



The Ethiopian Herald

Vol. LXXX No 239 15 JUNE 2024 - Sene 8, 2016

Saturday

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



Unpaid diplomats

• Small business with big job, Ethiopian business fostering Ethio-Somaliland ties

Page 3

Register for Digital ID at our Service Centers

Download your national ID from telebirr SuperApp for Free!

Available on Google Play, App Store, and Google Play.

Office prioritizes businesses' role for Abay Dam completion

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – It is the time to mobilize the business community's involvement to replicate the Adawa Museum and other mega projects' success in the completion of the Abay Dam, the coordination office said.

Office of National Council for
See Office Prioritizes ... Page 3



Photo: Dagne Abera

Melatwork Hailu

NEBE reiterates resolute to nurture credible democratic institutions

• Launches Five-Year Strategic Plan

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA – The National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) has pledged to nurture democratic institutions

See NEBE reiterates ... Page 3

Ethiopia discovers 21.3 billion m³ natural gas

BY FIKADU BELAY

ADDIS ABABA - In a major development for Ethiopia's energy sector, the Ministry of Mines has announced the discovery of a 21.3 billion cubic meters of natural gas in the Ogaden region.

Mines State Minister Million Mathewos expressed that a survey supported with the drilling of 19 wells in the Ogaden region has confirmed the presence of 21 billion, 336 million cubic meters of natural gas.

"Extensive work has been done to utilize the resources in the Ogaden area of the Somali state in a proper manner, and it has been confirmed that there are other mineral resources in the area," Million said.

The State Minister also noted that Ethiopia is home to oil and natural gas deposits in six different locations, including Ogaden, Mekele, Metema, South Omo, and Gambella.

"We are working to bring the newly discovered natural gas into production as early as next year," he said. "While some resource exploration projects can take years, we are confident of achieving success in a shorter timeframe here."

The government is providing various forms of support and monitoring to ensure the effectiveness of the ongoing exploration and development efforts, Million stated.

As the mining sector is one of the main pillars of the country's economic

See Ethiopia discovers ... Page 3



Words great for poetry

Page 6

Taking an active role in BRICS

Page 7

Arat Kilo : An area where every morning new surprises come into view

Page 10

News



Stakeholders avid for solid PPP in AMR prevention, containment

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - The World Health Organization (WHO) continues to support Ethiopia's Antimicrobials Resistance (AMR) prevention and containment strategic plan, the representative said, expressed the desire to robust public-private partnerships (PPP).

The MoH in collaboration with the WHO, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Environment Protection Authority, the Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority (EFDA), USAID, and other partners marked yesterday the 12th national Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Day under the theme "Strengthening Public Private Partnership to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance."

In his keynote speech, the WHO Ethiopia Representative Dlamini Nonhlanhla (MD) reassured the organization's continued support of Ethiopia's revised strategic plan of AMR prevention and containment (2021-2025) that ensures solid PPP. The WHO in collaboration with pertinent stakeholders has developed a global strategy and action plan to prevent and control the AMR.

The representative also noted that the WHO has been providing strategic support to member states including Ethiopia to develop and implement national AMR prevention and containment plans in line with the global strategy and action plan.

Ethiopia has made remarkable achievements in the national AMR prevention and containment strategic plan (2021-2025) and it is one of few African countries in a row in the global AMR. The national regulatory system has been strengthened by surveying substandard and falsified antimicrobials.

Nonhlanhla (MD) congratulated Ethiopia for realizing the importance of PPP in accelerating the implementation of the national health AMR prevention and containment strategic plan. "There are awareness-related challenges and inadequate infection prevention and control mechanisms in human health institutions and in the community at large."

For his part, the MoH representative Regassa Bayisa said that improper subscriptions, usage of substandard and falsified drugs, improper storage, and other malpractices are contributing to the development of disease resistance. The engagement of the private sector and other key stakeholders would enable to reduction of AMR in the future.

EFDA Pharmacovigilance and Product Safety Lead Executive Officer Asnakech Alemustated that the sector requires the engagement of all stakeholders including the government and private businesses.

Ethiopia has identified five top strategies to prevent and contain the AMR such as education and awareness creation, strengthening surveillance and research, developing combating, infection control mechanisms, and strengthening governance and partnership, Asnakech elaborated.

