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Addis remaking stimulates tourist influx

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA- The ongoing corridor project and other redevelopment activities will have great contribution to stimulate and accelerate the tourism influx to the metropolis, the Addis Ababa Culture and Tourism Bureau said.

The Bureau Head Hirut Kassaw (PhD) told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the redevelopment work will help Addis Ababa to fulfill international tourism criteria and make it a preferred destination for global visitors. "Upon completion, the renovation activities that have been carried out across the city will have

See Addis remaking ... page 4

Premier vows to continue work toward full economic freedom

ADDIS ABABA (ENA) - Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) has pledged to make Ethiopia Africa's Beacon of prosperity and unity by freeing the country from economic dependence.

support the reformist leadership of Ethiopia was held in Wolkite town, Gurage Zone of the Central Ethiopian state yesterday in the presence of premier Abiy .

unity and solidarity. He emphasized that this is a practical testament which the rest of Ethiopian people should take as a lesson to live harmoniously.

A forum that brought together many people to

In his message on the occasion, the premier lauded Gurage zone's people who promote

See Premier vows to ... page 4

HoA: From turmoil to oasis of peace

BY YESUF ENDRIS

During the second series of the Horn Dialogue which held in Addis Ababa last Friday, statements of senior diplomats and foreign relation experts were dominantly about concerns showing the rising insecurity in the Horn of Africa (HoA).

Almost all panellists and officials participated in the dialogue highlighted both internal and regional factors exacerbating the situation.

Harry Verhoeven, International Relations Scholar with Columbia University, emphasized the complex nature of insecurity in the region, attributing it to a mix of internal political conflicts and regional tensions. He noted that while the



proximity between Horn of Africa countries has unifying effects, shared identities, customs, and traditions, challenges are being continued due to underutilization of the opportunities.

One common thread across the region is the deep interconnection between countries' societal values, despite disparities in their

See HoA: From turmoil ... page 4



Photo: Eyob Teferi

Costantinos Berhutesfa (PhD)

Ethiopia's room for foreign companies streamlines marketing milieu: Analyst

Page 4

Improving commercialization, post-harvest loss vital to food self-sufficiency: MoA

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – Expanding commercialization and reducing post-harvest loss crucial to ensure food self-sufficiency in Ethiopia, said the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA).

Approached by *The Ethiopian Herald*, MoA Food and Nutrition Coordination Office Head Alemtehay Sergawi said that expanding agriculture commercialization, ensuring food safety and reducing post-harvesting losses would contribute to ensure food self-sufficiency in the country.

The nutrition sensitive agro-food system strategy implementation, focusing on widely producing of green leafy vegetables and others would contribute to fill the micro nutrient deficiency. The process needed ensuring the availability of nutritionally enriched food products by affordable price to community, she said.

Food import substitution would be achieved by properly managing agricultural products' losses as well as enhancing quality production and productivity, Office Head added.

For his part, Hawassa University Agriculture Department Lecturer and Researcher Yirsaw Demeke (PhD) said that the country has been losing 30 to 40% of agricultural products during post-harvesting period.

"If we manage this loss properly, the country would ensure food self-sufficiency shortly," he said.

Ethiopia's policy that was merely focusing on boosting production and productivity, lack of awareness, implementation limitations of policies and strategies and others contributed to result the aforementioned percent of loss, he stated.

Focusing on boosting of production and productivity alone is not satisfactory, but it needs reducing loss and improving quality, Yirsaw said.

Having different policies and strategies alone would not address the sector problems as lack of awareness among the community has been challenging post-harvesting process, he mentioned.

Ethiopia can reduce the current post-harvest losses by half through proper awareness creation among communities, he said.

To do so, Yirsaw suggested that the country can draw experiences from European nations that minimized the post-harvest losses by less than 2%.



Foreign firms' local market involvement entails economic dynamism

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – Permitting foreign firm's involvement in the import, wholesale and retail business, which was restricted to local companies, would bring a new dynamism in Ethiopia's economy, well-noted experts said.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Ethiopian Economics Association's Senior Researcher Arega Shumetic (PhD) stated that the opening up of the local market for foreign actors would bring multilayered benefits including expediting job creation and FDI inflow and easing the rampant Forex crunch.

Apart from the above outcomes, the measure is instrumental to facilitate technology and knowledge transfer, stabilize market, and

encourage domestic investors to excel their activities, the researcher elaborated.

According to Arega (PhD), foreign investors' participation in the local market would bring a significant outcome in importing strategic commodities, widening alternatives, encouraging competitiveness, and arresting the pressing inflation. "To realize this goal, the government needs to put in place a meticulous and proper implementation system."

Addis Ababa University's Economics Professor Alemayehu Geda, who mentioned the 10 percent profit margin of many countries with a healthy business system, stressed that the involvement of foreign companies in the aforementioned areas is a solution to Ethiopia's hyper-inflated market and ensure competitiveness.

"For example, Kenya has two big retail centers and everyone is buying commodities from there. As a result, in the last 15 years, the price increase in some items has been less than 30 percent."

Prof. Alemayehu stated; however, that equal attention should be given to encourage domestic firms' involvement in the import, wholesale and retail business that would create a balance in the market.

Indeed, encouraging consumer associations would also have a significant impact to curb the soaring cost of living that has been immensely affecting the society especially those in the low-income bracket. Similarly, the government should create enabling environment to foreign investors to do business here without any hesitation, the scholar stressed.

Bruh finance graduates insurance professionals

• Working on linking Ethiopian insurance with world

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA-.Bruh Finance graduated 79 insurance professionals in certificate insurance (Cert. CII) yesterday. During the graduation ceremony, Bruh Finance and Founder CEO Getachew Beshahwred said that : " We are working to create skillful insurance professionals expanding insurance training programme in Ethiopia to change the industry."

"Our aim is to bring international qualification and exposure of insurance to Ethiopia and create link Addis Ababa with rest of the world especially with Chartered Insurance Institute that locate in London."

Getachew added that Bruh is working to connect Ethiopia with global capital market, insurance, leadership and banking sector such as London, New York and Cambridge and Washgiton DC and develop into higher level.

The graduates are drawn from all Ethiopian public and private insurance companies that contribute to the development of insurance in the nation to highest level in international insurance and finance knowledge to be



competitive in the world, he noted.

"We have planned to provide training in branch manager qualification, study tours for board directors and senior management and executives."

He said that Bruh will expand the insurance training in certificate and diploma in insurance in states in upcoming years.

Association of Ethiopian Insurers President, Yared Molla noted that the graduates taught during the last 15 months and they are the first batch of certificate insurance professionals in the nation.

Yared added that his association is working on mitigating skill manpower gap being seen in Ethiopian insurance and finance industry

Editorial

Dialogue, reconciliation the best mix for ways forward

When citizens embark on an opted path after a heated and extensive deliberation topped by consensus, they could slam shut the door on internal and external retrogressive and subversive elements as well as historic enemies that try to optimize own benefit at the cost of an ancient nation all-out to reshape its fate in better ways.

As the path sought would be preceded by meticulous decisions backed by win-win deals entailing preemptive measures, destructive acts could hardly create logjams on the path. Rather, citizens will stand in unison for the translation of roadmaps into action. That is why the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) is called for. ENDC has set an agenda and discussed with representatives of regional states. This has to be strengthened.

It is to be recalled that for long, Ethiopia has been rocked by fifth columnists as well as some of its citizens, here and abroad, that intentionally or otherwise marred its peace. Sadly, at every historic bends attempts to bring peace resorting to firearms were short-lived. Such bids were ones that were divorced from ensuring the amenities of modern life not to speak about affluence.

After the wind of change wafted across the country's sky, the door was wide opened for all to converge in their motherland setting their differences aside. As such, almost all were motivated to set nation's all-rounded developmental take off ablaze. Even those incarcerated were set free to hold the torch of peace and development high. The targeted were assured of immunity. Though many have utilized the favorable situation created for better ends, as the saying goes old habits die hard, some have lapsed to their fifth columnists role. This has continued inserting a poke in nation's wheel of development and polluting its atmosphere of peace. Although, tolerant, the government tried to handle the situation smoothly war erupted. After two-year war the problem got a solution round a horse-shoe table.

Knowing full well the worth of a minutes' tranquility, the incumbent, in the process of reform, is striving to resolve disputes in an amicable way parallel to creating a narrative that buys credence. It as well has rolled its sleeve to set the dialogue ball rolling. The moderators are chosen in such a way that banned affiliation to a given party.

Citizens in every corner are pinpointing individuals better placed to represent them in the dialogue. The fact that the commission is basking under the support of the general public and opposition parties is heartwarming. What is more, cognizant of the paramount role ENDC could play the diplomatic community and other international organizations are extending financial and material aids. This too is heartening. Hopefully, those that made a pledge to buttress the commission are expected to do the same.

