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DPM stresses building peace to ensure prosperity

• *Ethiopost issues Abbay Dam commemorative stamp*

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – Deputy Prime Minister Temesgen Tiruneh has called on citizens to stand together in building sustainable peace and utilizing natural resources to ensure country’s prosperity.

The DPM made the statement yesterday when the nation celebrated the 13th year of the foundation of Abbay Dam. He also officially launched the commemorative postage stamp issued regarding the anniversary.

At the opening of the ceremony, DPM Temesgen said that Ethiopia has untapped natural resources and suitable environment

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Photo: Hadush Abriha

Ministry, stakeholders eyeing skills dev’t for hospitality industry

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA- Stakeholders are acting in concert to nurture skills in the tourism industry by designing and revising curriculums, Ministry of Tourism (MoT) said.

MoT Minister Ambassador Nasise Chali told Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that her organization is working with stakeholders to enhance skilled human power in the tourism sector by designing and revising educational curriculums.

Mentioning that MoT is working with the Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Labor and

See Ministry, stakeholders...page 3



Zerihun Abebe

Abbay Dam setting example for regional cooperation

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopia has been constructing the Abbay Dam in line with making cross-border water resources the centerpiece of regional cooperation, experts in the area said.

The Abbay Dam Negotiators Team Member Zerihun Abebe told local media that Ethiopia firmly believes cross-border water resources are the main source of regional cooperation, not a cause for disputes.

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Abbay Dam’s biological role worth lower riparian’s recognition

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA- Cognizant of Abbay Dam’s far-reaching benefits to biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation, the Nile lower riparian community needs to give avid support to the project, an expert in the issue said.

Accordingly, Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute Genetic Resources Access and Benefit Sharing Research Lead Executive Officer Abiyot Berhanu (PhD) told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that downstream countries must pay heed and support to the entire progress and sustainability of the dam.

Mentioning the fruitful diplomatic activities that have been made so far, the researcher called for the international and regional communities’ recognition for Abbay Dam’s role in the development of biodiversity. The iconic dam is also instrumental to curtail the effects of climate change and ensure mutual benefit.

Apart from utilizing the Abbay River for



preserving biodiversity, river basins and Green Legacy activities should also be strengthened to help protect the dam from sediment.

Upon completion, the dam would be favorable not only for microorganisms but also for large aquatic creatures and

birds. Besides, it would be the right place for plants, animals, and other ecosystems for both inter and intra basin countries, he elaborated.

Abiyot (PhD) further highlighted that water basin activities that are taking place in the

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Dubusha

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Ethiopian by name, African by action

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News



Nia Foundation, Ipas Ethiopia mark World Autism Day

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA - Nia Foundation observed World Autism Day and held national sensitization workshop on safe abortion, gender based violence and autism friendly sexual reproductive health in Ethiopia.

Marking the Day, Nia Foundation Executive Director Eleni Damitew noted that the foundation rehabilitated, educated and graduated about 29 children with autism.

Of the graduated children, she said 12 of them were working in the foundation and 17 have been joined with their parents to run their business.

As to her, the foundation will travel soon to four states to mark the day and to raise societal awareness about autism and the need to accept and appreciate autistic people and their contributions.

“Joy Center for Autism which is being built in Addis Ababa would accommodate 500 children with autism,” Eleni said.

On the celebration, papers were also presented regarding unintended pregnancy and unsafe abortion and issues related to sexual reproductive health of persons with autism.

In his keynote speech, Minister of Health Representative, Gobena Godana (MD) said office is working for persons with autism to have its own specialty and sub-specialty section desk within the ministry.

The Ministry has been supporting Nia foundation based on the cooperation agreement in various means, he added.

Here, the government and non-governmental organization are responsible to improve the current autism center of rehabilitation, education to be supported by technology, he added.

This year autism day marked under the theme “Empowering Autism Voice” to enable them to actively involved in socio political activities of the nation and end the obstacle of autism as well as help them to engage in all areas of activity, Gobena said.

United Nations designated April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day in 2007 and observed the day as a means to affirm and promote the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for autistic people on an equal basis with others. This year’s Autism Day was marked for 22nd times in Ethiopia and 16th times in global level organized by Nia Foundation in collaboration with Ipas Ethiopia.

Austrian Red Cross implementing eight projects in Ethiopia

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA-The Austrian Red Cross said it is collaborating with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society for the implementation of eight community-based projects that aim to improve the society’s livelihoods.

Austrian Red Cross Delegation Country Representative Temesgen Abebe told journalists that they have launched the 1.6 million Euros program dubbed Meselal Project to rehabilitate displaced citizens in Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Oromia and Tigray states.

“We also aim to fill the gap that has been witnessed in the Ethiopian Red Cross Society, build its capacity and empower the institution through knowledge transfer and other activities.”

Temesgen further stated they are implementing eight projects with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society such as rehabilitating displaced people, offering institutional capacity - building programs, and afforesting barren fields, and executing water supply projects in rural areas.

Welfare improvement through expanding sanitation and hygiene facilities and conducting gender-transformative and empowerment activities in Oromia, Sidama, Amhara, and Benishangul Gumuz states are also the Red Cross’s main areas of engagement.

Moreover, the Austrian Red Cross has selected three project branches in the Illubabor and West Arsi zones of the Oromia states as well as in Sidama state that are



Temesgen Abebe

funded by Austria Development Cooperation, Austria Red Cross, and Switzerland Red Cross. The projects will be implemented under Skybird Program II, he elaborated.

Having allocated four million Euros, the Austrian Red Cross is employing the Skybird program II to reach up to 200,000 people in different countries including Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, and Rwanda.

According to Temesgen, the Austrian Red Cross is implementing Skybird programs I and II in two phases and while the first scheme covers from December 2018 to November 2023, the second one spans from December 2023 to November 2029.

The Skybird Program II has soared into action across Ethiopia, Uganda, and Rwanda. This initiative, spearheaded by a coalition of humanitarian powerhouses including the Austrian Red Cross, aims to revolutionize the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) sector through gender-transformative and empowerment strategies.

The Skybird Program I initiative laid a solid foundation for transformative change within local communities, with a sharp focus on ensuring the participation and access of marginalized groups, particularly women and girls, the country representative remarked.

Mayor announces mega- housing project in metropolis

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA—The 60,000 Housing project will be constructed by the PLC-Ovid Group with 70/30 program agreement here in the metropolis.

The announcement came after Addis Ababa City Administration Mayor Adanech Abiebie launched the construction of the houses yesterday.

Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony, Mayor Adanech said that the housing project is going to be constructed on 558 hectare land around Kaliti area of the city, other social service infrastructure will be put in place at the vicinity of the houses.

“The construction of 60,000 houses and schools, commercial centers, health facilities, and greenery will create jobs for close to 250,000 citizens. Residents around the area are said to be the primary beneficial out of this opportunity. Thus, the residents need to understand the development and life changing potential of this project and to engage positively in the construction process,” she stated on her X post.



The City Administration will conduct serious follow-up on the project to accomplish all targets as per the schedule, according to her.

Over 200,000 residential houses have been inaugurated during the past six years, she indicated.

She also called upon private developers to highly engage in investing as the house demand in the city is unsatisfied. The government allows private developers to fund and invest under 70/30 program.