Ethiopia to pursue TJ through independent justice process

ADDIS ABABA (ENA) - Ethiopia's State Minister of Justice, Belayhun Yirga said the government is committed to a neutral and professional Transitional Justice (TJ) process, avoiding any intervention that could compromise its integrity.

Ethiopia has made various attempts to resolve human rights violations, conflicts, unwarranted narratives and abuses that had occurred and continued to persist in different eras with a wide range of victims and perpetrators.

These approaches have not brought about the desired solution as they were not implemented in a manner of universal TJ based on truth, reconciliation, mercy and justice and guided by a clear policy in an inclusive, human rights-oriented and flexible way.

Hence, a TJ Police has been developed with a view to managing and implementing the TJ process in an organized, integrated and effective manner at the national level.

A multi-disciplinary panel consisting 10 highly educated experts from academia, legal profession and others has been constituted in the effort to develop the policy, the state minister stated.

This independent taskforce has so far conducted over 60 public workshops and consultations nationwide and developed a comprehensive "green paper" policy framework, he added.



Belayhun Yirga

As a result, the Green Paper TJ has been prepared and endorsed by the council of ministers.

The objective was to devise a policy grounded on the country's realities by involving all stakeholders - victims, women's groups, CSOs, states, the federal government and the general public, he noted.

The government seeks to pursue TJ through a reconciliation process tailored to Ethiopia's unique context, the state minister told ENA.

TJ mechanisms are utilized by countries emerging from periods of conflict or human rights violations to address past abuses and transition to a normal justice system, he elaborated.

Ethiopia has been grappled with recurring violence, conflicts and human rights violations under different regimes that remained unaddressed.

"These recurring issues have now become fundamental problems requiring a

comprehensive solution outside the regular justice system," the state minister stated.

In this regard, implementing TJ through reconciliation is very important for Ethiopia, he underscored.

While drawing on global best practices, he stressed the need for a reconciliation process fundamentally rooted in Ethiopia's context and the diverse situations across the country's different regions and communities, Belayhun explained.

As part of the policy implementation process, several institutions will be established including the truth and reconciliation commission, special attorney general and courts, he indicated.

A draft roadmap containing detailed activities to be carried out during the implementation phase of the policy has also been prepared.

Key elements under consideration include accountability, mechanisms to investigate abuses, provisions for amnesty and reparations, institutional reforms, incorporating customary justice systems, and clearly defining federal-regional state roles.

The government hopes this reconciliation process fosters lasting peace, accountability and healing in Ethiopia. "By establishing a robust accountability system, we aim to deliver a genuine sense of justice to aggrieved parties," the state minister affirmed.

Training equips women with digital skills

• STEM power graduates 741 women trainees in nine courses

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA - With its large young population, building digital skills and capabilities among the workforce is a key priority for Ethiopia, STEM power Ethiopia's Country Director.

STEM power Ethiopia, in collaboration with the Finland Embassy and IBM Skills Build, has provided a three-month free online training program and graduated some 741 women and unemployed trainees.

During the ceremony, STEM power Ethiopia's Country Director Simenew Keskes (PhD), stated that the digital world is consistently evolving and the knowledge and skills that the trainees gained would be crucial in shaping the future and the opening opportunities in the digital world.

"Training programs and initiatives to promote digital skills training and digital literacy are essential to equip individuals with the skills needed to participate in the digital economy. This plays a pivotal role in women's empowerment as digital transformation should be inclusive, leaving no one behind. We, at STEM power, are proud to impact and touch the lives of many women in Ethiopia and across Africa."

Appreciating the commitment of the trainees, he also pledged that STEM power's full commitment in delivering unwavering support to the trainees including providing advanced training.

Mentioning that the online training covered nine courses, STEM power Inc Project Manager and Master Trainer Abel Tefera



noted that the training is vital in equipping participants with critical computer skills, opening doors to new career opportunities in the ever-evolving digital job market.

"Through pixels and perseverance, you have forged your path, mastering digital skills with unwavering determination. From online classrooms to in-person workshops, you have embraced every challenge, igniting your passion and resilience" he remarked.

Sending message in Zoom, (Middle East & Africa) IBM Project Manager Fatima Zahra shared inspiring words of encouragement, acknowledging the dedication and perseverance of the learners.

Through Representative, State Minister of Innovation and Technology Ministry Yishrun Alemayehu stated that the program represented a significant step forward in collective effort to promote gender equality and empowerment in the field of technology.

