



Taye Atskeselassie

MoFA outlines Ethiopia's grand diplomatic achievements in reform years

ADDIS ABABA (ENA) -Ethiopia has registered grand diplomatic achievements over the last six years, Foreign Minister Taye Atskeselassie said .

In his opening remark to a panel discussion organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) on the accomplishments gained during the reform years on Friday, FM Taye said Ethiopia has prevailed despite challenges.

According to him, Ethiopia still remains the regional power pool.

Through its efforts to ensure peace and security in neighboring countries, Ethiopia has played unparalleled role in maintaining stability in the Horn of Africa region, the minister noted.

Joining BRICS was a remarkable achievement that will have paramount effect in uplifting the country's diplomatic gains, the minister stated.

Furthermore, FM Taye pointed out that the Green Legacy Initiative spearheaded by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed was among the very commendable achievements in terms of climate change mitigation.

Had the over 32 billion trees planted through the initiative been monetized, it would have been billions of USD worth investment on environmental protection, he emphasized.

The minister pointed out that political sovereignty is often eroded due to poverty, adding that Ethiopia has in this regard accelerated its journey to ensure food security through boosting production and productivity of dry season wheat.

Ethiopia is currently cultivating dry season wheat on 3 million hectares of land, and is expecting to harvest 120 million quintals.

FM Taye noted that this will eventually increase and break the chain of poverty and ensure food self-sufficiency.

Moreover, he stressed that the reform has enabled Ethiopia to ensure its development right with regard to the Abbay Dam through diplomacy.

Academy allots 10 percent enrollment to autistic students

• Marks World Autism Day

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA - With a view to discharging corporate social responsibility, Champions Academy said every year it has allocated a 10 percent enrollment for autistic students and help them to lead successful and productive lives.

The Academy held Autism Awareness Day yesterday in connection with World Autism Day which is being marked in April every year.

Speaking at the occasion, Academy Owner and Meaza Menker said that the school provides 10 percent enrollment for children with autism every year.

Meaza, who is a Clinical Psychologist by profession, further noted that the academy has been providing service for autistic students for the last 16 years and its focus is not limited on children but also on parents and care providers.

Children with autism have special talent and quality in nature and the academy identifies their quality and helps them to become successful and good citizens by filling the gaps that they are failing to do by their own, she added.

“We are also providing training for parents to enable them to go together in the same path with us and keeping their hope on their children's future. After we admit autistic children in the academy, we are providing training to them and help them to do everything by their own and let them to move in the right direction without support to go.”

According to her, the academy's final goal is



enabling the children to do anything by their own, be self-reliance in all activities and make successful persons in their lives.

“To get fruitful result or behavioral change in children with autism may take months or years. So it needs patience to get fruitful results. Our services are not limited to our school environs but we are trying to make accessible the support and we are knocking the doors to give advice and create awareness among parents.”

The school owner has called on the government to address pressing challenges they are facing including the demand for land and other amenities to expand their service.

Approached by *The Ethiopian Herald*, EminentChanyalew, a mother of autistic child, said that her child's admission into the academy has brought about a significant behavioral change and the treatment and socializing therapies it has got in the school enable him to easily communicate. “We are happy and pin hope in the future of our child. I learn about autism after the academy provided training for me.”



Ethiopia working on creating conducive ecosystem for startups

ADDIS ABABA - The Government of Ethiopia has been carrying out activities to help startups enter the market exponentially by creating a conducive ecosystem, according to Ministry of Innovation and Technology.

A three-week "Startup Ethiopia Exhibition" opened at the Science Museum in Addis Ababa on Monday with the goal of fostering business linkage between investors and startappers, and identifying ways of providing support.

Startappers engaged in various fields, including information technology, agriculture, health, education, industry and finance are participating in the exhibition.

Innovation and Technology State Minister Bayisa Bedada told ENA that the government has been carrying out activities with a view to helping startups in the country enter rapidly the market by creating conducive ecosystem.

In order to accelerate the digital economy, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics have received a lot of emphasis in the country's education policy.



The rapidly expanding digital online services in the country play positive role to increase the number of startups entering the market, he added.

According to the state minister, efforts are underway to help startappers become successful by exploiting the existing opportunities as per the direction given by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

While a policy and support system have already been established, support

frameworks are currently being implemented through a short-, medium-, and long-term plans, Bayisa stated.

The stated minister believes that the support frameworks put in place in the country attract startups of other countries too.

“The measures being taken by the government in terms of policy, support and incentives are important to strengthen startups not only in the country but also to attract foreign startups and international investors.”

The government is making a concerted effort to foster a startup-friendly atmosphere in the country by offering essential resources, including funding, workspace, and technical assistance, he further revealed.

The state minister finally stressed that efforts will be intensified to help startups enter the market as their contribution to job creation, productivity in agriculture, industry, and tourism, among others, is crucial.

There are more than 900 start-ups in Ethiopia.

Editorial

Dialogue is the best way out

“United we stand and divided we fall,” goes the adage.

The saying rams home if a nation like Ethiopia, as ever before, upholds chemistry underpinned by timeless serenity, it could spearhead its development and materialize set objective of affluence unchaining itself from the shackles of debilitating poverty.

All the more so because, if a nation is dead set at actualizing sought-after reform that aims at warding off corrupt practices and parochial outlooks and leveling the ground for across the board distribution of nation’s wealth, the fructification of its plan will not be long in crystalizing.

No doubt, such disposition wide open doors for political pluralism, in the true sense of the world, which in turn affords a green light to peace and development.

Peace is the bedrock of everything. In the absence of this ingredient for wellbeing, procreation and bringing up off springs under parental wings are hardly possible. Nor is it possible pursuing education and letting children go to school.

If peace is stricken out from the right mix of ambitions for a better tomorrow— be it in terms of infrastructural development or in terms economic growth— the unfolding will be but superficial.

When we assess Ethiopia’s History stretching the timeline back to the days of yore, we notice that valor is the second nature of Ethiopians. This virtue of its citizens has allowed the country ward off blatant foreign aggressions.

Hence, time and again, making recourse to firearms, for long, citizens were almost divorced from a meaningful development that leads to affluence.

The plethora of conflict resolution mechanisms among the broad array of ethnic groups in Ethiopia, conversely, tells the prosaicness of internal conflicts.

The hardest way citizens have come to realize it is better to opt for amicable resolution of conflicts than seeing arms as a first line of resort when verbal and physical altercations pops up.

Citizens have begun to grasp that ironing out bones of contention calm, cool and collected is rather sagacious.

Yet, there is a lot to be desired. At this juncture, it is quite necessary to mention the Pretoria Peace Deal as exemplary and mandatory.

After a two-year nation-rocking and nation-wrenching war, the conflict between the incumbent and TPLF has come to the end thanks to the Pretoria peace deal brokered by AU.

As per to the peace deal, not only the stoppage of the war was made possible but also the restoration of demolished infrastructural facilities was ensured on top of rendering humanitarian assistance. Such holy effort begs for global support.

The destructive war has forced the country’s wealth to go down the drain and as witnessed in Tigray. It has also hampered the mobility of citizens there by denying them engaging in daily routines to eke out a living and get returns from transactions.

Those who saw firsthand the unglamorous nature of the northern war try to shun it. On the other end of the scale, there are war mongers pursuant of destruction and ruin.

Like in the Tigray region, in Amhara and in Oromia regions there are forces that attempt to manage things resorting to arms. It is better if they seek amicable means of resolving differences via brainstorming. Of course, differences in outlooks were there for it is natural. Handling variance via discussion and embracing a win-win approach are marks of refinement.

To this effect, Ethiopia has introduced a National Dialogue Commission mandated with narrowing down differences, and building a common narrative. This is a commendable task.

For the sake of peace and better way of resolving conflicts, the incumbent has gone a step out of its way to shake hands with those that took to the forest carrying arms. The government’s hands are always outstretched for peace.

Taking every pain, declaring truce, finding a middle ground through dialogue the incumbent is committed to quenching citizens’ thirst for development, growth, turnaround in all aspects and harmonious life characterized by unity in diversity.

Cognizant that peace comes from within Ethiopians here and abroad must fight for sustainable peace.

As war has a spillover effect neighboring countries must place focus on common peace and joint growth.

Opinion

No place for ethnocentric political nihilists in Ethiopia

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

Ethiopia is a country populated by religious communities that respect their religious and social orders and moral values. These discipline of the people have helped the nation to exist throughout the millennia as one of the ancient nations with its own civilization and history.

Maintaining such values would pay back in many ways. Especially at this very moment people need to look deeper into their ages old social, moral and religious values that helped them to live together with tolerance than falling victim to their machinations of ethnocentric political nihilists who want to manipulate them to their own adverse agenda.

Ethnocentric political elites employ political nihilism as their world outlook with all its ramifications.

Ethno-political nihilism as practiced by the elites is a philosophical stance or attitude characterized by a rejection or skepticism of traditional political ideologies, institutions, and values including dialogue for peace. Individuals who adhere to political nihilism often believe that existing political systems are inherently flawed, corrupt, or incapable of achieving meaningful change or progress. They may view political participation, activism, or engagement as futile or meaningless, and may express feelings of disillusionment, apathy, or cynicism towards the political process.

Ethnocentric elitist political nihilists reject conventional political ideologies, such as liberalism, conservatism, socialism, or nationalism, viewing them as arbitrary or misguided constructs that fail to address fundamental human concerns or existential questions. They are only concerned with the guidelines they provide to mislead their own ethnic groups and supporters here and at the overseas.

