



The Ethiopian Herald

Vol LXXX No 199 30 April 2024 -Miyaziya 22, 2016

Tuesday

Price Birr 10.00

AGI CONSTRUCTING THE FUTURE AFRICA
Abyssinia Group of Industries

Manufacturer of Rebars, Angles, Channels, Flat Bars & Round Bars. Introducing cut & bend service for rebars.

Contact & Address
Tel: +251 116 63 97 55/ 251 116 63 51 22/25
Mob : +251 962 009 072/ +251 949 440 868
+251 911 45 9790
E-mail: sales@agiethiopia.com
4th Floor, Dabi Building, Bole road Addis Ababa Ethiopia



Project envisages transforming Ethiopia's energy system

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA – The Ethiopian German Energy Cooperation Project said that Germany's energy transition experience is meaningfully contributing to transforming Ethiopia's energy system towards a universal access with comprehensive energy efficiency.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Project Head of Secretariat Samson Tolessa said that the project has been actively participating and offering a multitude of experiences in areas of comprehensive utilization of renewable energies and energy efficiency.

He further emphasized that they are working with the Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE) and partners in the power sector towards

See Project envisages .. page 3

Ethiopia's economy proves resilient amidst challenges: Premier

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia's resilience amidst challenges is evident through structural economic reforms, prioritizing macro stability and productivity, said Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD).

Addressing the IDA21 Africa Heads of State Summit in Nairobi yesterday, Premier Abiy said Ethiopia has been harnessing resilience in the face of a spectrum of challenges aggravated by external forces, such as climate change, geopolitical tension, and the soaring global cost of living.

"The Ethiopia government has navigated structural, macro-economic reforms, amid challenges focusing our attention on macro financial stability, productivity enhancement, and favorable investment environment," the premier stated.

See Ethiopia's economy ... page 3

Clean Streets, Healthy Lives

Everyone's participation is important to realise this.

In Cash (Clean Ethiopia)
CBE Birr Account# - 900623230248
NBE USD Account# - 0101212100016

In kind contributions

intended solely for the design, development, and construction of the Clean Ethiopia project. It does not constitute an offer of any financial product or service. The Bank of Ethiopia (BoE) is not responsible for the content of this advertisement. The Bank of Ethiopia (BoE) is not responsible for the content of this advertisement.

Ethiopians overwhelmingly respond to Clean Ethiopia movement

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA- High-level government officials, renowned personalities, institutions and individuals have demonstrated overwhelming participation in the Clean Ethiopia digital telethon.

The telethon mobilizes funds to the Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's (PhD) Clean Street-Healthy Lives movement that aims to develop

See Ethiopians overwhelmingly ... page 3

El Salvador to open Embassy in Addis

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- El Salvador plans to establish an Embassy in Addis Ababa which will become the country's second diplomatic mission in Africa, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) disclosed.

Speaking to *The Ethiopian Herald*, MoFA Spokesperson Nebiyou Tedla said that the two countries foreign ministers discussed cooperation mechanisms under the South to South framework.

Accordingly, Ethiopian Foreign Minister Atseke-Selassie welcomed his El Salvadorian counterpart Alexandra Hill Tinoco at his office and exchanged views on ways to advance the two countries' bilateral relations under the umbrella of South-South framework.

The Spokesperson also said that the El Salvador FM revealed her country's intention to open its Embassy in Addis Ababa while Taye reportedly affirmed Ethiopia's full support to the plan.

"Another delegation composed of senior

See El Salvador ... page 3



News

Experts give insights into local market opening for foreigners

• Domestic firms advised to ready to compete

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - The opening of key commercial areas such as import-export, retail and wholesale trade to foreign investors would hugely benefit the overall economy and entail dynamism, economic experts said.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), the experts stated that the government's move to open key commercial sectors, which were restricted to domestic investors, would bring immense opportunities to the national economy and facilitate holistic growth.

Accordingly, Haramaya University Economics Assistant Professor Firezer Tilahun said that the opening of key import-export, retail and wholesale businesses to foreign actors is a great economic reform since it improves competitiveness and quality as well as contributes for the provision of better public service.

The academician also noted that the new measure paves the way for local and foreign firms to grow together and increase their competition and production.

The engagement of foreign investors in these sectors would enable the country to adopt new marketing systems and



technologies and working systems as well as introduce customers with new products.

"Moreover, the foreign companies' big work capital also has its own contribution in facilitating economic activities," Firezer elaborated.

For Kotebe University Economics Department Lecturer and Researcher Muhdin Mahammed, the opening of the previously-restricted sectors to foreign companies is an unparalleled move. The measure requires the execution of different activities to capitalize its benefits and to fill the prevailing gaps.

Though it is instrumental to reduce imports and augment the production of import substituting items, the initiative needs the balancing of the local and foreign investors' operation.

"Earlier, few businesspersons controlled these sectors and the larger market and the situation has caused soaring inflation. In this regard, the move would bring positive competition among local and foreign investors and it would also benefit customers in the long run."

Likewise, the measure would enable businesses to supply foreign products to

Ethiopia's market at an affordable price with better quality and it would be vital to job creation, technology transfer and others.

The expert, said; however, that the engagement of foreign investors would not only bring benefits, mentioning the possibility of kicking small businesses out of the market.

Foreign investors' involvement in the local market would benefit the whole economic system. Hence, local companies should make the necessary preparations that would keep them competitive in the new dynamics, Muhdin emphasized.

City administration vows to complete EOTC's building shortly

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA - The Addis Ababa City Administration has promised to carry out the reconstruction of a four-storey multi-purpose building and to hand it over to the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahdo Church (EOTC) shortly.

Addis Ababa Mayor Adanech Abebe and Patriarch of the EOTC His Holiness Abune Mathias launched yesterday the construction of a new building that would replace the one which was demolished due to corridor development. It is to be recalled that the building that was owned by the church and located in the Piassa District was demolished due to corridor development.

Speaking at the occasion, Mayor Adanech said that the old building was demolished so that the area would be compatible with the corridor development.

The city administration will cover the entire construction cost of the new 1B+G+4 building and hand it over to the church by at the beginning of the next Ethiopian year.

According to Adanech, the main aim of the building is complementing with other development activities in the city and providing special service in the future.

The corridor development is taking place in five different directions of Addis Ababa whilst many historical heritages are located

in Piassa District. Due to the project, tourist inflow to the city will be increased and it would also create a conducive environment to residents, she remarked.

Patriarch of the EOTC His Holiness Abune Mathias said that the efforts made to beautify the city are admirable; calling attention to be given not to harm the poor in the corridor development. "If everything is to be beautiful, citizen-based development should be implemented whilst peace become priority."

The Patriarch also expressed optimism that the city administration will rebuild the demolished building in the better quality and facility.

General Manager of the Archdiocese and Archbishop of Bahir Dar and North Gojam Diocese His Holiness Abune Abraham said that the development works that have been started should continue in a way that benefits everyone.

According to Abune Abraham, when it was decided to demolish the building, which is traditionally known as the Mahmoud Music Hall, the church agreed.

"The EOTC is still playing a significant role in development activities whenever and wherever it is. Besides, combined effort will play a crucial role to bring the expected result in the sphere of development," he remarked.

Ministry focuses on geothermal dev't

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDISABABA-The Ministry of Mines said it is offering short and long-term trainings both domestically and internationally to enhance manpower capacity for geothermal development.

Mines State Minister Million Mathewos told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the government is facilitating various trainings to meet the technology required for geothermal development.

Organizations are working to train the youth by involving the local community in various activities. Even if there is no experienced local expert, it is being done by including experts from abroad to get experience, he said.