Allowing ENDC's objectives sink in, citizens must show their solidarity to the objectives' fructification. As the national dialogue being the first of its kind, not expecting hurdles would be a fantasy. Therefore, drawing lessons from countries that went through such similar harrowing situations is a must. Not willing to participate in such dialogue while begging to differ doesn't sound good. Troubleshooting problems arising from differences is civilization not demonization. Forwarding common solutions to common problems is a task expected of nation loving citizens. A love to a nation is gauged by one's brick contribution towards building that nation.

All said, it must be noted that the nation should adopt confession and forgiveness as a means of reconciliation, behind which the country should throw its full weight. Healing could be realized this way, for admitting one's mistake and asking apologies are a step ahead to forestall similar carnages in the future. The government of Rwanda has pursued reconciliation with great determination in the belief that it is the only moral alternative to post-massacre challenges. We have to follow suit, for communities must be mobilized and reshaped for social, political and economic reconstruction.

Opinion

Unveiling Ignorance: Media's Crucial Role in Governance

BY Anteneh Getachew Damtew (PhD)

The repercussions of misinformation and incompetence among those in power can be profound and deleterious for societies at large. This article seeks to demonstrate the havoc that ignorance in positions of authority can wreak upon a nation by leading to ill-informed decision-making across vital sectors, and it explores the pivotal role the media can play in addressing these blind spots of power. Through various examples, we delve into how misinformation and a dearth of expertise in governance can negatively impact public health, the economy, the environment, social harmony, policy efficacy, and international relations, underscoring the critical necessity of informed governance and evidence-based policymaking.

As was the case in Brazil and the US, a misguided approach by those in leadership can have dire consequences in times of public health crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Leaders lacking expertise or relying on inaccurate information may underestimate the gravity of the situation, advocate unproven remedies, or undermine essential public health measures. This can sow confusion and mistrust, ultimately impeding effective crisis management and leading to heightened infection rates and avoidable loss of lives. Fighting a pandemic like the COVID-19 requires an adequate public response to guidelines issued by public health professionals. For these guidelines to be effective, however, they need to be relayed by the media and elected officials to the public so that its members can learn about the virus and its illness and protect themselves and people around them (World Health Organization, 2018).

Another area where ignorance in power can cause havoc is the economy. Lack of information and the resultant incompetence in economic matters can result in mismanagement with far-reaching consequences. Ill-conceived policies, misguided trade decisions, or inadequate regulations can stifle economic growth, distort markets, exacerbate income inequality, and erode investor confidence, leading to sluggish development, elevated unemployment, and diminished living standards. Examples include the Lehman Brothers bankruptcy in 2008.

Ignorance or denial of scientific expertise in environmental issues can pave the way for harmful policies too. Neglecting climate change, flouting environmental regulations, and prioritizing short-term gains over sustainability can inflict irreversible damage on ecosystems, biodiversity, and resilience to natural disasters, posing grave threats to both the environment and human well-being.

Social Division and Polarization is another serious outcome of lack of expertise or deliberate misinformation that can create and exacerbate social divisions. False narratives, exploitation of societal fault lines, or endorsement of discriminatory policies can deepen tensions, erode trust, and foster social unrest, inequality, and a weakening of democratic institutions.

Similarly, inadequate understanding of policy intricacies can result in governance inefficiencies. Leaders lacking a nuanced grasp of issues may formulate impractical policies disconnected from societal needs, leading to resource wastage, public

disillusionment as well as ineffective Policy Implementation:

International Relations and Diplomacy is another area where inadequate information and/or ignorance in diplomatic matters can strain national interests. Misguided foreign policies rooted in misunderstanding or ignorance of global dynamics can hamper cooperation and negotiation, impeding effective resolution of international challenges.

In a nutshell, ignorance and lack of information by decision-makers can result in the ultimate erosion of trust and democratic Institutions. Misinformation erodes trust in governance and democratic processes. Citizens, disillusioned with leadership, may disengage from civic participation, fostering an environment conducive to authoritarianism.

To mitigate the impacts of misinformation and incompetence, evidence-based decision-making, investment in education and professional development, and fostering a culture of critical thinking are imperative. Media, alongside experts and civil society, can serve as a bulwark against misinformation and ignorance in governance.

So, how can the Media play a Positive Role?

The media can play a crucial role in combating misinformation and promoting expertise in governance. Its responsibility to shed light on ignorance in positions of power, acting as a watchdog against misinformation and bias.

Fact-checking procedures can reduce the risk of disinformation and ensure accurate information is shared with the public. By amplifying expert voices, we can offer nuanced perspectives and counterbalance misinformation. By holding governments to account through investigative journalism, we can increase transparency and check abuse of power. By advocating for greater transparency in governance, we can increase accountability and build public trust. By prioritizing issues that affect citizens' lives, we can foster better public discourse. By encouraging critical thinking, we can empower people to identify truth from disinformation. By working with experts, we can ensure comprehensive and accurate reporting on governance issues. By upholding journalistic ethics, we can strengthen credibility and combat misinformation. By promoting media diversity, we can ensure a diverse range of views and expertise is represented. By promoting digital literacy, we can foster digital literacy and help combat misinformation online. By promoting global cooperation, we can strengthen responses to disinformation and promote accurate information dissemination around the world. By exposing disinformation campaigns, we can reduce the impact of disinformation on public opinion and build trust.

By fulfilling these roles, media organizations can significantly contribute to combating misinformation, promoting expertise, and nurturing informed citizenship. Collaboration between media, experts, and government institutions is vital in addressing the challenges posed by misinformation and incompetence in governance.

Ed.'s note: Anteneh Getachew Damtew (PhD) is a former Assistant Professor at Mekelle University for fifteen years, and is currently a senior researcher at the Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA) of Ethiopia. His research engagements include international relations, diplomacy and conflict studies.

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



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The Ethiopian Herald

Ethiopia's room for foreign companies streamlines marketing milieu: Analyst

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA—Ethiopia's open up in import, export, retail and wholesale businesses would be turning point to streamline and foster legal trading system, Senior Policy Analyst commented.

Approached by *The Ethiopian Herald*, Senior Policy Analyst Costantinos Berhutesfa (PhD) said that the directive adopted to liberalize the most restricted business sector would be a significant milestone towards stabilizing the market, stimulating domestic product, promoting import substitution, among many others thereby benefiting the populace and the country at large.

Hailing the opening up of the venue to foreign investors, he also reiterated that it would be a game-changer towards transforming the country's trading system meaningfully.

According to Costantinos, the policy will be an opportunity to create a system that projects the nation into WTO membership. Besides, foreign companies' global experience sharing will also help advance the local private sector.

He said: "The directive not only help advance markets, but also increases the nation's competitiveness in the export sector, while propelling local business capacity into the 21st century."

Efforts to fix the market have now taken a new trajectory to stabilizing the market by making



Costantinos Berhutesfa (PhD)

these sectors very competitive, he added.

With the advent of credit and capital markets in the country, the opening up of the financial and liberalizing other sectors, he elaborated that foreign companies with immense experience in business sector would bring access to global markets and stimulate domestic production and exports while advancing import substitution.

Moreover, he stated that such companies will not require capital (local or foreign currency) from local sources as they invest heavily to produce for exporting. This helps resident banks with excess and adequate foreign reserves.

In a similar vein, the directive provides schemes to control the proper implementation

of mandatory provisions and procedures that especially ensures the benefits of customers when they engage in this business, as to him.

"The country would generate more triumphs in this scheme including new markets, economic growth that creates better-paid jobs, and foreign direct investment, not loans," the Analyst said.

Besides, it eases the process of importing raw materials from within Africa to access cheaper means of production for resident foreign companies," he remarked.

"Ethiopian entrepreneurs and startups working with or in these foreign companies can start their own businesses to enter the competition that benefit consumers offering goods at competitive rates," he noted.

Costantinos stressed that political stability, peace and security and curtailing corruption are important for foreign companies to invest in all sectors of the economy and in particular in the aforementioned sectors with respect to the country's collective cultural and social narrative.

As to him, financial reform should also be frontloaded to facilitate foreign companies in the Ethiopia market.

It is to be recalled that the Ethiopian Investment Board has recently approved a legal amendment that allows foreign companies to participate in import, export, wholesale and retail trading activities.

HoA: From turmoil...

their political policies and approaches to security, he said.

The absence of formal regional integration mechanisms has been identified as a significant gap. In spite of potentials for overcoming challenges through shared history and geographical proximity, undesirable struggles are continued. Disagreements within regional countries, even over regional organizations further complicate efforts to address peace and security issues effectively, according to him.

To navigate these challenges, experts underscore the importance of revitalizing regional organizations like IGAD and limiting destabilizing external interventions. They emphasize the need for leadership that recognizes the interests and insecurities of all regional players, fostering cooperation and collective action. However, concerns persist about the impact of hegemonic geopolitics, which may hinder the military growth of other states in the region,

prolonging insecurity.

SemirYesuf (PhD), a Senior International Security Analyst, echoed concerns about competitive dynamics within the Horn of Africa, highlighting tensions fuelled by involvement from Middle Eastern, Western, and Eastern powers. The prevalence of internal conflicts in the region provides opportunities for external actors to engage in proxy warfare, further complicating efforts to achieve peace and stability, according to him.