They are skeptical of political institutions, including government, legislatures, political parties, and electoral systems, which they perceive as ineffective, corrupt, or unresponsive to the needs and interests of ordinary citizen

These groups of ethnic elites distrust authority figures, political leaders, and elites, whom they see as self-serving or manipulative individuals who exploit power for personal gain or ideological ends. They use character assassination; defamation and false profiling to discredit the efforts of the federal and regional governments make to ensure national development and promotion of peaceful dialogue.

The propaganda and social media trumpeting of these groups is often associated with feelings of apathy, alienation, or detachment from the political process. Nihilists may feel disconnected from mainstream politics and disengaged from civic duties such as voting, activism, or community involvement in social development. They try to accomplish everything at gun point.

They often question the underlying assumptions and values that underpin political discourse and action, challenging notions of justice, freedom, democracy, or progress as illusory or subjective concepts.

Ethnic oriented political nihilists are characterized by a radical skepticism towards political narratives, ideologies, and rhetoric, which they view as manipulative tools used to control or manipulate public opinion. They reject any government report or briefings as falsehood and empty propaganda.

Ethnocentric political elites in Ethiopia also manifest in acts of protest, rebellion, or chaotic actions aimed at disrupting existing power structures and challenging dominant political paradigms. They totally reject the reform program of the country and the multi-faceted national programs as irrelevant and unnecessary for the country

It’s important to note that ethnocentric political nihilism among the elite groups is not necessarily a coherent or organized political movement, but rather a jointed disposition or perspective that individuals may adopt in response to perceived injustices, disillusionment, or existential crises.

The overture among homegrown ethnocentric nihilist political elites show that if they cannot lead the country at any cost, Ethiopia is doomed to totally balkanization but the current situation in the country shows that the people of Ethiopia are fed up of continuous destructive wars and want peace to prevail as soon as possible.

They detest inclusive public political dialogue and instead assert that dialogue should be conducted among political parties and not with the wider public participation.

Ethnocentric political elites are in most cases busy shifting blames on the government and the leadership without providing any viable alternative strategies for nation building and socio-economic development. They deliberately brag that inflation, climate change induced drought and ethnic conflicts are triggered by the government and its institutions. The elite group disseminates hate politics and divisive propaganda among the people of Ethiopia.

Hate politics, also known as identity-based or divisive politics, refers to the exploitation of ethnic, religious, racial, or other identity-based divisions for political gain. It involves the promotion of hate speech, intolerance, discrimination, and prejudice towards certain groups in order to mobilize support, rally followers, or maintain power. Hate politics often seeks to scapegoat marginalized or vulnerable communities, fuel social polarization, and undermine democratic norms and principles.

As mentioned above, the ethno-elitist politicians employ hate politics often involving blaming minority or marginalized groups for social or economic problems, such as unemployment, crime, or national decline. By scapegoating these groups, political actors deflect attention from structural inequalities or policy failures and avoid accountability for their own actions.

Hate politics poses a threat to democratic values and institutions, such as equality, freedom of expression, and the rule of law. By promoting intolerance and discrimination, hate politicians undermine principles of pluralism, tolerance, and respect for human rights.

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



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Ethiopia's response to water ...

About 35 alien species in which six of them are most invasive ones, have invaded over two million hectares of land in Ethiopia. Among the six species, Parthenium, Prosopis, Lantana camara and water hyacinth are highly affecting the country's fish and crop production, grazing and wastelands and biodiversity in general, said Wendosen Abeje, an Ecohydrologist with the Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE). The water hyacinth reduces fresh water thereby affecting aquatic flora and fauna, irrigation and hydro power generation among others.

This floatable and spongy (composed of 95 percent water) alien species, according to Wendosen, affects the aquatic ecosystem for easily spreading across water bodies reproducing sexually or asexually. It can thrive in a broad range of temperatures from 12 to 40 °C. Being spongy which increases water wastage due to evaporation has also enabled the plant to survive eradication efforts for being heavy to weeding and carry it out using labor force while growing easily if its tiny part drops.

The Ecohydrologist expressed that the invasive weed could be easily distributed across Ethiopia's water bodies for availability of fresh and salty waters, fertilizer remnants, and sediments, liquid and solid industrial and urban wastes among others.

A study conducted in 2020 indicated that the perennial invasive plant has covered about 4,392 hectare land on Lake Tana, 2,800 ha on Koka and its surrounding, 1,472 ha on Dembel Lake. It also spread to Lake Chamo and Tata.

MoWE Minister Office Head, Mamusha Hailu said that the Ministry is working on protecting

water bodies and their biodiversity and it has recently launched a public campaign to remove the weed from Lake Koka.

Located in Oromia state, Lake Koka is a source of human and animal drinking water, hydropower, irrigation, and so on. The invasive weed is affecting the lake its aforesaid purposes. "We are working with the Oromia water and energy bureau to mobilize government organizations, NGOs, religious leaders, private owners, the youth and others to contribute fair share to the removal of the weed through implementing an integrated plan," Mamusha said.

The Ministry has a short and long term plan so as to eradicate the invasive plant permanently, he said, adding that it is implementing legal frameworks to protect water bodies and biodiversity. The successful removal of the wide portion of the hyacinth from Lake Batu in Oromia state, could be an important lesson to the next eradication activities. The deployment and effective performance of stakeholders in the removal of the weed has helped to recover the lake and its purpose of drinkability, fishing, and tourism.

Mamusha believed that the successful national efforts to halt the expansion of the weed on Lake Tana, Dembel and other water bodies indicated that the nation is capable of eradicating the invasive species if works are done in an integrated manner.

Koka Hydropower Dam Chief Morka Haile recalled that the water hyacinth had covered almost all parts of the dam reservoir last year. And this reduces the amount of water from the reservoir each year and made it difficult to know the level of the dam's contained water

and share of intake for power generation.

Due to the age of the dam, it was impossible to use machines to get rid of the weed so that efforts have been done to eradicate it with manpower though a satisfying result was not achieved yet. The dam may not generate the expected amount of power unless the weed removed from the reservoir timely and properly, he stated.

For the time being, the weed has cleared out from the power generation area pushed by wind. Morka said, "This will not make us negligent. The weeding activities will be strengthened to remove the hyacinth lastingly. These activities will be carried out either through labor force or using machines depending on the depth of the water."

The Oromia State Water and Energy Resource Development Bureau Director Teshale Bekana the bureau has been working on the prevention of water hyacinth since 2021. The bureau has given the responsibility of removing weed from 147.2 hectare land in and around Lake Dembel to 28 private owners. "And they effectively removed the hyacinth though evaluation and inspection activities are not interrupted yet even after the lake recovered. We have done this by preparing green, yellow and red certificates that have been given to the stakeholders based on their performances of successful, minimally satisfactory and unsatisfactory respectively to encourage, alarm and reprimand them."

Drawing lesson from this success, Teshale's bureau also deployed various stakeholders to undertake hyacinth from Lake Koka. It recently has handed over site map of the weed, which covers 74.5 km of the lake, to 18

private owners to contribute fair share in the eradication activities.

On the other hand, the country is also working to resume the invasive weed removal activities from Lake Tana that had been interrupted for the recent conflict in the Amhara state. Unity for Tana Association founder and secretary, Zelalem Shitahun expressed that the association has planned to conduct a research to resolve the problem sustainably.

It has been trying hard to recommence the weed eradication activities that had been undertaken in cooperation with Bahir Dar University, and other water development and protection agencies. However, Zelalem said that it requires a wide range of study on the removal mechanisms to safeguard the lake sustainably. Currently, a proposal is being prepared to conduct the study thereby the association has planned to cover the maximum amount the cost of the study. Given the significance of the lake to the society, removing the weed should get full attention from all parties as it requires a relentless effort to eradicate the hyacinth and sustainably preserve the lake and its ecosystem.

An integrated effort is needed to remove the weed once and for all, Ecohydrologist Wendosen elaborated that this include, manual, mechanical and biological methods which are using labor, machines, and insects. A scientific and strategic method can be also applied to eradicate the hyacinth through promoting the usage of the plant for various purposes such as animal feed, biofuel, charcoal, and compost among others. Water hyacinth was first introduced to Ethiopia in 1956 for ornamental purpose.

Ethiopia launches three agricultural...

system transformation.

Accordingly, the MoA launched a national food safety and quality strategy for primary agricultural products, postharvest management strategy and national nutrition sensitive agri-food system strategy.

Speaking at the occasion, MoA Minister Girma Amente (PhD) stated that the three strategies would catalyze Ethiopia's food system roadmap for a healthy and nutritious diet.

The minister further noted that sectoral problems are widespread in Ethiopia's agriculture that have been negatively impacting health, nutrition, inclusive growth, and the economy at large. In this regard, the strategies would provide a roadmap to make informed decisions, allocate resources, and increase success.

Those strategies are also aligned with Ethiopia's Homegrown Economic Reform, food system transformation pathway, food and nutrition policy, and the Ten-Year

Development Plan.

"Now, we must harness our collective knowledge and employ resourceful strategies and experiences to overcome the pressing challenges and to capitalize on opportunities along the food system value chain."

According to Girma (PhD), the launching of the three strategies is the opportunity for collaboration and collective efforts and they are instrumental to devise a roadmap to make informed decisions, allocate resources, and increase success.

Similarly, the strategies are at the center of Ethiopia's commitment to food and nutrition security as well as food sovereignty. In addition, they would have critical contributions to ensure food security, enhance health and improve economic welfare.

Ensuring food security remains a challenge and a pressing economic burden for low and middle-income countries and the strategies would play a significant role in Ethiopia's aspiration to food sovereignty, he emphasized.

