



# The Ethiopian Herald

Vol. LXXX No 190 19 April 2024 - Miazia 11, 2016

Friday

Price Birr 10.00



## Germany plays active role in Ethiopia's health sector

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA-** The German Government has been building the capacity of Ethiopian health care specialists, technicians, and TVET college students through various training schemes, the NIRAS Germany said.

Approached by journalists, NIRAS Germany BM Project Team Leader Gert Klug stated that the firm is running two projects in Ethiopia whereby it offers capacity-building projects for universities and polytechnic colleges and trains technicians and engineers. NIRAS Germany also provides medical equipment and maintenance services.

The German Government under the KfW project is providing capacity building and skill development

See Germany plays active ... page 3



## Aid delivery for 6.6 mln citizens well underway : Commission

### •Agencies resume support in full swing

BY MENGESHA AMARE

**ADDIS ABABA -** From January to March 2024, some 6.6 million citizens, who were in dire need of assistance,

received relief aid , Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC) announced,

It also unveiled that humanitarian agencies, which halted assistance sometime, have

resumed support in full swing.

Precaution, Information and Operation Coordination with the Commission Chief Executive Representative, Fraol Bekele (PhD)

See Aid delivery ... page 3

## Ethiopia greenlights

### foreign investors' engagement in restricted trade sectors

#### •Enacts directive for implementation

BY TSEGAYE TILAHU

**ADDIS ABABA –** The government has opened up export, import, wholesale and retail trade businesses to foreign companies to boost competitiveness, revenues, said Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC).

The EIC and the Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration jointly gave a press briefing yesterday on the adopted directive to liberalize export, import, wholesale and retail trade sectors, which were the most restricted businesses to foreign investors.

EIC Commissioner Hanna Arayaselassie stated that the government has taken privatization measures to realize the homegrown economic reform in a bid to ensure competitiveness of businesses.

Accordingly, the country has opened this previously restricted sector for foreign investors to boost businesses competitiveness.

Earlier, the Commissioner said, these sectors were reserved only for indigenous businesses to protect local investors and for



other reasons but it had registered limited successes and restricted competition.

Recently, the Ethiopian Investment Board has enacted a directive that permits foreign investors' participation in the import, export, wholesale, and retail trade businesses, she said.

According to the Commissioner, foreign investors can now engage in all import, export, wholesale and retail trade investments with an exception on fertilizer and petroleum.

The cost benefit analysis is made to

See Ethiopia greenlights ... page 3



Photo: Hadash Abreha

## Ethiopia repatriates over 4,200 migrants in one week: MoFA

### •Registers remarkable diplomatic success since reform

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA –**The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) announced that over 4,200 Ethiopian undocumented migrants have returned home safely from Saudi Arabia since last Friday.

In his biweekly press briefing, MoFA Spokesperson NebiyuTedla said that 12 flights were successfully carried out within the week, bringing back undocumented

See Ethiopia ... page 3



## Authority steps up campaign for pollution-free metropolis

BY ASHENAF ANIMUT

**ADDIS ABABA** – Various relentless efforts have been exerted to own pollution-free and livable capital, said the Addis Ababa City Administration Environmental Protection Authority

The Authority is going to commence advocacy campaign today. The campaign would last for six months with various activities under the theme: “Stop pollution, Glorify Beauty”.

In a press briefing yesterday, Authority’s Executive Director Dida Diriba said that in alignment with the set environmental rules and proclamations, the authority has been undertaking chains of awareness creation advocacy activities to make the metropolis more livable and convenient diplomatic hub.

He said: “The campaign would be a ground breaking opportunity to create awareness, enact law enforcement mechanisms and address the environment related pressing issues. Besides, the authority has planned to reach about 2.7 million people in this widespread engagement.”

Accordingly, in this program, he indicated that each month is slated to take place under various forms of pollution protection mechanisms to get rid of all forms of pollutants such as plastic, air, water, soil, sound including screening out environmental and social impact assessment systems to support adaptation and mitigation plans.

Along with other stakeholders, it has been working on sewerage, waste management and treatment activities to the large segments communities to protect the general ecosystem, Dida reiterated.

So far, it has been taking legal and corrective measures, he added.

As to him, it has prepared schedules and documents the awareness creation campaign will trickle down to from federal to the woreda level including institutions.

On today’s launching ceremony, it is projected that over 2,000 people from city administration, figures, religious fathers, students and other community representatives at the city level are expected to attend the program.

He called on joint efforts of the government, residents and the entire communities to discharge their shared responsibility to protect the environment and realize developmental aspirations.

It is to be recalled that the environmental protection campaign was commenced last month at the national level under the same theme with the initiative of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) in a bid to transfer protected and eco-friendly country to the coming generation.

## Holy Trinity Cathedral restoration reaches 75 percent

• *Some 85 mln Birr required to completion*

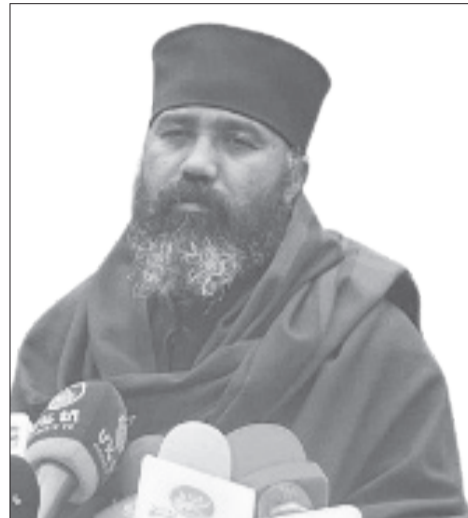
BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA** – The restoration of the Holy Trinity Cathedral has reached 75 percent, the church’s administrator disclosed, adding that some 85 million Birr is required for the completion of the maintenance work.

Briefing the media yesterday, the administrator Komose Aba Sirak Admasu said that the renovation of the cathedral is being done with a contract of 172 million Birr by a construction firm Varnero.

According to Aba Sirak, various bodies have been contributing to the maintenance work whereby the Addis Ababa Culture Art and Tourism Bureau has allotted six million Birr thus far from its 10 million Birr pledge.

Mentioning the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church (EOTC) limited capacity to finance the restoration work other than of its follower’s contribution, he urged the faithful and other Ethiopians to play their part to preserve the cathedral, which



is among the country’s preferred tourist attractions.

Accordingly, the Cathedral announced different bank accounts and a website that will serve to collect donations and further revealed the plan to set a fundraising event in the coming Sunday.

“The EOTC is rich with national heritages,

and among the canons of the country’s civilization and the cathedral is also where patriarchs and archbishops are coronate, their graves are laid to rest, and the mausoleums of individuals and leaders who have made great contributions to the country are located.”

Finance Committee Coordinator Kesis Biruk Alelegn on his part said that the Cathedral formed two committees to mobilize the resource in a responsible and accountable manner.

He indicated the Cathedral is different from others because it is where patriarchs and arch bishops take oath and various events are held. This type of institution has an immense role in other countries in generating forex and luring international tourists.

The Holy Trinity Cathedral, also known in Amharic as Kidist Selassie, is the highest ranking Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church in Addis Ababa. The milestone of the Church was laid by Emperor Haile Selassie I in 1924 to commemorate the Ethiopian victory over Italian occupation.

## New project to enhance feasibility, environmental sustainability

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDIS ABABA**- The efforts to promote circular economy would increase country’s feasibility in international stage in terms of investment and market destination, so said Director General Milkesa Jagema.

Ethiopian Manufacturing Industry Development Institute Director General Milkesa Jagema made the above remark during the launching workshop held under the theme: ‘Promotion of Circular Economy in Textile and Garment Sector through Sustainable Management of Chemicals and Waste in Ethiopia.’

He noted that the textile and garment industry is one of government priority sectors which is rapidly developing industrial sector.

Despite its labor intensive nature which would contribute to reducing unemployment rate and boost nation’s economy, it is considered as one of the polluting sectors since it consumes high amount of energy, dye staff and chemicals, as to him.

To curb this, a lot of mitigation ways have been devised and implemented globally. Recently, the circular economy draws the attention of scholars, environmental activists and governments, he said.

“The objective of this project is lined up with the new Ethiopian Manufacturing Industry Policy as it explicitly stated the need to follow circular economy approach for sustainable and inclusive growth of the sector.”

Circular economy is a new way of creating value and prosperity to state and economy. It works by extending product life span, through improved design, relocating

waste from the end of supply chain to the beginning.

