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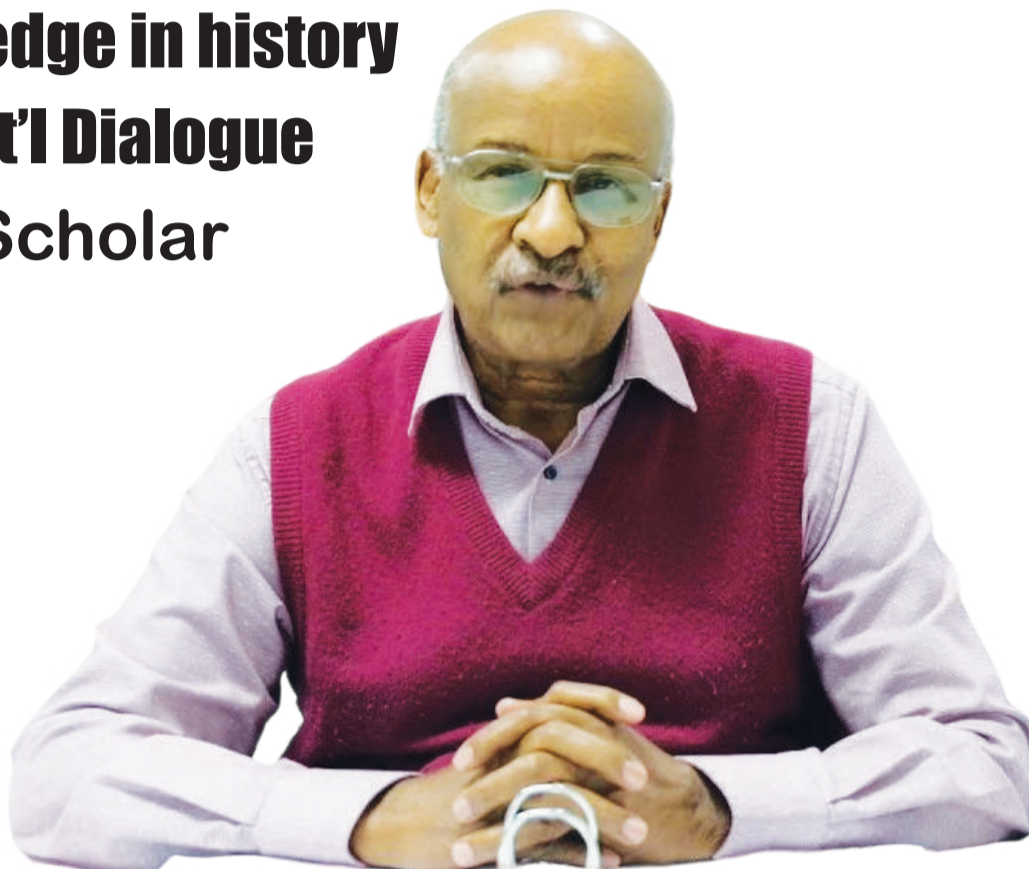
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'Accurate knowledge in history bedrock to Nat'l Dialogue success:' Scholar

BY MENGESHA AMARE

ADDIS ABABA- The tough and decidedly complicated situation where Ethiopia finds itself right now has emanated from misunderstanding history and exacerbating the ill-intended missions of fuzzy narration, a noted historian said.

In the course of conducting a viable, consequential and inclusive National Dialogue to help the nation resolve pressing differences, it is quite vital to succinctly identify what history and deliberately distorted narrations are, Addis Ababa University History Emeritus Professor Bahiru Zewudie told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA).



See 'Accurate knowledge ... page 4 Professor Bahiru Zewudie

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Ethiopia's strategic reforms reinforce regional cooperation

• Kenyan investors keen to invest in Ethiopia

Page 4



Fasikaw Molla

Authority revokes 293 CSOs licenses

• Working to ensure transparency

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA- The licenses of some 293 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) that failed to report their activities have been revoked the Authority for Civil Societies Organization (ACSO) announced.

Approached by *The Ethiopian Herald*, ACSO Deputy Director-General Fasikaw Molla said that the CSOs have the obligation to report their activities including financial

See Authority revokes... page 4

Ethiopians in U.S. demonstrate solidarity to Clean Ethiopia

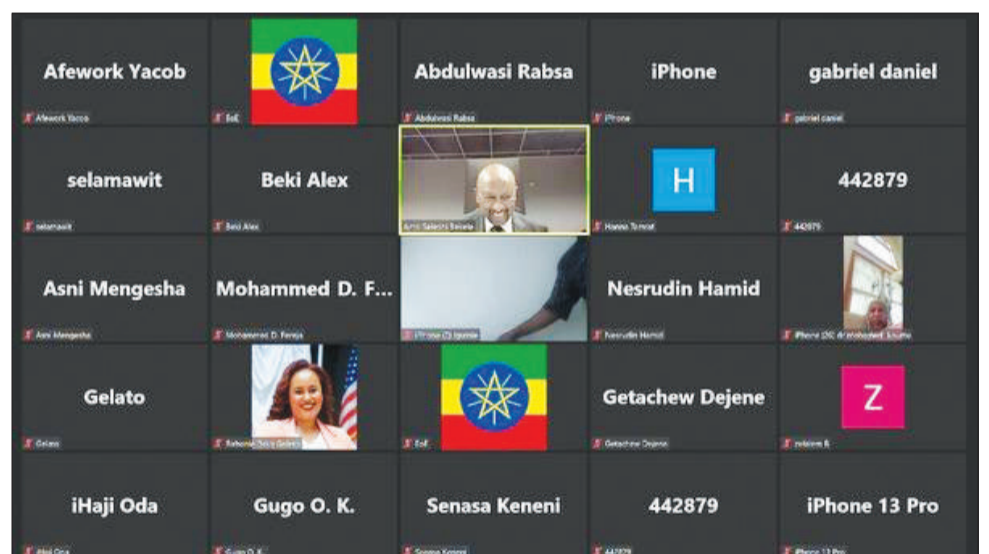
BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA-Ethiopians and foreigners of Ethiopian origin residing in the U.S. have been providing financial and in-kind support to the Clean Streets – Healthy Lives movement, Ethiopian Embassy in Washington, D.C. said.

In its social media post, the Embassy announced that a fundraising program for the initiative, which aims to create a decent toileting culture back home, was organized last Wednesday.

Speaking at a webinar fundraising session, Ethiopia's Ambassador to the U.S. Seleshi Bekele (PhD) indicated that members of the diaspora community promised to build 12 toilets at estimated value of 18 million Birr. Furthermore the Embassy's staff made a donation of 74,000 Birr and 17,945 USD to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's (PhD) initiative.

Ambassador Seleshi also mentioned that the movement aims to make Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital and the seat of the African



Union, clean, green and comfortable for its residents and visitors. Clean Ethiopia, in addition to its contribution to environmental cleanliness and health; it also creates a sizable number of jobs for women and youth. "It is the responsibility of every Ethiopian to take part in this project, which would change the face of their country."

It was also disclosed that the Embassy's diplomats and employees have donated

their salaries to the initiative.

Lauding Ethiopian Diasporas' unrelenting involvement in different projects, the Ambassador extended calls for increased support to expedite development endeavors in their homeland.

Meanwhile, Office of the Prime Minister organized a day-long digital telethon today

See Ethiopians in U.S.... page 4

Fostering reconciliation through transitional justice

Page 7

Boats the Young Board Matter

Page 8

Ethiopia needs to exploit her untapped bamboo resources

Page 10



EHPEA stresses magnifying reforms in horticulture sector

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopian Horticulture Producer Exporters Association (EHPEA) stressed the need to augmenting and maintaining the developments that have been registered in the horticulture sector.

Speaking with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), EHPEA's Director-General Tewedros Zewdie emphasized that efforts need to be geared towards maintaining the best practices performed in the sector to attract more foreign currency and enhance employment opportunity.

He said special priority has been given to the sector where different enabling systems have been put in place. In return, not only numerous agriculture processing factories are entering in to the business but the systems have also allowed farmers to create direct linkage with investors and provide inputs for the industry parks.

The government fuses some 25 billion ETB to build Bure, Bulbula, Yirgalem and other agro processing industrial parks that add value on agricultural products. In order to benefit from the parks, he noted that creating market linkage is vital.

Ethiopia is amongst the top three countries that are said to be suitable for horticulture production. Over half a trillion USD transaction is made in flower, fruits and vegetable market internationally. However, the nation is not benefiting from the sector as per its potential.

Thus, he stressed the need to implement well-structured and organized system that would narrow down the gap that is witnessed in the sector. The Ministry of Agriculture is undertaking several activities, yet, it is essential to finalize the strategy and implement it, as to the Director.

Mentioning that flower covers more than 70% of horticulture export, Tewedros indicated that lesson should also be drawn from well experienced countries. "Israel and Netherlands are best examples in this regard. The two countries work hand in hand which hugely contributed for their success."

To this end, priority need to be given to implementing policies and regulations properly, providing adequate inputs for agro-processing industries as well as improving the quantity of export products.

Through improving infrastructural activities as well as expanding integrated activities, the nation could increase its chance of enhancing job creation and forex earnings from the sector, he stressed.

Ethiopia, Djibouti take over Ethio-Djibouti railway management

ADDIS ABABA (ENA) - The Chinese Railway Construction Corporation (CRCC) has officially transferred the management responsibility of Ethio-Djibouti Railway to the governments of Ethiopia and Djibouti at a ceremony held on Saturday here.

