



The Ethiopian Herald

Vol LXXX No 235 11 JUNE 2024 - Sene 4, 2016

Tuesday

Price Birr 10.00

AGI CONSTRUCTING THE FUTURE AFRICA
Abyssinia Group of Industries

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

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



MoTRI to inaugurate 5 bln. Birr project

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADAMA— The first-of-its-kind testing laboratory project, which is being carried out with an outlay of over five billion Birr, is set to be operational soon, the Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration (MoTRI) disclosed.

Approached by *The Ethiopian Herald*, MoTRI State Minister Endalew Mekonnen said that this modern infrastructure and other institutional capacity developments are highly believed to facilitate the export of standard products and food value chain. It would also

See MoTRI ... page 3



FM Taye holds talk with Russian counterpart

• Ethiopia participating in BRICS ministerial meeting

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopia's Foreign Minister Taye Atske-Selassie held talks yesterday with his Russian counterpart

Sergey Lavrov on issues of mutual interest at the sidelines of the BRICS Ministerial meeting.

The parties held the discussion yesterday in

the margins of the two-day BRICS foreign ministers meeting in the Russian city of Nizhny Novgorod.

See FM Taye ... page 3



Amb. Lencho Bati

Ethiopia repatriating undocumented migrants successfully

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA-The repatriation of undocumented Ethiopian migrants from Saudi Arabia is being implemented as per the schedule, said Ethiopian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

See Ethiopia repatriating ... page 3

Ethiopia, Israel keen to advance people-people ties

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Boosting the people-to-people ties between Ethiopia and Israel, countries with special bond, entitled to advance their age-old connection in other arenas, pertinent sources said.

CMO of the Israel-based Assuta Medical Center Avi Yitzhak (MD) told *The Ethiopian Herald* that the bond between the two countries is strong religiously and dates back to Queen Sheba's visit to King Solomon. The Queen's visit to Israel is recorded by the book titled *Kibre Negest* (Glory of Kings).

"We say the way a person knows his heart is when he asks himself in what language he dreams." Most of our Ethiopian brothers in Israel (Bete-Israel) still dreams in Amharic. It is a very natural bond that the two countries have even before the immigration."

Israel is known as a startup nation and it has the highest number of startups in technology,

See Ethiopia, Israel ... page 3



News



Mersha Alemu (PhD)

University striving to ensure improved water resource mgt

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – Madda Walabu University disclosed that activities are being carried out to advance water resource management system through conducting scientific researches.

University's Wabishebelle Plan Preparation Chief Coordinator, Mersha Alemu (PhD) told *The Ethiopian Herald* that the University has been conducting several researches since 2021 to bring about improved and sustainable water resource management system.

Accordingly, the University identified water resources, water quality, social dynamism, the current conditions of watersheds, and the likes, he mentioned.

In this regard, the University conducted a research on Wabishebelle basin and the streaming areas to preserve water resources in different areas as it creates a linkage among Sidama, Oromia, Hareri and Somali states.

According to the Chief Coordinator, the basin brings cooperation between the local states and promotes mutual development with neighboring country.

He further stated that research showcased that Wabishebelle has scarce water supply though it covers a wide range of area mainly occupied by farmers and pastoralists.

He stressed that the geographical settlement of the area extends from highland (4,000 meter above sea level) to the lowland areas so that it requires proper utilization of water resources supported by a research.

"The university is discussing with various stakeholders to bring effective and efficient water resource management system in a view to combat sporadic conflict caused by conflict of interest on water," he noted.

He further stated that expanding irrigation and providing adequate potable water supply to the society is the future focus areas of the University.

Moreover, the university provides legal framework, improves procedures, bridge policy limitation, and the likes in order to ensure sustainable water usage and develop the protection of streams, Mersha added.

EEU provides electricity to 76 new rural towns

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA – The Ethiopian Electric Utility (EEU) announced that it has distributed electricity access to 76 newly emerged towns in the past ten months of the current fiscal year.

In an exclusive interview with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Corporate Communication Director MelakuTaye said that the corporation has been carrying out wide-ranges of activities with a view of expanding the electric accessibility to the rural communities across the country thereby reaching about 76 rural towns and villages.

The Director has also emphasized that the exclusion of service tariff expenditure in the sector is severely impacting the development and progress of electricity service delivery.

Over the past ten months, the corporation has managed to benefit over 328,000 new

customers with electricity access. Out of the total, some 31,000 customers have the access merely in April, he remarked.

He has also reiterated that the exemption of service tariff expenditure, government institutions that are not paying bills and security challenges are the major bottlenecks that have hindered the Corporation's power distribution capacity.

He further emphasized that the ever increasing utility demand coupled with inflation is causing insufficiency on basic expenditures and thus, hindering the corporation to deliver sufficient services to various parts of the remote areas all over the country.

Melaku has also indicated that the corporation has submitted a draft document which embraces the tariff revision implementation strategy.

It is to be recalled that EEU is exerting utmost efforts to provide electricity access



for the large segments of communities residing in various parts of rural towns far from the national grid.



Partners' support vital to integrate population, dev't: MoPD

• Ministry commits to reinforcing Addis Ababa Declaration

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopia requires partners' support to integrate population and development, Ministry of Planning and Development (MoPD) said.

Speaking at the 2024 state of world population report launching ceremony, MoPD State Minister Seyoum Mekonnen (PhD) has called on international development partners to support Ethiopia's endeavor to integrate its development with the number of population through implementing the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD).

Several policy measures, including structural design and others, are taken to fulfill the commitment of Addis Ababa Declaration on population and development agenda, he expressed.

Seyoum said that the Ten Years Perspective Development Plan of Ethiopia is also based on the national vision of making the country the backbone of African prosperity in line with AU's Agenda 2063 for sustainable development.

According to him, the country has recorded a remarkable achievements in improving life expectancy, changing population structure, malnutrition, reducing poverty, making efforts to achieve universal health coverage in 2030, which emphasized on the provision of equitable and universal access healthcare services.

Similarly, Ethiopia has been working to improve education access, equity, efficiency and quality to achieve universal education, the State Minister said, while appreciating UNFPA for providing financial and technical support to this end.

For his part, SaturninEpie, Chief UNFPA Representative Office to AU and UNECA said that working with countries and partners would ensure Africa's trajectory for potential to prosperity.

The Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD) was adopted by African Ministers at the Africa Regional Conference on Population and Development held in Ethiopia in October 2013 and endorsed by African Heads of State at the African Union Executive Council in 2014. Among others, the declaration aimed at developing, strengthening and implementing appropriate legislation, national policies and programmes that guarantee and promote human rights, dignity and equality for inclusive sustainable economic and social development in all sectors.

News

Ethiopian launches flight to Botswana's maun city

ADDIS ABABA (ENA)- Ethiopian Airlines Group, the largest network operator in Africa, commenced a thrice-weekly passenger services to Maun town, Botswana yesterday.

Maun will be Ethiopian Airlines Group's second destination in Botswana after Gaborone, which has been served since 2016, it was learned.

During the inaugural ceremony, Ethiopian Airlines Group CEO Mesfin Tasew said the flight to Maun is crucial to foster people-to-people relationship, develop the tourism sector as well as strengthen relations between Ethiopia and Botswana.

