia Produce' movement has been contributing to build competitive economy and diversify production, said the Ministry of Industry (MoI).

The Ministry officially launched the second edition of the 'Let Ethiopia Produce' movement 2024 expo aimed to revitalize manufacturing sector. Ten Kilometers grand run, bazaar and exhibition, panel discussion, networking and others would take place in the upcoming expo.

Speaking at the occasion, MoI Minister Melaku Aebel said that although the manufacturing sector has yet faced pressing challenges, the Let Ethiopia Produce movement has been registering remarkable achievements over the last three years. "It is encouraging import substitution, promoting export and contributing to augment production



Melaku Aebel

and productivity."

The movement is intended to enhance investment, production diversification, import substitution and others to boost the national economy. It is also critical to improve the

competitiveness of Ethiopian products, he said.

As to him, the movement is aimed at ensuring economic freedom and development, unity, national sovereignty as well as promoting local products to global market and other issues. The expo has also a huge contribution for country's economic guarantee and development by attracting investors, promoting products for international actors and expanding market accessibility, creating linkage and cooperation among manufacturers and others.

Furthermore, last year's first edition expo was contributed to achieve several things. For instance, over 53, 000 people visited the expo, some 125 trade agreements were signed and over two billion Birr transacted, he noted.

During Expo 2024, MoI is also expected some 600 trade agreements, and over six billion Birr transaction, it was learnt.

He highlighted that the need to give special attention for manufacturing industry sector.



State Minister Yeshurun Alemayehu (PhD)

MoIT striving for Digital Ethiopia to ensure sustainable dev't

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA - Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MoIT) stated that it is working to realize digital Ethiopia so as to improve productivity and service delivery.

Digitize the sectors like agriculture, manufacturing, tourism and information technology can help to get huge benefit, secure ecosystem of the nation and ensures country's competitiveness globally, said MoIT State Minister Yeshurun Alemayehu (PhD) during the concluding event of Digital Ethiopia Week.

To ensure digital Ethiopia soon, he expressed that all the aforementioned sectors are expected to be digitalized to avail huge benefit and the country ought to enter into digital economy, develop and ensure technological advancement by expanding infrastructure including building data center.

According to Yeshurun, digitizing the manufacturing, agriculture and tourism sectors is crucial to advance the productivity and efficiency thereby secure better income. To this end, ensuring digitalization by expanding information technology would help to provide quality goods and services.

"If we implement the aforesaid things properly, we can ensure digital Ethiopia. The government is designing strategies to achieve the aforesaid (ambitions) in years to come," he said.

Moreover, building and creating integrated digital financial platforms like telebirr and mpesa – mobile payment services, helps to facilitate a secured ecosystem, he stressed.

As to him, the nation needs to build a digital ecosystem that regulates all sectors at a time when they run their daily businesses or providing services for the community.

"What we are going to build is the one platform to interact various government sectors together to ease load work environment at sustainable manner."

When organizations apply digital scheme and use locally developed operating system, they can secure national interest and utilize human resources in an efficient manner.

The State Minister also expressed that his Ministry is striving to realize digital Ethiopia by designing a twenty-year perspective plan, he said.

NBE launches Nat'l financial education module for youth, MSMEs

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA- The National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) disclosed that it has launched a financial education module for youth and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), yesterday.

The module will help to increase financial inclusion by enhancing the financial skills of financial service consumers.

The bank prepared the training module in collaboration with "First Consult and MasterCard Foundation." The financial Education modules are 10.

During the launching program Marta Hailemariam, Adviser to the Deputy Governor of the National Bank said that the bank is working on various activities to increase financial inclusion and the soundness of the sector by increasing the level of awareness of Ethiopian financial service users.

The financial education module will help to implement the financial education which is being carried out separately by financial institutions, government and development partner organizations across the country in a consistent, continuous and coordinated way.

And also the module will ensure the work being done to increase the number of young people and micro and small enterprises that have an understanding of financial services to 75 percent by 2025, she stated.

The teaching module will help to implement the financial education which is being carried out separately by financial



institutions, government and development partner organizations across the country in a consistent, continuous and coordinated manner.

As to her, this financial education module covers savings, digital financial services, loans, insurance, interest-free banking, budgeting and other financial services with a special focus on women entrepreneurs.

There are more than two million small and medium enterprises in Ethiopia, and the module is said to be designed with a focus on bridging the skills gap in finance and management.

NebilKellow, Managing Director of First Consult stated that the, major challenges

of the youth and MSMEs for financial inclusion is the lack of financial awareness and literacy. Therefore, the financial education modules will help youths and micro-enterprises to have better and more sustainable employment by increasing the use of skills-based finance.

Samuel Yalew, Director of the Master card Foundation said that the development of this financial education module shows common great efforts to demonstrate progress in financial education and knowledge.

It also contains a comprehensive framework that financial institutions can use to design and implement effective financial education programs for their clients, he explained.

Editorial

The attendant perks of Adwa's victory, ways forward

Ethiopia has valiantly chased away mighty superpowers that at different eras attempted to invade it and strip it off its liberty. In so doing, keeping its sovereignty intact and its freedom untrammelled, Ethiopia has navigated past hurdles erected on its way.

Among wars of aggression mounted against Ethiopia during the colonial era to botchily divest off the nation its sovereignty and freedom, the invasion by colonial Italy comes to the forefront.

The Adwa Mountains, where Ethiopia and Italy came face to face for a showdown in 1896 and where Ethiopians raised the flag of victory, metaphorically wrote out loud Ethiopians' conviction to stand united and unleash counter offensive when their country and liberty falls under a question mark.

The victory has continental and global facet. What are the perks for freedom fighters across the globe that came in tandem with the Adwa Victory?

The victory has upturned the mindset "the resource bountiful African's fate is subjugation, while that of white predators' is parasitizing the resources subjugating the inhabitants."

The victory has allowed Ethiopia to stick out as a beacon of independence. The name and fame of Ethiopian war leaders and their prowess had gone far and wide. Victors of Adwa have set global example for black freedom fighters and others worldwide.

Adwa's seminal seed has served a green light for the establishment of OAU and later AU in Ethiopia. As such, Ethiopia has continued to be the seat of these international organizations.

It has entitled Ethiopians to be a fortress society and Ethiopia to be a trail blazer to black people living in America, Haiti, Europe and Caribbean islands.

During the second invasion of Ethiopia by fascist Italy in 1934 the victory of Adwa had become reason enough for a multitude of black Americans not only to pool resources for Ethiopia but also to engage in the fight firsthand rallying behind the just cause of Ethiopia. They joined the fight condemning the expansionists' lust and the attempted rape on Ethiopia.

The victory has solidified Ethiopian's unity. The significance of hanging up together has volubly resonated across where the sun goes around.

The victory of Adwa has left behind a lesson for the generation next how history is maintained and preserved.

Having the aforementioned backdrop in mind, beyond defending one's dignity and sovereignty as well as fighting out neocolonialism, Africa must home in on dragging its last leg out of economic morass and fight out debilitating poverty. Moreover, it should throw its full weight behind achieving the Sustainable Development Goal investing on a state-of-the-art education and adopting cutting-edge technology.