CRCC was undertaking the management of Ethio-Djibouti Railways in collaboration with the governments of Ethiopia and Djibouti over the past six years within the framework of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative.

The Belt and Road Initiative is a global infrastructure development strategy adopted by the Chinese government in 2013 to connect Asia with Africa and Europe via land and maritime networks with the aim of improving regional integration, increasing trade and stimulating economic growth.

Ethio-Djibouti railway is one of the several development projects of the initiative which was put into operation on January 2018.

With a total length of more than 750 kilometers, the railway that starts from Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia in the west, and ends in the port of Djibouti in the east, is the first electrified railway project in Africa.

The Ethio-Djibouti Railway Executive Director Abdi Zanbadi has received the keys of the Ethio-Djibouti train from the Director General of the CRCC office, marking the start of the joint Ethio-Djibouti railway management.

The event was attended by a large number of government officials from Ethiopia, Djibouti, and China, including the Speaker of Ethiopian House of Peoples' Representative Tagesse Chafo.

On the occasion, Djibouti's Transport, Infrastructure and Equipment Minister Hassan Hamad pledged to further continue the development partnership with Ethiopia.

"Today we celebrate the formal transfer of this responsibility to our governments... By taking over the management of this railway



network, our governments are committed to contributing to the path of excellence and innovation."

He assured that this infrastructure continues to serve our common interests, promote sustainable development and strengthen our strategic partnership.

Emphasizing the importance of railways in the economic field and regional integration of the two countries and the region, the minister indicated that "this railway is a symbol of cooperation and progress and an engine for our economic development and regional integration."

For his part, the Ethio-Djibouti Railway Executive Director Abdi Zenabi called for more partnerships in establishing other railways in the region.

"As we celebrate today, let us cast our eyes toward the future. Let us imagine a network of railways crossing our region, connecting us not only physically, but also culturally and socially."

Abdi stressed the important role played by the project in the field of transportation. "The Ethiopian-Djibouti Railway is more than just tracks and locomotives. It is a symbol of cooperation, friendship and shared aspirations."

Designed with precision and dedication, it extends over a distance of more than 750 kilometers, connecting the Ethiopian hinterland to Djibouti City. "This strategic

coastal railway has transformed the way goods move between our two countries, reducing transit times and enhancing trade opportunities," the executive director elaborated.

He enumerated the benefits gained from operating the railway in the region, "It has opened new markets, attracted investments, and created job opportunities for our people. The efficient transportation of goods - whether agricultural products, manufactured goods or minerals - has revitalized our economies."

The CRCC office Executive Director General Peng Danyang highlighted the pioneering role of the railway for strengthening regional development.

"The Ethio-Djibouti railway leads regional development. Since commercial operations in 2018, the railway has operated 2,500 passenger trains with a passenger volume of 68,000."

Over the past six years, the average annual rate of increase in transportation has reached 39 percent, he added.

The company has played role in training experts and professionals to assume responsibility for local self-management. "Over the past six years of operation, a total of 2,840 people have been trained and certified, which has led to the localization of all railway professions in the field of rolling stock operation, maintenance and safety".

Academy envisions to students' competence

• To enroll elementary graders in coming academic year

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA-Warka Academy revealed the vision to create a robust learning community in accordance with the national educational curriculum and ensure students' competence at national and international levels.

Approached by The Ethiopian Herald, Academy's Educational Consultant Henok Markos said that the school will enroll students from grade one to eight in the upcoming academic year which begins in September 2024.

The academy which is equipped with modern facilities including laboratories and other amenities was inaugurated yesterday in the presence of invited guests and the local community. The facilities are believed to make students get practical knowledge and skill and help them to be globally competitive and to get scholarships.

According to Henock, academy will open schools that envision building students'

creativity and ensuring the quality of education accompanied by a practical learning environment. The academy aspires students to acquire holistic development skills socially, emotionally, attitudinal, physically and cognitively.

"We will work together with Kotebe Education University to modernize the teaching learning process and ensure education quality."

Academy's General Manager Mebatsion Yeshitila for his part said that the academy was built at the cost of over 18 million Birr and it will only enroll 300 to 500 students. "This helps to follow up students and empower them to make a positive impact on society and foster creativity and ensure education quality."

Mebatsion further noted that a scholarship program will be held annually to students who can score the highest mark in the academy.

The academy is founded by people from home and abroad who are experts from various disciplines including education

administration and pedagogy psychology, art, technology, banking and others.

The school is equipped with modern infrastructure which aims to assure the quality of teaching-learning process and accompanied by academic excellence and practices. This would help students to acquire holistic development skills socially, emotionally, attitudinal and physically, he emphasized.

The school has already secured partnership with the Swiss organization Deventure, which will provide online courses to Warka teachers and staff.

The General Manager also highlighted that the academy aims to provide a safe, inclusive, and dynamic space where students can develop their knowledge, skills, and character.

In its vision to expand quality education nationwide, the government has set conducive environment to private businesses to establish schools and provide them attractive incentives.

Editorial

Opinion

National Dialogue is winning formula for Ethiopia today

“When trouble comes, close ranks...” goes the saying.

The adage hammers home if a country like Ethiopia manages to ensure harmony buttressed by time-old serenity; it could fast track its development and it could actualize envisioned goals of prosperity dragging its last leg out of the morass of crippling poverty.

Still more because, if a nation is determined enough at fructifying looked-forward reform that targets parrying improprieties and narrow-minded mentality and leveling possibly lopsided political landscapes for equitable distribution of nation's wealth, the crystallization of its chalked out plan will not be long in turning palpable. It could not be gainsaid, such propensity swings door for a conspicuous and effective multi-party system, which in turn allows a go ahead to concord and growth.

Amity is the springboard of all aspects of life. In the presence of peace, a salient component for welfare, reproduction and tending children are possible. Also pursuing education and letting children go to school fall under comfort zone. If peace is precluded from the set of thrusts for a rosy future—either infrastructural expansion wise or economic pickup wise—the unfolding will be butfeigning.

Evaluating Ethiopia's long historic backdrop, we observe that bravery is the inherent feature of Ethiopians. This asset of its citizens has enabled the country parry barefaced foreign provocations. As such, repetitively, resorting to guns, for long, citizens were almost estranged from a significant progress which heads to prosperity. The overabundance of conflict resolution mechanisms among the wide spectrum of ethnic groups in Ethiopia, contrariwise, indicates the abundance of internal struggles. After a tough grind it has dawned on citizens that it is advisable to choose cordial resolution of conflicts than to pick arms as a first alternative when verbal and physical confrontations flare up.

The erudition of ironing out bones of contention has begun to sink in citizens' mind. Still, a lot of task remains down the road. Here, it is fit to raise the Pretoria Peace Deal as exemplary and mandatory. After a two-year destructive military confrontation, the encounter between the incumbent and TPLF has screeched to a halt. The credit goes to the Pretoria peace deal facilitated by AU. In line with the peace deal, not only the closure of the war-related hassle was made possible but also the rebirth of infrastructural facilities reduced to rubbles was made a point atop delivering humanitarian assistance. Such a crusade calls for global backing.

The disparaging war has compelled the country's wealth to lay waste as observed in Tigray. It has also strangled the fluidity of citizens there by stripping them of the liberty of engaging in drudgeries to win bread and enjoy returns from transactions. Those who acquired a firsthand knowledge of the gruesome war of the northern part try to avoid it. On the flipside, there are the bellicose ones sniffing for ruinous clashes.

As it is true of the Tigray region, in Amhara and in Oromia regions, the presence of forces that attempt to handle things opting to 'might is right' is unsettling. Sure is good if they seek peaceful means of narrowing down divergent outlooks via heated deliberations. True, differences in outlooks were there, for such a thing is not an uncharacteristic of human beings. Troubleshooting problems arising from divergent mentality via discussions and embracing a bargain-based approach are hallmarks of sagacity.

To this noble end, Ethiopia has seen to the birth of a National Dialogue Commission authorized to bridge gaps in mindsets, and building a common narrative of peace and multifaceted developmental take off. This is a laudable duty. Giving priority to peace and healthier means of trouble shooting conflicts, the incumbent has gone a step out of its way to win back those that took to the forest carrying arms. As usual, the government's hands are widespread for armistices.

Paying every sacrifice, upholding truce, striking a middle ground via negotiations the incumbent is determined to consummate with success citizens' ambition for multi-pronged development, growth, U-turn in all aspects and pleasant life featured by unity in diversity. Taking in to account that peace comes from within, Ethiopians here and scattered across the globe must bolster nation's push for enduring peace and unflinching development. Since war has a domino effect neighboring countries must home in on regional peace and growth perks that come in tandem with the former.

“A Day with tears in our eyes” (The Great Victory Day)

Victory Day is the most valuable and brightest Day for the peoples of our country. It is a Day of the strength of the people's spirit, “a Day with tears in our eyes”. On May 9, 1945, popular jubilation knew no limit. After the announcement of the capitulation of the enemy on the radio, the feeling of all-encompassing joy filled everyone's heart. People in the streets cried with happiness and the awareness of irreparable losses sustained during the Great Patriotic War. May 9, 1945 is forever inscribed in the world history as a triumph of the Soviet people, its unity, spiritual might and unprecedented heroism. On this day, after four years of the courageous struggle against the German fascist invaders, the Act of Unconditional Military Surrender of the German Armed Forces was signed in the Berlin suburb of Karlshorst.