College graduates 300 health...

schemes. Similarly, 22 male and 16 female professionals received post-graduate degrees.

Congratulating the health professionals, Addis Ababa City Administration Education Bureau Head and College Board Chairperson Zelalem Mulatu (PhD) said that their graduation is a significant milestone and springboard to transforming the health sector and making productive citizens.

According to Zelalem (PhD), this day would also be the prime step to the graduates to draw a deep enthusiasm to serve and discharge their personal and national responsibilities. "Given the volatility of the universe, Ethiopia highly needs qualified and committed professionals in the health sector to expedite its inclusive development endeavors."

He added, "Medication is not merely a science but also it is wisdom and the graduates are expected to serve the community irrespective of gender, ethnic and other discriminatory parameters."

Addis Ababa Health Bureau Deputy Head Hangatu Mohammed for her part noted that the city administration has been paying due attention and follow-up to help realize the college's mission.

Expressing the bureau's firm commitment to strengthen the city's health service delivery, Hangatu urged the new graduates to work with a strong dedication to contribute

their share to transform Ethiopia's health sector.

The bureau along with other concerned health institutions has been implementing various strategic plans, policy development framework and organizing equitable resource sharing to provide accessible services for all and meeting the community's health demands.

"We firmly believe that the candidate graduates will solve the gaps witnessed in the health sector by creating innovative ideas and leveraging the opportunities and bringing about remarkable change in the sector," she elaborated.

Menelik II Medical and Health Science College CEO Alemu Daniel said that the institution has been producing qualified health professionals in various fields and meaningfully contributing to the metropolis and the country at large since its establishment.

Equipped with a skilled labor force at all levels, the college has been offering quality health services to all and leaving legacies towards ensuring national prosperity. Also, it has been providing theoretical and practical training, research and community-based services and among others, Alemu remarked.

It is also indicated that the college is aspiring to become Ethiopia's leading university college in health care teaching, research and project initiatives by 2026.

Citizen-oriented diplomacy...

his personal intent to search for a job in his own country-Ethiopia and became enthusiast to rebuild his life.

The experience of Ethiopian migrants in Saudi Arabia has not gone unnoticed by the Ethiopian government. Efforts to repatriate undocumented migrants have been underway, with 842 individuals returning on the first day of repatriation flights. The government in collaboration with regional states and NGOs, aims to repatriate all 70,000 identified undocumented migrants

within four months. Moreover, initiatives to rehabilitate and support returning migrants are being prioritized to facilitate their reintegration into the society, according to Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA).

MoFA's Spokesperson, Nebiyu Tedla said that more flights are scheduled to repatriate detained migrants. The national committee for repatriating undocumented migrant citizens, having 16 member institutions will also continue discussions with Saudi officials. Ethiopian

diplomatic mission in Saudi Arabia is leading the effort to bring all undocumented and jailed migrants back, he highlighted.

Despite this status quo, the number of Ethiopian migrants continues to grow each year. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Ethiopia's yearly report for 2023, approximately five million Ethiopian citizens reside in foreign countries, yet the exact number of illegal migrants remains unclear. This underscores the complexity of the issue and the

need for comprehensive solutions, according to the report.

It is akin to Ethiopian refugees' situation in Saudi Arabia, migration affects millions of individuals worldwide, with an estimated 281 million people living outside their birth countries. Among them, 30.5 million are classified as refugees, highlighting the urgency of addressing migration issues on a global scale, IOM official who asked to remain anonymous told The Ethiopian Herald.

Opinion

Time for fixing perpetual peace

BY MENGESHA AMARE

No one can argue against the principle that no peace no life, as opposed to the maxim pronounced by conflict entrepreneurs, no conflict no life. What a paradox scenario people across the globe have been exercising! Unequivocally, peace knows no boundary as all living things let alone human race in the universe must have peace and stable environment. Yes, peace and security has become a life blood of human beings in particular. Leading a harmonious way of life, being productive enough in all sorts of engagements, bearing children and perpetuating human genealogy, creating a big and competent nation and so forth require peace, at least relative one since absolute peace and serenity is an ideal concept.

All these aspects have to channel through a peaceful and tranquil setting so as to provide citizens of a given nation with preferable normalcy and to help them resist substantial risks that can be posed to human safety and survival.

As far as securing peace and serenity is concerned, Ethiopia has to make a long trek though there are efforts being undertaken to ensure peace across the nation. The peace effort in the nation has to be exerted towards getting the root causes and structural factors of conflicts and disagreements dried for good by identifying the cardinal causes and ensuring safety and resilience conditions that reduce deficits in nation building, peace building, and risks to aggression and ambivalence.

The country has to place greater emphasis on peaceful coexistence and inclusive and comprehensive dialog for nothing could be beyond the mind set of people, and even all the evil and blessings all the time emanate from human mind. Such an invaluable means is undeniably of paramount importance in fostering positive peace approaches to conflict transformation and bring fighters to the normal course of running national activities. Peace issues in Ethiopia have to be scrupulously handled and well nurtured, especially these days, and pulling citizens acting out of the track has to come to the forefront.

Since the country had lost, an adjoining memory of course, millions and billions of Dollars during the northern conflict apart from claiming the lives of many beloved, the conflicts occur at this moment have to quit somewhere, at some point, of course, following, the responsibility of the government and other parties thinking that they are working for the sake of the generation.

The very thing that has to be taken into account in this regard is that Ethiopia and Ethiopians have well known the repercussions of conflict, disagreements,

ethnic clashes and/or other calculatingly or unknowingly orchestrated ill-intended missions. Hence, the nation should device all possible mechanisms to come up with lasting peace and sustainable progress. In such a way, it would be possible to ensure the required tranquility and stability via working towards fastening perpetual peace.

Besides, since Ethiopia has well recognized and known the magnitude lack of peace and lawlessness incurs more than any nation else in Africa or in the globe, it has to firmly declare enough is enough! No one benefits out of conflict, disagreement and turmoil. If there are even grudges, rivalries, grievance and resentment, it is quite better to solve them by closely talking, identifying root causes, persuading one another and devising lasting peace. This is quite easy if integrity is there. So long as the government, armed groups especially in Amhara and Oromia regional states, other elements in one way or another compromising the smooth flow of administration activities and the likes are working for the same nation, expressly or tacitly understood, all have to come to round table discussions and close talks to create a prosperous nation together.

It can be argued that peace and peaceful coexistence is a highly valuable discipline in the twenty-first century by acknowledging a wider global security agenda, placing the security of the individual on a par with that of the country. Encompassing more than just physical violence, but rather taking into account climate change, poverty, and financial inequality, to name but a few, peace and security issues have to well capitalized on.

Strictly, as Ethiopia won't afford bankruptcy any more, everybody shall condemn conflict and intermittent skirmishes. As it is repeatedly heralded, no one can come and act accordingly to ensure peace and security in Ethiopia other than its citizens, quite undeniably. The peace and security can be restored via holding close talks, carrying out common peace projects and organizing amicable dialogue.

It is well remembered that the government was wholly supported by many parties when it fought with elements, who declared war to dismantle Ethiopia even going up hell, during the conflict in its northern part. Frankly speaking, no party, warrior of fighter, is engaged in a war-ridden scenario for destruction, but with a mission to avoid some disparities and irregularity for the sake of citizens, Ethiopians in aggregate. No matter how severe their issue is and no matter what their agenda are, too, all parties here and there are Ethiopians. Hence, taking appropriate measures centering peaceful talk needs to be reinvigorated as all citizens including all parties, be they are armed ones, contending political parties

or others working towards having peaceful and stable Ethiopia, have capacity and willingness to deal with all disagreements, skirmishes and other activities which have a negative impact on peace and placidity.

It is advisable to stop conflicting as upheaval has been causing serious economic, social and humanitarian damage across the nation peculiarly in the northern part. Since lack of peace has quickly become a security predicament, immediate solution needs to be devised.

Though the state of emergency helps control illegal activities, it could not be a viable means to help the nation come up with lasting solutions.

As Ethiopia, which was once synonymous with famine, has made a remarkable stride in slashing poverty and declaring economic sovereignty, its positive stride is instrumental in pushing the country steps forward and has to be coupled with peace and security, no doubt.

The progress and stability should not be in a state of peril due to recurrent conflicts in various parts instead every ounce of peace has to be nurtured and well taken care of thereby coming up with stable nation and economically muscled regional states.

The government has to genuinely consider other's point of view and reservations to device lasting solutions across the nation as Ethiopia could hardly afford conflicts and their negative repercussions henceforth. It cannot be ready to bear such a devastating scenario anymore, too.

Notably, no one benefits out of destruction except conflict entrepreneurs and those who have been doing so far not to see prosperous Ethiopia. So long as Ethiopia is a great nation accommodating all citizens, including the government and fighting groups, have to quickly discharge their respective responsibilities to build lasting peace.

Not only does close talk validate other's viewpoint but it also soothes the tension created between/among parties with different interest groups. In so doing, it would be easy to help citizens breathe a sigh of relief and come to normalcy.

Ethiopians have to solve conflicts, disagreements and enmities in a way full of civility instead of employing military muscle. Basically, the effort to ensure lasting peace in the country should not be left only to either the government, bodies with queries, as it highly requires the combined effort of all. Here, religious fathers, opinion leaders, civic society organizations and even the public at large do have a role to play along this line. As upholding peace and security is not a linear path, every citizen is duty bound to act upon and end conflict.

All Ethiopians' contributions to peace and security mostly take a critical stance by pinpointing the gap observed among/ between each/one another centering the youth.