The State Minister further explained that as the mining and geothermal sector requires a lot of investment and deep drilling work, activities are being done for inviting foreign investors to invest in the sector. Besides, local contractors are invited to take part in bids.

He added that investors from six different countries and one government institution are engaged in the sector. A range of activities are being done by issuing 11 exploration and development permits.

According to a Geological Survey in Ethiopia, some 27 high-temperature geothermal areas are capable of generating electricity and



Ethiopia has a total generating capacity of more than 10 thousand megawatts from the sector.

Job opportunities, on permanent and contractual bases, have been created in the mining sector. In so doing, it has been possible to create jobs for 300 people in the geothermal sector, he said.

As the geothermal sector requires a lot of resources, two foreign companies have signed a power purchase agreement and an implementation agreement with the government and are drilling to generate 150 megawatts each in two rounds, he stated.

10 deep examining wells with a total depth of over 27 thousand meters have been drilled by the government company and two more wells are being drilled.

News



Success stems from hard work, time management: Awardee

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

Human being has exercised a range of ups and down in life. To solve such daunting hurdles, they have from the outset to analyze the situation and act accordingly. If one does have strength, energy, resources and knowledge to face trying situations, they have to bravely face them instead of retrieving about them sitting idle.

A woman goes by the name Netsanet Tadesse, a Director General of Insurance Operations at Ethiopian Reinsurance, graduated from Bruh Finance and she earned certificate insurance and was awarded recently. She accomplished her training by scoring higher score and received honorary award following her attendance of insurance training keeping international standard.

Fortunately, she had a short stay with *The Ethiopian Herald* and said that it is vivid that human beings face so many problems in life on the earth. "Here when we face problems, we have two options: either crying over the challenges or focusing on the root causes of the problems to prettily solve them as immediately as possible, or beyond," she said.

She said, "At first people have to analyze circumstances and act accordingly and then bravely face them to be triumphant over the obstacles at the end of the day."

Overlooking problems won't work as they will come back sooner or later. Not only people are expected to face the problem but they are also duty bound to just invest time, energy and resource so as to device possible solutions.

Netsanet said, "Whenever I face trouble, I try to focus on the way to solve the problem confronting straightforward. I have received award in first batch of certificate on insurance profession in the nation, out of the training offered by Bruh Finance for the last 15 months. She has overcome all the tough scenarios withstanding the hard time as she has to take care of her five-year old child in the absence of her husband, who has gone abroad to attend his PhD. Besides, she has been baffled by the load she has to deal with in the world of work. Managing her time properly, Netsanet scored excellent marks and was able to be awarded.

She said, "My family helped me a lot to reach at this success. So everybody needs to use time properly to be successful. The certificate I garnered would make me nationally and/or internationally competent with regard to insurance proceedings and helps me be effective."

The Director General also said the training is vital to get enough knowledge regarding the insurance industry. "I have been working for 14 years in the insurance sector. I will do my work in scientific and reasonable way as the training helped me solicit practical actions in insurance office and would help logically analyze things.

"My next step is developing my position, experience, and knowledge into higher level in insurance and pursuing my training up to fellow level as well. Yes, learning about insurance helps develop insurance industry in the nation."

Ethiopia's economy proves...

Like many IDA countries, Ethiopia faces unemployment and skill gap challenges, he said, adding with the government privatizing accessible education to empower citizens while encouraging youth engagement in startups across various fields, according to Abiy.

Investment in skills and education is central to Ethiopia's 10 year development plan with a focus on sectors like agriculture, manufacturing, and tourism, expected to cover over 2 million new jobs.

On other hand, Prime Minister Abiy added that universal energy access stands as a cornerstone for sustainable development.

"We are massively investing on clean and renewable energy generation projects, which aims to accelerate universal access to affordable and reliable energy for all our people."

The digitalization of economies has immense potential to enhance connectivity, spur innovation, and expand access to essential services, he said.

In Ethiopia, our telecom sector liberalization, mobile money and digital payment system have expanded financial access in the

country.

On other hand, Abiy elaborated that the Horn of Africa faces escalating threats from climate change, including rising temperature, food insecurity, and extreme weather events.

Ethiopia is actively countering this challenge through its Green Legacy Initiative, privatizing afforestation, reforestation and environmental conservation with over 32.5 billion seedlings planted towards a goal of 50 billion in two phases.

Ethiopia aligns with global agreements like the Paris Climate Change Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.

While the international development Association's existing support must be commended, he said, adding the sheer scale for the challenges facing many African countries necessitate a renewed approach.

"We urge IDA to significantly enhance its financial capacity and funding models, specifically increased support for crisis, preparedness, response and recovery is essential," he underlined.

El Salvador to open Embassy...

officials from El Salvador will be here after some days. The delegation will have a brief discussion with Ethiopian officials about the opening of the Embassy."

The two FMs also said to agree on deepening Ethio- El Salvador cooperation across various sectors including education, agriculture, sports, and others.

After a two days official visit, El Salvador's Foreign Minister will leave Ethiopia to other countries for the same purpose. Ethiopia and El Salvador have been in formal diplomatic relations since 2016 and Addis Ababa is expected to host the latter's second Embassy in Africa next to Rabat.

Ethiopians overwhelmingly respond...

the culture of toileting while maintaining dignity by building public toilets.

The House of Federation Speaker Agenehu Teshager, state chief administrators, mayors and ministers are among those who joined the *Clean Ethiopia Movement* and

contributed their share.

Also, corporate chiefs and members of the private sector have also involved in the campaign which is believed to play a significant role in creating a clean and healthy environment.

Project envisages transforming Ethiopia's...

introducing technical solutions and capacity building in the areas of digitalized grid management that facilitate grid efficiency.

As to him, the project is currently supporting the Petroleum and Energy Agency to develop the energy efficiency benchmarks to capacitate the sector and technical guidelines formulation for electric vehicles charging facilities.

So far, the project has worked with EEP and Voith Hydro in supporting the rehabilitation of the Gilgel Gibe II hydropower plant and introducing a digital plant management solution and providing comprehensive plant management training for 17 technical staff of the power plant thereby regaining about 185 MW generation capacity, he remarked.

He indicated that it has also supported the National Sustainable Energy Development

Strategy formulation process that was validated recently.

Apart from engaging on building the sector, electric mobility and investment promotion in the power sector, Samson said that it has also been engaging in promoting awareness and capacity in emerging energy themes such as Green Hydrogen and Green Ammonia.

"The project is also intensifying its cooperation with the Ethiopian Solar Energy Development Association and the Ethiopian Women in Energy Association to promote private sector development and the empowerment of women in the energy sector and beyond," he added.

He underscored that GIZ cooperating with MoWE has brought access to modern energy services for millions of households,

thousands of productive users, social and public institutions in the off-grid areas of the country.

Mentioning Germany's leading role in energy transition and fastest decarbonizing economies globally, he reiterated the country would be benefiting from Germany's vast transition experiences, skills, and cutting-edge innovations and technologies.

He pledged to further enhance their cooperation as potent mechanism to benefit the Ethiopian promising transition journey to more secure and adequate sustainable energy access, regional integration and a rowing business ties with Germany in the sector.

It was learnt that the Ethiopian German Energy Cooperation Project was launched in 2019 with the view of fostering a secure



Samson Tolessa

and sustainable supply and utilization of energy, contributing to the international climate protection efforts among many other undertakings.

Opinion

Advancing regional integration, peace in Horn through Ethio-Somaliland port deal

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

It is evident that Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Ethiopia and Somaliland oils the wheels of economic integration for both Ethiopia and Somaliland. Apart from paving the way for international maritime trade routes, the deal will enable the country to amplify its export-import competences and augment its general development.