In circular economy, products are designed for durability, reuse and recycle ability. Materials for new products come from old products. Thus, governments are encouraging circular economy and make it mandatory to adopt it, he added.

The Institute Deputy Director General Seleshi Lemma stated that the project of circular economy in Textile and Garment Sector would have significant contribution in complying with environment standards and become competitive in domestic and international market place.

He stated that significant numbers of domestic and international investors have entered in to the business where encouraging results have been registered in terms of investment flow, production, job creation, and export and import substitution.

However, climate change and environmental pressure are changing demand patterns and the ways in which global businesses operates.

Given its large contribution to the global carbon emission and future environmental concerns, the sector has seen strong consumer and regulatory interest.

“The growing business and buyers demand for sustainable materials in the future will include circular solution. New materials, technology for recycling of fabrics, fabrics waste and used garment have yet to be deployed at significant scale but are area of concern”

Highlighting the encouraging efforts put to comply with sustainability, he indicated that the waste produced in garment factories is already being recycled and the zero liquid



Milkesa Jagema

discharge technology that was introduced in different industrial parks and outside is practical efforts that are worth mentioning of circularity.

African Circular Development Network (ACEAN) Regional Coordinator for East Africa within foundation ,Bezawit Eshetu on her part noted that the project would be instrumental in enhancing environmental sustainability within the sector, as well as improving resource efficiency.

Reducing waste generation, strengthening technical capacity and expertise in sustainable practices and increasing adoption of circular economy principles, which leads to economic growth and job creation, is the major benefits of the project.

The project is funded by Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by UNIDO, Textile and Garment Industry Research and Development Centre (TGIRDC) where 10 factories in Ethiopia are beneficiaries, it was learned.

# News

## PSC conducts 50 researches driving dev't journey

•*Study suggests urban land lease system reform*

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA-** The Federal Policy Studies Institute (PSI) said it has been conducting over 50 studies and researches in the current fiscal year that aim to supplement Ethiopia's development journey

The institute presented research on the "characteristics of urban land lease markets in Ethiopia" yesterday.

PSI Director General Professor Beyene Petros said in his opening remark that the institute is collaborating with domestic and foreign stakeholders to conduct the studies that would have a profound importance in Ethiopia's path to prosper.



Photo: Gebabo Gebre

Professor Beyene Petros

Prof. Beyene also noted that land management and use systems are crucial for the development and benefit of cities including

the capital Addis Ababa. "There is a gap in land management and use in terms of the level of development and the desire to grow in cities across the country. Hence, urban land management and use should be improved."

The land management study that was conducted by the institute in 10 state capitals and city administrations indicated poor documentation of lease information and it came to an understanding that the management and use of urban land is becoming a national challenge.

To address the challenge, the institute's land management study suggested the improvement of urban land lease systems with an integrated information system. It also recommended the monitoring of leased

lands for development purposes and systematically managing long-term land lease supply, considering city master plans and organizing land supply.

The director general further mentioned the study's findings that 71 percent of the land taken by 636 auctioned plots in 10 cities was undeveloped. "The study was carried out in 10 cities including Addis Ababa and it has shown its relevance in solving problems that have been encountered in the process of transferring land by lease."

The research recommended putting in place effective, integrated, modern lease systems and processes, implementing a digital system for documenting lease information to reduce paperwork and increase accuracy.

## Germany plays active...

training for healthcare specialists and technicians. "We are working here to enhance the capacity of biomedical technicians and engineers and we also have purchased the necessary equipment for hospitals, particularly ICU units since the hospitals are in big need of medical supplies," he added.

NIRAS Germany biomedical engineers and technicians are tasked to provide training to Ethiopian students and assist the latter's activities. Funded by the German Development Bank (KfW), the six-year project launched in 2020 and will deliver

medical equipment for hospitals.

Klug also noted that NIRAS Germany is supporting the Ministry of Labor and Skills by facilitating workshops and providing training to Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) students in different fields.

By the same token, the firm is facilitating the delivery of medical equipment and building the capacity of health professionals in eight teaching universities including Dire Dawa, Bahir Dar, Addis Ababa, Jimma, Hawassa, Adama, and Arba Minch. It has also engaged in developing the hospital's intensive care

unit wards and service provision.

"We have delivered buses for universities to facilitate the transport of students and staff within colleges and from their campus to other places."

It is to be recalled that the German Government delivered the first batch of medical equipment and instruments in the total outlay of over 3.6 million Euros for eight teaching hospitals of Ethiopia recently. The support aims to upgrade medical care and build the capacity of biomedical technicians and engineers.

## Ethiopia greenlights...

highlight the importance of the policy amendment. In the process, the country took the best practices from China, India, Kenya, Uganda, Vietnam and others, Hanna noted.

The opening of these sectors for foreign investors would bring advantages for customers, suppliers and others, boost competitiveness, improve government revenue and others, she stated.

The process is a gradual opening according to a minimum criterion and foreign investors are showing keenness to engage in these sectors, she indicated.

The directive will bring a great shift in the trading system, she said, adding that the efforts would exerted to balance the business landscape for local investors with set strategy to govern the implementation process.

Moreover, the import trade and wholesale investment of fertilizers and petroleum products will remain strictly under government domain. Manufacturers and official agents will attain import permits for their products, while firms that already have an export manufacturing business in the country can also apply for import permits, she noted.

## Aid delivery...

told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that EDRMC has distributed some 1.6 million quintal cereals and over 2 billion Birr humanitarian supports in third quarter of this year.

As to him, the Commission distributed some 666,000 quintal cereals and 446 million Birr solely in the month of January. Likewise, in the month of February, it addressed the needy via distributing 587,000 quintal cereals and 802 million Birr, whereas in March, it was possible to do same 385,000 quintal cereal and 891 million Birr.

He said, "Generally, in the third quarter of the year, over 1.6 million quintals of cereals was given to and over 2 billion Birr has

been distributed to support over 5 million citizens."

Citing that the support was done by the government and aid agencies, he said the commitment of partners to expand the humanitarian assistance is worth encouraging.

He also mentioned that aid partners which had cut their support, have recently resumed in full swing following an intensive discussion upon some irregularities and peculiarly focused on the root causes of the problem.

Mentioning the presence of a food items gap in the northern part of the nation due

to the drought occurred, he stated that the government in collaboration with development partners has devised possible solutions to the problems created following the sporadic skirmishes there.

He said, "In places where command post is functional, the humanitarian assistance is being directed to the community in issue escorted with security forces."

As learnt from the web page of Foreign Affairs Minister, Ambassador Taye Atsikesilasies, in a conference organized by Britain and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), it was possible to solicit over 630 million USD.

## Ethiopia repatriates...

migrants from Saudi Arabia.

This operation will continue until all identified migrants are returned home and this demonstrates the government's commitment to its citizens' welfare, he noted.

Moreover, the Ethio-Saudi Ministerial Conference is scheduled for this May, which is poised to strengthen bilateral relations and foster cooperation between the two countries, according to the Spokesperson.

He also briefed journalists about the

recently held humanitarian aid pledging conference conveyed by Foreign Minister, Ambassador Taye Atske Selassie.

Ethiopia secured a significant pledge of 630 million USD, which will be allocated to provide essential support to people affected by natural disasters and conflicts, Nebiyu stated

Highlighting diplomatic achievements gained over the past six years of reform period, the Spokesperson emphasized successes registered in various areas including food security, public diplomacy,

regional integration, and peace-building efforts.

"Remarkably, Ethiopia's assertive stance on international platforms has garnered recognition, particularly in areas such as wheat irrigation. The economic reform that prioritizes privatization attracted foreign direct investments," he said.

Addressing the past negotiations regarding the Abbay Dam, he affirmed Ethiopia's commitment to resolving the issue through African Union-led processes.

By elevating the dam as an African agenda

item, Ethiopia seeks to advance regional integration while ensuring equitability, he noted.

Ethiopia also achieved a remarkable improvement in public diplomacy as it is proved by a surge in the amount of remittances exceeding 20 billion USD over the past five years, Nebiyu said, adding that the engagement of the diaspora community has been instrumental, with contributions exceeding 100 million USD towards national flagship projects, reflecting a strong commitment to the national development.

# Opinion

## Ethiopia's membership in BRICS + to uncloset economic opportunities, fortify diplomatic relations

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

It is evident that Ethiopia's addition in BRICS plus indicates acknowledgment of its expanding financial and geopolitical relevance within the continent of Africa. As one of the fastest-growing economic climates in Africa, Ethiopia's engagement in BRICS plus opens chances for improved profession, financial investment coupled with technical teamwork with various other participant states. This interaction lines up with Ethiopia's passions for financial growth together with diversity.