Semir stressed the importance of addressing the root causes of conflicts through dialogue and cooperation among Horn of African countries.

The ongoing tensions within countries like Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, and Somalia needs urgent internal resolution on governance crises, demilitarization of civil issues, and mitigation of power struggles.

Another foreign relation expert and

senior diplomat, Ambassador John Gai of South Sudan underlined the necessity of building fraternity with regional neighbours for common development goals. He emphasized the importance of mutual understanding and collaboration.

Addressing insecurity in the Horn of Africa requires a multifaceted approach that acknowledges the complex interplay of internal and regional factors. Regional organizations must be empowered to facilitate dialogue and negotiations, he added.

During the opening of the dialogue, Ethiopian Foreign Affairs State Minister, Ambassador MisganuArega also remarked that regional integration needs to be facilitated by all regional countries.

Ethiopia is struggling against terrorism and illicit trade that exacerbates the insecurity and political instability. Maritime security and terrorism fighting needs the involvement of all states across the region, he remarked.

Addis remaking stimulates...

a great contribution to the tourism industry."

Hirut (PhD) also stated that the installation of modern street lights and pedestrians' roads would enable tourists to enjoy the city's beauty and make their stay in the capital comfortable and memorable.

Noting 8.2 million domestic tourists visited different attraction sites in the capital in the last nine months of the current fiscal year, she indicated some 49.5 billion Birr has been channeled to the economy from the tourism revenue.

"Currently, the tourism activity in Addis Ababa is at a good level and the new projects that have been built across the metropolis have greatly contributed to increase the number of tourists. The 8.2 million domestic tourists that visited the city's different attraction sites in the reported period is exceeding from our initial projection."

According to her, Addis Ababa is a city with high domestic tourist activity and the inauguration of Adwa Victory Memorial Museum number has played a noble role in increasing the number of visitors.

Apart from being the seat of the African Union (AU), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN ECA) and other diplomatic institutions, foreign tourists from Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti, Eritrea and various foreign countries come to the capital for medical and business purposes.

In the first six months of the current fiscal year, some 29.9 billion Birr has secured from 465,366 foreign tourists visited Addis Ababa and the revenue channeled to public investment.

Addis Ababa is growing in popularity with huge projects and all the new attractions in the city are convenient and interesting for foreign and domestic tourists, the bureau head remarked.

Premier vows...

Stressing the need for realizing development and prosperity in Ethiopia, Abiy called on the people of the country to seek peace and harmony in order to see a prosperous and convenient Ethiopia.

The prime minister also noted to accommodate Ethiopia's diverse ethnic identities, cultures, languages, and topography, adding that these could not be a source of difference to build a strong nation-state.

Abiy further highlighted that Ethiopia has repeatedly fought for its independence and it is a country that has thwarted all attempts of external aggressions.

However, the country has not realized economic development and freed from dependence in this regard. Thus, the East African nation should strive to extricate itself from economic dependence, he said.

In this case, Prime Minister Abiy mentioned

the success of Gurage people as an example for business and trade activities in Ethiopia.

According to him, the people of Gurage's active engagement in the business sphere, remains a model and would help the endeavors of the nation to free Ethiopia from economic dependence.

He also urged all Ethiopians to stand for development and prosperity.

The prime minister underscored that the

nation has embarked on a massive economic development trajectory to make Ethiopia a beacon of Africa's prosperity. And he called on all Ethiopians to stand together and discharge their national responsibility.

Finally, the premier noted that to realize prosperous Ethiopia through strong efforts, it is crucial to consolidate national unity and defeat the illusionist forces, attempting to divide the public and fuel conflict in the country.

Opinion

Ethiopia's inclusive, expanding diplomacy fostering win-win approach through shared values

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

It prevails understanding that Ethiopia has actually made significant breakthroughs in smoothing the course of its effective diplomatic technique with a broad range of countries globally, putting itself as a country heading in the appropriate direction more than ever before.

Over the previous years, the nation has actually developed a solid pledge to supporting connections with both local and international companions. Aside from that, the nation has actually participated in enhancing financial connections, fostering tranquility plus safety as well as taking on typical difficulties via synergy.

Ethiopia, an anchor nation in the restive Horn of Africa region, has remained committed to playing a constructive role in peace and development, Foreign Affairs State Minister Mesganu Arga told local media.

In his exclusive interview that covered wide ranging diplomatic and regional issues, the State Minister noted that Ethiopia is a major player for stability and development endeavors in the Horn of African region.

“The Horn of Africa is a turbulent region where Ethiopia's role in terms of peace and development has been one of the key areas the country has been contributing to the regional peace and stability. Ethiopia has played a constructive role in Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan.”

He further stated that Ethiopia is contributing its fair share to global collective diplomatic engagements and regional partnership.

According to Mesganu, the country's foreign policy is anchored on the major pillars such as strengthening partnership with neighboring countries and economic integration. In particular, the current foreign policy stresses sustained economic growth by achieving joint regional development and peace. So, “the focus is largely on promoting peace, stability, development and mutual interest in the sub-region, Africa, and the global community,” the state minister elaborated.

Speaking on the changing dynamics in the region and beyond, Mesganu said that promoting peace is a key area that Ethiopia has been collaboratively working with the international community and the neighboring countries. In this respect, he acknowledged that the current geopolitical developments are affecting the greater Red Sea area, Middle East, and the globe at large.

The nation has actually played a crucial function in moderating disputes and fostering tranquility in the Horn of Africa and beyond. Other than that Ethiopia has effectively assisted in settlements in between bordering nations and has actually been a driver behind the current tranquility



Inclusive diplomacy essential for healthy move of the country

arrangement.

Ethiopia's dedication to diplomacy that focuses on tranquility plus common growth is essential for progressing the typical goals of nations in the Horn of Africa. As one of the essential countries in the Horn of Africa Ethiopia plays a substantial role in promoting security and also participation amongst its neighbors.

While on the subject, according to Foreign Minister Taye Atske Selassie, Ethiopia has registered grand diplomatic achievements over the last 6 years. In his opening remark to a panel discussion organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the accomplishments gained during the reform years, FM Taye said Ethiopia has prevailed despite challenges.

According to him, Ethiopia still remains the regional power pool. Through its efforts to ensure peace and security in neighboring countries, Ethiopia has played unparalleled role in maintaining stability in the Horn of African (HoA) region, the minister noted, according to information obtained from a local media. Joining BRICS was a remarkable achievement that will have paramount effect in uplifting the country's diplomatic gains, the minister stated.

Furthermore, FM Taye pointed out that the Green Legacy Initiative spearheaded by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed was among the very commendable achievements in terms of climate change mitigation. Had the over 32 billion trees planted through the initiative been monetized, it would have been billions of USD worth investment on environmental protection, he emphasized.

The Minister pointed out that political sovereignty is often eroded due to poverty, adding that Ethiopia has in this regard accelerated its journey to ensure food security through boosting production and productivity of dry season wheat. Ethiopia is currently cultivating dry season wheat on 3 million hectares of land, and is expecting to harvest 120 million quintals. He stressed that the reform has enabled Ethiopia to ensure its development right with regard to the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) through diplomacy.

In actual fact, on the subject of the ongoing

diplomatic journey of the country and its achievements wide spectrums of scholars have been expressing their ideas and thoughts.

In the recent past, speaking to the Ethiopia Press Agency (EPA) Dila University Peace and Security Studies Lecturer Yenenesh Temesgen (PhD) stated that the country has retained its longstanding principle of peaceful co-existence with neighboring states and non aggression.

Yenenesh also stated that Ethiopia has employed both the hard and soft diplomacy that makes the country a symbol of victory and unity in the African continent. Accordingly, Ethiopia won the Battle of Adwa with hard diplomacy and showed its capacity to repel aggression. The country's soft diplomacy is also helping African countries to forge economic unity.

Efforts should be made to fight the destructive attempts of some interest groups that have been engaged in straining Ethiopia's relations with the rest of HoA countries. Therefore, Ethiopia should make adequate preparations to withstand the pressures that are arising from its seaport aspiration and devising strong diplomacy that involves ideas from different directions.

In addition, it is necessary to build citizens' understanding of seaport's benefits for Ethiopia's political stability and economic prowess. Ethiopia's landlocked status has forced the country to pay heavy security and economic price and its sovereign access to the sea would enable it to benefit from the geo-politics and become active player in the region.

It is expected from every citizen to work for better Ethiopia and by supplementing its peace and development endeavors, they need to help the country to become the leading player in the Horn of Africa's socio-economic and political affairs.

In a press briefing held in recent times, MoFA State Minister, Ambassador Birtukan Ayano said that about 250,000 people have visited the Diplomacy Week and Exhibition that was displayed for 48 days at Science Museum. She stated that some 639 public and private institutions'

delegations have paid a visit to the exhibition that demonstrated country's successful diplomatic journey.

During the presser, Ambassador Birtukan recognized institutions which contributed a significant role in making the exhibition attractive and meaningful.