"By completing this program, you are not only acquired valuable digital skills but have demonstrated your resilience and determination

to succeed in a male dominated industry."

While celebrating the achievements of the graduates today, he urged to recognize the importance of diversity and inclusion in the technology sector as it is imperative to continue to create opportunities for women to thrive in STEM field.

Moreover, he advised the graduates to persevere their passion to technology and to never shy away from opportunities to lead and elevate. The skills you acquired would be instrumental in shaping the future of technology which will make huge impact in the digital world, adding his Ministry's readiness to support them to realize digital transformation.

The training was offered in Project Management, Web Development, Cyber-security, Digital Marketing, Data Analytics, Information Technology, Job Readiness, Work Readiness, and other essential computer skills which are expected to empower graduates to navigate the digital landscape confidently and compete effectively for positions in various sectors.

News

Unpaid diplomats

• Small business with big job, Ethiopian business fostering Ethio-Somaliland ties

BY DESTA GEBREHIWOT

A small signboard written both in Amharic and Somali languages visibly stands in the nerve centre of the heart of Hargeisa, the capital of Somaliland, a bustling and densely populated city.

The signboard reads Ethiopian Barbershop. It is one of the small Ethiopian shops doing big work for their country. The barbershop is an instance of Ethiopian mementoes that the city of Hargeisa bears.

A walk at the centre of the city can help any passerby easily grasp the deep connection between Ethiopia and Somaliland and learn the extent of Ethiopia's mark in the city.

Assefa is on the right side of 30 is the manager of the barbershop is one of the barbers in the shop who are all Ethiopians.

He happened to be in Somaliland at the invitation of his friend but surprisingly he made Hargeisa his second home and has been residing there since 2018.

In the barbers, Ethiopians carefully cut and shave the hair and beards of all customers. In the background plays Ethiopian music and the clients all somalians glare at the mirrors awaiting the fine look they were craving.

All of our customers are Somalilanders, they like to have their hair cut by Ethiopian barbers. The barbershop frequented by people of all ages is now planning to open branches in another part of the city.

“Our Somaliland customers Assefa said, “are satisfied with the quality services offered and the ethics observed.”

The barbershop is one of the small Ethiopian-owned and run businesses that are oiling the skids in deepening the people-to-people relations. Right on the veranda, people dine and drink Ethiopian coffee served in Ethiopia's traditional coffee-making ceremony.

Assefa told the Herald that the public opinion towards Ethiopia is genuine and positive. Besides the social and cultural bond, the people now cherish bilateral cooperation at the government level. The people like the test of the Ethiopian coffee and dish, and now the port deal, Assefa added.

There has been a positive sentiment following the deal. The day-to-day business interaction according to Assefa is making life for Ethiopians better in Somaliland.

“We are unpaid Ethiopian ambassadors promoting Ethiopia's societal and cultural values.”

In touching distance to the Ethiopian consulate is also Enkoba Restaurant, a small yet famous Ethiopian business on the outskirts of the city. The restaurant at launch time is packed with customers and the restaurant is bedecked with Ethiopian cultural souvenirs while the portraits of Ethiopian famous emperors hang on the wall.

Born and raised in Addis, Muna Mohamed, the restaurant owner came to learn the art of cooking Ethiopian food at a young age. In her twenties, Muna moved to Somaliland and married a Somalilander. Hargeisa then became a place where she began her culinary journey. Sometime later, her love and passion for food led her to open a successful restaurant. Muna acts like the main Chafe and is very much

involved with the food that comes out of her kitchen.

She prepares and uses all key ingredients that define the distinct flavours of Ethiopian cuisine. All while continuing the tradition.

Also, offering Ethiopian dishes in the centre of the city is Abyssinia restaurant—the restaurant which is widely known in the city also a rendezvous of Ethiopians.

The manager of Abyssinia restaurant, Wendwesen Aregawi has been living for 5 years and is a manager in the restaurant. We operate freely and face no trouble. So long as you operate lawfully, you will become profitable. Somalinaders are admirers of Ethiopian dishes. Have a good attitude towards Ethiopians. Since most Somalians sheltered in Ethiopia during the civil war, they are familiar with Ethiopian culture. “We have a long list menu of Ethiopian dishes and find cousins. Now around 30 Ethiopians are making their living in the restaurant.”