Belonging to BRICS plus permits Ethiopia to take advantage of the cumulative toughness and also sources of the BRICS countries that include Brazil, Russia, India, China, as well as South Africa in addition to various other recently admitted participants.

This critical partnership offers Ethiopia with a system to participate in conversations as well as arrangements on worldwide financial plus political problems, promoting an extra well balanced plus multipolar globe order. By the same token, Ethiopia's participation in BRICS plus likewise permits it to add its distinct point of views plus experiences to the team even more improving the cumulative discussion.

In point of fact, the whole thing on the subject BRICS Plus has been heading in the right direction. The 3rd session of Ethiopia's BRICS Senior Officials' Technical Committee Meeting was held, according to Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

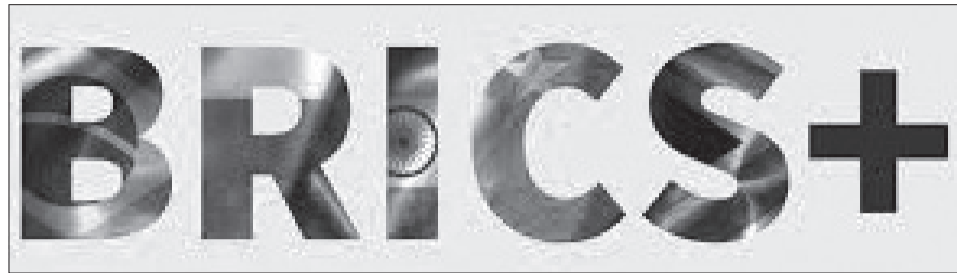
Senior Officials, drawn from various Government institutions, reviewed the proposal for Ethiopia's draft BRICS engagement strategy; and the levels of participation of Ethiopian institutions in the BRICS activities, according to information obtained from local media.

The Committee also deliberated on ways to speed up Ethiopia's smooth integration into the BRICS arrangements, advance the country's national interest, and contribute to the consolidation of the BRICS platform.

Ethiopia's BRICS membership is part of its determination to expand the economic opportunities to propel its economic growth and contribute to further strengthening multilateralism, the ministry added.

There are many reasons why Africa has become the center of gravity for both BRICS and G20. To begin with, Africa has vast natural resources which can benefit the member states through trade and manufacturing. There is big energy potential in oil, wind, solar, thermal, and hydropower energy. There are also about 1.4 billion population in Africa. It is also estimated that by 2050 the population number will be 2.5 billion.

The present number and the projections show that Africa can be a large market for the products of member states. Out of this



large population, more than 60% of them are under the age of 25. This is an ample workforce for the present and future time. On the other hand, population of the well-developed countries is dominated by aged people. Thus Africa will fill the gap of shortage of manpower for their industries, agriculture, and other sectors, as learnt from an article.

"Currently, Africa's GDP is estimated to be three trillion USD. Moreover, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) which was established in 2018 will also be one of the world's largest free trade areas. These can be considered as opportunities to the two blocs. Making Africa as part of their bloc will increase the voting support in various multilateral forums. For instance, BRICS plus members or G20 plus members can come up with one position for critical international issues in the United Nations General Assembly. Taking this assumption into consideration, the G20 can secure an additional 55 supporting votes from the African Union."

Ethiopia's involvement in BRICS plus can cause the growth of vital industries such as transport, power, telecoms as well as commercial parks and speeds up financial development plus local combination.

Additionally, Ethiopia's involvement with BRICS plus can enhance its setting as a local giant in East Africa. By lining up itself with prominent international partners, Ethiopia can utilize its geopolitical importance and work as a channel for local financial combination and also participation. This can result in raised profession circulations, financial investment possibilities, along with technical transfers within the East African area, profiting Ethiopia as well as its next-door nations.

With energetic involvement in BRICS plus, Ethiopia can develop more powerful polite relationships with participant states as well as increase its network of collaborations with a wide spectrum of the member states. This can open up doors for cooperation in locations such as education and learning, medical care, social exchange, as well as people-to-people links.

Ethiopia ought to properly utilize BRICS membership to expedite economic development programs, scholar suggested. Apart from being home to various continental and international organizations like the Economic Commission of Africa (ECA) and the African Union (AU), Ethiopia was selected to join the BRICS countries for its fastest growing economy in Africa. Therefore, Ethiopia should exploit every opportunity of BRICS membership

to speed up its economic growth, so said Lema Gudisa (PhD), Economist and Vice President of Ethiopian Civil Service University.

He recently told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that being part of BRICS countries is important to boost trade, reduce foreign exchange deficit thereby enhancing Ethiopia's rapid economic growth achieved over the past 15 years. "The agreement in this bloc relies on achieving mutual growth and benefit. Therefore, it is necessary to be competent for gaining economic benefits," he said.

He also suggested the necessity of manufacturing quality products to gain utmost benefit trading with other BRICS countries. Ethiopia is rich in natural resources which need a wide-range of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to exploit this economic potential. In this regard, Lema said, Ethiopia's BRICS membership is crucial to attract FDI. Most of the member countries of the group are technologically and economically advanced so that Ethiopia will have a chance to share experiences from these countries to increase production and productivity, he noted.

He recommended that Ethiopia should provide timely and expeditious services while welcoming investors from BRICS countries to be a suitable nation for investment preferred by member states.

With boosted profession, financial investment as well as teamwork with the BRICS countries as well as various other freshly confessed participants Ethiopia can increase its financial growth, enhance local combination and also broaden its polite impact. By proactively involving with BRICS plus, Ethiopia can play a critical function in forming the future of worldwide administration well balanced together with comprehensive global system. On the subject of the issue ambassadors have been expressing their feelings, ideas and thoughts at various points in time.

In a recent interview with The Ethiopian Herald, Iranian Ambassador to Ethiopia Samad Ali Lakizadeh stated that Ethiopia and Iran's official admission to the BRICS economic bloc would avail a great opportunity to both parties to boost relations in social, economic and political spheres.

He went on saying BRICS is a two-way cooperation between member states and it gives ample opportunity for both Ethiopia and Iran to consolidate their bilateral relationship in every possible arena. It was being informed about Ethiopia's

plan to reopen its embassy in Tehran. The Ambassador further highlighted that BRICS was established to move towards multilateralism and to avoid a unilateral world order. Many countries including Ethiopia and Iran are severely affected by a unilateral world order and greedy policy approach and values and their admission to the bloc is an important step to improve multilateralism.

Within BRICS, there are systems to overcome shortage of hard currency and other setbacks. In this regard, the New Development Bank is instrumental to forge commercial cooperation among member countries and also with non-member states. Apart from its noble contribution in advancing countries' role in international politics, Ethiopia and Iran's official admission to BRICS is a milestone in paving the way for solidifying bilateral-level cooperation and partnership. The two countries would employ the bloc to lift their multifaceted relations to new heights, the Ambassador remarked.

In applying to the BRICS economic bloc, the Ethiopian government does not plan to put itself in major powers' rivalry, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said, calling the CSOs engagement to neutralize misinformation.

It is recalled that the Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA) and civil society organizations (CSOs) recently discussed the purpose of Ethiopia's entry to BRICS. In his opening remark at the discussion, MoFA State Minister Ambassador Misganu Arega indicated some interest groups have been disseminating false information about Ethiopia's accession to the block which could damage the country's interest.

The government has repeatedly informed the international community about the clear agenda Ethiopia has in BRICS. But, some rumors are still on air and misleading governmental and nongovernmental entities including the CSOs. "The admission has no purpose beyond development partnership," Ambassador Misganu asserted. "Some consider joining the BRICS as avoiding Western global powers and giving a political backup to the founding members, but it is untrue that Ethiopia will not be part of ideological contentions. We need to diversify our developmental partners and the CSOs should be aware of Ethiopia's inclusive diplomacy."

The state minister further explained that as an economic bloc of Global South, Ethiopia deserves membership in the BRICS family and its appeal does not emanate from conspiracy or to make itself the venue for political contest. Ethiopia will continue its partnership with countries from four corners of the globe.

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

# Editorial

## Transitional justice: Pathway for lasting healing

In order to address the recurrent conflicts and then ensure lasting peace and healing, Ethiopia has been developing framework for transitional justice. Importantly, last Wednesday, the 30th regular meeting of the council of ministers discussed the draft police of the transitional justice. It is hoped that this police would serve as a path for encouraging reconciliation that ultimately produces lasting peace and healing.