Developers can supply 70 percent of housing units for sale and the rest 30 percent for government. Ovid Group founder and CEO, Yonas Tadesse, on his part, said that the project will create about 250,000 direct jobs

“This project is beyond the ordinary housing schemes...it employs international quality standards. The housing Project will be accomplished in three years long construction phases,” *The Ethiopian Herald* learnt.

News

Political parties express avid support for Abbay Dam

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA-The Ethiopian Political Parties Joint Council (EPPJC) has expressed its readiness to actively participate and provide unwavering support for national agendas and mega projects notably the Abbay Dam.

EPPJC Chairperson Desta Dinka told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that putting ideological differences aside, Ethiopians should vehemently support the mega dam that has immense use to the growth of the Ethiopian economy.

The joint council has also been part of this unwavering support to the dam since its launching and it will keep the

backing to the developmental project that would be an engine to Ethiopia's industrialization.

"The issue of the Abbay Dam is linked with development, not politics. This is the major reason that the people of Ethiopia as well as EPPJC continuously support the construction amidst ideological differences."

Desta went on saying, "As all Ethiopians aspire to see the completion of the dam and become part of the future development, the same is true for the EPPJC."

Contending political parties have been putting aside differences when it comes to national issues and developmental



Desta Dinka

projects and the council has been demonstrating unrelenting support on hydro dams and sea issues. "The wider

the political space is, the better the outcomes of social and economic issues would become."

The chairperson further noted that in their visit to the project site, members of the EPPJC have witnessed the employee's dedication and withstanding of the harsh climate and the new working culture that is being introduced by the dam. "Similarly, witnessing the low-income people who continuously finance the construction of the dam from what they have would give a special feeling."

The EPPJC will keep on participating in projects that are valuable to national development and called on the public to maintain their support until the completion of the Abbay Dam, he remarked.

Ministry, stakeholders...

Skills, which runs the Technique and Vocational Education Training (TVET) Institute, she added that tourism trainings are being provided in Tourism Training Center, universities, TVET Colleges in various parts of the country.

"We are also working with Addis Ababa University to provide tourism courses at PhD level," she said.

The tourism industry is one of the fastest growing economic sectors worldwide. It can be seen that many countries are making unreserved efforts to develop tourist destinations and promote them on the international stage, realizing the many economic and social benefits of tourism development, according to the Minister.

Ambassador Nasise pointed out that Ethiopia is the owner of many tourism



Ambassador Nasise Chali

resources and has a potential for the development of the industry.

"We are expected to carry out many

activities in creating skilled human power to unlock the sector's potential to avail economic and social benefits."

Therefore, it requires paying due attention for protecting, developing and promoting natural and historical tourism resources and multiculturalism to improve country's competitiveness at the international level and the benefits that it gets from the sector, she noted.

The Minister added that the government is developing tourist destinations that meet international standards through mapping projects as well as undertaking various development activities. At the same time, tourism investment in the private sector is growing through time, and it still needs to grow more compared to nation's large-scale tourism resources, she added.

Abbay Dam's...

area and on the trans-boundary tributary rivers contribute a lot to biodiversity, tourism and, agricultural development. Similarly, such activities are of great significance to preserve soil fertility and provide Nile downstream countries with immense water resources.

"Therefore, this is the right time for all Nile riparian countries to develop and leverage the Abbay Dam-provided golden opportunities in a proper manner."

Ethiopians and foreign nationals of Ethiopian origin and other stakeholders should supplement the government's Green Legacy Initiative and other related activities in a bid to inform Abbay Dam virtues to the rest of the world, the expert pleaded.

DPM stresses building...

but not ensured food security yet.

And lack of proper utilization of abundant natural resources is the main reason behind this problem, he expressed

Accordingly, Temesgen noted that identifying and exploiting country's potentials for prosperity is the call of the day.

As to him, Abbay Dam has transformed the river from a mere inspiration of artistic pieces to an environment-friendly and renewable source of power.

"The best way is to do it yourself alike the forefathers whom made heritages like Fasil castle, Rock-hewn Churches of Lalibela, Jogle Wall, and Axum obelisks," he noted.

Temesgen further added that historical enemies have orchestrated plots and falsely accused Ethiopia in the international arena aiming at stopping the construction of the Abbay dam during last years.

However, he stressed that the construction of the dam is under completion following

internationally-recognized standards. Currently, over 42 billion cubic meter artificial lake has been created which produces fishes, and renewable power energy as well.

Water and Energy Minister Engineer Habtamu Itefa (PhD) on his part said that the GERD is an important manifestation of feasibility on fair utilization of resources.

It is also a demonstration of self-sufficiency in project accomplishments, knowledge and technology transfer, he added.

"Previously, Wabishebele in the South East, Baro Akobo in South West, and Abay and Tekeze rivers in West have eroded fertile soils and caused displacement in the area," he stated.

Abbay Dam Project Manager, Eng. Kifle Horo on his part said that the total construction of the dam is reached 95.8 percent. Some 191.3 billion Birr was allocated so far while 50 billion Birr is still required to finalize the project. The day was celebrated under the theme: "We Build".

Abbay Dam setting...

Evidently, Ethiopia decided to construct the mega dam by its own finance and capacity since the downstream countries did not show an interest in developing a river in cooperation. Thus, the dam under construction by Ethiopia is laudable as it is meant to benefit all the stakeholders and to integrate the region.

Zerihun also stated that Abbay Dam's filling practically reassured that it will not harm downstream countries, and Ethiopia has not missed its guarantee not to affect their water share. "The African Solutions for African Problems concept, public diplomacy, and other principles are highly contributed for Ethiopia's handling of the construction of a dam."

During the past 13 years of the Abbay Dam construction, Ethiopians in home and Diaspora have been exerting consolidated efforts to repulse some interest groups' unwarranted pressures and attempts to meddle in their domestic affairs. Indeed, the past four-year dam filling showcased

the public diplomacy achievements without causing harm to downstream countries.

The effort of finalizing the Abbay Dam negotiation based on fair utilization and mutual benefit is of great significance for three countries and the dam's filling presenting Ethiopia's reality to the global community and it has been boosting the confidence of Egypt and Sudan, the expert remarked.

For his part, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Digital Diplomacy Director Silabat Manaye said that the dam is a showcase for Ethiopia's capability to execute any project of different size and complexity. In addition to financial contribution,

Ethiopians in home and Diasporas are highly involved in digital diplomacy in promoting the true feature of the dam and averting defamation campaigns.

The mega hydroelectric project gave a lesson for Ethiopians the need for a great diplomatic movement, Silabat emphasized.

Opinion

Ethiopia's Peace Agreement implementation earning wide acclaim

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

The federal government of Ethiopia has been demonstrating its enormous commitment towards putting the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) into effect at the earliest possible time. On the heels of the incumbent's constructive measures on the subject of the pact, the wider international community has been patting the government on the back.

As peace is the foundation stone for human existence, pertinent bodies have been standing by the side of the federal government with the intention of expediting the peace implementation to the level expected. In the aftermath of its encouraging developments, the government has been receiving appreciation from the global community, humanitarian agencies, and more of the same.

It is important to highlight that the incumbent in several instances has shown its stance to comply with the rules and regulations of the African Union (AU) led peace agreement. Reasoning from this fact, the global community has sustained taking their hat off. In point of fact, Ethiopia's stance proves its confidence in Africa's capability to resolve its predicaments on its own way without third-party interference.