However, critical approaches to the traditional five approaches suggested a relatively new, community-based practice that may help to better understand the complex political, psychological and economic situation in local terms to enhance the efficiency of reintegration of former combatants and make them socially and politically represented after conflicts end.

With this in mind, it is important to assess the value of peace and the effort that helps ensure the former. Providing an aphoristic theme to the reasons behind the increasing focus on peace in the modern era, Ethiopia has to come up with peace and serenity.

Without a shadow of doubt, one of the most important tasks for humanity in the new millennium is to learn how to handle individual, social and national or international discord in a more constructive, realizable and peaceful way.

Through understanding the nature of human conflicts and the reasons behind them, Ethiopia, not limited to, should exert effort to come up with not only peaceful resolutions to the clashes and skirmishes or disagreements, but also to redefine and determine a positive conception of peace as a condition which can be worked towards, as both a process and an ultimate goal.

With the origins of thinking about peace rooted in the minds of all citizens, religious traditions, political parties, armed groups, elements which have not yet been satisfied with the incumbent administration etc. have to develop peace mentality over diabolic spirit thereby creating a peaceful nation. Yes, perpetual peace can be regarded as the origins of innovative proposal for promoting enduring peace and stability.

A nation is not a possession. It is a society of men and or women whom no one other than the nation itself can command or dispose of. By searching for non-violent, peaceful ways of settling disputes and mitigating actual violence or preventing potential violence, Ethiopians can ensure lasting peace, indeed! Yes, working towards peace and security should be given a much wider place to provide all citizens with a peaceful and calm nation comfortable to live and work in.

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

Business & Economy

AfCFTA's transformative influence on poverty reduction, continental growth

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

It goes without saying that the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) plays a great role in transforming the African economies towards greater utilization of technology, knowledge that assist the progress of capital flows to African countries. This process brings into being employment opportunities in the region.

It goes without saying that the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) plays a great role in transforming African economies towards greater utilization of technology and knowledge that assist the progress of capital flows to African countries. This process brings employment opportunities to the region.

To this point, Ethiopia has made strides in creating and encouraging micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises by providing finance and space.

On the subject of the issue, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) Macroeconomics and Governance Division Director Adam Elhiraika recently said that AfCFTA will provide huge opportunities for expanding and diversifying exports and imports on the continent. The AfCFTA is the world's largest free trade area, with 55 signatory countries and eight Regional Economic Communities (RECs), according to information obtained from local media.

The director stressed the need to increase not just the value of exports but also the quality of exports. "We should add value to our primary commodities and try to produce as much as the goods we import domestically."

So, industrialization and value addition efforts should be enhanced, and there is also a need to look at the regional markets in Africa, as there are a lot of opportunities to increase trade regionally.

It is crucial to ensure that the private sector fully understands the objectives of AfCFTA and its future negotiations. The private sector should know the components of the agreement and the rounds of negotiations that follow. It should ensure that it has a voice in the operationalization of the agreement by African governments. The private sector needs to be fully aware of the issues, benefits, and opportunities and the role it plays in the process.

The expected benefits of AfCFTA are significant. The target market in Africa is projected to increase in size with an increase in population. A middle class is also expected to increase in size. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will also increase with improved performance in the agriculture, manufacturing, and services industries.

Purchasing power in terms of investment and consumer spending will also rise. This situation provides African businesses with the opportunity to implement forward-looking business plans that maximize the benefits of AfCFTA. This helps them integrate regionally and globally.

According to the press release sent in recent



Towards One African Market

times to *The Ethiopian Herald* by the African Capacity Building Foundation, the training, which is designed explicitly for African Ambassadors and diplomats currently posted at Permanent Missions to the African Union, aims at enhancing their understanding of AfCFTA and equipping them with the knowledge and skills to accelerate its implementation effectively.

It would also generate valuable insights and policy recommendations that can drive the African Continental Free Trade Area forward, significantly increasing intra-African trade and improving regional integration. Moreover, enhancing economic growth, job creation, and providing better livelihoods for the continent's people are among the major impacts that the training would highlight.

By engaging African ambassadors and diplomats, this training provides the perfect opportunity to promote collaboration among member states and enhance the coordination required to speed up the implementation of the AfCFTA.

Thus, governments are encouraged to take advantage of the AfCFTA to promote inclusive and structural transformation in African countries to increase the volume of intra-African trade, as stated.

Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration (MoTRI) announced that Ethiopia is finalizing preparations to penetrate Africa's free trade area through fulfilling conditions and signing agreements.

Ministry's International Relations Expert, Tesfaye Tadesse told *The Ethiopian Herald* that Ethiopia has submitted the document to the secretariat of the African Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA) and is carrying out the rest of the technical work to delve into the continental market shortly.

As to Tesfaye, awareness is being created among all business communities, manufacturers, research institutions, and other stakeholders in a way that they can make the necessary preparations to be competent as required by the Continental Free Trade Zone system.

"Though establishing common customs is part of the framework of the Continental Free Trade Area Agreement, but it has not yet been implemented," he said.

He noted that Ethiopia has so far signed 20 bilateral trade agreements, three border trade agreements, and several commercial cooperation documents.

Among these accords, three are special trade agreements, and the others are trade cooperation agreements with Sudan, South Sudan, and Kenya. The agreement allows taking measures to help expand and grow trade, he stated.

As to him, neighboring countries such as Somalia, Djibouti, Sudan, and Kenya were Ethiopia's major foreign trade partners between 2018 and 2022 as the country exported fruits and vegetables, coffee, and livestock while importing edible oil, fuel, rice, spare parts, and stationery items from these nations.

Apart from the neighboring countries, Tesfaye noted that China has also given a free market opportunity to developing countries including Ethiopia. The China-Ethiopia trade and bilateral economic cooperation has seen a remarkable growth during the past three decades.

The two countries have made a 4.22 billion USD average trade transactions from 2018 to 2022. Of this, Ethiopia exported 135 million USD while importing a 4.1 billion USD products, he said, adding that China is the best destination of Ethiopian products such as oil seeds, quality cotton thread and the likes.

Likewise, the European Union (EU) has given developing countries the opportunity to import using "Everything but Arms" duty-free market mechanism. However, it is observed that the products of many developing countries, including Ethiopia, face many challenges in meeting the quality standards and requirements of EU member countries which makes it difficult to the developing countries to utilize the chance, he indicated.

Facilitating the operation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is instrumental to foster economic integration and build lasting peace in the Horn of Africa (HoA), the Ministry of Peace (MoP) said.

The Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) in collaboration with the MoP and Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP) held a panel discussion on regional peace and stability matters.

Speaking at the occasion, the MoP Minister, Binalf Andualem, recently stated that Ethiopia has a huge responsibility to ensure enduring peace and stability as well as to foster economic integration in the Horn of Africa (HoA). In this regard, facilitating the operation of the AfCFTA would expedite efforts that aim to build solid peace and economic interconnectedness in the region and the entire continent at large.

Ethiopia is committed to the realization of economic integration vision and its Foreign Policy gives equal weight to neighbor's peace to its internal stability and this principle is the root cause for the country's huge involvement in peace-enforcing missions in the Horn of Africa. Ethiopia also believes that the trade supply-chain among countries should be supported by proclamation and other legal frameworks, Binalf elaborated.

According to him, having considered its huge responsibility in the HoA, Ethiopia should focus on activities that foster regional economic integration and stability through consultation, cooperation, discussion and others. The country should also devise mechanisms to overcome challenges that have been posed by lack of peace and conflict in the strategic region.

Regarding the issue, the Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce and Sectorial Associations (AACCSA) Secretary General, Shibeshi Betemariam told local media that the country ought to formulate economic policies compatible to the protocols of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), in order to enhance the full utilization of the continental integrated market.

"Countries like Kenya and Rwanda design their policies and strategies guided by their Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Ethiopia has also designed its policies in response to SDGs but what remains is taking the AfCFTA protocol such as protocol of trades on goods, services and investment into account," he underscored.

With regard to digital transaction, he indicated that the government has formulated Digital Ethiopia 2025 which aimed at integrating states, creating efficiency and convenience and linking Ethiopia's economy with neighboring countries.

Furthermore, the Secretary General said that it would have great impact on global value chain in allowing cross border market linkage not only in between neighboring countries but also across the globe. Emphasizing that being producer is not mandatory to engage in digital transaction, creating platform would serve the nation hugely. To this end, he indicated that there are emerging platforms such as Ride, delivery, digital health and other services.

Planet Earth

Farmers in Central Ethiopian State boosting wheat production using irrigation

BY FIKADU BELAY

The summer irrigation wheat program in Ethiopia is an important agricultural initiative aimed at increasing wheat production during the summer season. Ethiopia's predominantly rain-fed agriculture faces challenges in meeting the growing demand for wheat due to limited rainfall and unpredictable weather patterns.

Frequent droughts and erratic rainfall patterns due to climate change significantly impact agricultural productivity, leading to crop failures and food shortages. Limited access to modern farming technologies and inadequate infrastructure further exacerbates the vulnerability of small-scale farmers. Additionally, high population growth rates, limited employment opportunities, and low agricultural productivity contribute to persistent poverty and food insecurity.

To address the challenges of food insecurity, the Ethiopian government has implemented the summer irrigated wheat program, which has emerged as a transformative initiative in the agricultural sector. Introduced three years ago at the national level, this program aims to diversify and enhance crop production by promoting the cultivation of wheat during the summer season through irrigation.

