



The Ethiopian Herald

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Ethiopia needs strategic partners to build key infrastructure: DPM

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopia needs dependable partners to build its key infrastructure, provide affordable housing to its citizens and use better construction technologies, the Deputy Prime Minister said.

The Deputy Prime Minister Temesgen Tiruneh made the above remark yesterday while inaugurating the Second International Construction Exhibition (Big 5 Construction Ethiopia) organized at the Millennium Hall under the theme "Let's build Ethiopia!"

Temesegen also stated that the Homegrown Economic Reform Second Phase has given prime attention to the construction sector. The construction industry accounts for 21 % of the national gross domestic product.

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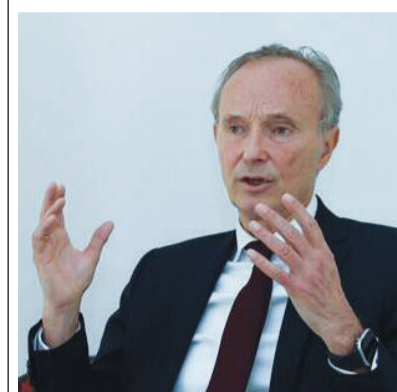


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Ambassador Stephan Auer

Germany pledges support Ethiopia's 10-Year Dev't Plan

• Supplements Ethiopia's aspiration to vibrant private sector

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA - Germany is desirous of supplementing Ethiopia's 10-Year Homegrown

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Somaliland eyes on more Ethiopian investment in fishery

BY DESTA GEBREHIWOT

HARGEISA- Somaliland seeks increased Ethiopian investments in the fishery, agriculture, and logistics sectors as Hargeisa craves boosted trade ties with its gigantic

See Somaliland eyes ... page 3

Women representatives optimistic for Nat'l Dialogue serving their best interest

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDISABABA- Women representatives that are taking part in the agenda gathering consultation phase have expressed their optimism that the National Dialogue could bring immense benefits for fellow sisters who are the primary victims of unrest.

Accordingly, Meseret Kibiret, representing women at the consultation, told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the dialogue is the best solution to resolve differences. Thus, the National Dialogue would play a significant role in addressing the longstanding differences that have been passed from generation to

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Meseret Kibiret



Ajaiba Mohammed

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Digital-tech industry in the backpack Smart Link Properties to penetrate African market

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MoFA underscores solidarity to ensure nat'l interest

• *CBE launches online fundraising platforms*

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA –Solidarity should become a priority issue to complete Abbay Dam and ensure Ethiopia's holistic interests, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said.

Foreign Affairs State Minister Ambassador Birtukan Ayano made the above remark last Wednesday during the launching ceremony of an online fundraising webpage called "itsmydam.com" and application platforms developed by the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) poised to collect sustainable donations for the construction of Abbay Dam.

On the occasion, the State Minister underlined that there is a need to replicate Ethiopia's victory in the Battle of Adwa by constructing the Abbay Dam with joined hands as it brings diplomatic and economic power to the country.

The Diaspora community has been contributing financial and diplomatic support since the commencement of the construction of the grand project, she said, adding that they have contributed 50 million USD and combated wrong accusations on Ethiopia during the past 13 years.

The Office of the National Council for the



Coordination of Public Participation to the Construction of the Abbay Dam Director General Aregawi Berhe (PhD) on his part said that some 19 billion Birr was collected to the project until March of this fiscal year.

"In addition to the financial contribution, the Diaspora Community has been providing knowledge, energy, and moral support to the realization of Abbay dam," he noted.

CBE's President Abie Sano expressed that the bank is still providing the major share of finance to the mega project through foreign exchange provision, bond purchase, and direct donations.

Supporting the above rationale, Ethiopia Diaspora Service Deputy Director General, Belayneh Aknaw on his part said that the

Diaspora community has been contributing finance and knowledge among others.

"Among others, absence of adequate support, alternative remittances, information gap, power interruption, and lack of coordination are serious challenges, which hindered to realizing the Diaspora community's involvement in their home country's agendas in the past over many years. However, itsmydam.com remittance platform would overwhelm such problem and ease the process," he noted.

Furthermore, Dam's CEO, Kifele Horo (Eng.) briefed the current status of the construction of the grand project while underscoring the need to acquire 850 million USD to finalize the project.



Frehiwot Abebe

Ethiopia moiling to reach 60% vaccine production by 2040

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopia is making an effort to cover 60% of its vaccine demand at home by 2040, Ministry of Health announced.

Health State Minister Frehiwot Abebe told the journalists that the country is undertaking several works to produce 60% of vaccines in the next 16 years.

One of the most important national strategic activities that are being carried out by the government is to increase domestic production including medical resources, and making quality health services fairly accessible to citizens by substituting imported products, she highlighted.

The African continent consumes nearly 25% of the globally produced vaccines to cover the 99% of the supply, Frehiwot said, adding that Ethiopia also imports 99 % of the vaccines it requires.

The Ministry of Health is collaborating with relevant stakeholders and partners to capacitate and support manufacturers in the health industry to produce vaccines and health ingredients domestically, she indicated.

Ethiopia has an existing indigenous knowledge and culture of using its natural resources for medicinal purposes. Accordingly, she said, traditional medicine is widely practiced in the country.

Therefore, the Ministry of Health is carrying out multifaceted activities to produce the medicines scientifically through paying strategic attention to research and creating a self-sufficient organization in the sphere, according to the State Minister.

She called upon concerned bodies to strengthen their support and combine this valuable indigenous knowledge with modern medical practices and turn it into results.

Company aspires to benefit 10,000 cluster farmers

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA - Purpose Black Ethiopia has unveiled a plan to improve the lives of 10,000 cluster farmers through providing technical and technological support.

Founder and CEO of Purpose Black Ethiopia, Fisseha Eshetu (PhD) said that activities are being done to empower farmers to become exporters beyond supplying their products to the local market.

Fisseha further revealed his company's plan to organize 10,000 cluster farmers in the upcoming years and provide them with technology, training, and access to non-intermediary markets that increase their income sustainably.

At this moment, the company is operating with 17 branch offices in 113 woredas to empower farmers to become exporters beyond selling their products to the local markets, he added.

The company provides agricultural products at reasonable prices in a way that impacts the lives of 100 million people directly, he stated.

He expressed that Purpose Black has designed a revolutionary approach to tackle global poverty by creating sustainable and strategic socio-economic opportunities.



Fisseha Eshetu (PhD)

The company recently launched the Invest in Poverty initiative to raise 100 billion USD in the upcoming five years to impact one billion lives globally and expand into 60 nations focusing on sustainable growth that aligns with nine of the UN's sustainable development goals and AU 2023 strategic agenda to create a broad and lasting impact.

The initiative of the campaign is 100+

contribution wallet models to create a large community in the world by pooling resources together in the coming five years. We create disruptive models in the world. "We have 20,000 shareholders, 2.4 billion Birr capital with 1600 workforce."

Purpose Black was founded by black experts poised to help black farmers to produce quality products and export it at a fair price.

News

Women representatives...

generation. "Not only is it vital for resolving challenges but the National Dialogue would play a major role in bringing lasting peace to Ethiopia which could help the nation to focus on its development journey."

Another women representative, Ajaiba Mohammed, indicated that the National Dialogue would create a better Ethiopia for citizens from all walks of life.

Emphasizing that women are amongst the most vulnerable segment of the society during insecurities, she stressed that the National Dialogue has created a platform for people with differences to solve their issues through dialogue thereby creating a better country.

Ajaiba further urged representatives to exert utmost effort towards the successful realization of the dialogue and meet its major goals.

Yealemzewed Tilahun, another women representative, stated that women have remained the major victims of instability. Thus, the National Dialogue would bring lasting solutions to challenges that Ethiopia has been facing.

"As women take the majority of the responsibility in looking after families and spouses, they have a better chance of shaping their significant others as well as children. Thus, involving women in the National Dialogue and solving the challenges they face would bring significant outcomes for the nation."

In order to put an end to the challenges that most women across the country are encountering, the dialogue would have an immense role, she stressed.