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

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

It was aimed to display the past, present and future diplomacy and all tasks have been successfully done accordingly. Diplomatic community members, guests of the African Union ordinary summit, and celebrities have visited the exhibition, she stated.

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

In an exclusive interview with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) African Affairs General Director Ambassador Fisseha Shawol said that the government has continued building infrastructural integration with neighboring countries. If we see the development projects of Ethiopia, they are all linked with neighbors and from our neighbors it will go further into the continent. On the other side, it will also help to link the continent with the rest of the world.

The government also joined the BRICS plus bloc and enhanced its integration with regional, continental and international organizations as a part of the fulfillment to its inclusive foreign policy.

The government is not only focusing on improving domestic issues, but also endeavoring to realize regional and continental development.

The government is engaging in the global diplomacy to replicate the successful history that Ethiopia had been through during the earlier times. Likewise, the government is now striving to realize regional and continental integration that could lead all to a holistic development, he indicated.

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

Business & Economy



**ROLE OF
SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY
IN BUILDING A
SUSTAINABLE
FUTURE**



Expanding Science, technology for economic growth in quite decisive

Capitalizing on science, technology for economic boom

BY MENGESHA AMARE

It has so far been attested that scientific advances and technological change are increasingly becoming important drivers of recent economic performance and development and sustainable growth. The ability to create, distribute and exploit knowledge has also become a major source of competitive advantage, wealth creation and improvements in the quality of life and in declaring economic autonomy.

Cognizant of the fact that science and technology is of paramount importance in booming economic advancement and real growth, The Ethiopian Herald had a short stay with Leulseged Basha, who graduated from Adama University in Software and engineering and Technology, to have a piece of information about the contribution of technology to economic advancement and socio-economic growth.

“It is widely accepted in economics that technology is the key driver of economic growth of a given country, cities and towns as well as rural or urban localities. True, technological progress allows for the more efficient production of more and better goods and services, on which what is called prosperity depends,” he said.

As to him, the concept of technology itself as well as the individual and social capabilities have required for development has to be succinctly investigated in a fine-grained level as it has led the nation to potential contributions that may impact higher education, job creation and economic growth. Clearly, there are links between education, research and development, innovation and economic activity that are part of the process we aim to uncover. Science and technology aims at developing mechanisms that would be instrumental in assessing the position of the nation in terms of untapped potential.

It has so far been attested that the relationship between scientific research and economic growth exists as part of conventional wisdom and expertise as science and technology accelerates the standard of living of a nation whether in agriculture or infrastructural development and socio-economic advancement.

He said, “In the context of industrial revolution, rapid growth in artificial intelligence, robotics, nanotechnology, biotechnology, genetic engineering, and big data analytics can be

practically exercised. The role of basic sciences; physics, biology, chemistry, and mathematics cannot be deemphasized, because they form the foundation from which applied sciences, technology and engineering are built. We must lay a strong foundation in basic science, as it is essential for all research in the applied sciences and long-term support as it can widely be development-oriented approach.”

Without any doubt, Leulseged said that Ethiopians have to recognize the huge benefits abound from scientific and technological advancement. The only way citizens can experience accelerated economic development for their country, Ethiopia, to imbibe a culture of innovation that promotes science and technology, and driven by the youth population, who are the country’s sovereign wealth.

As to him, the digitalization of industries, driven by advancements in technology, is transforming traditional processes into digital workflows, enabling businesses to streamline operations, enhance customer experiences, and develop new business models. These changes are improving efficiency, reducing costs, and increasing market reach for many industries, while also facilitating global e-commerce, enabling businesses to reach customers worldwide and reshaping traditional retail models. For many industries, technology has exponentially increased the importance of analytics in decision-making. Evolving technologies like big machine learning, and predictive modeling provide valuable insights for businesses, allowing organizations to optimize operations, target customers, and develop informed strategies based on data-driven analysis, enabling companies to better adapt to market changes and improve customer satisfaction. Such a bold and lucrative move would be of significantly useful in boosting economic growth in its turn.

He said, “In addition to transforming industries, technological advancements have greatly impacted the creation of new growth opportunities in economic development and creation of new job opportunities for the existing and the coming generation to the world of work.

He further explained that as companies strive to remain competitive and thrive in the evolving economy, technology-driven avenues for growth have emerged, leading to the establishment of a new digital economy, fostering new markets and collaboration, and

enhancing communication and remote work.

He said, “Advancements in technology have thus driven the rapid rise of the digital economy, where business predominantly occur online, opening new boulevards for economic activity, enabling businesses to reach national, regional, continental and even global markets and customers with ease. The digital economy is also providing new opportunities for entrepreneurs, small businesses, and established companies to expand their reach and scale. As advancements in technology continue to increase the connectivity of the world, businesses are able to tap into new markets and customers.”

Communication and collaboration capabilities have been significantly advanced with technological advancements. Driven by the rise of communication platforms, companies can better connect, operate efficiently, and engage in virtual teamwork. This newfound ability to connect and collaborate easily has increased productivity, accelerated decision-making, and fostered cross-border partnerships thereby fostering sustainable economic advancement.

He said these advancements in communication and collaboration capabilities have also opened up new possibilities for remote work, creating new opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship. Advancements in science and technology are causing the traditional models of employment; development and governance to change, and these changes are posing significant challenges to the traditional models of economic development.

Yes, he added digital literacy, technological proficiency, and adaptability are essential in today’s workforce, creating challenges for those that have limited access to education and training in these fields. Traditional models of governance in economic development are facing challenges, as the rapid pace of technological change requires government adaptation to the digital age.

Here, the Ethiopian government has to work hard to adapt policies and regulations to keep pace with rapid technological advancements in order not these regulations fall behind the pace of technology in regional and global arena, he added.

There is no doubt that technology will continue to shape the landscape of economic development in the years to come via embracing evolving technologies and navigating the

various changes that would definitely bring active efforts from the government, businesses and individuals.

Needless to state and as widely witnessed so far, collaboration and partnerships from the government, business and individuals can drive innovation, address societal challenges, ensure inclusive economic growth, and leverage collective expertise and resources in navigating technological changes.

Furthermore, to keep up with the ever-evolving job market, individuals will need to prioritize continuously updating their skills and remaining relevant; this must be supported by the government and businesses through investments into education and training programs that equip individuals with future-proof skills. The government should take the lead in adapting policies and regulations to keep pace with technological advancements, ensuring a balance between innovation and public interest, fair competition and protecting consumers.

He said, “Alongside regulatory adaptation, the government must make efforts to minimize the digital divide, ensuring inclusive access and encouraging businesses to design their products and services to include diverse user needs and demographics. As technology becomes more prominent in all aspects of life, it is crucial that the government, businesses, groups and individuals focus on ensuring the ethical implications of their actions and the cumulative effect of the latter would lead to sustainable economic growth. It is this time people can taste the flavor of science and technology and its huge impact on economic advancement.” “If we work together with our professional colleagues, accept that many of the choices involved in the crafting of national science and technology policy are political choices, and are prepared to engage in the political process by which public policy choices are made, we now know enough about the economic impact of scientific researches and education today to feel comfortable, though not complacent, about the economic future of our profession.”

In sum, since the development of science and technology has immensely helped the nation secures remarkable economic growth and sustainable development, the country has to capitalize on the sector. This growth has been achieved through broad-based and diversified activities in which structural transformation is injected.

Planet Earth

The Green Man, Diredawa's environmental hero aspires to achieve global goals

BY FIKADU BELAY

Bayan Tesema, a resident of Diredawa City, has earned a nickname that resonates with his remarkable achievements: "The Green Man." Through his tireless dedication to reforestation and environmental conservation he has transformed two hectares of once degraded land into a captivating forest, earning him admiration and recognition within the community.

The name "Green Man" was given to Bayan by the people of Diredawa, who witnessed the miraculous conversion of a flood drain and garbage dump into a lush forest. Through the planting of over 20,000 saplings, Bayan has created a green oasis that stands as a testament to the power of community-driven environmental initiatives.

The impetus behind Bayan's mission can be traced back to the devastating flood that struck Diredawa in 2006. The disaster claimed the lives of seven close family members, leaving the community in mourning and the region in a state of desolation. However, Bayan's cousin managed to save his own life and that of his children by climbing a tree. This incident served as a catalyst for Bayan's unwavering commitment to reforestation, firmly believing that the presence of trees could have saved many lives during the flood.

In the year 2007/2008, which is 2000 E.C or the celebration of Millennium according to Ethiopian calendar, the government launched a nationwide campaign encouraging citizens to plant two saplings each. But Bayan passionately requested two thousand saplings. In a remarkable display of determination, he planted those saplings in a single day, in one of the neighborhoods of Diredawa known as "Number One."

Reflecting on his accomplishment, Bayan humbly states, "I am happier than people who have billions of dollars because everything I plant will grow; this plant serves the heavens of life." He has planted an astounding 650,000 seedlings up to this point and has distributed numerous saplings to the local community, engaging them in his mission.