"In addition to strengthening the relations, the commencement of this flight will foster the development of tourism in Botswana by providing convenient air connectivity service for tourists," Mesfin stated.

As the Airlines's vast network offers unparalleled connectivity, linking Maun would exceed 135 global destinations.

Ethiopian, as the largest network is operating to more than 60 destinations in the African continent, it was indicated.

"We are excited to add Maun as our second



destination into Botswana linking into our global network of over 135 destinations."

According to the CEO, the route expansion aligns with the airline's commitment to supporting the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

"Our expansion in Africa is part of our commitment to support the core mission of AfCFTA," Mesfin added.

Botswana's Ambassador to Ethiopia, Tebelelo Alfred Boang stated that Botswana and Ethiopia have cordial relations based on mutual respect and the spirit of Pan-Africanism and commended

the collaborative effort behind the new flight.

He also emphasized this new passenger service is important for tourism, trade, and African integration.

"With the collaboration that we have established with Ethiopian Airlines, Africa is getting more integrated," the ambassador noted.

Ambassador Boang further elaborated that this flight is important for tourism stating that Maun is the gateway to the stunning Okavango Delta, which is listed as the UNESCO heritage area.

Ethiopia repatriating ...

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, Ethiopian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Ambassador Lencho Bati said that the repatriation of undocumented migrants has continued and almost half of the already identified migrants have been repatriated.

The whole mission to repatriate registered 70,000 undocumented citizens detained in Saudi Arabia will be concluded within not more than two months, he said, adding the repatriation process is being carried out successfully.

Mentioning that many Ethiopians are facing unimaginable challenges while traveling to Arab countries illegally, Ambassador Lencho said, "We lost citizens because of the illegal migration exacerbated by illicit human trafficking."

Migrants who faced the desperate condition may exceed than the repatriated or imprisoned ones, he stated, noting that the number of migrants died across the way in the illegal migration journey is not counted.

"Sadly, it is almost impossible to count them. My message to illegal migrants is that nothing is precious than of our lives," he said, underlining that they should prefer working here in Ethiopia or apply for foreign jobs via legal platforms than bowing to illegal migration.

The government has opened new ways facilitating legal mechanisms, not only for unskilled labor, but also for skilled and certified citizens, according to him.

"We are in discussion with Saudi authorities on the way to legalize labor migration of electricians and other experts. The labor market in Saudi Arabia still needs more human resource," he noted.

Having 11 million non-citizens, Saudi Arabia hosts small number of Ethiopians compared to other nationals. The number of Pakistanis, Bangladesh, Egyptians and others is much superior. Ethiopians could have better acceptance if they prefer legal processes, he stated.

FM Taye FM Taye holds talk ...

The meeting marks the first gathering since the group expanded from five members to nine in January with the addition of Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates as official members.

Ethiopia's Foreign Minister, TayeAtske Selassie in tandem with other senior officials is attending the meeting.

In his remarks at the meeting, Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov stated that active work is being done to implement the

decisions made at the BRICS Johannesburg summit last year, indicating the measures particularly focus on developing a platform for transactions in national currencies.

Ethiopia's BRICS Sherpa and the National Bank Governor MamoEsmelealemMihretu participated in the Third Meeting of BRICS Sherpas and Sous Sherpas on June 7 in Nizhny Novgorod.

Addressing the gathering, Mamo stated that in a volatile and unpredictable global

economic and political environment, BRICS can serve as a stabilizing force by mobilizing countries and pooling resources to address global challenges in the spirit of partnership.

The Sherpa outlined measures Ethiopia has taken to ensure its seamless integration into the BRICS framework, including the endorsement of the National BRICS Engagement Strategy by the National Inter-ministerial Coordination Committee, it was learnt.

Ethiopia, Israel keen ...

intelligence, medicine, agriculture and other areas and there is an opportunity of cooperation with Ethiopian innovators and that would lead to joint venture in the future.

As an arid and dry region, Israel has succeeded in healing its dry land. It is a question of initiatives from both parts to ask for any expertise on what both can offer to progress, Yitzhak (MD) emphasized.

"Israelis are keen to learn new culture and it is not new for Bete-Israeli's but for tourists who travel to different parts of Ethiopia, the country is a wonderful place to visit."

The Rock-Hewn Churches of Lialibela, Axum, Omo Valley and Forty Springs (Arba Minch) and every part of Ethiopia are priceless for tourists. There are several areas that both countries could cooperate which could scale up the bond, he added.

Israeli Deputy Ambassador to Ethiopia Tomer Bar-Lavi on his part noted that the people-to-people relation between Ethiopia and Israel are the core of their centuries old connections. "The root of the two countries' relationship goes back to the root of our

identity. The Bete-Israel people has form natural human bond with Israeli."

"We have 170,000 Ethiopian Jews living in Israel. They form a more modern and practical connection because of the cultural understanding, language and the ability to build human bridge between the two countries."

There are different Ethiopian pilgrim groups who come to Israel to visit Jerusalem and different holy sites that help to build the people-to-people to relations. There are some cultural exchanges in Israel and there are a number of prominent artists in the music industry and other fields who have built the bridge between the two countries, he added.

The Deputy Ambassador further stressed that there is a wide room for advancing the two countries people-to-people relations. "The core of our relationship is the people-to-people part. We have also robust relationship on many different arenas including economic, government-to-government, and we have been managing to uphold those connections even in difficult times."

MoTRI to inaugurate ...

instrumental to satisfy the ever-increasing demand of consumers and penetrate the global market.

Furthermore, this state-of-the-art laboratory testing facility is crucial to address the complexities of food safety and promote standard food value chain systems.

Complying with its prior mission, the MoTRI is carrying out extensive institutional capacity building activities that would help to accelerate Ethiopia's industrialization path and promote a competitive global business environment, the state minister elaborated.

Apart from executing the national quality infrastructure development strategies, the ministry is also engaged in capacity building activities to enhance the overall production capacity and the provision of value-added that would meet consumers demand and the international market standard.

"Beyond the local transaction, the MoTRI is working to be globally competitive and upholding consumer protection on the food

safety and security through standard goods supply."

Endalew further noted that the government has been working with a higher enthusiasm and spending a huge investment to various key national infrastructure development projects that are believed to expedite the country's journey to industrialization.

Institutions under the auspices of the MoTRI have been consistently carrying out far-reaching national standard infrastructures that would serve as a spring board for the industrialization process. He added, "We are currently undertaking market surveillance to curtail substandard products that have been flooding the market and related challenges."

To make this happen, joining the forces of technical teams and utilizing the research-based schemes and the national standard infrastructures are instrumental for expediting the provision of quality and standard products to the entire community and the global market, the state minister remarked.

Opinion

How can ceaseless peace be secured?

BY MENGESHA AMARE

It is natural to get clashed and even execute a bloodshed death so long as there are a number of push and pull factors following human beings' social interaction prioritizing egocentric spirit and enviousness. What matters here is the way people handle rivalries and disparities to live in a harmonious way after such an annihilating scenario occurred. The best way, as stipulated in a number of dispute resolution mechanisms and anthropological studies, is widening the gut that can grant two parties spirits of forgiveness and root ceaseless peace that can confidently be transcend to the generation to come.

