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Local products' consumption pathway to rapid progress: Premier

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA-The right path to Ethiopia's rapid economic growth is through developing a habit of purchasing locally-produced items, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) said.

Launching the 'Made in Ethiopia' expo yesterday, Premier Abiy stated that using quality and aesthetically viable local products is fundamental for ensuring rapid economic growth. "As we are the ones who take the first bite and taste of the wheat and coffee we produce, we need to do the same with the textile by wearing locally made clothes."

Abiy (PhD) also emphasized that with 120 million population and several manufacturing industries at hand, importing goods is inappropriate for Ethiopia.

"Ethiopia imports more than what it
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Photo: Dagne Abera

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MoFA slams EU's visa restriction, press freedom statement

- Calls for constructive approach

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA-The European Union's (EU) unjustified visa restriction comes despite ongoing collaboration between the Ethiopian government and EU member states to address migration and some asylum seekers' repatriation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said.

In a biweekly press briefing he gave here yesterday, MoFA Spokesperson Nebiyu Tedla stated the EU overlooked the complex problem of

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Photo: Hadush Abreha

NBE says financial stability, streamlined policies spur progress

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA – Ensuring financial stability and propelling enabling policies are critical grounds to steadfast Ethiopia's economic growth and development, the National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) Governor said.

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Russia opens V-Day photo exhibition in Addis

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA- A photo exhibition that depicts Russia's victory over Nazi forces in the Second World War (WWII) opened on Wednesday at the Russian House in Addis Ababa.

The photo exhibition is being held in the partnership of the Rossiya Segodnya media group and Sputnik news agency and radio broadcaster together with the Mission of Rossotrudnichestvo in Ethiopia.

Opening the exhibition, Russia's Ambassador to Ethiopia Yevgeny Terekhin said, "This year the celebrations in the capital of brotherly Ethiopia take on a special meaning - a few days ago we already celebrated the Day of Victory of Ethiopian patriots in the war against fascist Italy."

Ambassador Terekhin added, "This day almost coincided chronologically with the celebration of the Easter holiday this year. Following it, we celebrate the Day of the Great Victory of the Soviet people. This coincidence demonstrates the triune essence



of the holiday - the victory of our peoples in the fight against a common enemy, and this victory was illuminated by our common religion and common faith."

Speaking at the event, Rossotrudnichestvo's representative office Head Alexander

Evstigneev said, "We want to show our Ethiopian friends photographic evidence of the most important part of the history of not only Russia, of all mankind - the victory over fascism. And the price the Soviet

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Bilillee/Mehbuba, a distant legend risen

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Pushing Ethiopia towards advanced innovations, technological development

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Security documents production fills gaps in African continent: Ministry

• Topan Gravity Company lays cornerstone to produce security documents

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - The production of high-security documents in the country would fill the gaps seen not only as a country, but as African continent, said Finance Ministry.

Ahmed Shide and other senior officials laid a cornerstone for Topan Gravity Company on Wednesday to produce high-security documents such as passports, national ID cards, ATM cards, and Master Card products and similar products with embedded microchips at Bole Lemi Industrial Park.

Speaking at the occasion, Finance Minister Ahmed Shide stated that the production of printing products with important security certification in our country covers the gap seen not only in Ethiopia, but also in the continent. It is expected to create job opportunities for citizens and help address the recent shortage of passports in the country.

It will also contribute to realize digital transformation agenda by providing advanced secure document printing capabilities. The company will play an important role in the development of the growing development of publication, packaging and the application of digital processes, he said.

The Topan Gravity Company will greatly contribute to accelerate the progress that the country has been achieving in the economic sector and digitalization, he added.

For his part, Industrial Parks Development Corporation CEO Akililu Tadesse said that the project would make a very important investment a reality for the whole of Africa beyond Ethiopia. "This printing sector investment will fill the huge gap in the sector by producing passports, Digital ID and other MasterCard's and confidential documents, also making the market of other African countries accessible."

Furthermore, it would enable to earn a lot of foreign currency by avoiding the huge amount of foreign currency that we have to spend for the sector.

The corporation will continue to strengthen the multifaceted support that it has been doing for the investment success, he said.

Topan Gravity Ethiopia Plc, a joint venture project between Japanese and Ethiopian partners has the capacity to produce 5.6 million passports and 28 million different digital cards per year, it was learnt.

Research underlines need for combating technology facilitated GBV

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

ADDIS ABABA- Research emphasized the need for combating technology facilitated Gender Based Violence (GBV) which is a widespread prevalence of online abuse, including hate speech, in Ethiopia.

Research carried out by the Center for Information Resilience (CIR), a UK based nonprofit, revealed that abuses is often overlooked, with gendered hate speech often slipping under the radar and becoming so endemic it is "normalized to the point of invisibility."

The highlight of the research was presented here yesterday at the event co-hosted by CIR and the Ethiopian Human Right Defenders Centre. The internet and social media presents a new frontier in the fight against GBV.

The research indicates that while both men and women in Ethiopia are subjected to online abuse and hate speech on social media platforms, there are differences in the nature, purpose and impact of this GBV.

Research found that while men face abuse related to their encounter misogynistic abuse based on gender stereotypes related to their appearance, marital status and subjected to relationships. Interviewees told that gendered online abuse can damage professional reputations, cause psychological harm and impact personal and family relationships.

According to the research findings, the risk associated with being a female online



are compounded by the targeting of other protected characteristics, such as ethnicity or religion. The research also reveals how hate speech that is reactive or political events – such as hate directed at women from ethnic groups involved in ongoing conflict – may use more aggressive and inflammatory languages.

The research emphasizes the importance of creating safe online environments to empower women's engagement in online and offline public spaces by countering gender stereotypes and discrimination, promoting the representation of women and girls in public roles, and improving education on the identification and impact of online abuse, including hate speech.

With internet access rising across Ethiopia, now is the time to make online spaces

safe for women and girls said Adyam Solomon, CIR, Researcher and Project Coordinator said adding "Through our research and event we hope to raise awareness about the impact of technology facilitated GBV in Ethiopia and discuss what needs to be done to make digital spaces safe for women and girls."

EHRDC Advocacy and Communication Officer, Kalkidan Tesfaye on her part said: "We recognize the importance of preventing online- based violence and other digital threats with a special focus on supporting women's human right defenders. We, together with CIR, will work to prevent these online threats by supporting and collaborating with women's human right defenders."

ACSO says CSOs contribution improving

• SOS commemorates 50th years anniversary

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – The contribution of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) has been improving after the revision of restricted CSOs law, the Authority for Civil Societies Organization (ACSO) disclosed.

SOS Children's Village Ethiopia commemorated its 50th years yesterday in the presence of senior officials and others.

ACSO Deputy Director-General Fasikaw Molla said that after the revision of CSOs law, the number of CSOs has been increasing and their contribution is also greatly improving particularly providing humanitarian assistances. The revision of the CSOs law and reform agendas has been encouraging the participation organizations to contributing their part in overall activities.

The revision of CSOs law catalyzed these organizations to engage in peace and democratic system building and other key sectors working together with the government.

Currently, about 5,000 registered CSOs are operating in the country utilizing the new



conducive law of the country. Some 3,100 CSOs are registered after the revision of prior restrictive law over the past four years. The presence of the enabling environment in the country contributed towards the increment of CSOs.

The revision of restricted law has been contributing CSOs to play their role in lasting peace, building democratic system, economic development and others.

Over the past 50 years, the SOS Children's Village Ethiopia has been contributing its role compromising vulnerable sector of communities as well as focusing on education, humanitarian assistance, health and other sectors, he noted.

SOS Children's Village Ethiopia Country Director Sahlemariam Abebe said that the SOS is children's village is dedicated to

the well-being and protection of vulnerable children, families and communities. Currently, it has been operating some 41 different projects in nine states for family preservation and strengthening, community development, reintegration, youth development and empowerment, job creation and other activities in collaboration with other partners.

So far, SOS Children's Village addressed over 8.1 million citizens over the past 50 years. Hence, it has been working to introduce local sponsorship program soon, he said.

Furthermore, it has been finalizing to open new four coordination offices from 7 to 11 building an additional coordination office in four states. And set to address 4.5 million people in 2027 by increasing its budget by 30%. , he underlined.

News

Local products' consumption pathway to...

exports by billions of dollars. Regarding locally-made clothes, I am also using them because they are quality and beautiful products. Therefore, we need to practice using local products."

The Prime Minister pointed out that the Ministry of Industry should not focus only on producing textiles and exporting them, but should also work on how the products are used in the country.