Traditionally, wheat production in Ethiopia heavily relied on the rainy season, but the summer irrigated wheat program has opened up new possibilities. By utilizing underground water sources, farmers are now able to cultivate wheat during the dry season, thereby increasing productivity and reducing dependence on rainfall.

The program has been particularly beneficial to the country. Dinku Werede, a resident of the Jole-sosit kebele in Meskan Wereda, has long been dependent on the regular rainy season for its farmers to sustain their livelihoods through tomato production. However, a new initiative has recently brought about a significant change in the agriculture practices in the region.

Previously focused solely on growing tomatoes, the national government launched the summer irrigated wheat program, and Dinku heeded the recommendation of the Wereda agriculture bureau and embarked on the production of irrigated wheat using underground water for the first time.

After taking the recommendation of the Wereda Agriculture Bureau, Dinku has dedicated five hectares of his land to this new endeavor. With this shift, he anticipates a yield of 48 quintals per hectare.

In order to achieve this summer irrigation wheat, the bureau has been providing valuable support to me and other farmers in the area. This assistance includes the provision of fertilizers, various crop protection drugs, and other agriculture inputs. Moreover, agronomists have actively engaged with the community, conducting awareness sessions to disseminate knowledge and best practices related to wheat production under summer irrigation, he said.

Deputy Head of the Woreda Agriculture Bureau, Jebir Jemal, told the Ethiopian Press



Agency that Dinku is not the only farmer in Meskan Wereda to have been utilizing underground water resources to engage in large-scale summer irrigated wheat production on an annual basis. Many others have also succeeded in the same practice.

This year, approximately 331 hectares of land have been dedicated to producing wheat through summer irrigation, marking a significant expansion in comparison to previous years. He stated that their goal was to cultivate 66 percent of the planned irrigation land, indicating their ambition to maximize productivity in the region. To achieve this, the bureau head and agronomists have been actively organizing farmers into clusters, promoting cooperation and efficient resource allocation among them.

This shift towards summer irrigated wheat production not only enhances food security but also contributes to the economic development of the country. This program empowers farmers to maximize their land potential and improve their livelihoods, ultimately fostering sustainable agricultural practices across the country.

Additionally, the summer irrigation wheat program provides employment opportunities for rural communities, particularly during the dry season when agricultural activities are limited. It contributes to poverty reduction and rural development by creating income-generating activities and improving livelihoods.

One of the remarkable outcomes of this summer irrigation initiative has been the creation of numerous jobs for the locality. He mentioned that about 1,031 farmers from the Meskan Wereda are actively involved in the summer irrigation wheat production. This not only contributes to the economic well-being of these individuals but also helps to address unemployment issues in the region, as Jebir mentioned.

He further emphasized that the benefits of this agricultural endeavor extend beyond the local community. In addition to ensuring food security within the locality, the surplus wheat production has opened up opportunities for exporting to foreign countries. For these achievements, the Wereda Agriculture Bureau, in collaboration with agricultural experts, is

working diligently to provide the necessary agricultural inputs to support the farmers in their endeavors.

“Our objective is to ensure efficient distribution of this vital resource among the farming community” said Usman Surur, the Deputy Governor of the Central Ethiopian State, Coordinator of the Rural Development Cluster, and Head of the Regional Agriculture Office.

“We also want to support farmers in their agricultural endeavors and promote sustainable practices that contribute to the overall growth and productivity of the agricultural sector in a country” he added.

He noted that adequate soil fertilizer has been bought and distributed this year since the state administration was able to work particularly hard to address the issue of soil fertilizer availability and seasonality last year. In a significant boost to agricultural productivity, the Central Ethiopian State is controlling over approximately 55 percent of the initially allocated soil fertilizer provided by the federal government for the autumn season, he said.

To enhance accessibility and equity, Usman emphasized that soil fertilizers are exclusively distributed through unions with all concerned parties. This approach aims to empower farmers and improve their access to essential agricultural inputs. It is beneficial that no external organizations in general outside of the unions are authorized to supply soil fertilizers within the region, strengthening the cooperative system, he noted.

He further stated that, in a strong stance against illegal practices, the state government has taken decisive action against authorities, professionals, dealers, and unlicensed brokers involved in illicit activities related to the distribution of fertilizer for agricultural purposes. This proactive measure aims to safeguard the interests of farmers and promote fair and transparent practices in the agricultural sector, he said.

He noted that Ethiopia demonstrates its dedication to agricultural growth and the wellbeing of its farming community by distributing soil fertilizer fairly and cooperating with government attempts to combat illegal dealers and other operation

parties. Moreover, utilizing more access to soil fertilizers and other agriculture nutrients will enable farmers in the region to boost their yields and improve the food security across the country, he remarked.

Public Relations and Communication Executive with the Ministry of Agriculture, Kebede Lakew, stated in his part that the Ministry has collected more than 58.5 million quintals of wheat from this summer season irrigation work while the harvesting is still underway.

As to him, the nation has cultivated close to 3 million hectares of land to collect 120 million quintals of wheat during the summer irrigation works.

“Summer wheat irrigation has been playing a significant role in boosting production and productivity and helping to improve the food system. At present, the nation has created an enabling environment to cover the necessary wheat demand by itself,” he added.

Kebede further stated that the country is on the right track to produce adequate wheat, both for export and domestic consumption, and that the country is striving to ensure food security through major agricultural activities.

“Government leaders and experts are working hand-in-hand to realize the expected result from the summer wheat irrigation,” he noted. Also, it was to be recalled that the summer irrigation wheat production is initiated by the reformist government, and it brings an appreciable outcome, especially the country's aspiration to realize food sovereignty.

Furthermore, the program promotes the adoption of modern agricultural practices and technologies, such as efficient irrigation systems and improved seed varieties. It encourages farmers to adopt sustainable farming practices, including water conservation and soil management techniques.

Overall, the summer irrigation wheat program in Ethiopia plays a crucial role in boosting wheat production, ensuring food security, and advancing rural development. By harnessing water resources effectively and promoting sustainable agricultural practices, Ethiopia aims to achieve self-sufficiency in wheat production and improve the livelihoods of its farmers.

Art & Culture

Inequalities of all shades

BY ALEM G/KRISTOS

Though in dexterity my physically challenged carpenter father,
Than the physically fit proves better, as a source to his anger,
With contemporaries a level ground he enjoyed never!

From late childhood there was one thing that me used to bother, why my so discriminated father
On his turn true to cultural dictates, ill-treats my domestic chores saddled mother
And heeds not her say though by the sweat of their brow
As responsible parents they were happily bringing my sister and I together?

I still wonder why ,why ,why my sister who has IQ
On par with me if not better, to help out mother
Suffering a cold shoulder even by her mom was denied the right to pursue education



further
While I was given a chance to prove a man of letter(s)?
I remember, crossing many a pool, barefooted, I used to trek
A long distance to a nearby town's a school,

Where for my provincial and shabby clothes I was seen a fool
By the relatively rich in showing courtesy far from cool.
Though stationery they didn't lack , sad, I had a hand tied behind my back.

Alas, up on joining campus where I yearned for the sagacious a chance
There too in my class, I was looked down by students
Hailing from families of the top brass.

When I went abroad for a higher education enjoying fellowship and donation
Worse still, I met many, color has colored whose vision.
Ironically my dissertation was drawing attention
To why should the broad mass be standers by
And with ill-fate marked die
While the favored , racist and the corrupt few gobble over 3/4 of the pie?

Discrimination based on disability, gender (Husband and wife, son and daughter), towners and provincial lads, the haves and have nots, the colored and others wise and inequitable distribution wealth. I need your feedback. I prepared this poem as per OXFAM ideals on inequality.