Such a sentiment of forgiveness or entrenched reconciliation can be performed between the conflicting parties or mediated by third parties, be they are local, national, regional, continental or even global actors, with a view to come up with lasting peace that can confidently grant citizens with a sigh of relief and permanent serenity and tranquility. What was done regarding the Pretoria agreement in Ethiopia can be cited as a case in point in this regard.

So long as such an agreement has provided the community on both sides a relative stability, it has to be executed as per the agreements that couldn't be prejudiced because the society in both categories are all Ethiopians and adjudicated under the same law and constitutional essences. Basically, if truth be told, as the agreement that tilts down to one side could never bear fruits, the other party has to do all its level best balancing to what the government has done to properly reply to the society residing in both parts.

It is basically highly presumed that the agreement could never have a partial stance as it was made to make a stable Ethiopia not to halve areas under contention to some parts of citizens, but the interest of the people living in those areas have to be well recognized and respected by applying whatever the means may be.

The Pretoria agreement needs to be applied in the way that it can attract lasting peace and societal stability. As to what is learnt from the government, it is working all its best to return the areas to normalcy, and to address the problems accordingly keeping the interests of both sides employing viable method and centering public consent.

That is really an encouraging move, indeed! However, the government has to painstakingly handle situations in such disputable localities as these ways help it adjudicate scenarios and administer questions as they are instrumental in coming up with agreeable approaches via carefully handling issues thereby passing sound decisions.

So long as the disputable areas are the absolute eupnoic centre of the nation, the

elements incorporated in the details of the Pretoria agreement need to be meticulously investigated. Putting either the Pretoria agreement or any other possible means to ensure peace and security in the country into effect has to be the prime call of the day.

Ethiopia and Ethiopians have to work for peace and tranquility as no one has tested and passed through severe situations and conflicts more than they have, indeed! In simple, terms, Ethiopians have to say no to conflict, civil war, turmoil and unrest, be they are recurrent or sporadic ones as the country, Ethiopia, is quite wide to accommodate them all accordingly.

In principle, and anthropologically thinking too, a country is more than a tribal sect, religious category and personal ego since all these are utterly meaningless in its absence. Hence, the sovereignty, independence and regional integrity of the nation have to be kept intact. As far as this writer's understanding is concerned, the Pretoria agreement was framed against this sentiment and national maxim.

So, either the government or any other party has to comply with the notion of the agreement without prioritizing their personal interests. What matters here is societal peace, citizens mental and psychological stability and national security have to be well nurtured to help citizens turn their face to progress, developed and prosperity.

Without a shadow of doubt, all the development undertakings across the nation would be empty without peace and serenity. Therefore, all citizens are expected to contribute their share to the effort geared towards peace and security. Nothing is more appealing and mesmerizing than leading a peaceful life. Leading a harmonious way of life, being productive enough in all sorts of engagements, bearing children and perpetuating human genealogy, creating a big and competent nation and so forth require peace, at least relative one since absolute peace and serenity is ideal across the globe wherever one goes.

Agreements, be they are held at home, oversees, have to focus on creating lasting peace that is highly likely benefiting all citizens at equal footing. For example, as stated above, all steps have to channel through a peaceful and tranquil setting so as to provide all Ethiopians with preferable normalcy and help them resist substantial risks that can be posed to human safety and survival.

Ethiopia has to make a long trek though there are efforts being undertaken to ensure peace and serenity across the nation. Close talks, round table discussions, consulting one another, so long as everyone is working for a common goal, making Ethiopia a

nation where everyone is treated equitably, impartially and without any prejudice, have to be a culture and passed down from generation to generation.

The peace effort in the nation has to be exerted towards getting the root causes and structural factors of conflicts and disagreements dried for good by identifying the central causes and ensuring safety and resilience conditions that reduce hurdles compromising the effort exerted towards nation building, peace building and harmonious way of living that helps every citizen lead happy life.

Such an invaluable means is undeniably of paramount importance in fostering positive peace approaches to conflict transformation and bring fighters to the normal course of running national activities. Peace issues in Ethiopia have to be scrupulously handled and well nurtured, especially these days, and pulling citizens acting out of the track has to come to the forefront. In due course of properly implementing the Pretoria engagement, apart from the two agreeing parties, the federal government and the other one, every citizen has to discharge their respective duties and responsibilities.

Cognizant of the fact that the principle framed by Africans stating "Africans solutions to Africans problems," the Ethiopian government and other contracting party has to be abide by the rules and regulations stipulated in enjoying a fair play. Needless to state, no one benefits out of conflict, disagreement, resentment, enmity, instead a number of bounties have been garnered out of amity, fraternity, coexistence and the likes. Hence, Ethiopians have to develop the latter as they are instrumental in boosting wound heal, reconciliation, heartily assimilation and so on which can be taken as the viable means to create stable nation.

Truly speaking, in the era of 21st century where any kind of cross-boundary disagreements and rivalries are even resolved through dialogue and close talks, exacerbating situations at home counting minor differences, which have been nurtured by some elements for the sake of prolonging regime life at the expense of others peace, stable atmosphere and normal life, is a shameful act.

This is absolutely the right time for Ethiopia and Ethiopians to make stable and peaceful country using whatever means, which can bring lasting peace, be it through implementing deals concluding abroad like what was reached at Pretoria, or locally devised means of reconciliation such as arbitration, negotiation or mediation. Definitely what matters is leveling gaps and lee ways that can open doors for disagreements and clashes.

Logically speaking, Ethiopians have to turn their face to development, growth

and change to alter the nick name of their country of 'a rich poor nation,' that has been regarded as the nation with abundant resources, affordable human power, and remarkable tourism destinations at every nook and cranny of the nation, but a poor one.

How burning and devastating this nomenclature is! Listen to one another/each other first. For how long Ethiopians are forced to lead such a miserable life in such a way having an ever well-to-do nation. Yes, no party, warrior or fighter, is engaged in a war-ridden scenario for destruction, but with a mission to avoid some disparities and irregularity for the sake of citizens, Ethiopians in aggregate. No matter how severe their issue is and no matter what their agenda are, too, all parties here and there are Ethiopians.

Therefore, they have to come to the middle ground to reconcile for the sake of the general public as no one benefits out of conflict and disagreements except severe property destruction as well as loss of human life, beloved citizens in both cases and/or fronts. Since having been killed on another/each other leads to get ridiculed, all the parties standing against the incumbent of the government itself have to be considerate enough to tolerate circumstances for the sake of innocent civilians and hard-working citizenry who have been aspiring for making life better in the years to come.

In general, no one benefits out of destruction except conflict entrepreneurs and those who have been working from dawn to dusk so as not to see prosperous Ethiopia. So long as Ethiopia is a great nation accommodating all citizens, including the government and fighting groups, have to quickly discharge their respective responsibilities to build lasting peace. This is how a ceaseless peace can be secured and citizens across the nation can breathe a sigh of relief, indeed!