Despite the increase in coffee productivity through the Green Legacy Initiative, countries that mix coffee and milk and make chocolate have better incomes than coffee producers like Ethiopia. In order to generate better income in Ethiopia, the domestic industries should be expanded and resources should be widely used.

Besides the effort that has been put in

providing industrial inputs, manufacturing industries need to translate Ethiopia's capacity in terms of skilled labor, energy and input to get better results.

Over the past nine months, import substituting products worth 1.9 billion USD were supplied to the market, Abiy (PhD) noted, adding that results obtained by the Made in Ethiopia Movement should be continued by supporting local producers.

At the early stage of the reform, Ethiopia's GDP ranked second among East African countries, nonetheless, the total GDP of its neighboring countries is less than Ethiopia's current GDP.

Highlighting the conducive environment that the government created for investors in the

manufacturing sector, PM Abiy urged manufacturers to pay their tax with reliability.

Industry Minister MelakuAlebel on his part mentioned that over 210 local and 50 foreign manufacturers take part at the expo which is expected to make over three billion Birr transactions.

The manufacturing industry has created employment opportunities for about 256,000 citizens. With collective effort, the sector could generate more positive outcomes, the Minister remarked.

State chief administrators, ministers, diplomats and other concerned stakeholders took part and visited the local products displayed at the expo. The 'Made in Ethiopia' expo remains open to the public until May 13, 2024.

MoFA slams ...

migration and asylum seekers and failed to acknowledge Ethiopia's efforts to repatriate its citizens facing challenges abroad.

According to the spokesperson, the majority of individuals that were identified as Ethiopians by the EU and lacking proper documentation and licenses are actually non-Ethiopians. "Out of the 89 individuals identified by the EU, only 26 have been confirmed as Ethiopians, while 15 already repatriated by the Ethiopian government."

The task of identifying the citizenship of asylum seekers remains complex, particularly for migrants from the Horn of Africa region, who share similar cultural, linguistic, and religious backgrounds, Nebiyu emphasized.

"Ethiopia affirms its adherence to international law regarding the repatriation of migrants and asylum seekers who are not eligible to access licenses. But we need to ensure that individuals are properly identified as Ethiopian citizens before being accepted back into the country. The government maintains its commitment to cooperation with the EU on migration-related matters."

He also noted that some media's portrayal of the case as a blanket visa restriction is far from reality. Though the move poses challenges, individuals meeting the new visa standards can still apply.

The EU has suspended the issuance of Schengen visa and prohibited the travel of Ethiopian nationals from one European state to another in a single visa. It also extended the time that required obtaining a visa from 15 to 45 dates thereby complicating situations for Ethiopian citizens seeking entry into EU member states even for commercial purposes, the spokesperson elaborated.

Meanwhile, Nebiyu criticized EU member countries' "paternalistic joint statement" regarding Ethiopia's press freedom landscape. "The Ministry condemns such statements as unhelpful and lacking in diplomatic tact."

"Several EU member countries' embassies in Addis Ababa have casted doubt on the progress of press freedom in Ethiopia. The joint press release, coinciding with World Press Freedom Day, deviates from diplomatic norms and undermines bilateral diplomatic efforts."

Such orchestrated critics are also witnessed beyond press freedom; as such paternalistic statements across various issues hinder constructive engagements. This orchestrated campaign disregards international diplomatic norms and culture, the spokesperson emphasized.

NBE says financial stability, ...

The 7th Annual East African Summit, organized by the iCapital Institute, Nairobi Securities Exchange and Ethiopian Insurers Association is being held under the theme "Unlocking opportunities: Navigating the forces shaping the future of finance in East Africa."

In his opening remark at the summit yesterday, NBE Governor MamoMihretu said that the central bank has been aggressively working on financial stability and ensuring potential gaps and weaknesses to sustainably address the potential loopholes in the financial sector.

The governor further emphasized that in recent years, Ethiopia's financial sector has been registering a remarkable growth through a mix of product provision, adoption of digital technologies and modern risk management systems. "Ethiopia is currently embarking on developing enabling policies and regulatory responses to withstand the global and regional dynamics affecting

its financial sector. However, it brings opportunities, by accelerating positive trends."

Moreover, Ethiopia set an ambitious and hopeful agenda focused on financial stability, inclusion, and modernization. Currently, various digital transaction systems and services including new digital savings and credit schemes are increasingly becoming the norm.

In this regard, the NBE is working on a diversified and competitive financial system that fosters innovation, inclusion, and operates in line with international best practices.

According to him, the opening of Ethiopia's financial sector to foreign investors would be a potentially transformative agenda that can help accelerate innovation and competition within the industry and bring in fresh new capital and modern products.

The central bank is also strengthening financial innovation and inclusion to position Ethiopia as a leader in the East African region and improve financial

access for all categories of businesses and for all segments of society.

"This summit serves as a critical platform for fostering dialogue, sharing innovative ideas, and building partnerships. It also forges a united path forward, leveraging collective expertise and insights for the realization of our common goals and shapes the trajectory of our industry," Mamo remarked.

Nairobi Securities Exchange CEO Frank Mwitifor his part stated that as a leading economic powerhouse, Ethiopia is making strategic decisions aiming at liberalizing its economy and opening up the door for foreign actors to be involved in its financial industry.

As to Frank, this summit is a crucial platform to foster economic cooperation, innovation, and sustainable economic growth. Additionally, it serves as a catalyst for promoting regional integration and unlocking the vast economic potential of the East African community.

Russia opens V-Day photo exhib...

people had to pay for this victory."

"Ethiopia is no stranger to these events - there is an opinion among a number of historians that World War II began not on September 1, 1939, but earlier, with the attack of Fascist Italy on Ethiopia on October 3, 1935. The historical debate on this topic continues. It is important for us to remember and remind that the very existence of our countries

was fought with arms against absolute evil. And it is important not to let it revive," Evstigneev emphasized.

Among the presented works in the exhibition which portray events about WWII, what Russians called the Great Patriotic War, are the legendary photo by Izrail Ozersky "Soldier's Trade," works by Max Alpert "Battalion Commander" and "Victory Parade

in Red Square in Moscow," one of the most famous works by Vladimir Grebnev.

The exhibition also includes the famous "The Banner of Victory over the Reichstag building" photo which was taken in May 1945 and works by Yakov Ryumkin, Georgy Zelm, Naum Granovsky and Vsevolod Tarasevich, it was learned.

Opinion

Fighting corruption, fencing nation's interests

BY GETACHEW MINAS

Corruption has immense impacts on the economies and politics of countries. It deeply affects the livelihood of individuals in countries such as Ethiopia. The economic impacts of corruption depress economic growth and development through distortion of market mechanisms. It also reduces efficiency and effectiveness of workers assigned to certain duties both in the public and private sectors. It discourages both domestic and foreign investment in the country. Investors may be subjected to unfair competition or lack of transparency in the public service.

Corruption may lead to misuse and misallocation of resources. This may be due to political favoritism in the allocation of resources or support to politically connected individuals or businesses over more efficient and effective ones. Corruption has also social impact as it worsens inequality through diverting resources. It takes away resources from those who need them most to those who need them the least. It lessens the effectiveness of institutions and erodes the political relations between citizens and the state.

Corruption causes disenchantment, disappointment, cynicism, and even social disturbances. In extreme cases, experts think that it may lead to state failure or the rise of organized criminals. Local criminals seek any kind of disturbance to plunder the Ethiopian citizens through creating terrorism. This, in turn, has political impact, as corruption undermines democracy and the rule of law. It subverts law enforcement agencies and weakens institutions and processes designed to guarantee accountability and transparency.

Corruption can also lead to the concentration of power in the hands of a few individuals and groups, creating a cycle of corruption and cementing elites together. It also depletes and weakens the legitimacy of governments and can diminish efforts to build effective rule of law and governance systems. Corruption also facilitates environmental degradation through illegal logging, poaching, pollution, and other environmentally degrading activities. Bribery and embezzlement in the bureaucracy can also allow individuals and enterprises to elude and avoid environmental regulations.

Corrupt individuals and enterprises may retain contracts for the wrong and unsustainable development projects. These projects lead to long-term degradation of the ecosystems and public health. This degradation leads to deforestation, soil erosion, out migration of farmers to other areas. Both tamed and wild animals leave these areas in search of greener areas.

Corruption also impacts human rights. It may worsen human rights abuses through undermining the rule of law. It enables those who commit human rights violations to continue with their evil acts. It can also contribute to the erosion of human rights



such as access to social services, including healthcare, education, and clean water. Access to these basic services is impeded as resources are diverted or mismanaged by means of corruption. This act of corruption is not limited to Ethiopia, but it has wider impacts. It is not confined within national borders; it can have spill-over effects that cross national borders. It can, for example, facilitate cross-border crime and money laundering.