Fortunately, it resuscitates

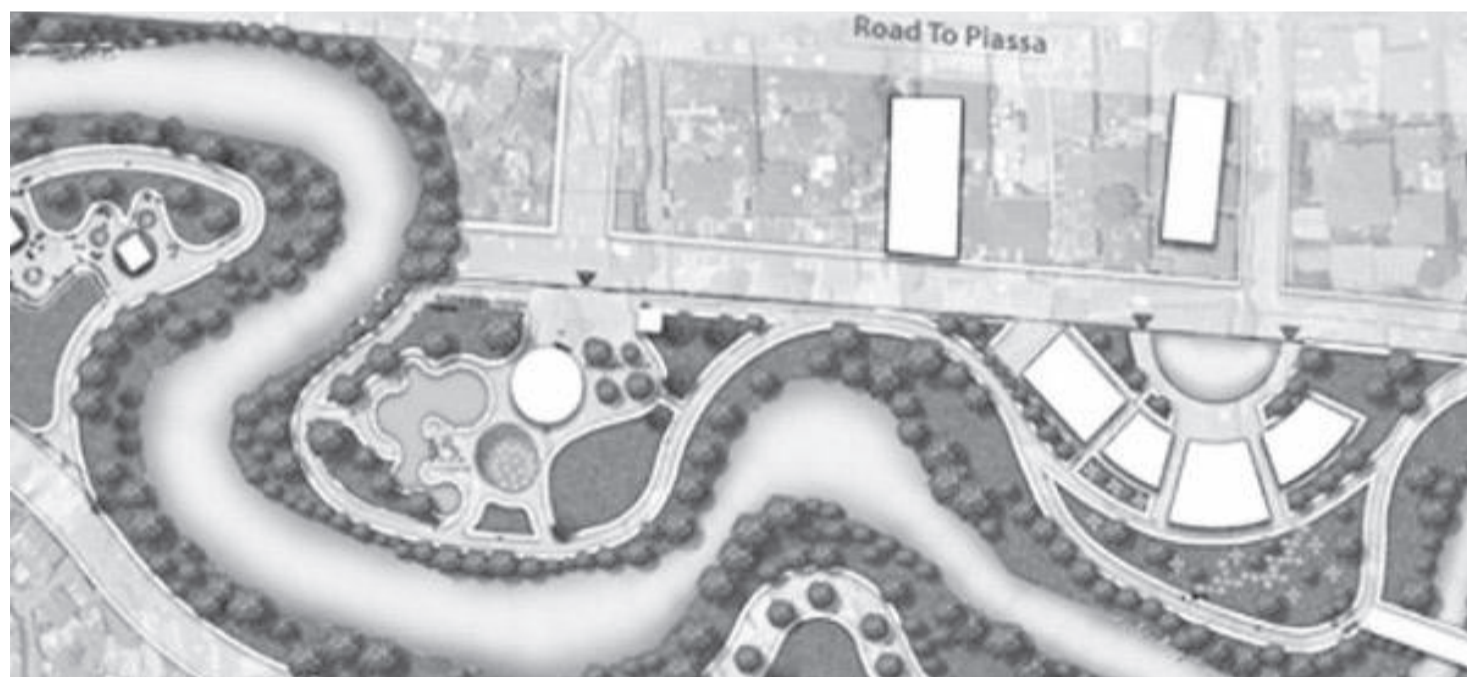
BY ALEM G/KRISTOS

*As mother nature's
Punitive measure
Against a society
In maintaining
The statuesque
That doesn't bother,
Our rivers
Had become subject
To a water thirst,
To the extent
Of projecting
Rocky ribs
Terrifyingly protruded out
For easy count!*

*But now thanks to
The all-out, terrace making
And reforestation effort
Of each catchment
Farmers have made a point
And also to the afforestation
Move of the government
Rivers aside from quenching
Their insatiable thirst
Have resumed
To brim over
With floods
Drinking water
To their hearts' content.*

*Our forests once stripped of
Their wooded cover
Have started, fast, to recover
From afar they are seen
Robed eye-catching green
From a fry-pan sky
Allowing a shelter
Also busy
Carbon to sequester.*

*Wild animals
That migrated
Have preferred*



*Back their way to find.
Now farmers don't have
Deep to dig
To sink a water well
Or find a nearby spring.
Birds are heard chirruping
Be it winter, summer or spring,
While Brooks bubbling.*

*Buzzing and hovering
From this to that flower
Bees are producing
Organic honey by the hour.
Promising a bumper harvest
Farmer's plots have
Fortunately continued
To resuscitate!
Those leaving
Their denuded abode behind
Away, who preferred*

*To stay
'We will return back
home soon! '
Is what
They say.
Happily enough
Mother nature
Affords us a second chance
Imbued with
Environment stewardship
If we are willing to mend
Our wrong 'Feast today
famine tomorrow! stance.*

*To dispel the spectre
Of climate change
And systematically face
The global challenge
True to the adage
'We have either to
swim together
or sink together!*

*Hence in fighting the challenge
Or adapting to the change
Back scratching,
We have to be on the same page.*

*Indeed, irrigation must
Not slip our mind
For erratic rainfall
A lasting solution
If we must find.*

Once a famous Ethiopian Poet Pro.Debebe Seifu Who had passed away had penned down a picturesque poem lamenting the land degradation, deforestation and change of climate the country was suffering. The bad scenario seemed unrecoverable. Now a days Ethiopia is reversing that sad episode. I have therefore to write a poem on this
#change #trees #erosion #climate #deforestation #enviroment #degeradation #desertification.

Society

Towards garnering women's development contribution

BY MENGESHA AMARE

It is quite obvious that educated women and girls would play a paramount role in fostering sustainable development across the nation apart from employing men's capacity and educational qualification so the saying goes, "a single-handed clap gives no sound."

Having in mind the decisive role of women and girls education in mind, *The Ethiopian Herald* approached Samrawit Multeta, a gender expert, to solicit professional information about women's development role.

She said, "Raising the education levels and literacy rates of women is one of the most effective investments for increasing female productivity on top of enhancing the well-being of families. In developing countries like ours, reducing gender inequality in literacy and in primary, secondary and management education is essential to reducing poverty and accelerating sustainable economic development."

True, as to her, girls now tend to do better at school than boys in almost civilized areas. The gender differential is particularly large in educationally backward, traditionally captured and under developed localities of the developing world. Educated women provide plan-document to be used for physical development of the human habitat. Therefore, the presence of educated women is needed to play as a system for environmental development furthermore sustainable development. The socioeconomic impact of female education constitutes a significant area of research within international development. An increase in the amount of female education in various nations tends to correlate with high levels of development. Some of the effects are related to economic development.

She said, "Generally boys and girls assume different gender roles, and that, compared with single-sex schools, mixed comprehensives provide more opportunities for children and teenagers to understand gender identity and related modes of thinking, which will help naturalize communications between the sexes.

"Education is the greatest advantage citizens can share with the next generation. It is known that educating young women offers them the chance to be self-sufficient, create an income stream, be a positive part of their community, a greater benefit to their families and an inspiration for their future children," she said.

The women's perspective be taken as the reference point for evaluating the effectiveness of educational policies, programs and projects. Empowerment



through education is ideally seen as a continuous holistic process with cognitive, psychological, economic and political dimensions in order to achieve emancipation. Given the complexity of political, societal and international interrelations, one has to systematically think about the strategies and concrete proposals for future action if one hopes to achieve such a goal.

Typically, the gender gap between the education levels of boys and girls and not simply the level of women's education. This helps to distinguish the specific effects of women's education from the benefits of education in general.

The most common way to measure economic development is to look at changes in growth of GDP. The benefits of education to an individual can also be analyzed by finding the cost of education and the amount of income that would have been earned during years enrolled in school. In addition to total economic growth, women's education also increases the equitability of the distribution of wealth in a society. Increased women's education is important for achieving goals targeting empowering disadvantaged groups.

She further said that women's education leads to significant social development. Some of the most notable social benefits include decreased fertility rates and lower infant mortality rates, and lower maternal mortality rates. Closing the gender gap in education also increases gender equality, which is considered important both in itself and because it ensures equal rights and opportunities for people regardless of gender.

True, she said, educated women are more likely to engage in civic participation and attend political meetings, and there are several instances in which educated women in the developing world were able to secure benefits for themselves through political movements. Basically, investing in women's education has a higher overall return when

looking at all levels of education; through primary school investing in men has a higher rate of return.

In principle, she said education is considered as a significant instrument in improving the status of women. The policy makers have recognized that, apart from the corrective legislations lucrative employment, political rights, access to education for women is a crucial step in the direction of establishing gender equality.

"Education is a major instrument of social change because it has led the nation towards development. Here, development in the political, economic, social, educational, cultural and other dissensions of human life, but women's development should not only be viewed as an issue in social development. Education is the only tool which aims at making human beings honorable citizens than merely a virtuous and learned person. Empowerment of women for development is considered as the surest way of ensuring socio-economic progress," she said.

As to Samrawit, education is very essential for both gender which decides the social or cultural behaviors, decision making and mental grooming of an individual. Certain instances of education to women in developing countries like Ethiopia are denied due to gender inequality. Mental and physical barrier acts as the block to the development of women in such societies. Though women were given with high profile and portrayed theoretically, psychologically they are treated unequally by male and female in many societies. A country can develop and achieve its maximum only when all are given with equal priority and importance. Any development needs to start from its bottom. Still several measures need to be taken to endure girl child development.

She added that educating women is critical input for improving nutritional levels, rising the age of marriage, acceptance of family planning, improvement in self image and their empowerment. These factors would

help the women improve their status in the society. In order to improve the educational levels of women, several provisions have to be made, like the curricula at the school and college level should be revised to remove sex bias."

It is obvious that educated man and women are a key for sustainable development of the nation. Besides, raising the education levels, literacy rates of women is one of the most effective investments for increasing female productivity on top of enhancing the well-being of families. In Ethiopia, reducing gender inequality in literacy and in primary, secondary and management education is essential to reducing poverty and accelerating sustainable development. The educational gender gap in favor of women starts young in some of restricted areas.

She said, "Human capital development fosters technological innovation through cognitive skills and enhances labor earnings and productivity, which stimulates economic growth and development. Hence, there is a need for all nations to fortify their citizens educationally regardless of gender for sustainable growth and development."

She said mothers who are educated are more likely to educate their children and lesser cost incurred by environmental degradation therefore one has to make sure that women get equal share of benefit from the trends of education. In all trends of education, especially girl's education shows that girls have always been in disadvantageous position in terms of access to and success in education.

Women who fend for themselves or participate actively in economic activities considered for men are often times seen as odd. According to her, this cultural orientation creates an enabling environment for women to be marginalized and denied access to education.

True women are beginning to break barriers and significant proportions of them now enroll in schools and engage in economic activities. This could be because of some policies introduced to encourage women education.

In a nutshell, it is argued Ethiopia that more educated women often challenge their husbands and leave their responsibilities at home in the hands of help while participating in economic activities. Making sure all girls are finishing secondary education could boost the gross domestic product (GDP) of the country. As eradicating barriers to women and girls' education and development may hold the key to achieving many of Sustainable Development Goals, Ethiopia and other developing countries have to well capitalize on women and girls' education.