He aspires to exceed the records of Kenyan environmentalist Wangari Mathai, who holds the world record for planting three million saplings, by planting about 3.4 million trees. With unwavering determination, Bayan predicts achieving this remarkable feat within the next decade, all while expressing gratitude for the life bestowed upon him by Allah.

The green area created through the planting of more than 20,000 trees has been named "Elenam" Park by the local community. The name carries two significant meanings, the first being in the acronym of the Amharic phrase which can be translated to English as "Ethiopia is always green," and the second, in the language of the Kebena nationality, translating to "We will reach those who think of us." Bayan further reveals that their youngest child will be named Elenam, symbolizing their commitment to the cause.

For the past 17 years, Bayan has dedicated himself enthusiastically to the development

of this forest. Witnessing the growth of the forest he created, he expresses a sense of profound satisfaction, regarding it as the lungs of Diredawa. Moreover, he believes that with the cooperation of the city administration, he can create the mini "Amazons" in all kebeles of Diredawa.

In a remarkable display of his commitment to the cause, Bayan ensures that the four workers employed in the park receive a monthly salary of 18,000 birr. To sustain this, he occasionally saves income generated from by selling saplings to hotels, organizations, and individuals. Additionally, he receives support from charitable organizations. Remarkably, he does not expect monetary compensation for his nursery work, emphasizing the essential value he derives from his mission.

The Green Man and his team firmly believe in their ability to reforest an area within three years. They are eager to venture beyond Diredawa and plant saplings in other parts of Ethiopia, spreading their message of environmental stewardship and hope.

Bayan's cousin, Mohammed, who served as the catalyst for Bayan's entry into forestry, shares his own tragic story. A victim of the 2006 flood, Mohammed lost his wife and two children. However, this devastating event compelled him to join Bayan in planting trees that could save human lives. Despite the uncertainty of many who doubted Bayan's ability to transform the barren landscape, Mohammed expresses admiration for his cousin's unwavering determination, addressing him as a source of inspiration.

Bayan, a devoted father of three sons and three daughters, finds solace in the fact that his youngest daughter, Elenam, has followed in his footsteps. Displaying a deep concern for the privileged, she displays a special love for those in need while also exploring the medicinal properties of various plants through traditional practices.

As an ambassador for green initiatives, Bayan uses the theme, "Plant a tree, as the time has got worse," which simply reminds the imminent threat posed by climate change in numerous languages to spread the message of planting trees for society. He acknowledges that his greatest challenge lies in water accessibility. After conducting a volunteer study, Bayan discovered that groundwater is available at distances ranging from 52 to 80 meters in different locations. Solving this water problem would enable him to rush his ambitious plan of planting three million four hundred thousand saplings within a shorter timeframe.

In recognition of his extraordinary efforts, Bayan was awarded a Green Ambassador Certificate by the federal government during the celebration of International Green Day in 2022. His commitment to environmental protection, cleanliness, and beauty has gathered appreciation and support from various organizations.

According to a government report, through the annual mobilization of over 25 million citizens nationwide, 32.5 billion seedlings have been planted in five years as part of

the tree-planting program to address food security and reduce the impacts of climate change.

The implementation of the National Green Legacy Program has been successful in reducing deforestation, encouraging reforestation, and enhancing natural habitats that can combat climate change and the effects of carbon emissions. These habitats are home to numerous plant and animal species and are a major source of biodiversity.

The reforestation efforts under the Green Legacy initiative have numerous benefits for Ethiopia. They help to restore ecosystems, conserve biodiversity, and protect watersheds, which are crucial for water availability, soil fertility, and enhancing the agricultural production of the country. Reforestation also contributes to carbon sequestration.

In addition, green infrastructure and sustainable land use practices can mitigate reliance on non-renewable sources of energy, providing oxygen, food, water, clean air, and medication. Also, it's to create a healthier and more sustainable future for ourselves and for generations to come.

Bayan stands as a shining example of how one individual's unwavering dedication can transform desolation into vibrant greenery. His mission to plant millions of trees and restore hope has captured the hearts and minds of the community. As he continues to inspire others, Bayan remains dedicated in his pursuit of a greener, more sustainable future for Ethiopia and beyond.

Communities across the country can draw inspiration from the experience of Bayan and adopt measures to safeguard their natural resources. By doing so, they can contribute to the overall well-being of their region and the nation as a whole. By embracing environmentally friendly agricultural practices, they can enhance productivity and generate income through the production of various agricultural products. This, in turn, boosts the local economy and reduces reliance on external sources for food security.

Furthermore, the conservation of ecosystems helps combat the adverse effects of climate change and land degradation that pose significant threats to agriculture, including extreme weather events, shifting rainfall patterns, and temperature fluctuations. By protecting local resources, communities can create resilient ecosystems that are better equipped to withstand these challenges. Conservation efforts, such as reforestation, soil conservation, and water management, contribute to mitigating climate change and preserving biodiversity.

Besides, communities should follow the example set by Bayan and prioritize the protection of their local resources. This approach not only strengthens the economy by promoting agricultural diversification and food security but also through addressing the pressing issues of climate change and land degradation. By working together, communities can create sustainable and resilient environments that benefit both present and future generations.

The implementation of the National Green Legacy Program has been successful in reducing deforestation, encouraging reforestation, and enhancing natural habitats that can combat climate change and the effects of carbon emissions

Art & Culture

Building state-of-the-art city

BY NAOL GIRMA

Once the city, whose economy was dependent on activities dominated by traditional markets and hustles is now to turn to epitome of beauty. Once the city, whose streets and rivers were heavily used freely and in archaic cultural ways and full of scrapyards for its residences to dump their garbage, are now on the verge of changing into a state of the arts clean and resilient capital of Africa. Things are changing the eyesore and outmoded images of Addis Ababa as the Prosperity Party has continued in introducing and inaugurating new city development projects almost every day.

Even though critics are being waved from different angles of concerns, the major actors behind these state of the art projects, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Addis Ababa City Mayor Adanech Abiebie including her vice Jantirar Abay say “These are not just projects that we launched by coincidence. They have been well thought out and planned.”

One of the well thought and planned projects in the City is the Addis Ababa Corridor Development, which is also facing very harsh criticism over the social platforms and people who claim to be concerned on its execution. People are still criticizing buildings being demolished as they say most of them are historical and cultural heritages and they should have been preserved. Executive bodies of the project are arguing the other way.

For instance, in a recent evaluation meeting on the progress of the corridor development project, the City Mayor Adanech Abiebie underlined the Premier’s vision to the City noting “The goal of the corridor development is making Addis Ababa magnificent and uplifting its residents’ life style”. The mayor also noted that the plan not only includes improving Addis Ababa but also preserving historical sites and making its residents the beneficiaries of economic development in the city.

Such a developmental step is one of the platforms, which some research groups around the world, agree upon. As “the school of life” suggests there are six principles in order to make a city attractive. They include building a city in a not too chaotic or not too ordered way and ensuring the city supports visible life. It as well must be compact, orientation and mystery should be part of it; scale is necessary, and finally it must be made local.

The on-going city development projects of Addis Ababa based on the above six principles have been described by the officials who are leading taskforces on the frontline. In terms of order and balance, which the first principle needs, Addis Ababa has been in a very chaotic development and there is a need to bring some of the developmental dotes, scattered here and there, together to make the City a new flower as indicated on its name. “This has been an ambitious goal of our administrations, from



Abiy Ahmed(PhD)



Adanech Abiebie



Jantirar Abay



the first day we came to the ruling,” said Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed on the recent assessment meeting of the City Corridor Development Project implementation.

Adanech Abiebie backs this idea of maintaining order and balance in the City as she explains the start-up jobs and the inaugurated developmental projects like, unity, friendship parks, the Abrehot Library, etc. She noted the squalid villages and that slams have been existing for years together will not bring the balanced beauty that the City deserves.

Thus, one of the city development projects, the City Corridor Development is taking place in selected places, with an order that keeps balance, symmetry and glamor intact. According to Prime Minister Abiy, demolishing unworthy standing old buildings or parts of the City and the thoughts of labelling everything old as a heritage could be hard roads to travel through but joining the dotes of the new development together is the order of the day to go boldly; even if it hurts! This saying of the premier meets the other criteria in making a city attractive, which is avoiding obstacles that gets on the way from making one’s location very unique.

According to international principles, the obstacles to building beautiful cities are not economic ones and collectively countries have enough finance for it. The obstacles come from intellectual confusion around beauty and lack of political will, which officials, politicians, scholars and random residents are still standing in different poles about.

Information indicate that the intellectual

confusion is being worried on as to who decide what is beauty. Some investor may come and put on bricks and walls without worrying about the artistic and cultural or historical values of the City but is always alarmed when the developmental project activities impact his or her domains on the ground, said Prime Minister Abiy. Meanwhile, the projects are still being challenged from investors, activists, and social media platforms, whom our political will need to be understood by but we will continue boldly”, said the premier.