It is a well-known fact that after the end of the war in the northern part of the country and the signing of the peace accord, the federal government in many instances has been bringing quite a lot of effective measures to fruition with the aim of restoring peace and tranquility. The move of the federal government to bury the hatchet and return the whole lot in the war-affected areas to normalcy has been highly praised by the wider international community.

The US Assistant Secretary of State Department's Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization operations commended the significant strides achieved by the Federal Government of Ethiopia in implementing the CoHA and advancing the Transitional justice process, according to information obtained from ENA.

State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Mesganu Arga held in-depth discussions on issues of bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern with US Assistant Secretary of State Anne A. Witkovsky at his office.

The two officials highlighted the longstanding bilateral relations of the two countries and the importance of reviewing bilateral engagements to expand economic cooperation. During their discussion on current events, Minister Mesganu and the assistant secretary shared perspectives on the implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (COHA) and the assistance offered by the Federal government to individuals impacted by recent conflicts.

This permanent Cessation of Hostilities Agreement was signed between the Ethiopian federal government and Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) on 2nd November 2022 in Pretoria, South Africa, it was indicated.

Ambassador Misganu expressed the commitment of the Federal Government in prioritizing peaceful dialogues at various levels towards augmenting peace and stability.

Anne commended the significant strides and advancements achieved by the Federal Government of Ethiopia in implementing the CoHA and advancing the Transitional justice process.

She also affirmed the United States government's dedication to assisting the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) process and collaborating closely with Ethiopia to offer technical and diplomatic assistance in achieving a lasting peaceful resolution.

It should be recalled that regardless of the fact that a number of endeavors have been made by Ethiopia's arch-enemies to attach little importance to the African Union-led peace deal and downplay its role, Ethiopia at the end of the day metamorphosed into becoming victorious over the peace deal.

Notwithstanding the fact that putting the cessation of hostilities agreement into effect is not a low-hanging fruit or a walk in the park, the federal government has been going to the ends of the earth with the intention of bringing the pact into existence at the earliest possible moment. As fully putting the agreement into effect demands a wide spectrum of human resource, technology and other related aspects, the wider international community should stand by the side of the federal government. In doing so, it is possible to attain the desired goal in the shortest possible time.

As Ethiopia always gives priority to ensuring peace in the length and breadth of the country and beyond, the desired objective is being accomplished.

The 2024 high-level development forum praised Ethiopia's leadership in implementing the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) and promoting an inclusive National Dialogue for lasting peace.

It has expressed commitment to support Ethiopia in its journey towards economic growth, prosperity thereby benefiting all its citizens. Peace dividends need to be implemented inclusively through the CoHA, with meaningful involvement of women, youth and other marginalized groups like ethnic and religious minorities.

The communiqué underscored the importance of the Government of Ethiopia's efforts, with the support of the international community to fulfill its commitment to peace, social and economic development, human rights and prosperity.

"We are committed to supporting the implementation of the reforms and the adequate financing, which will be essential for restoring favorable macroeconomic conditions for the Ten-Year Development Plan and Home Grown Economic Reform (HGER) as well as making an important contribution to sustaining peace," the communiqué stated.

The communiqué urged the need for



Turning the Pretoria Deal into Lasting Peace

humanitarian assistance to prevent a catastrophe and calls for sustained financial flows. Participants stated that transparent, accountable, and protected aid delivery to vulnerable groups is quite important. They also appreciate Ethiopia's commitment to host refugees and address internal displacement requests.

Furthermore, participants acknowledged the challenges posed by climate change, conflict, COVID-19, and global economic downturn and pledge support for Ethiopia's efforts to ensure climate resilience and sustainable development. The agreement is a clear demonstration that African leaders have the ability to solve problems affecting the continent without external influence or coercion.

The fact that the peace agreement was negotiated and signed in Africa, by Africans, is a clear indication that the region is capable of finding solutions to its own problems. Such an approach will promote peace, security, and stability on the continent, which can serve as a driving force for socio-economic development.

The AU-led brokered peace deal on Northern Ethiopia's issue is a significant step forward in promoting peace and stability on the continent. It highlights Africa's capability to resolve its own internal conflicts, and serves as a beacon of hope for other regions experiencing violent conflicts. Through continued investments in conflict resolution and peace building efforts, Africa can achieve a more prosperous and peaceful future for its entire people.

The agreement portrays the resilience and determination of the region to promote peace and stability, which is essential for sustainable development in Africa. The AU-led peace accord has set a precedent for resolving conflicts in the region through dialogue and peaceful means. Rather than resorting to military solutions, dialogue and negotiation should be prioritized.

The successful conclusion of the peace agreement through diplomatic means has also portrayed Ethiopia as the beacon of hope in the region, setting a positive example for other African nations to follow. The AU-led peace accord has provided an essential platform for all parties to voice their concerns, negotiate, and find solutions

without resorting to violence.

The AU-brokered peace deal has sent a clear message to the world of Africa's wisdom and capacity in addressing internal conflicts. The success of this accord is a testament to the commitment and resilience of the parties involved in finding a peaceful and diplomatic solution to the conflict. It also showcases Ethiopia's strength and capability in curtailing conflicts and violence.

Throughout its history, Africa has witnessed numerous instances where certain groups have attempted to tamper with the territorial integrity and sovereignty of African nations. This interference has resulted in many twists and turns for the continent. Ethiopia has taken the AU-led brokered peace deal to new heights and reinforced harmony and cooperation among the continent of Africa.

The fact that the peace agreement was negotiated and signed in Africa, by Africans, is a clear indication that the region is capable of finding solutions to its own problems. Such an approach will promote peace, security, and stability on the continent, which can serve as a driving force for socio-economic development.

The absence of violent conflict and the presence of respect and understanding between people and communities are the two characteristics that define peace. Negotiation, compromise, and cooperation among groups with different interests and viewpoints are frequently necessary to bring about peace.

The advancement of human rights, social justice, and sustainable development are all dependent on the pursuit of peace. Although achieving permanent peace is a difficult and varied process, it can be aided by a number of strategies, including diplomacy, mediation, conflict resolution, and the encouragement of communication and reconciliation. In the end, peace is a basic human ambition that calls for constant dedication and work from all people and societies, according to source.

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

Editorial

Opinion

Enhancing mutually beneficial cooperation is a priority for Ethiopia

Since the past few months, Egypt has been constructing the longest of its kind artificial river on the Abbay [Nile] River without consulting or notifying upper riparian countries that supply the entire amount of the water.

Ironically, the cornerstone of the project was laid last July while the country is strongly opposing the construction of the Abbay Hydroelectric Dam by Ethiopia, claiming a binding agreement on the utilization of the river, and in a situation it was asserting about the inevitability of advanced notification regarding water projects; which is an empty rhetoric and contradictory to its own action.

In fact, since colonial time and even after independence, Egypt has been enjoying the Nile Waters independently as if it has a special right to the waters. By discouraging any attempts by the riparian countries to build a dam and threatening to incite war if the Nile River is ever blocked, it has been making a unilateral decision that affects the interests of the riparian states.

Since recent time, going far away from opposing the construction of the Abbay Hydroelectric Dam by Ethiopia saying it will affect its own interest, Egypt has made all it can to politicize the case, put pressures on Ethiopia and cripple its drive for development. By conspiring with some countries and blocking Ethiopia's opportunity to get aid and loans from international financial institutions, it applied all diplomatic means to keep Ethiopia in a cash-strapped situation; though all was in vain.