For centuries, Ethiopia has been facing recurrent conflicts that left wounds and grievances. Realizing the urgency of addressing these deep wounds and conflicts, the government, these days, is planning to implement the principles of transitional justice and reconciliation. At its essence, transitional justice focuses on confronting past wrongs while establishing the framework for a fairer and more peaceful tomorrow. This involves various actions such as truth commissions, holding perpetrators accountable through legal proceedings, providing reparations to victims, and instituting reforms to create a society that is more inclusive and democratic. Although these approaches may differ in their specifics, they share a common objective: addressing historical injustices to pave the way for a brighter future and lasting peace.

At the heart of transitional justice lies the principle of reconciliation – the endeavor to mend the scars of history and shape a collective vision for tomorrow. Reconciliation necessitates facing difficult realities, recognizing the pain endured by victims, and offering forgiveness to those responsible for wrongdoing.

One significant advantage of transitional justice and reconciliation is their capacity to disrupt the cycle of violence and retaliation commonly observed in societies recovering from conflict. By facilitating opportunities for truth-telling and holding individuals accountable, these initiatives can tackle the underlying drivers of conflict and deter future acts of violence. Additionally, by cultivating an environment of dialogue and mutual comprehension, they can augment social unity and foster trust among communities.

Remarkably, the important aspect of transitional justice and reconciliation lies in their capacity to offer comfort and restoration to those who have endured the greatest hardship. For victims of human rights violations, transitional justice mechanisms afford an avenue to share their experiences, have their suffering recognized, and reclaim their dignity. Similarly, for perpetrators of violence, reconciliation provides an opportunity to repent for past transgressions. Hence, the significance of transitional justice and reconciliation principles becomes increasingly apparent.

Moreover, one of the commendable initiatives undertaken by the Ethiopian government is the establishment of National Dialogue Commission in order to address the injustices of the past. It is expected that this commission and the transitional justice would provide a platform for victims to share their experiences, for perpetrators to acknowledge their wrongdoings. By confronting the painful realities of the past head-on, Ethiopia is taking a crucial step towards healing the wounds of history and building a more inclusive and equitable society.

In addition to addressing past injustices, the Ethiopian government have prioritized measures aimed at promoting social cohesion and reconciliation. By fostering dialogue and understanding between different ethnic, religious, and regional communities, Ethiopia is working to bridge the diverging gaps. Initiatives to promote cultural exchange, tolerance, and mutual respect are helping to build trust and solidarity among diverse groups, laying the foundation for a more harmonious and united Ethiopia.

In sum, the Ethiopian government has demonstrated strong leadership and initiation to promote dialogue among every member of the society, religious leaders, and community stakeholders in the pursuit of peace and reconciliation. By partnering with these stakeholders, the government is tapping into the expertise and grassroots networks needed to implement effective transitional justice initiatives at the local level. This collaborative approach empowers communities to take ownership of the reconciliation process and ensures lasting healing and sustainable.



## The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays  
By The Ethiopian Press Agency

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The Ethiopian Herald

# Opinion

## Self-Alienation: The Psychological Roots of Societal Unrest and Division

BY ANETENEH GETACHEW DAMTEW (PhD)

In a world grappling with numerous challenges, the issue of conflict and social violence continues to afflict nations across the globe. While there are various factors that contribute to these conflicts, one often overlooked aspect is the profound impact of self-alienation on societal unrest. This article delves into the intricate relationship between self-alienation and the escalation of conflict, shedding light on the psychological underpinnings that drive social violence within a nation.

Self-alienation, at its core, represents a deep disconnection between individuals and their own identities, values, and sense of belonging. It emerges when individuals feel estranged from themselves, experiencing a profound sense of isolation, meaninglessness, and dissatisfaction with their lives. This state of self-alienation can manifest in different forms, such as cultural alienation, social alienation, or existential alienation, each with its unique consequences for societal harmony.

One of the primary ways in which self-alienation fuels conflict is through the erosion of empathy and compassion. When individuals feel detached from their own emotions and struggle to understand their own needs and desires, it becomes increasingly challenging for them to empathize with others. This lack of empathy can lead to a breakdown in communication, deepening divisions within society and creating fertile ground for conflict to thrive.

Moreover, self-alienation often gives rise to a sense of frustration and powerlessness. When individuals feel disconnected from their own agency and perceive their lives as devoid of purpose, they may seek outlets for their pent-up emotions. This frustration can manifest in various forms, including aggressive behavior, radicalization, or the formation of extremist ideologies that fuel social violence. In this way, self-alienation becomes a breeding ground for radicalization, exacerbating existing conflicts and sowing the seeds of violence within a nation.

Furthermore, self-alienation can contribute to the fragmentation of social bonds and the erosion of trust within communities. When individuals feel alienated from themselves, they often struggle to form meaningful connections with others, leading to social isolation and a breakdown of interpersonal relationships. This breakdown can create a climate of mistrust, suspicion, and hostility, further driving societal divisions and increasing the likelihood of conflict. This then brings about multifaceted consequences on the individual, group, society and a country at large; it can also have both individual and structural causes.

Self-alienation can have profound psychological consequences for individuals. It often leads to feelings of loneliness, emptiness, and a lack of meaning in life. When individuals experience such emotions, they may become susceptible to manipulation by extremist ideologies or engage in self-destructive behaviors as a means of coping. These psychological consequences can fuel social violence by creating a breeding ground for radicalization and the formation of divisive ideologies.

It is important to recognize that self-alienation is not solely an individual issue but is also influenced by broader social and systemic factors. Structural inequities, such as economic disparities, discrimination, and social exclusion, can contribute to feelings of alienation among certain groups within a nation. These marginalized individuals may feel disconnected from mainstream society, leading to heightened social tensions and an

increased risk of conflict and violence.

The rise of digital media and technology has both positive and negative implications for self-alienation and its impact on conflict. On one hand, social media platforms and online communities can provide spaces for individuals to connect, share experiences, and find support. However, they can also exacerbate self-alienation by promoting unrealistic standards, fostering comparison, and amplifying divisive narratives. The spread of misinformation and echo chambers further contribute to social polarization and the escalation of conflicts.

Self-alienation is closely intertwined with collective alienation, where groups or communities experience a sense of disconnection from the broader society. When significant portions of a population feel marginalized or excluded, it can lead to the formation of identity-based conflicts, political unrest, and even civil unrest. Understanding the interplay between individual and collective alienation is crucial in addressing the root causes of social violence within a nation.

So, what we can do to address self-alienation and its domino effect on group, societal and nation's stability?

Efforts to address self-alienation and its impact on conflict should focus on promoting resilience and social cohesion. Building strong communities that foster inclusivity, dialogue, and mutual understanding can help individuals reconnect with themselves and others. Investing in education, mental health support systems, and accessible resources can empower individuals to navigate feelings of alienation and develop a sense of purpose and belonging.

In nations affected by longstanding conflicts and violence, achieving reconciliation and healing is a complex process. But recognizing the impact of self-alienation on individuals and communities is vital in designing comprehensive strategies for reconciliation. This may involve truth and reconciliation initiatives, trauma-informed approaches, and efforts to address the underlying societal issues that perpetuate alienation and division.

By acknowledging and addressing the multifaceted nature of self-alienation, societies can work towards creating environments that foster empathy, understanding, and resilience. By promoting individual and collective well-being, societies can strive for long-term peace and social harmony.

Addressing the issue of self-alienation requires a multi-faceted approach. It involves fostering individual self-awareness and promoting a sense of belonging and purpose within society. Education, community engagement, and mental health support systems are crucial in helping individuals reconnect with themselves and others. By cultivating empathy, empowering individuals, and nurturing a sense of communal identity, societies can mitigate the impact of self-alienation, reducing the likelihood of conflict and social violence.

In conclusion, the detrimental effects of self-alienation on conflict and social violence within a nation cannot be underestimated. By understanding the psychological roots of unrest, we can begin to address the underlying issues that perpetuate division and violence. By fostering self-awareness, empathy, and a sense of purpose, societies can pave the way for greater harmony, cohesion, and peaceful coexistence. Only through concerted efforts to combat self-alienation can we hope to build a more inclusive and compassionate nation, and world.

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

# Business & Economy

## Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce, Banks change role

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

Ethiopia has experienced remarkable economic growth in recent years, with its GDP expanding at an average annual rate of over 9% since 2010. A key driver of this progress has been the increased availability of business loans facilitated by the banking sector and the Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce.