According to the mayor Adanech Abiebie “the nature of the projects also provided information on enhanced resettlement provisions for residents affected by new construction. For instance, that requiring larger land replacement, alternative accommodations in Kolfe Keraniyo, Gulele, Nifas Silk Lafto, and Lemi Kura sub-cities was given. Individuals preferring to stay in the downtown areas, housing options in Kirkos, Lideta, and Addis Ketema have been made available. Renters have been given one year’s rent worth of rent in cash and moving expenses until their new accommodations are ready. Those engaged in rental businesses have been assisted in setting up permanent rental facility in suitable locations. More than 550 individuals employed in various small business enterprises outside main roads have been given improved and larger working spaces. Over 400 individuals who expressed financial constraints and opting for government housing have been relocated to newly constructed homes in Kaliti, offering them an enhanced quality of life.

The Addis Ababa Corridor Development Project is under harsh critics but that is one of the ways to go and the task forces do not forget some of the international principles in making a city attractive or artistic. With the left side matching the right side, colours being harmonized, livelihoods improved, elite groups being watched over and history being preserved, the project task forces are yet to show the world what comes out of the City they are turning upside down for better good.

The prominent figure, Adanech Abebe, who always comes out to the frontline with the Premier, whenever the City launches a demanding project or the country faces hardships, also insured heritages of the old part of the city “Piasa” will be renewed and their historical value remain preserved with the Adwa historical museum.

Based on the principles of building a modern attractive city, the task is not only craving beautiful buildings but also craving the live ones. The City could have sky scrapers and metropolitan blocks but if it is not alive with people from all walks of life it won’t be visible and fit in the values of the state of the art, according to international standards. “That’s why the Addis Ababa Corridor Development project considers, inclusive development by creating opportunity of new housings and better wellbeing for the residents.

Demolishing parts of the city could be hard and criticized for some concerns, but if we have to keep our promise of making the city beautiful as flower, we have to go harshly, said the premier.

Society

Ensuring heritages conservation

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, is a city with rich cultural heritage and fascinating history. From ancient churches to bustling marketplaces, the city is a treasure trove of historical artifacts and architectural marvels. However, as the city continues to modernize and grow, there is a pressing need to ensure the conservation of these invaluable heritages.

Owing to this, heritage conservation in the city holds significant importance not only for preserving the city's rich cultural identity but also for unlocking economic benefits and fostering sustainable development. However, this crucial endeavor faces numerous challenges, including rapid urbanization and lack of awareness and education. Despite these obstacles, various stakeholders are actively engaged in conservation efforts, leveraging innovative approaches and community involvement.

No doubt, preserving heritages is crucial for maintaining the city's unique cultural identity for the reason heritage sites and traditions are an essential part of the city's history; and should be safeguarded for future generations.

Beyond cultural significance, heritage conservation in Addis Ababa also brings economic benefits. Historical sites attract tourists, boosting the local economy through increased revenue from tourism-related activities.

Thus, safeguarding and pass on the city's valuable heritage assets for future generations requires tangible policies, initiatives, and practices parallel with beautifying the city towards attracting more local and international tourists.

One of the main challenges facing heritage conservation in Addis Ababa is rapid urbanization. As the city grows, historic buildings and sites are at risk of being demolished or altered to make way for modern developments.

Therefore, the government, heritage protection authority, heritage experts, and citizens in general have an indispensable role to maintain the age-old heritages.

Recently, the Ethiopian Heritage Authority reiterated its unwavering commitment to carefully oversee the development of the Addis Ababa Corridor Development Project with the primary objective of preserving the nation's cultural heritages.

Addressing the media, Ethiopian Heritage Authority Director General Abebaw Ayalew emphasized the authority's steadfast dedication to the protection, restoration, and conservation of Addis Ababa's priceless resources and heritage.

However, he argued that all localities and buildings in the capital cannot be designated as heritage. The focus is on preserving structures that exemplify the architectural and historical significance of the capital city.



All old houses cannot be heritage. Agedness or having existed for a very long time alone does not automatically render it to be eligible to a heritage status, the Director General elaborated, adding that the evaluation encompasses multiple aspects, including architectural style, construction techniques, external and internal appearance, design, and other pertinent factors.

According to Abebaw, the Authority, in close coordination with the City Administration and relevant authorities, has been overseeing the Addis Ababa Corridor Development Project with the view to ensuring that heritages remain unharmed.

The Director General highlighted the importance of striking a harmonious balance between development and heritage protection, asserting that it is both feasible and advantageous to integrate the two.

At present, he said that the Authority is conducting heritage registration based on "international best practices."

Abebaw revealed that the ongoing process has identified that some previously registered sites do not meet the current heritage status criteria.

As to him, sites registered before and meeting the requirements would retain their heritage status, while those not meeting the criteria would lose their heritage designation.

Accordingly, ongoing efforts are being made to preserve historic sites and monuments in the city. Various heritages conservation rehabilitation projects has also been done to restore and maintain important cultural landmarks, ensuring they remain intact for future generations to enjoy.

Regarding this, one innovative way to breathe new life into old structures is through adaptive reuse. By repurposing historic buildings for modern needs, Addis Ababa can retain its heritage while

Raising awareness among the public about the importance of heritage conservation is also key to garnering support for preservation initiatives

advancing towards the future.

Moreover, harnessing the power of technology in documenting heritage sites can revolutionize conservation efforts. From 3D scanning to virtual reality tours, embracing tech tools can help preserve Addis Ababa's heritage in a dynamic and interactive manner.

Raising awareness among the public about the importance of heritage conservation is also key to garnering support for preservation initiatives. Through engaging campaigns, Addis Ababa can cultivate a sense of pride and responsibility towards its rich history.

Experts recommended that empowering local communities to actively participate in conservation projects fosters a sense of

ownership and connection to the heritage of Addis Ababa. By involving residents in preservation efforts, the city can ensure that its history is cherished and protected for generations to come.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) also play a crucial role in heritage conservation. They have the resources and expertise needed to undertake large-scale conservation projects and ensure the long-term preservation of the city's cultural heritage. By partnering with government agencies, businesses, and community groups, these organizations can make a significant impact in safeguarding Addis Ababa's heritage for future generations to enjoy.

What is more, preserving Addis Ababa's heritage is a collective responsibility that requires the collaboration of individuals, organizations, and government agencies. The conservation of heritage in Addis Ababa is a multifaceted endeavor that requires collaboration, dedication, and a shared commitment to preserving the city's historical and cultural legacy. By addressing challenges, implementing effective policies, and actively engaging with communities, we can ensure that Addis Ababa's heritage continues to inspire, educate, and enrich the lives of its residents and visitors for years to come. Together, it is possible to uphold the past while building a sustainable future for this vibrant city.

In sum, preserving the cultural heritage of Addis Ababa is essential for maintaining the city's unique identity and historical legacy. These artifacts and structures provide a window into the past, allowing future generations to learn about the city's rich history and traditions. Without proper conservation efforts, these priceless treasures could be lost forever, depriving the city of its cultural heritage and depriving future generations of the opportunity to learn from the past.

Law & Politics

Africa, Ethiopia: Efforts towards UNSC reform

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

The questions of fairness and inclusiveness are among the priorities that Africans and the Global South have continuously been asking major organizations of the world. Sections of the globe that have never been treated equally like their sister sects have cried for their ultimate right to be included and able to reflect their own views without depending on other powers. Africa, in this case, has suffered a lot. And, the continent has been asking for an absolute reform in major financial institutions and powerful blocs to consider the ones who have been bystanders for their own issues.

Many countries around the world and the continent Africa have been neglected in the major global issues and received whatever decision that a handful of nations pass. Due to the long era of colonialism and its consequences, Africa could not find any way to make itself seen and have its own decision. The continent and its people have been victims of the system and it still suffers major blows in political, economic, and social issues.

Through its continental bloc and some major African actors like Ethiopia, Africa has called upon the world to consider reform in major global organizations, and Ethiopia has been the voice of Africa like before. The country has proven itself as a true pro-Pan African nation that defends continental interest. Ethiopia has been a pioneer country to raise the question of fairness and inclusiveness and leave no one behind.

History teaches that Ethiopia is still considered as the beacon of hope and freedom for the black people and the whole Africa. Its victory over colonialism and its perception, Ethiopia shows the world what freedom and equality is. The country is still striving to meet its stand towards independence and impartiality and to be treated fairly like any other.

To this part, Ethiopia, as a voice of Africa, has been calling on responsible stakeholders to realize proper reforms in major global blocs and financial organizations to incorporate Africa and the continent to be represented by Africans. Ethiopia has been advocating on reforming the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) so that Africa, with 1.4 billion populations, deserves a permanent seat at the high table.

For Instance, during the 35th Ordinary Session of the African Union (AU), Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) underscored that Africans deserve permanent seats at the UNSC. The premier noted, "This is particularly through of the United Nations. We as Africans lack representation in the Security Council and are underrepresented in a variety of ways. It is the right time to reform and revitalize the United Nations system to reflect current global realities and ensure that a more representative body with only fair representation and transparency in those institutions can usher in a just era in multilateralism.