Law & Politics

Ethiopia's unwavering stand for regional integration amidst Sudan conflict

BY EYUEL KIFLU

The internal conflict in Sudan between two military generals has now been ongoing for approximately a year, with no fruitful discussions or agreements reached. Consequently, the influx of Sudanese fleeing from their homeland to neighboring countries has become unstoppable. According to the UN refugee agency, violent clashes erupted between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Sudan on April 15, 2023, resulted in the displacement of nearly 8 million people, including internally displaced people (IDPs), asylum seekers, and refugees. This conflict exacerbated many of Sudan's existing challenges, including ongoing conflicts, disease outbreaks, economic and political instability, and climate emergencies.

In addition to the devastating impacts of the war, the people of Sudan are also grappling with starvation, worsening their plight. However, instead of resolving their differences at the negotiation table, the two generals are engaged in a blame game, accusing each other.

Recently, the Abdel Fattah al-Burhan Administration banned pan-Arab media outlets in the country, accusing them of fueling up the problems. Surprisingly, regional and continental organizations such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the African Union (AU) have not brought the expected and tangible results in mediating the conflict and bringing about peace in the country. The lack of rigorous action from these organizations, which bear the responsibility and power to alleviate the rising tension in Khartoum, raises serious questions.

These organizations, especially the AU, have recently played a vital role in Ethiopia's war by mediating and facilitating the opportunity to bring the issue to the table. The effort of regional and continental organizations made agreement possible in Ethiopia's case and the two warring parties have reached an accord in Pretoria, South Africa. The move have achieved its objective in relation to silencing the guns in Africa and implementing the motto: solving African problems with African solutions. The lesson must be learned and exercised in Sudan's case, too.

Nevertheless, there have been some discussions aimed at finding a solution to the problem. It is also important to acknowledge that the Sudanese turmoil is not limited to Sudan alone; it has had repercussions on the entire region and its neighboring countries.

Yet, many of Khartoum's neighbors are hosting Sudanese refugees who have fled their country due to the conflict. Ethiopia, in particular, has taken in a significant number of Sudanese refugees, adding to the existing refugee population of approximately one million from various countries.



In a recent press release to *The Ethiopian Herald*, the Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) revealed that since mid-April 2023, over 20,000 Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers have crossed Ethiopia's border through Kurmuk, a town in western Ethiopia, in search of safety and stability. Ethiopia, working with partners, will continue to support and ease their lives.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi and Refugees and Returnees Service (RRS) Director General Teyiba Hassen led a group that visited the migrants and spoke with their representatives, highlighting the pressing issues. This time, RRS Director General Teyiba Hassen reaffirmed the determination of her organization to work tirelessly with partners to relocate the refugees and asylum seekers and quickly find a solution to the difficult situation.

"Seeing women and the elderly, especially children, suffer so much as a result of miscommunications between the parties to the fight back home is terrible. We have many things in common that go beyond just being neighbors, so our people and administration are determined to share what they have with the people of Sudan," she said.

For his part, UNHCR High Commissioner Filippo Grandi thanked Ethiopia for housing the migrants and voiced his organization's profound worry over the situation in Sudan. He also promised to use his commission's authority to support those in need.

"We are grateful to Ethiopia for setting a great example by accepting almost a million migrants and asylum seekers in spite of internal difficulties. Additionally, we appreciate the regional government providing property for our relocation, Filippo added.

These all demonstrate Ethiopia's commitment to an open-arm refugee policy and its efforts to bring the warring factions to the negotiation table.

Furthermore, Ethiopia's unwavering commitment to regional integration is evident in its provision of electric power to neighboring countries. Sudan, being one of

on Ethiopia's foreign currency reserves, the country has not halted its power exports to Sudan, even with 130 million dollars owed. However, the situation in Sudan has had a significant impact on Ethiopia's foreign currency reserves, as trade between the two countries has been disrupted.

Beyond Ethiopia's regional integration efforts, the country is tirelessly working to ensure peace and security for the people of Sudan. It is imperative that both regional and continental organizations pay attention to the Sudanese crisis and work towards tangible agreements to improve the well-being of the Sudanese people.

In the other part, Kidus Gezahagn, an African and Asian Affairs Researcher, emphasized the need for continental and regional organizations to renew their commitment to facilitate resolution mechanisms for the Sudanese Civil War. The conflict hinders the African Union's vision of regional integration, making it impossible to achieve while countries like Sudan suffer from civil war, resulting in immense destruction and loss of life.

Kidus also highlighted Sudan's strategic importance to the East African economy and the adverse effects of inflation and shortages on the Sudanese population, with nearly 40% of the people facing food shortages.

Given the economic implications and the disruption of trade, Ethiopia has called for a mutual consensus between Ethiopia and Sudan to address the problem directly, without third-party interference. The African Union's role in facilitating peace has been questioned, as it has failed to fulfill expectations as a continental body. Kidus argued that the global media's attention is currently focused on conflicts such as the Russo-Ukraine War and the War in Gaza, while the Sudanese war has been largely forgotten.

Ethiopia, with its potential to mobilize continental and international organizations, still has the opportunity to reinstate the agenda and seek a resolution to the complex situation in Sudan. However, it is crucial for neighboring countries to recognize that the instability in Sudan must primarily be resolved through the efforts of the Sudanese themselves, he added.

It is worth noting that Ethiopia and Sudan have a longstanding diplomatic relationship, as well as strong people-to-people ties and cooperation in various sectors, including security matters. Their collaboration in combating terrorism and cross-border crime is considered essential to addressing shared security challenges.

Overall, the ongoing internal conflict in Sudan requires urgent regional intervention to bring about peace and stability. Regional organizations, such as IGAD and the AU, must play a more active role in facilitating negotiations and finding a resolution to the crisis. Only through collective efforts can the vision of regional integration and development be realized, benefiting all countries in the region.

Ethiopia, with its potential to mobilize continental and international organizations, still has the opportunity to reinstate the agenda and seek a resolution to the complex situation in Sudan

the recipients of Ethiopia's electric power exports, has faced challenges in meeting its payment obligations. Despite this, Ethiopia still continues to export electricity to Sudan even though the outstanding debt amounts over 130 million dollars. Due to technical limitations, the current power capacity received by Sudan is only around 80 megawatts per day, compared to the pre-conflict import of 200 megawatts per day.

Ashebir Balcha, Director General of Ethiopian Electric Power, revealed that Sudan has not paid for its electric power service for almost two years. Yet, Ethiopia has refrained from cutting off the power supply, demonstrating its commitment to regional integration and support for its neighbor during these challenging times. Ashebir emphasized that, despite the strain



Ephrem Endale
Contributor

Between you & me

SOS! – “Save Our Souls”

There seem to be too many secrets these days. So many that if someone distributed them most us we'd have more than we can carry around. (Yes, I'm taking it a little overboard, am I not? Don't blame me! Few things if any are described as they actually are inch for inch. A little 'stretching' here; a little 'fattening' there; a little more 'noisy' here' and there; unfortunately, that's a how the world works these days. Speaking the truth as it is and as it should be seems to be an outdated notion and it probably wouldn't get you the applause your more innocent genes would have expected. Few would say, "Poor guy. I feel sorry for him because he is so out of the world and thousands of miles away from reality!" Reality being that this world of ours, this world we're pummeling so viciously that since sometime back it has been difficult to recognize; ("Don't tell me this is the same place we've spent most of our lives in!") this world which by the day and by the hour is taking such unexpected, and sometimes worrying, detours towards even more unwelcome times; bending of the truth to satisfy specific goals of individuals or groups, has become a world of exaggerations and rewrites of genuine stories changing entire storylines.

So spinning secrets from agendas which don't deserve a minute's attention seems to have become the norm. The goal here is to give whatever 'agenda' is scheduled to be presented some sort of a five-star status. The conventional wisdom, no one knows where it took such dimensions, seems to be that if it is a secret then it's important. Surely it'd

not fair to accuse of having pea brains for coming such conclusions. Yes, whether we like it or not attaching the concept 'important' to 'secret' is not isolated and notion only few people entertain. While the depths vary individually the majority of us are already in the waters wet and getting wetter. So despite repeatedly having been frustrated whenever someone says, "I've a big secret to tell you," our entire systems go into overdrive. Don't ask me why we're so eager to hear secrets be they personal and concerning individuals which we might know or are total strangers. I've no idea! If some person comes close to your ears and whispers, "I've a big secret to tell you," the immediate reaction would most probably be taking your ears closer the source. Of course that's not guarantee that your craving for secrets would be satisfied. No way! With the danger of some thinking "This guy is so pessimistic there must be something very wrong about him!" I can tell you that most of the time frustration is at the door; a slight push and yours would be another spoiled day.

"So what's the secret?" you ask eager to be blessed with fresh information many would never have the chance to hear.

"I'll tell you tomorrow," the guy responds. "Tomorrow! But how the hell do you think I'd pass all those hours after you promised to tell me a big secret!" your systems go head over heel within. Why didn't the wait until, tomorrow and told you then! I have a theory. Every soul these days having become sort of unintentional thriller buff creating those moments of suspense and longing is reason

enough to pat one's back; "That's my boy! You nailed it like even the Ludlum's of the world would find hard and difficult to emulate."

Anyways tomorrow comes and it's time for some real action. You can't wait first to find out what the 'the secret' is all about and then passing it over to those you consider are close to you with the warning, "This's a secret and don't tell it to anyone!" the melodrama about secrets in this nation of ours is that there are so many who are warned 'not to tell it to anyone,' that one could actually wonder who were the real 'any ones! So the eager you couldn't wait for the secret holder to come and tell you about the thing you have even be dreaming about without having the slightest idea what it might be!

Before even a proper, 'good mornings and 'how was your night?' sort of compulsory small talk launchers you shoot; "What was the secret you promised to tell me?"