In this age highly characterized by digitalization and artificial intelligence unless training its youths Africa embraces new trends and keep abreast with evolving technologies it could not navigate through the hurdles of under development let alone join the ranks of the affluent nations. That is why AU adopted for its 47 session "Educate an African Fit for the 21st Century: Building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality and relevant learning in Africa." Clicking each other African nations must maintain their internal peace and that of the continent drawing lessons from the victory of Adwa. They must learn to ward off stumbling blocks to their development to ensure a turnaround in their way of life.



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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
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Opinion

The Victory at Adwa as reported by some Western Presses of that time

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

The western press of those days was indeed the first to report on the defeat of the Italian colonialists at the Battle of Adwa. On March 4 1896 two days following the defeat of Italy at the Battle of Adwa, the Tribune wrote:

Italian defeat in Abyssinia after a desperate struggle they are finally vanquished by overwhelming odds..... crushing defeat for Italian arms, Crispi resigns. Whole battalions had slain an irreparable disaster.

Another weekly newspaper, Lloyd's Weekly News Paper, London 1896, March 8 came out in the same vein.

"Disaster has over taken the Italian forces in Abyssinia. A desperate battle was fought with the Shoans at Adwa on February 29 and resulted in General Baratieri being almost annihilated."

The New York Times, of March 3, 1896 added:

Italy's terrible defeat, three thousand men killed. Sixty guns and all provisions lost. Baratieri's strategy condemned. All available streamers for transport for reinforcement to Abyssinia are ordered.

The London Times almost foresaw the future impact of the war:

"The defeat of the Italians will go through the annals of history. This history will invigorate the fighting spirit of Africa which was hitherto considered as savage."

The paper seemed to forecast the impact of the defeat of the Italians on the future emergence of Pan Africanism both in the US, the Caribbean and the African continent.

March 4, 1896 the New York Times wrote,

Details received here today of the defeat on Sunday of the Italian Army show that the Italian losses were very heavy, they being placed by some at 3,000 killed. It is still impossible to ascertain the precise losses, but popular opinion credits the report that the number of killed is not overstated. Thus far the reports make no mention of the number of wounded. Among the dead are Gen. Albertone, Commander of the Left Brigade, and Gen. Dabormida, Commander of the Right Brigade.

The Pope was greatly disturbed by the news.

The European media spread the news of the Italian humiliation primarily because this was not what they were expecting. This was not what the world was expecting.

Menelik defeated the war not only at the battle field but also in the realm of diplomacy and foreign policy. The emperor was able to clearly view the alliance of forces in Europe and acted accordingly. He was able to clearly show the nature of the aggressor without resorting to the escalation of war propaganda.

New York Times reported that "the pope was disturbed by the news". This somehow indicates that the Pope Leo XIII must have blessed the Italian aggression. He later on wrote a letter to Emperor Menelik II requesting for compassion for the POWs detained after the war.

In fact, Menelik II had a deeper compassion even to individual POWs. The Emperor was told that one of the Italian soldiers being kept by the Imperial household had received a letter from his widowed mother in Naples. Apparently, upon reading

her letter, the soldier had become extremely inconsolable and was weeping loudly and bitterly. Menelik ordered the soldier brought before him and had a translator read the letter. The distraught mother had written her son saying that she now spent her days weeping in the local St. Mary's church, begging the Mother of God to bring her son home to her, a weak and lonely widow whose life had no meaning without her only child. When the Emperor heard what was written, his eyes filled with tears and he said "The tears of your mother, and our shared love for the Mother of God have freed you. Go back to your mother, and tell her that the Holy Virgin has returned you to her." (Source: Archive: Conti sui prigionieri Italiani in Etiopia 1900 - 1913)

In those days, Ethiopia had still not joined the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Society but the news that I have quoted earlier clearly show that although he was the commander in chief of the Ethiopian army, Emperor Menelik devotedly kept the faith and showed compassion even to an individual POW in the standards of the Geneva Convention. Reportage from New York Times is quite revealing.

"Rome, March 3, 1896 - The present campaign against the Abyssinians threatens to become one of the most disastrous in which the Italian arms have ever taken part, and what the final outcome will be it would be hard to predict. It was rumored today that the latest defeat of the Italians by King Menelik had compelled Ministry to resign, owing to the popular disapproval of the Government's policy, but tonight this report is denied."

The paper mentioned earlier seemed to forecast the impact of the defeat of the Italians on the future emergence of Pan-Africanism both in the US, the Caribbean and the African continent. The founders of Pan Africanism were definitely inspired by the victory at the Battle of Adwa which has played a role in unifying Africans in the region and at the Diaspora.

Fentahun Tiruneh, Area Specialist for Ethiopia and Eritrea, African and Middle Eastern Division. At four Corners of the world quotes Anchi Hoh who wrote:

"In the aftermath of the war, Pope Leo XIII and King Menelik exchanged letters to affect the release of Italian Prisoners of War, and the Vatican turned to the Church of Alexandria for help with mediation. Trade cards of the day reflect current event in brightly colored images. Here we see Monsignor Macaire of the vicar of the Egyptian Coptic Church approaching Emperor Menelik on behalf of the Pope of Rome; a prudent example of religious diplomacy since the King of Kings and Monsignor Macaire both belonged to the Orthodox faith.

Negotiations between the two dignitaries bore results. On November 20, 1896, the Emperor released 200 Italian POWs in honor of the Queen of Italy's birthday, and successive releases were affected in February and June of 1897, when the last of the Italian POWs left the country."

Emperor Menelik proved that he was able to conduct religious diplomacy to show the moral standard of his government and his adherence to the principles of international law related to the handling of the POW in the battle. He demonstrated that even if Ethiopia had defeated Italy and in spite of the fact that some western painters had tried to show a bad image of the emperor, Ethiopia had a noble duty to adhere to the fundamental ethical standards of conducting war.

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

Historians underscore...

Woldia University History and Heritage Administration Lecturer Belay Desalgne told The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that scholars, historians, and politicians have responsibility in terms of educating the youth about the meaning of transferring sovereign state for the next generation.

Addis Ababa University History Lecturer Meberatie Gergiso on his part said that Adwa has been seen as a symbol of fairness, humanity and equality to all black people across the globe. For instance, Ethiopianism as a campaign

commenced in South Africa and extended to Asia and Latin America in the fight against colonialism mentality following Adwa victory.

Meberatie added that Ethiopians become victorious during the battle of Adwa because they were united and compassionate to each other.

He, therefore, underlined that all concerned bodies should play their part to ensure unity, development, and prosperity for the current and coming generations via educating the full meaning of Adwa victory.



ENDF expresses readiness...

maintain Adwa Victory's legacy and defend the country from threats that would be posed by internal and external enemy quarters, he added.

The Chief of Staff called on armed militants to cease belligerence and present their concern in a legal and peaceful manner. Moreover, the public is expected to stand in unison to Ethiopia's sovereignty and to strengthen its support for ENDF and shun fabricated propaganda.

According to Birhanu, Ethiopia's quest for access to the sea is critical in enabling the country to continue its role in maintaining peace and stability in the Horn of Africa.

For his part, the House of Federation Speaker Agegnehu Teshager said that the patriots' unity and mutual understanding was a source of victory

over the more powerful enemy. "Our predecessors successfully defended Ethiopia from powerful enemies and enabled us to live with pride by sacrificing their lives."