Corrupt persons also finance terrorism within a country and in the neighboring countries. These persons operate in one country and they can also undermine global efforts to combat them. As mentioned earlier, corruption tends to worsen poverty, unemployment, and global insecurity.

Generally, the effects of corruption are many-sided, complicated and far-reaching. It affects virtually every aspect of society and hinders growth and sustainable development. It impedes equality among citizens and obstructs and hinders justice. Addressing corruption demands concerted efforts at all levels, including the local, national, and international levels.

It requires legal reforms with strong institutional and public awareness through widespread campaigns and promotion of transparency and accountability. These measures are instrumental in reducing and/or eliminating corruption. The reforms also help in checking capital flight from Ethiopia, affecting its economy and social development. The country has been struggling with systemic corruption across various sectors of its economy. These sectors include government, business, and law enforcement agencies.

Corruption includes petty bribery to large-scale misappropriation, misuse and fraud of public funds. This undermines trust in government institutions and agencies. It also distorts the allocation of resources for executing development plans. As a result, it impedes economic growth. Moreover, lack of transparency and accountability worsens the problem. Experts think that the misuse and abuse of authority in Ethiopia leads to capital flight. Here, capital flight refers to the movement of assets, including money,

investments, etc. out of a country.

In Ethiopia, capital flight has been caused by factors such as political instability, limited investment opportunities, and lack of confidence over property rights. Individual investors and enterprises often transfer funds abroad. They are forced to do this to seek safe havens for their investment or to avoid tax authorities and regulatory inspectors.

Also, corruption and capital flight have significant negative impacts on the various economic sectors in Ethiopia. They minimize government revenue and limit investment in critical infrastructure and services. They also exacerbate income inequality, and hinder poverty reduction efforts and programs.

Corruption leads to capital flight which causes loss of skilled workers and weakens the capacity of Ethiopia for development, growth and innovation. It is reported that the government has taken steps to address corruption and capital flight. It has also established anti-corruption commission for implementing reforms to improve governance and transparency.

However, progress has been uneven, and challenges persist due to factors such as weak institutions, lack of enforcement mechanisms and political interference. Nonetheless, international organizations and donor countries have also been involved to offer assistance to Ethiopia in its efforts to combat corruption. In so doing, they provide technical assistance in capacity building to strengthen the implementation of financial regulations. Such assistance often includes technical expertise and capacity-building initiatives. They also provide financial support for anti-corruption programs and activities. However, fulfilling effective and lasting results requires continued and sustained commitment from both domestic and international donors and stakeholders.

As mentioned earlier, addressing corruption and capital flight in Ethiopia demands comprehensive reforms that tackle root causes. These reforms are designed to strengthen concerned institutions, improve transparency and accountability. They also

promote inclusive economic growth and development. It is a complex and long-term effort, but very crucial for the sustainable development of Ethiopia.

The implementation of reforms presupposes the establishment of anti-corruption institutions. In line with this, the Anti-Corruption Commission of Ethiopia (ACCE) has been established as a governmental agency with the goal of preventing and investigating corruption in the country. It is also tasked with prosecuting corruption within Ethiopia. Its major objective is combating corruption at all levels of government and society. It also has the duty of promoting transparency, accountability, and good governance. It operates with reference to relevant laws and regulations proclaimed by the Ethiopian government to address corruption efficiently and effectively. It may also engage with other law enforcement agencies, including the police and judiciary to carry out its legal mandate.

The ACCE conducts various activities including investigation, prosecution, prevention and monitoring and evaluation. It investigates allegations, claims and charges of corruption. These may involve public officials or authorities, private enterprises, or individuals. It conducts prosecution when evidence of corruption is presented. It may also prosecute those persons or agencies responsible for the acts of corruption.

The ACCE also develops and implements preventive measures including public awareness campaigns for concerned agencies. It conducts training programs and projects targeting government officials. It develops anti-corruption policies, programs and guidelines for use by all agencies. In so doing, it collaborates with international organizations that are devoted to combating transnational and cross-border corruption. It may also cooperate with international bodies and agencies to exchange information and coordinate efforts regarding corruption.

The Commission focuses on monitoring, evaluation and oversight of activities related to corruption. It may monitor and evaluate public institutions and agencies to ensure compliance with anti-corruption laws and regulations. All these efforts to combat corruption in Ethiopia are crucial for promoting economic growth and development. They foster trust in public institutions and enhance the rule of law and justice. The ACCE plays major roles in these efforts by working to root out corruption. It also promotes integrity in public service and private sector activities. The Ethiopian people have to cooperate with the Commission to achieve the goal of development through fighting corruption at all levels.

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

Editorial

Opinion

Industrialization: Winning formula for sustainable dev't

Since recently, industrialization has become top agenda in the development menu of the government. In an aggressive effort to ensure food security and expedite economic transformation, Ethiopia is zooming in on revolutionizing the industry sector. Launching ambitious schemes, the past few years have laid strong foundations for the development of the manufacturing sector. And, the government remains steadfast in bringing a defining change in the economic structure.

Vividly, industry is still the magic bullet to achieve sustainable and rapid economic transformation. Some of the most developed nations have been able to go through miraculous economic leap forward through heavy industrial development. Nations like Ethiopia with a productive population, and abundant yet untapped natural resources will invest in the industry in order to realize profitable economic prospects. Ticking all the boxes for industrial growth, the government is relented in investing in the manufacturing sector.

The sector is one of the areas that have received a great deal of attention in the 10-year economic plan. And, there have also been big initiatives directed at fostering the manufacturing sector. Made in Ethiopia is the leading one. This particular event is aimed at emboldening Ethiopian products by showcasing the potential of the manufacturing sector.

The country has a sizable workforce that is young, eager, and increasingly educated with a population of over 100 million people. This paves the way for an effective transition to an industrialized economy as both local and foreign investment firms will have adequate access to a large pool of skilled human power.

Besides its vast arable land, the country is home to diverse resources such as gold, coffee and livestock, providing ample opportunities for industrial growth in sectors such as manufacturing. With strategic investments and efficient utilization of these resources, Ethiopia has the potential to become a major player in the global market.

Considered as a gateway between Africa, Europe and the Middle East, the country also provides industrial companies with easy access to key markets and trade routes, providing them with valuable opportunities to expand market outreach and increase export potential. The growing infrastructures including industrial parks, diversified ports, roads and railways, serve as a big plus to catapult the sector into excellence.

As the government continues to prioritize the sector, it is crucial to redress the barriers facing currently. Curbing inflation, foreign currency crunch and bureaucratic labyrinth should receive due attention to bolster the sector. Most importantly, for the sector to generate foreign currency, the country should tackle foreign currency shortages through various financing mechanisms. Through the industrial transformation the country can reduce its dependency on the service sector, diversify its expanding economy and create more jobs for its burgeoning population.

In short, as experiences elsewhere show, investing in the industrial sector can be a key strategy for reliable and sustainable economic growth. With the aforementioned potential, the country's ambition to become an industrial hub will surely be poised for success. And, if supported with the right policies, the manufacturing sector will help make the country to become a key player in the global economy.

Ethiopia should nip in the bud ethnocentric isolated narratives in its contemporary politics

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

In Ethiopia, as in many diverse societies across the world, there are both isolated and common narratives that shape the collective understanding of history, identity, and socio-political dynamics. The phenomenon is currently far more pronounced than ever in this country.

Political and ideological eclecticism that has developed in the battle of ideas between those who advocated for class struggle and those who demanded for "national liberation" by the barrel of the gun had precipitated into a chaotic half a century which is still lingering around haunting the nation. However, both groups failed to come to success because their ideological basis was imported from abroad. Although Ethiopia had not lacked philosophers, sociologists and economists, those who were infatuated with these imported ideologies never came closer to their dreams. Today, the story is the same in different historical post dé-tente epoch.

As both isolated and common narratives have their roots in the political jigsaw puzzle that was fomenting in Ethiopia, the writer of this article wishes to briefly dwell upon both concepts. This specific article focuses on Isolated Narratives to be followed by Common Narratives on subsequent edition.

Isolated narratives are cherished in different ethnic groups and regions which have their own unique narratives that highlight their history, cultural heritage, and experiences. These narratives often reflect specific grievances, aspirations, and perceptions of marginalization or empowerment within the broader Ethiopian context.

On the other hand, various political ideologies and movements may promote their own narratives to mobilize support and challenge the existing power structures. These narratives can vary widely, from nationalist narratives emphasizing Ethiopia's unity and sovereignty to separatist narratives advocating for greater autonomy or independence for certain regions or ethnic groups.