Ethiopia's banking sector has undergone significant expansion and modernization in the past decade. The number of bank branches across the country has more than doubled, reaching over 6,000 as of 2023. This increased accessibility has enabled more businesses, both large and small, to secure much-needed capital to fund their operations and growth plans.

Leading banks such as the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia, Awash Bank, and Dashen Bank have bolstered their lending activities, with a particular focus on supporting the private sector. In 2022, the total value of outstanding business loans reached 680 billion Ethiopian Birr, a 15% increase from the previous year.

The Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce has been instrumental in facilitating access to finance for businesses in the capital and surrounding regions. The Chamber maintains close partnerships with the banking sector, serving as a vital intermediary and advocate for its member companies.

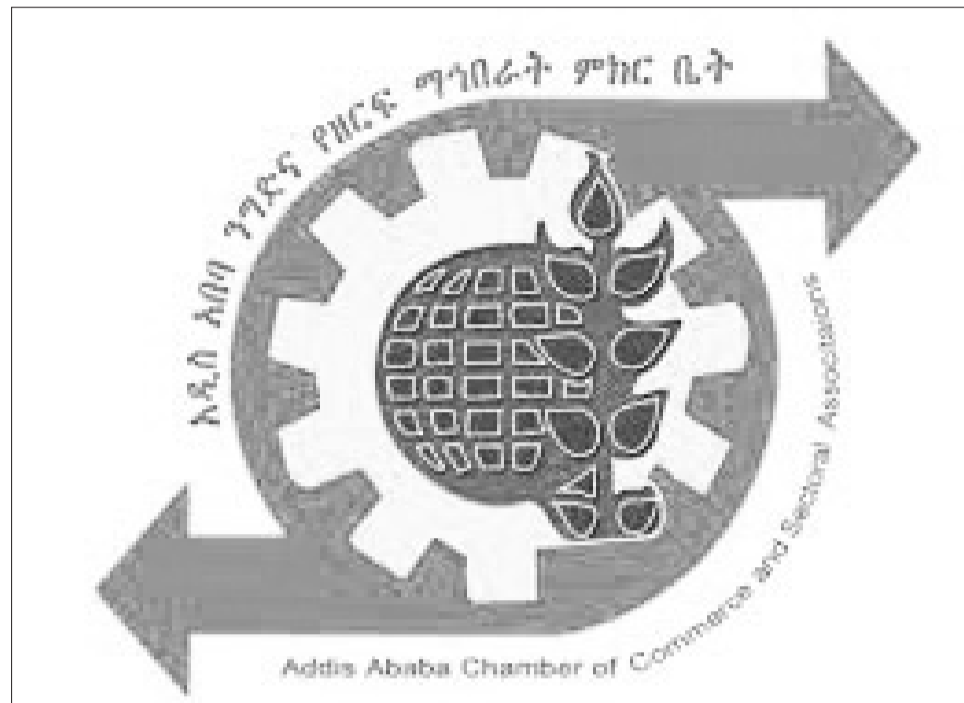
"The Chamber works tirelessly to bridge the gap between businesses and financial institutions," says the statement from the Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce. It was learnt that the chamber provides advisory services, organize networking events, and even assist in loan application processes to ensure the members can obtain the funding they need to thrive."

The Chamber's efforts have been particularly impactful for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which have traditionally faced greater challenges in accessing credit. Through its SME Development Center, the Chamber offers tailored financing solutions, business development training, and mentorship programs to help these crucial engines of the economy grow and succeed.

As Ethiopia continues its trajectory of robust economic growth, the collaboration between the banking sector and the Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce will undoubtedly play an even more pivotal role. By ensuring businesses across the capital have the financial resources they need to invest, innovate, and expand; these institutions are laying the foundations for a prosperous and sustainable future for Ethiopia.

Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations (AACCSA) requested financial sectors to establish an atmosphere to help the business community obtain credit easily.

Speaking at a panel discussion revolving around credit provision, AACCSA President Mesenbet Shenkutie said that although commercial banks, development banks and small financial institutions in Ethiopia are the main providers of loans to commercial companies, the amount of loans offered is small and complicated by various preconditions and



red-tape bureaucracies.

Therefore, she called on the financial sector to make available easy credit access for business community. She said, "The private sector has a great contribution to the expansion of trade and investment in the country. Those people who engaged in various business operations in Addis Ababa and other parts of the country have been complaining about the low accessibility of loans. Thus, lack of easy credit access has been negatively impacting the private sector."

Credit availability and access is the backbone of any business, therefore, in the recent research conducted by the council, 40 percent of the issues that have been mentioned as obstacles to business in the business community are due to lack of financial availability, she added.

As to her, in the annual loan allocation and payment, banks should give a certain amount of quota to the private sector, which is the engine of economic growth, and set up a system that can relax the loan conditions to a certain extent.

Based on their value-adding methods, financial institutions have also requested that they implement a system that makes it possible to make loan collateral free of obligation and provide affordable interest loans to start-up business creators, she noted.

African Financial Integrity and Accountability Program Coordinator, Getachew Tekelemariam on his part said, "To create favorable credit accessible for business community, we should take the best practice of Kenya, South Africa. They have predictable regulatory framework, effective credit monitoring system and interest rate policy aligned to business cycle." In general, some factors that could help boost loan service and accountability in Ethiopia include; strengthening financial regulations and oversight to prevent corruption and mismanagement of loan funds

Improving transparency around loan disbursement, repayment, and use of funds investing in financial literacy programs to empower borrowers and ensure they understand loan terms

Establishing clear frameworks for lender accountability, including mechanisms for borrowers to report issues, collaborating

with international financial institutions to incorporate global best practices

However, without more up-to-date information on the specific context in Ethiopia, It cannot be provided recommendations tailored to the current situation. It be better suggested consulting sources closer to the ground for the most relevant and timely insights.

Liberalizing the banking sector in Ethiopia is seen as an important step for the country's economic development by the current government. Here's a summary of the key points:

Ethiopia's banking sector has traditionally been dominated by state-owned banks, limiting competition and access to financial services. Liberalization aims to attract foreign investment, promote innovation, and improve efficiency in the banking industry.

The government believes that opening up the sector will increase access to credit, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises, and support overall economic growth. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's government has taken steps to liberalize the banking sector since coming to power in 2018. In 2020, the government passed a law allowing foreign banks to operate in Ethiopia for the first time, though with some restrictions.

Foreign banks are now allowed to open subsidiaries in Ethiopia, but they are limited to a 40% ownership stake and cannot engage in retail banking. The government has also lifted the previous cap on the number of private domestic banks allowed to operate in the country. These reforms are part of the government's broader agenda to modernize the economy and make it more competitive globally.

However, the pace and extent of banking sector liberalization have been cautious, as the government aims to balance the benefits of increased competition with maintaining stability in the financial system. The gradual approach is meant to protect the existing state-owned banks and allow them to adapt to the new competitive environment.

Overall, the government views banking sector liberalization as a key component of its strategy to drive Ethiopia's economic

development, but it is proceeding carefully to ensure a smooth transition.

Ethiopia has long been viewed as a country in need of development aid and assistance. However, one often overlooked tool for economic growth in the country is access to loans and credit. Loans can play a vital role in empowering individuals, businesses, and communities to invest in their own futures and drive sustainable progress.

In many parts of Ethiopia, access to formal banking and credit services remains limited. This lack of financial inclusion leaves too many citizens without the resources to start a business, expand an existing enterprise, or make critical investments in their farms and homes. By improving the availability and affordability of loans, Ethiopia can unlock tremendous entrepreneurial potential and provide pathways out of poverty.

Studies have shown that access to credit is linked to higher incomes, greater asset accumulation, and improved living standards, especially for the country's rural populations. Loans enable smallholder farmers to purchase fertilizers, improved seeds, and agricultural equipment to boost their productivity. For aspiring business owners, credit can mean the difference between getting a venture off the ground or remaining stuck in the informal economy.

To reach underserved communities, Ethiopia should explore innovative lending models that go beyond traditional bank loans. Microfinance institutions, savings and credit cooperatives, and digital lending platforms have all demonstrated success in expanding financial inclusion in developing economies.

These alternative lenders often employ group-based lending, flexible repayment schedules, and other tailored approaches to serve clients that commercial banks may deem too risky or unprofitable. By adapting to the unique needs of Ethiopian borrowers, such institutions can inject much-needed capital into the country's economic veins.

Beyond the direct impacts on household incomes and business growth, improved access to credit can foster a more vibrant entrepreneurial culture in Ethiopia. When people have the means to turn their ideas into reality, it sparks a positive cycle of innovation, job creation, and community development.