Currently, ignoring the rights and concerns of upper riparian countries, including Ethiopia which is the major water supplier, it is building an artificial dam which is a matter that puts the political and diplomatic integrity of Egypt in question.

Unarguably, transboundary water bodies that cross the borders of two or more countries have the potential to cause inconveniences and disagreements among countries when it comes to the management of shared water resources.

For this reason, Ethiopia has made every effort and gone the extra mile to make known its determination to develop its water resources, generate power, provide access to electricity to more than 60 million of its citizens who are living in darkness and lift Ethiopians out of poverty.

At the core of this, the country has been signifying that the Abbay Hydroelectric Dam which is under construction on Abbay River to be a source of cooperation and mutual benefits for countries of the Nile Basin and beyond; instead of being a case for contention and disagreements.

On top of this, by sharing the required research documents, exchanging information, holding consultation meetings with riparian countries and any of the other involved parties, it tried to make clear that the Dam will not cause significant harm to riparian countries; but brings about considerable benefits to the peoples of the region and beyond.

Not only that, in all of the tripartite discussions carried out to reach consensus on ways to utilize the Abbay Waters, Ethiopia has been strongly reflecting its stand and commitment to utilize the waters in a more fair and equitable manner with the principles of cooperation. This and other endeavors clearly show Ethiopia's commitment for cooperation and mutual development; instead of making unilateral decisions.

On the other hand, Egypt has continued constructing dams without consulting riparian countries ignoring the rights the upper riparian states and violating the principle of international water law. However, whatever it is, Ethiopia will continue developing its water resources in a manner respecting international water laws, promoting cooperation and pursuing mutual development.

Promoting regional peace, solidarity for sustainable economic integration

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

As the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) strongly believes the fact that regional integration is the undisputable path to affluence, it has sustained working around the corner to ensure peace and tranquility in the length and breadth of the horn of Africa and beyond. As there are plentiful political determination and commitment among the people of the region to settlement of disputes through peaceful negotiation and dialogue, the cherished goal is being accomplished in the region despite challenges.

In the present circumstances, IGAD has been working at all hours of the day and night in furtherance of restoring peace in areas marred by conflicts by designing a diverse range of effective strategies. As the organization every so often gives priority to resolve conflicts through round table discussions in an atmosphere of calm, the region has set in motion at different points of time reaping the fruits of accomplishment.

In actual fact, no matter what happens in the region, IGAD puts the accent on bringing about peace in the horn of Africa. Taking into consideration the role peace plays in smoothing the path of regional integration, the organization has continued making progress in the right direction more than ever before.

Speaking recently with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Ambassador Konjit SeneGiorgis stated that the nation has been putting unwavering effort along with IGAD and AU to safeguard peace and security in the region.

Besides striving to create economic cooperation in the continent, Ethiopia has remained the largest troop contributor to AU and UN peacekeeping missions in Rwanda, Burundi, Liberia, Sudan and Somalia.

Ethiopia's contribution to the continent is not limited to its symbolism of freedom, Konjit said, adding that the country also takes the lion's share in the coming in to force of former OAU now African Union that aimed to rid the continent of colonization and apartheid.

There is no better country in Africa that has rescued the continent than Ethiopia whenever something came up. Its contribution in reuniting African states that have been formed in Casablanca and Monrovia Group informally is also worth mentioning.

Ethiopia which was led by Emperor Haile Selassie had greater role when 32 African states that had achieved independence at that time agreed to establish the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on May 25 1963 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

It is a well-known fact that IGAD has been working to bring a lasting peace in Sudan effectuating a diverse range of solutions that can contribute to the region's peace and development. The organization has been engaging itself in various advantageous undertakings with the intention of bringing about peace in the horn of Africa.

In its communiqué issued on the 41st Extraordinary Assembly of IGAD Heads of

State and Government held in Djibouti, the bloc underlined that there cannot be a military solution to the current crisis in Sudan.

IGAD reiterated its call to the parties in the conflict to immediately and unconditionally cease hostilities and allow unimpeded humanitarian access and protection of civilians in the affected areas and communities.

Moreover, the communiqué urged IGAD member states to affirm their pledges for humanitarian support to Sudan and for the International Community to immediately respond and scale up support to alleviate the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Sudan.

The communiqué stressed to redouble efforts and work towards better and closer collaboration and coordination with all stakeholders to mobilize full political and diplomatic support for IGAD and the AU to effectively discharge their critical role in delivering a peaceful resolution to the ongoing conflict and for IGAD to convene quarterly the progress of the peace process in the Sudan.

The communiqué further said to fast-track efforts in organizing an IGAD-AU facilitated all-inclusive Sudanese-owned and Sudanese-led civilian dialogue aimed at forging national consensus towards the formation of a civilian-led transition that will culminate in the holding of open, transparent and democratic elections. It also appreciated the co-facilitators of the peace talks made so far as they help preserving the modest progress.

Speaking lately to local media, IGAD's Executive Secretary Workneh Gebeyehu (PhD) noted that the regional bloc has been undertaking activities to harmonizing policies of Health, Trade and Economy thereby strengthening ties of member states on multilayered areas.

He mentioned that IGAD was able to register success in mediating member states through its peace and security activities in the region over the years.

Of which, it takes the lion's share in creating the current federal government of Somalia. Workneh also stated that the organization has also put significant impact on creating 'Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity' in South Sudan.

On the other hand, IGAD has been undertaking several activities in stepping up common market linkage and strengthening border markets, he said, adding that the efforts include harmonizing member states and supporting activities that nations undertake in the fight against climate change.

The Executive Secretary further indicated that besides the schools that were built at the border of Kenya and Ethiopia four months ago, IGAD has been executing projects to enhance cross border cooperation in Galabat-Metema and Karamoja Cluster where (Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda) share a common border.

With regard to the current situation in Sudan, Workneh stressed that IGAD will further continue its effort to put an end to suffering of the Sudanese people.

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

Business & Economy

Role of entrepreneurship for economic growth

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Economic growth can be substantiated using various ways. Of the myriads of ways by which economic growth is confidently backed, entrepreneurship can play a significant role in increasing fiscal growth and prosperity via increasing Gross National Product (GNP) and Per capita income. It is also known that Gross National Product measures the total economic output of a country, whereas Per capita income (PCI) calculates the average income per person. The increase in GNP can lead to a rise in PCI, of course.

Taking this fact into account, *The Ethiopian Herald* consulted Melesse Woldie, an economist graduated from Addis Ababa University, to solicit viable information on the side of professional point of view.

He said, "Entrepreneurship plays a key role in shaping the economy and creating a more dynamic and diverse business opportunities. Entrepreneurship also promotes innovation and competition, leading to new and improved products and services that contribute a lot to economic growth and development."

As to Melese, entrepreneurship drives the growth and diversification of the economy and contributes to the creation of wealth. Entrepreneurship is really of significantly useful in driving economic growth and creating new job, encouraging innovation by bringing new ideas, products, and services to the market, contributing to social change by developing products or services that reduce people's dependence on outdated technologies.