The cost of the Great Victory was huge - more than 27 million people, who died on the battlefields, were torn and frozen, burned alive and starved within the walls of besieged Leningrad, tortured in Hitler's camps of death and killed by Nazi collaborators - that was the true price of Victory. The country's material losses amounted to 30% of its national wealth, with 1,710 cities and towns, 70 thousand villages and hamlets, 32 thousand industrial enterprises destroyed. There is no family in Russia that was not hit by the Great Patriotic War. Its memory never fades. We take pride in the unconquered courageous generation of the victors, we are proud of being their successors, and it is our duty to preserve the memory of those who defeated Nazism and entrusted us with being vigilant and doing everything to thwart the horror of another global war.

Immediately after the fascist aggression was unleashed against our country the whole Soviet people raised to defend the Motherland. As early as July 1941, over 5 million soldiers joined the army ranks, tens of thousands of volunteers became militiamen. They were of different ages and ethnicities, men and women, old people and even children. Each of them had their own cruel lot. And there was so much grief and suffering for all of them that seemed impossible to bear.

The Victory was secured with the courage of the defenders of ancient Russian capitals of Kiev and Veliky Novgorod, the fearless defenders of Smolensk, Odessa, Sevastopol, and the infinite fortitude of the inhabitants of the besieged Leningrad. As soldiers of their country, they did not spare their lives for the sake of its freedom, peaceful future, and each of us. We will never forget their courage and self-sacrifice, and the great price paid for Victory. The memory of the Great Patriotic War and the truth about it is part of our

conscience and our responsibility.

Today, we see how a number of countries are deliberately distorting war events, it's true roots and outcomes. It's unbearable to see how those who, forgetting honour and human dignity, served the Nazis, are now being glorified. Any attempt to reconsider the truth about the Great Victory actually means justifying the crimes of Nazism, opening the way for the revival of its deadly ideology. Forgetting the lessons of history is fraught with the repetition of terrible tragedies.

For us, for Russia, there are no unfriendly or hostile nations either in the West or in the East. Just like the vast majority of people on the planet, we want to see a peaceful, free and stable future. Today, our civilisation is at a crucial turning point. Once more a real war is being waged against our country, but we will defend the people of Donbass and safeguard our security the same decisive way as our ancestors have counted fascism. We believe that any ideology of national superiority is abhorrent, criminal and deadly by its nature. However, the Western globalist elites keep speaking about their exceptionalism, pit nations against each other and split societies, provoke bloody conflicts and coups, sow hatred, Russophobia, aggressive nationalism, destroy family and traditional values which make us human. They are talking brazenly and idly about their “flourishing garden” and “wild jungles” around it. They do not spare a single effort to keep dictating and imposing their will and self-invented rules on peoples, which in reality is a system of plundering, violence and suppression. They seem to have forgotten what the Nazis' insane claims of global dominance led to. They forgot who destroyed that monstrous, total evil, who stood up for their native land and did not spare their lives to liberate the peoples of Europe.

We see how in certain corners they ruthlessly and cold-bloodedly destroy memorials to Soviet soldiers-liberators, demolish monuments to great commanders, create a real cult of the Nazis and their proxies, erase and demonise the memory of true heroes. Such profanation of the feat and sacrifices of the victorious generation itself is a crime, an outright revanchism on the part of those who were cynically and blatantly preparing a new march on Russia and who brought together neo-Nazi scum from around the world for this. But we are a different country. Russia has a different character. We will never give up our love for our Motherland, our faith and traditional values, our ancestors' customs and respect for all peoples and cultures.

Appealing to primary historical sources convincingly demonstrates the inconsistency and prejudice of such

See “A Day with tears ... page 4

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



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The Ethiopian Herald

Ethiopia's strategic reforms reinforce regional cooperation

• Kenyan investors keen to invest in Ethiopia

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA - Apart from fostering widespread economic development, Ethiopia's policy alteration attracts potential East African investors, the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) Chief Executive said.

Approached by The Ethiopian Herald, NSE Chief Executive Officer Frank Mwit said that Ethiopia's commendable strategic policy reforms are a significant milestone to stimulate the development of regional socio-economic cooperation, knowledge transfer and foster capital inflow across the entire region.

Ethiopia, an economic powerhouse in East Africa, is also exemplary for the region and creates confidence for business partners and investors in the country and in the region as well. Its capital market heading in the right path is a crucial component of economic development, he remarked.

He said: "To spur a sustainable development in a sustainable manner, every country in the region needs to have a well-structured and



Photo: Hadush Abreha

Frank Mwit

well-functioning capital markets in channeling private capital in sectors with financing needs such as infrastructure, agriculture, housing, health, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), amongst others."

Accordingly, Ethiopia's bold moves in the capital market development and securities exchange are decisive engines for expediting

its economic development endeavors meaningfully. It also enables local businesses to grow through capital access, reducing foreign capital dependency thereby registering widespread wealth creation, Frank pointed out.

Commending the government's measures towards making a play field financial ecosystem, he emphasized that the opening up of business sectors for foreign investors promotes domestic institutional capacity and delivers stable economic desires.

According to the CEO, these enabling business ecosystems are also crucial to manage inflation, borrowing cost of interest rate and foreign investment dependency. As the largest securities exchange in the region, Kenya remains committed to work with Ethiopia especially in these areas to ensure mutual benefit.

He added that more efficient equity and debt markets provide effective and efficient domestic resources mobilization trends and international capital, complementing traditional financing through fostering risk and long-term investments.

Ethiopians in U.S...

that aims to collect 50 million Birr for #Clean Ethiopia

According to the office, the event will create a favorable environment for citizens to participate in the movement.

The digital telethon is said to be designed to showcase the public's capability of creating a positive impact in the common agenda.

Clean Streets- Healthy Lives movement aimed to construct modern, clean, and

dignified public restrooms with a strong emphasis on community involvement. Apart from the Diaspora community, individuals and institutions at home have demonstrated overwhelming support to the initiative.

'Accurate knowledge...

"Also, identifying distorted narrations and real history would be of paramount importance in making the National Dialog purposeful."

Prof. Bahiru also noted that drawing important lessons from history for the purpose of consolidating positive deeds and correcting wrong doings would be quite important to make the National Dialogue a success.

According to him, historians are expected to play their due role in revealing and communicating the real history to the

public and to shape future generations with proper chronicles. "The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) is supposed to do all its best to get citizens closer via bridging gaps and clarifying issues that have potentially widened differences."

The researcher further highlighted that the Ethiopian Historians Association recently presented a study document organized under the theme, 'Interweaving and interaction in Ethiopian history,' to the ENDC with a view to helping the generation properly comprehend history and well foster the National Dialogue.

"The document would be great significance in sorting out what the real history is as it does incorporate facts unifying citizens. The majority of the narrations circulating across the nation are far apart from the truth."

Also, a consultative committee was set up and working with the ENDC to reverse distorted narratives and interpretations. All Ethiopians have to understand the truth instead of blaming one another and wasting time for unnecessary and futile records, Prof. Bahiru emphasized.

"A Day with tears...

attempts. The experience of the anti-Hitler coalition shows the need to unite the peoples of the world to repel fascism, the inadmissibility of dictate and command approaches in international relations. It demonstrates the value of negotiation and diplomacy, equal dialogue, since there is simply no other way to prevent new conflicts and to preserve peace in the world.

We highly value Ethiopia's contribution to the defeat of fascism and pay tribute to the sacrificial feat, true patriotism

and steadfastness of the Ethiopian people. Ethiopia was the first country attacked by the fascists a few years before World War II. Ethiopia was also the first country which liberated itself from the yoke of fascism. One cannot ignore the fact that both our countries fought in the same trenches, on the same side of barricades in their people's struggle against Fascism and Nazism. We highly appreciate the heroism and courage of the Ethiopian people that tied down numerous enemy forces that the Soviet people otherwise

would have had to face in the Volga and Don steppes and the streets of Stalingrad.

On this day, we swear to be worthy of the memory of the feats of our ancestors. May the memory of the fallen live forever! Eternal glory to those who carried the banner of victory over the crushed Reichstag, those who for many days and years marched through smoke and flames, through the ashes of their native land to the great justice - to the Victory!

Authority revokes 293...

undertakings. Due to the CSOs' unresponsiveness to the repeated inquiries and their failure to comply with obligations, the Authority was forced to take the measure.

ACSO investigates CSOs reports through desk monitoring and it has achieved 95% of the plan it was set for the current fiscal year.

"The ACSO board decided to revoke the licenses of these organizations in accordance with Ethiopia's law and the decision would be applicable starting from July 8. However, there is a chance to reverse the decision if the CSOs submit tangible reasons till July 7 2024."

In addition, the board decided to revoke the licenses of some 1,554 CSOs that failed to be readmitted after the enactment of the new law. In contrast, over 2,000 CSOs have made the re-admission registration per the revised law, Fasikaw elaborated.

Noting the involvement of some CSOs in unlicensed sectors and violating the law, he emphasized the organization's shortcomings in utilizing the permitted areas. Consolidated efforts are underway to make these organizations operate in licensed sectors and the regulator body is ready to collaborate with relevant stakeholders to channel violators to the legal route.

"Currently, the collaboration and partnership of the government and CSOs is improving, but there are gaps from the CSOs side in utilizing opportunities that are created by the new law."