The speaker called on the current generation to maintain harmony and share vision for a better Ethiopia by drawing useful lessons from the Victory of Adwa. Realizing democratic and prosperous Ethiopia requires the consolidating efforts of all citizens as the secret of the Victory of Adwa is standing together for a common goal.

Many foreign forces attempted to invade Ethiopia at various times; however, Ethiopians, shunning ethnic and religious differences, successfully defended their country throughout history.

Ethiopian Patriots Association President Lij Daniel Jote Mesfin praised the celebration of the 128th Anniversary of Adwa Victory Day at a place befitting the glory of the victory.

Lij Daniel also extended his gratitude to the government and other stakeholders for planning and executing the museum, which best suits the triumph of Ethiopians over the Italian invaders.

He called on the youth to maintain the virtues of the Adwa Victory in actively participating in ongoing development activities.

High-level government officials, members of the ENDF, residents, patriots, representatives of diplomatic communities and others were in attendance at the event.

Vertical market linkage...

from coffee export of the planned 1.75 billion USD to be achieved this fiscal year, he said, adding that the Authority is working hard to achieve its target utilizing the suitable season.

He further stated that 80% of the coffee pruning that has been carrying out on 500,000 hectares is achieved.

Adugna expressed that the pruning is significantly helpful to increase the productivity and production of coffee by three folds whereas improving the quality by 30% to 40%. The effort has paid off as the international coffee market was reduced last year by 32% while the quality of Ethiopian coffee increased by 18%.

He remembered that the vertical coffee market linkage was commenced three years ago and gained merely 700 million USD whilst the authority secured 1.42 billion USD from exported 300,000 tons of coffee in 2022.

Now a days, the vertical coffee market reaches 80% up to 90% coverage compared with the ECX system. Besides, the coffee plant coverage increased from 600,000 hectares to 1.2 million hectares at present following the direct market linkage approaches.

"The persistence of a long market chain (complexity), bureaucratic red tape, and illicit trade are among the serious challenges that hindered to ensure quality coffee product to the international market and traceability is under question over the past many years," he noted.

Ethiopian Coffee Exporters Association President, Desalegn Jena said the international standard for specialty coffee requires scoring over 85% qualities. Therefore, encouraging the vertical market and stakeholders' integration should be done to get adequate benefit from coffee sector.

Sidama State Coffee Providers association President Zerihun Kamiso agreed that encouraging scientific coffee market system, ensuring competitive advantages, and providing world standard coffee should be a priority issues to benefit the country from its popular cash crop.

In Ethiopia, there are over 600 coffee exporters applying the vertical scheme and supply their product to the international market while they are expected to be led by knowledge and research to get adequate benefit from coffee product and be competent internationally, it was learnt.

Ethiopia Africa 's gateway...

considering the Ethiopia as a way to penetrate Africa's immense market potential.

In exchange, Ethiopia could benefit from Malta's strategic location which is also a gateway to the robust European Union market. "In this regard, the diplomatic partnership of Malta and Ethiopia is growing fast following the opening of our embassy in Addis Ababa."

He added, "We have already seen very significant growth in the bilateral relationship and the interest of Maltase businesses to involve in Ethiopia's market is very high. Accordingly, a delegation of 40 Maltese companies will have a forum after two weeks with Ethiopian counterparts here in Addis Ababa."

The number of the delegation which will take part in the bilateral business forum is also significant to that small

size country and it shows that the people of Malta have been researching and looking at Ethiopia.

According to the ambassador, there are new opportunities for the two countries that will help them to create better future. Malta achieved political and economic independence in 1964 and 1979 respectively and it has a lot to share with Ethiopia.

Artificial intelligence, tourism and maritime service, for example, are important areas which will be presented during the upcoming forum.

"We received three million tourists per year, which is a very big number for such a small country. So, I believe that the relationship between our two countries will help to share such lessons."

Malta can also learn a lot as Ethiopia is now a hub to continental political and economic blocs. "We need to grow our economic partnership to be a part of the

new future."

He further highlighted that Ethiopia's young population permits exploration of emerging industries including artificial intelligence (AI). Malta's starting point is it could create something together and this is the most fundamental point of concepts between the two countries.

"Maritime is among the areas in which Malta a lot of experience has and as Ethiopia recognizes the importance of the sea; my country is ready to share its experience that could help Ethiopia to explore fine mechanisms to gain port."

The discussion with Ethiopian stakeholders is not necessarily about a physical one. It is about capacity and about having a new approach and legal frameworks. It is believed that on the technical side Ethiopia needs to go particularly in the areas of International Maritime Law, the ambassador remarked.

Opinion

Navigating risks in Ethiopia's emerging security market: Strategic risk management approaches

BY AMSALU BEDEMO
(PhD, Associate Professor)

In the dynamic landscape of Ethiopia's growing financial environment, the establishment of a new security market is on the prospect, bringing both opportunities and challenges. Successfully navigating the complexities of an infant security market requires a proactive approach to risk management. This article explores the types of risks anticipated in this context and underscores the importance of implementing effective risk management strategies for sustained growth and stability in security market.

Market Liquidity Risk (MLR): Market Liquidity Risk is a fundamental concern for businesses investing into the security market. It relates to the potential difficulty in buying or selling an asset without causing significant price fluctuations. Imbalances between supply and demand can lead to challenges in executing transactions promptly and at desired prices. This risk extends across various financial instruments, including stocks, bonds, currencies, and derivatives, resulting in wider bid-ask spreads and increased price volatility.

Operational Risks: Operational risks in security markets encompass potential losses or disruptions arising from internal processes, systems, people, or external events. These risks can significantly impact the efficiency, integrity, and reliability of trading and settlement processes. Inadequate infrastructure, technological malfunctions, or insufficient regulatory frameworks can contribute to operational challenges, necessitating robust risk management strategies.

Regulatory and Compliance Risks: In the context of emerging security markets, regulatory and compliance risks stem from challenges and uncertainties associated with adhering to applicable laws and standards. The absence of well-established regulatory frameworks in newly established markets makes them particularly vulnerable. Inconsistent or unclear regulations may lead to legal uncertainties and compliance challenges, emphasizing the need for vigilance in navigating the regulatory landscape.

Market Abuse and Fraud: Market abuse and fraud pose significant threats in any financial market, and emerging security markets are no exception. Limited regulatory oversight, lower awareness, and sometimes inadequate infrastructure heighten vulnerability to these risks. Instances of insider trading, market manipulations pump and dump schemes, front running, and



false disclosures necessitate stringent measures to safeguard the integrity of the market.

Currency and Exchange Rate Risks: Currency and exchange rate risks are paramount considerations in security markets, particularly in the context of international transactions and investments. Fluctuations in currency values can impact returns and the overall value of securities. In the absence of careful management, changes in local currency values and exchange rates can pose challenges to investment returns, requiring a proactive approach to mitigate these risks.

In conclusion, as Ethiopia embarks on the establishment of a new security market, anticipating and addressing these risks will be crucial for the market's long-term sustainability and success. A comprehensive risk management strategy, encompassing market liquidity, operational efficiency, regulatory compliance, fraud prevention, and currency considerations, will empower market participants to navigate the complexities and contribute to the growth of Ethiopia's evolving financial landscape.