According to Melesse, the role of entrepreneurship in economic development is substantial. Yes, he said, not only do entrepreneurs just build businesses and grow their personal wealth but they also impact the economy by creating new jobs and opportunities, driving innovation, and developing new markets, products, and services.

Besides, it is important to address social and economic problems by creating solutions that meet the needs of society and enable competition which improves business efficiency and lowers prices for consumers.

As to him, the role of entrepreneurship in economic development has some salient takeaways. In the first place, it targets at raising standard of living. This entails a significant role of entrepreneurship in economic development is that it can greatly enhance the standard of living for individuals and communities by setting up industries and creating wealth and new positions. Entrepreneurship not only provides large-scale employment and ways to generate income, it also has the potential to improve the quality of individual life by developing products and services that are affordable, safe to use, and add value to their lives. Entrepreneurship also introduces new products and services that remove the scarcity of essential commodities.

Secondly, it helps declare economic Independence. Entrepreneurship can be a path to economic independence for both the



country and the entrepreneur. It reduces the nation's dependence on imported goods and services and promotes self-reliance. The manufactured goods and services can also be exported to foreign markets, leading to expansion, self-reliance, currency inflow, and economic independence. Similarly, entrepreneurs get complete control over their financial future. Through their hard work and innovation, they generate income and create wealth, allowing them to achieve economic independence and financial security.

Thirdly, it benefits new firms and businesses. Entrepreneurs identify market needs and develop solutions through their products and services to begin their business venture. By starting new firms and businesses, entrepreneurs play a key role in shaping the economy and creating a more dynamic and diverse business landscape. Entrepreneurship also promotes innovation and competition, leading to new and improved products and services that contribute to economic growth and development.

Fourth, it fosters creation of jobs. Entrepreneurship is a pivotal driver of job creation. Running the operations of new businesses and meeting the requirements of customers' results in new work opportunities. Entrepreneurship also drives innovation and competition that encourages other entrepreneurs and investments, creating new jobs in a wide range of industries, from manufacturing and construction to service and technology sectors.

Next, it facilitates community development. Entrepreneurship promotes economic growth, provides access to goods and services, and improves the overall standard of living. Many entrepreneurs also make a positive impact on their communities and improve their well-being by catering to underserved areas and developing environment-friendly products. Their work can help build stronger, more vibrant communities and promote social and economic development.

Then, it helps promote optimal use of Resources. Entrepreneurship can help identify market opportunities and allocate resources in the most effective way possible. Entrepreneurs also play a key

role in developing innovative products and services that meet the needs of customers while optimizing the use of available resources.

According to Melese, entrepreneurs stimulate employment growth by generating new jobs when they enter the market. Yes, there is a direct employment effect from new businesses that arises from the new jobs being created.

Responding to the question posed to him whether self-employment and entrepreneurship are interchangeably used, he said self-employment is not synonymous with entrepreneurship. The level of entrepreneurial activity offers information about the dynamics of an economy, while the level of self-employment is not necessarily correlated with economic development. In fact, most economies with high levels of self-employment are less developed.

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

"Entrepreneurial opportunities will be greater in deregulated economies with freely operating markets and efficient licensing, because entrepreneurs can operate flexibly and their entrepreneurial activities can respond to changes in the market. It is also important that laws and regulations need to be enforced fairly and evenly," he said.

Successful entrepreneurs are always looking for new and innovative ways to solve problems and meet the needs of consumers. Not only do they create jobs but also generate wealth for themselves and their employees. As their businesses grow and become more successful, they generate profits that can be reinvested to fuel further growth, Melesse added.

According to him, Economic development, on the other hand, refers to the process of improving the economic well-being and quality of life for a community or country. This can include increasing economic growth, reducing poverty and unemployment, and improving access

to education, healthcare, and other basic needs. Economic development can be achieved through various means, such as attracting foreign investment, promoting industrialization, and improving infrastructure as well as boosting entrepreneurship.

True, he added the relationship between entrepreneurship and economic development is complex, but it is generally agreed that entrepreneurship plays a crucial role in driving economic growth and development. Entrepreneurship creates new businesses and jobs, generates innovation, and stimulates competition, all of which contribute to a more productive and efficient economy.

There are some ways he said that entrepreneurs can help drive this economic growth like social entrepreneurship, ethical practices, collaboration and partnerships, customer-centric approach as well as mentor-ship and support. Though starting a new business requires significant resources, including capital, expertise and time, many entrepreneurs face significant barriers to entry, such as a lack of funding, regulatory obstacles and market saturation.

"The main challenges include a lack of access to resources, education and training. Starting a business can be a challenging and rewarding journey, requiring a combination of hard work, dedication and a willingness to take calculated risks. However, the potential rewards can be immense, not just for the entrepreneurs themselves but for the entire community," Melesse underlined.

In sum, entrepreneurship is the process of creating and running a new business venture in order to generate profits. It is a crucial factor in driving economic growth and development in both developed and developing countries. Entrepreneurial activity helps create new jobs, fosters innovation, and drives market competition, which ultimately benefits consumers.

The role of entrepreneurship in economic development cannot be overlooked. The relationship between entrepreneurship and economic development can provide valuable insights that can be used to create a supportive environment for entrepreneurs, promote economic growth, and improve the well-being of communities and nations.

Art & Culture

Gamo traditional conflict resolution method *Dubusha*

BY MAHLET GASHAW

Due to different reasons, conflicts arise at the individual, racial, ethnic, and national level due to human nature, and as a result, it causes great damage to human life. For the loss of peace caused by this, the community has its own traditional methods of reconciliation to bring lasting peace. Various countries across the globe continued to follow customs conflict resolution techniques in pre-modern times. In the contemporary period, states have created situational and judicial systems grounded in science.

Generally speaking, conflict resolution refers to measures taken to stop or lessen violence between people and groups. The main goals of conflict resolution are to prohibit the use of violence to resolve disputes, impose limits on the types of violence that are acceptable, and maintain disputes within a set of established standards that encourage respectful discourse about differences.

Every civilization encounters conflicts from time to time. As a result, societies have a tendency to create their own systems for resolving conflicts based on the principles, customs, and values of social cultures everywhere. Among the numerous indigenous systems of conflict resolution mechanisms in Ethiopia are the *Ilafi-ilame*, *Jarsumma*, *Waqeffana* and *Sinqee* in Oromo, *Aba"la* in Afar, the *Shimagille* in Amhara, *Nemo* in Shinasha, *Ruec Wec Ring* and *Guk* in the Nuer of Gambela, and the *dubushaa* in the Gamo.

The Federal Government and the Zonal Tourism Bureau are working together to register as an Intangible World Heritage Site by the United Nations.

Numerous established social organizations have a role in resolving disputes in the Gamo community. There are trustworthy and competent people from each clan in the community who can handle a variety of conflicts. These people are essential to the Gamo community's daily operations and conflict resolution processes.

For a very long time, before the current Democratic system was introduced in the Gamo Zone in southern Ethiopia, *Dubusha* served as the wellspring of the legal system. *Dubusha* acts as the parliament for the Gamo zone, where elders and local leaders enact laws and regulations that govern their community. Between disagreements, the *Dubusha* system fosters stability and harmony. Local elders and leaders converse about social, political, and economic issues in *Dubusha*. Additionally, they enact law and order in accordance with local norms. *Dubusha* is a thorough set of guidelines that covers a wide range of topics, including property, marriage, divorce, gender division of labor, inheritance, and conflict resolution. The Lower *Cima Dere Cima* literally translates to "the

community's elders." This includes well-known and esteemed parents who have handled disputes before. Elders involved in conflict resolution must be knowledgeable about the community's customs, laws, and values.