Almost 90 per cent of the customers are Somalians, wondwesen said. Ethiopian meals are delicious and easy to get used to; Ismael who usually comes to the restaurant for dinner said.

“The first time we experienced Ethiopian cousins, we were impressed with Ethiopian food. They are flavorful and spicy which makes them akin to Somaliland dishes,” Abdulahi said commenting on the restaurant's service.

The Ethiopian consulate in Hargeisa should facilitate joint platforms where the two peoples can exchange their cultural values.

NEBE reiterates...

through promoting free, fair and credible elections.

After conducting a thorough review regarding its constitutional mandates, needs and priorities, the NEBE has launched a five-year strategic plan yesterday in the presence of civil society organizations, Supreme Court presidents, donors, political party leaders among other stakeholders.

Speaking at the launching ceremony, NEBE's Chairperson Melatwork Hailu said that the institution has been carrying out free, fair and credible elections through legal and structural reforms in the last five years.

In light of this, NEBE has conducted three successful referendums and one national election and it is developing its institutional capacity to nurture democratic institutions by maintaining the successful achievements learnt during the last general elections.

Thus far, NEBE engaging with stakeholders, has been widely extending efforts to foster credibility and conducting

elections by withstanding internal and external challenges, she expressed.

Melatwork further remarked that by identifying thematic areas and establishing a Strategic Planning Committee, actors in NEBE have taken actions for the development of a five-year strategic plan, guided by both internal and external consultants with support from Partner organizations.

“Along with various stakeholders, it has conducted internal and external assessments, socioeconomic and political issues in line with best international practices, lessons learnt from the 6th general election and findings and recommendations of assessments for the last ten months,” she said.

In parallel with internal and external assessments and identification of strategic pillars process, Melatwork further elaborated that different methodologies, strategic pillars, goals, objectives and expected outcomes were seriously conducted.

According to her, this strategic plan would be a launching pad for developing road maps of the upcoming 7th general election and local elections.

Reaffirming the institution's firm commitment to execute this five-year strategic plan, she remarked that the successful implementation of this plan will help further strengthen the electoral process for credibly holding democratic elections in the country.

Furthermore, the plan is also highly believed to guide NEBE in modernizing and reforming all electoral processes for its recognition as a model democratic institution trusted for managing elections in compliance with international election management standards.

Appealing to the government for timely provision of the required resources during the implementation process, she called on all the national election board members, stakeholders to consolidate efforts to realize free, fair, and transparent general and local elections.

Office prioritizes...

the Coordination of the Public Participation on the Construction of the Abbay Dam along with pertinent stakeholders organized yesterday the “Bond Purchase Program” for investors, financial institutions, development organization, and NGOs under the motto “Together We Can.”

Speaking at the occasion, the Office Director General Aregawi Berhie (PhD) stated that the public has been supporting the construction of the mega dam financially, professionally and in other ways since its launching.

Accordingly, some 19.4 billion Birr was collected from the public from bond sales and donation, lottery, SMS and other income-generating schemes from the launching of the dam till May 7/2024. Similarly, 1.2 billion Birr has been collected from the public to the iconic project during the past 10 months of the current fiscal year.

“Today's program aims to extend gratitude for members of the business community who have significantly contributed to finance the dam and encourage others to extend support to the completion of the remaining task, which stands only 4%,” Aregawi added.

Noting investors' contribution to Abbay Dam is not exceeding from 50%, the chairperson mentioned that insufficient payment alternatives and interest-related issues are contributed to the business community's limited role in the fundraising. “However, now a day, there are many alternatives to enable the Diaspora community, investors, and every segments of the society to be active participant on the mega project.”

Ethiopian Electric Power CEO Ashebir Balecha (Eng.) on his part said that Abbay has 70% share in the country's water resource and entails 65% of hydro potential. Besides, Abbay is the source of 86 % of water for lower basin countries. “However, 45 % the Ethiopian population has no access to electricity so far.”

According to the CEO, Tana Belese and Tis Abbay generated power from Abbay streams whilst Beshalo, Karadilo, Muabil, and Mandiya, which are located in the upstream of the Abbay basin, are in the pipeline to generate electricity.