Ethiopia might not have a coastline or kilometers away from the Red Sea, but it has the largest growing economy in the region and permitting the country's quest for sea access sustains its rapid economic progress. This would also help to change the livelihoods of East African people and enhance intra-regional trade. If Ethiopia improves its manufacturing and agricultural capabilities, then having a corridor that gives access to Red Sea ports is imperative.

By the same token, Ethiopia's sea pursuit would provide a great opportunity for neighboring countries as the former's initiative would bring holistic growth and prosperity in the Horn of Africa. Meeting Ethiopia's demand, coastal neighbors are expected to create strong regional partnerships.

The port deal that Ethiopia and Somaliland struck recently would bring a new dynamism in relations among nations in the Horn of Africa (HoA) and expedite their economic, social, and political benefits, academicians said at a panel discussion held recently in Jimma University under the theme: "Ethiopia's Access to the Sea for Regional Integration and Durable Peace."

Speaking at the occasion, Jimma University Economics Lecturer Kenenisa Nemi (PhD) stated that Ethiopia's aspiration to sovereign port access is a timely measure that would bring enormous economic, social and political benefits to HoA nations at large. "Thus, all parties should support this idea instead of showing objection or going against the issue."

Jimma University Political Science and International Relation Researcher Idiris Yeba (PhD) urged neighboring states should not be intimidated by the port deal and to weigh its geopolitical significance to the entire region. "Here Ethiopian diplomats need to work tirelessly in promoting the benefit and positive impact of the two sides Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the strategic, but volatile region."

In a similar way, speaking to a local media, a Political-Economic Analyst for Africa, Lawrence Freeman, stated that leaders of Ethiopia's coastal neighbors should negotiate on Ethiopia's aspiration to a long-term lease agreement and infrastructural investment in sea ports.

The analyst believes that the HoA would be a model for economic integration and cooperation in the continent once the countries peacefully settle Ethiopia's quest to access the sea. In this regard, leaders, engineers, planners and economists of the



East African countries should discuss the matter and bargaining options.

The East African leaders should also identify efficient means to utilize and maximize the Red Sea benefits for improved trade and economic cooperation given the kilometers of travel, the port capacity, and production capabilities.

Ethiopia is a growing economy and if we can merge its potentials with neighboring states, East Africa will be a model for economic development on the continent. Also, Ethiopia, Eritrea and other countries in the Horn can serve as a development model if they join hands for development, peace and cooperation.

Ethiopia could transfer shares in strategic companies including Ethio telecom and Ethiopian Airlines to coastal neighbors to materialize its quest for seaports in Eritrea, Somalia or Kenya.

Ethiopia's direct access to port will guarantee an enduring peace in the HoA and denying the aspiration of the hundred and twenty million people would bring imminent threat for the already volatile region, Ambassador Seleshi Bekele (Eng. PhD) in the recent past told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA).

According to Ambassador Seleshi, those interest groups that are opposing Ethiopia's aspiration to sea access are opposing its engagement in the regional affairs.

Those groups oppose Ethiopia's port deal knowing the fact that the accord will not bring any harm to their interest and they simply prefer to keep the country away from development and integration in the strategic region.

Ethiopia is the most populous landlocked country in the globe and the diplomatic cost to reverse such a lack of port access could not be easy. Though, we need to keep moving forward until we ensure at least a single reliable and enduring solution.

The global economy and diplomatic relations are challenging for a country devoid of guaranteed sea outlets. All this aspiration needs to be attained through a meticulous and intensive diplomatic engagement.

The Memorandum of Understanding signed between Ethiopia and Somaliland is not something that happened overnight and it has taken a long discussion and negotiations

over the issue. The signed agreement does not relate to anything that could be utilized for creating a hot agenda for others.

The HoA countries agenda should be to integrate themselves for economic and political benefits, not to worsen problems. Climate change, for example, is another agenda which needs much greater concern than trivial political cases.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, the Deputy Head of the Mission, Barkhad Mohamoud Kaariye (PhD) recently stated that Ethiopia's establishment of a naval base in Somaliland would greatly contribute to pacifying Bab-el-Mandeb, one of the busiest trade routes globally, and prevent rampant piracy.

Having availed a 20-km coastline to Ethiopia, the MoU serves the twin objectives of addressing the former's long-held quest for seaports and contributing for maritime peace in the HoA. Moreover, the pact is considered a bold step taken to create strong economic ties between the two HoA countries that should be replicated by others, Barkhad emphasized.

"While the MoU aims to benefit over 130 million people living in the two countries, it is also the solution for their economic and political setbacks propelled by lack of sea access and recognition." According to him, the MoU is part of the big plan that aims to transform the two sides' historical relations into new heights and cement the legalization and enhancement of people-to-people and commercial relations. "The people of Somaliland expressed overwhelming support and delight over the pact that is expected to facilitate the long-awaited international recognition."

Mentioning the contribution of Ethiopia's use of the Berbera corridor in the two sides' development cooperation, he expressed optimism that the MoU paves a great opportunity for Somaliland's young population. "In this regard, the accord is instrumental to deter the youth's involvement in piracy and other illegal activities that is intensified by lack of sovereignty and financial constraints," he said.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Addis Ababa University Federalism and Good Governance Lecturer Tesfay Jimma (PhD) highlighted the need to push for give and take diplomatic approach to achieve the

country's seaport aspiration thereby build its economy and global influence.

He further stated that, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that was signed between Ethiopia and Somaliland in order to accessing seaport to the former is a reasonable agreement that ensures the mutual benefit of the two and promotes sustainable peace and development in the region.

Somaliland has signed various agreements with different countries even these partners came far from the region. So, there is no legal ground that allows accusing Ethiopia for reaching access to sea agreement with Somaliland.

Some historic enemies have been working day in and day out to affect Ethiopia's economic development and international influence. These countries worry only about their peculiar interests disregarding the role Ethiopia plays for stability and growth of the region.

Egypt has been making several false accusations on Ethiopia since the beginning of the construction of Abbay Dam though it does not contribute a drop of water to Abbay (Nile) river.

It is imperative to understand Ethiopia's legitimate interests and needs to access the sea and ensure economic security for its people, Peter Pham, a former U.S. Special Envoy for the Sahel and Great Lakes Regions of Africa, said.

In an exclusive interview with ENA, the former U.S. Special Envoy said Ethiopia has played a critical role in providing peace and security throughout the region.

"It has (therefore) every right to expect in return for that same goodwill and understanding for its legitimate interests and needs within terms of access to the sea and secure economic security for its people. It can't all be a one way street." Speaking about the MoU signed between Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Somaliland President Muse Bihi Abdi, Pham stated that he has been very encouraged by the historic agreement from the very day of the announcement.

"Why am I so positive? First and foremost, I believe international relations have to be based upon reality --- not fiction, not fantasy, not wishful thinking but reality. And the reality is the geopolitics and economics of this Horn of Africa region, which is so vital and changing, shifting before our eyes; and we need to adjust to these."

According to him, the second part of the reality is Ethiopia's legitimate interest in having "what I call redundant port structures." Ethiopia is the world's most populous landlocked state with 120 million people, and to date, Djibouti has been providing access for the country. But, he added that a great country with 120 million people should not rely on one outlet.

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

Editorial

Making Addis appealing would pay off

Let alone Addis Ababa, which is the diplomatic hub of Africa that hosts many international organizations and diplomatic missions, making cities modern is a prime concern of the 21st century. No doubt, unless cities are made competent and proficient in all circumstances and parameters, triumphing over the national, regional, continental and/or the global competition would be quite trying and tough. As the case of Addis Ababa is not exceptional to this common maxim, making it as good-looking as its names should be the call of the day.