Dere dubusha is the highest customary court in the Gamo community and it has two main functions which are hearing and resolving disputes and reviewing and making laws. In most Gamo communities the usual court structure has three levels *Guta dubusha*, at the village level *sub-dere dubusha* at kebele level and *dere dubushaat* at a higher level. Cases are dealt with in the doubtful doubt stage, if they were not solved; they were related to the second and third levels of the structure.

According to indigenous beliefs, *dere dubusha* is a sacred place with supernatural powers. It is a place where curses are uttered in its name justice is done and important meetings take place. *Dubushasa* are places where truth reigns. Improper behavior such as lying during *dubusha* meetings is considered a violation of taboos which in turn would bring misfortune to individuals and communities.

Customary courts are easily accessible as there are several customary courts in each Gamo community. Strengths and limitations of customary legal systems/institutions and research findings indicate that indigenous dispute resolution institutions have strengths and limitations.

Temesgeng Misganawa is a scholar who made a research on Gamo *Dubusha* conflict resolution system. He says, traditional judicial institutions have own drawbacks some of which are a limitation costs of time and resources, parents do not pay for their services fines and compensations are relatively small. The process of conflict resolution is organized in the public space of the community and different parties involved in the process victims, offenders and community member's decisions are made official or published. Decisions are easily enforced by community-based sanctions, including social exclusion. Fulfillment is assured by threats of blessings and curses.

Conventional systems are aimed at restoring community cohesion, social relations, collective spirit and social solidarity. Gain respect for elders, tradition of forgiveness, and transfer of benefits are embedded in indigenous belief.

Limitations of customary legal institutions.

Limitations related to the protection and protection of women rights are manifested as indigenous justice institutions are dominated by men. For example, the council of elders is not open to elderly women. With few exceptions, women are excluded from ordinary courts and meetings, he adds.

Indigenous dispute resolution and peacekeeping institutions are effective in



resolving disputes and restoring peace within the same ethnic group. Their potential to resolve intergenerational conflicts and restore lasting peace is very limited. Elders from neighboring ethnic groups work together and resolve disputes during ethnic conflicts. However, indigenous conflict resolution institutions have limitations in restoring long-term peace when conflicts arise between parties of two or more ethnic groups.

In general, the members of the council of elders in the Gamo conflict resolution institutions have a power hierarchy. The supreme of all is *Kawo*- the king, and there is a *Danna* next to the king, and *Haleka* comes after the *Danna*, where *Haleka Uduga*, *Haleka Maga*, *Haleka Resha* come beneath it; and the *Mocho* and *Majie* will take over what comes after that; and so on, it goes.

They do differ in position as well as function there are *Haleka* (monitors) elected to conduct governance of the people, and there are monitors who are in charge of keeping states of peace of the covenant and also items. There are others who are in charge of prayers to that end called *Eka*. *Eka* (monitors) are in charge of the traditional religious rituals, and they do the blessing and cursing too and some *Ekas* are considered that whatever they say will happen. On the other hand, the battle monitors are called *Maga* they do lead into battle and there are *Tora Magas* in charge.

The *Tora Magas* lead, while the troop

Ensa Magas do the management. The *Gosawo Magas* are those keeping the borders, and *Eka Magas* do undertake the cultural ceremony after the battle is settled. And as such goes the process, and there is *Maka* in the middle hierarchy, who is known as a priest; they have the same role as the priests of the Orthodox Church atoning sins and everything.

Process of elders' selection among Gamo According to the informants, wisdom, knowledge, respect, experience, moral standard, character of the patient, impartiality, incorruptibility, and trustworthiness are the major criteria in selecting elders as leaders and mediators in the traditional conflict resolution process among Gamo.

Hereditary or lineage systems of leaders' selection are also often observed in the indigenous conflict resolution mechanisms in the area. Moreover, elders are chosen if they are known to be neutral and free. Their numbers could reach seven to nine for moderate to severe conflict cases. Simple conflicts at family and neighborhood levels can be dealt with two to three elders depending on the case. When the elders are chosen, they make an oath about moral values. They are expected to be keen on the truth with one heart. In general, conflict resolvers are selected based on their good reputation, wisdom, exemplary deed, experiences, patience, commitment, talent in delivering just decisions, well versed in traditional law, and other calibers.

Global Affairs

Road to COP 29: Highest climate ambitions needed to decarbonize world

The road to COP29 has begun in earnest in the backdrop of a global climate report indicating that not only was 2023 the warmest year in a 174-year climate record; it was the warmest by far. Record-breaking temperatures, combined with El Niño, pushed vulnerable and poor nations in the Global South to the frontlines of extreme and severe weather events.

It was a climatic carnage in Africa with fatal floods in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, and Libya's storms and floods that wiped out a quarter of a city, deadly cyclones in countries such as Malawi, severe drought in Kenya, and months-long winter heat wave in Southern African countries.

Against this backdrop, the Executive Secretary of UN Climate Change, Simon Stiell, delivered a major speech on February 2, 2024, from Baku, Azerbaijan, the host city of the COP29 UN Climate Conference in November 2024. The speech previewed the key issues and actions needed in the crucial periods ahead, building on progress at COP28 in Dubai.

"The time has passed for business-as-usual in all aspects of the world's climate fight. So today, I will take a different approach to this lecture. I want us to start in 2050, imagining what the world will look like if we do succeed in both limiting global warming to 1.5°C and protecting all people from climate change impacts," he said.

"Of course, it will be no utopia, and there is a potential extinction to contend with, but I will come back to that. In this vision of success, global energy systems are at net-zero emissions. Countries—or at least regions—will largely be energy self-sufficient."

The speech touched on all key issues at the heart of the global journey towards decarbonizing the world by 2050, in line with the Paris Agreement. At the UN's COP21 in Paris in 2015, world leaders came to an historic agreement that offers a solid framework for the achievement of crucial climate goals and the preservation of the environment, people, and all life on Earth.

"Countries are indeed making



noteworthy progress to reach set goals, such as significantly reducing global greenhouse gas emissions. However, pledges and commitments from governments are not ambitious enough and will not get us to net zero—cutting greenhouse gas emissions to as close to zero as possible by 2050. As we countdown to COP29, we must also track what has been achieved in terms of commitments made during the inaugural 2023 Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi, Kenya," Amos Kaggwa, a Ugandan-based climate activist, tells IPS.

On renewable energy, Stiell says, "Renewables have made energy accessible, affordable, and predictable for all. That means we avoid the shocks and inequalities that have shaped economic trends and conflicts in the past. The global financial system has prioritized human wellbeing over servicing only the bottom line."

Stressing that "the trillions previously spent on fossil fuel subsidies are available for better purposes: health care, education, and safety nets for those who fall behind. Our resilient societies have moved from an extractive to a regenerative relationship with nature. It is no longer medically hazardous to

go outside in major cities due to air pollution. Millions of lives are saved each year as a consequence."

Kenya has already launched its Long-Term Low-Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS), aimed at steering this East African nation towards a net-zero emissions future by 2050. Only eight other African countries have submitted their LT-LEDS. There are 68 countries in the world that have submitted their LT-LEDS overall, and the majority of them are high- or middle-income nations.