Different interpretations of historical events, particularly those related to colonialism, imperialism, and state-building, can lead to divergent narratives about Ethiopia's past and its implications for the present. These interpretations may be influenced by factors such as ideology, identity politics, and access to historical records and resources.

Emotionally charged comments, hate oriented misinformation and calls for insurrections against elected legal regimes and discrediting every development program that is conducted by the government constitute some of the major contents of isolated narratives. Misuse and

abuse of the press law, wrong interpretation of the rule of law and human rights are also some of the elements of isolated narratives.

Use of the social media in the most absurd manner to gain political acceptance and recognition is also part of isolated narratives.

Isolated narratives in Ethiopia, like in any diverse society, can pose several dangers:

Isolated narratives in Ethiopia often emphasize the grievances, aspirations, and identities of specific ethnic or regional groups at the expense of broader national unity. This can fuel divisions, mistrust, and conflicts between different communities, undermining social cohesion and collective solidarity. This has been clearly proved in Ethiopia during the two years of devastating war in the northern part of the country which resulted in massive human and material loss.

When isolated narratives are perceived as exclusive or competing with each other, they can exacerbate ethnic tensions, political polarization, and inter-group conflicts. This polarization can lead to violence, instability, and the breakdown of social order, as witnessed in episodes of ethnic violence and communal clashes in Ethiopia.

Isolated narratives may marginalize or exclude certain voices, perspectives, or identities within Ethiopian society, perpetuating inequalities, discrimination, and social injustices. This can reinforce patterns of marginalization, discrimination, and structural violence against vulnerable or marginalized groups.

Overemphasis on isolated narratives may erode the sense of national identity, shared values, and collective belonging among Ethiopians. This can weaken the bonds of citizenship, patriotism, and national solidarity, hindering efforts to forge a common vision for the future and address common challenges facing the nation.

Isolated narratives can create barriers to meaningful dialogue, reconciliation, and conflict resolution, as they prioritize narrow interests and perspectives over broader national interests and common goals. This can perpetuate cycles of resentment, grievances, and historical animosities, hindering efforts to build trust and reconciliation among different communities.

Isolated narratives may be exploited or manipulated by political actors, interest groups, or external forces to advance their own agendas, consolidate power, or sow discord within Ethiopian society. This manipulation can deepen divisions, exacerbate conflicts, and undermine democratic governance and stability.

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



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Business & Economy

Agricultural transformation for economic growth, change

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Ethiopia's agriculture has shown remarkable resilience over many centuries but is now increasingly demanding reformation and transformation. The sector has been purely accompanied with a steadily increasing Ethiopian population with millennia-old tools and systems of production. Ethiopia is one of the original centers for crop and livestock domestication that started ten thousand years ago. Since then, Ethiopian farmers have continued to utilize their ancient system of production despite changing ecological and population pressures, feeding, if with difficulty, Ethiopia's growing population into the 21st century with their generationally acquired wisdom and skills.

Cognizant of the fact the sector in the country has been run through a primitive system, and has to be transformed, the Agricultural Transformation Institute (ATI) recently announced that it has been expanding multiple digital initiatives including e-voucher as a means to transform the agricultural sector. ATI and United Nations Capital Development Fund held a discussion which was predominantly aiming at enhancing digital agricultural financing to small holder farmers across rural areas.

During the discussion, ATI Deputy General Director, Firew Tegegne (PhD) said that the institute is providing support to Ministry of Agriculture and engaging in the digital expansion in the sector. The Agricultural transformation is contingent on organizational, social and technological adaptation, commitments to modernization and improvements in the living conditions of the farming population.

As to him, there are considerable differences in the initial conditions and the global economic environment in which today's agriculture based economies find themselves in that the process of structural transformation is likely to be different in the future.

Yes, he said the new opportunities may create an environment that is more conducive to a rural centered agricultural transformation, with, for example, new agricultural value-added products and services closer to farms allowing households to generate incomes through non-farm activities, often enabled by information and communication technologies and other technical advances.

Honestly speaking, the holy-grail of agricultural transformation is to be found in institutional changes that will facilitate and capture economies of scale in the provision of services such as mechanization, delivery of inputs, financial services, and transmission of skills and know-how to the farming population. It should also be noted that the increased competition for export-based markets, a major element in the Asian structural transformation experience, is largely inapplicable for Ethiopia, due to the paucity of technological openings, lack of financial services, and limitations of talents and skills.

As to Firew, sustaining agricultural transformation has to look to important policymaking and programming activities including provision of a quantifiable vision and strategy for agricultural transformation, sustained and verifiable inter-generational commitments over an extended period of time, and sustained resource allocation to the rural and agricultural development. Besides,



Firew Tegegne (PhD)

it has to be accompanied with a carefully balanced prioritization of agricultural and rural transformation with other sectors of the economy including manufacturing, services, urbanization and infrastructural expansion.

Transforming the agriculture sector is not a unidirectional process as it requires a multitude of intertwined systems and processes. This must cover policies, investment, and an enabling environment focusing on the removal of organizational and legal constraints for all sectors. It must facilitate and ease a greater use of agricultural input supplies, increased land and labor productivity, the use of fertilizers, pesticides, seeds, and irrigation, as well as the expansion of manufacturing and service industries, all of which will result in structural transformation.

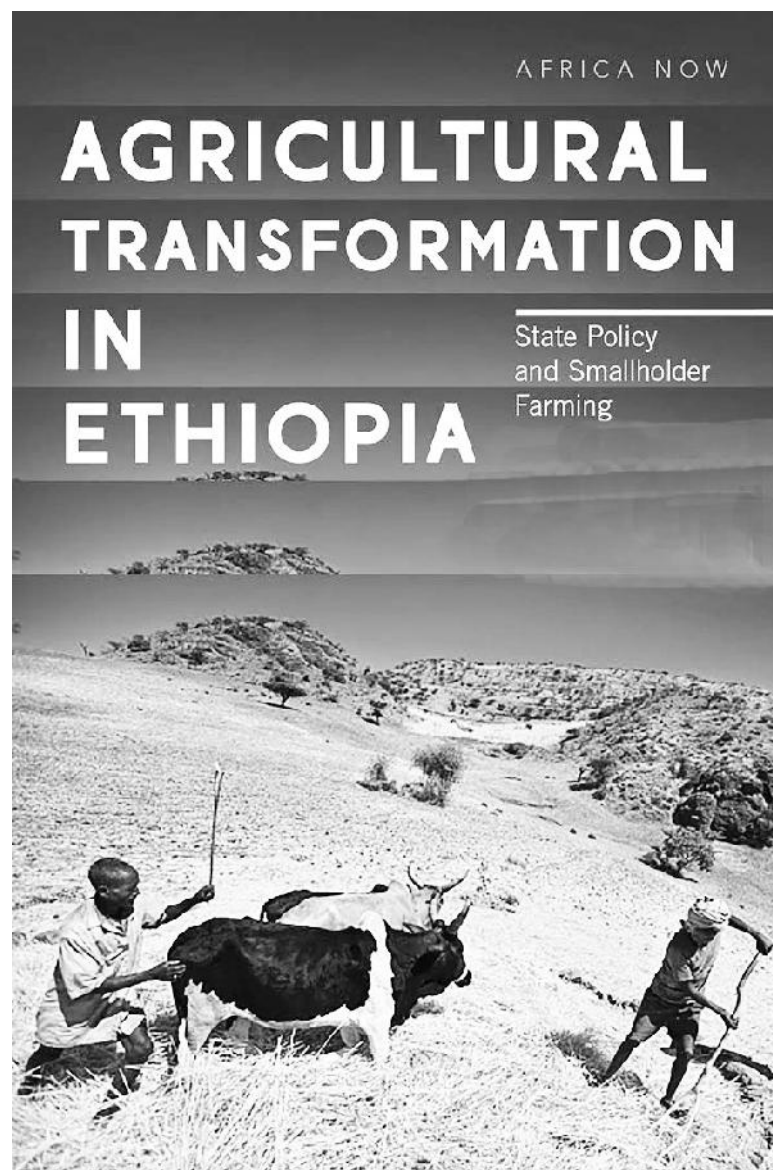
Truly speaking, in Ethiopia, no sector can be transformed in isolation. The relative shift of the ratio between agriculture, manufacturing and services should not be used as a tool for resource-allocation decisions nor should it be relevant as an indicator of transformation.

Combined with the expansion in the area of land usage arising from population increases and utilization of agricultural inputs, this has led to increased quantitative crop production at an aggregate national level. This has in turn provided a temporary respite to poverty and hunger, but in spite of crop productivity gains, the organizational, structural and technological constraints have to be well addressed. Agricultural and rural transformation has not been taking place at the scale and speed they ought to be in Ethiopia.