What are the Strategic Risk Management Approaches for investors in emerging security market of Ethiopia? Investors and participants in Ethiopia's forthcoming security market must be watchful in designing and implementing effective risk management strategies to navigate uncertainties and foster sustainable growth. The success of such strategies hinges on a comprehensive approach that includes risk assessment, education, and awareness. The following are key risk management strategies for investors to consider.

Diversification is a fundamental risk management strategy for investors in emerging security market. This approach involves strategically spreading investments across various asset classes, sectors, and geographic regions. The primary objective is to minimize the impact of poor performance in one

investment by balancing it with positive performance in others.

Asset Allocation is a strategy for determining the appropriate mix of asset classes (e.g., stocks, bonds, and cash) based on investment goals and risk tolerance with aim of achieving a balance between risk and return that aligns with the investor's financial objectives.

Stop-Loss Order is a proactive risk management strategy where investors set predetermined price levels at which to sell a security with a primary objective of limiting potential losses by automatically triggering the sale of the asset when it reaches the specified price threshold.

Hedging is a strategic risk management approach where investors employ financial instruments to counterbalance potential losses in their existing investments. These instruments, such as options or futures contracts, are strategically chosen to mitigate specific risks, such as price fluctuations, and providing downside.

Risk Tolerance Assessment is a strategic process aimed at understanding the level of risk investors are willing and able to undertake in their investment portfolio. This assessment takes into account both financial capacity and psychological disposition to market fluctuations. The key objective of Risk Tolerance Assessment is to harmonize investment strategies with the investor's risk tolerance.

Research and Due Diligence represents a strategic risk management process wherein investors engage in comprehensive investigation and analysis of potential investments. This involves examining both qualitative and quantitative aspects to gain a thorough understanding of the risks and opportunities associated with a particular security or asset. Its key objective is to equip investors with the necessary information to make informed investment choices.

Liquidity Management is a proactive strategy employed by investors

to maintain the ability to convert investments into cash swiftly and with minimal impact on the asset's market value. It encompasses measures to enhance market liquidity, providing flexibility and resilience in times of economic uncertainty. The core objective of Liquidity Management is to mitigate the risk associated with the potential inability to sell assets promptly during market downturns or periods of reduced market liquidity.

Regular Portfolio Review and Rebalancing is a systematic strategy wherein investors periodically assess the performance of their investment portfolio. Based on this assessment, they make adjustments to asset allocations with the aim of realigning the portfolio to better match the investor's financial goals and risk tolerance. Its main objective is to maintain alignment between the portfolio composition and the investor's objectives.

Contingency Planning is a proactive strategy involving the formulation of detailed plans to address unforeseen events or crises within the market. These plans encompass a range of scenarios, providing investors with a strategic framework to navigate challenges and uncertainties. The core objective of such strategy is to strengthen resilience by anticipating potential adverse events and developing proactive responses.

Risk Communication is a strategy aimed at fostering transparency by effectively conveying investment risks to clients or stakeholders. It involves the clear articulation of potential challenges and uncertainties, allowing investors to make informed decisions while managing their expectations. The central objective of Risk Communication is to create a shared understanding between investors and stakeholders regarding the potential risks associated with investments.

A Stress Testing Strategy is a forward-looking and systematic process where investors evaluate how their investment portfolio would perform under different stress scenarios. These scenarios may simulate adverse market conditions, economic downturns, or other challenging situations to uncover potential vulnerabilities. The primary objective of such strategy is to proactively identify areas of weakness within the portfolio that may be exposed during stressful market conditions.

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

Business & Economy

Ethiopia-Djibouti Railway: Paving way for interconnecting ports with hinterlands

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

The Ethio-Djibouti Railway Transport Joint Stock Company, a major player in the transportation industry, has recently reported impressive financial results. Over the course of the last seven months of the fiscal year, the company has managed to earn an astounding 2.2 billion Birr. This noteworthy achievement can be attributed to the successful transportation of 1.2 million tons of incoming and outgoing cargo, as well as the safe and efficient travel of more than 115,000 passengers.

Fiseha Mebrahtom, the Company's senior director of planning and program management, shared these remarkable figures with the Ethiopian Press Agency. He revealed that the company had surpassed their initial target, aiming to earn more than 2.158 billion Birr during the same period. However, the company managed to achieve an impressive 104 % of the set target, resulting in the generation of over 2,256,459,000 Birr.

Fiseha further explained that the transportation of cargo played a significant role in the company's financial success. Although their plan was to transport 1.5 million tons of cargo in the last seven months, they were able to move 1.2 million tons. However, he acknowledged that certain challenges, such as security and safety concerns, as well as delays in container loading, had affected the company's performance.

The Ethio-Djibouti train transport handles various types of cargo, including containers, empty containers, soil fertilizers, vehicles, wheat, and cooking oil. By providing efficient services and reducing freight costs, the company has become a reliable partner for various institutions. Furthermore, the railway line connecting Ethiopia and Djibouti has made a significant contribution to the growth of the transport sector by facilitating the transportation of goods from the port to the country's interior.

The company operates in several important railway stations, including Dire Dawa, Mojo, Adama, Lebu, Endode, Meiso, and Dewele.

Fiseha highlighted that the railway line currently serves 20 stations, and there are plans to open additional service stations in the near future. However, Fiseha also acknowledged that the company faces certain challenges. Among these challenges are the theft of railway infrastructure, interruptions and fluctuations in electricity supply, security concerns, and a shortage of foreign currency. These issues pose significant hurdles that the company strives to overcome in order to maintain and improve its performance.

According to the report the ability to transport a large amount of cargo and passengers has contributed to this achievement. Although the company faces challenges such as theft, electricity problems, security concerns, and foreign currency shortages, it remains committed to providing efficient services



Ethiopia-Djibouti railway

Beyond its national significance, the Ethiopia-Djibouti Railway plays a pivotal role in promoting regional integration and connectivity within East Africa

and expanding its operations to provide better service to the transportation needs of Ethiopia and Djibouti.

The Ethiopia-Djibouti Railway, also known as the Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway, has emerged as a significant infrastructural project in East Africa, holding immense promise for interconnecting ports with hinterlands. This railway system, spanning approximately 750 kilometers, serves as a vital trade corridor between landlocked Ethiopia and the Port of Djibouti, providing a reliable and efficient transportation link for goods and people. The completion of this ambitious project has opened up new opportunities for economic growth, regional integration, and enhanced connectivity in the region.

The Ethiopia-Djibouti Railway has a rich historical background that dates back to the late 19th century. The original railway

line was constructed between 1894 and 1917 during the colonial era, connecting the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, with the Port of Djibouti. However, due to years of neglect and disrepair, the railway fell into a state of disuse, severely hampering Ethiopia's import and export capabilities.

Recognizing the importance of a functional railway system for its economic development, Ethiopia embarked on an ambitious project to revitalize and upgrade the Ethiopia-Djibouti Railway. In partnership with China, the governments of Ethiopia and Djibouti invested heavily in constructing modernized and electrified railway infrastructure to standardize its operational efficiency. It is owned by the governments of Ethiopia (75% share) and Djibouti (25% share).

The new standard gauge railway, completed in 2017, replaced the old narrow gauge line, significantly increasing capacity and reducing travel time between the two countries. The upgraded railway boasts a maximum speed of 120 kilometers per hour, facilitating faster and more reliable transportation of goods and passengers.