For Getenesh Belehu, the National Dialogue would solve the major constraints that



Yealemzewed Tilahun



Getenesh Belehu

women are encountering. Women have been subjected to several challenges during instability as well as were forced to leave their villages. Hence, the National Dialogue would allow bringing lasting peace which could end the sufferings of most women

across the country.

"Women could only be safe when Ethiopia ensured peace and stability. Therefore, women need to play an active role in each process that would enable the dialogue to meet its expectations," she remarked.

Germany pledges

Economic Reform Agenda and promote the latter's socioeconomic development, the country's ambassador said.

Germany Ambassador to Ethiopia Stephan Auer made the above remark while opening the Ethiopia Private Sector Forum yesterday.

Aligned with the priorities and reform agenda of the Ethiopian government, German Development Cooperation has been an anchor of private sector development in Ethiopia throughout all different times, he emphasized.

Ambassador Auer added, "We stand behind the goal of promoting an attractive business

environment and investment climate for the private sector to boost job creation and income opportunities for the Ethiopian communities."

In addition to supporting Ethiopia's Homegrown Economic Reform Agenda and other recent sectoral strategies including the new manufacturing industry policy, Germany is actively promoting the private sector development through financial cooperation with KfW Development Bank and technical cooperation with GIZ.

He further highlighted that the Ethiopia-Germany areas of partnership has also encompassed the promotion of decent jobs,

local businesses, sustainable investment, industrial development, supply chains and financial services.

Germany has also been supporting the Development Bank of Ethiopia via KfW and contributed a lot to the mechanization efforts of the agriculture sector in order to achieve wheat self-sufficiency and increase crop output and other provided access to loans for 488 small and medium enterprises in Ethiopia.

According to the Ambassador, a vibrant private sector requires strong institutions and the development of reforms, policies and strategies. "In order to allow sustained

private sector growth and investment, there needs to be a systematic dialogue process between the government entities and the private sector."

Ethiopia Private Sector Forum which was organized by GIZ in partnership with the Ministry of Industry and private-sector associations aims to unleash the private sector's potential to Ethiopia's economic transformation.

High-level government officials, corporate leaders from the manufacturing industry, representatives of sectoral associations and other stakeholders were in attendance at the forum.

Ethiopia needs...

He pointed out that the construction of railways, roads and other infrastructure, creation of power supply and facilities, establishment of industrial parks and special economic zones are among the areas that have been given due attention.

In Ethiopia, the construction sector has become a major driver of the economy through infrastructure construction, employment opportunities and innovation.

In terms of infrastructure construction, consolidated activities are underway to increase Ethiopia's construction coverage from the current 166,000 kilometers to 246,000 kilometers. Also, some 2.2 million people have been created in the construction sector every year.

The Deputy Premier recalled that the government has made various policy and tax incentives to enhance the potential of the construction sector. Jobs that have been done in attracting investment and supporting the development in the construction sector will continue.

Actors in the field, manufacturers, idea generators and experts who are shaping the construction industry of the future are participating in the international exhibition organized in Ethiopia.

According to Temsegen, the construction

exhibition will create new collaborations and strengthen bilateral relations, as well as create lasting friendships in the sector.

Urban and Infrastructure Minister Chaltu Sani said that the construction industry is multi-stakeholder and resource-intensive. It is necessary to work in cooperation with developed countries to make the sector effective and efficient. "In this regard, the exhibition will help to do better work by bringing the technological capabilities and experience of other countries."

The Minister further highlighted that the organization of the exhibition in Ethiopia will also help to stimulate the construction industry, introduce the main actors of the sector to each other and develop a culture of working together.

Sideline events will be held to support the construction sector with knowledge, research and modern technology.

Addis Ababa Mayor Adanech Abiebie, Education Minister Birhanu Nega (Professor), Labor and Skills Minister Muferihat Kamil and various ministers were present at the opening of the exhibition.

Participants from Türkiye, China, Italy, Kenya and other countries are taking part in the exhibition that is being held at the Millennium Hall. The exhibition will end tomorrow.

Somaliland eyes...

neighbor.

Having a strategic location, easy access to the sea and untapped natural resources, Somaliland expects more Ethiopian FDI following the recent sea deal between the two sides.

"We also need to unlock the big opportunities to cement investment links with our gigantic yet landlocked neighbor. I encourage Ethiopian investors to utilize Somaliland's strategic location, easy access to the sea, security and resources which are not utilized properly," said Investment Minister Abdirizak Ibrahim speaking exclusively to The Ethiopian Herald.

Somaliland has vast potential for fishery development and can export fish products to Ethiopia and the latter's investors can tap this business opportunities as well, he said adding his country can offer easy business entry to foreign investors.

In Somaliland, foreigners and locals are provided with equal investment opportunities, we lease land and offer licenses and tax exemptions. Somaliland is seeking potential

investors from Ethiopia and African nations.

"Currently, lots of Ethiopian investors have been engaged in various small and medium businesses, but we hope that big companies will arrive and invest in the future."

Somaliland expects more investors from Agribusiness as Ethiopia's agricultural sector is going through rapid positive changes, the minister added.

The MoU is expected to bring lofty benefits not only to both sides but also to the region at large. Once the deal is effectuated, trade will flourish and business will boom, the minister expressed his optimism.

Signaling the ongoing collaboration among Ethiopia, Somaliland and DP World in Berbera Port development, the Minister stressed the need for regional cooperation to facilitate investment and trade in the area.

Ethiopia is also a country with large fishery resources and the production is mostly concentrated in Lake Tana and Great Rift Valley Lakes.

Opinion

High time for meaningful peace stride

BY MENGESHA AMARE

The concept and essence of peace can absolutely be ingrained in notions of individual flourishing, cooperation, mutual respect and justice. It is the principal thing for human beings to be healthy, but an ideal world would foster human race that are also peaceful and have the capacity for empathy, respect for others, commitment to fairness and trust in relationships with other people.

State of calm, tranquility, stillness, harmony have to prevail over the mental anxiety, disturbance, be they are emotional, mental, or spiritual, or inner conflict.

Since the absence of conflict, war and disagreements are not indicators of peace and serenity, hostilities, rivalry and community turbulence have to be buried for good. Unequivocally, virtue, justice, order, good government, amicable tie, freedom, respect for human rights, security etc. are the bases for peace, even for lasting peace. However, the question here is how could peace be ensured? If everyone focuses on peace of mind, peace is calm, serenity, tranquility or peacefulness of mind, the world peace could be maintained.

By providing capacity-building for those local peace builders and enabling their work, members of the community can promote inclusion, better governance and lasting peace. The international community can also support Ethiopians to build sustainable peace by addressing the root causes and drivers of conflict. Yes, peace can be described as the attitudes, institutions and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies. Unequivocally, well-functioning government, sound business environment, equitable distribution of resources, acceptance of the rights of others, good relations with neighboring ones and community members, free flow of information, low level of corruption, among others, are attributable to durable peace as they are principal pillars of the issue under discussion.

A well-functioning government delivers high-quality public and civil services, engenders trust and participation, demonstrates political stability and upholds the rule of law. The strength of economic conditions as well as the formal institutions that support the operation of the private sector, too, is instrumental in boosting economic productivity and both associated with the most peaceful countries and are key factors to a robust business environment.

True, peaceful nations enforce formal laws that guarantee basic human rights and freedoms and the informal social and cultural norms that relate to behaviors of citizens. Besides, harmonious relations with one another/each other respecting ethnic, religious and cultural diversities are vital for peace and stability. Nations or

citizens with positive internal and external relations are more peaceful and tend to be more politically stable, have better functioning governments, are regionally integrated and have lower levels of organized internal conflict.

In societies with high levels of corruption, resources are inefficiently allocated, often leading to a lack of funding for essential services, which in turn can lead to dissatisfaction and civil unrest. Low corruption can enhance confidence and trust in institutions as well as improve the efficiency of business and the competitiveness of the country.

Access to information is an invaluable element that helps societies transition from the use of violence to solve conflicts, to strengthening their already existing capacities to transform conflicts in a peaceful way. Striving for visible peace in mass media is not about eliminating narratives of violence and conflict, it's about making a conscious effort to also include the narratives of hope and actions of peace that counteract violence, therefore illustrating the full picture. In this sense, peace must also occupy the pages of newspapers, to ensure a balanced portrayal of reality, which includes both stories of violence and stories of peace.