Making Addis modern has thus to be the task of every inhabitant and should not be left only to the government and other concerned bodies since the city belongs to all including Africans. Taking this leading task into account, the government in general and the city administration in particular have been relentlessly working to meet two ends: making the capital reasonably orderly and attracting many more tourists as much as possible. To this end, relatively wide boulevards are being constructed, pedestrian walkways and bicycles pathways are being carried out following the scheme called corridor project and the government has been well capitalizing on such lucrative means.

Needless to state, Addis Ababa has been undergoing a number of momentous changes and developmental undertakings. Unequivocally, the latest corridor development project is a continuation of reform plans to transform Addis into a stylish and modern city by revitalizing neglected localities.

As an inhabited city, Addis Ababa has over 130 years of history and is one of the cities founded by Africans to serve Africans, and the government has now been arduously endeavoring to make quite alluring.

Since Addis has been a ubiquitous part of life of its inhabitants, its status has to be well promoted, a number of job opportunities for many have to be created, its sanitation have to be painstakingly kept and making the city comfortable to live and work has to be well focused. Cognizant of all this fact, the government has well capitalized on intensifying development projectors with a view to making the city livable, attractive and comfortable, too. For this to happen, streets need to be made wider and neat and sanitation schemes have to be expanded.

No doubt, citizens from every corner of the nation especially the youth are attracted to the capital with a high level of pleasant appearance as measured by amenities and socialization opportunities. Yes, having a high availability of amenities in Addis Ababa can make the city catchy and shape its future path of development. Therefore, better availability of services and attractiveness in the capital ensures its development in the years to come.

The government has incorporated constructing modern public restrooms. What makes this scheme unique is that it creates a sense of belongingness among the citizenry. Senior government officials including Addis Mayor Adanech Abiebie are making financial contributions to the realizations of the plan. The initiative, called 'Clean Ethiopia' includes fundraising aspect themed 'Clean cities-Healthy Lives'.

Generally, not only has the heaping on corridor development been decisively imperative but it is also multifarious and versatile, it would plainly require the amalgamated effort of all walks of life including individuals, businesses, government bodies and the likes to be real within the shortest time possible. Certainly, all who have made contributions for the corridor development of the city will be pleased when they see the outcome at the end of the day. Hence, every citizen should come to the forefront to help the city make its vision a reality.



The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays
By The Ethiopian Press Agency

Office of the CEO

Tel. 011-126-42-22

Fax. 251-011-156-98-62

email- epa@press.et

Advertisement and Dist. Department

email: etpresspromotion@gmail.com

Tel. 011-156-98-73/011-811-13-15

Telegram :- 0976084707 - press

Editor-in-Chief: Worku Belachew

email- workubelachew@press.et

Address- Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-city

Woreda - 05, House No----

Tel- +251 111 26 41 98

Managing Editor: Wakuman Kudama

Email: wakuma220@gmail.com

Deputy Editors-in-Chief:

Alem Hailu

Elizabeth Mengistu

Zekarias Woldemariam

Desta Geberehiwot

Daniel Beyene

Website: www.press.et

email: ethiopianherald@press.et

Fb//Ethiopian Press Agency/

The Ethiopian Herald

Opinion

Major contradictions in socio-economic, political system and solutions thereof

BY SOLMON DIBABA

The author of this article wishes to outline and identify the major contradictions in this country that have continued to seriously jeopardize and in fact inhibit the efforts for national development and thrust from abject poverty.

For the purpose of this contribution, the writer divides the major contradictions in Ethiopia into two that is internal and external contradictions. The fundamental contradiction however is the internal contradiction which was visible in the country for at least half a century.

The question is what are the major areas in which these contradictions manifested themselves? Again, one can categorize these internal contradictions into various categories including economic, political, and social. First, some notes on contradictions in the economy.

Ethiopia has experienced impressive economic growth rates over the past decades, averaging around 10% annually. However, despite this growth, poverty rates remain high, with a large segment of the population still living below the poverty line. This contradiction highlights the need for growth to be more inclusive and for policies that address income inequality and poverty reduction more effectively.

Ethiopia's economy is still largely agrarian, with agriculture employing more than 80% of the population and contributing a substantial share to GDP. However, there is a growing emphasis on industrialization and diversification, with investments in industrial parks and manufacturing sectors. Balancing the needs of the agricultural sector, which is crucial for food security and rural livelihoods, with the goals of industrialization and economic transformation presents a challenge. It is important to clearly identify the importance of agro-industry for the promotion of the manufacturing sector in the country.

Ethiopia's federal structure that grants significant autonomy to regional states based on ethnicity has brought challenges. While this system aims to address historical marginalization and promote self-determination, it has also led to challenges related to governance, resource allocation, and inter-ethnic tensions. Balancing the principles of federalism with the need for national unity and cohesion is an ongoing challenge.

The nation has embarked on ambitious infrastructure projects, including the construction of mega projects like GERD and eco-tourism projects, road networks, and industrial parks, to enhance economic growth and development. However, these projects often have environmental implications, including deforestation, land degradation, and water resource management issues. Balancing the need for infrastructure development with environmental sustainability and conservation efforts is essential for long-term economic and ecological viability.

The nation has a large and growing youth population, with a significant portion entering the labor market each year. However, youth unemployment rates are high, particularly among urban youth, despite efforts to promote job creation and skills development. Addressing the challenge of youth unemployment requires not only creating job opportunities but also addressing skills mismatches and improving access to quality education and vocational training.

Ethiopia is experiencing rapid urbanization, with migration from rural to urban areas driven by factors such as population growth, agricultural productivity, and employment opportunities. However, this urbanization presents challenges related to infrastructure provision, housing, service delivery and social inclusion. Balancing the needs of urban and rural areas, and ensuring equitable development across regions, is essential for sustainable and inclusive growth.

Addressing these contradictions requires comprehensive and coordinated policy responses that prioritize inclusive growth, environmental sustainability, social cohesion, and effective governance. It also requires ongoing dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders, including government institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector, and development partners, to navigate the complexities of Ethiopia's development trajectory.

In order to rectify these contradictions, the government has been taking fiscal and monetary reforms to ensure economic growth and stability in the country but there are still several challenges like contraband trade, money laundering and printing of counterfeit bank notes and illicit trade transactions.

The country has held multiple national and regional elections since the transition to multiparty democracy in the early 1990s. While elections are essential for political legitimacy and accountability, they have also been marred by allegations of irregularities, violence, and disputes over electoral outcomes. Balancing the need for regular elections with the imperative of maintaining political stability and social cohesion is a persistent challenge.

Ethiopia faces various security challenges, including intercommunal conflicts, insurgencies, and regional tensions, which require robust security measures to maintain stability and protect citizens. However, security operations have sometimes been accompanied by human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detentions, and restrictions on civil liberties. Balancing security imperatives with respect for human rights and the rule of law is a fundamental challenge for Ethiopia's political leadership.

Addressing these political contradictions requires inclusive dialogue, institutional reforms, respect for human rights, and commitment to democratic principles and the rule of law. It also requires political

See Major contradictions ... Page 13

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

Business & Economy

Boosting Ethiopia's export trade: Gear laborer of development

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

Ethiopia, a country known for its rich cultural heritages and diverse landscapes, has been making significant strides in the field of international trade. As a key player in the African continent, Ethiopia has been focusing on expanding its export sector, contributing to economic growth, job creation, and foreign exchange earnings. Since the three quarters of the current fiscal year are over, it is time to examine the last nine months' export trade performance of Ethiopia citing data from the Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration of Ethiopia.