The Ethiopia-Djibouti Railway has had a transformative impact on the economies of both Ethiopia and Djibouti. For Ethiopia, which heavily relies on Djibouti's port for international trade, the railway provides a lifeline by offering a cost-effective and efficient transportation route. It has helped to alleviate congestion at the port and reduce logistics costs, making Ethiopian goods more competitive in global markets.

Moreover, the railway has opened up new opportunities for foreign direct investment, attracting companies interested in leveraging Ethiopia's vast market potential. Access to reliable transportation infrastructure has made Ethiopia an attractive destination for industries seeking to establish manufacturing and distribution hubs in the region.

Beyond its national significance, the Ethiopia-Djibouti Railway plays a pivotal

role in promoting regional integration and connectivity within East Africa. The railway is part of the larger vision to create a regional network of railways that will connect landlocked countries, such as South Sudan and Uganda, to the ports in Djibouti and Kenya.

This interconnected railway network will enhance trade flows, facilitate cross-border movement of goods and people, and foster closer economic cooperation among East African countries. It will also contribute to the realization of the African Union's Agenda 2063, which aims to promote continental integration and boost intra-African trade.

The Ethiopia-Djibouti Railway has laid the foundation for further infrastructural development and economic growth in the region. Efforts are underway to extend the railway to other neighboring countries, including South Sudan and Uganda, which will further enhance regional connectivity and open up new trade corridors.

Additionally, plans are in place to establish industrial zones along the railway line, attracting investments and creating employment opportunities. Such initiatives will not only spur economic development but also contribute to poverty alleviation and human capital development in the region.

The Ethiopia-Djibouti Railway stands as a testament to the transformative power of infrastructure in driving economic growth and regional integration. By interconnecting ports with hinterlands, this railway has revolutionized trade and transportation in East Africa, offering new avenues for economic development and prosperity.

As the railway continues to expand and integrate with other regional networks, it holds the potential to unlock vast opportunities for trade, investment, and improved livelihoods. The Ethiopia-Djibouti Railway has become a symbol of hope, progress, and brighter prospects for the region as it moves towards a more interconnected and prosperous future.

Planet Earth

Ethio-Norway Climate Diplomacy could be emulated by other nations

BY EPHREM ANDARAGCHEW

Ethiopia and Norway have had diplomatic ties since 1948. The two nations have collaborated on a variety of issues, including development aid, human rights, and climate change. Norway has been a major supporter of Ethiopia, funding programs in education, health, and sustainable development.

Along with these efforts, the two countries have collaborated on peace and security-related matters. Cooperation and mutual respect are the hallmarks of Ethiopia and Norway's relationship. To share issues and advance regional development and peace, both countries are still cooperating.

Norway, in particular, has been a strong supporter of Ethiopia's efforts to combat climate change through a variety of initiatives and projects. It supports renewable energy initiatives in Ethiopia. It has also offered financial and technical assistance to Ethiopia's renewable energy projects, including hydroelectric and wind power plants. These initiatives help Ethiopia reduce its dependency on fossil fuels and shift to greener energy sources. The country also supports REDD+, which reduces emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. Norway has backed Ethiopia's efforts to conserve and restore forests through the REDD+ initiative. This effort seeks to minimize deforestation and forest degradation emissions while encouraging sustainable forest management methods.

Norway, based on its experience, has offered Ethiopia with capacity-building and technical help for climate change mitigation and adaptation. This assistance improves Ethiopia's ability to implement climate-friendly policies and practices. Norway has also collaborated closely with Ethiopia on international climate change negotiations, calling for bold climate action on a global scale. Both nations have worked together on projects to promote sustainable development and mitigate the effects of climate change. As a result, Ethiopia and Norway's collaboration on climate change illustrates their common commitment to solving global issues. Working together, both countries contribute to a more sustainable and resilient future for everyone.

More precisely, an agreement

Ethiopia and Norway's collaboration in combating climate change elucidates their common commitment to tackle one of the most serious issues of our day. Both countries are working together to create a more sustainable and ecologically friendly future

worth 75 million USD has been signed by Ethiopia and Norway to lower greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. This agreement takes into consideration Ethiopia's efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change. Norway's Minister of Climate and Environment, Andreas Bjelland Eriksen, and Ethiopian

Finance Minister Ahmed Shide signed the deal.

Ethiopian Ministry of Finance Minister Ahmed Shide said that Ethiopia has invested over 82 billion USD in climate change mitigation and adaptation programs and the majority of the finance office projects and programs come from public finance supplemented with international development aid.

He added that the Ethiopian government continues to prioritize combating climate change and poverty reduction, as well as developing a climate-resilient economy. As a consequence of the two nations' agreement, Ethiopia would be able to continue improving its efforts in forestry and environmental preservation.

He further stated that Ethiopia and Norway have long-standing diplomatic relations, and shared common interests including peace and security, migration, climate change, private sector growth, gender equality, and so on. Hence, "The partnership agreement that was signed between Ethiopia and Norway is yet another testimony of our successful collaboration and achievement during the past decade. It marks a new era of collaboration and partnership, including through a resulted-based payment approach in the run to 2030."

According to him, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's nationwide tree-planting effort as part of the Green Legacy Initiative demonstrates the country's commitment to combating the detrimental effects of climate change. Norway also supports the effort in a variety of ways.

Norway Climate and Environment Minister Andreas Bjelland Eriksen said that his country has been a long-standing partner of Ethiopia in fighting climate change and forest development. "We were one of the first countries to fully commit our long-term support for Ethiopia's climate resilient green economy strategy when launched in Durban in 2011."

As stated by him, Ethiopia has been a true African continent leader in formulating and implementing green economic development strategies over the past decade. The Green Legacy program, launched by the government, is an ambitious attempt to mitigate the negative consequences of climate change. Ethiopia is, in many respects, at the forefront of climate change.

"I am encouraged to learn that Ethiopia has increased its forest cover due to strong government policy measures

that yield the necessary results, and the ambitious target of doubling the forest cover by 2030 is very much impressive. And Norway is proud to have supported this achievement."

The climate and environment minister added that Norway intends to support Ethiopia during this next phase of the partnership, one which includes the continuation of the REDD+ investment program last year.

In reality, Norway has taken an active role in the Green Legacy effort, an environmental effort aiming at supporting sustainable development and tackling climate change. Norway has been a major supporter of renewable energy sources and has made considerable investments in clean energy technologies. Norway's support for the Green Legacy Initiative has helped to advance worldwide efforts to combat climate change and promote environmental sustainability. The country's dedication to these goals sets an example for other countries to follow in the battle against climate change.

For example, the 2023 Norwegian official report from the government and data obtained from local media stated that Ethiopian-Norwegian ties have been improving the two nations' long-standing collaboration in environmental preservation and climate action. They collaborate on climate adaptation, sustainable forest management, landscape restoration, and food system transformation to achieve food security.

Furthermore, the decade-long support has helped to conserve one million hectares of natural forests, which are now under sustainable management systems. It also helped to restore one million hectares of degraded forests and develop 75,000 hectares of high-value planted forests. The collaboration has resulted in the creation and enhancement of 300,000 livelihoods.