Fundamentally, peace and peaceful coexistence can be well nurtured via employing and feasibly utilizing active listening skills; identifying the underlying interests; seeking possible solutions; using objective criteria to evaluate possible solutions; identifying solutions that all parties can accept (meet common interests) as well as agreeing on the best solution and to come back to the problem if the solution does not work.

Furthermore, Ethiopians have to use peaceful ways of resolving conflict such as following amicable settlement of disputes, using alternative dispute resolution methods like mediation, negotiation, arbitration, which is the hearing, determining and settling of a dispute by person/persons. The conflicting parties both agree on this person or persons. Basically, if citizens work with others, sooner or later, they will almost inevitably face the need for conflict resolution. All citizens, especially the conflicting parties, may need to mediate a dispute between them. In principle, conflict resolution can be defined as the informal or formal process that two or more parties use to find a peaceful solution to their dispute.

As negative emotions cause people discomfort and distress, they may try to tamp them down, hoping that their feelings will dissipate with time. In fact, conflict tends to become more entrenched, and parties have a greater need for conflict resolution when they avoid dealing with their strong emotions. Yes, conflict-resolution training can further enhance citizens' ability to negotiate satisfactory

resolutions to their disputes.

Since in the traditional societies of the developing world like our country, conflict may generally exist whenever or wherever incompatible events occurred and may result in —win-lose character, a number of methods to deal with disagreements and incongruities are badly needed.

The resolution, transformation and management of conflict may however produce win-win situation too. Truth is a covenant logo that disputants or parties in conflict must not miss. Conflict is as natural as the concept of peace as it occurs whenever human beings interact, but the way it is handled matters the most.

Needless to state, a conflict is in the magnitude of rage, rift, misunderstanding, family and market brawls, skirmishes and wars, public insurrections and assaults.

It can be described as a condition in which are identifiable group of human beings weather tribal, ethnic, linguistic, religious, socio-political, economic, cultural or otherwise is in conscious opposition to one or more other identifiable human group because these groups are pursuing what to be incompatible goals. More importantly, conflict arises from the interaction of individuals who have partly, incompatible ends, in which the ability of one actor to gain his ends, depends to an important degrees on the choice or decisions that other parties will take.

This is also usually couched with the dictum of no victor no vanquished as buttressed by the maxim. 'Treat all people with kindness, regardless of race, gender orientation, sexual orientation, religion, etc., attend a peace rally, create a peaceful affirmation/mantra, and don't engage in violence of any kind.'

The involvement of all citizens as much as possible, actual representatives, is essential in due course of bringing lasting peace as the society is the prime source of peace and stability.

As conflicts are usually rooted in a combination of factors, such as competition for raw materials, weak governance and social inequality, they have to be converted into peace and peaceful coexistence. Hence, Ethiopians have to invest in positive ties with one another and/or each other. The government has in turn to work hard with a view to achieving peace and security across the nation.

Though reaching a peace agreement is often a difficult process, Ethiopians have to march for attaining it as they do not have any option other than boosting it so as to create a stable and prosperous nation. Getting adversaries arrived at ceasefire can really be a means to bring lasting peace.

The only way to resolve conflicts and prevent new wars is through a well-coordinated and genuine dialogue usually facilitated by the National Dialogue

Commission. Yes, promoting peace at home with simple strategies that prove—peace is not the absence of crazy but the ability to find calm in the midst of the chaos. Every citizen wants to create and promote peace as a family so all citizenry are able to make changes and find peace in the process.

It is natural for peace to be broken as there are many push or pull factors in due course of human interaction, but it shall be settled by peaceful means and in conformity with justice and the principles of national, continental and even international law. It is, therefore, one of the purposes of the national peace effort to maintain peace and security, in accordance with the rule of law. That is why Ethiopia is working towards ensuring peace and security in many parts of the nation especially in Oromia and Amhara states.

Institutions and norms are essential tools of the rule of law. A strong rule of law system includes trusted and fair judicial and correctional institutions, along with accountable police and law enforcement agencies that fully respect human rights. Justice systems must in particular be accessible to all people and must vindicate rights within a legitimate system. What is meant by peace here is everything societies do to deliberately preserve harmonious and trusting relations. It is collective actions to repair those relations when they are ruptured and nurture them when restored.

Ethiopia and Ethiopians have had a rich and varied repertoire of formal and informal capacities, knowledge, and experiences to exercise and develop an integrated move for sustaining peace. The issue of peace must be woven into society from below by fostering systemic partnerships and incentives to maintain it instead of following a top down approach.

There is indeed, a need to look seriously at the drivers of conflict with a view to addressing their immediate destructive consequences. However, such an approach will not lay the foundation for self-sustainable peace as the process to come up with lasting peace highly requires the willingness of two sides. It should be complemented by a mapping of the resilient capacities of peace that are still at work and propose ways for strengthening them in both hearts.

Ethiopians in all corners of the nation have to support the peace efforts geared toward creating a stable nation as everyone is duty bound, and some of whom have agenda which do not necessarily allow for sustainable peace to take root on the continent. In order for the agenda to be Ethiopian-led and owned, the majority of the ideas have to be born to Ethiopians' minds.

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

Editorial

Do not let the big chance miss out!

Ethiopia's highly anticipated national dialogue entered a critical stage with the capital Addis Ababa being the starting point of the dialogue. The dialogue will move to the other regions. This long-awaited and toll order task is expected to be a watershed moment for Ethiopia in terms of bringing consensus in major and disputed national matters.

The whole process which started by setting up the National Dialogue Commission has reached the actual stage and this mammoth work also comes at an important juncture when the country is still grappling with complex political, economic and social problems.

In the face of backlogs and recurrent odds, it is more essential than ever that the Ethiopian people engage in a genuine and inclusive conversation about the country's future. National dialogue is not only a moral imperative, but also a pragmatic step towards resolving the country's pressing issues and rebuilding a more just and equitable society.

Years of polarized views and antagonistic interest regarding major national matters have been leading to widespread discontent, protests, and even violence. Somehow, regimes have been trying to suppress divided views through force, but the failure to peacefully settle the issues has continued to pose serious challenges threatening the peace and stability of the country.

The adamant political culture, inflexibility of different groups and the unwillingness of the regimes to resolve disputed matters have only resulted in the death of people and the destruction of properties. That is at least what has been observed in past years. As much as the good things, the attempt to impose certain political thinking through armed insurrection or violent acts has only brought mayhem to the whole country.

And in what could be said a commendable move, the government has acknowledged that it is through a national dialogue that divisive rhetoric can be addressed and polarized views reconciled. After almost two years of preparation now the country has embarked on the actual work and optimism is high that if the process is credible and effective it can propel the country into the avenue of lasting stability.

However, it should be noted that national dialogue is not a panacea, but it requires shared commitment and genuine gestures from all. To move forward, stakeholders must take concrete steps to establish a credible and inclusive national dialogue process. This should involve involving every voice including armed groups. Ultimately, national dialogue is not a luxury Ethiopia can afford to ignore.

"We have begun the journey of the national dialogue from Addis Ababa. This means that Ethiopia has decided to consult and solve its problems on its own through a peaceful, civilized, comprehensive national dialogue in which different groups participate and all the people from different groups become involved to present their agendas," National Dialogue Commissioner Mahmoud Derir local media reported. According to the commissioner, preparations have been underway to begin the same missions in all regions of Ethiopia.

However, for national dialogue to be effective, it must be genuinely inclusive and representative. It should involve all stakeholders, including opposition parties, civil society organizations, and community leaders. No one should be left behind and unrepresented. Keeping up the current momentum, the government needs to make sure that there is a safe and secure environment for participants to share thoughts and opinions without fear of reprisal. In short, all Ethiopians engaged in peaceful or armed struggle devoid of linguistic, cultural religious and other backgrounds should not let the big time missed. The international community ought to also play a constructive role in supporting this process. , But cooperation should not be equated with intervention!