Yes, the issue of bringing about lasting peace and durable stability should not be left only to the government and some other parties standing against it; instead it requires the combined effort of all. Here, the role opinion leaders among the society, religious fathers, political parties, armed groups and so on, have to come to the forefront so the saying goes 'the society resembles the leaders' Ethiopians can definitely ensure lasting peace via searching for non-violent, peaceful ways of settling disputes and mitigating actual violence or preventing potential violence. Everyone, including the government, has to be committed towards this end as peace is in the hands of the former and equally those of the latter, too.

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

Editorial

'Color blind' diplomacy for notable feat

It is recurrently heralded that Ethiopia has been entertaining bilateral and/or multilateral ties accordingly with almost all nations of the globe. It has thus been setting up a color blind diplomacy and amicable bond with countries which are capable of, willing to, undertaking a win-win approach for satisfying a common interest and would like to see its growth and real change. True, establishing ties with the east bloc and the west bloc at equal footing has been bearing fruit, indeed! So long as Ethiopia is highly determined to have good neighborhood and rewarding trans-boundary dealings with every state of the planet, the country has been running diplomatic tenets irrespective of the location of nations and no matter how far or near their geospatial trajectory would be.

Ethiopia's efforts to further bolster its bilateral or multilateral associations either with developed or developing countries, its counterparts of course, is a marvelous step for it as the country is working from dawn to dusk with a view to intensifying growth, development and change in all aspects. Similarly, those nations with whom Ethiopia has had remarkable bilateral ties have shown keen interest to do the same.

What Canada recently expressed about its readiness to work in collaboration with Ethiopia in a range of fields is a case in point in this regard. The country has also articulated readiness to bolster excellent bilateral relations and cooperation with this ancient east African nation—Ethiopia—with regard to a number of fields and sectors. Canada has been doing extensive research to determine the most important factors in helping countries like Ethiopia develop and achieve equality and prosperity, too. What a marvelous relationship it is!

Yes, Canada supports every state in Ethiopia with international assistance projects focusing on enhancing gender equality and promoting the prosperity and economic growth of all Ethiopians. These cooperation activities have placed women and girls at the center. Not only is Ethiopia willing to boost relations with all countries but its door is also open to all, which are determined to work together keeping national interests, sovereignty, territorial integrity and social cohesion at the center of cooperation. That is why it is repetitively avowed that Ethiopia is a country who would like to enjoy carrying out color blind diplomacy in all circumstances.

Ethiopia has been working hard to intensify fruitful diplomatic ties with many countries of the world, and it is committed enough for drawing importance lessons from countries which have been recording remarkable achievements in that regard. Diplomacy has principally called for preparing appropriate assessment of lucrative sides and possible jeopardy prioritizing bilateral, trilateral or multilateral actions for the benefit of all actors. For instance, the BRICS Summit is being held this time to discuss myriads of issues member countries do have and their amicable bond with others via instituting viable diplomatic dialogues, public diplomacy and external policy instruments.

Interestingly, Ethiopia, located in East Africa with rationally prolific populace as well as abundant but untouched natural resources needs all the time to attract countries from far and near, by employing productive diplomacy of course, with a view to getting them engaged in intensive investment in a multifaceted sectors thereby coming up with sustainable and prompt socio-economic and even socio-political diagnosis.

In precise terms, every nation of the world has to follow Ethiopia's footsteps regarding diplomatic ties since the former is solely centering national interest, social amity and peace and serenity for the express benefit of its citizens. Besides, the country has been in a state of embracing all nations of both blocs to foster common growth. Unquestionably, Ethiopia is all the time working to foster deeper ties with a number of world nations in a range of social, economic and even political ties to grow together.

Opinion

On Russia's National Day

BY EVGENY TEREKHIN

On June 12, citizens of the Russian Federation celebrate their national holiday - Russia Day.

On June 12, 1990, the Declaration of State Sovereignty of Russia was adopted, in which the supremacy of the Constitution of Russia and its laws was proclaimed. At the same time, the new official name of the country, the Russian Federation, was adopted, and it became an important milestone in strengthening Russian statehood. On the same day, but in 1991, the first nationwide presidential elections were held. On this day we honor our native country, our Russia, which we love and are proud of.

In the history of Russia, this date marks the beginning of cardinal transformations. They were required by time, but, like any radical reforms, they proved to be very difficult, and sometimes dramatic for the state and our people. Much of what was absolutely new, unexplored, complex at that time was already firmly rooted in the modern life of Russian society. This day became not only a symbol of cardinal democratic and economic transformations, but also of the whole historical path of the Russian state, which has been continuously living developing for more than eleven centuries.

For every Russian, the Motherland is the native land from Kaliningrad to Kamchatka and the Kuril Islands and from Arctic seas to Sevastopol and Crimea. It was on these vast expanses that our thousand-year history was created, filled with pages of great glory and pride, the unsurpassed courage of our ancestors, their unconditional love for their homeland.

Russia's place in the world is determined by its significant resources in all areas of living, its status of a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, participant in the leading intergovernmental organizations and associations, one of the largest nuclear powers, and the successor of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). Russia, taking into account its decisive contribution to the victory in World War II and its active role in shaping the contemporary system of international relations and eliminating the global system of colonialism, is one of the sovereign centres of global development performing a historically unique mission aimed at maintaining global balance of power and building a multipolar international system, as well as ensuring conditions for the peaceful progressive development of humanity on the basis of a unifying and constructive agenda.

Our country has experienced many turning points and very difficult challenges, which our multinational people have always overcome with honor and dignity. Currently, Russia is at the decisive point in its history. Indeed, today international relations are undergoing truly cardinal, tectonic shifts, and time requires us to rethink Russia's role in this process. Today, as we reflect upon the importance of this holiday, we must recognize the tectonic shifts occurring in the realm of international relations. We observe a persistent trend of hegemonic interventions, imposing visions and ideologies upon sovereign nations, often disregarding their unique histories, cultures, and aspirations. Certain Western States refuse to recognize and accept the realities of a multipolar world and, on this basis, to agree on the parameters and principles of the new world order. This approach breeds instability, fuels conflicts, and impedes the path to peace

and prosperity for all. It is crucial that we speak up and defend the truth and the good cause. By forging strong partnerships and working closely together, we can effectively combat these threats and secure a future of peaceful and sustainable development for our nations.

As the President of the Russian Federation Mr. Vladimir Putin recently stressed, our country has demonstrated its high level of readiness and receptiveness to technological change. We can see how our financial sector, e-commerce, transport services, and public administration system have already undergone significant changes. Similar processes are now beginning to unfold in the Armed Forces, where a high rate of technological renewal is also required. This is the most important and defining issue for our country.

Despite all the obstacles we are facing and the illegitimate sanctions imposed against us, Russia remains one of the key participants in global trade and is rapidly expanding the new logistics and geography of cooperation. We are strengthening ties with the countries in Asia (a growth of 60 percent from 2020 to 2023), the Middle East (100 percent), Africa (69 percent) and Latin America (42 percent).

Development of the cross-border payment infrastructure is a separate issue which is important both for the exporters and importers. It is no secret that the reliability and trust in Western payment systems have been fundamentally undermined, by Western countries themselves. Together with our partners, we will increase the use of national currencies in foreign trade payments and improve the safety and efficiency of these operations by establishing an independent payment system that is not subject to political pressure, abuse and external sanctions interference.