Ethiopia's export sector has experienced robust growth and diversification, showcasing the nation's potential as a global trading partner. According to the Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration, Ethiopia's total export volume during the past nine months reached an impressive figure of 2.5 billion USD. This represents a significant increase when compared to the same period in the previous year. The growth in export value can be attributed to various factors, including increased production capacity, improved infrastructure, and enhanced market access.

Ethiopia's export basket comprises a wide range of commodities, with each sector making a distinctive contribution to the overall export performance. One of the leading sectors in Ethiopian exports is agriculture, accounting for a significant share of the total export value. Coffee, oilseeds, pulses, flowers, and vegetables are some of the key agricultural products that have been driving export growth. Coffee, in particular, holds a special place in Ethiopia's export portfolio, as the country is renowned for its high-quality Arabica coffee beans.

In addition to agriculture, Ethiopia has been focusing on expanding its manufacturing and industrial sectors to boost export earnings. Textiles and garments, leather products, processed foods, and minerals are some of the notable manufactured goods that have witnessed substantial growth in exports. The government's emphasis on value addition and product diversification has played a crucial role in strengthening the competitiveness of these sectors in the global market.

Ethiopia has been actively engaged in regional and international trade partnerships, fostering economic cooperation and expanding its export market. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) has provided Ethiopia with new opportunities for trade within the continent. By eliminating trade barriers and promoting intra-African trade, Ethiopia aims to increase its exports to other African countries and tap into the vast consumer base.

Furthermore, Ethiopia has been exploring trade partnerships beyond the African continent. The country has been actively



participating in trade fairs, exhibitions, and business forums, showcasing its export potential to the international community. Strengthening ties with countries such as China, India, the United States, and European nations has been a priority for Ethiopia, enabling it to access new markets and attract foreign investment.

Despite the impressive growth in export trade, Ethiopia still faces certain challenges that need to be addressed to sustain and further enhance its performance. Infrastructure bottlenecks, logistical inefficiencies, bureaucratic hurdles, and limited access to finance are among the key obstacles that require attention. The government has recognized these challenges and has been implementing various reforms and initiatives to overcome them. Investments in infrastructure development, streamlining bureaucratic procedures, and providing financial support to exporters are some of the measures taken to promote a conducive business environment. Recommendations for Boosting Ethiopia's export trade.

Ethiopia should focus on diversifying its export basket by promoting the development of new export sectors. This can be achieved through targeted investments, research, and development initiatives. By identifying and supporting sectors with high export potential, Ethiopia can reduce its reliance on a few commodities and increase its resilience to market fluctuations.

Investing in trade infrastructure, such as ports, transportation networks, and logistics systems, is crucial for facilitating the smooth movement of goods and reducing trade costs. Ethiopia should continue its efforts to upgrade and expand infrastructure networks, particularly in regions with high export potential. This will enhance the country's competitiveness and attractiveness as a trade partner.

Encouraging value addition within the export sectors will help Ethiopia capture a larger share of the value chain and increase export earnings. This can be achieved through initiatives that promote processing, packaging, and branding of products. Providing support to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) engaged in value addition activities can further boost their competitiveness in the global market.

Ethiopia should actively pursue trade agreements and partnerships with regional and international markets. By reducing trade barriers and enhancing market access, Ethiopian exporters can tap into larger consumer bases and explore new market opportunities. Strengthening participation in initiatives like the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and leveraging existing trade agreements will be instrumental in expanding market reach.

Access to finance and export insurance is vital for exporters, especially SMEs. The Ethiopian government should collaborate with financial institutions to develop tailored financial products and services that cater to the specific needs of exporters. Offering export credit guarantees, export insurance, and simplified export financing procedures will provide exporters with the necessary support to expand their activities.

Enhancing the skills of the workforce and embracing technological advancements are crucial for improving productivity and competitiveness in export sectors. Investing in vocational training programs, research and development, and innovation initiatives will equip Ethiopian exporters with the skills and knowledge required to meet international standards and demands.

Simplifying and streamlining export-related bureaucratic procedures, such as customs clearance, trade documentation, and licensing processes, will reduce administrative burdens for exporters. The

government should continue its efforts to digitize and automate trade processes, enabling faster and more efficient trade transactions.

Establishing strong export promotion agencies that provide comprehensive support services to exporters can significantly benefit the export sector. These agencies can offer market intelligence, trade facilitation assistance, export promotion campaigns, and networking opportunities. Strengthening the capacity and resources of such agencies will enhance their ability to assist exporters in navigating international markets.

Collaboration between the government and the private sector is essential for driving export growth. Establishing platforms for regular dialogue, consultation, and partnership between policymakers and exporters will enable the formulation of effective policies and strategies. Public-private partnerships can also be utilized to mobilize resources, share knowledge, and implement joint initiatives that support export development.

By implementing these recommendations, Ethiopia can further boost its export trade, diversify its export base, and unlock new opportunities for economic growth, job creation, and sustainable development.

Ethiopia's export trade performance over the last nine months reflects the country's commitment to economic growth and development. With a diverse export basket and increased market access, Ethiopia has showcased its potential as a competitive player in the global trade arena. The government's efforts in promoting sectoral growth, forging regional and international trade partnerships, and addressing challenges are instrumental in sustaining the positive momentum. As Ethiopia continues to strengthen its export sector, it is poised to unlock new opportunities, create employment, and contribute to its overall socio-economic progress.

In the Sphere of Diplomacy

Cementing partnership that spans seven decades

BY FIKADU BELAY

The East African region ticks all boxes when it comes to international cooperation and relations. Situated in decisive geographic location and having nature's bounty, the region impacts international ties, and collaboration and continues to become the epicenter of global politics. Its mammoth impact catches the eyes of different countries that need to establish strong diplomatic relations with the regional nations. And, being the linchpin of the region and anchor state with untapped natural resources, Ethiopia remains at the top in the foreign relation lists of many countries.

Its vanguard position in international relations has also placed Addis Ababa at the helm of global cooperation. Albeit the ties with the countries proved to be different in terms of areas of cooperation, Ethiopia was the first nation to establish diplomatic relations with the west.

For instance, Ethiopia and Sweden have elevated ties in the spheres of environment, politics and other different development sectors

The two countries have a longstanding history of diplomatic partnership that spans several years. In a strong demonstration of commitment to economic development and regional integration, the Swedish government has recently expressed its intention to enhance trade and investment ties with Ethiopia.

Ambassador Hans Henric Lundquist, Swedish Ambassador to Ethiopia, emphasized the significance of economic growth in preventing future conflicts and stressed the need for increased trade between African countries and Africa and Europe.

Ambassador Lundquist highlighted Sweden's historical contribution to African countries in building solidarity and capacity, particularly through people-to-people interactions. This partnership extends to Ethiopia, where the two countries have collaborated for 70 years, fostering mutual understanding and development.

Stockholm recognizes Addis's importance in the Horn of Africa (HoA) and believes that the latter's stability contributes to the solidity of the entire region. With its strategic location, vast economic potential, and natural resources, Ethiopia presents numerous opportunities for trade and investment. Sweden, through its broad development program in Ethiopia, actively seeks ways to strengthen trade and investment ties.

Currently, approximately 30 Swedish companies are operating in Ethiopia, indicating a favourable investment climate and the potential for mutually beneficial partnerships, according to the Ambassador. The focus on trade and investment reflects the former's recognition of the transformative power of economic growth in preventing conflicts and fostering stability.

The deepening trade and investment ties between the two countries represent a significant step towards fostering economic development, regional integration, and long-term stability. This collaboration can contribute to Ethiopia's journey towards



Currently,
approximately 30
Swedish companies are
operating in Ethiopia,
indicating a favourable
investment climate
and the potential for
mutually beneficial
partnerships, according
to the Ambassador

sustainable development, poverty alleviation, and a prosperous future.