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The Ethiopian Herald

Opinion

National Dialogue: An opportunity to political transition, lasting peace

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

Conducting a nation dialogue to resolve conflicts and arranging payments in lieu of compensation has been part of the Ethiopian culture for ages and engaging in modern dialogue to resolve basic national issues is therefore not entirely new for Ethiopians.

More than anything else Ethiopia urgently needs peace to ensure internal stability and in the context of relations with neighboring countries. There is no sustainable development without peace and there could be no peace short of sustainable development.

In addition, Ethiopia has experienced significant ethnic and regional conflicts. National dialogue provides a platform for various groups to address grievances, seek reconciliation, and prevent further violence. Engaging in dialogue helps to build trust among conflicting parties, reduces tensions, and fosters a culture of non-violent conflict resolution. Ethiopia's political history includes periods of authoritarianism and marginalization of certain groups. National dialogue ensures that diverse voices, including those of minorities and opposition groups, are heard in the political process.

Ethiopia's political history includes periods of authoritarianism and marginalization of certain groups. National dialogue ensures that diverse voices, including those of minorities and opposition groups, are heard in the political process. Dialogue supports the transition to a more democratic governance system by promoting transparency, accountability, and participation from all sectors of society.

Application and functioning of the Ethiopian federal system and constitution are sources of debate and contention on various issues like identity and internal borders. National dialogue allows for an inclusive process to discuss and potentially reform these structures to better meet the needs of all citizens. Effective dialogue can lead to the strengthening of key institutions, ensuring they operate in a fair, transparent, and accountable manner. Moreover, Effective dialogue can lead to the strengthening of key institutions, ensuring they operate in a fair, transparent, and accountable manner.

Ethiopia is home to a diverse population with various ethnic, religious, and cultural identities. National dialogue promotes understanding and cooperation among these groups, fostering a sense of national unity. In addition, dialogue helps to mitigate political and social polarization by encouraging constructive engagement and reducing the appeal of extreme positions.

Political stability and social cohesion are prerequisites for sustained economic development. In Ethiopia, national dialogue can help create a stable environment that attracts investment, fosters economic growth, and ensures equitable distribution of resources. Moreover, Inclusive discussions about economic policies and development strategies can help address inequalities and ensure that all regions and communities benefit from national growth.

A national dialogue process often includes discussions on human rights issues, leading to reforms that protect and promote the rights of all citizens. In addition, addressing past injustices and human rights abuses through dialogue and reconciliation processes is crucial for healing and moving forward as a nation.

Successful national dialogue processes could attract international support, both in terms of diplomatic backing and development aid. It signals to the international community that Ethiopia is committed to resolving its issues peacefully.

Nonetheless, engaging in meaningful dialogue enhances Ethiopia's image globally, showing a commitment to democratic principles and human

rights. The National Dialogue Commission is making all the necessary preparations to coordinate the upcoming national dialogue process and has certainly made all the necessary institutional preparations. Here, the author wishes to make only some suggestions on how the process may be conducted at all levels.

It would be preferable to organize some kind of ground rules which governs the behavior of the participants at all levels. This would help to give more chance for participants in the discussions to be conducted in the dialogue.

Journalists and their media companies can play an important role in supporting the smooth flow of the discussions and by preparing daily reports to the public on the progress on the national dialogue process.

CEOs of media houses need to provide journalists with the necessary logistics and guidance as well as in house training on how to cover the daily activities in the dialogue process. Specific standards need to be provided to produce quality news in the most participatory and inclusive manner. Collecting opinions of the participants by keeping the professional and gender composition is very important.

Expectations and outcomes of the discussions need to be carefully documented as they could serve for future development planning and promotion of justice and improvements of social services across the country.

Identifying all relevant groups and individuals who should be part of the dialogue, including government representatives, competing parties, civil society organizations, ethnic and religious leaders, and marginalized groups, displaced persons need to be considered.

Understanding the interests, power dynamics and relationships among stakeholders to ensure that the dialogue addresses the concerns and aspirations of all parties is very important. Using experienced and neutral facilitators to guide the dialogue process, manage discussions, and ensure that all voices are heard. Organizing large, inclusive conferences where representatives from various groups can come together to discuss and negotiate key issues.

Using media campaigns, social media, and public service announcements to inform the public about the dialogue process and encourage participation. Ensuring that the dialogue process is transparent by regularly publishing updates, reports, and outcomes will help to inform the public on the progresses underway in the dialogue process.

The entire process of national dialogue provides Ethiopians with opportunities to acquire a new political culture in which conducting discussions on a round tables and not resorting to conflicts becomes an important level of social consciousness.

Many countries which conducted national dialogues prepared important ground rules that are to be followed by all participants throughout the dialogue process. The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission has prepared a set of ground rules that could help to conduct smooth and peaceful discussions in which the vast majority of the participants will have opportunities to express their views in a mode dignified manner.

Conducting a national dialogue may not be a smooth process but it will also serve as a forum for learning and relating to each other to resolve outstanding challenges that Ethiopia is now facing as a nation.

On the other hand, although a national dialogue is conducted at a national level, it needs the support from other countries and international organizations that have been calling for peaceful settlements of disputes in Ethiopia.

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

Business & Economy

Efforts to identify, develop geothermal, mineral resources

BY BACHA ZEWDIE

Data indicate that the world's underground is full of geothermal energy. This thermal energy from the earth can be developed and used for cooking, bathing, heating rooms, generating electricity and so on.

The data also indicate that there is a large amount of geothermal resources underground than the world needs. However, there are also challenges to use this energy especially for electricity generation.

It has been a long time since Ethiopia started exploration for geothermal resources. Thus, various studies have been conducted since the 1960s/70s through the Geological Survey of Ethiopia. As the studies indicated so far, 27 geothermal areas have been identified as capable of generating electricity. It has been confirmed that more than ten thousand megawatts of electricity can be generated from the sector in the country.

As a result of work done in the geothermal sector so far, the first geothermal power station was built in the 2020s in Aluto-Langano and it was possible to generate 7.3 megawatts. This plant is currently under maintenance. Since the year 2008, the government has recognized that developing the geothermal resources by its own capacity requires a lot of capital. Thus, it has been working on formulating strategies, policies, decrees, regulations and guidelines. According to the data obtained from the Ministry of Mines, local and foreign private investors have been green lighted and favorable conditions are created to develop the geothermal resources.

As per the Geothermal Resource Proclamation, there are two types of geothermal resources. Level-1 Geothermal resources means that it is possible to generate high temperature geothermal steam by converting it into electrical energy; Level-2 Geothermal resource is the direct use of heat energy from geothermal for agriculture, industry, fishing, mining, recreation, medicine, bathing and other uses.

According to State Minister of Mines, Million Matthews, so far, 27 high-temperature geothermal areas have been identified as capable of generating electricity in Ethiopia. According to the geothermal master plan study prepared based on previous studies in the geothermal sector, it is known that there is a potential to generate more than ten thousand megawatts from the sector in Ethiopia.

Six foreign investors and one government institution are engaged in the geothermal sector at the level of companies and another 11 are engaged in exploration and development license issuance.

In general, many foreign and domestic companies are issued license and engaged in the mining sector for the exploration and development of ornamental, industrial, construction and other minerals. Currently, there are 208 companies working in the mining sector. Of these, 134 are engaged in exploration work, and 74 are in production and pre-production work.

The State Minister said that geothermal energy development is resource intensive.



Ethiopia's Aluto Langano Geothermal Project operational

By directly using the geothermal resources in the regions, job opportunities have been created for many young people and investors

Most of the works being carried out in the sector are under exploration. Two foreign companies, however, have signed power purchase and implementation agreements with the government. He pointed out that each company is preparing and drilling for generating 150 megawatts in two phases. One company has drilled seven deep test wells with a total depth of 15,000 meters. Next, he announced that they are preparing to conduct a borehole inspection to determine the available steam power.

He explained that ten deep exploration wells are being drilled by the government company and the total depth more than 27 thousand meters has been drilled. Two more wells are being dug and he said that eight of these wells have been well tested.

As of his explanation, there was a situation where some of the companies engaged in the mining sector stopped working due to security problems in some areas (in Oromia, Benishangul, Tigray and Amhara regions). At present, however, most of the companies that have been issued license and engaged in relatively peaceful areas are being monitored and supported and are being made to start working.