In clear terms, rural transformation means creation of an ecosystem in which the transformation of agriculture takes place, improved human wellbeing is provided, environmental protection is ensured, changes in the mindset of the population commence, rural services are provided, conditions of life for the rural population significantly improved with resulting market participation, and the availability of a large proportion of home consumed commodities, he opined.

Smallholder and new entrant private sector elements, can participate in the production of national priority consumption crops, oilseeds, cotton, and pulse crops. As incomes increase and wealth is created, farmers and private sector investors will acquire the necessary financial means to invest in long-term measures including mechanization, irrigation, afforestation and other directly or indirectly related activities.

Digitalizing agricultural and rural finance is one of the key pillars for agricultural transformation, indeed he said. ATI's mandate in this regard is providing digital



advisory service for farmers and other users of agricultural extension service. It has been conducting online surveys to detect crop and animal diseases and provided early warnings.

Moreover, enabling National Market Information System (NMIS) is another initiative of the institute. Collecting and disseminating market information, activating, e-Voucher System that helps to make efficient input distribution, rural saving and credit cooperatives support and improving access to finance, are also some initiatives under implementation, according to him.

"We will delve into the critical role of farmer profiling in ensuring digital solutions to address the specific needs of our diverse farming communities and explore digital identification systems as a key to empowering farmers and unlocking access to vital services in the future, we will engage in a rich learning exchange, drawing inspiration from successful digital Agricultural initiatives across markets and sectors. By fostering collaboration between government, private sector and farmers themselves, the country can definitely unlock the immense potential of digital Agriculture," he remarked.

Agricultural and rural transformation is expressed here as the process of changing from a highly fragmented, risk and crisis laden production system, rain-dependent, relying on traditional tools, with substandard conditions of life to the one which is vibrant, wealth-creating, modern, system devoted to the improved wellbeing of the population, capable of producing for markets and supplying surplus for national demands for consumption, manufacturing and export earnings, by fully employing modern agricultural inputs, environmentally sustainable practices, and adopting farm machineries commensurate with the 21st century's technological and digital innovations. Implicit in agricultural

and rural transformation is the desire and the necessity to improve human condition in all its forms and at all times, he underscored.

A paper revolving entitled, 'National Policy on Fostering Productive Capacities in Ethiopia for Industrialization, Export Diversification and Inclusive Growth: the Role of Agriculture in Kick starting Economic Diversification and Structural Transformation in Ethiopia,' was also presented as the discussion forum and a range of ideas were discussed.

Two forces drive agricultural transformation: rising labor productivity increases production beyond subsistence and improved infrastructure, especially roads, increase the availability and decreases the cost of a wide range of attractive manufactured consumer goods as well as increasing profitability of new technology.

The most widely accepted characterization of agricultural transformation is one that describes the shift from highly diversified, subsistence-oriented farms towards more specialized production, and market supply.

The hunger and poverty reduction objectives are important for developing countries such as Ethiopia; but they should not be the ultimate goal of agricultural transformation. This must be modernizing the agricultural sector for the long-term, and improving the rural living conditions of the population, thereby reducing poverty and hunger.

In general, as important, in the short and medium term, is the fact that most growth opportunities will continue to come from agriculture: food production, employment in agriculture and allied sub-sectors, food manufacturing, food services, and agriculture based trade. These can and will make significant contributions to the agricultural transformation thereby helping the nation make a difference.

Art & Culture

Bilillee/Mehbuba, a distant legend risen

BY NAOL GIRMA

A recently released song by a young Ethiopian Oromo artist, Andualem Gosa, has brought sensational motivation to the youth and become a hit on social platforms. The young generation seems to find something fascinating about the song and its theme. The artist was also well known for his famous song “Derbelala,” which depicts a picture about how Addis Ababa has become a gravitational pull for every ethnic group from every direction of Ethiopia. The song is still being dominantly listened to in the City. Even though he became popular with Derbelala and the recent Afan Oromo song, Andualem has started out his career singing Amharic songs in idol auditions.

The recent song, which was released days ago, brings an early 19th-century legend, Bilillee/Mehbuba, back to life. She is the centre of conversation among millions of Ethiopians on social platforms. The name Bilillee in Afaan Oromo means elegant or pretty. The newly released song by Andualem repeatedly mentions her name with deep sorrow or agony. Why? Because he is blindly in love and looking for her proves almost mission impossible. The singer directly talks to the beautiful girl through his lyrics. He feels deeply struck by her beauty, as he describes it as a star in a black hole. He is trying and hoping to find her, but how could a 19th-century beautiful girl be found and talked to?

The singer seemed to bring the name Bilillee to his lyrics for the love he’s looking for is so enduring but also difficult to find.

Bilillee, the legend, was born in the early 19th century, but destiny would take away the name her loving parents picked and named her after even a better name, Mehbuba, which means ‘my beloved’ in Arabic. In 1835, her home village, Gumma, which is located in the southern part of the now Ethiopia, was ravaged by civil war. During the war, Bilillee lost her father and six brothers. Her mother and her sister were held captive by the invaders, who burned her village to the ground. They were taken as slaves and their journey from Gonder to Kartum then to Cario in 1837 was a life changer. Even though Bilillee was supposed to be destined for staggering, exhausting life-long slavery that was not exactly what happened.

According to historians, in 1837, Bilillee was purchased by the German prince Hermann Ludwig Heinrich



Von Puckler- Muskau. It was said that the prince fell in love with Bilillee and instead of treating her like a slave he would rather write a strange letter to his wife that depicted her as his mistress. Writers say that the prince was captivated by the young Ethiopian girl. After he bought her, he would disguise himself here as a Mamluke boy. Both the prince and Bilillee had done a great deal of journey and been to Palestine, Syria and Istanbul. The ways the young girl managed to embrace western culture were beyond imagination, and this made the prince love Bilillee the most. She had an infectious smile and her net kindness made her the darling of western

society. Her charm and beauty were the top topics in newspapers and magazines. But the beautiful young girl unfortunately couldn’t handle the extreme cold weather of Europe, so she was finally diagnosed with Tuberculosis. The Prince had to leave for Berlin on a business tour and two days after his departure, Bilillee had passed away.

According to some historians the Prince described Bilillee “as the being I loved most in the world”. He wrote to a friend “I felt more love for her than I thought myself capable of. Her death was my most intense pain”.

Bilillee’s unexpected life of romance

was one of the joyful realities that people would love to imagine in their own lives. A love that trespasses borders, a beauty that concurs human being’s most evil enemy called slavery and racism, a personality that that everyone adores, is something that one could imagine and write a song for.

The song by Andualem Gosa does not depict the real love history of Bilillee. He just mentioned her name and stunning beauty, with his ironic verses. He probably is missing the beauty and personality that he couldn’t find from the people of the new generation. He also seemed to remind the young girls about what kind of beauty they have to live with. He says at some point on his lyrics “Bilillee I’m still looking for you, but couldn’t find you anywhere. Your beauty is like a mystery in enigma. I’m still missing you, have you lost your way home”.

As the song went viral on social platforms and so many kept on sharing the story of Bilillee, the legend has risen again. This proves that one significant work of art or one has the power to bring unsung legends to life or it also works otherwise. This can be observed from what some famous people leave on their social platform pages and the positive energies they inject to the brains of young people. So many works on creating positive energy to society and the irresponsible deeds of very few would take over the air and poison generations.

What would be more significant than inspiring generations with love, affection and a perfectionist ways of life? What is more important about passing hate speeches on social platforms like postcards? Is it not searching for a beauty, charm and personality, which seem to be impossible to find, what people are missing from their bible of success?

Even if Andualem Gosa’s new song may not literally go down this deep, the name mentioned Bilillee/Mehbuba, has already triggered some vibe on the youth and it seemed to be a fresh way of inspiring through music on the traditions of new Ethiopian music generation.

Many young Artists like Andualem are playing crucial roles in revolutionizing the music industry of Afaan Oromo, coming up modern instrumental mixes and new thoughts of school. This is expected to be encouraged by all actors in the music industry and government entities working for the development of culture and tourism.

Science & Technology



Negeri Lencho (PhD), Tagesse Chaffo (HPR Speaker), Belete Molla (PhD, MInT Minister)



Pushing Ethiopia towards advanced innovations, technological development

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

The innovation and technology sector is growing fast following the national reform in Ethiopia. Promoting and developing technological developments, innovations, and innovational research became among the key sectors of national reform. In the first place, Ethiopia places due focus on creating a conducive ecosystem for the development of the sector especially in investing in infrastructural development, enacting appropriate policies and proclamations, applying new strategies, and promoting private investments in the innovation and technology sector by supporting the startup businesses in the technology.

The Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MInT) is striving to realize the national goal of ensuring the development of innovations, technology, and scientific research in the sector. So far, MInT achieved a lot in developing the technology and innovation sector in Ethiopia.

This week, on Tuesday, the House of Peoples Representatives of Ethiopia (HPR) in its 25th regular session reviewed the Nine-Month performance report of the Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MInT). MInT Minister, Belete Molla (PhD) presented the nine-month performance report of the ministry to the parliament and briefed the performance and activities of the ministry in the science and innovation sectors.

Presenting the nine-month performance report, Belete stated that outstanding performances were registered in the areas of innovation, technology development, scientific and technological research, development of the digital economy, capacity building, and infrastructural developments in the sector. Especially, in creating a conducive ecosystem for innovation, technological developments, and scientific research by supporting the sector and adopting new policies, proclamations, and strategies, Belete said adding efforts are underway to promote local innovations and startup businesses and in promoting research in the innovation and technology sectors.

To accelerate its economic development and realize prosperity, Ethiopia is striving to transform the technology sector. The sector is a key sector for the overall development of the nation. To transform the technological development and innovations, the investments continued in all dimensions. In doing this, a lot of investments, policy reforms, and strategies have been applied during the past five years. MInT takes the responsibility of realizing the transformation of the technology sector by all means.

The minister said in this regard that the MInT is working to fill the gap in the science, technology, and innovation sectors and is working on identifying the capabilities and potential resources in the fields. In this regard, infrastructural development, enhancing local innovations, supporting research undertakings in various fields, and cultivating talented youths in the innovation, research, startup, and technology sectors are among the initiatives of the sector during the past nine months.

As to Belete, MInT is working to make the innovation and technology sector support the overall economic development of the country and create huge job opportunities for the youth generation. Hence, understanding its role in facilitating economic development to realize prosperity and in creating job opportunities, the efforts in the innovation and technology sector become among the key sectors and new initiatives are being applied to make the development of the sector sustainable.

Similarly, considering the role of local innovations and startup businesses for the development and technology transfer in the sector, Ethiopia gives due focus to creating a conducive ecosystem for startup businesses and enterprises, including digital technology. In promoting startup businesses, a national startup exhibition was organized at the Science Museum where over 900 participants presented their products at the exhibition.

To make the sector vibrant in

contributing its role to the national economy, MInT is implementing and promoting problem-solving research in the sector to support the development of the digital economic journey of the country. Legal frameworks are reformed and new policies and strategies that promote local innovations, startup businesses, and local research and inventions in the technology sector are applied.

In addition, infrastructural development in digital technology and other technological advancements is being applied in the country. Critical infrastructures that helped to flourish and develop digital economic activities give due attention to the digital transformation strategy of the country.

For his part, Negeri Lencho (PhD), Chairperson of the Human Resource Development and Technology Affairs Standing Committee of the HPR, said that the efforts being undertaken by the ministry in developing and promoting infrastructures in digital technology, in promoting startups and innovations are bringing meaningful changes in the development of the sector. In addition, developing the sector

] directly or indirectly accelerates the economic development of the country. Considering the sector's role in the overall economic development, efforts should be strengthened to promote and develop local innovations, research and technologies.

Similarly, the efforts in the development of space and geospatial information and using the sector for the development of the country show a significant development. He praised the research projects being conducted in this sector which have impacts on solving problems and benefiting the people: "exciting the achievements and successes in the sector, Negeri recommended furthering strengthening efforts to exploit the untapped potential of the sector. In terms of supporting the government's development endeavors through technology and by accelerating the digital economy infrastructure, there are still limitations and Negeri recommends

the ministry to accelerate the efforts in this regard. Hence, by facilitating the technological developments and investing in technology transfer, the ministry should work in supporting the realization of prosperity by supporting the government's economic development efforts through technology.

During the time, Minister Belete further stated that efforts are ongoing to establish peaceful atoms research center in Ethiopia. Significant developments are being registered in Ethiopia's technological landscape and efforts.

Among the efforts Belete briefed during the parliament session was Ethiopia's plan to establish a nuclear science and technology research center. For advanced studies in the field, students are being sent to China and Russia to specialize in the field of study so as to have equipped and capable human resource. To realize the plan, discussions are underway with Russia's State Atomic Energy Cooperation (ROSATOM) with regard to the center's construction following the completion of a feasibility study.

As to the Minister, continuous efforts are underway to enhance innovations and technological developments in Ethiopia. MInT has issued licenses for over 2,000 technology materials. In strengthening the efforts in the sector and promoting local innovations, the nine-months performance of the ministry was promising, as to the minister.

Still, the sector is facing challenges, including lack of necessary proclamations and regulations, challenges in obtaining foreign currency to purchase technological products and lack of finance for startup businesses. Belete further stressed the need to bridge gaps between urban and rural areas in the technology sector, gender imbalance as well as lack of uniformity across cities and regional states in implementation of digital strategy.

The HPR standing committee suggested establishing centers in each region to provide accessibility and support to young individuals with creative ideas, turning them into national resources.

Society

Utilizing indigenous knowledge to address challenges

BY STAFF REPORTER

Ethiopia is a country rich in different indigenous knowledge and cultural values that have crucial importance in solving national problems, sustaining peace, unity and solidarity among different ethnic groups, in nation building and advancing the overall development of the country as well as being used as a basis for the development of science and technology.

Among the indigenous knowledge and practices that our country is known for are traditional medicines, natural resources and environment preservation and conservation methods, conflict management systems, customary dispute resolution and reconciliation mechanisms, and traditional governance systems.

These indigenous knowledge and cultural values that pass down from generation to the next orally or in written form have been exercised among the community for long in several different ways and at different contexts. As a result, in most cases, they have proved to be relevant in various occasions and incidents.

Mainly, Ethiopia's traditional conflict resolution mechanisms are more influential, effective and vital instruments in resolving conflicts, rebuilding fractured relationships, and bringing about reconciliation between and among conflicting parties.

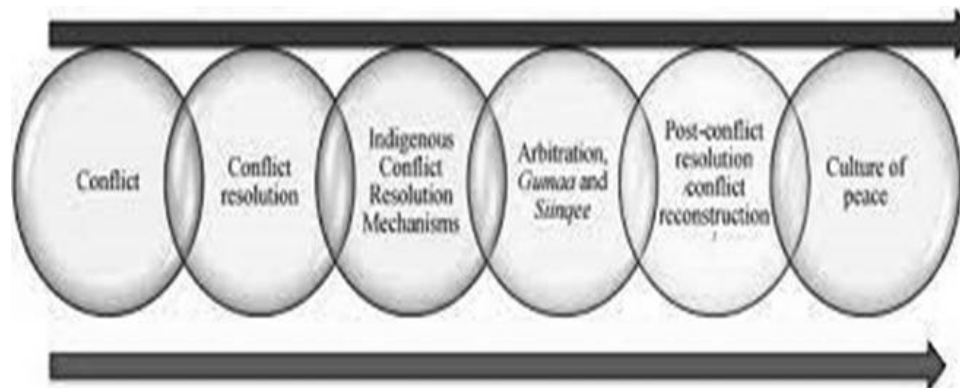
That is why it is said that deploying Ethiopia's conflict resolution mechanisms which have been developed and practiced by different ethnic groups in different situations are beneficial to arrest the country's long-lasting disagreements and inconveniences.

The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission also emphasizes the central roles that the traditional conflict resolution mechanisms play in identifying the root causes of differences and promoting reconciliation, reinforcing social cohesion, peace and unity. It has also stated that it will apply indigenous knowledge in its discussion process.

As to the Commission, since indigenous knowledge and conflict resolution mechanisms have been developed and exercised by the community for decades, the people feel ownership to these norms, respected them; which in turn play a significant role in bringing about peace and improving social interaction among citizens. Most of all, for the reason that, the customary dispute resolution mechanisms involve the process of identifying root causes of the disputes, arbitration between wrongdoers and victims parties, as well as compensate the preys, it is acceptable by all.

However, despite the fact that these age long knowledge and practices have enormous advantages, there are still huge gaps in terms of integrating indigenous knowledge and values with modern knowledge.

A recent workshop that was held for three



It is common knowledge that indigenous knowledge and cultural values have tremendous contributions in terms of addressing societal problems, strengthening social interaction and fostering unity and solidarity

consecutive days in Jinka University also accentuated the multitudinous benefits of Ethiopia's indigenous knowledge and the immense role it can play in governance, scientific discoveries in addition to resolving conflicts and sustaining peace, and strengthening social cohesion.