On this solemn occasion, we not only celebrate the achievements of our nation but also reaffirm our commitment to strengthen cooperation with countries across the globe. Russia has always been and remains an active participant of international processes. We build our international relations on the basis of equality and mutual respect, non-use of force, rejection of unilateral decisions and sanctions pressure. We recognize the importance of developing robust partnerships with African nations, a region that holds immense potential and significance, based on the principles of mutual respect, shared benefits, and common development. Russia stands in solidarity with the African states in their desire for a more equitable polycentric world and elimination of social and economic inequality. The Russian Federation intends to support further the establishment of Africa as a distinctive and influential centre of world development.

In this context, it is important to highlight the special emphasis we place on our relationship with Ethiopia, one of Russia's key partners in Africa. We highly appreciate the cooperation between our countries on the international stage. Russia and Ethiopia demonstrate shared or similar approaches to addressing major global challenges. We also hope that our joint activities, now within BRICS, will contribute to strengthening economic ties, political, social and diplomatic interaction of our countries.

Dear friends! I thank everyone who congratulated us on the holiday, and I want to wish the brotherly people of Ethiopia peace and prosperity.

Editor's Note: The Author is Ambassador of Russian Federation to Ethiopia



The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays
By The Ethiopian Press Agency

Office of the CEO

Tel. 011-126-42-22

Fax. 251-011-156-98-62

email- epa@press.et

Advertisement and Dist.

Department

email: etpresspromotion@gmail.com

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

Telegram :- 0976084707 - press

Editor-in-Chief: Worku Belachew

email- workubelachew@press.et

Address- Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-city

Woreda - 05, House No----

Tel- +251 111 26 41 98

Managing Editor: Wakuman Kudama

Email: wakuma220@gmail.com

Deputy Editors-in-Chief:

Alem Hailu

Elizabeth Mengistu

Zekarias Woldemariam

Desta Geberehiwot

Daniel Beyene

Website: www.press.et

email: ethiopianherald@press.et

Fb/ /Ethiopian Press Agency/

The Ethiopian Herald

Business & Economy

Intensifying Ethiopian Diasporas' participation at home



Ethiopian Diasporas participation in the homeland is increasing

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Currently, Ethiopian Diasporas from all over the world are showing great enthusiasm to engage in various development and philanthropic activities in the homeland. In recent years, there has been a noticeable trend of the Diaspora communities intensifying their participation in various activities back in their home country. This increase in participation reflects a deep-rooted desire among Ethiopians living abroad to give back to their communities and contribute to the development and growth of the country. The country is also in dire need of its children's unity and active participation to rehabilitate the war affected areas.

One of the Ethiopian Diasporas, Tibebe Eshetu lives in the USA. He believes that kindness and lending hands to the needy gives a real mental and spiritual satisfaction.

Recently, he came to Ethiopia and provided financial and in-kind support to various segments of the society including Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the northern part of the country. He also visited Mekedonia, Home for the Elderly and Mentally Disabled persons, and provided financial support. He donated financial and various in-kind supports to the needy aspiring to see sustained Ethiopian culture of togetherness and helping others.

Apart from this, he strives to sustainably change the livelihood of the society through undertaking various investments in the homeland. He is engaged in the construction sector. Thus, he strives to build and avail homes with better quality and accessibility throughout the country. He also plans to create more job opportunities in the sector to the growing number of youths graduating from various universities.

According to him, it is high time to return

back to the motherland and do something worthy in life.

Moreover, the Ethiopian Diasporas are often driven by a desire to make a tangible impact in their home country. He believed that by getting involved in different sectors, they can directly contribute to addressing pressing social issues, improving infrastructure, and supporting local initiatives that are making a difference in the lives of Ethiopians.

Thus, the Ethiopian Diaspora communities bring with them a wealth of expertise, skills, and knowledge from their experiences living and working in different parts of the world. Seizing the opportunity to transfer these valuable assets to local communities, empowering them to develop new capabilities, and improve their quality of life should not be a missed opportunity.

What is more, the Ethiopian Diaspora communities foster a sense of community and solidarity among Ethiopians, both within the overseas and in local neighborhoods. By working together towards a common goal, individuals develop a shared sense of purpose and belonging, which in turn helps to build stronger social bonds and foster a culture of cooperation and support.

The recent conflict in the northern part of Ethiopia caused numerous families to face various socio-economic challenges. The government had called up on all Ethiopians home and abroad to actively engage in the reintegration activities of the war affected areas' communities.

By accepting the call of the Amhara state to the Diasporas communities to join their hands in the efforts of rehabilitating the area and providing humanitarian support, Tibebe visited the North Wollo zone Gashena kebele. After arriving at the area, as he is engaged in the real estate sector, he preferred to contribute his part

by rebuilding homes and expedited efforts of rehabilitating war affected areas in the country. He also contributed financial support to the residents to buy and raise sheep and goats.

"Beyond this, Ethiopia needed the active participation and unity of its children across the globe at this time. Thus, the Diaspora communities should engage in various fields across the country to help new businesses flourishing in the country. Such efforts sought to create potential job opportunities to the growing number of youths graduating from different universities," he said.

Currently, he is undertaking a resort construction in Bahir Dar city with investment worth more than three billion Birr and helps stimulate the country's tourism and hospitality sector.

One of the residents of Wadla Woreda, Gashena Kebele Habitamu Degu witnessed that the coordinated efforts of the government, private institutions, and volunteer individuals enabled him to forget the trauma of the conflict.

"Tibebe Eshetu never hesitated to come to his motherland and visit the war affected areas to contribute his part. He helped the reconstruction of numerous homes, infrastructural facilities, and a religious center that was affected by the conflict in Gashena kebele," he said.

According to him, the area were hugely affected by the conflict and caused thousands to death, injury, and internal displacement. Those who survived the war had been living in a cave and tents for the past couple of months.

"Currently, those Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) who have been leading a difficult life arrive to their new home after refurbished by benevolent Ethiopians in home and abroad. Thus, those Ethiopians who show unreserved support to the needy at this difficult time deserve recognition."

On his part, another resident of the area and victim of the conflict, Worku Bitew said that the conflict caused complete and partial destruction of individual homes and public infrastructural facilities. Thus, residents fled the war and took shelter in caves.

As to him, victims of the conflict who are now returned to their home have become thankful for the Ethiopians those at home and abroad for their immediate responses to rehabilitate them.

Accordingly, Tibebe handed over more than 147 houses built by him that enabled to reintegrate more than 700 local residents whose houses were destroyed and sheltered in caves during the war.

More importantly, engaging in volunteer work offers Ethiopian Diasporas the opportunity for personal growth and fulfillment. By giving their time and skills to meaningful causes, they can experience a sense of purpose and satisfaction that comes from making a positive impact in the lives of others.

Voluntarism plays crucial role in supporting sustainable development efforts in Ethiopia. By actively participating in community projects, the Diaspora community can contribute to bring lasting solutions for the challenges such as poverty, healthcare, education, and environmental conservation, ultimately helping to build a more resilient and prosperous Ethiopia.