The State Minister further said that it is possible to generate at least 25 megawatts of electricity from wells dug in Ethiopia, and he indicated that the preparation to start the generation work with the technology of

“five megawatt well head plant” is being completed.

Exploration and deep drilling work is carried out in the mining and geothermal sector, so it is a sector where large investments are made. As a result, it is made possible to bring in a large amount of foreign currency from the investment for the work. The development of minerals, especially geothermal resources, requires a large amount of capital, technology and manpower. From this point of view, the government is working with various bodies to facilitate short and long-term trainings in the country and abroad to increase the capacity of the workforce, he added.

He mentioned that all companies are obliged to hire local experts as long as there are local experts with sufficient knowledge as the sector involves experts in various fields. If there are no enough local experts in the field, it is expected to get experience by coordinating with foreign experts.

In order to make them perform various tasks, competing indigenous organizations is underway. For example, he pointed out that they are being made to engage in infrastructure (roads, camps and water drilling) so that they can create a lot of job opportunities and this allowed the experts in the field to gain a lot of knowledge.

As explained by the State Minister, in the geothermal sector, there are currently 300 permanent and temporary jobs created by the companies. By directly using the geothermal resources in the regions, job opportunities have been created for many young people and investors.

According to Million, permanent and temporary job opportunities have been created in the past nine months in various activities of the companies. He explained that many people are engaged in the production of salt, potash, bromine, silica, carbon dioxide gas and so on.

In terms of entertainment and tourism, the trip to Dalol in the Afar region is one of the geothermal attractions. Many people are benefiting from preparing hot water or steam baths in modern and traditional ways in various areas. For this, Hot Springs like Sodere and Wondo Genet can be mentioned as examples, he noted.

He stated that many people are using the steam as a steam bath and shower in the

medical field, and in addition to fulfilling social responsibility, a lot of work has been done to ensure the benefit of the local community. For example, the provision of educational materials and community-based activities are among the community's benefits.

As to the State Minister, many works have been done in the mining sector in the last nine months. Good deed has been carried out to establish and implement new procedures by identifying some unclear procedures that are not suitable for monitoring and inspection. Licenses are issued to manufacturers who want to produce value-added products via processing the raw materials for the industries and construction sector to substitute imported goods.

At the same time, mentioning that issuance of license for minerals that contribute significantly to increasing foreign exchange earnings has been underway. He added that a lot of works to strengthen and ensure institutional efficiency in the nine months have been committed.

According to the report obtained through inspection, the companies that have taken a license for mineral production and exploration are informed in written format the results of the inspection along with the license agreement. The second round of International Mining and Technology Expo was held from 24 to 28 November, 2024 in order to attract potential and experienced investors to participate in the mining sector, promote mineral resources and increase market linkages.

The State Minister further announced that the manufacturing companies that have entered and are preparing to enter the production of cement, coal, gold and other minerals have been put to work with their full capacity.

Based on thorough evaluation of the institutional arrangement at work and identifying the problems, new organizational activities are being carried out. In addition, they have done thorough evaluation of the performance of the licenses granted so far and that they have done the work that will bring about the results of the next licensing and management. The work of revising the mining and oil policies and decrees in view of the current national and international conditions is being completed, he pointed out.

Art & Culture

Booze culture, boom time Addis and backstreet liquor shops

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

Since time immemorial, alcoholism or alcohol use and abuse has taken center stage in the lives of many traditional and modern communities or societies. Alcohol whether abused or not, has been blended with their cultures and made to serve and reflect their traditions, norms and attitudes above love. Omar Khayyam, one of the most prominent poets of ancient Persia, now Iran, has written a series of poems about the virtues of wine and alcohol in general as a trigger of carnal love which in other Christian cultures is considered a sinful indulgence.

I remember that the late Tesfaye Gessesse, an Ethiopian playwright, actor and poet, among other things, had written an excellent translation of Omar Khayyam selected poems in Amharic. Tesfaye was a fan of Khayyam and used to read his poems over the radio with such verve that we had the impression that he was also a fan of drinking.

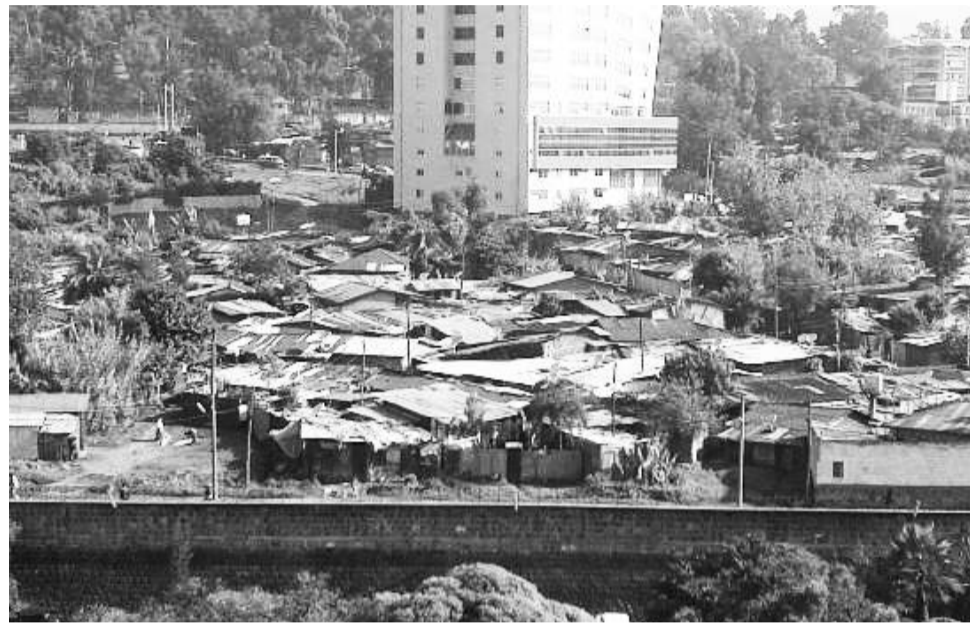
Omar Khayyam is considered by many critics who wrote about him and his relationship with alcohol and asked whether he was a “functional alcoholic?” Omar Khayyam did not deny that he used alcohol and wine extensively whether during his romantic escapades or as a source of inspiration. Khayyam once said, “I can renounce all but wine-never I console myself for all else, but for wine-never, is it possible for me to become a good Muslim and give up old wine? Never!”

Leaving aside what poets and writers in general said about alcohol, we can consider the place of alcohol drinking in social contexts, which is a more important thing to discuss.

What is the cultural significance of alcohol? “The importance of alcohol in this context is easily understood. In all cultures, drinking is an essential social act, and one of the primary functions of alcohol is the facilitation of social bonding.

A buddy of mine passed away a few years ago, leaving behind a novel in which he described, with amazing detail, the average day of an alcohol addict from one of the backstreet alehouses hidden behind high rise buildings somewhere in this booming city. Judging from the settings of the story and the behaviors of the deranged characters, the novel reads like Dostoevsky’s “The Poor People” although the real characters in my friend’s novel are not really poor people. Of course my friend had a talent for literature that does not equal to that of the Russian author. However, in this short book whose author pours his observations and his personal regrets, we find lives ruined and dreams that have gone awry, bleary eyes that stare at darkened existence.

There, you meet doctors and highly educated professionals whose lives have been ruined by drink. Returnees from the Diaspora whose fates have turned 180 degrees from



the life of opulence to pauperism and chose to sink their tragedy in bottles of locally brewed liquor, and addicts who often go there to beg for a drink or two to appease their cravings.

Addis Ababa is inexhaustible as a source of inspiration for stories because it is a city always under construction and a city producing new stories almost every other month. Addis is a city of many paradoxes and a city of tales as varied as captivating as those in ancient Baghdad or modern Kolkata. It is becoming a huge metropolis. It is obviously going through a demographic explosion. With a population of over five million citizens, Addis is turning into one of the most populous cities in Africa if not in the world. The size of its population sometimes exceeds the total population size of many African countries. And this population is the strength on which the future of the city is built.