Indeed, Ethiopia and Norway's collaboration in combating climate change elucidates their common commitment to tackle one of the most serious issues of our day. Both countries are working together to create a more sustainable and ecologically friendly future. Norway's assistance to Ethiopia in combating climate change indicates their shared commitment to tackling this global issue. Working together, both countries help to create a more sustainable and resilient future for everyone. As a result, other countries should emulate this cooperative effort.

Art & Culture

Radio and cultural impacts of Marconi's Piece of Magic

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

When Marconi, the Italian inventor first developed the concept of a radio, he certainly had no idea as to how his invention could be received by the rest of world. He certainly had no idea as to how much transformative impacts his idea could have on so many people, and could be celebrated across the world more than 200 years after he sent the first Morse code message via an experimental wire.

There are so many anniversaries that we wittingly or unwittingly observe every year because we think these days mark important watershed moments in the lives of the country or the world at large. Some of the anniversaries may be important and others simply banal or even ridiculous. World Radio Day, which was observed last week, provides a rare moment of reflection for obvious reasons. Radio has a deeply transformative impact on our lives, our cultures and our aspirations as members of the global community.

The observation of World Radio Day on February 13 each year is in fact something worthy of celebrating for radio is one of the most advanced scientific discoveries of the 20th century that has deeply changed the way we receive information and change our lives. Technically speaking, "radio is the use of electromagnetic radiation to communicate electrical signals without wires to create sound broadcasting, television and radar." As such, no modern invention has transformed human communication as deeply as radio has done in our time. The cultural impact of radio is so powerful that it has continued to change not only the way we interact but also the way we look at culture.

According to an article by Monkululenko Mashini, an expert on the subject of radio and culture, "One of the most significant innovations of the 20th century, radio has a profound impact on culture. Radio has been instrumental in influencing culture, politics, entertainment and communication since its inception."

The author of this article outlines the impacts radio has on culture and society in the following ways. Radio has brought about a communication revolution by making it possible to send information immediately over great distances. Radio has always had political influence over communities and societies as a potent weapon of political communication and propaganda. Radio has influence over education and information in the sense that remote communities that were not accessible by traditional print media might now get education via distance education programs. Radio has promoted cultural diversity because it features a range of voices musical genres and viewpoints to promote cultural diversity.

One can hardly underestimate the role of the radio as a tool for propagating culture among societies near and far. "Radio is the mass media that ensures the promotion of culture in every society. It tends to broadcast the way in which society, nation, community or family live their life and how people relate to one another."

Cultural promotion is assumed to be one of

the most important roles of the mass media in any society. According to one study, "Cultural promotion in a society is a basic role of mass media, especially radio. The accessibility of radio by the audience makes radio to be one of the basic mass media channel for cultural promotion." According to another study, "At the grassroots level, radio has become a very efficient tool in societal development via culture."

Radio is generally considered a new kind of mass media. Newspapers were long in existence long before the invention of radio as a tool of cultural influence. The impacts of radio stem from the fact that although newspapers can reach millions of literate people who would enjoy reading them for various reasons, radio on the other hand requires no prior learning to use and learn from its contents simply because any human being with functional auditory system can listen to radio broadcasts and enjoy them on the go. The simplicity and accessibility of radio therefore make it the instrument of choice for communication, education and entertainment.

On the other hand, radio is a tool of mass culture and a tool for the production and consumption of culture by bringing communities closer to one another and allowing them to share information simultaneously thereby allowing them to share emotions, outlooks and reactions to specific events. According to some researchers, the advent of radio and its presence in millions of households has created what is known as a consumer culture. "In 1941, two thirds of radio programs carried advertising to sell products to a captive audience. This kind of mass marketing ushered in a new age of consume culture."

The impact of radio on popular culture is immense, according to another study. "Radio encouraged the growth of national popular music stars and brought regional sounds to wider audiences. The effects of early radio programs can be felt both in modern popular music and television programming." Radio's social impact had always been significant and long-lasting. "It has, across cultural and racial barriers, entertained generations, influenced political debate, enlightened the populace, embraced diversity and sparked economic expansion." Before the invention of the Internet, radio played a significant role in developing a mass culture of sports, entertainment news and advertising.

The uses of radio go beyond the usual role as tool of communication between broadcasters and audiences. Technical experts often suggest that radio has many important uses; namely broadcasting, two-way voice communication, data communication and space communication among others. However, the same experts also suggest that radio as a tool of communication has some limitations as a one-way communication medium lacking the interactivity of the Internet or social media. Radio relies solely on audio content, limiting the ability to convey visual information or multimedia content. Despite these limitations however, radio is the fastest, most preferred and enduring system of communication both for

Radio has done away with the darkness that engulfed the country and its people for centuries by giving voice to the voiceless, by sharing knowledge and information that are vital for the economic and social transformations that continue to unfold

educated and uneducated audiences.

Radio is not only a national or regional medium of communication. Its global reach has been growing since the advent of social media and remains so despite the invention of more sophisticated communication technologies that did not reduce its mass appeal. "Transmission of information thus became easy and widespread. By the early 20th century, radio began to change the world, as it became the main source of broadcast news."

In the meantime radio allowed radio stations to broadcast in various modulations, the main and popular ones being AM radio stations that transmit in AM (amplitude modulation), FM or radio stations transmitting in FM (frequency modulation). These are known to be older analog audio standards while newer digital radio stations transmit in several digital audio standards.

Technicalities aside, radio's impacts across cultures, societies and lifestyles had been and continue to be enormous. According to one opinion on the subject, radio has contributed a great deal in creating national unity and integration in almost all countries. Commenting on the impacts of radio on early American society, a writer opined that, "radio drew the nation together by bringing news, entertainment and advertisements to more than 10 million households by 1929. Radio blunted regional differences, and imposed similar tastes and lifestyles. No other media has the power to create heroes and villains so quickly."

The magic of radio is so decisive simply because "radio broadcasts provide real-time information and some that broadcast 24 hours a day, can provide the most recent updates to listeners. Radio has the ability to reach across borders and can become a valuable source of information and where information is scarce."

Regarding the authenticity of radio broadcasts, we may perhaps add by saying that all information transmitted by radio is always true and irrevocable. Like any medium of communication, radio is also subject to misinformation, distortion of facts and events. The truth may sometimes be

distorted by the goals and objectives of radio stations and the political forces that control and operate them. The absence of ethical journalism can also impact the way we send and receive news and information in general.

There were several dark moments of broadcasting in Africa. Back in 1994, Radio Mille Collines in Rwanda played a leading role in inciting violence and bloodshed between Hutus and Tutsis by propagating false information and inciting the populations to genocide that led to the death of a million people. However, the overall impact of radio on political processes in Africa had been positive and as well as indispensable.

In Ethiopia, radio has played and continues to play the roles assigned to it by the pioneers of the new medium of communication starting from the early decade of the 20th century until the present time. This is truer than ever since the advent of the ICT and the invention of the Internet that revolutionized the way communication is produced and consumed across national, regional and global players.

The advent of radio in Ethiopia was indeed a revolutionizing event that has deeply transformed daily life for millions of isolated communities. It has given them new perspectives about themselves and the world by ushering in access to information vital for their cultural, social and political lives. Radio is still the most popular medium of communication and is expected to be so simply because of its easy access and affordability.