In sum, the intensifying participation of Ethiopian Diaspora activities at home is a testament to the strong bond they maintain with their homeland and the shared commitment to creating positive change. Through their dedication and contributions, they are not only making a difference in the lives of their fellow Ethiopians but also sowing the seeds for a brighter and more sustainable future for the country.

In the Sphere of Diplomacy

The enduring partnership between Ethiopia, South Sudan

BY EYUEL KIFLU

South Sudan, the newest country in the world, is located in East Africa and is endowed with abundant natural resources, particularly petroleum. The path to South Sudan's independence was paved by the unwavering support and sacrifices of its neighbor, Ethiopia. The relationship between the two countries extends far beyond diplomatic ties, as their people-to-people connections are truly remarkable.

In recent years, Ethiopia and South Sudan have taken significant strides to deepen their economic and security cooperation, signaling an increasingly close partnership between the two neighboring countries. The two governments have signed a series of new agreements covering areas such as trade, infrastructure development, and security collaboration.

A key focus of this deepening cooperation has been on improving cross-border transport links, with the aim of facilitating the flow of goods and people between the two countries. This includes initiatives to construct new road networks and border crossing points, which will enhance commerce and people-to-people exchanges.

Security cooperation has also emerged as a priority, with the two countries pledging to coordinate efforts to address common threats such as ethnic conflicts, cattle raids, and the activities of armed rebel groups operating across the shared border region. This collaborative approach is crucial for ensuring peace and stability in the region.

In April 2023, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed made an official state visit to Juba. During this visit, Abiy and South Sudanese President Salva Kiir signed several new bilateral agreements covering areas such as trade, investment, infrastructure development, and cross-border security.

One of the key outcomes of this visit was the establishment of a joint high-level committee to coordinate economic and security initiatives between the two countries. This committee will oversee projects like the construction of new road networks and border crossing points, further strengthening the ties between Ethiopia and South Sudan.

The people-to-people connection between the two countries is deeply rooted in their shared history and sacrifices. Ethiopia's support for South Sudan's independence is etched in the hearts of both nations and is a bond that is unbreakable.

In a recent interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, Ambassador Zerihun Abebe, the Director for Neighboring Countries Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

(MoFA), highlighted the significance of Ethiopia's contribution to South Sudan's independence and development. He emphasized the historic ties between the two nations, stating that they are "cemented by blood" due to their joint sacrifices during South Sudan's fight for self-determination.

The people-to-people connection between Ethiopia and South Sudan is described as "amazing," with a shared destiny of mutual prosperity and regional stability. This deep-rooted relationship is manifested in various areas of cooperation, including trade, investment, and security.

The Ambassador also discussed the Ethiopia-South Sudan business and investment forum, as well as upcoming political consultations between the two countries. Regarding the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) project, he noted that South Sudan, as a Nile Basin country, welcomes Ethiopia's efforts to utilize the Nile waters.

While South Sudan is not directly linked to the Blue Nile, the country recognizes the importance of the equitable and reasonable management of the Nile's resources. He emphasized that the energy generated by the GERD will also benefit South Sudan, and the two countries are working to connect their power grids.

Furthermore, the ambassador highlighted the scholarships provided by Ethiopia, which sponsor hundreds of South Sudanese students annually across various fields. Security cooperation between the two nations, particularly along their shared borders, is also a priority, as they work together to address common challenges.

Infrastructure development is another area of focus, with the two countries finalizing an agreement to construct a road connecting their territories. He expressed optimism that this project, once completed, will further strengthen the bonds between Ethiopia and South Sudan.

As the region continues to grapple with conflicts and instability, the deepening cooperation between Addis Ababa and Juba is seen as a crucial factor in promoting regional peace and prosperity. He underscored the shared commitment of the two nations to enhancing their diplomatic, economic, and strategic partnership for the mutual benefit of their peoples.

In a recent move to foster regional cooperation and stability, Ethiopia's Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA), in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), conducted a three-day diplomatic training program for South Sudanese diplomats. This training aimed to enhance the skills of South Sudanese

diplomats in areas such as negotiation, conflict resolution, peace and security management, and the effective management of trans-boundary resources.

The training program was attended by twenty diplomats from Juba, and it was initiated to strengthen the long-standing ties between Ethiopia and South Sudan. In his welcoming remarks, Jafar Bedru, the Executive Director of the IFA, emphasized the volatile nature of the Horn of Africa region and the importance of collaborative efforts and regional partnerships in addressing common challenges such as peace and security, environmental degradation, piracy, and irregular migration.

Recognizing Ethiopia's crucial role, Jafar praised the country's support for the people of South Sudan, dating back to their struggle for self-determination and the establishment of the Republic of South Sudan. "Ethiopia has always stood by the people of South Sudan since their independence, and the two nations share a common destiny of prosperity and stability," he stated.

Ambassador Fisseha Shawel, Director General of African affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), acknowledged the importance of the Ethiopia-South Sudan partnership in the region and emphasized that the training was designed to equip diplomats with essential tools for navigating complex challenges.

Upon completion of the training, Ambassador Mesganu Arga, State Minister of Foreign Affairs, extended his congratulations and stated that the training was tailored to equip the diplomats with valuable skills to navigate complex challenges in their future diplomatic engagements. He emphasized that such platforms will play a role in strengthening the longstanding ties between Ethiopia and South Sudan.

During the closing ceremony of the training, Natalina Edward Mou, Ambassador of the Republic of South Sudan, expressed gratitude to the IFA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for organizing the program. The participants were awarded certificates of completion, acknowledging their successful participation and attainment of the training objectives.

The strengthening of the Ethiopia-South Sudan partnership is a testament to the two countries' shared commitment to regional peace, stability, and prosperity. As they continue to deepen their diplomatic, economic, and security cooperation, the bonds between these neighboring nations are expected to grow stronger, benefiting the people of both countries and the wider region.

The people-to-people connection between the two countries is deeply rooted in their shared history and sacrifices. Ethiopia's support for South Sudan's independence is etched in the hearts of both nations and is a bond that is unbreakable

Law & Politics

The overall dividends of sea access

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

Ethiopia has suffered a lot due to its lack of a port and the consequences have been felt in all areas. The country has called on its neighboring nations to consider any deal mutually benefiting the negotiating parties. It has also invited parties to consider any deal that could open the door to mutually agreed benefits.

Ethiopia is the only landlocked country in the Horn of Africa that is almost entirely dependent on maritime services via the ports in the troubled Red Sea region. At the same time, the country is the most populous country in East Africa.

The quest for access to the sea is not just a question of economic benefit. It is not an issue that has suddenly emerged and is being pushed by the Ethiopian government to maintain its popularity and attract public attention, as some critics willfully believe.

The quest for direct access to the sea is a broad-based popular movement. It is a cause that is vehemently supported by all Ethiopians regardless of their political orientation. In January this year, the Joint Council of Ethiopian Political Parties expressed its full support for the agreement signed by Ethiopia with Somaliland to secure access to the sea and called on all political parties and the general public to play their part in making the agreement a reality.

The country lost its coastline and port on the Red Sea after 1993, and the past three decades have changed Ethiopia in many ways. The country has changed from the main owner of the Red Sea to a geographic prisoner. During those years, Ethiopia has been using Djibouti for its import and export activities and relied on the latter for transporting more than 95 percent of its imports and exports.