Addis is going through one of its boom periods in its rather short history. This is not an economic boom but a construction boom. The city is being renovated. From an old town of eucalyptus forests, it is turning into a city of forest for skyscrapers. It is embracing modernity.

It is displaying all the features of big cities across the world. Sumptuous villas and expensive apartments share the available space with the last vestiges of shacks and dilapidated living quarters. High class elites live alongside jobless and impoverished squatters. These are the contradictory features of cities undergoing explosive construction or reconstruction boom.

However with growth come not only opportunities but also problems. Medical services are overcrowded. Hospitals and medical facilities in general are in short supply. Critical drugs are not sufficiently available. Poverty stares at us at every street corner and in the shacks and shanty towns. The streets are filled with malnourished children and hopeless mothers. Luxury restaurants and eateries where food leftovers are sold by the mouthful to penniless residents live in the same city, located

farther from one another.

In all societies, alcoholism is both a bad culture and a medical crisis. It is also a manifestation of bad behavior, particularly among the youth population. Since society does not talk much about this social and cultural disaster, we have the wrong impression that the problem has disappeared or is on its way to disappearance. This is however wrong. Either society is tired of talking about it or it has admitted the social malady as something normal or tolerable.

If there is a dangerous habit that is overlooked in Ethiopian culture in general and even encouraged to be indulged in with advertisements and stories of drunken bravados told and cherished from one generation to the next, it is the notorious culture of alcohol abuse as it is often politely described.

The true or scientific story of alcohol consumption is that any amount of alcohol is dangerous for your life. Unfortunately many people forget this statement because they are still alive and death looked a very distant threat. Death is inevitable but it is really miserable to die young with your dreams unachieved. The tombs and graves are filled with young people who died prematurely from abuse whether from too much alcohol or drugs.

The dead cannot be held accountable for their premature deaths because they often picked up the habit either from their leaders brothers, their parents or society at large. Ethiopian culture, which encourages drinking as an act of male bravado or macho, is also one culprit among many.

I have personally lost many friends to drink. Those were the good, the wild and the romantic ones. Most of them were in their twenties or early thirties. Some of them started to consume alcohol because they felt invincible and believed that death from drinking too much was the fate of the elderly. They never believed they could die so young and so full of hope. Many of them started their drinking obsessions when they were too young to consume even a drop of

alcohol.

They were either “inspired” by their parents or pushed to the bottle by their peers and other influences. Society was also one culprit. Drinking is often idealized, considered cheap entertainment, chic and a good alternative to fuel your depressed existence. Alcohol becomes more dangerous when it is linked to a certain mental condition. It worsens rather than improve the condition. It can lead to depression, dropping out from school or college, unemployment, and sinking into the dark pit. Many people had their lives wrecked by drink. Recovery is difficult and often impossible particularly if the victims are advanced in their age.

Young women in towns and cities are not spared from the scourge. As a starter, they indulge in drinking just for fun that will soon turn into tragedy. Most of them are encouraged to abuse their health and take part in that dangerous fun and finally land either in brothels or as young female beggars in the streets with children they got from unknown fathers. The luckier ones opened their private drink shops and died there from overconsumption. Some of them either came from broken families or from well-to-do backgrounds grew up pampered and finally ended up with self-pampering and eventual extinction.

In Addis, there are specific neighborhoods or districts where drinking is more pronounced and accidents from drunken orgies are more frequent than in other areas. Middle class people go to Bole area for a couple of drink and end up overdrinking themselves and sustaining car crashes in which lives may be lost or injuries sustained. If on the other hand, you go to less fashionable neighborhoods in what is popular known as Haya Hulet Matoria, former Piazza or Arat Kilo areas, most drinkers have no cars, their mobility are not limited and the threats to their lives usually come from criminal attacks in the hand of muggers or simply from unemployed youths that roam around in search of potential victims.

These youngsters often spend their days consuming narcotics in many forms and then consuming excessive amount of cheap alcohol. They often go out in the evening to hunt down unsuspecting victims. The media is replete with the accidents caused by these muggers and the victims who incur the losses. But they are not often reported. Any way you look at it, alcoholism is a social and personal scourge. It is the main trigger for horrible crimes and the breakdown of families and the end of friendships. At the individual level, alcohol consumption is linked to depression and hopelessness. You may start to drink with a feeling of euphoria or just to relax. Yet, with time this is bound to evolve into a notorious habit, an addiction without which you cannot survive. This is the moment when alcohol consumption rears its ugly head, beyond which lurks personal and social tragedy. This is time to stop it or sink with the ship.

Science & Technology

Digital-tech industry in the backpack Smart Link Properties to penetrate African market

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

STRIDE Ethiopia 2024 Expo was organized at the Science Museum from 18 to 26 May 2024. More than 150 private and governmental tech companies exhibited technological products and innovations. Tech companies engaged in various technological fields showcased technological products. The products of these companies mainly focused on solving societal problems and increasing productivity by easing the traditional way of doing business.

A lot of tech companies engaged in the digital technology sector exhibited their products in the expo. Companies engaged in software development, data centers, digital payment mechanisms, e-commerce and other digital platforms were the dominant companies that participated in the STRIDE Ethiopia 2024 Expo.

Among these companies that participated in the expo were Smart Link Properties PLC which presented its tech products, Smart Rental System, and Nugizu applications. Smart Rental System is a modern building administration system that helps mall owners to administer the rented rooms easily while the Nugizu is an E-commerce platform.

Yonas Beyene is the founder and CEO of Smart Link Properties PLC. He had a short stay with The Ethiopian Herald while this reporter was visiting the STRIDE Ethiopia Expo at the Science Museum. Yonas stated that his company was founded 14 years ago as a proprietorship company. Since 2022 Smart Link Properties has transformed into a PLC. During the initial period, the company was focused on website development with limited capacity and targeted small companies.

Parallel to website development for companies, after two years of its establishment, Smart Links developed a new application, Smart Building Administration System, according to Yonas. The Smart Building Administration application developed by the company was the most known product of Smart Link Properties and according to Yonas this system was developed 12 years ago. During the initial years, the company provided mall administrators with the product to use it for free as a promotion as most malls used manual systems to administer the business activities of the malls.

Despite the company providing the app for mall owners to use for free, due to lack of awareness and limited infrastructure, it took time for the system to penetrate the market. "After a year, one company found near to our officer started to use it to administer its mall. At that time, the company was paying 3,000 birr annually," Yonas stated adding that the company was

investing in website development which helped the company to survive. As to him, the company waited years to earn income from the Smart Building System.

"I think two years later, Haile Gebresilassie's company, 'Haile and Alem International' started to use the Smart Building Administration system. Since then, the smart mall administration application has been providing services in Addis Ababa and is working with hundreds of building owners in Addis Ababa," Yonas told *The Ethiopian Herald*. The Smart Building Administration System, according to Yonas, aims to ease the management and administration system of big malls as they rent many rooms/classes. The application is a smart rental administration system that helps mall owners administer their malls in a modern way.

According to Yonas, it is tough to manage big malls with hundreds of rented rooms with a manual system. As to him, the Smart Mall Administration system helped the owners to manage the payment system for rented rooms of the buildings easily as it properly incorporates all the necessary things within one system. In addition, it registers invoices about the details of the register about the rooms and the company or individuals renting the room. The first system was easy and targeted only limited tasks, according to the CEO.

Through the process, the system developed its tasks as building owners want to fully manage the mall administration through the system. "By gathering the feedback from customers to include other tasks that were managed manually, the company included additional tasks and services to the system," as to him. In addition to the feedback from its customers, the company by itself also continued working to improve the system.

The company continued improving the system by adding new versions. According to the CEO, through continued improvement efforts, currently, the system reached its 14th version. Yonas stated that the system is being updated through two means. One, due to the technological developments the company wants to incorporate new technology to develop and improve the system. Secondly, to include new features mainly to diversify the functioning of the system. For that reason, the system was updated almost 14 times, and it is on its 14th version currently.

For Yonas, currently, the system is familiar and hundreds of big malls are using the system to manage their rented rooms. "Currently, the malls are using the application through an annual subscription, and it solves serious problems in administrating buildings" Yonas added. As to him, it helps mall owners to effectively administer the activities of their malls and solve the problems they were facing during the manual system. Hence, it makes



Yonas Beyene, Smart Link Properties Founder and CEO

building management easy and efficient and creates smooth relations between the owners and the rented occupants.