Moreover, the nations have collaborated in the fields of education and research. Swedish universities have established partnerships with Ethiopian academic institutions, facilitating student and faculty exchanges, joint research projects, and capacity-building initiatives. These collaborations have contributed to knowledge sharing, skill development, and academic advancements in various disciplines.

He mentioned that during the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s, Swedish assistance led to the construction of over 6,000 primary schools across Ethiopia, benefiting numerous Ethiopian students. The long-standing cooperation between the two countries, which has further advanced over the years, is characterized by the mutual benefit of the people and economies of both.

Sweden has also actively participated in supporting Ethiopia's healthcare sector. The former organizations have closely collaborated with their latter counterparts to address public health challenges, including maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, and healthcare infrastructure development.

He further stated that Sweden has demonstrated its commitment to supporting Ethiopia's national dialogue. The Stockholm government has actively engaged in supporting the National Dialogue and transitional justice processes. The ambassador emphasized the critical importance of this national consensus in resolving conflicts, tackling poverty, and addressing other societal challenges.

Sweden's dedication to supporting Ethiopia's national dialogue processes reflects its long-term commitment to the latter's stability, peacebuilding, and socio-economic progress. By promoting dialogue, justice, and reconciliation, Stockholm aims to contribute to Addis's transformation and the building of an inclusive and just society.

The collaboration between the two countries in promoting peace and security, both regionally and internationally, is another significant aspect of their partnership. The countries have cooperated in peacekeeping missions under the United Nations, with Ethiopia's

troops contributing to peacekeeping efforts in various conflict-affected regions.

Also, the two nations have established a strong bilateral relationship aimed at addressing pressing environmental issues and promoting sustainable practices. They have collaborated on mitigating climate change, protecting natural resources, and preserving biodiversity. This collaboration exemplifies the power of international cooperation in addressing global environmental challenges.

Sweden, with expertise in its environmental stewardship and commitment to sustainability, has actively supported Ethiopia in its efforts to protect and preserve its natural heritage. The partnership between the two countries has resulted in several noteworthy initiatives and achievements.

One crucial area of collaboration is the preservation of forests. Sweden has played a key role in assisting Ethiopia in sustainable forest management and combating deforestation through the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) initiative. The former's financial support, technical expertise, and knowledge sharing have enabled Ethiopia to invest in forest conservation, restoration, and sustainable land use practices. This collaboration has not only contributed to carbon sequestration but has also had positive socio-economic impacts, such as job creation and community development.

Moreover, Addis Ababa and Stockholm have joined forces to address issues related to water resource management, and pollution control, and assist in the development and implementation of sustainable water resource management strategies. It has played a pivotal role in improving access to clean water, ensuring efficient water usage, and mitigating the impact of pollution on ecosystems and communities.

Furthermore, the commitment to renewable energy is another cornerstone of the bilateral relationship. Sweden, a global leader in renewable energy technologies, has supported Ethiopia's ambitious plans to harness its abundant renewable energy resources. Through technical cooperation, capacity building, and financial assistance, Stockholm has facilitated the development of renewable energy projects in Addis, such as wind farms and solar power installations. These initiatives have not only contributed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions but have also enhanced Ethiopia's energy security and stimulated economic growth.

Besides, the partnership between the two countries extends to sustainable agriculture and land management. Sweden has also provided support and expertise to Ethiopia in promoting sustainable agricultural practices, soil conservation, and land restoration. It has helped the latter farmers adopt climate-smart techniques, improve productivity, and enhance resilience in the face of climate change impacts.

The two countries are poised to achieve greater milestones in their bilateral relations. This multifaceted partnership aims to foster sustainable development and improve the well-being of both countries.

The importance of WB/IMF support to Ethiopia

BY SOLOMON WASSIHUN

What is the difference between the World Bank and the IMF [International Monetary Fund]? Well, the quick answer would be not much, except for the fact that one is a development lender and the other is a financial firefighter.

Even a historical report reveals that John Maynard Keynes, a founding expert of the two institutions and considered by many the most brilliant economist of the twentieth century, admitted at the inaugural meeting of the IMF that he was confused by the names: he thought the Fund should be called a bank, and the Bank should be called a fund.

It is not only the Ethiopians themselves or the people living in Ethiopia who benefit from supporting Ethiopia's political and economic stability. Ethiopia is the central nation in East Africa, described by experts as the anchor for peace and stability in the region. It is in the interest of world powers to see a stable Ethiopia, as they have a growing economic and political interest in the region, which has more than its fair share of troubles and tensions.

Recent developments have proven Ethiopia's increasing influence and role as a nucleus for the efforts towards economic and political integration. Ethiopia's unrivaled prominent role in the implementation of the objectives of such regional organizations as AU, IGAD and NBI is well evidenced. In addition to the political will, Ethiopia's commitments to economic development initiatives and projects like GERD and LAPSET Corridor is pushing the East African nations to rapid economic integration and enabling them to complement each other with resources sharing.

HAD it not been for the lingering internecine conflict, the COVID pandemic and the persistent macro-economic challenges and other negative circumstances, Ethiopia would have scored far more achievements in the regional level during the last six years of reform. Despite the above mentioned challenges, the nation is scoring impressive record of economic growth proven by such international Agencies like the World Bank and IMF.

Likewise, Ethiopia's economy has bright prospect for growth for the coming years. According to the International Monetary Fund, six out of the top-ten performing economies worldwide in 2024 will be from Sub-Saharan Africa. And Ethiopia is ranked 2nd in Africa with the highest GDP growth forecast in 2024 at 6.2% after Ivory Coast at 6.6%.

Being the most populated and covering one of biggest arable land mass size in East Africa and fresh water resources, Ethiopia has a valid prospect to emerge the economic power house of the sub region in a relatively short period of time. The government is envisioned to place the nation in the list

middle income countries in a few years' time, and development activities are going ahead to meet this target.

It is incumbent up on the international community, to support Ethiopia's development efforts through bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements. Donor agencies like IMF and World Bank should provide a timely support to Ethiopian economic reform and development agenda. The economic reform agenda is not an adaptation from outside rather it is an original plan developed by Ethiopian experts based the economic realities with in the nation.

In other words the reform agenda is tailored to the country's needs and preferences. Thus it worth investing in and being partner in such reform plans, as they have already bearing fruits and making the nation in consistent track of economic progress with impressive rate figures far more than the world's average.

The main objective of the economic reform agenda is to sustain the economic growth through creating an economic environment supportive of higher private investment involvement and structural transformation. It encompasses three key pillars at the macro-financial, structural, and sectorial levels.

The reform agenda identified five key productive sectors that Ethiopia has great potentials, and these are agriculture, manufacturing, mining, tourism, ICT & creative industries. These sectors are areas where the country's limited capital resources mainly directed and attractive policy incentives are being introduced to bring the fundamental transformation of the economy, and maximum sustainable returns for investment of the limited capital resources. The agenda also envisaged promoting the role the private sector in the economy and poverty reduction.

At the outset of its implementation in 2020, the first phase of home grown economic reform agenda, HGER which run for three years enjoyed a generous support of the IMF, with provision of 3 billion US Dollars. The support was effectively utilized, enabling the HGER implementation to bear fruits that are well evidenced in growth in productivity and performance of various sectors.

Agricultural production and productivity increased with impressive progress, and Ethiopia has now found itself in the list of wheat exporting countries. The activities of the private sector in the economy has shown much improvement over the last three years in terms of its contributions to GDP, access to the financial sources, creating jobs and revenues.