Similarly, during his biweekly press briefing recently, Nebiyu Tedla, Foreign Affairs Spokesperson stated that Ethiopia is one of the leading countries that are raising voices for Africa to have a permanent seat at the



UN Security Council by strengthening its participation in the multilateral institutions of which it is a founder. Adding, the current UNSC does not reflect the Global South and Africa, which constitutes over 20 percent of the UN member states.

Besides, like Ethiopia, most African nations including the Continental bloc, the African Union (AU), are expressing their strong desire and pushing so hard to add Africa in the world's high table and get a permanent seat. On top of that, actions have been taken to realize the long waited call for permanent representation.

Lately, according to a report from local media, a roundtable discussion was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with the aim to discuss on how to achieve a reform at the UNSC where diplomatic corps based in the capital city participated.

During the discussion, AU Political Affairs, Peace & Security Commissioner Bankole Adeoye said that the world remembers Africa when they need its solidarity in the UN General Assembly, and it is battling with its own challenges. The current UN Security Council (UNSC) does not in any way reflect the Global South and Africa, which constitutes over 20 percent of the UN member states.

However, Africa is a formidable force that could potentially be strongly united, resilient and influential, he stated, and stressed that "54 member states in the UN system that is already over 20 percent that can be a force to reckon with, but we are not at the table." adding Africa is not at the most important round-table that speaks about peace and security in the world.

"Multilateralism cannot be what we see in the current composition of the UNSC. It is not inclusive, equitable, representative, and democratic; and it is not in any way reflecting the Global South. It does not reflect Africa as we want. So, we want a united, resilient Africa that would promote the sustainable development goals but also lead to the next

level," the Commissioner stressed.

The negotiations and process and reform package of the UNSC reform has been going on for decades, Ambassador Bakole stated.

According to him, promoting global identity and shared values are crucial to achieve the reform which currently is missing in the UNSC. Adeoye underscored that "there is no way we are going to have a council that is reformed and does not speak to the shared values of all UN member states as humanity."

Also, the veto is not democratic, he pointed out, and noted "I can imagine in our national systems, intergovernmental institutions there is nowhere that veto is exercised recklessly, consistently, and without restraint." But in this case, autocracy at national level is condemned while veto system is put in place at international level that blocks reasonable and most efficient use for international diplomacy.

"What the AU is saying is that we want to be a strong united influential player in the international system; and that means that we must use all the arrows we have to make sure we bring peace and stability to our continent and to the world and effectively."

Finally, Adeoye underlined that Africa wants the UN to reform its council "because our issues will be reflected based on what we believe are globally shared values, shared experiences and lessons, and the action that comes with whichever process."

All in all, Africa will not stop until it reaches its goal to witness real reforms in major blocs and organizations and get a permanent representation. It is absurd to leave 1.4 billion people behind and cry for democracy and a peaceful world. Ethiopia, as always, voices the interest of the continent showing its unwavering stand regarding equality and inclusiveness. Africa has to have a permanent seat in the UN Security Council and other financial organizations, and it remains committed to be a catalyst in the process.

Besides, like Ethiopia, most African nations including the Continental bloc, the African Union (AU), are expressing their strong desire and pushing so hard to add Africa in the world's high table and get a permanent seat.

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

(CONSULTING SERVICES – INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT SELECTION)

Project: East Africa skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project

Project ID : 163399
Location: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Duration: 12 months
Salary: Negotiable
Assignment Title: Financial Management Specialist
Reference No. : ET-ET WINGATE-419185-CS-INDV
Expected start date: May 2024

facilitation of disbursements from the World Bank; The expert is expected to have experience in World Bank disbursement procedures;

- Perform any other activities as assigned by the project Coordinator.

3. Required Qualifications:

- MA/MSc/MBA/BA/BSc degree in Finance, Accounting, Business Management, Business Education, Business Administration or related field;
- A minimum of 6 years of experience in similar position for MA/MSc/ MBA holders and 8 years for BA/BSc holders.
- Experience in similar position with World Bank or donor funded projects and understanding of donor(s) and governmental requirements;
- Sound knowledge and understanding of accounting theory, concepts and principles, combined with proven practical skills in financial and cost accounting reporting, business planning, work programming, budgeting, and financial management and audit.
- Excellent financial and analytical skills; demonstrated experience in financial management and preparation of financial reports and budget variance analysis;
- Ability to understand different financial reports and ledgers.
- Ability to work independently and with minimal supervision
- Ability to cope under pressure and meet deadlines.
- Ability to efficiently handle a range of tasks concurrently to meet different needs
- Ability to work collaboratively and as part of a PIU team as well as independently.
- Ability to work flexible hours i.e. weekends, evenings when required.
- Excellent knowledge of Microsoft Office applications: Word, Excel, and Power Point are must.
- Excellent Internet/email communication skills.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills both in English and Amharic.

1. Background

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has received a credit and fund from the World Bank towards the cost of the East Africa Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASTRIP), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services (“the Services”) include providing the service of a **Financial Management Specialist** for EASTRIP at General Wingate Polytechnic College (GWPTC). Thus, the College has planned to hire a **Financial Management Specialist** who will support the College’s EASTRIP Project Implementation Unit.

2. Scope of the work/assignment

The **Financial Management Specialist** will undertake management of financial matters relating to the EASTRIP at GWPC and ensure compliance with World Bank and GWPC financial requirements and procedures. The finance specialist will be responsible for the following duties and responsibilities:

- Ensuring that books of accounts are maintained;
- Assisting in the recording of transactions in the accounting system of the project and assist in the maintenance of an up-to-date and reliable financial management system;
- Assist the project in general and the PIU in planning, installing and implementing of accounts control, and other accounting system of the project;
- Assist in budget preparation, monitoring and control; support the project in (i) annual budget preparation, (ii) monitoring budget performance, (iii) ensuring that payments are supported by budget, (iv) producing monthly budget utilization report, (v) providing justifications for the reports including variance analysis, (vi) following up on commitments, and others related to FM activities.
- Assisting in the review or check Petty Cash voucher, Cheque Payment voucher, Journal voucher cash receiving voucher for settlement, and debit and credit advices and supporting documentations;
- Assisting in conducting reconciliations – reconciliations of advances, receivables as well as payables, reconciliations of cash in hand and cash at Bank monthly and supporting in conducting cash counts;
- Supporting in payments following the GWPTC’s rules and regulations and project’s requirements including adherence to the project’s FM Manual;
- Ensuring payment of tax obligations including income taxes, withholding taxes & other payables.
- Support the GWPTC in the preparation of financial reports of the project to management, World Bank, other stakeholders on monthly, quarterly and annual basis as needed.
- Support in the preparation of complete list of fixed assets, -making sure that all fixed assets acquired are provided with identification number and recorded on the fixed asset registers;
- Making accounting documents available: documents like Financial Management Manual, Payment Vouchers, Cash Receipt Vouchers and Journal Vouchers, Goods Receiving Vouchers, Goods/Store Issue Vouchers, and Goods Return Vouchers; Working formats like Store Control Cards, Bin Cards and Fixed Assets Registers. Ensure proper filing of accounting documents;
- Support the GWPTC team in the audit process of the project including follow up on resolution of findings for appropriate corrective actions are taken;
- Assisting the various teams visiting or seeking information including External Auditors, Bank’s Implementation Support Missions (ISM) and other higher-level finance offices;
- Support the GWPTC team in fund flow management including

4. Application information

- Interested individual Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are qualifications and experience in Financial Management in World Bank financed projects.
- The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 3.14,3.16 and 3.17 of the World Bank’s Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers dated September 2023 (“Procurement Regulations”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.
- A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Individual Consultant selection method set out in the Procurement Regulations, Time based contract.
- Duration of the assignment will be for a period of one year with possible extension subject to satisfactory performance
- Interested and qualified consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours 08:30 to 12:30 morning & 13:30 to 17:30 afternoon from Monday to Thursday and 08:30 to 11:30 Morning & 14:00 to 17:30 afternoon on Friday
- Applicants should send expression of Interest together with information demonstrating that they have the required qualification and relevant experience to perform the service (description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, qualifications, and so forth) by providing CVs, formal application letter and all supporting documents to the address indicated below in person, or by Email on or before **May 6, 2024**.

**GENERAL WINGATE POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE,
EAST AFRICA SKILLS FOR TRANSFORMATION AND REGIONAL
INTEGRATION PROJECT (EASTRIP)**

**Attn. Focal Person, Project Implementation Unit (PIU)
Address: Addis ketema Sub-city, Woreda 10, EASTRIP Office,
New Block, 1st floor,
P.O BOX : 1188**

Telephone No.: +251- 912-042025,

Email Address: jemal2208@yahoo.com and

+251-911-872730, Email Address : yehuala71@yahoo.com

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

General Wingate Polytechnic College

International News

Kenya mourns defense chief killed in helicopter crash

Kenya began three days of mourning on Friday after its defense chief and nine other senior officers were killed in a helicopter crash, the latest military accident involving a high-profile figure.

A 19-gun salute will take place Saturday in a military tribute to General Francis Omondi Ogolla, the chief of the Kenya Defense Forces, in the presence of President William Ruto, the defense ministry announced.