Limiting global warming to 1.5°C will require a 43 percent decline in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, per estimates by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Burning fossil fuels for electricity, transport, and heat account for the great majority of harmful emissions, at approximately 73.2 percent.

In this context, decarbonizing leaders are those with the greatest investments in renewable energy to transition away from fossil fuels. They include China with a USD 758 billion global investment in renewable energy capacity from 2010 to 2019, the United States with USD 356 billion, Japan's USD 202 billion, Germany

with USD 179 billion, and the UK's USD 122 billion.

"The United States, China, Russia, Brazil, Indonesia, Germany, India, the United Kingdom, Japan, Canada, France, Australia, Argentina, Mexico, South Africa, Italy, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, the European Union, and Türkiye as the G20—together responsible for 80 percent of the world's emissions in 2025—have seriously re-engineered their targets on this basis," Stiell says.

"Because they know that PR spin, re-branding, or tinkering around the edges won't cut it to meet their climate responsibilities, and that it would also leave them badly behind the innovation curve, not at the cutting edge. These national climate plans aren't just pieces of paper; they must be backed by robust policy instruments, cost out, and translatable into shovel-ready investment opportunities."

An estimated 3.8 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions are emitted by Africa, but only two percent of the proportion of renewable energy investment went to Africa in 2023. Kaggwa says Africa has many competing, pressing challenges and that powerful, developed nations must ensure that the Loss and Damage and other climate finance funds work to lift the continent out of the climate catastrophe.

"Africa is severely affected by climate change, but it receives only three percent of global climate finance. Africa needs about USD 579.2 billion in adaptation finance from 2020 to 2030. The COP26 commitments included doubling climate adaptation finance by 2025. Current adaptation flows to the African continent are five to 10 times below what is needed," Kaggwa emphasizes.

Stiell says it is time to get on with the job of saving the planet, people, and all life on Earth, urging citizens around the world to demand bolder climate action now. Promising that at the UN Climate Change Conference, there will be no rest in pushing for the highest climate ambitions in accordance with the science—working side-by-side with all governments, businesses, and community leaders.

(SOURCE: INTER PRESS SERVICES)

Law & Politics

Ethiopian by name, African by action

BY SOLOMON WASSIHUN

The Ethiopian Airlines (EAL) has remained the indomitable Ethiopian flag carrier, whose safe territory is not only Ethiopia but the entire African continent. After almost 80 years of breathtaking progress, Ethiopian has achieved its current status as Africa's aviation power house and is working to make Ethiopia Africa's aviation hub.

EAL is not only Ethiopia's biggest foreign exchange earner, but also the country's ambassador on the international stage, carrying the national flag to every corner of the world and engaging in economic and citizen diplomacy to promote Ethiopia's image, Ethiopians industriousness, and showcase what the country has to offer as an investment and tourism destination.

In Africa in particular, EAL flies to more African destinations than any other African or international airlines, in line with its motto of bringing Africa together. As one of the most advanced aviation centers on the continent with an aviation university, state-of-the-art fleets, aircraft maintenance and ground services, EAL supports other African airlines with the spirit of Pan-Africanism.

Every year, several young people from different African countries have been graduating from EAL's Aviation University and competently trained in various aviation professions including pilots, maintenance technicians, cabin crew, marketing and management. And, it has been doing this for more than six decades.

Apart from providing technical support, EAL has gone even further in its activities of bringing Africa together by providing its managerial expertise and partnering with other airlines through joint ventures. It is also acquiring stakes to help struggling and new African carriers to survive financial and managerial crises, and even to progress well ahead. It was reported that EAL formed joint ventures or partnerships with several African countries, including Togo, Malawi, Chad, Zambia and Mozambique. Additionally, if things go as planned, EAL would soon commence implementing similar joint venture and partnership activities in Nigeria and DR Congo.

During Ethiopia's Premier Abiy's three-day state visit to Dar es Salaam earlier this month, Ethiopia and Tanzania inked a multi-sectoral bilateral cooperation agreement that includes the aviation sector. Obviously, the agreement would later translate into a lucrative deal for EAL to provide support including training and technical assistance to the



Tanzanian national carrier, ATCL.

"We will continue forming such partnerships throughout Africa to stimulate the development of indigenous African airlines within Africa. This will also help Ethiopian Airlines to reach Africans. Ethiopian will continue establishing partnerships to provide seamless connectivity for Africans," recently said the EAL group Chief, Mesfin Tassew.

EAL proved its worth and reliability to the African people both in good and trying times. During the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, when other carriers stayed grounded, EAL stayed in the sky. Its staff risked their lives to go to work and fly all over Africa distributing COVID-19 vaccines, medicines, masks and other related medical supplies. In a bid to meet the high demand of cargo service at that time, EAL had to convert several of its wide-body passenger aircraft into freighters using its in-house engineering capability.

EAL is one of the world's 4-star air lines based on SKYTRAX certified ratings. Ethiopian embodies the industriousness and capability of Africans to be competitive in the global market, and reflects the huge contributions Ethiopians make to bring Africa together.

After all, the reason why the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa deserves to be called the diplomatic capital of Africa is not only for the fact that it is the seat of the African Union, UN-ECA, as well as headquarters and regional branches of several multinational agencies. It is also because of the Ethiopian airlines. No city in Africa is networked with over sixty African cities like Addis Ababa.

This fact made Addis Ababa literally the main gateway to Africa.

It is quite a puzzle for many to see such an African airline owned by an economically challenged state to score such resounding success of epic scale. An aviation expert once commented, "In a continent that is often racked with economic strife, famine, internecine war, ill-advised policies, bad governance, and legacies of colonialism, Ethiopian Airlines has managed to not only survive but thrive where so many other carriers have struggled or expired."

Another aviation writer guessing the answer for this puzzle remarked, "The airline's growth, which is spectacular for an African carrier, did not come without facing challenges. Primarily, the political situations that were precarious on several occasions had posed serious challenges to the carrier. Ethiopian Airlines, unlike many other airlines, followed a growth path that was not dictated by prestige or political agenda, but only by profit," he said

EAL is not only a pride of Ethiopia, but all Africans. Since the domain of its activity and the fruit of its works are geared towards benefiting Africa, and expediting Africa's journey to unity and prosperity. EAL is a source of inspiration for such legendary African figures like Nelson Mandela who, as he wrote it in his book, saw for the first time in his life a black pilot in action flying EAL airplane.

EAL, as a grand success story, is being considered by the Ethiopian government as a diplomatic tool to inspire and entice neighboring countries to forge regional cooperation, and resource sharing so as

to expedite the economic integration of the sub region and beyond.

The vision statement of the EAL group's ten year strategic plan currently implementing reads: "To become the most competitive and leading aviation group in Africa by providing safe, market driven and customer focused passenger and cargo transport, aviation training, flight catering, MRO and ground services by 2025." As it clearly indicated in the statement, EAL's actions are Africa-focused.

Although there are a few months left before consulting the score card for the overall performance, it is obviously a foregone conclusion that EAL has already achieved the goals set in its Vision-2025 well ahead of the schedule. Actually, the EAL Chief has confirmed that much earlier in Nov. 2022.