"Oh, that secret! I almost forgot about it!" What! What the hell does that mean? How can he "forget about it" if it was as an important secret as he made it sound!

"Yes, that secret." Cool, and measured! After all, you have to be the nicest two-legged creature on earth since you have been 'singled out' to hear about an 'important secret.'

And the guy, without the slightest sign of being agitated tells you, "Have you heard the rumors that our boss is suspected of having an affair with that new girl at finance?" you wait for the juice o of the story and when it doesn't come you jokingly say, "I'm waiting." His

forehead is turned into a multi-fold piece of skin and flesh. "Waiting for what!"

"Of course for the main part of the story!"

"I just told you the whole secret!"

Can you imagine yourself in such a scenario? You'd think you are not going to deal with any 'secret' which comes from whoever. Even those who almost claim they sat down for cups of coffee with some angels of VIP status and even the Creator Himself

"We'll have a meeting tomorrow at four in the morning?"

"Meeting! About what?"

"You'd know at the meeting."

"No you tell me now so I can come prepared."

"You don't have to prepared or do anything like that."

"So, why are you not telling me what we'd be discussing about?"

"Because it's a bog secret." Aha! Then you'd be early so that you can find one of those front row seats."

Next morning no one beats you to the front row seat. After the usual opening theatrics some guy thanks the participants for turning up and goes directly into the issue of the day or 'The Secret!'

"Today we gather to talk about how we can keep our compound clean!" What! "Mayday; Mayday!" Most secrets these days are indeed so foolishly insane an SOS call wouldn't be out of place!

Yes; Save Our Souls!

Something is Wrong!

Much has been said about the perils of the social media which despite all its positive sides is marred with perils Especially our entertainment industry seems to be going through a transformation which, at least on the surface, seems to be changing a lot of things. Not that professional works on that particular industry are registering noticeable positive changes. But the narrative's surrounding the industry show signs of trying to emulate the entertainment industries of the west especially Hollywood. Yes, change is necessary and things have to be upgraded based on the general picture of the times internationally and the national scene which has a lot to catch up with much of the world far ahead from us. Of course when we talk about the necessity of change we're talking about positive changes which help the growth of the industry along with the upgrading the skills of the professionals. In recent years we have seen much technical improvement in the field of cinematic, music clips and the like. Of course much remains with the professionals in mastering those software and using and refining their own creative powers. Credit is due for the efforts already being witnessed but mastery comes with the urge and labor to hit the pinnacle of technical cinematic prowess.

That being said there are signs among the professionals with emerging practices which have nothing to do with cinematic knowledge or otherwise. Just look at the social media pictures of female actresses.

The way they dress seems to have gone through

a total transformation as the clothed parts of the body get narrower and the unclothed parts grow larger. Hmm... time to set a records two straight. Now I'm not the conservative type who still thinks any cloth which goes above the middle the calf is tantamount to blasphemy.

I try to watch transmissions of those red carpet events like the Oscars and the Grammys whenever I get the chance. Now those red carpet events aren't about the winners of the prizes or the once in a blue moon events like Will Smith's 'The Slap to End All Slaps!' (Though it's none of my business I think that particular event was blown beyond all proportions and seems to have taken political dimensions with Smith's haters going all the way to roast him alive publicly. The amount of efforts to make the fellow 'the baldest guy on the planet' sometimes tittered on utter insanity. Even after he apologized for is actions the hunt for his head took quite significant time to go to lower gears. After all, no one accuses Hollywood of being the sanctuary of the angels! But then as I said it's none of my business.)

Now for any close observer the red carpet changes when it comes to dressing up over the years are loud and clear. More skin and flesh is thee for the cameras and millions of pairs of eyes. I have to say a couple of words I don't use usually. The bra, the good old bra, is all but being discarded and you know what that means. These days of the social media you see Ethiopian actresses edging to the Hollywood lot by throwing away much fabric even the bra too! I told you this is not about me being primitive minded but there are

things which don't make many of us comfortable and someone has to say them.

And then there are the poses of the pictures. I mean there are poses and there are poses! It's as simple as that. No it isn't. My knowledge about photography is so irrelevant that if you ask me "How do you rate my pose in this picture? I look like another local George Clooney, don't I?" you'd be making a big mistake. I'd tell you my answer before you even a waste single word. "Not only George Clooney! You look like five Brad Pitt and. The moment Stephen Spielberg sees your picture a private jet would come for you." Why do I say that! What do you mean why do I say that? I'm being politically correct; that's why.

But despite me being not photo-friendly I can see some poses and conclude "Isn't this lady suggesting something else?"

"I mean isn't she suggesting something more than the design she's wearing?"

"No comment." Smart guy!

Look there are many rumors making the rounds when it comes to actresses. Of course there are also rumors about actors too. But then things are a little noisier when it comes to the actresses. After all, menfolk are still running much of the show! Some souls conclude that many of the unusual photos we see on the social media are about some sort of unannounced private competitions and given the tight times we're in you can't blame the young ladies. Well, that's open to some debate as it touches many aspects of life. Rumors, believe

me, will, always be there. But I would have liked the concerned parties in this story also take into consideration the public's feelings so that there would be fair and civilized discussions where all parties would end up winners. Now can you think of nicer climax to such sensitive stories! Again we wish to see our actors and actresses shoot up the professional ladder so that we'd join the rest of the world where our productions would be international material.

Speaking of celebrities there is this point I want to mention in passing. Funerals of celebrities have in recent years taken dramatic turns. They are no more simple events of friends, families and members of the villages Iddir seeing of the deceased and consoling the bereaved family for a few days. Now celebrity or no celebrity I believe that citizens who have dedicated their lives not only for their personal comforts but also for the wellbeing of society at large deserved decent send offs when they depart this world of ours. It would be the society's way of saying, "Thank you, for everything you have done for your community and may your soul rest in peace!"

In recent days celebrity funerals are becoming more about other show people. There seems to be this urge to use the opportunities for promotional purposes. You hear and read about which actors and actress wept the most; those who were silently suffering and the actual, stories about the departed are growing quieter and that's not nice at all!

Something is wrong over there; something is very wrong!

In Pictures

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

PM Abiy visits Rwanda, attends the 'Kwibuka30' commemoration

Last week, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) with his delegation visited Kigali, the capital of Rwanda for an official visit. During the visit, PM Abiy discussed with Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda.

During the time, PM Abiy attends the commemoration of 'Kwibuka30' and he said "Ethiopia stands with the people of Rwanda as they commemorate 'Kwibuka30.'"



1445th EID al-Fitr colorfully celebrated across Ethiopia

Ethiopian Muslims across the country colorfully celebrated the 1445th Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan on Wednesday. Muslims in large number gathered at Addis Ababa Stadium to celebrate the 1445th Eid al-Fitr. President of the Ethiopian Islamic Affairs Supreme Council Sheikh Haji Ibrahim and many other religious fathers, members of the diplomatic community and other invited guests attended the morning prayers.

Ethiopia starts repatriating Ethiopian worker migrants from Saudi Arabia

Ethiopia started repatriating undocumented Ethiopian migrants from Saudi Arabia. Following the discussion between the Governments of Ethiopia and Saudi Arabia to bring home over 70,000 Ethiopian worker migrants jailed in Saudi Arabia, the first returnees arrived in Addis Ababa this Friday.

During the first day, 842 Ethiopian migrants arrived home. Welcoming the returnees, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia Spokesperson, Nebiyu Tedla said that there will be 12 flights a week to repatriate over 70,000 Ethiopian migrants found in Saudi centers.



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AASTU'S laboratory: Quality services and collaboration hub

BY DIRRIBA TESHOME

Addis Ababa Science and Technology University (AASTU) has established a fully equipped Geology laboratory, underscoring its commitment to producing highly qualified graduates and supporting industries through cutting-edge research and knowledge-based services. AASTU recognizes the importance of providing quality laboratory services to students, researchers, and the industrial sector. With a focus on meeting international standards, AASTU is actively working towards obtaining ISO 1725:2017 certification for its laboratory services.

The Geology laboratory, a prominent facility within the university, boasts a comprehensive collection of minerals, rocks, and fossils from various locations nationally and internationally. Staffed with qualified professionals and equipped with state-of-the-art technology, the laboratory serves as a valuable resource for internal and external researchers, university students, and the industrial sector.



It is at the forefront of collaboration and knowledge exchange. Its commitment to extending its laboratory services to other institutions is evident in its dedication to facilitating practical learning experiences and sharing expertise. Notably, the College of Natural and Applied Sciences hosts a specialized geology laboratory that offers expert services to students from external institutions.

Students from the Geology Departments of JigJiga and Dire Dawa Universities visited the university's laboratory. This initiative allowed them to gain hands-on experience and enhance their theoretical knowledge. The visiting students expressed deep appreciation for the valuable lessons learned during their visit.

It goes beyond student-focused collaborations, actively offering laboratory

services to educational institutions, research centers, testing facilities, and other entities with specific laboratory needs. The university tailors its services to meet the unique requirements of each institution, emphasizing its dedication to supporting academic and research endeavors across the sectors.

AASTU's efforts in extending laboratory services and promoting collaboration underscore its commitment to academic excellence, practical learning, and the advancement of scientific knowledge in the region. By sharing its resources and expertise, the university plays a pivotal role in fostering a collaborative and vibrant scientific community.

To recap, the establishment of the Geology laboratory at AASTU signifies a decisive step on the road to enhancing the quality of laboratory services and fostering collaborative partnerships to advance scientific knowledge and academic excellence. (Compiled from AASTU Newsletter prepared by its Public and International Relations Directorate)

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