The government, financial sector, and civil society must work together to raise awareness of lending opportunities, provide financial literacy training, and reduce the stigma often associated with taking out loans. By stigmatizing entrepreneurship and championing responsible borrowing, Ethiopia can empower its citizens to become the architects of their own prosperity.

Ethiopia has made notable strides in expanding financial inclusion in recent years, but there is still much work to be done. Prioritizing access to affordable credit should be a central pillar of the country's development strategy moving forward. With the proper policies, programs, and partnerships in place, loans can become a powerful engine for inclusive economic growth and social progress throughout Ethiopia.

# Art & Culture

## Shifting to online publishing: Answer to prevailing literary dearth?

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

Ethiopia is a country of more than 120 million people. The literacy rate is hanging somewhere between 50-60% while educational enrolment has grown by leaps and bounds in the last two decades or so. The educational system is often criticized for being sloppy, churning out millions of students every year but lacking in its standards and curriculum quality. If we take the capital Addis Ababa, where most of the educated manpower, educational opportunity, and publishing and media houses are found, there are fewer than two or three daily newspapers, half a dozen of weeklies and magazines have long left the battle for the hearts and minds of the people to the exclusive control of social media.

If we look at the number of books published every year, outside educational publishing, the situation is even more deplorable. Books have become luxury items in a city where entertainment facilities abound, young people spend most of their time frequenting cheap outlet that do not build their spirits. If we take the Ethiopian revolution of 1974, the trend in newspaper reading and publishing has gone down and the situation at present is alarming. In the last 50 years after the revolution, the population of the country has grown at an alarming speed even if we do not have readymade data on this point.

As rural literacy is not given much attention, the number of people who read and write has not grown at a speed commensurate with the growth in the number of aggregate population of the country. The military regime under Mengistu is often credited from starting a vibrant literacy campaign across the country that had unfortunately been aborted following the revolutionary chaps that came soon after the Zamacha or the Development and Cooperation Campaign was launched followed by the bloody aftermath.

The educated generation of the 1960s and 1970s was said to be a book loving generation but this tradition was limited in scope as youngsters were often obsessed with political literature and Leftist ideology. This was a process that was also short-lived as the end of the tumultuous years of the revolution left their place to the intellectual vacuum that followed it. Reading thus became a dangerous enterprise as it was a sign of learning and the pursuit of knowledge a few years earlier. The

stagnation in book and newspaper publishing and reading that followed has lasted for many decades as if it was a generational curse.

Yet, the cultural and literary scene has also gone from bad to worse and one of the culprits has been and is the ever rising cost of printing and distributing books and the limited number of printing houses. No doubt that the number of printing enterprises has grown over the last few years while the number of newspapers and books published every year leaves much to be desired. The transition from traditional publishing techniques to online technology might have been one of the contributing factors for the deteriorating situation even though it may not be the sole culprit. While the rest of the world is quickly grasping the immense potentials of online or Internet technology and started to use it for promoting book and newspaper publishing, we can hardly say that we have caught up with the growing trend.

However, conventional publishing is giving way to online technology in a big way everywhere in the world while Africa is following far behind. Ethiopia is also following suit although it can be said to occupy the front seats in e-publishing or electronic publishing technology. According to Wikipedia, "Electronic publishing includes the digital publishing of e-books, digital magazines and the development of digital libraries and catalogues. It also includes the editing of books, journals and magazines to be posted on screen.(computer, e-reader, tablet or smart phone)."

Another definition states that, "Digital or online publishing is the practice by which people use online tools to write, organize, edit and make available all kinds of readable media on the internet." Digital publishing technology has nowadays gave birth to self-publishing that has become a thriving business elsewhere in the world while it is not started yet here in Ethiopia. There is a sharp distinction between traditional and online publishing. "Traditional publishing is when you work with a mainstream publisher to handle the creative process and distribution of your book. Traditional publishing typically pays an advance and royalties." Self-publishing is the opposite of this. They give you 100% royalty and control the publication and distribution of your books.

Anyway, the publishing or printing landscape in Ethiopia seem to be undergoing a long

process of instability, unreliability and is not generally put on a strongly growth trajectory. The causes for this are well-known. The underdevelopment of the private publishing or printing industry is still underdeveloped due mainly to poor private sector involvement. The Western publishing has thrived on the basis of vibrant private sector involvement since the 18th and 18th century and this has been the driving force behind the spectacular technological growth of the last few centuries.

The printing or publishing industry in Ethiopia is dependent on factors that are out of its control. It is apparently dependent on Western conglomerates that are fast abandoning the traditional or conventional publishing landscape and embracing almost fully the thriving online publishing enterprises with their potentials for fast growth and profitability. It is capitalism that has created billionaires of the publishing and distribution industry in the US with entrepreneurs like Jeff Bezos, the founder and CEO of Amazon who is sometimes ranked the richest man in America.

The advantages of online publishing and distribution are obvious and their advantages to writers more so. If we look at this point from the point of view of book and newspaper publishing and distribution in Ethiopia we realize that the traditional technique has exhausted its potentials and is weak and stagnating while the self-publishing is not yet started. These days, one can publish and distribute books online in Ethiopia but the constraints are also obvious. The market or online books is insignificant or limited while the availability of Internet technology not yet adequately developed while ownership or availability of cell phones, tablets or desktop computers is limited although demand for new books is considerable. Simply speaking, the internet culture in general and online or self-publishing in particular is almost unknown.

Another big constraint is of course social media that is controlling almost the entire space of the platforms and this is not a suitable condition for the growth of online publishing. Online publishing may be potential a heaven for poor writers but its potentials are limited due to the above constraints. Self-publishing may look like a dream for many writers who may be contemplating of having their own space for publishing their books but it still remains an unrealized dream.

Some of the advantages of online publishing are presented as follows. "Online publishing has greater accessibility in the sense that "digital content can be accessed anytime, anywhere on a variety of devices. It has cost-efficiency that is to say it eliminates costs associated with printing, distribution and storage. It has interactivity since it offers a dynamic content like videos, animation and interactive info-graphics."

However, online publishing has also its disadvantages. "It is difficult to get the reach, meaning that it takes a lot of effort from the side of the writer to get noticed. It is not always affordable. Although the cost of production is less, the pricing is not that cheap. Online publishing is often left unrecognized by the media and does not have the "feel" of books that is available in traditional publishing.

Some observers of the digital publishing landscape add other disadvantages such as technological limitations as online reading is highly dependent on technology. It has negative health implications as digital books are read on devices that emit blue light that negatively impact our health. Online reading is also considered highly addictive, prone to misinformation and gives minimum contentment.

If we look at the issue from the publishing and distribution perspective in Ethiopia, we may assume that online book publishing is bound to take a long time to take roots and thrive. The constraints are greater than the advantages that can only be available under technologically advanced conditions. This does not however mean that it cannot be started right now because digital technology tends to be increasingly inaccessible and costlier through time.

Someone or some company has to start it now although we may not have someone like Jeff Bezos with the genius to run a global conglomerate. It can however be started at a smaller scale, modestly and grow through time and efforts. Remember that the creative people who invented the latest gadgets started their experiment in garages and small workshops before they became global titans of the industry. Can online publishing be the answer to the present drought in book publishing in Ethiopia? Well, this may be debatable. Anyway, one day, our young internet wizards may take cue from these people and start their small businesses. Why not?

## Ethiopian Movie Man takes honor as a judge in upcoming international film festivals

BY NAOL GIRMA

Ethiopian International Film Festival Director, Yirgashewa Teshome will be honorable guest and judge at the BRICS and the 46th Moscow International film festivals, according to a press release by Linkage Arts Work Center. The release stated that the BRICS Film Festival will take place beginning April 17-26/

2024 and the invitation for Yirgashewa is a historical phenomenon. It makes it historical because it happened in the aftermath of Ethiopia's membership request to the Brics block gained acceptance and the Country became officially member of the block, the press release added.

In line with his judge activities, Yirgashewa, during his stay in Moscow, is expected to meet officials and discuss

partnerships between the two festivals and the establishment of cultural relations between Russia and Ethiopia.

Yirgashewa is a film artist and founder Director of the Ethiopian Film Festival. He has earned his second degree in developmental studies from Addis Ababa University. He also has been representing Ethiopia in different international occasions in Africa, Europe and the USA as he continued sharing his knowledge

to the International community. Yirgashewa as well is an author of two books published in English language and released for the international market. He is also known for publishing different works of research, which were published in different journals.