It bridges the gaps in the manual system. Especially, it helps mall owners to collect their income from the rented rooms properly and timely. In addition, it eases the payment mechanism for water, electricity, and cleaning services of rented rooms as it manages the whole process. It properly manages the activities of the building and creates trust between the owners and the rented occupants. In addition, for example, one company or person may rent several rooms and it was difficult to manage such systems in the manual system. However, the Smart Building Administration system eased the overall system as it registered each room properly.

According to him, the application is also suitable for real estate developers and different real estates are using the application for selling rooms. In addition, car rental service providers are also using the app.

Smart Link Properties also developed an E-commerce site called, Nugizu. Nugizu is an Amharic word that means "Come and Buy." Yonas stated eight years ago, his company created the Addis Look system, which provided services about information malls and shops and their services online. It was to help beneficiaries to easily access shops and their services online. Later, by improving the system the company developed the Smart Gojo System which was like e-commerce.

"During COVID-19, we realized that e-commerce is becoming popular by society to shop for goods and services. Hence, in 2020 we developed the Nugizu platform," Yonas stated adding the new platform aims to become a popular e-commerce marketplace in Ethiopia. "We are working to make it a big online market (e-commerce) service provider platform like Amazon and other well-known international platforms" he reiterated. Currently, Nugizu is serving a lot of people and people are opening shops on the platform.

Smart Link Properties' next plan, according to Yonas is to develop and expand the products. The company is working to develop the Smart Building Administration system to a web-based level. As to Yonas, the company is aiming to provide services to other African countries in this regard. "Through creating a controlling mechanism from the center, the company targets to work provide the service even out of Ethiopia. The new version of the system will be fully completed by the end of August," the CEO noted.

Similarly, Nugizu E-commerce platform also targets the African continent. As to him, the e-commerce platform is well well-developed, and "our strategic plan is to become an African online marketplace."

As to Yonas, the STRIDE Ethiopia Expo helped his company to promote its products and to create linkages with other technology companies.

Society

Snail Sense Theory and Ethiopian patriarchy

BY MEKDES TAYE (PHD)

In the process of solving a given society's various issues, the mechanisms that typically originated from the same society are more relevant and suitable than other approaches from another society's contextual reality. Though there are internationally approved perspectives to be applied at the global level, some unique and sensitive issues, like gender did require theories that suit the given societies' real background. In this regard, Akie (1994) strongly argued that in the study of gender, perspectives that rose from Africa itself are more appropriate to tangibly address the problem and to look for solutions than American and Western viewpoints, which echo their own experience on the subject.

With these logical grounds African theoreticians, critics and philosophers posit frameworks after studying and understanding the sociocultural reality of the continent. They recommend theoretical frameworks for African gender issues as an indigenous knowledge request for examining the issue contextually.

Among African feminist critics, Akachi Adimora Ezeigabo (2013) is the one who approaches the subject to be mirrored in a perspective of her proposed theory. She had introduced the idea of Snail Sense African Feminism as the best method for examining women and men interaction and gender based participation in certain competitive areas.

As part of Africa, Ethiopia has a shared experience and similar sociocultural background particularly in gender based attitudes and treatments. As studies approved, patriarchy is commonly dominating the continent and Ethiopia to a different extent and style of application. Even in a country, the severity, depth and ways of implementation could vary as per the types of the societies' culture and social construction background.

The basic points raised in this theory and Ethiopian patriarchal experience at each idea are going to be addressed in the paragraphs under.

The first logical assimilation of the snail that Ezeigabo recommended African women to act like is the natural creation of the snail body itself. The snail carries its house at its back without feeling its strain. It keeps going to its target with no complaints. Like this animal, African women need to know and tolerate the patriarchy that pressed them over their shoulder and keep moving to achieve their life goal instead of ceasing their walk till their shoulder gets free which, I believe, could not happen at a time.

In Ethiopia, different studies, literary outputs and successful women biographies show that though male domination is prevalent in their society, girls and women did recognize their subordination but move through it strategically so as to find a space for their voice. Instances can be mentioned

Knowing the prevalence and intensity of patriarchy and living in it strategically is the immediate solution women can do, avoiding it at every sphere of competition is absolutely necessary to fasten development and form modern society...

from the Amharic novel called 'Nibut'. The protagonist in this book was very strong and active in identifying appropriate situations for availing herself and was very committed to attaining her goal. In real-life circumstances too, most successful women disclose that they were well informed about patriarchy and that they move on it patiently not by confronting it. In the Zimbabwean novel called 'Nervous Conditions', the major character Tambu was an alerted and cautious character about the depth of patriarchy. Its prevalence didn't prevent her from setting her goal and achieving it successfully.

The second trait of the animal that the theory proposes to be adopted by Africa women is the escaping mechanism of the animal. In their move towards their needed destiny, snails could face plenty of unexpected challenges. Thus, when danger looms, the animal withdraws its shell and escapes from the danger. Like the snail deed, women can get into the patriarchy when they face challenges basing their femininity. The major character in 'Nibut' was strong in her education. She respects the norms of the society. She was accomplishing her assigned roles; like taking care of household chores in her family. She was too shy and stayed in the kitchens rather than equally portraying her idea before elder peoples and males. But when the situation gets calm, she turns her face to her education.

Successful women in politics, business, education and others especially those who are from rural areas had passed through the social norms and subversions strategically. Male takes the priority though the female is older in age in most of the families. I can infer my own experience here. Even though I am the first child for my family, the most recognized and adored one was my younger brother. I was one of the top students in my class and took higher levels as my male counterparts. But it was not the concern of my family. Instead my mother, particularly, was usually tense with the low achiever younger brother. Her worry is the pass marks of him, not my top score. I was not affected by her and the family for their unfairness. I let them get beside him, and I get stuck on my goal more than ever. I keep on achieving good scores with the allotted household chores. My intention was on how to exceed those who score more than me. It was my education that could only help me to enjoy a good life not only for me but for my family too.

I achieved my goal. I got my first degree. But my brother had failed the entrance exam and became the burden of the family. After I got employed in a university, I took him with me and sponsored him to continue his diploma at a private college. After he got his diploma, I helped him do his own business and form his own life. He is now married and leading a better life.

The third point raised in the theory is the smooth physical nature of the animal. Snails are not strong creatures, they could be crushed easily. Yet they didn't hesitate

to climb trees, to pass thorny and spiky surfaces, cross rocky and harsh situations, they pass them systematically, they didn't confront them because they are very soft and weak in nature. Females are very soft and suave in nature than males. This nature of them is the base of the scholar to create an association with this animal. But they are more active and cautious, I believe, than males. Thus, to get equal inclusion with males, females should be smart in applying their natural ability.

As an instance, let's infer the personal stories of successful women. In the interview which was made with Amb. Mulu Solomon (PhD) who delegates her country in German was expressive in narrating her profile for the journalist. She was from a big family and her father passed away when she was only five. It was her mother who took care of her and the other six children alone. Though her mother is living in rural areas and was reproached by relatives to quit especially females' education, she never accepted the advice. She paid all costs to help her children succeed in their education. Mulu was supposed to cross 83 km away from her family to continue her education. She said she was passing through lots of challenges that emanated from the patriarchal perceptions of the people around her.

She got her degree successfully and served at different levels. She continued her second degree with challenging times, being pregnant with twins. She never ceased it though she was looking after her twins. She managed it as a mother and student at a time. In her dialogue, she also mentioned that while she was nominated by her colloquies for directing Chamber of Commerce, male competitors and even women around her were trying to humiliate her by her femininity and null experience to the position. As she said; she was very strong in her decision and she was not in quarrel with them. She just kept on moving to the competition without losing her intimacy with those people who attempt to demoralize her. Then, she won and achieved the position peacefully. Besides winning over patriarchy, she implemented a new working culture and increased the number of members. Following her step, democratic elections of the leaders were adopted after she left it for higher responsibility. Though I brought up an individual narration here, this story, I believe, is the story of the most successful Ethiopian girls.