This is in fact the ultimate beauty of the radio. Its transformative impact is evident as it has shaped the history and political process in the country by creating an unprecedented urge to know what is going on in the country. Radio has done away with the darkness that engulfed the country and its people for centuries by giving voice to the voiceless, by sharing knowledge and information that are vital for the economic and social transformations that continue to unfold.

What is magical about radio technology is that its importance does not diminish or decline with time. It rather expands and deepens with the advent of allied technologies such as social media platforms. Many people might have expected that social media would undermine or replace the role of the radio in our lives. Yet, this has proved a wrong assumption because the integration of radio technology with social media is rather deepening the importance and impact of radio.

"Social media has revolutionized broadcasting, offering new opportunities for content creators, enhancing audience engagement and democratizing the media landscape. With social media platforms, broadcasting is no longer confined to a select few, but has become accessible to everyone with a voice and a story to share."

As a last note, it would be important to pay tribute to the immense opportunities radio has created for tens of millions of people as an indispensable medium of education, entertainment and information. Without the radio, our lives could have been less glamorous if not less important and our expectations as individuals and communities could have been left less fulfilled.

Society

Promoting grand narration to reinforce unity, sustain a great nation, Ethiopia!!

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

The year 1896 was an important moment in the history of Ethiopia for lots of different reasons. It was a year brave Ethiopians beat the invading forces at the Battle of Adwa who attempted to take control of their lands with force. It was also a time that showed the unity, strength and determination of the Ethiopian people to defend their country from any forces. Likewise, the year was a historic moment that initiated Africans and black people all over the world to fight against colonialism, oppression and injustice.

Adwa is not the victory of a single ethnic group or a single person. It was the victory of all Ethiopians who paid the ultimate sacrifice to defend the territorial integrity and sovereignty of their country and transfer a strong and unified Ethiopia. The important reason that brought all Ethiopians together as one irrespective of any differences- be it ethnic, culture, religion, gender or any - and compelled them to defend their land from the invading force was their indomitable love and Ethiopian sentiment.

As indicated by CEO of Ahadu Radio and Television and President of the Ethiopian Mass Media Professionals Association (EMMPA) Tibebe Belete, the unity and togetherness of Ethiopians to preserve the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country from external forces is one reason that kept Ethiopia from the hands of colonizers or disintegration.

“Adwa is all about the unity and greatness of Ethiopians. Whenever we talk about Adwa, we are speaking about the greatness of Ethiopians and their togetherness. It is a great event where black people recorded a decisive victory against fascist invaders that had been undermining the greatness of Ethiopians.”

When the fascist force decided to invade Ethiopia, it had miscalculated the strength of Ethiopians, their unity and togetherness as well as the patriotic spirit that is well established within the soul of every Ethiopian.

As he stated, when the Italian forces decided to invade Ethiopia, they had promised to their Prime Minister Francisco Crispi to arrest and bring Emperor Menelik to him, locking inside the cage as if he was a beast. However, what happened was totally different from what they had calculated. As the Italian invaders arrived in Ethiopia, they faced a formidable army that would not compromise with Ethiopia. It was them who found themselves within the cage.

When the Italian forces attempted to invade Ethiopia, they were mistaken and underestimated the military skills of Ethiopians plus the strong socio-cultural unity of the society that kept the nation strong for centuries. Ethiopia might be a country with different ethnic groups,



cultures and religions; but it is a land where the essence of Ethiopianism is firmly deep rooted within the heart of every Ethiopian.

Unity among Ethiopians is one of the secrets behind the Victory of Adwa. Even though they had differences and inconveniences existed, Ethiopians were against all forms of invasions. This is witnessed several times. “The Victory of Adwa is a result of the combined hands of all Ethiopians. The victory resulted from the fact that all Ethiopians were prioritizing their motherland rather than their identity. Ethiopia was their top agenda and a matter that they would not trade it whatever it is. Those Ethiopians who fought against the invading force and sacrificed their lives had differences in several spheres; but when the country was facing a challenging moment, their grievances and differences were not agendas that they took them into consideration because the issue of Ethiopia outweighed much more than

anything else.”

Even though they had cultural, religious or language differences, none of them have prevented them from standing together as one

and protecting their country from invaders. The strong patriotic feeling among Ethiopians was not confined to age, religion, culture or gender. Every Ethiopians- the Muslim, the Christian, children, elderly people were part of the campaign. This was because Ethiopians knew the consequence of the invasion. If the Italian force had taken control of the Ethiopian land, there would not be any more local religion, culture or identity. For this very reason, the battle was not simply the question of defending the nation; but it was the question of living in an independent- preserving own culture, tradition, religion, language, distinct identity and passing an independent, sovereign Ethiopia onto the next

generation.

Fidelity to their country and their leaders was the other factor behind the victory. While fighting the invading force, no single Ethiopian had a fear that someone [some groups] would be a threat to survival. All were fighting with the same spirit against the invading Italian forces. Every Ethiopian responded to the call made by Emperor Menelik without any precondition.

This fidelity was not only the identity of those Ethiopian patriots who marched to the warfront. It was also fully practiced among those people who remained in the center to protect the country. Throughout the whole ten months of fighting, the king and his officials were on the battlefield while trustworthy officials ruling the country honestly. Individuals like Ras Dargie are good examples in this regard. Despite the fact that there was pressure on him from other European countries (Britain and France) to revolt against Menelik, Ras Darge had been ruling the country with integrity until Menelik returned from the battlefield.

According to Tibebe, Ethiopia’s common values, such as togetherness, strong patriotic feelings had greater roles in defeating the invading force and retaining Ethiopia’s sovereignty. However, these values have degraded alarmingly in the course of time. This is especially true within the last 50 years where Ethiopian politics is dominated and affected by divisive narrations so as to reduce the role of previous regimes. Politicizing and criticizing the efforts of previous regimes, kings or political leaders was instrumental in this regard. Deriding the imperial system to promote socialism or criticizing kings to promote dictators or attacking the ideology of a certain regime for the sake of applauding the incumbent has seriously spoiled our social values.

As to Tibebe, within the past 50 years Ethiopia has experienced different political systems that have directly or indirectly affected these values. However now, we are witnessing signs of reviving the sentiment of Ethiopianism which is based on grand narration. The establishment of the Adwa Victory Memorial Museum is one indication of that. Having such a grand museum where several historical heritages which are a living witness about the battle can serve as a mirror that enables the coming generation to know about its history, further promote and build on grand narrations that can unite us instead of divide us and.

to look inward.

It is well documented in history that the Berlin Conference, 1885-1885 or, what is commonly called “Scramble for Africa” has given European powers a right to own any African country and those African countries were forced to renounce their language, culture and religion.

Law & Politics

Africa in search of Adwa's legacy

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

Historians, researchers and academics of all sorts from several countries have presented reports of the battle of Adwa where the invading Italian forces were defeated in a final battle that practically lasted half a day. A lot has been said and written about the background to the war, the immediate and remote causes of it and how Ethiopia, an unknown quantity by European standards, could fight a war against a European army and inflict a defeat.

Lots of admirations were given to the strategist of this battle Emperor Menelik II and his generals who counseled him in the long process of mobilizing all the fighting forces and organizing the way the battle should have been carried out. The contributions of the various warlords who stood immediately by the side of the Menelik army despite their disagreements on certain internal political issues were well mentioned in the history of the battle.