Furthermore, the new law annuls revenue limitation for CSOs as long as they have generated it from legal sources and the law also ensured the organization's operational freedom. It is advisable for the CSOs to maximize revenue from local sources to make the intervention sustainable. There is an assessment that confirms the highly diminishing of foreign donors' funds, the deputy general remarked.

A new law allowed CSOs to engage in any kind of revenue generation activities including investment and trade.

Opinion

Solving problems from root: keeping conflict dealers at bay

BY GETACHEW MINAS

Like in many developing countries, the relationship between war and profiteering in Ethiopia is intricate and multifarious. Experts have noted that social unrest, being multifaceted, is the starting point for a large-scale conflict that may lead to war. Ethiopia has experienced various types of conflicts throughout its history. These conflicts range from internal ethnic tensions to border disputes and skirmishes with neighboring countries.

The history of the country reflects that these conflicts often create opportunities for ethnic entrepreneurs. These individuals or groups reap huge profit from the chaos through arms sales. They also engage in the exploitation of the natural resources of the country. They use any means of profiteering through engaging in various sectors of the economy. These profiteers have “no country but their profits” as a well known philosopher put it centuries ago. They comfortably enjoy from social conflicts taking place in Ethiopia, which is officially their country of origin. What matters is where they settle with accumulated profits derived from their embattled motherland.

Arms dealers and profiteers are restless where peace reigns. They gain nothing in the absence of devastating social conflicts, wars and skirmishes. This situation forces them to initiate, instigate and bring about even individual conflicts that may grow into wider ones. The occurrence of social conflicts is a signal for starting trading in arms for those engaged in the skirmishes.

Initially, these dealers deliver arms free of charge to those engaged on both sides of social conflicts. But, they make records of arms delivery to the conflicting parties to claim sales and service charges. These charges are presented to the winners that accessed power and authority over the revenues of the country. In other words, the taxpayers indirectly finance the conflict in which they have not participated. Some of these citizens have no idea or information about those who claimed victory over social conflicts. Their duty has been to produce agricultural or industrial goods for the market and run their normal life. They just succumb to the powers and authorities, who claim fees from their income. Behaving like scoundrels, they may forcefully take money from the local people.

The Ethiopian people had been soaked and immersed in conflicts, which erupted decades ago. These conflicts involved the previous and the present governments and liberation fronts at various levels. The effects of these conflicts have led to widespread humanitarian sufferings. There have been allegations of atrocities and war crimes in the different parts of the country. In such conflicts, there have often been reports of arms trafficking and the

It is absolutely necessary to address the root causes of conflicts to ensure social security and economic development in the country

diversion of humanitarian aid. These crimes have been committed by arms dealers and profiteers. They have no responsibility or accountability as they were operating freely in search of profit. In the process, they do exacerbate the suffering of civilians who have not been party to the conflict.

It is learned from history that Ethiopia has been exposed to several rounds of social conflicts and skirmishes through the instigation of arms dealers and profiteers. The latter ones have been operating within and outside the state structures, depending on the volatility of conflicts. Whatever the case may be, they are only behind profits from arms sales to the fighting parties.

Ethiopia has become a center of attraction for all war-mongers. Its strategic location in the Horn of Africa makes it attractive for arms dealers and war criminals. Also, its vast natural resources, makes it attractive and gorgeous for various actors. Apart from arms dealers, profit seeking entrepreneurs desire to exploit these resources for financial profits. This may involve not only domestic actors but also global corporations.

These global enterprises are usually supported and protected by their governments. The protection is designed to ensure flow of resources from Ethiopia to other countries. The precious resources are embezzled at a time when the country is fully engaged in its own internal warfare and social conflicts. Lack of awareness on the part of Ethiopians about the economic objective of external powers is very tragic. Also, a few profiteering local authorities join the alien forces in sharing the benefits of natural resources exploitation. These forces encouraged and expanded corruption in the country.

Corruption within the Ethiopian public and private sectors may contribute to profiteering from conflict. Certain individuals in positions of power give priority to their personal gain over the well-being of their

constituents. This practice may further aggravate violence and instability in the country. But, it continues to enrich those profiteers who exploit the situation. To address the issue of profiteering from all situations including war in Ethiopia, demands comprehensive efforts to promote transparency, accountability, and good governance. This may include measures to mitigate or eradicate corruption. However, this requires strengthening institutions created to overcome corruption in the country. These institutions may ensure that the benefits of development are shared by all citizens according to their needs and contributions.

Moreover, resolving grievances of the masses of the Ethiopian people is of the essence. It is absolutely necessary to address the root causes of conflicts to ensure social security and economic development in the country. These are preconditions for achieving lasting peace and stability throughout Ethiopia. But, the country has been exposed to a series of conflicts in its long history.

Ethiopia has been exposed to social and political confrontations in the past. These factors have led to various conflicts. Ethiopia is home to a number of diverse ethnic groups, with over eighty different ethnicities and languages. While such diversity is believed to be a source of strength, it has also been a source of tension. Ethnic conflicts have erupted in different regions of the country. These have often been fueled by competition for resources. They have also been aggravated by historical grievances and political marginalization. Some ethnic groups have been excluded from the center of power for various reasons. These have led to regional disputes in many parts of the country.

Its Constitutions has defined Ethiopia as a federation of regions, each with its own government and significant autonomy. Disputes arising between regions over territorial claims, natural resources, and power-sharing arrangements have periodically led to conflicts. These conflicts have caused tensions between the regional governments and the Federal government.

The tensions sometimes have escalated into armed conflict, causing political instability. Ethiopia has experienced periods of political instability, particularly during transitions of power or disputed elections. The country has also experienced struggle for political dominance between different parties and factions. This has sometimes spilled over into violence and civil unrest in different parts of the country for various reasons. One reason is related to land disputes.

In Ethiopia land is a precious resource, and disputes over its ownership and access are common. This is especially true in rural

areas where farmers totally depend on land for their survival. Also, rapid growth of population, urbanization and commercial agriculture has intensified these conflicts. This was due to clash between the traditional land tenure systems with modern development initiatives. Most traditional farmers are not yet fully exposed to modern farming systems. They need to be supported by modern agricultural techniques to raise their productivity or output per hectare.

Ethiopia is a country where Christians and Muslims lived in peace in different parts of the country. In recent years, however, some conflicts have been instigated by alien forces over minor issues. Other social issues are related to the refugee crises. Ethiopia has been a destination for refugees fleeing conflicts in neighboring countries.

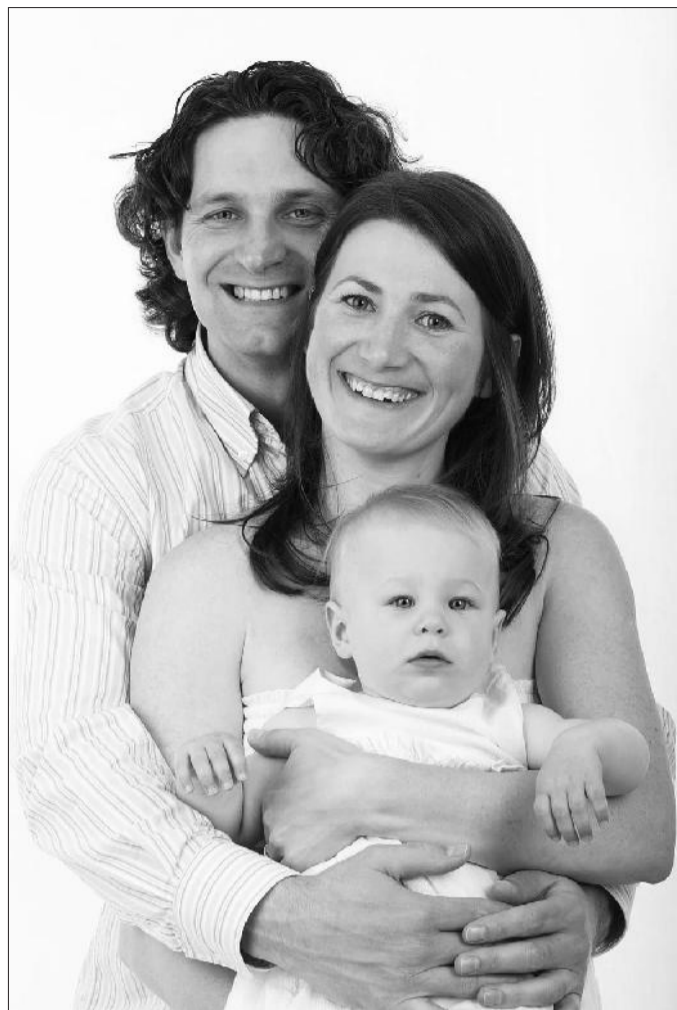
Ethiopia has a tradition of hospitality towards refugees, hosting one of the largest refugee populations in Africa. However, the influx of refugees may strain its resources and sometimes lead to tensions with hosting communities. Related to these issues are economic tensions. Ethiopia struggles with widespread poverty and economic inequality. Moreover, significant disparities existed between urban and rural areas and between different social groups. Experts think that this may lead to economic grievances that may fuel social tensions. These may contribute to social conflicts, especially when coupled with political marginalization.