Speaking at the workshop, organized focusing on culture and history, California University Anthropologist Prof. Donham said that indigenous knowledge plays huge role in the development of both in modernizing governance and scientific discoveries,

According to Prof. Donham who also conducted a number of studies regarding African indigenous knowledge, including Ethiopia, the country has a remarkable wealth of indigenous knowledge and cultures. As he stated, most of his research and study years have been dedicated to Ethiopia, and he believes that the country is endowed with beautiful landscapes and diverse cultures.

The professor also underscored the power of traditional conflict resolution methods embedded within indigenous knowledge to resolve conflicts, foster solidarity and promote lasting peace and development.

The paper presented by Prof. Donham under the title "Ethiopia's Foundation and Indigenous Knowledge for Conflict Resolution," emphasizes the role of multi-culture and multiple identities for the emergence of the new Ethiopia.

He explored the critical role indigenous knowledge from various cultures plays in shaping modern governance and scientific

discoveries in Ethiopia.

Professor Donham finally called on universities and research institutions to actively develop and integrate these valuable systems into modern governance practices and the advancements of Ethiopia's scientific research and technological innovation for economic prosperous

Prof. Donham, with over five decades of research activities across Africa, including Ethiopia, has published books on sociological and political issues, ENA reported.

On his part Jinka University Academic Vice President, Elias Alemu (PhD) stated the aim of the workshop. According to him, the workshop aimed at fostering collaboration between historians and social scientists.

He also said that the gathering would serve as a catalyst for universities and research institutes, both within and beyond Ethiopia's borders, to work together in research endeavors.

Lecturer at Hawassa University Social Anthropology, Hanna Getachew, on her part stressed the importance of the workshop in fostering a global exchange of knowledge and experience. Emphasizing the need for social scientists to transcend disciplinary boundaries, Hanna urged researchers to delve into diverse cultures and unearth the wealth of most important, yet often forgotten, values embedded within them, she concluded.

It is common knowledge that indigenous knowledge and cultural values have tremendous contributions in terms of addressing societal problems, strengthening social interaction and fostering unity and solidarity.

Aside from these, their contribution to ensure sustainable peace and development, advance research and innovation, preserve and conserve natural resources and the environment, is huge.

Needless to say that conflict is an inevitable phenomenon; especially, in a diverse country where different ethnic groups with their own different languages, unique religions, cultural values, norms and practices are living together.

Due to this and other important reasons, these days, there is a growing interest among countries across the world to exploit indigenous knowledge and social values to resolve challenges and realize sustainable peace and development.

Ethiopia, as a country where indigenous knowledge and traditional values are still alive and entertained among some communities, can benefit a lot by making use of them properly and meaningfully, in a manner benefitting the community. In this regard, integrating this unique knowledge and cultural values with the modern ones and exploiting them accordingly have wide ranging benefits.

International News

Unprecedented flooding displaces hundreds of thousands across East Africa

In an alert, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) noted that torrential rains have unleashed catastrophic flooding and mudslides while also severely damaging roads, bridges and dams.

More than 637,000 people have been affected by weeks of deluges, including 234,000 displaced in just the last five days. There is no official figure for the number of dead.

Never-ending emergency

"The numbers [of displaced people] keep rising," the UN agency said, noting that the flooding emergency was one of the "harsh realities" of climate change, which has claimed lives and uprooted entire communities.

"As these individuals face the daunting task of rebuilding, their vulnerability only deepens," said Rana Jaber, IOM's regional director.

"In this critical moment, even as IOM responds, the call remains urgent for sustainable efforts to address human mobility spurred by a changing climate," she continued.

Africa is highly vulnerable to climate change despite contributing only about four per cent to global greenhouse gas emissions. The eastern and Horn of Africa areas have particularly been impacted by alternating cycles of drought and intense precipitation over the last decade, IOM maintained.

Amid the worst rains and flooding in decades, IOM along with governments and partners continue to provide lifesaving assistance to affected populations who have lost family members and now face a heightened risk of waterborne disease.

In Burundi, IOM has distributed emergency shelter, blankets, cooking utensils, solar lamps, dignity kits and other items to more than 5,000 people. The UN agency also supports the relocation of people at risk to safe and less flood-prone areas.

Help is also underway in neighbouring Ethiopia to more than 70,000 flood-affected people across Somali and Oromia regions and to 39,000 people in Kenya's most severely flood-affected east, centre and west and in Somalia, where some 240,000 people are to receive shelter materials, hygiene kits, essential medical care and psychosocial support, among other services.

Climate talks imperative

Ahead of UN-led discussions in Germany in June to tackle climate change, IOM said it was increasingly "evident" that any discussions on our warming planet and its impact on the environment should now include considerations of human mobility and displacement.

East African leaders have already signed and committed to the Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment and Climate Change to address the "challenges and the opportunities of climate mobility", IOM said, but greater efforts are needed to support its implementation, "including advocating for the inclusion of climate mobility at global climate discussions" such as the upcoming UN Climate Change Conference (COP29) in November 2024, taking place in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Source: UN News

Experts say China's growth offers valuable lessons to developing countries

ABUJA -- China has increasingly emerged as a prominent player in global development, offering valuable lessons and insights to developing countries striving for progress, Nigerian scholars have said.

"Nigeria can benefit greatly by learning from Chinese development models, the 'Chinese Dream' vision, and poverty alleviation programs that emphasize scientific innovation and holistic development, offering valuable policy approaches," Adetoro Banwo, a lecturer with the Department of Linguistics, African and Asian Studies at the University of Lagos, said in an article recently published on several local media outlets.

In the article titled "Building a Community of a Shared Future in Nigeria -- A Policy of Win-Win Initiatives," Banwo urged Nigerian policymakers to carefully adapt and integrate these models into the country's development framework.

"China has emerged as a key development partner for Nigeria. Through various projects and collaborations, China is actively driving progress in Nigeria's economy, infrastructure, and cultural sectors," said Banwo, highlighting that cooperation with China presents a wealth of opportunities for

mutual growth.

Ikenna Emewu, an international research expert, told Xinhua in a recent interview that China's remarkable achievements in poverty alleviation will continue to inspire nations grappling with similar challenges.

"China's success in lifting hundreds of millions out of poverty demonstrates the efficacy of targeted policies that effectively prioritize human development," Emewu said, adding that Nigeria can draw valuable lessons from China's emphasis on scientific innovation and inclusive growth.

Nigeria and other developing countries can leverage China's vision to forge mutually beneficial collaborations while tapping into its expertise and resources, Emewu said, noting that a series of development initiatives proposed by China have well proved to be "not merely a national aspiration but a vision for global cooperation and shared prosperity."

Sheriff Ghali Ibrahim, head of the Department of Political Science and International Relations at the University of Abuja, urged African countries to embrace the three initiatives for China-Africa practical cooperation in support of Africa's industrialization, agricultural

modernization, and talent development and assist in Africa's integration and modernization.

He said Chinese enterprises could contribute more in areas of industrialization, agricultural mechanization, and talent cultivation, which offer a roadmap for sustainable growth and prosperity.

"Chinese enterprises can contribute to the realization of Africa's dream and goals in terms of development, growth, infrastructure, knowledge, healthcare, and agriculture," Ibrahim said.

Banwo also shared a similar view, saying that by embracing the principles of innovation, inclusivity, and cooperation espoused by China, developing nations can chart a course toward a brighter future for their citizens and the world at large.

"To excel, we must collaborate to tackle the teething problems gripping most nations," he said. "China and Africa share a history of similar challenges. China-Africa relations are built on the idea of win-win cooperation, aiming to forge a future where all of humanity benefits."

Source: Xinhua

Soaring remittances to developing nations overtake foreign direct investment

- Report finds money sent home by people who have migrated was \$831bn in 2022, 650% up on 2000

Remittances sent home by people who have migrated abroad have outstripped foreign direct investment in developing nations for the first time, a new report has found.

The International Organization for Migration found that international transfers increased 650% from \$128bn (£102bn) to \$831bn (£662bn) between 2000 and 2022.

"The growth continued despite predictions from many analysts that remittances would decrease substantially because of Covid-19," IOM said in its World Migration Report 2024.

Money sent home by those who have emigrated from their home countries has long represented a greater source of revenue than international development aid to low- and middle-income countries. But the sharp rise in remittances recorded by the World Bank and other data researched by IOM underlines just how significant migration has become for poorer economies.

The report shows that in 2020, India, China, Mexico, the Philippines and Egypt were, in descending order, the top five remittance recipient countries, although India and China were well above the rest, with total inward remittances exceeding \$83bn and \$59bn, respectively.