To sum up, although I accepted that knowing the prevalence and intensity of patriarchy and living in it strategically is the immediate solution women can do, avoiding it at every sphere of competition is absolutely necessary to fasten development and form modern society. But since the perception of the society regarding patriarchy had been formed culturally and religiously for longer periods, drastic social change in a time is impossible. Thus, till its eradication, girls should stay smart and cautious to penetrate it to meet with their life goal.

Ethiopia welcomes...

immigrants gives them a deep connection to the country, making them passionate advocates for showcasing its beauty and rich cultural heritage. Their influence and understanding of both Ethiopian and foreign cultures can bridge gaps and facilitate meaningful exchanges between tourists and locals.

The call made by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed to the second generation of Ethiopian Diaspora for homecoming provides benefits for the Diaspora and the country as well, Foreign Affairs Standing Committee Member of the House of People's Representatives, Ambassador Dina Mufti remarked.

The second-generation of Ethiopian Diaspora, who are born outside their country of origin, and still reside there, are believed to be a large number.

The objective of the invitation is to reconnect this part of the Diaspora with their ancestral root, help them acquaint with the unique culture, values and history as well as the ongoing overall transformation efforts in Ethiopia.

According to him, the Diaspora will also be able to see physically the internationally acclaimed historical, religious and cultural heritages of Ethiopia that they may only know from afar, he added.

Moreover, Tourism Minister Nasise Challi said the call by the Premier is crucial to mend the gap between generations of Ethiopians and collectively contribute to their country of origin.

As to her, the call has taken into consideration seasonal breaks and holidays to create favorable conditions and encourage the second generation Ethiopians to come to their homeland.

Accordingly, Ethiopians living abroad contribute significantly to promoting tourism by organizing cultural events and festivals that showcase the vibrant traditions and customs of Ethiopia. These events provide a platform for tourists to experience Ethiopian music, dance, art, and other cultural expressions, fostering a deeper appreciation for the country's rich heritage.

Currently, Ethiopian embassies in various

countries have commenced preparations to facilitate the visit.

Ethiopia's Ambassador to Italy, Demitu Hambisa said the embassy has conducted discussions with Ethiopians and foreigners of Ethiopian origin residing in Italy, Greece and Malta with a view to creating awareness.

According to her, the second generation Diaspora in the countries are expressing huge desire to visit their country of origin.

On his part, Diaspora Sector Coordinator at the Ethiopian Embassy in Germany, Aschalew Kebede said the response of the Diaspora in Germany to the homecoming call of the premier has stirred huge enthusiasm among the Diaspora community.

The embassy is currently engaged in creating awareness about the objective and content of the initiative through establishing coordinating committee.

As to him, the visit is pivotal for the second generation Ethiopian Diaspora as it creates great opportunity to familiarize themselves with their origin, history, and

culture.

So far, the Ethiopian Airlines, following Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's invitation, has issued discounts on flights and hotel accommodation for those second generation Diaspora coming home.

In sum, the second generation Ethiopian Diasporas sought to offer fresh perspectives and creative ideas in enhancing marketing and promotion strategies for Ethiopian tourism. Their deep understanding of the target audience, combined with their knowledge of digital platforms and social media, is expected to enable visitors to effectively communicate the unique experiences that Ethiopia has to offer. By leveraging their skills, they contribute to attracting a wider audience and increasing tourist inflow.

More importantly, such initiatives also significantly contribute to the country's tourism sector that has been severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and the northern part conflict. It stimulates the hotels, lodges, tour and travel agents, as well as other tourist service providers' to operate with maximum efforts.

Casablanca Smart City's 8th Edition Sets Sights on Building Urban Futures

The event aims to promote discussions and initiatives that can contribute to the creation of smarter, more efficient, and inclusive cities.

RABAT- WeCasablanca, an initiative dedicated to promoting Casablanca's assets, has officially announced that the eighth edition of Casablanca Smart City will be held on June 5 and 6, 2024. This year's theme, "From Smart Citizen to Smart Metropolis," aims to underline the importance of urban development aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

This year's event aims to build upon the success of the seventh edition, held in June 2023 under the theme "Smart City: Towards Sustainable Metropolitan Transitions." The event, which attracted significant attention and participation, recorded a high turnout with over 600 participants and featured 66 speakers.

The event was structured in an agora format, showcasing more than 15 international models of smart city initiatives. Over 50 media outlets covered the event.

The seventh edition also featured a startup village, an open innovation lab, and a scientific university space, with the aim of nurturing innovative ideas. Around 24 young entrepreneurs and startup founders presented their projects related to smart systems, including governance, social and community systems, infrastructure, smart services, ecology, and sustainable development.



A notable highlight was the pitch competition, where 12 startups were selected to present their innovative solutions. Three startups were awarded the "Smart City Casablanca Awards 2023," including Presta Freedom, Crescents, and Smart Collecte.

The upcoming Casablanca Smart City event will feature an exhibition space designed to foster exchanges and partnerships between local and international actors. In addition, a startup village will be set up to showcase innovative projects by young entrepreneurs in the smart city sector.

This initiative aims to bring together researchers, innovators, and decision-makers to share knowledge, present innovative solutions, and address various urban challenges.

WeCasablanca emphasized in the statement the necessity of developing efficient urban solutions in response to challenges such as land scarcity, water stress, energy consumption, and climate change. The company highlighted the importance of integrating technological approaches with human-centric urban planning and management.

This year's edition will cover various themes, including e-governance, urban data for smart monitoring, and intelligent citizen management of metropolitan resources. The event will focus on the physical development of infrastructure and services while enhancing human resilience through innovative technologies.

Mohamed Jouahri, General Director of

Casablanca Events and Animation, stressed the significance of rethinking the concept of "smartness" in the context of smart cities. "This edition offers a unique opportunity to share knowledge, exchange experiences, and co-create innovative solutions for contemporary urban challenges," he said.

Meanwhile, Hassan Radoine, director of the School of Architecture at the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University and President of the Scientific Committee, emphasized the importance of guiding the phenomenon of metropolization in a resilient and sustainable manner. Radoine highlighted the need for continuous monitoring of urban performance to ensure that growth is balanced with environmental impacts.

Source: Morocco World News



This is Ethiopia

Ethiopia welcomes second generation Diaspora

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Various reports confirm that the Ethiopian Diasporas returning to their ancestral homeland is gaining momentum and yielding significant impacts on the tourism industry year after year. Courageous citizens motivated by a desire to explore their roots, contribute to the development of their home country, and promote its rich cultural heritage, have been playing a vital role in attracting tourists and boosting the tourism industry. It is to be recalled that the previous year, the first Great Ethiopian Diasporas Homecoming challenge was able to attract millions of Ethiopian origins and foreign tourists to the homeland.

In an effort to maximize the influx of tourists and garner more benefits out of it recently, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has called on the second-generation Ethiopian origins to come home and visit Ethiopia as well as experience the culture, history and be part of the ongoing development endeavors .

It is believed this year numerous Ethiopian



born tourists and foreigners are expected to visit the country in connection with the Prime Minister’s call. The call was heralded on an event of Chebera Churchura Elephant Paw Lodge inaugurating.

On the occasion the premier invited the

second generation of Ethiopian Diaspora to come and visit their beloved country in three-rounds from 30th December 2023 to the end of September 2024.

As per the set schedule, the first-round homecoming will be materialized under the

motto “Connect to Your Culture” begins from 30 December 2023 to 29 January 2024. The Diaspora members who come home during that period will celebrate various festivals, including Christmas. And the second round homecoming dubbed “Connect to Your History” will be during the African Union annual summit in Addis Ababa, the premier said.

As to him, the third round will be from the upcoming rainy season to 30 September 2024 under the motto “Leave Your Legacy.” Members of the Diaspora who come during this period will participate in planting seedlings and other activities, he stated.

Moreover, the premier underscored that members of the Diaspora who come to their country will get special discounts by the Ethiopian Airlines and Ethiopian hotels.

So far, the second generations Ethiopian Diasporas are playing a crucial role in the efforts to promote homecoming and encourage tourism to Ethiopia. Their unique position as descendants of Ethiopian

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