Resolving the social conflicts observed in Ethiopia requires a multifaceted approach. This calls for discussion of issues that affect the lives of the Ethiopians anywhere anytime. The primary requirement of conflict resolution is fostering dialogue and reconciliation between different groups. In this process, the group leaders may discuss issues of peace, law and order, disarmament of armed groups.

The dialogue process may promote inclusive governance that address underlying grievances by different groups of people in the different parts of Ethiopia. All the people have to be represented in the inclusive dialogue that may promote social and economic development. One item of dialogue is freedom from arms dealers that device, implement and spread hate politics as profiteers. The Ethiopian society, the bureaucracy, the political entities and other sectors have to abide by the rule of law to ensure freedom from arms dealers and profiteers to maintain peace, law and order in the country.

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

Art & Culture



Mom and Dad

BY JOSEPH SEBOKA

Of all persons of mankind
 Mom and Dad molded my mind.
 They watched me day and night
 They protected me from evil smite.
 The tottering speech of the little boy
 It always gave them exceeding joy.
 They roared in laughter when're I laughed
 My childish utterance won their kind heart.
 They listened to my innocent cry
 As if I would fall and die.
 With selfless love and commitment
 Went I through great development.
 I'm grateful to their pure love
 That stands out of all things I have.
 Of all persons of loving kind
 Mom and Dad molded my mind.



Being a Mother

BY GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

Being a mother means that your heart
 Is no longer yours; it wanders
 Wherever your children do.

Dear Mom

BY SUMIRAN MIRSHA & SAAKSHI KHATTRI

Since the day I was small
 Till the day I became tall
 Since I began understanding things
 Till the day I got my own wings
 Your love has never fallen short
 You have been my only support
 I want to hold you tight and hug you
 I just want to say thank you.

A Mother

(ANONIMUS)

When you're a child she walks before you
 To set an example.
 When you're a teenager she walks behind you
 To be there should you need her.
 When you're an adult she walks beside you
 So that as two friends you can enjoy life together.



To my Mother

BY LUCRETIA MARIA DAVIDSON

O thou whose care sustained my infant years,
 And taught my prattling lip each note of love;
 Whose soothing voice breathed comfort to my fears,
 And round my brow hope's brightest garland wove;
 To thee my lay is due, the simple song,
 Which Nature gave me at life's opening

day;
 To thee these rude, these untaught strains belong,
 Whose heart indulgent will not spurn my lay.
 O say, amid this wilderness of life,
 What bosom would have throbbed like thine for me?
 Who would have smiled responsive?—who in grief,
 Would e'er have felt, and, feeling, grieved like thee?
 Who would have guarded, with a falcon-

eye,
 Each trembling footstep or each sport of fear?
 Who would have marked my bosom bounding high,
 And clasped me to her heart, with love's bright tear?
 Who would have hung around my sleepless couch,
 And fanned, with anxious hand, my burning brow?
 Who would have fondly pressed my fevered lip,
 In all the agony of love and wo?
 None but a mother—none but one like thee,

Whose bloom has faded in the midnight watch;
 Whose eye, for me, has lost its witchery,
 Whose form has felt disease's mildew touch.
 Yes, thou hast lighted me to health and life,
 By the bright lustre of thy youthful bloom—
 Yes, thou hast wept so oft o'er every grief,
 That wo hath traced thy brow with marks of gloom.
 O then, to thee, this rude and simple song,
 Which breathes of thankfulness and love for thee,
 To thee, my mother, shall this lay belong,
 Whose life is spent in toil and care for me.

Law & Politics

Fostering reconciliation through transitional justice

BY STAFF REPORTER

To assure responsibility, serve justice, and accomplish reconciliation, a society may need to confront the legacy of widespread previous conflict, repression, violations, and abuses. This process is known as transitional justice and it encompasses all of the procedures and mechanisms involved.

Both judicial and extrajudicial mechanisms, such as truth-seeking, prosecution efforts, reparations, and various steps to stop new violations from happening again, such as institutional, legal, and constitutional reform, civil society strengthening, memorialization efforts, cultural initiatives, archive preservation, and history education reform, maybe a part of these processes.

To foster peace and stop other abuses, transitional justice seeks to acknowledge victims, increase public confidence in government agencies, uphold human rights and advance the rule of law.

Transitional justice procedures have proven time and time again to be effective in resolving conflicts and divisions. To do this, these procedures have to be victim-centred, nationally owned, and tailored to the particular environment. They can then establish connections, give people power and change societies, all of which can lead to enduring peace.

Since ending the conflict in the northern part of the country, Ethiopia has launched different initiatives to ensure justice and restore full stability.

Against this backdrop, the Ministry of Justice established the Transitional Justice Working Group of Experts in November 2022, marking the official beginning of the country's current transitional justice (TJ) process. Composed of 13 independent experts from diverse backgrounds, the Working Group is mandated to conduct public consultations and craft a national TJ policy. Subsequently, in January 2023, the Working Group released a green paper on transitional justice policy options, providing an analysis of alternative policy options to pursue the different TJ pillars: prosecution, truth-seeking, reconciliation, amnesty, reparations, and institutional reform. The process encompasses mechanisms aimed at promoting truth, facilitating access to justice, providing reparations, and ensuring non-recurrence.

Justice Minister Gedion Timothewos reiterated that national ownership and responsibility are crucial for the success of the implementation of the Transitional Justice Policy in Ethiopia, ENA reported.

Recall that the Government of Ethiopia initiated a landmark national process to develop a comprehensive transitional justice policy framework anchored on the pillars of justice, accountability, reconciliation and redress in November 2022.



As part of the process, the Transitional Justice Working Group of Experts was established under the Ministry of Justice and carried out nationwide consultations developed a transitional justice policy framework and undertook post-draft policy validation workshops.

Following the historic milestone the Council of Ministers approved recently the draft Transitional Justice Policy.

The implementation of the Policy was officially launched last Thursday in the presence of Chief Government Whip Tesfaye Beljige, Justice Minister Gedion Timothewos, senior government officials and foreign dignitaries at a ceremony held at the Skylight Hotel.

Justice Minister Gedion Timothewos said on the occasion that the transitional justice policy would be the best solution to Ethiopia's long-term problems.

The minister extended gratitude to stakeholders who have provided very critical support to the process.

"As you have seen, the consultations were very extensive. We have conducted about 80 consultations and workshops. This required a lot of resources and your financial support has been very critical. We are very grateful for that."

There have also been renowned international experts who have attended the two international workshops organized to solicit input in the preparation of the policy, he added.

"We will count upon your support and assistance, but at the same time, we would like to reiterate one of the important principles enshrined in the policy, which is national ownership," he underlined.

In light of this, we welcome partners who would like to support us by providing financial and technical support.

"I want to make it very clear that we welcome partners, we welcome more support and advice not dictates. No court or commission will render justice in Ethiopia in foreign languages."

"Our institutions will render justice and lead this process in Afan Oromo, Tigrigna, Somaligna, and Amharic, but not in foreign languages. This will be a process, run by Ethiopians for Ethiopians."

In this spirit, he called upon partners to provide support and assistance while adhering to these principles.

Chief Government Whip Tesfaye Beljige said on his part that transitional justice policy is essential to fundamentally address long-standing grievances in the country.

There was no comprehensive Transitional Justice Policy in the history of Ethiopia in the past, he said, adding currently, the government is introducing new ways that have not been tried in the past to resolve the problems sustainably facing the country.

He reiterated that this Transitional Justice Policy should be implemented in harmony with the national context by taking the experience of other countries.

Tesfay urged all stakeholders to play an active role in the realization of this policy.

President of the Federal Supreme Court of Ethiopia, Tewodros Mihret said that the basic goal of the Transitional Justice Policy is to respond appropriately to the abuses and human rights violations committed in Ethiopia.

He recalled that the government has already been working on setting up a group of independent professionals to prepare this policy that will bring complete and lasting peace.

Establishing the National Dialogue Commission and Transitional Justice Policy are crucial institutions to ensure lasting peace in the country.

The effective implementation of Ethiopia's transitional justice policy aims to bring about lasting peace and reconciliation. If successful, it has the potential to strengthen human rights protections and the rule of law.

The effective implementation of Ethiopia's transitional justice policy aims to bring about lasting peace and reconciliation. If successful, it has the potential to strengthen human right protections and the rule of law



Ephrem Endale
Contributor

Between you & me

Boats the Young Board Matter

Misinformation and disinformation, and bias and pure arrogance infecting the global media world it's high time we worked, at least, to save the young from being led astray and ending up with the wrong picture of the world they live in. They have to be set free from fairy tales they are growing up listening even in present days and encouraged to place themselves on the right path.

I personally am not comfortable with the way they are trying to comment on international issues. The problem is few of us do our homework when it comes to international current affairs. So for such people anything that appears in the giants of the media industry is true. No room for second guessing. Who are you to negate the TV talk show hosts who made quite a name for themselves over the years? Hey, if they say it happened, it happened. Simple, wouldn't you say? But not so fast. Just browse other TV stations and try to listen to how the same news items are treated by the anchors and the show hosts and you'd realize how even the mainstream media is being politicized and radicalized. Even talk of fairness and balance which dominated media talk in the past are no more heard loud and clear.