Ogolla was killed when his helicopter went down shortly after takeoff in a remote forested area of northwestern Kenya on Thursday.

"A distinguished four-star general has fallen in the course of duty and service of the country," Ruto said, announcing the deaths that evening.

He said the Air Force had dispatched an investigation team to establish the cause of the accident.

Ruto grieved with Ogolla's family at a ceremony in Nairobi on Friday as the nation began observing the mourning period, with the Kenyan flag flying at half-mast across

the country and at missions abroad.

"Yesterday was truly a very, very tragic day," the president said. "This is a big loss to the country because General Ogolla made a whole difference in the security of the country."

The family said in a statement that a funeral would be Sunday at Ogolla's home in Siaya in the west of the country, followed by a memorial service in a Nairobi suburb on April 26.

The bodies of the victims, draped in Kenyan flags, were returned to a military base in Nairobi on an air force plane late Thursday.

One of the officers, Brigadier Swale Saidi, was buried in the Indian Ocean town of Kilifi on Friday and other funerals are expected in the coming days.

Ogolla, a trained fighter pilot, had been promoted to the defense chief role by Ruto just a year ago and was about to mark 40 years of military service.

He had been visiting troops deployed in a security operation in the North Rift region,

which is plagued by violence caused by armed bandits and cattle rustlers.

Ogolla's daughter Lorna Ogolla said in a post on LinkedIn that her father died "doing what he did best for the better part of the last 40 years — trying to keep Kenya safe."

Messages of condolence were sent from across the country and the African continent as well as the United Nations, the United States and other Kenyan allies.

"From combating terrorist threats posed by al-Shabab to leading efforts to bolster regional cooperation across a range of domains, he has left an indelible mark," U.S. national security adviser Jake Sullivan said in a statement.

The Standard newspaper said it was the fifth armed forces chopper crash in 12 months, with claims that Kenya's military aircraft were old and poorly maintained.

In June 2021, at least 10 soldiers were killed when their helicopter crashed during a training exercise south of Nairobi.

Ogolla is among a number of high-profile

victims of air accidents in Kenya. In 2012, internal security minister George Saitoti, seen as a possible presidential candidate, was among six people killed in a police helicopter crash.

Kenya has one of the largest military budgets in the East Africa region, at \$1.1 billion for the financial year ending in June 2024, according to government statistics.

The International Institute for Strategic Studies estimated in its 2024 report, *The Military Balance*, the total number of active armed forces at 24,100.

The East African nation is a major contributor to U.N. peacekeeping operations and also deploys troops for missions in the region.

Ogolla, a married father of two, joined the KDF in April 1984, rising through the ranks to command the Kenyan Air Force in 2018, a post he held for three years before becoming vice chief of the defense forces in 2021 and then chief in April 2023.

Source: voanews.com

Global billionaires tax to fight climate change, hunger rises up political agenda

Brazil and France want the G20 to get behind a global minimum tax on billionaires' wealth, also backed by IMF chief, but Germany rejects the idea.

The finance ministers of Brazil and France pushed this week for a tax on US-dollar billionaires of at least 2% of their wealth each year, with the \$250 billion it could raise going to tackle poverty, hunger and climate change.

Brazil's Fernando Haddad and France's Bruno Le Maire promoted their proposal at the Spring Meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington, alongside IMF head Kristalina Georgieva and Kenyan finance minister Njuguna Ndung'u.

"In a world where economic activities are increasingly transnational, we have to find new and creative ways to tax these activities [and] thus direct the revenues to common global endeavours such as ending hunger and poverty and fighting climate change," said Haddad.

He called on world leaders to show "political courage", embrace "innovative solutions based on evidence" and give their people "hope". "Without courage, there's no good politics that can be done," he said.

Speaking next at a briefing in Washington, Le Maire said overhauling the taxation system was "a matter of efficiency and a matter of justice", and that a levy on the super-rich should follow already-agreed measures for a digital tax and global minimum corporation tax. "Everybody has to pay his fair share of taxation," he

added.

Canadian minister vows to fight attempts to weaken plastic pollution treaty

French economist Gabriel Zucman is drawing up a proposal for a billionaires tax that will be presented to G20 finance ministers and central bankers when they meet in the Brazilian city of Rio De Janeiro in July.

Haddad, whose government will host that meeting as G20 chair, said he wanted the Group of 20 big economies to issue a statement of support. Le Maire said he hoped the wealth tax would be in place by 2027, ten years after reform of the international taxation system began.

But at a separate press conference in Washington this week, Germany's finance minister Christian Lindner rejected the proposal. "We do not think it is suitable," he said. "We have an appropriate taxation of income." Lindner is from the free-market Free Democratic Party, part of Germany's governing coalition with the centre-left and Greens.

Who will spend it?

Zucman said not all countries needed to agree to a measure for it to be implemented. If some countries don't tax billionaires, others can tax them more to make up for it, he said, adding that is how the global minimum corporation tax rate of 15% — which went into effect this year — works.

While Haddad spoke of tackling hunger and climate change, it is not yet clear who would be in charge of spending the money

raised from billionaires or what it would be spent on.

Esther Dufflo, another French economist who addressed G20 ministers this week, told journalists the money should be given to developing countries to deal with climate change.

The best use, she said, is for the money to go to poor people before a climate shock like a heatwave hits, for their communities to protect them through measures like air-conditioned public spaces, and to governments for reinsurance against climate disasters.

From academia to politics

A billionaires tax has long been pushed by progressive economists like Zucman and Joseph Stiglitz. But it has been taken from academia onto the political agenda by the G20 presidency of Brazil's left-wing government led by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Haddad.

Zucman presented the proposal at a G20 finance ministers meeting in Sao Paulo in February. It was the "first time these issues of inequality, progressive taxation [and] extreme wealth concentration were discussed in such a forum", he said, adding that the "vast majority praised Brazil for putting those issues on the agenda".

The main barrier, he said, is that billionaires will fight back against it. "They have a particular hatred for any kind of tax based on wealth. Why? Because that's the one tax that really works for them," he said.

But E3G analyst Sima Kammourieh, a former economic adviser to the French

government, was more pessimistic about the prospect of a billionaires tax being implemented. She "wouldn't completely rule it out, but it's something which could take many many years to come to fruition", she said.

Although Zucman insisted the tax could go ahead without the US on board, Kammourieh warned that a Donald Trump victory in the US elections in November would be damaging. Joe Biden has called for higher taxes on billionaires, while Trump is one of the world's nearly 3,000 billionaires.

Elsewhere at the Spring Meetings in Washington this week, France, Kenya and Barbados launched a taskforce to examine how to fill the gap in climate finance for developing and vulnerable countries — excluding China — which will need investment of \$2.4 trillion per year by 2030, according to economists Vera Songwe and Nicholas Stern.

The taskforce will consider taxes on wealthy people, plane tickets, financial transactions, shipping fuel, fossil fuel production and fossil fuel firms' windfall profits. It will also mull redirecting state fossil fuel subsidies to a new global loss and damage fund and windfall taxes on fossil fuel producers when prices are exceptionally high.

The plan is for one or more proposals to be presented to governments with the aim of securing international agreement at the COP30 UN climate summit in Brazil in late 2025.

Source: Climatechangenews.com

In Pictures

Shuwalid Festival celebrated colorfully

BY DARGIE KAHSAY



The Harari people of Ethiopia celebrate an annual three-day festival. The festival marks the end of six days of fasting to compensate omissions during Ramadan. This colorful and magnificent annual festival of the people of Harari was inscribed by UNSECO as World Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2023 on the Representative

List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Inscription of Shuwalid at UNESCO make Harar city the first city in Ethiopia to become home to two UNESCO heritages, the Jugol wall and Shuwalid festival. This year's Shuwalid festival was colorfully celebrated by different activities in Harar city.

HOAI 20th Ministerial meeting held in Washington DC

The 20th Ministerial meeting of the Horn of Africa Initiative (HOAI) was held in Washington DC. Ethiopia's Finance Minister and current Chair of HOAI, Ahmed Shide, co-chaired the 20th Ministerial meeting of HOAI along with Victoria Kwakwa, Regional Vice President for Eastern and Southern Africa in Washington DC. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the World Bank IMF spring meetings. Ministers of Finance of the Horn of Africa region and development partners including the World Bank, AfDB, EU, Germany, and the UK attended the meeting.



Addis Ababa city distributes 150 electric vehicles to sub-cities

With the goal of mitigating air pollution, the Addis Ababa city administration distributes 150 electric minibuses to various sub-cities and institutions across. Addis Ababa City Administration Mayor, Adanech Abiebie delivered the electric vehicles to the representatives of the institutions on Friday. The city administration's new initiative is part of its campaign of "beat pollution" campaign. The campaign runs for next six months, according to the city administration.

Public rally organizes in Wolkite town to support national reform

A grand public rally was organized in Wolkite town yesterday to support the national reform. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) and other officials attended the event. PM Abiy discussed with residents and representatives of Wolkite town and the people of Guraghe.