Information indicates that the first contact made by Ethiopians and Russians dated back to 1370 when the religion pilgrims of the two countries met in Palestine.

# Science & Technology

## Realizing digital transformation, developing digital economy's role in Ethiopia (Wingu Africa's Ethiopia data center receives Tier III certification)

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

In Ethiopia, Data center market has been gaining a new momentum since 2020, due to the fast development in the digital sector. Ethiopia's digital transformation strategy is bringing new developments in the digital sector and the development of data Centers gains new momentum by the private sectors both from local and foreign companies. Notable local and foreign companies have been investing in the sector since recent years so as to exploit the untapped potential of the sector. The policy reforms, the digital strategy, infrastructural developments and the continued development of digital connectivity attract private investors in the data center development.

Similarly, smart city initiatives, the development of digital platforms especially digital finance and the fast growth of digital connectivity in the country attract Data Center market in Ethiopia. A study entitled "Ethiopia Data Center Market - Investment Analysis & Growth Opportunities 2023-2028" noted that increasing demand in digitalization, rising number of internet users and drivers of digital transformation across various sectors encourage data center market in Ethiopia.

The government's strategic investments and reforms to realize digital transformation and digital connectivity create conducive environment for the industry. Accordingly, data center development had showed steady growth during the past three years with new investors such as Raxio Data Center, Wingu Africa Data Center, Safaricom and other notable companies joining the market in Ethiopia. In addition, the growing renewable energy sources and growing telecom infrastructure including 5G network, Data Center market continues to attract more investors. According to the above article, the development of data center market revenue in Ethiopia is expected to show an annual growth rate of 7.24%, resulting in a market volume of US\$214.80m by 2028.

Wingu Africa Limited is among the notable foreign investors entering in data center market in Ethiopia. It joined the market in Ethiopia in 2020. Wingu Africa inaugurated its data center facility in Addis Ababa, located in the Ethio ICT Park before a year and half. The construction of the colocation facility of Wingu Africa took two years to see completion costing 50 million USD. Starting operations a year ago, Wingu Africa announced on Tuesday that its data center facility in Ethiopia has just received Tier III certification by Uptime Institute after fulfilling all the eligibility criteria required for the Tier III certification of its constructed facility.

According to the company, the successful



Nicholas Lodge, Wingu Africa Chief Strategy Officer



Yeshurun Alemayehu (PhD), ICT and Digital Economy Sector State Minister, Ministry of Innovation and Technology

completion of the eligibility criteria for Tier III certification is the successor of its recent Tier III certification of Design Documents. The new achievement marks a significant milestone in the company's commitment to excellence and reliability in the data center industry. Uptime Institute is a Global Digital Infrastructure Authority, headquartered in New York. The certification of Wingu Africa's data center facility in Africa by the institute confirms the data center's highest standards for concurrent maintainability and fault tolerance, according to the company.

The achievement demonstrates the company's efforts towards providing top-tier data infrastructure solutions to meet the evolving needs of its clients, Wingu Africa noted on its statement. The company stated that it consistently works to ensure the reliability and efficiency of its data center services and the Tier III certification is the outcome of its continued efforts to fulfill the highest standard criteria in the industry.

"The attainment of the Tier III certification represents a significant milestone in Ethiopia's digital transformation journey, signifying the nation's strengthened readiness to embrace the opening up of telecommunication and the financial sector," the company stated adding since it started investment in 2020, the Ethiopian government supported the company to realize its investment. Company's Chief Strategy Officer, Nicholas Lodge said that the support and enabling environment has helped the company to achieve this milestone in certifying Tier III certification of its Ethiopia data center within short period of time

ICT and Digital Economy State Minister with Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MInT), Yeshurun Alemayehu (PhD) lauds the activities being underway by Wingu Africa in the data center industry adding the Tier III certification is the result of the

company's efforts. Yeshurun stated that the certification is a notable achievement for the company and for Ethiopia as well as it promotes Ethiopia's digital transformation journey.

Emphasizing the critical role of data center in supporting the country's digital transformation, the State Minister expressed Ethiopian government's commitment to support local and foreign investors engaged in data center development. As to him, building data center brings paramount importance in accelerating the digital transformation, in creating job opportunities in the digital economy and attracting foreign direct investment (FDI). Beyond that, the development of data centers at home ensures national data security.

Yeshurun further stated that Ethiopia's digital transformation journey shows a significant development during the past three years especially following the launching of the Digital Ethiopia 2025 Strategy. The country's promising digital transformation is attracting local and foreign private investors to invest in data center industry in Ethiopia and Wingu Africa is among the top companies registering remarkable achievements in the sector.

According to Yeshurun the Ethiopian government provides continues support and works hand-in-hand with such projects due to its commitment to realize digital transformation and develop the role of digital economy in the country. In addition such projects are the means of job creation, knowledge and skill transfer; developing regional integration and international competitiveness, and curbing forex crunch. "Encouraging private sectors like Wingu Africa to press ahead with such noble task is crucial to bridge data center gap" Yeshurun stated adding Ethiopia is creating enabling environment for such investments and setting appropriate standards, policies, and regulations that promotes private investments.

Appreciating Wingu Africa's achievement in securing the Tier III certification for its construction facility, the state minister stated that "this remarkable achievement is a significant milestone not only for the company but also for Ethiopia that showcases Ethiopia's ability to attract and support investment in the latest technological advancements." For him, Wingu Africa's excellence in securing this certification demonstrates the high standards and professionalism that Ethiopia has embodied. "Wingu Africa has not only elevated its own capabilities, it has also positioned Ethiopia to be a hub for technology development in Africa."

According to Yeshurun, the Tier III certification is a testament to Wingu Africa's dedication to reliability and efficiency in their data centers. The new achievement will enhance their competitiveness in the global market and also solidifies Ethiopia as leading destination for technological investment.

For his part, Wingu Africa Chief Strategy Officer, Nicholas Lodge said that the company is putting its higher standard on achieving customers' satisfaction. "The Tier III certification is the highest standard that data centers can achieve" Lodge said. As to him, the Tier III certification of the data center facility showcases the company's its demonstration and commitment to service excellence. "We are now getting to give customers confidence in our facility and will ensure that customers will get the best, most reliable service possible," he added.

With Wingu Africa's Tier III certification by Uptime Institute, now Ethiopia for the first time has an operational Tier III certified data center, which is the highest standard for present day data centers, according to Lodge. The Chief Strategy Officer, lauds Ethiopia's investment environment and he stated that Wingu Africa is planning to expand its data center investment in the country.



# Society

## Combined effort to eliminate TB

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

According to a report from the Ministry of Health, in 2022 alone, not less than 19,000 people, that is equivalent to two deaths in every hour, died because of TB. WHO report also indicated that 30 percent of TB cases go undetected; resulting in unnecessary death. Several factors are contributing to the death of individuals at such an alarming rate.

Limited access to proper healthcare service, poor awareness about the cause as well as negligence from the sides of individual patients regarding the care they have to take to fully recover from the illness and other similar cases are challenging the efforts undertaken to successfully contain the disease. This is especially true in rural areas, where infrastructural development and the level of public awareness about the disease, is low.

Addressing TB-related challenges requires a comprehensive approach involving international cooperation, investment in human capital, sustainable development practices, and good governance. It is also crucial to empower countries with the necessary resources, technology transfer, and capacity building to overcome these challenges and achieve the desired outcome.

Taking this into consideration, the Ministry of Health is working aggressively to contain and halt the spread of the disease. By employing all the available means and mechanisms that are key to control and prevent the transmission of TB and other related diseases, the Ministry has been executing activities such as ensuring access to TB treatment, arranging training programs for health practitioners, as well as conducting research and pursuing innovative approaches joining hand with local and international partners.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is one of the agencies working actively to control the transmission and prevention of TB cases in Ethiopia.

Lately, Mission Director of the Agency, Scott Hocklander has announced that USAID-Ethiopia has completed a three year project planned to identify, treat and prevent TB in rural areas and render support to health practitioners engaged in the treatment and prevention activities.

As indicated by the Director, USAID granted 390 GeneXpert machines to Ethiopia; which enable health institutions to examine TB cases within

a short time. What is more, it also offered six million USD to back TB programs running in Ethiopia for this fiscal year.

The Director stated that USAID will continue its support for activities carried out to diagnose and treat TB, supply drug and medical equipment as well as provide professional training. According to him, USAID Ethiopia together with the Ministry of Health strives to achieve more and combat the transmission of TB by 2030.