The conventional wisdom seems to be that truth and facts are subjective. It's all about goals and beliefs of the individual organizations and the people who run them much of the time behind the scenes. As mentioned fairness and balance don't lead

the treatment and presentation of what's actually going on all over the place. Beliefs and goals of the individuals and goals of those own the media organizations come first. If the bombs and missiles fall on this side or that side the news is presented from the vantage point of the wishes of the owners of the organizations. Yes, the media industry is in deep trouble. Trouble in the sense that most aren't actually run by the media people themselves but by the largely invisible owners, advertisers and the like. Hey, you can't lose your advertisers by reporting some event as it actually happens since that might hurt the interests of the advertisers. It's all about the money.

There are tons of fairy tales when we talk about what goes all over the place. Somewhere down the line we have formed opinions which largely aren't informed by the real facts on the ground but by the biased input of initial news sources which have their own interests.

So I think we have to worry about how our youngsters get their information. The social media is an entire disaster when it comes to searching for the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. The social media is about subscriptions and views only. That's where the money is! So to attract more views and initially much more income it is important to present and analyze the news in ways that would attract more views. So why should anyone go only for the raw facts as they happened and be viewed by a few scores of thousands when a little editing and

bending of the facts here and there would attract even millions of more views! It's all about the money. The global media these days mainstream or online, is nothing but a mammoth industry going to where the money is and doing whatever is necessary to ensure the coffers are bursting and shareholders, where there are some, are happy! How about that! You might say what about the politics? Well, hasn't even politics on the global level become about where the money is! Elections in many so-called democracies being funded by the billionaires and millionaires even politics seems to have become all about where the money is. So policies and have to be thought and rethought in ways where the funding organizations and individual will have the last laugh.

With all these happening we have to especially work on our youngsters so that they'd not be misled and carried by the wrong and dangerous boats to the wrong and dangerous ports. I have to say the way the media largely treats important global issues is far from satisfactory. Look at the two trouble spots that are affecting much of the world directly or indirectly, the Ukraine-Russia and the Israeli-Palestine wars. Thousands are losing their lives, tens of thousands are being rendered invalid by horrendous injuries; entire towns and cities are being laid to dust by thousands of bombs and missiles; the world is being treated to scenes which seem to have come from old reels of the black and white era the only difference being this time they're

in color. Scenes of war a destruction that were supposed to be of past ages fill the TV screens.

I feel the young should get the chance to have a general knowledge of what's actually happening in these places, because whether we like it or not we too are affected directly or indirectly. It is not about only the present times; it's also about the future which the young should own. But the way we are narrating and trying to analyze the most important current events heavily lacks in the hard facts and tends to tilt towards things that are nothing more than fairy tales. So the young are subjected to social media sensationalism and unfortunately see things the way they see the latest blockbuster on Netflix or elsewhere. They should be aware in what way those event affects us and how we could save ourselves from being entangled in the misinformation quagmire.

By the way once in a while we are subjected to the opinions of 'experts' in current affairs. Well, we've to give credit to those who really make sense of events. While they have a long way to go in making any difference on our understandings at least they try and three cheers for their efforts. But that's not always the case. There are also some who could talk for hours and at the end you, the audience, is forced to ask, "What the hell has the guy been saying?" It could be that bad!

So, as the kind of boats the young board matter, it is up to society to make sure they embark on the right ones!

Helping the Needy; Restricting the Crooks!

They were a group of three, probably in their mid and late twenties. It is said none of them had any official source of income. But, so the talk of the town goes, they lived as if life was a 24/7 eating, drinking, dancing spree. And they were regular presences in the hot spots of the city; you know those places of the "who-is-who" world. If you're any 'who' worth mentioning they say you should be seen in those places. Well that's how the narrative goes! And of course you should have an iron-strong wallet so that you won't suffer the shock that comes with the bill. These three guys were perfect candidates. They also dressed in the best formal and casual attire. Mind you, no one knows who their employers are or even if they have any employer for that matter. But people couldn't help noticing how comfortably the guy lived and ask themselves, "How the hell do they manage to live so comfortably in these hard times!?" The village inhabitants don't hold any grudge on the youngsters since they behaved very nicely greeting almost half the village with big smiles and also hugs. Many times they left early and returned home when the sun goes down.

So where do they get so much money? It was after a long time rumors began circulating. Of course, it sounds like some creative short story but it isn't; especially as of late we are realizing more and more the real picture of the whole thing of the sick guy and his friends begging for people to help. So this three guys, so it was later discovered, hire a minibus taxi, one of them sleeps inside wrapped in all kinds of fabric, with

medicine all over the place and him moaning and wailing because of the severity of his 'pain!' and daily the two themselves poorly dressed and disguised at best plead with passersby and make fortunes. It is said they frequently changed places. Finally when they realized their story was out in the open they just vanished.

Of course we are in times when the person you really are and the person people think you are different stories from page one to the finish. I hope I'm not imagining things when I say these days it has become very easy, in fact too easy, to deceive people. That's why many end up being fooled as we see in the confessional stories on the social media. The 'sick guy, the pleading friends' story has become so common you see the all over town.

The good guys collecting funds. Recently there was this guy who claimed to have spent the donation money because he thought the sick guy wouldn't survive. Just like that! I tell you it was shocking to hear the guy saying it and the way he said it. If I'm not wrong I think they're investigating him.

The 'sick' person lying in a minibus and friends holding boxes and pleading for donations is a daily fact of the city. Hundreds of Good Samaritans and well-meaning citizens offer their help without having any suspicion about the unfolding drama. The youngsters play their parts with such conviction you might even feel guilty for hesitating before giving your share. "They wouldn't humiliate themselves in public. If their friend had not been really sick!"

Sadly, your good intentions and your innocence are betrayed when they use your money to live it up in town and the whole thing happens to be crime of the worst kind. You deduct money from something you plan to buy just because you believe helping someone was more important. But with all these crooks filling the streets the most likely outcome is your donation goes to the wrong place. And while at dinner your family faces a fast thinning out dinner table the guys who collected the donation are drinking themselves crazy and dancing until the wee hours of the night.

I don't blame people who refuse to give alms. All are not actually evil souls who enjoy the sufferings of others. No! Since they have seen more than enough of what is being done they act. I know guys who have taken things to the extreme and don't give a single cent to beggars however needy they might be.

Now the social media has become one very useful instrument for collecting funds for people who are severely sick and couldn't cover the medical costs by themselves. Many are told by their doctors to seek medical treatment abroad as we don't have the necessary medical gear locally. And medical treatments abroad are so expensive asking people to help whatever way they can is the correct and logical way of going about things. Usually funds are collected through bank accounts and it seems there is little room for malpractice. Well, this is one issue which demands careful analysis of things before coming to any final decision. So claiming this

was the hundred percent foolproof way would be a mistake, a dire one too. You know once in a while rumors arise. Still, we have to admit incredible work has been done through social media in this respect.

Recently there was this person for whom funds were being collected for medical treatment. Then one of the 'collectors' admitted he had used quite a lot of money thinking that the sick guy wouldn't make it through. He later is said to have claimed to have returned the whole thing. Still the last we heard about him is that he was detained and was being investigated. So, on the streets or the social media it might be better to devise ways to ensure, firstly that the appeals for help are genuine and secondly the collected funds aren't used for totally different purposes.

We're in times where this world is awash with criminally planned ruses which are presented as genuine philanthropic appeals. And as we mentioned earlier people seem to be very easily fooled into believing every appeal for help they hear without having second thoughts. After all, second thoughts could come as saviors and there is nothing wrong in asking a few questions before acting. Yes the sick who are in dire financial problems should be helped; yes there are many in our society who seek the helping hands of compatriots and offering our helping hand is not only morally but also spiritually uplifting too; And yes there are the crooks who use the good intentions of the philanthropists and divert genuinely offered financial help for their personal needs.

Business & Economy

Fueling innovation and entrepreneurship:

Ethiopia's Start-Up revolution

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

Ethiopia aims to boost entrepreneurship and startup culture

In recent years, Ethiopia has emerged as a hotbed for innovation and technology-driven entrepreneurship. The country's commitment to fostering an environment conducive for start-ups is evident through the Ministry of Innovation and Technology, which has played a pivotal role in supporting and nurturing the growth of this vibrant ecosystem. In this article, *The Ethiopian Herald* will explore the initiatives undertaken by the Ministry and delve into the transformative impact of start-up projects in Ethiopia.

The Ministry of Innovation and Technology in Ethiopia has been instrumental in driving the country's innovation agenda. It serves as a catalyst for the development and implementation of policies, strategies and initiatives aimed at promoting technological advancements and entrepreneurship. Under the visionary leadership of the Ministry, Ethiopia has witnessed a remarkable shift towards embracing innovation as a key driver of economic growth.

One of the key objectives of the Ministry of Innovation and Technology is to create a thriving start-up ecosystem in Ethiopia. To achieve this, the Ministry has implemented various programs and initiatives that provide crucial support to entrepreneurs and start-up ventures.

The Ministry has established incubation centers across the country to provide start-ups with the necessary infrastructure, mentorship, and access to funding. These centers act as nurturing grounds for young entrepreneurs, offering them guidance and support throughout their journey.

Recognizing the importance of capital in the early stages of a start-up, the Ministry has collaborated with financial institutions and investors to provide funding opportunities. They have facilitated the establishment of venture capital funds and angel investor networks, ensuring that promising start-ups have access to the necessary financial resources.

The Ministry has taken proactive measures to streamline regulatory frameworks and create an enabling environment for start-ups. By simplifying bureaucratic procedures, reducing red tape, and promoting ease of doing business, the Ministry has attracted both domestic and foreign investors, fostering a vibrant start-up culture.