Ashebir also said that Ethiopia could generated 40, 000 megawatt of electricity upon full utilization of the Abbay Dam. So far, 10.7 metric cubic concrete was fully filled and the concrete saturation has reached 93%. “The overall execution of the Abbay Dam is reached 96% and the project's completion is relied on the active involvement and support of the business community and other members of the society at large.”

Ethiopia discovers...

development, the government is committed to harnessing the full potential of Ethiopia's natural resources, he stressed.

In addition to the natural gas discovery, Million mentioned that Ethiopia is also focusing on the development of its geothermal energy sector.

He explained that the government is working in cooperation with the states and the private sector to build major geothermal projects, which will not only contribute to the country's energy supply but also create significant job opportunities.

This latest discovery of natural gas in the Ogaden region is a testament to Ethiopia's rich natural resources and the government's efforts to harness them for the country's economic growth and energy security, he said.

Opinion

Ethiopia's multifaceted transitional justice implementation process bearing fruit

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Ethiopia's advancement to Transitional Justice (TJ) implementation mechanism process guarantees its voyage towards bringing long-lasting peace, reconciliation, and stability to fruition at the earliest possible juncture.

In the present circumstances, the government has been engaged in setting up a number of independent groups of experts, documents and consultative forums during transitional justice policy formulation with the intention of meeting the country's sustainable peace ambitions and achieving the intended target at the earliest possible moment.

In actual fact, by bringing a wide spectrum of effective strategies into play, the country has embarked on accomplishing the desired goal in the face of challenges that need a quick fix. Other than that subsequent to the peace deal the whole thing in the northern part of the country has been getting back on track and heading in the right direction more than ever before.

By the same token, on the heels of the Pretoria peace accord, Ethiopia has been harvesting the fruits of accomplishment by carrying out more than a few actual strategies that can bring about unity and harmony almost immediately among the various nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia and restore peace and tranquility in a little while.

For the sake of truth, Ethiopia's progression to Transitional Justice (TJ) implementation process expedites and ensures its journey towards ensuring sustainable peace, reconciliation, and stability, the Federal Supreme Court President said, calling for stakeholders' vigorous involvement.

Speaking recently at the launching ceremony of TJ's implementation, the Federal Supreme Court President Tewodros Mihret said that Ethiopia has been engaging in a comprehensive and inclusive TJ process in line with its political and social context. To this end, the country has been formulating and propelling the international human rights principles and experiences.

"The government has been establishing a group of independent experts, documents and consultative forums in the course of transitional justice policy preparation to meet the country's lasting peace aspirations. The national justice system propelling with a guided and clear policy framework should not only be conceived as a mere task but also it needs to be a compulsory principle."

The swift progression to the implementation phase is a real testimony for the government's firm commitment to mend significant human rights violations and other fractures that occurred in the past and currently.

TJ is a viable mechanism to address old-aged hardships, injustices, severe human rights violations and injustices. It also helps build a system that ensures lasting peace, reconciliation, stability and sound democratic culture.

The president reaffirmed the Supreme Court's



readiness to stand with the process and execute policies to realize the mission.

It should be remembered that the Council of Ministers has recently approved the Transitional Justice Policy with a view of overseeing and executing the process in a systematic, cohesive, and efficient manner.

In a press release sent in recent times to The Ethiopian Herald, Ministry of Justice (MoJ) disclosed that it is striving to present the transitional justice policy document to the Council of Ministers soon after finalizing the final text based on the deliberations raised in various validation workshops.

The Ministry of Justice said that it will continue to review and address the huge volume of inputs received during the validation workshops and via written submissions. The next milestone involves completing the final text of the National Transitional Justice Policy and submitting the draft for approval of the Council of Ministers.

In the press release, MoJ stated that Ethiopia's extraordinary journey in the public consultation and policy design process has come a long way since the establishment of the Transitional Justice Working Group of Experts (TJWGE) on November 2022.

The TJWGE concluded the most critical phases of its mandate – after holding 58 nationwide-in additions to 22 tailored workshops jointly organized with various local, regional, continental and international organizations, according to the press release.

It also noted that the TJWGE publicly issued the 'Transitional Justice Policy Options: A Comprehensive Report of the Public Consultations Process' in December 2023 and furthermore delivered the 'Draft National Transitional Justice Policy' in January 2024.

A number of strategies have been put in place for the realization of transitional justice and attaining the sought after goal in next to no time.