Ethiopians of all ages have been brought up listening to the war chants of their warriors who it was always underlined fought bravely barefooted and with little arms against the formidable European army to the testimonial of their bravery and their faith in their country, their willingness to pay whatever price in order to keep the flames of freedom always bright on the skies of Ethiopia. Ethiopians they were told always fought hard to keep the territorial integrity of their land and the sovereignty of their government on the motherland and that whatever differences and disputes there may be among Ethiopians, however, where the danger came from abroad with alien forces Ethiopians would immediately forget their differences for another day and unite against the enemy. This has been a constant in the history of Ethiopia and there was never a compromise on freedom and dignity whatever the cost may be.

The victory of Adwa just as other battles Ethiopians fought and won against their enemies which tried to penetrate their sovereign land again and again, have been taught in history lessons of the Ethiopian education system. But there are still many scholars who insist that not enough attention has been afforded to all the protagonists of the masterpiece and not everyone knows in detail what exactly happened when and how Adwa in the end materialized. For some it was just a myth and a casual event but for others who were well informed about the history of the battle, it was the turning point of not only Ethiopian history but also of Africa and the world.

It is also a turning point in the history of the world as well, in the history of the relationship between the mighty and the weak, the oppressors and the oppressed, and a victory for all those who have always condemned aggression

and colonial expansion. With this victory Africa was in a way vindicated although it took decades before the first real liberation movements were formed and began to face head on colonial forces. All over Africa the flames of the victory of Adwa spread to inspire them to show that they too could emulate what Ethiopians did in 1896.

The story of Adwa has been repeatedly narrated in many places in African countries but not enough exposure has been afforded to African students about the real, true stories behind the victory of Adwa. Adwa is now considered as part of the historiography of Africa and the day the victory was recorded is to be marked at the continental level.

However, there are many scholars and observers of African history who say that the Victory of Adwa has not been repeated in the modern diplomatic world for Africa at large or even for Ethiopia, the owner of this huge historical legacy. In today's world we all know what place Africa has and what it actually should be entitled to.

Africa represents a huge part of the world with a huge population but the economic share of the continent is insignificant and yet most of the raw materials for the industries of the world, particularly the west, derive from Africa with cheap African labour and small revenues from the sale of the ingredients. Africa may have had undemocratic regimes but we all know what contribution there is on the part of other countries outside Africa in things that happen in the continent.

African leaders have been many times complacent with the exploitation of their peoples and the blessings of the land in complicity with western forces in large part and the results have been the slow growth of the continent and the slow progress of its people. This means the spirit of Adwa has been betrayed because at Adwa all Ethiopians of all walks of life received the call of their emperor and united to fight together against the alien enemy, the alien force that threatened their sovereignty and dignity as well as pride. Adwa would never have materialized if it was not for the total unity of Ethiopians from all ethnic groups, religious origin and geographical location of the country. The commitment to stand in unison until the final sacrifice was the bond that Ethiopians had and that resulted in victory. This could have been repeated even in Africa if we were to follow the inspiration of Adwa.

Africans are seen divided on a number of internal issues and they continue to kill each other becoming at times Trojan horses for outside powers. They operate against their own peoples and divided they became weak and easy to deal with by enemies or rivals. The African Union, the replacement of the Organization of African Unity was intended not only to fight for the political liberation of Africa but also for its economic progress and

to have a big voice in the international landscape when they saw that the US, Russia and China were huge rivals in many respects, and united they could be 'equal partners' and make their voices heard. Similarly, Africa as well could have copied not only the spirit of Adwa but also the way the EU was formed and the good results it has been producing.

Unfortunately, Africa is still the forgotten continent and its destiny is shaped not by its own children or its governments but by outsiders, largely westerners. Many even dare say that Africa is not yet free if we talk about real sovereignty. The independence movements did secure flag independence but they are still largely dependent on their former masters and others even in deciding their fate. Africa cannot sit around a table and negotiate about its strategic interests. The world order of decades ago is still preventing Africans from having their adequate say in today's world. The victory of Adwa has at all been replicated neither in Ethiopia nor even in the wider African continent at large.

Today the Security Council of the UN is still the domain of five nations who took part in World War II and decided the fate of the world at the end of the war. This veto system of the UNSC has damaged the interests of Africans and we have seen several times things being decided on the world level without consulting at all Africans. And yet Africa is not inferior to for example one nation such as France or England who have a permanent seat in the UNSC and decide on matters that affect more than a billion Africans without consulting them or independently of their feelings!

Africa is still relatively weak in political and economic matters when it comes to gauging its real position in the world. We may talk about the inspiration of the victory of Adwa as a victory of the oppressed on the oppressors but we can say that its spirit has been betrayed for one reason or another. Hence, Africans must wake up again and take lessons from battles such as Adwa where united any objective could be realized. What Africa needs to do is overcome its superficial differences or antagonisms motivated by old narratives and vendettas and focus on the big picture of a huge continent that deserves its right place in the world at large and Africans have the right to reap what they sow and reserve a better future for the coming generation.

Africans must show that they deserve better and fill the gap with the rest of the world in many ways. Africa must regain its dignity and pride and never be referred to as the undeveloped world when it has the means to defeat poverty once and for all. As long as Africa is poor it can never have the deserved place or say in the world at large, and that is where the spirit of Adwa should be called for as the way to beat any formidable enemy if done with commitment and unity, courage and bravery.

At Adwa, all Ethiopians of all walks of life received the call of their emperor and united to fight together against the alien enemy, the alien force that threatened their sovereignty and dignity as well as pride

place in the world at large. The AU has the goal of unifying really the continent not only economically but also politically in the long run, and more or less copy the footpaths of the European Union which has a European Parliament and other structures that work as one unit in the continent beside of course using the same currency, the Euro.

The EU has become a reality leaving aside bitter enmity and rivalry between many European countries and forgetting the years old of wars particularly in the two World Wars. European countries have shown us how to sacrifice certain feelings and revengeful attitudes when greater ends are on the horizon. Europe needed

In Pictures

Ethiopians commemorate 128th Adwa Victory

BY DARGIE KAHSAY



Ethiopians celebrate Adwa victory at Adwa Victory Memorial

Adwa Victory Memorial, a memorial built here in the capital to commemorate the victory of Adwa, was built after 128 years of Adwa Victory. It was inaugurated by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) weeks ago.

The 128th Adwa Victory was commemorated for the first time at the Adwa Victory Memorial. The day was commemorated by various events attended by senior government officials, heroes and heroines, public figures and residents of the metropolis.



Artists and city residents are parading to show the heroic acts of the Ethiopian heroes and heroines of Adwa. The residents are attired in traditional costumes to add color to the occasion they bore traditional weapons and shields which Ethiopian fighters were using during the Battle of Adwa.

Prime Minister Abiy Visits Kenya



Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Abiy Ahmed (PhD) has arrived in Nairobi, Kenya for an official State visit on Tuesday, this week. Upon his arrival, the President of Kenya, William Ruto and senior Government officials welcomed Prime Minister Abiy and his delegation.

The two sides held discussions on bilateral, regional and international issues of common concern and agreed to enhance the historical relations of the two countries.