Currently, it has 40 projects that work to improve access to and deliver quality healthcare services, strengthen the health system and improve communities' knowledge and awareness regarding good health practices.

What is more, as a concerned Agency for health, the Agency together with Ethiopian Pharmaceuticals Supply Service (EPSS) has recently signed MOU to implement the Last Mile Project, an initiative to ensure the timely distribution of medical supplies to healthcare facilities in four hubs-two in Addis Ababa and others in Bahir Dar and Jimma. It is said that the project ensures safe and fast delivery of medicines to target places.

It is well known that the Ethiopian Ministry of Health has been at the forefront of combating the transmission of TB in the country. Using all the available resources and partners' involvement, the Ministry is working aggressively to eliminate TB and improve public health across the country. Through its series of activities and initiatives, the Ministry has been working tirelessly to reduce the burden of TB, enhance preventive measures, and ensure access to quality care for those affected by the disease.

As indicated by Minister of Health, Mekdes Daba (MD), Ethiopia has achieved encouraging results in the prevention and control of TB. However, she said that TB patients are still stigmatized and the efforts to eliminate the problem must be strengthened.

Indeed, the Ethiopian government is working aggressively to prevent TB and other related diseases by allocating a great deal of money from its own budget and resources gained from donors to this same objective. That is why it has recorded promising results in areas of TB transmission and also witnessed by the WHO.

The Ministry of Health is also conducting extensive awareness raising campaigns to sensitize the public about TB, its transmission, symptoms, and treatment options. The campaigns aim



It is well known that the Ethiopian Ministry of Health has been at the forefront of combating the transmission of TB in the country

to reduce stigma, increase an early detection, and promote health-seeking behaviors.

In collaboration with healthcare facilities and community health workers, the Ministry has also been implementing widespread screening and diagnostic programs to identify TB cases at early stage. By expanding access to testing services, more individuals are receiving timely diagnosis services and appropriate treatments.

Ensuring access to TB treatment is a priority for the Ministry of Health. Through various healthcare facilities and treatment centers, individuals diagnosed with TB have received the necessary medications and advice to follow their treatment strictly and successfully.

Contact tracing efforts are also crucial in identifying individuals who may have been exposed to TB and preventing further transmission ways. In this respect, the Ministry conducts rigorous surveillance activities to track TB cases, monitor trends, and implement targeted interventions.

Training programs for healthcare workers are also instrumental in improving TB management and care delivery. Using the available resources, the Ministry is providing ongoing training on TB diagnosis, treatment protocols, infection control measures,

and patient-centered care to enhance the capacity of healthcare providers.

Research studies and innovative approaches that are key components of the Ministry's strategy to combat TB transmission are also carried out effectively. By investing in research, the Ministry is working to develop evidence-based interventions, improve program effectiveness, and advance TB control efforts.

Collaborating with local and international partners, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders is vital for the Ministry's TB control initiatives. Through partnerships, resources are pooled, expertise is shared, and collective action is taken to address TB transmission comprehensively. However, despite all its effort, there are still areas that need to be filled.

In conclusion, the Ministry of Health's commitment to combating TB transmission and promoting public health is evident through its multifaceted approach, which includes awareness campaigns, screening programs, treatment services, research endeavors, and collaborative efforts. By prioritizing TB control and prevention, the Ministry continues to make significant strides in improving the health and well-being of the Ethiopian population.



# This is Ethiopia



## Ethiopian: 78 years of service excellence!

BY TEWODROS KASSA

*Ethiopian* is one of the outstanding airlines with the track record of a business that has been operating for over seven decades with an enlightening experience. The long-standing legacy of exceptional service is a testament to its commitment to excellence. Established in 1946, Ethiopian Airlines has grown to become one of the largest and most reputable airlines in Africa. With a fleet of modern aircraft and a global network of destinations, the airline has earned a stellar reputation for its punctuality, safety, and customer service.

Safety is paramount in the aviation industry, and Ethiopian Airlines always prioritizes the well-being of its passengers and crew. The airline adheres to the highest safety standards and invests in state-of-the-art technology to ensure that every flight is smooth and secure.

Accordingly, in a rapidly evolving industry, innovation is also key to staying ahead of the curve. Ethiopian Airlines has consistently embraced new technologies to enhance the passenger experience, improve operational efficiency, and reduce environmental impact. From online booking platforms to in-flight entertainment systems, the airline continues to lead the way in aviation innovation.

On the other hand, at the heart of *Ethiopian* success is its unwavering commitment to customer service. From check-in to landing, passengers are met with professionalism, courtesy, and attention to detail. The airline's dedicated staff goes above and beyond to ensure that every journey is a pleasant and a memorable experience for travelers.

With a vast network of destinations across Africa, Europe, Asia, and the America, Ethiopian connects people and cultures from around the world. Whether for business or leisure, the airline offers a wide range of flight options, to suit every traveler's needs and win their expectations.

In addition, over the years, *Ethiopian* has received numerous accolades and awards for its outstanding service and performance. From Skytrax awards for best African airline to recognition for its community development initiatives, the airline's dedication to excellence has not gone unnoticed.

Recently, the Airline has marked its 78th anniversary, highlighting a legacy of resilience and innovation since 1946.

In connection with its 78th anniversary, the Ethiopian Airlines has made a special flight to Cairo, Egypt, according to the press release from the airlines.

"Serving passengers on this special flight to Cairo is not just a tribute to our first international service but a reaffirmation of our commitment to the ethos of servant leadership," the release from the airline indicated.

Group Chief Executive Officer Mesfin Tassew and Chief Commercial Officer Lemma Yadecha accompanied the crew on a flight to Cairo, marking the airline's inaugural international service.

Regarding the occasion, Group CEO Mesfin said that this event symbolizes the unwavering commitment of the airline to its passengers and the belief that true leadership lies in serving others first.

"From our humble beginning back in 1946, we have come to be the aviation giant in Africa that we are now, pioneering African aviation with many first aviation innovation introductions

to Africa along the way. As we are maturing beautifully, our commitment only gets stronger," he said.

Moreover, the CEO underscored that the airline has been striving for excelling customer service delivery that would help it lift up the ongoing growth into a higher level.

He further emphasized the Ethiopian has come to be the aviation giant in Africa that "we are now pioneering African aviation with many first aviation innovation introductions to Africa along the way."

For him, the airline has been able to sustain success in its journey of more than seven decades due to its steadfast organizational working culture.

Explaining the secrets of the airline's continued success, the CEO revealed that the quality service to enhance customer convenience is pivotal.

In line with values of Ethiopian Airlines community engagement, passengers received Seasons Greeting Packages and Happy Fasting Messages, reflecting the airline's respect for diverse traditions. The packages included a postcard commemorating the anniversary, serving as a tangible reminder of the airline's enduring legacy.

On his part, Ethiopian Airlines Chief Commercial Officer (CCO) Lemma Yadecha said: "Our mission extends beyond transportation. We strive to foster a sense of unity and belongingness among our passengers, regardless of their background or belief."

"By stepping into the roles of our dedicated ground and flight crew, we honor every individual who has been part of our story. Our service today is a promise of continued service excellence for all our passengers. In a remarkable display of commitment, all

executives at Ethiopian Airlines have taken a hands-on approach to service, personally attending to the needs of our valued customers," he said.

This initiative underscores the airline's ethos of servant leadership and its dedication to providing an exceptional travel experience.

Celebrating its 78th anniversary, Ethiopian Airlines, a pioneer in aviation industry, continues to set industry standards with its commitment to innovation, safety, and customer satisfaction.

Upholding its mission to bridge Africa with the world, Ethiopian Airlines remains dedicated to enhancing passenger experience, as evidenced by its consideration to offer complimentary Wi-Fi to Cairo-bound travelers.

In sum, as *Ethiopian* celebrates 78 years of exceptional service, it is clear that the airline's legacy is built on a foundation of expertise, experience, authority, and trust.

With a steadfast commitment to safety, innovation, customer service, and sustainability, Ethiopian Airlines continues to soar to new heights in the aviation industry.

Ethiopian Airlines currently has 136 international destinations with 147 aircraft. In the cargo service, 67 international cities are covered by 16 planes. Currently, *Ethiopian* has a fleet of over 147 modern aircraft with an average fleet age of less than seven years, and it also has more than 100 ultramodern aircraft on order. The airline also bought the first ultra-modern Airbus (A350-900) aircraft in Africa and put them into operation. Besides being a brand ambassador in the world and a symbol of Ethiopia's pride, it is a source of pride and success for Africans.