The Ministry recognizes the significance of a skilled workforce in driving innovation. It has implemented initiatives to enhance technological education and foster skill development, ensuring that aspiring entrepreneurs have the knowledge and expertise to navigate the dynamic start-up



By actively supporting and nurturing the start-up ecosystem, the Ministry can play a crucial role in driving Ethiopia's economic growth and technological advancement

landscape.

The efforts of the Ministry of Innovation and Technology have yielded remarkable results, with numerous success stories emerging from Ethiopia's start-up ecosystem. These ventures span various sectors, including fintech, agritech, health tech, and e-commerce, among others. Some notable success stories include:

Founded in Ethiopia, Gebeya is an online marketplace that connects African software developers with global clients. It has gained international recognition for its innovative approach to talent development and has successfully risen funding to expand its operations.

Apposit is a technology company that specializes in developing software solutions for businesses. With a focus on financial services, the company has gained traction both locally and globally, contributing to Ethiopia's digital transformation.

Arifu is a mobile learning platform that provides access to educational content and resources to underserved communities. It has positively impacted thousands of individuals by bridging the knowledge gap and empowering them with valuable skills.

The success of these start-ups not only drives economic growth but also creates employment opportunities, fosters innovation, and positions Ethiopia as a hub for technological advancements in Africa.

Ethiopia's start-up revolution, fueled by the Ministry of Innovation and Technology, is transforming the country's economic landscape. The Ministry's commitment to supporting entrepreneurs, fostering innovation, and creating an enabling environment has laid the foundation for a thriving start-up ecosystem. As Ethiopia continues to embrace technology and entrepreneurship, the nation is poised to unlock its immense potential and emerge as a beacon of innovation in the African continent.

To hasten the start-up projects in Ethiopia and further enhance the role of the Ministry of Innovation and Technology in their execution, the following measures can be considered:

The Ministry can collaborate with financial institutions, venture capital firms, and angel investor networks to establish more funding opportunities for start-ups. This can include creating dedicated funds specifically for start-ups, providing seed funding, and facilitating access to loans or grants. Additionally, the Ministry can encourage the development of crowd funding platforms to enable the public to invest in promising start-up ventures.

The Ministry can expand the reach and capacity of existing incubation centers and accelerators across the country. This can be achieved by providing additional resources, mentorship, and specialized training programs. Furthermore, the Ministry can establish partnerships with renowned international incubators and accelerators to bring in expertise and global networks for

the benefit of local start-ups.

The Ministry can facilitate networking events, conferences, and workshops that bring together start-ups, investors, industry experts, and government representatives. These platforms can serve as opportunities for start-ups to showcase their ideas, connect with potential partners, and learn from experienced entrepreneurs. By fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange, the Ministry can create a vibrant ecosystem that nurtures innovation and growth.

The Ministry can incentivize Research and Development (R&D) activities within the start-up community by providing grants, tax incentives, and other forms of support. Encouraging start-ups to invest in R&D will not only drive innovation but also contribute to the development of cutting-edge technologies and solutions that address local challenges.

The Ministry can work towards enhancing intellectual property rights and protection mechanisms in Ethiopia. This will instill confidence among start-ups, investors, and entrepreneurs, encouraging them to innovate and commercialize their ideas without fear of intellectual property infringement. Clear and robust intellectual property laws and enforcement mechanisms are vital for attracting domestic and foreign investment in the start-up sector.

The Ministry can collaborate with universities, colleges, and technical institutes to incorporate entrepreneurship and innovation programs into their curricula. By fostering an entrepreneurial mindset among students and providing them with the necessary skills and knowledge, the Ministry can create a pipeline of aspiring entrepreneurs equipped to launch successful start-ups.

The Ministry should continue to review and refine policies and regulations to ensure they remain relevant and supportive of start-up endeavors. This includes simplifying bureaucratic procedures, reducing barriers to entry, and addressing any regulatory challenges that hinder the growth of start-ups. Regular engagement with start-ups and stakeholders will enable the Ministry to identify areas for improvement and implement necessary reforms.

In conclusion, to accelerate start-up projects in Ethiopia, the Ministry of Innovation and Technology should focus on improving access to capital, strengthening incubation and acceleration programs, promoting collaboration and networking, fostering research and development, strengthening intellectual property protection, collaborating with educational institutions, and implementing continuous policy reforms. By actively supporting and nurturing the start-up ecosystem, the Ministry can play a crucial role in driving Ethiopia's economic growth and technological advancement.

Planet Earth

Ethiopia needs to exploit her untapped bamboo resources

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

The author of this article has earlier written a contribution regarding the state of indigenous technologies in Ethiopia. This particular article refers to one of these technologies focusing on bamboo technology.

Several countries widely use bamboo technology in various applications. Among them, China has a long history of using bamboo in construction, furniture and other applications. They have developed advanced techniques for bamboo processing and have incorporated them into modern architecture and design.

Bamboo is widely used in Indonesia for construction, furniture, handicrafts and even as a sustainable alternative to plastic. The country has a rich tradition of bamboo craftsmanship and has been promoting its use in various industries.

Colombia has been using bamboo for construction purposes for many years. The country has developed innovative techniques for building houses, bridges, and other structures using bamboo. They have also established bamboo plantations to ensure a sustainable supply of raw materials.

Bamboo is an integral part of Vietnamese culture and is widely used in construction, furniture, and handicrafts. The country has been promoting bamboo as a sustainable and eco-friendly material and has invested in research and development to improve its quality and durability.

Bamboo is extensively used in Ecuador for construction, furniture, and even as a source of renewable energy. The country has been actively promoting bamboo as a sustainable alternative to traditional building materials and has established bamboo plantations for commercial production.

In India, bamboo is widely used for construction, furniture, handicrafts, and even as a source of renewable energy. The country has a rich tradition of bamboo craftsmanship and has been promoting its use in various industries.

Costa Rica has been using bamboo for construction purposes for many years. The country has developed innovative techniques for building houses, bridges, and other structures using bamboo. They have also established bamboo plantations to ensure a sustainable supply of raw materials.

Technologies on bamboo refer to the use of bamboo as a sustainable and versatile material in various industries and applications across the world. Examples of bamboo technology in the world include various sectors.

Bamboo is used as a building material in many parts of the world. It is lightweight, strong, and flexible, making it suitable for constructing houses, bridges, and other structures. Bamboo-based composites are also used for flooring, roofing, and wall panels.

Moreover, bamboo is widely used in the

production of furniture, including chairs, tables, and shelves. Its natural beauty and durability make it a popular choice for interior design elements such as flooring, wall coverings, and decorative items.

Among other things, bamboo fibres are used to create soft and breathable fabrics. Bamboo clothing is known for its comfort, moisture-wicking properties, and antibacterial qualities. It is also used in the production of towels, bed sheets, and other textiles.

Bamboo is a fast-growing plant that can be used as a renewable source of energy. It can be converted into biofuels, such as charcoal and ethanol, which can be used for cooking, heating, and electricity generation.

It is also used in agricultural practices, such as erosion control, and water purification, and as a source of organic fertilizer. It is also used in horticulture for landscaping, as a windbreak, and for creating privacy screens.

Bamboo is used in water management systems, such as wastewater treatment and rainwater harvesting. Its high absorption capacity and filtration properties make it effective in purifying water and preventing soil erosion.

It is used in the production of bicycles, boats, and other forms of transportation. Its strength-to-weight ratio makes it an ideal material for lightweight and eco-friendly vehicles.

Bamboo fibres are used in the production of paper and packaging materials. Bamboo paper is known for its strength, durability, and eco-friendliness compared to traditional wood-based paper.

Extracts from bamboo and derivatives are used in traditional medicine for various purposes, including wound healing, pain relief, and as an anti-inflammatory agent. Bamboo charcoal is also used in skincare products for its detoxifying properties.

Bamboo plays a crucial role in environmental conservation by reducing deforestation and promoting biodiversity. Its extensive root system helps prevent soil erosion, and its fast growth rate makes it an excellent carbon sink.

Overall, bamboo technology offers sustainable and innovative solutions across various industries, promoting environmental conservation and supporting local economies.

Bamboo technology in Ethiopia is slowly gaining popularity as a sustainable and eco-friendly alternative to traditional construction materials. Bamboo is a fast-growing plant that can be harvested within a few years, making it a renewable resource. It is also known for its strength and durability, making it suitable for various construction purposes.

In Ethiopia, bamboo is being used for a range of applications, including housing, furniture, and handicrafts. The Ethiopian government has recognized the potential of bamboo and has been promoting its use in construction projects. The Ethiopian Bamboo Development Agency (EBDA) was established in 2012 to promote the sustainable

development of bamboo resources in the country.

One notable example of bamboo technology in Ethiopia is the Addis Ababa Light Rail Transit (LRT) system. The LRT stations were constructed using bamboo as a primary building material. Bamboo was chosen for its strength, flexibility, and aesthetic appeal. The use of bamboo in the LRT stations not only reduced the project's environmental impact but also provided employment opportunities for local communities involved in bamboo cultivation and processing.

Bamboo technology is also being utilized in the construction of affordable housing in Ethiopia. Bamboo houses are being built as a cost-effective and sustainable solution to the country's housing shortage. These houses are not only affordable but also provide a comfortable living environment, as bamboo has natural insulation properties.