The US has consistently been the top remittance-sending country with total outflow of \$68bn in 2020, followed by UAE (\$43bn), Saudi Arabia (\$34.6bn), Switzerland (\$28bn), and Germany (\$22bn). In Europe, where migration has been one of the hottest political topics before the EU parliament elections, home affairs ministers have already started working on new migration laws aimed at curbing the flow of irregular migration.

The IOM's director general, Amy Pope, said the report also highlighted the need to strengthen legal pathways for migrants from poorer nations.

She said research of Cuban, Haitian and Nicaraguan migration to the US showed an "immediate decrease in numbers of irregular migrants" when legal pathways were created, whether through family reunion or a boost in asylum places.

"When people know that there's a credible way to get to safety or to get a job, that decreases what the smugglers are selling," she said. In Europe, the "Greeks, the Portuguese, the Italians, the Spanish, they're all really thinking about that at this moment, because their populations are ageing", she said after a meeting with home affairs ministers a week ago.

"The anti-migration sentiment we're hearing from so many different parts of Europe suggests that Europe needs to stop migration, where the evidence shows that Europe needs migration.

"But because of the politics around it, there is sometimes a reluctance to try to engage in a system to create a way for people to come in safely, to come in with dignity, and, frankly, to come in and get a job."

The IOM report notes that people from countries with very high levels of human development can travel visa-free to about 85% of all other countries worldwide.

"However, the visa restrictions in place for countries with very low levels of human development indicate that regular migration pathways are problematic for citizens," the report says.

Source: the guardian

Morocco Launches National Energy Transition Consortium for Sustainable Future

At the core of the consortium's mission are three pillars: Collaborative Research and Innovation, Knowledge Exchange and Impact, and Education and Empowerment.

Rabat - In a significant step towards advancing Morocco's renewable energy agenda, the Moroccan National Energy Transition Consortium (MNETC) convened its inaugural session today at Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P).

This pioneering initiative brings together a diverse array of stakeholders, including researchers, scholars, industry professionals, and experts, to foster collaboration, innovation, and knowledge exchange in the realm of sustainable energy.

This powerhouse of expertise aims to break new ground in energy science and exploration by fostering a dynamic environment for knowledge exchange and creative problem-solving.

At the core of MNETC's mission are three pillars: Collaborative Research and Innovation, Knowledge Exchange and Impact, and Education and Empowerment.

Source: Morocco World News

Tiya Archeological Site, its enchanting...

persons' gravings.

Tiya historical archeological site is located 8026' north, 38037' east. Some heritage experts extend the number of the stone pillars to 44. The experts also highlighted that these stone pillars are unique in their size and shape. Most stone pillars found in Egypt, Middle East, Europe, and South America are mostly square or circle. However, the Tiya stone pillars are wide from the bottom and become narrow in the upper. The lengths of some stones are also above 1.5 meters. The carvings on the stone are also varied based on the personal achievements of the man dedicated to commemoration.

Though it is not known that the Pre-history Ethiopians erected these stones, it is assumed that the stones stand to commemorate the then war leaders, rulers, and other notable persons. The experts also underscored that the stones are brought from different areas and erected on the current location 800 years ago. Others believe that the stones were erected by the pre-history Ethiopians.

In addition, the stone pillars are remains erected on their location for many years due to its deep underground basement which is about eight meters, the experts explain.

On the other hand, the number of swords seen on the stone indicates the number of his children and the number of animals he hunted and killed in his lifetime.

These days, the Tiya Archeological Site has gained local and international tourists attention. The Italian archeological researchers have written more about this archeological site before 70 years during the Italian five years invasion.

The UNESCO researches indicate that the other German archeology researcher also visited the site 84 years ago and wrote what he saw - stone pillars with a sword -in his research. There were also other two European researchers Neuville and Pere Azais who discovered the area earlier.

Recently, the Central Ethiopia State Chief Endeshaw Tassew revealed that the State is working to make the Tiya Archeological Site a preferable tourist destination.

The Chief Administrator indicated that the State is closely working with private investors to develop the State's natural resources and promote intangible cultural heritages thereby augmenting the State's income from different sectors.

The State Chief told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the State has immense natural and intangible resources extending from the Yem Saja up to the Tiya Archeological Site and other areas.

"However, little has been done regarding developing and utilizing the tourism potentials of these attractions. The State has been generating low income from the tourism sector. Following this, enormous activities are ongoing to develop the Tiya Archeological Site in a manner keeping its

international standard to make it a potential tourist destination in the country," he said.

"If we go to Kembata, there is Mount Hambericho 777 and Silte lakes. If we go to the Gurage, there is the Zebidar area. There is also an impressive ecology in Yem, The meandering mountains that stretch from Gurage to Wolaita are also the other tourist attractions of the State. Therefore, the State is exerting maximum efforts to harness the tourism sector potentials."

More importantly, the State is working persistently to make Tiya Archeological Site a preferable tourism destination through developing it in a way meeting international standards. "To this effect, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has provided financial assistance to the State from the sale of "Medemer Book," he recalled.

After the State was established, two designs were made to reflect both the cultural and modern parts of the Tiya World Heritage Site. Then, decisions have been made to integrate both designs.

The State will put the Tiya Archeological Site tourist destination development blueprint in the near future. It will also work in collaboration with pertinent stakeholders, investors, embassies, among others to fill the financial gap and finalize the project.

Accordingly, Tiya has not yet been promoted and publicized at the desired level. The factors which hinder tourism development include lack of sufficient research, inadequate infrastructure, accommodation

and promotion. Governmental and private developers should exert their maximum efforts to preserve, promote and develop tourism heritages and tourism destinations through tackling the challenges confronting the sector. In addition, the nation should work tirelessly to get its remaining heritages in UNESCO's list. This way the smokeless industry would be a major economic engine that could generate foreign currency earnings.

Moreover, in addition to the Tiya Archeological Site, the surrounding area offers a wealth of attractions for tourists to enjoy. From historic landmarks to natural wonders, there is something for everyone to discover in this diverse and vibrant area.

One must-visit destination near Tiya is the Adadi Mariam Rock-Hewn Church, a spectacular underground church carved into solid rock. This unique and impressive structure is believed to date back to the 12th century, making it one of the oldest churches in Ethiopia. Visitors can explore the underground chambers, admire the intricate carvings, and learn about the Adadi Mariam Rock-Hewn Church's fascinating history.

In sum, located south of the capital city, Addis Ababa, this historic site is home to a collection of ancient stone monoliths, known as stelae, which date back to the 12th century. These intricately carved stelae are believed to have been markers for graves or important events, and they provide a fascinating glimpse into the region's past.

DIPLOMATIC VEHICLES FOR SALE

1. TOYOTA LAND CRUISER V8		2. TOYOTA AVANZA	
Year of Manufacture:	2013	Year of Manufacture:	2013
Registration year in Ethiopia	2014	Registration year in Ethiopia	2014
Model:	ST. WAGON 200L-LWB 4WD COMMON RAIL TURBO CHARGE DIESEL GX	Model:	1.3L 1298 CC
Transmission	Manual	Transmission	Automatic
Model Code:	VDJ2001-GNMNZ	Model Code:	F651LM-GQMF
Mileage:	145,000 km	Mileage:	140,000 km
Siting Capacity:	7 SEATER	Siting Capacity:	7 SEATER
Color:	SILVER	Color:	SILVER
Engine:	1VD-0230019	Engine:	MC97077
Fuel Type	DIESEL	Fuel Type	PETROL
CC	4461	CC	1298
Condition	Very Good	Condition	Very Good
Location	Rwanda Embassy, Bole Sub city, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Location	Rwanda Embassy, Bole Sub city, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
	Contact No: 0911021761 or 0911232894		Contact No: 0911021761 or 0911232894

Only written offers deposited at the Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda will be accepted indicating your name, contact detail and subject "Bid for Toyota Land Cruiser" or "Bid for Toyota Avanza" The Cars will be sold to the higher bidder, any duty or other payments required

by local authority will be the Responsibility of the buyer. Deadline for bidding is two weeks after the announcement day up until 5:00 Pm. The higher bidder shall be contacted by the concerned officials of the office of the Embassy.

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



This is Ethiopia



Tiya Archeological Site, its enchanting environs tourist attractions

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Tiya archeological site was registered under the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1980. It is an amazing tourist attraction located in the

Southern region along with the Butajira road in Sodo Tiya town.

The total numbers of the stone pillars are expected to be more than 36, having different width, size, and length (about 1.5 meters). 32

of the stone pillars have different carvings such as moon, sun, hand, sword and juvenile, among others. Most of the stone pillars are adorned with decorations. The area has become famous for its astonishing large stone

pillars.

Historians explain that the stone pillars are erected to commemorate the then notable

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