Reflecting on the resounding success of HGER, Ethiopian Premier said: "Despite many man-made and natural disasters, Ethiopia witnessed many successes as a result of the implementation of the first phase Homegrown Economic Reform plan." He particularly mentioned the maximum efforts exerted to improve the

private sector landscape and the tangible results registered in creating vibrant private sector that is essential for continued innovation, job creation and sustainable development.

The Ethiopian leadership has proven its commitment to liberalizing the economy to promote the local private sector's role and to encourage involvement foreign investors, by taking decisions that were unthinkable a few years earlier. Big investment sectors that have long been reserved to public sector now open to the private sector. Foreign companies are already actively working in the lucrative telecom industry. Similarly now, it is only matter of time before we hear news about the opening of foreign bank offices here in Ethiopia. The nation is workings its way to achieve membership of World Trade Organization, WTO.

The impressive record of economic performance during HGER I against all the odds is a compelling reasons for international finance institution like IMF and World Bank to provide Ethiopia with another financial package for the implementation of the second phase of home grown [HGER II] which commenced this fiscal year and run for another three years until 2026.

At the time of the release of the HGER II last year the IMF representative who was on working visit in Addis said: "The IMF team welcomes the authorities' Homegrown Economic Reform Agenda (HGER II), an ambitious reform program that aims to address key macroeconomic vulnerabilities and unleash Ethiopia's considerable economic potential."

While the Ethiopian government has been a marathon negotiation to secure a deal with IMF, it has already signed a financing deal with its twin sister, the World Bank. The government and the World Bank signed early this month financing agreements amounting 1.72 billion USD in the form of credits and grants, for the implementation of six projects aimed at driving sustainable development and inclusive growth in the country. The projects are expected to contribute for poverty reduction and job creation, which is among expected outcomes of the home grown economic reform.

The government has also made impressive progress in returning the country to normalcy after the devastating conflict in the north of the country. Work is underway to establish transitional justice and reach a national consensus on key national issues through national dialogue.

As mentioned at the outset, and in light of the agreement reached with the World Bank, it is very likely that the Ethiopian government will soon end its ongoing negotiations with IMF officials by reaching an agreement that fulfils all or part of the loan it has requested. One thing is certain: IMF directors and the governments behind them are well aware of the far-reaching importance of immediate support for Ethiopia's economic reforms.

It is incumbent up on the international community, to support Ethiopia's development efforts through bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements. Donor agencies like IMF and World Bank should provide a timely support to Ethiopian economic reform and development agenda

Society

Harnessing media potentials to realize National Dialogue

BY TEWODROS KASSA

In a diverse nation like Ethiopia, where different ethnic groups coexist, fostering national dialogue is crucial for promoting unity and harmony. One powerful tool that can be utilized to achieve this goal is the media.

In the context of Ethiopia, where there is a diverse population with different cultural backgrounds and perspectives, the media can serve as a unifying force by providing a platform for individuals to voice their opinions and engage in constructive conversations.

For this reason, it is high time to utilize the media effectively because it plays a significant role in shaping public opinion, promoting diversity and influencing societal norms. In Ethiopia, where multiple languages are spoken and diverse cultural norms and values are practiced, the media can serve as a bridge to connect different groups and facilitate meaningful dialogues. Whether it is through traditional print or broadcast media or social media platforms, the reach and influence of the media are undeniable.

One of the key benefits of using media for national dialogue is its ability to reach a wide range of audiences simultaneously. Through televised debates, radio talk shows, or online forums, diverse perspectives can be entertained, shared, discussed, and debated. This not only enhances people's understanding of different viewpoints but also fosters empathy and tolerance towards others.

While the media can be a powerful tool for promoting national dialogue, there are a number of challenges that need to be addressed. One such challenge is the presence of biased or sensationalized reporting that can perpetuate stereotypes and further divide communities. It is essential for media outlets to uphold professional standards of journalism and provide accurate, balanced, and unbiased information.

Additionally, the limited access to media in remote or marginalized areas can be a barrier to inclusive dialogue. To overcome this challenge and to ensure that all communities have access to diverse media sources and platforms, efforts should be made. This could involve expanding radio coverage, promoting local journalism initiatives, or leveraging mobile technology to reach underserved populations.

Currently, to curb the challenges and enhance the constructive role of media, various measures are being undertaken. The government is working closely with civil society organizations, public and private media as well as local communities to help leverage the collective efforts of various stakeholders to promote national dialogue through the media.

Recently, the Ethiopian Media Authority



(EMA) has called on the media to play a critical role for the success of the historic initiatives, the national dialogue and transitional justice.

Ethiopian Media Authority Director-General, Mohamed Idris, told local media that the national dialogue and transitional justice have huge significance in the protection of human rights and ensuring lasting peace in the country.

Realizing national dialogue and transitional justice are vital in building a strong nation, he noted, adding that the active role of all sections of the society will significantly contribute to the success of the processes.

In this regard, the mass media has the responsibility of creating a clear understanding among the general public about the issues and refrain from reports that hinder the process, Mohamed underscored.

The Director General said that the Authority will continue to play its role in providing capacity building training for media personnel to enable them to cover and report issues ethically and with integrity.

According to him, the national dialogue and transitional justice will define the future of the country and are of great public interest.

For Mohamed, media has a crucial role in creating awareness about national dialogue and transitional justice among the public so that they can participate in the process with a spirit of ownership.

He recalls that, the government of Ethiopia recently reaffirmed its commitment to implementing transitional justice and national dialogue which are essential to ensure lasting peace.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD), the Ethiopian government has adopted a comprehensive approach to address the root causes of



internal conflicts, paving the way for a more harmonious future.

Moreover, fostering national dialogue has become a crucial goal to address various socio-political challenges that the country has been facing. With the rise of digital media platforms, there is an opportunity to harness the potentials of media to facilitate and promote constructive national dialogue among citizens.

Experts emphasized that; media should be utilized accordingly to promote national dialogue through promoting diversity, encouraging debate, fact-checking among others.

No doubt, media outlets can showcase diverse voices and perspectives from various regions and ethnic groups in Ethiopia. By highlighting different viewpoints, media can help foster understanding and empathy among citizens if utilized properly.

Likewise, talk shows, panel discussions and interviews on media platforms can encourage healthy debates on important issues facing the country which in turn can lead to the exchange of ideas and solutions to common challenges.

What is more, the media plays a crucial role in fact-checking and verifying information before it is disseminated to the public. By promoting accurate and reliable

information, media can help build trust and credibility among viewers.

Accordingly, the on-going digital transformation and the increasing access to the internet and social media platforms in Ethiopia presents an opportunity for media to reach a wider audience and engage with citizens in real-time. The expansion of community radio stations in the country can also play a crucial role in promoting grassroots dialogue and fostering connections among local communities. By providing a platform for marginalized voices, community radio can contribute to inclusive national dialogue.

In sum, it is imperative for stakeholders to work together to address challenges and seize opportunities for using media as a tool for positive change in the country. Harnessing the media's potential to realize national dialogue in Ethiopia is essential for building a harmonious and inclusive society. By utilizing the diverse range of media platforms available; and implementing strategies to promote ethical journalism, diverse content, audience engagement, and collaboration with stakeholders, Ethiopia can create a conducive environment for meaningful conversations that unite rather than divide its people.

Initiative beyond mitigating...

the primary drivers of global warming and its associated effects.

Climate change transcends geopolitical boundaries and impacts the entire planet. Moreover, climate change exacerbates existing social, economic, and political vulnerabilities. It intensifies poverty, inequality, and displacement, placing additional strain on already fragile societies. The scarcity of resources, competition for land and water, and the displacement of people due to environmental factors can fuel conflicts and create new geopolitical tensions.