EAL is now the fastest growing, the largest and most profitable Airline in Africa. It commands the lion's share of the Pan-African passenger and cargo network, operating the youngest and most modern fleet to more than 130 international destinations. Ethiopian has taken the accolades for: Best Airline in Africa 2023 for six years in row, and the Best Business Class Airline in Africa 2023 for five years in row. All these mean it has already consolidated its position in the African aviation industry as the undisputed conquering lion of African skies.

So, as EAL starts the implementation of a new strategic plan for the next ten years, Vision-2035, it is now the opportune time for the continental carrier to keep its impeccable performance and realistic vision.

Planet Earth

Residents of Central Ethiopia region prosper by working in dairy farming

BY FIKADU BELAY

Sahle Berta, a former government employee residing in East Gurage Zone, Endibir City Administration, has successfully transitioned from unemployment to becoming a thriving dairy farmer. Sahle and his family embarked up on a new chapter of life after securing a loan of 150,000 birr from Omo Bank, which enabled them to purchase a dairy cow. With the support of the city enterprise, they now operate a dairy farm on a designated plot of land.

Their dairy farm boasts a total of approximately 12 cows, including heifers and pregnant cows, over the last three years. Currently, he has six dairy cows, which alone yields an impressive daily output of around 20 liters of milk, he told The Ethiopian Press Agency.

He stated that the assistance provided by experts from the woreda agriculture office is crucial guidance and support in vital areas such as animal feed, medical care, and other essential services.

Sahle stated that, while being an employee, he faced challenges in effectively managing his family responsibilities. However, since starting up his current private business at the dairy farm, he has managed to earn adequate income to support his family. He also added that his two children have started their own individual businesses.

In Gurage Zone, Sahle's success story is a vibe shared by numerous individuals who have witnessed life-altering transformations with limited financial resources. However, the prevalence of youth unemployment remains a pressing issue across the country. By drawing inspiration from Sahle and other successful entrepreneurs who have created their own businesses, young people can pave the way for personal and national change. With adequate support from the government, these aspiring individuals have the potential to make a profound impact on the entire country.

On the other hand, in Kembata zone Damboya woreda, the Manager of Kaniyan Combined Agriculture Investment, Veterinary Doctor Tekle Hailemaryam, stated that the updates on the dairy development project have highlighted the notable growth of the initiative, its economic impact, and its transformation of the local agricultural landscape.

The journey of Kaniyan dairy development began three years ago with an initial investment of 10 million birr and the improvement of 17 heifers. Today, the project boasts an impressive count of 65 cows, including heifers; he mentioned that the combined efforts of the dairy development project and other agricultural work have generated an astounding income of around forty million birr.

He mentioned that while a single cow typically produces between 18 and 36 liters of milk per day, their operation yields up to an impressive 300 liters daily. This abundant milk supply will be utilized to benefit vulnerable individuals and organized groups, as well as being sold at a price range of forty to fifty birr per liter,



ensuring fair access to this nutritious resource.

He stated that Kaniyan business plays a significant role in generating employment opportunities for local citizens. Currently, they have a workforce of approximately 30 permanent employees and an additional 200 temporary employees. This workforce enables the department to efficiently carry out its operations while providing job opportunities for the community.

Ethiopia is one of the leading countries in Africa and one of the top ten countries in the world in terms of horned cattle wealth. In particular, it is believed that the nutritional system of society is not balanced due to the fact that the production and productivity of animal products are not developed. On the other hand, due to the inconsistency of demand and the market in the country, it was forced to import animal products such as milk from foreign countries with high foreign exchange rates.

According to the World Health Organization, it is recommended that an average person drink 200 liters per year. However, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, an average person in Ethiopia drinks only 19 liters. Various problems are cited as reasons for this. Among them, the structural problems of the country's dairy sector are the main reason for the underdevelopment of the sector's production and productivity. Especially given the fact that the milk value chain is lagging behind, Education research The extension system has been a hindrance to the development of the sector without updating.

Sahle mentioned the challenge faced by local dairy farmers. The area experiences a surplus of milk production compared to the existing demand, leading to occasional wastage. Recognizing this issue, the government office has urged the acquisition of milk processing equipment to address the situation effectively, he said.

Looking ahead, he emphasized the potential for growth and expansion, he also mentioned that his aspiration for improved infrastructure, including roads, water supply, and electricity, which would enable them to broaden their distribution network beyond the woreda and zone, reaching consumers in other areas.

By addressing the structural problems and investing in the dairy sector's development, Ethiopia can significantly improve production and productivity, leading to increased availability of animal products, including milk, for its population. It will contribute to achieving a more balanced nutritional system and reduce the reliance on costly imports. Moreover, the growth of the dairy industry has the potential to create employment opportunities and drive economic development, particularly in rural areas where the majority of dairy farming takes place.

Mohammad Mudaser Deputy Head of Gurage Zone Agriculture Department Office and Head of Livestock Sector, said that a remarkable 525 dairy villages are currently being established across 10 woreda and 5 city administrations in the Gurage Zone. This strategic effort aims to enhance the dairy industry and strengthen the local agricultural sector.

He emphasized the benefits of breed improvement among farmers in the zone. He stated that every farmer is encouraged to possess at least one breed of improved dairy cow. Currently, only 23 percent of cattle breeds in the zone have undergone improvement, that nearly 22,000 cattle breeds have been successfully improved within this year alone.

In addressing the concerns raised by farmers, Mohammad remarked that the bureau is actively working towards resolving infrastructure-related issues. He recognized the significance of reliable infrastructure in supporting the growth and sustainability of the dairy industry. Through collaborative efforts, they aim to create an environment where dairy

farming prospers, benefiting both farmers and the local economy.

The government's role is vital in supporting and facilitating the growth of the dairy sector. Policy reforms, market interventions, and financial incentives can incentivize investment in the sector and create an enabling environment for businesses to thrive. Collaboration between the government, private sector stakeholders, and international development partners is crucial for implementing these reforms and driving sustainable growth in the dairy industry.

In particular, Mohammed stated the pressing need for nitrogen chemical centers, underscoring that the region currently has only one. Identifying the potential consequences of a failure in the nitrogen chemical center, the Ministry of Agriculture, along with other stakeholders, has advocated for the construction of additional nitrogen chemical centers in the region.

Sahle's inspiring journey serves as a testament to the transformative power of determination and entrepreneurship. His dedication to dairy farming not only revitalized his own livelihood but also contributed to the local agricultural landscape.

In line with their commitment to sustainable practices, Tekle mentioned that they utilize cattle waste products as a valuable resource. These waste products are transformed into fertilizer, which is then utilized to prepare improved animal feed. Through implementing this innovative approach, they not only minimize waste but also enhance the quality and nutritional value of the feed, benefiting the overall health and productivity of the livestock.

He further stated that the initiative to convert cattle waste into biogas. By harnessing the potential of biogas, they aim to maximize the utility of the waste products and promote renewable energy sources. This not only contributes to the reduction of environmental impact but also presents an opportunity for the department to explore alternative energy solutions in the agricultural sector. Also, it contributes to the circular economy and paves the way for a more environmentally friendly and economically viable agricultural system.

In general, through their dedication, the project has not only improved livelihoods but also embraced sustainable practices, setting a strong example in the agricultural sector. The impact of their efforts will continue to ripple through the community, fostering economic growth, job opportunities, and environmental stewardship.