Furthermore, bamboo technology is being used in the production of furniture and handicrafts in Ethiopia. Bamboo furniture is gaining popularity due to its durability, lightweight, and aesthetic appeal. Local artisans are also using bamboo to create various handicrafts, such as baskets, mats, and decorative items.

Overall, bamboo technology in Ethiopia can contribute to sustainable development, creating employment opportunities, and promoting eco-friendly construction practices. The government's support and initiatives, along with the growing awareness of bamboo's benefits, are expected to further drive the adoption of bamboo technology in the country.

Despite the abundant bamboo resources in the country, Ethiopia has not been able to effectively utilize her bamboo natural endowments.

Ethiopia owns 67 per cent of bamboo groves in Sub-Saharan Africa with a potential of commercially untapped one million hectares of land. Two of the bamboo varieties are indigenous to Ethiopia and are highly demanded at world markets.

According to nationwide research conducted by the Ethiopian Forest and Climate Change Commission, bamboo, also known as the "green gold of Ethiopia" contributes Birr 56,250,000 to the country's GDP annually engaging well over 750,000 farmers in the sector.

According to the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR), the potential revenue and employment from bamboo for Ethiopia is immense: potentially three million hectares of plantations, five billion dollars in revenue and 1.3 million jobs.

Bamboo could play an important role not only in the overall economic development of the country but could also contribute to sustainable land management and livelihood improvement for those engaged in the sector. Bamboo matures in 3 years of plantation while lumber trees can take up to 30 years to mature. It is a substitute for lumber in

the pulp industry, furniture and for import substitution in paper industries.

Furthermore, bamboo could immensely contribute to controlling soil and land degradation while also contributing to the replacement of timber. In addition, bamboo converts 35% more carbon dioxide into oxygen than a regular tree. In this context, bamboo helps to stimulate economic development while achieving climate change mitigation goals.

Traditional skills in bamboo production are mostly restricted to utilizing bamboo for house construction, fencing and building traditional household grain silos, the Federal Micro and Small Enterprise Development Agency in cooperation with INBAR (International Bamboo and Rattan Organization) has been training individuals who have been working on traditional bamboo furniture with the objective of technological transfer to transform traditional production to modern industry.

Only a few factories engaged in industrial production of bamboo products are gradually developing in the country. Addisu, Owner of S.A Bamboo Works plc says that his factory has already started to export some bamboo products to some European countries. The factory produces bamboo floor tiles, carpenter and curtains, various 8 types of furniture and sticks for incense producers and toothpicks.

As part of the national effort to enhance the development of bamboo technology in Ethiopia, the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission came up with a new strategic document entitled "Ethiopian Bamboo Development Strategy" which will be operational from 2019 to 2030 for a period of ten years.

According to data the author has received from the Ethiopian Investment Commission, out of 16 investment ventures licensed by the Investment Commission only one has been fully operational while a number of them are yet engaged in bamboo plantation development. However, 4 local developers are already engaged in producing some types of bamboo products at the factory level.

Ethiopia hosts the East African regional office of International Bamboo and Rattan. INBAR is a multi-lateral development organization that promotes environmentally sustainable development using bamboo and rattan. The organization is engaged in building the capacity of countries in modern bamboo management practices, promoting bamboo nurseries and training farmers in income-generating schemes based on bamboo technology.

Bamboo technology is yet to develop in Ethiopia. Over the next 10 years, the country is expected to generate foreign currency from the sector. Two Chinese companies have concluded a deal with the Ethiopian government to invest a total of \$2 billion to process Ethiopia's bamboo and produce paper products for both local and export markets.

Society



Producing productive workforce through TVET program

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

It is common knowledge that proper and efficient utilization of both human and material resources is crucial to betterment the lives of individual citizens and ensure development nationally. For this reason, countries are working to capacitate their respective citizens with essential knowledge and skills and utilize their resources efficiently.

In this regard, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) is gaining popularity as one way to produce competent and competitive workforces that could play a constructive role in supporting the economy.

Relevant documents also confirm that TVET is instrumental in catalyzing development by feeding the industry with skilled workforces. Owing to this, several countries, mainly developing countries, are increasingly investing hugely on TVET as a means to create jobs for their respective citizens and realize substantial economic growth.

What is more, by creating avenues for training opportunities and career advancement for an increased number of school leavers; it helps in provision of skilled manpower for the young people needed at different levels of the economy.

Nowadays, many academicians are urging countries to inculcate TVET education as an integral part of the general education because it is a viable means for preparing the youth for occupational fields and make them competitors in today's global job market.

Furthermore, it is an aspect of lifelong learning and a preparation for responsible citizenship. It is also an instrument for promoting environmentally sound sustainable development; and a mechanism to alleviate poverty.

Being mindful of this fact, *The Ethiopian*

Herald approached Entoto Polytechnic College Dean Teshome Feyisa to have his insights regarding the role of TVET in creating jobs, nurturing the spirit of entrepreneurship and nation building.

According to him, Ethiopia is taking significant steps in developing its TVET ecosystem with the aim to support its priority growth sectors, which include agriculture, mining, Information Communication Technology (ICT), tourism, with an emphasis on manufacturing and mechanized industrialization. "TVET provides students with the level of competence in practical skills and sound scientific knowledge required for skilled manpower."

The College is providing 11 programs such as leather and textile, aesthetics as well as metallurgy with high focus to quality.

"In my view, it is an ideal time to further strengthen TVET because the country is committed to promoting it. Ethiopia's TVET strategy aims to increase access, relevance, and quality of TVET programs, focusing on expanding TVET programs to underserved areas, improving the quality of training, and strengthening the link between TVET and the labor market. To this end, the strategy focuses on enhancing the capacity of TVET institutions to offer demand-driven training and certification programs."

This is mainly a result of rapid labor force growth coupled with a number of other challenges. To undo the challenge it is important to provide the youth with short term TVET training and provide them with the necessary skills and tools to operate.

Moreover the misconception towards TVET should be tuned to the right direction through putting working approaches and productive advocacy.

Entoto Polytechnic College could be one living example for low under intake though it could usher seven thousands trainees it is providing training only for over three

thousands of regular.

Skilled workforce with the right competence is in high demand among the industries; this demand should be addressed through the collaboration of the industry and the TVET colleges. "In this regard we do have productive linkage that helped us to devise our program."

Electrical and Computer Engineering at Top Water Ethiopia, Abel Wondafrash for his part said that it is evident that the ever growing number of youth coupled with the greater number of new entrants to the labor market are imposing heavy social and economic burden on the country he said adding that unemployment and underemployment is one of the main socio-economic development concern not only in Ethiopia but also in number countries, including developed ones.

"In my view, without providing job-related skills, youth and adults cannot benefit from the employment opportunities that offer a better in-come. The best cure is letting the youth acquire professional skills through TVET. The industry demands workforces with high competence and skills that could discharge their duties and responsibilities with dexterities in productive fashion, no matter what."

According to him, respective TVET colleges should assess the market demand for labor in the industry and at the same time industries should show courage to approach TVETs to undo the problem. This approach is helpful to inculcate the spirit of entrepreneurship and allow the young people to be job creators for themselves, make bread, and earn their own income, which means they are engaged in easing the burden.

He also pointed out that the miscalculation of families and students towards TVET should be corrected. There are a bunch of citizens who are not well informed about TVET. "I think a sustainable advocacy program should be put in place," he opined.

He also recommended that TVET colleges should provide training that could hone the skills of the youth. "I come across TVET colleges which are obsessed with providing theoretical knowledge rather than practical training; this could hamper a nation's effort to produce a skilled workforce. It should be corrected through productive inspection."

The benefit of TVET in supporting the economy is wide ranging. Thus, the private and the public along with the community and industries should come together and come up with a working system that could meet the demand for skilled workforces and undo the challenges.

As to the document published by the African Center for Economic Transformation, citing the study by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2019, Ethiopia's population is growing fast at 3.02 percent per year and is estimated to exceed 144 million in 2030.

The fast growth of the working age population with limited employment opportunities is growing fast at 3.02 percent per year and estimated to exceed 144 million in 2030. Moreover, the labor force is growing much more than the population as a whole because of the young dominated demography profile. An estimated 45 percent of the population is under age 15 and 71 percent under age 30 in the previous years.

In addition, each year about two million new graduates are added to the labor force. This gives another push to swelling unemployment. We are witnessing high and rising unemployment rates concentrated in urban areas 19.1 percent out of which 20 percent are graduates and 25.3 percent in 2018 and high levels of vulnerable employment about 86.5 percent in 2017.

This fast growth of a youthful working-age population, as to the study, could be a great asset for socio-economic development if it is properly handled and managed.

In Pictures

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

Welega warmly welcomed PM Abiy, his delegation

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) with other senior Government officials visited Nekemte town of Welega, Oromia National Regional State. Up on his arrival, he received a warm welcome by the people of the four zones of Welega at Welega Stadium. A rally to support the national reform was organized in Nekemte town attended by the residents of the four zones of Welega.



PM Abiy launches construction of Geda Special Economic Zone

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) officially launched the construction of the Geda Special Economic Zone on Friday, May 10. Geda Special Economic Zone plans to serve as a pivotal platform to unlock the vast potential of the Ethiopia and the region as well in the industrial sector.

Lume Free Trade Zone will be establish within Geda Special Economic Zone, which will become the second free trade zone after Dire Dawa. The free trade zone aims to amplify the opportunities for economic growth and development, according to PM Abiy.