Addressing climate change and its associated impacts requires a holistic approach. It demands a shift in mindset, policy, and practice. Governments, businesses, and individuals must come together to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, promote sustainable practices, and invest in climate resilience and adaptation measures. International cooperation and collaboration are crucial to developing innovative solutions and sharing knowledge and resources.

Furthermore, nations need to promote and accelerate the transition to renewable energy sources, invest in clean technologies, and adopt sustainable practices in sectors such as agriculture, transportation, and industry. Moreover, adaptation and resilience-building measures are needed to protect vulnerable communities from the impacts of climate change.

In recent years, the world has witnessed an increasing urgency to address the challenges of climate change and environmental degradation. Nations across the globe have recognized the necessity of adopting sustainable practices and implementing innovative solutions to mitigate the impact of human activities on the planet. Among these nations, Ethiopia has emerged as a pioneer in environmental conservation and reforestation through its groundbreaking initiative, the Ethiopian Green Legacy Program.

Recognizing the urgency of addressing these challenges, the Ethiopian government launched the Green Legacy Program as a strategic response that is a symbol of environmental stewardship and community resilience.

According to a report by the Government Communication Service, under the Green Legacy Program, about 32.5 billion saplings have been planted in the past five years. Some 84% of the seedlings planted so far are reported to have survived. Usman Surur, the Rural Development Sector Co-Coordinator



and Head of Agriculture Bureau of the Central Ethiopia Region stated in research conducted by the region in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture that the majority of the seedlings have survived. This indicates a high success rate in the region's reforestation efforts and reflects their commitment to sustainable forestry practices.

He stated that their ongoing efforts focus on preserving and nurturing forest resources through the Green Legacy program. This initiative aims not only planting new saplings year in, year out but also ensuring a better chance of survival the previously planted ones. By focusing on the care and thriving of saplings from previous years, the region demonstrates its long-term approach to reforestation and environmental stewardship.

The program aims to restore degraded landscapes, rehabilitate forests, and reclaim deforested areas through large-scale tree planting. By increasing the country's forest cover, the program seeks to contribute to global efforts to mitigate climate change by sequestering carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

He also emphasized that Ethiopia's forest development initiatives have far-reaching benefits beyond its borders. By reducing the risks of drought and floods in East African countries, these efforts contribute to regional climate resilience. Furthermore, the increased forest cover enhances peace

and food security in the region by providing crucial ecosystem services such as soil conservation, water regulation, and habitat preservation.

He mentioned that in the current year's green footprint pre-planting event, the region has set an ambitious target of growing approximately 390 million saplings. This demonstrates their dedication to scaling up reforestation efforts and making a significant impact on the region's forest cover. Notably, more than 87 million saplings have already been planted in Enset (false banana) alone this year, indicating substantial progress towards achieving this target.

He stated that the majority of the agro-forestry trees will be planted according to this year's schedule. Additionally, he emphasized that the decision to replace certain tree species, such as eucalyptus, with native trees and fruit trees is significant. Eucalyptus trees are known to have high water requirements and can deplete soil fertility over time. Native trees, on the other hand, are better adapted to the local ecosystem and can provide various ecological benefits, such as promoting biodiversity and improving soil health. Also, fruit trees like coffee, avocado, mangoes, and others not only contribute to the agro-forestry system but also offer the potential for economic gains through the production of fruits, he noted.

The program has generated numerous socioeconomic benefits for local communities. Local communities involved

in the Green Legacy Program have witnessed improvements in their livelihoods and increased resilience to climate change. The program has created employment opportunities, particularly for rural communities, through activities such as seedling production, and tree planting. This has helped to alleviate poverty and improve income levels.

The reforestation efforts under the program also contribute to soil conservation and water management. The increased forest cover helps to reduce soil erosion, improve soil fertility, and regulate water flow, benefiting agricultural productivity in the region. The program encourages agroforestry practices, which integrate trees with agricultural crops, providing additional income sources for farmers.

Furthermore, the Green Legacy Program promotes community participation and awareness about environmental conservation. It fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility among local communities, encouraging them to take an active role in preserving and protecting their natural resources. This community engagement leads to a stronger connection between communities and their environment, promoting sustainable practices beyond the scope of the program.

The success of the Ethiopian Green Legacy Program has garnered international recognition and inspired other nations to undertake similar initiatives. It serves as an exemplary model for reforestation and environmental conservation efforts globally. The program's ambitious goals and tangible results demonstrate the transformative power of collective action in addressing climate change and promoting sustainable development.

Furthermore, climate change presents a complex and interconnected set of challenges that require global cooperation and innovative solutions. Also, climate change poses a distinct threat that affects all nations and transcends geopolitical boundaries. The Ethiopian Green Legacy Program exemplifies a proactive and holistic approach to addressing climate change through reforestation and environmental conservation. By focusing on sustainable practices, community participation, and long-term stewardship, the program not only contributes to climate mitigation but also generates socioeconomic benefits for local communities. It stands as a shining example of how nations can work together to combat climate change and build a more sustainable future for all.

Major contradictions in socio-economic, political..

leadership that is responsive to the needs and aspirations of all Ethiopians, regardless of ethnicity, religion, or political affiliation.

Social contradictions in Ethiopia encompass a wide range of issues stemming from its diverse cultural, linguistic, and socio-economic landscape.

Ethiopia is experiencing rapid urbanization, with significant disparities between urban and rural areas in terms of access to basic services, infrastructure and economic

opportunities. While cities are centers of economic activity and development, rural areas often face challenges such as poverty, limited access to education and healthcare and lack of infrastructure. However, the government is working on resolving these basic contradictions.

While Ethiopia has made significant strides in expanding access to education, disparities persist between urban and rural areas, as well as among different socio-economic groups and ethnic communities.

Quality of education, teacher training, and infrastructure vary widely across regions, contributing to inequalities in educational outcomes. War in the northern part of the country and various ethnic conflicts destroyed educational infrastructures that are being rehabilitated by the government and international partner agencies.

Access to healthcare services in Ethiopia remains a challenge, especially in remote and underserved areas. Limited infrastructure, shortage of healthcare workers, and lack

of medical supplies and equipment hinder efforts to provide quality healthcare to all Ethiopians. Addressing healthcare disparities and improving access to essential services are crucial for promoting social equity and well-being.

The government has already established inclusive National Dialogue Commission and a National Transitional Justice policy which is expected to address the above mentioned contradictions and challenges.

Planet Earth

Initiative beyond mitigating climate change

FIKADU BELAY

In the modern world, people are faced with a plethora of pressing challenges that demand their immediate attention and collective action. While conflicts and wars have long been a prominent concern for humanity, we also find ourselves confronted by an issue that knows no borders and affects every corner of the globe: climate change. Beyond the traditional threats of war and conflict, climate change has emerged as one of the most formidable challenges of our time, with far-reaching implications for the planet and its inhabitants.

Climate change which is characterized by rising global temperatures and the disruption of natural weather patterns has become a defining issue in today's world. Its impact extends far beyond mere conflicts and geopolitical disputes, affecting every aspect of human life, including the economy, environment, and social fabric of nations. The recent unexpected flood in places like in Dubai serve as a stark reminder of the far-reaching consequences of climate change.

The recent flooding in Dubai is not an isolated incident. Across the world, we have witnessed an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather



events, including floods, hurricanes, and wildfires. These events disrupt lives, destroy infrastructure, and cause immense human suffering. Developing countries, in particular, bear the brunt of these disasters,

as they often lack the necessary resources and infrastructure to cope with the aftermath.

The reality of climate change is no longer a matter of debate or speculation.

Overwhelming scientific evidence confirms that human activities, particularly the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation, are

See Initiative beyond ... Page 13