Considering Ethiopia's call for mutual benefit and regional integration, Somaliland accepted the offer from the Ethiopian government to work together for a better future. On the first of January 2024, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) and Somaliland President Muse Bihi Abdi. At the signing ceremony in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, Premier Abiy Stated, "This has been now agreed with our Somaliland brothers and a memorandum of understanding has been signed."

Similarly, Muse Bihi Abdi, Somaliland's President, announced that an agreement had been reached with Ethiopia, and Somaliland will grant landlocked Ethiopia access to the Gulf of Aden.

Ethiopia's commitment to get sea access is a question of life and death. Giving a response to such national interest is mandatory for such a nation, and the incumbent is trying to act upon it to get the expected result.



The government has shown its stand that the country, by hook or crook, must access the sea and substitute the deal with any mega projects or companies of the nation. In the past three decades, Ethiopia has lost so many national advantages due to its lack of a seaport. To this point, Ethiopia needs to take a bold move to get sea access. It is unfortunate for Ethiopia as it is the nearest nation to the sea and cannot access it.

Documents and data show that sea access has endowed any nation with plenty of blessings. The question of sovereignty comes on top. Sea access is key for any nation to defend its national interest. A country with sea access can simply have several ways to establish its military and security forces including a naval army. Previously, Ethiopia had a naval force because it had sea access. After losing its right to the port, the nation disseminated its naval army. Similarly, the query of sovereignty is also connected with possessing a port.

Again, accessing the sea can pull plenty of economic advantages as it is the main corridor to increase the nation's income and lower the cost of imported commodities. To this end, Ethiopia has been spending a huge sum of money for its port services to its neighboring nations as the nation's economy is highly dependent on imported products. Sea access also plays a tremendous role in scaling up a nation's GDP. Facts show that countries with and without sea access or a port register notable differences in their economic growth and sustainable development.

As Ethiopia is located in one of the most dynamic again volatile regions, the Horn of Africa and the Red Sea, it is very vital to own

a place in the region to establish political supremacy and defend the national interest. It is important to know that Ethiopia, the most populous nation in the Horn, must secure its place in the region as many actors are putting their boots on to protect their national interests.

Giving a blind eye to the things happening in the region can have the potential to affect the overall existence of the country. The nation knows its sufferings in the past years. On top of that, Ethiopia must have the power to be heard in the region and get the possible benefits that can be earned from the area. Ethiopia, this time, cannot be a bystander anymore.

In addition, as far as access to the sea is concerned, it also brings multiple advantages to the nation's every activity. It still has a bold impact on the economic, political, and social aspects of the country. It can foster the whole steps at large. Even, has an impact in the development of research-based solutions and technological transformation of the nation as it supports every research and rich-based experiment. To support the idea, a scholar has also forwarded their reasons. Jemal Yousuf (PhD), Haramaya University President, told *The Ethiopian Herald* that Ethiopia's quest for access to the sea would assist the Horn countries in solving regional problems through research and other activities that will influence the area.

He also stated that having access to the sea and a port will be critical for the resources that were imported into the country for research purposes to be returned overseas to repair, refresh, and replace parts that need to be replaced, among other things.

Ethiopia's quest for access to the sea would assist the Horn countries in solving regional problems through research and other activities that will influence the area

Society

Ensuring national unity via peaceful dialogue

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

Ethiopia is one of the most diverse countries in Africa where a multitude of ethnic groups each have their own distinct history, culture, custom, religion, language and way of life coexisting together. These differences apart from reflecting the country's rich history and unique culture have helped to develop a culture of tolerance among diverse societies and build strong sense of community and co-exist peacefully. However, over the past two plus decades, these values have been eroded and challenged for various reasons resulting in inconveniences, grudges and conflicts in some parts of the country and challenging its path towards development.

Seeing this as a threat, currently, the government is deploying various means including the establishment of the National Dialogue Commission and Transitional Justice Policy, to address the challenges, correct the unfortunate incidents, reach national consensus and bring about lasting peace and reconciliation.

It is obvious that national dialogue provides a platform for different ethnic, religious and political groups in Ethiopia to address historical grievances; promote understanding, foster trust among communities and to work for the common good of all. Through allowing holding open and inclusive discussions, national dialogue can heal the wounds of past incidents, reduce tensions and promote social cohesion.

As Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) recently posted on his social media page, Ethiopia has missed several opportunities in previous times for not properly cultivating peaceful dialogue as a means to resolve differences and avert all forms of conflicts. However, now, there is an opportunity to use national dialogue, which is one way to discuss major challenges and resolve problems in an amicable way.

According to him, the ongoing national dialogue has a key role in addressing major challenges facing Ethiopians. "We have gone through war and we were able to solve some of our problems through holding peaceful dialogue. We have repeatedly experienced revolution and we were able to solve some of the problems. However, there is one way both revolution and war failed to address- dialogue, a path which we never tried."

The Premier said that both war and revolt were not effective by themselves to bring expected results. Through instigating both war and uprisings, no one benefits as there is no winner or loser. Whenever one side loses the battle, it always looks for another opportune time to take revenge on the other group. However, in dialogue, all parties will discuss and be winners.

The Premier also indicated the three outcomes expected from national dialogue.



The National Dialogue process is expected to address the enduring inconveniences and grievances of Ethiopians, lead to consensus and advance the country's development. However, to make it a success, the active participation of all is vital

According to him, if not all, the dialogue will solve major challenges faced by the nation. The other expectation from the

institutions. In this respect, the discussion held along with scholars is a good manifestation, Gezahegne added.

Speaking on his part, University's Administration and Development Vice President, Isa Hassen, said that, concurrent to its learning-teaching activities, the University is conducting research works on areas of national issues. He said that the forum the University held with the Ministry of Peace is part of its commitment for national causes. He also reflected the inputs gained during the discussion with regard to common identity, values and national interest.

Lecturer at the University and participant of the forum Hussa Allo also said that cultivating the culture of such kinds of discussion forums with scholars is much helpful in the learning and teaching activities and research works to address national challenges.

At the discussion forum, scholars, Abba Gedas, Hada Siinqes, religious leaders and stakeholders participated.

These days, the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission, which was established by Proclamation No. 1265/2014, is taking important steps to carry out its final assignment and fulfill its mission through conducting inclusive national dialogue on fundamental national issues to build better national consensus.

Recently, the Commission has launched a nationwide agenda setting consultative forum which is part of the consultative phases. The consultative process, which Addis Ababa has taken the lead, started on May 29, 2024 and conducted for seven consecutive days; finalized successfully.

According to National Dialogue Chief Commissioner of the Commission, Prof. Mesfin Araya, the process held over the past 7 days demonstrated that Ethiopians can address their differences through discussions. The representatives of communities, associations and institutions, political parties and influential individuals as well as the three government organs discussed and identified agendas in five groups. The participants have exerted efforts to identify issues that they believe are the causes of the problems the country is facing, he added.

Prof. Mesfin also revealed that agenda settings consultations will be conducted in all of the 12 states and the Dire Dawa City Administration as well as at federal and diaspora levels.

The National Dialogue process is expected to address the enduring inconveniences and grievances of Ethiopians, lead to consensus and advance the country's development. However, to make it a success, the active participation of all is vital. Keeping aside differences and standing for the common good is of critical importance.

dialogue is it will cultivate the culture of discussion at the expense of war. Lastly, the dialogue will bring groups with different interests more closely and understanding, which in turn create a good opportunity for future discussion.

Urging Ethiopians not to waste this opportunity, the Prime Minister said, "I ask not to miss this opportunity to achieve a comprehensive victory."

In related development, the Ministry of Peace urged scholars in higher education institutions to have common consensus and understanding so as to contribute their share for the success of the national dialogue.

At a consultation forum organized by the Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and held at Madda Walabu University with scholars from higher education institutions, the Ministry of Peace highlighted the role scholars in higher institutions can play to sustain the peace and stability of the nation.

Speaking at the forum, Representative for CEO of Nation Building in the Ministry of Peace, Gezahegne Tilahun said that scholars should play a leading role in national issues to have common consensus and understanding among the society.

According to him, all citizens, in the area of work they may engage in, should contribute their share for the national interest of the country and its development with integrity because it is a timely call with greater reason. He also stressed the role of scholars in creating awareness among the society about the concept of the national dialogue, building a common consensus and shaping the generation through conducting research works.

The Ministry is also working closely and committedly with higher education

Implementing Initiatives helps Maya City ...

areas. Especially, areas that were previously stripped and suffered from soil erosion are returning to their original appearance and the land is also recovering as a result of the Initiative.

The initiative is bearing fruits as areas that used to be affected by recurrent drought have started to have rain while disasters of flooding reduced and the nation can gain rainfalls suitable for farming activities both in the fall and summer seasons.

The initiative has also been playing roles in terms of job creation, enhancing animal feed, beekeeping, carbon marketing, and good neighborliness as well as diplomatic relations with neighboring countries.

Taking the achievement and success result of the green legacy initiative so far, the country finalized its preparation for the coming rainy season. Accordingly, seedlings have been prepared at over 132, 000 nurseries and pre-planting arrangements are also being made in all areas to plant 6.3 billion tree saplings during this Ethiopian Fiscal Year.

The preparation includes that some 25 percent of this year's green legacy plantations will be carried out across the Nile basins. Besides, the preparation includes preparing tree seedlings like

fruits and vegetables that generate multiple incomes. The saplings are also utilized for mixed forests, city beautification, and reforestation efforts.

Cognizant of these facts into account, Cities across the country have been starting to prepare tree seedlings for the coming rainy seasons. Among others, the Maya City which is located in the Oromia Regional States is worth mentioning. The City was established on 3710 hectares of land that has been divided into 12 kebeles and three sub-cities: Aweday, Addelle, and Haramaya.

The city, since it is located in the Eastern part of the country, has been receiving less rain and known water shortages. As a result, the city utilizes the green legacy initiative to its advantage. Accordingly, it has been an active participant in the green legacy initiative to restore Ethiopia's degraded landscapes, create jobs, improve biodiversity, and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

The City Administration Mayor Efraha Wazir Abdulla (PhD) told The Ethiopian Herald that understanding the significant advantages of the Green Legacy Initiative for the eastern part of Ethiopia, particularly Maya City, the city administration, in

conjunction with the people, has been planting millions of saplings for the last five years.

For instance, the City, last year, has planted more than 4.5 million saplings following the guidance of the City administration, the federal and Oromia State governments. As a result of monitoring, caring, and preservation efforts, over 82 percent of planted seedlings survived.

The city administration has also prepared over five million tree seedlings for this year's Green Legacy initiative planting program. This year, too, watershed management, soil conservation, and seedling planting sites were prepared with the participation of youth and diverse segments of society.

As a result, the preparation work for this year's Winter Green legacy initiative, which plans to plant nearly 5 million saplings, is completed. Taking the community's initiative to plant additional saplings into consideration, the City administration has asked Haramaya University to prepare extra tree seedlings, she added.

She also highlighted that the City administration's soil and water conservation efforts, together with Haramaya University,

had resulted in the restoration of Haramaya Lake and other ponds. More importantly, the green legacy effort also contributes to the stability and continuity of Haramaya Lake's water, as well as the lake's depth and community awareness.

The city government's collaboration with Haramaya University has made it possible for tree seedlings not to be randomly planted anywhere and to be treated and protected scientifically. In addition, the collaboration is very important to find out where the saplings are planted and to see if they survived or not, for research and future strategy design, she clarified.

Maya City's overall preparedness exemplifies the creation of a diverse variety of job options for many young people and women. It also benefits citywide forestry initiatives by increasing awareness, engaging communities, and setting the groundwork for a more sustainable and comprehensive approach to tree planting. As a result, the planted trees have a better chance of growing and contributing to environmental conservation and climate change mitigation, as well as increasing human health and well-being and involving communities in environmental conservation efforts.

Planet Earth

Implementing Initiatives helps Maya City to raise awareness, improve forest coverage, mitigate climate change

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

The Ethiopian Green Legacy Initiatives is a countrywide reforestation movement launched by the Ethiopian government in 2019. The initiative's primary goal is to combat deforestation, land degradation, and climate change by planting billions of trees across the country. The initiative was implemented from 2019 to 2022.

The initiative aims to plant 4 billion trees in the rainy season each year. Besides, this program aims to restore Ethiopia's degraded landscapes, create jobs, improve biodiversity, and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

The initiative has been divided into two phases. The first phase of the Green Legacy Initiative has been implemented from 2019 to 2022 while the second phase of the Green Legacy has been implemented since 2023.

In the first phase of the green legacy initiative, the country planned to plant 4 billion tree seedlings in the rainy



Efraha Wazir Abdulla (PhD)

season. This phase is dedicated to raising awareness about the significance of reforestation, mobilizing communities, and government organizations to actively take part in tree-planting activities, and putting the foundation for a countrywide reforestation effort.

Whereas, the second phase of the Initiative targets to build upon the success of the first phase and aims to further scale

up tree planting efforts. The effort of the second phase is not only on planting trees but also on nurturing and maintaining the planted trees to ensure their survival and long-term impact on the environment. Additionally, the second phase targets to involve more stakeholders, including schools, businesses, and civil society organizations, in tree planting activities to create a more comprehensive and sustainable reforestation effort.

According to the Government Communication Service (GCS), the Green Legacy Initiative is a flagship program initiated by Prime Minister Abiy in June 2019. Hence, the government will make a green Ethiopia a reality by working hard until the green legacy is considered a culture for Ethiopians. The Initiative is a massive undertaking that aims to plant 50 billion tree seedlings by 2026.

Ethiopia has so far planted 32.5 billion tree seedlings across the country as part of its Initiative and 90 percent of the 32.5 billion saplings have survived. When the conservation of natural resources and bio-diversity resources are strengthened and managed consistently, it allows contributing efforts to be carried out to reduce the impact of climate change, it added.

Indeed, various collected information indicated that the Green Legacy initiative program plays a key role in the afforestation of the country's degraded

See Implementing Initiatives ... page 13