The Transitional Justice Policy that aims to oversee and execute the transitional justice process in a methodical, cohesive, and efficient manner at national level was officially launched, according to information obtained from local media.

The policy was launched recently 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.

At the ceremony, organizations and individuals, including the Transitional Justice

Working Group of Experts, were given recognition for their unreserved and tireless efforts to develop the Transitional Justice Policy.

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

In Ethiopia, various attempts have been undertaken to tackle human rights violations, internal strife, unsubstantiated narratives, and disobedience that have transpired and persisted across various periods in the nation's history.

Nevertheless, the efforts proved ineffective in achieving a sustainable resolution as they did not adopt an all-encompassing, human rights-centered, and adaptable approach to establishing a comprehensive transitional justice system grounded in truth, reconciliation, forgiveness, and justice, underpinned by a well-defined policy framework.

Four consecutive events were organized in Addis Ababa with key stakeholders, namely leadership of political parties, representatives of democratic and human rights institutions.

In the same way, the ministry took positive validation on civil societies, media professionals, academia, transitional justice experts, UN family offices in Ethiopia, and embassies, representatives of the wider population from all regions including victims, women's associations, persons with disabilities, child rights defenders, youth associations, and IDPs, and federal and regional government, justice and security functionaries.

On each of the occasions, participants were offered considerable space to voice their positions and share perspectives on the contents of the draft policy.

Indeed, the level of engagement demonstrated by the public was not only reassuring, it also reaffirmed the public's greater sense of ownership and confidence in the process as offering a national solution grounded on accountability, truth, reconciliation and justice.

In fact, transitional justice plays a vital role to correct past injustice, build trust among the people of Ethiopia, and correct the relationship between the people and the government. It is also an instrument in nation building, Legal expert Amdegebriel Admasuhe told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA).

"Unless Ethiopia heals the past wounds, the effects will severely constrain its justice, democratic and economic system badly. Identifying the human right violation and

injustice will not only allow compensating the victims but it would also draw lessons from past mistakes."

According to the expert, Germany's experience in applying transitional justice could be the best example that opened the door for creating a strong nation. Commending the role of transitional justice to lead the country into the path of a democratic system, Attorney and Legal Consultant Ziyad Redwan noted that various countries including South Africa have successfully implemented it.

Though all the human right violations might not be forgiven entirely, it could be solved through traditional reconciliation systems. By applying its indigenous reconciliation methods, Ethiopia could build a sustainable government.

Failure to correct false historical narratives might lead citizens to resentment and hinder the government's function as the leader of the country. Thus, an all-inclusive system, which is equipped with systematic and critical approaches, needs to take place to overcome such challenges.

Through transitional justice, those involved in human rights violation should be held accountable by law and to do this, strong political commitment is a mandatory. To achieve the intended goals in transitional justice, the active participation of all relevant actors notably the government is critical.

Similarly, elderlies, public figures, politicians, elites, among others, could play a significant role in bringing those who are in the two ends together.

Placing neutral and well-experienced professionals in the implementation of transitional justice is something worth prime attention. In addition, the public is expected to play an active role in exposing those involved in crimes and supplementing the activities of law enforcement agents.

It is high time for putting consolidated effort towards addressing diversity and inclusion during transitional justice implementation in Ethiopia, a legal expert said.

Speaking to local media, Valerie Arnold stated that the process of transitional justice should be transparent and participatory. The effort is commendable and helpful to address the rifts created through the conflicts, and Ethiopia is on the right track in framing the transitional justice.

She further noted that the transitional justice should be structured following the spirit of inclusiveness as well as the protocols of international human rights. At the same time to draw important lesson from countries that have experienced the process to curtail political and social traits of the societies.

Many nations particularly in sub-Saharan ones experienced extended transitional justice amid many challenges.

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

Editorial

Enhancing FDI through industrial parks, special economic zone

Years elapsed since Ethiopia became a prime destination for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Africa, thanks to the strategic development of industrial parks and special economic zone. These efforts highlight Ethiopia's proactive approach in creating an inviting investment environment, boosting economic growth, and advancing its industrialization goals.

Industrial parks in Ethiopia are tailored to serve as centers for manufacturing and industry, providing businesses with essential infrastructure, services, and regulatory advantages. These parks and zones offer benefits such as reduced tariffs, tax incentives, and streamlined customs procedures, significantly lowering business costs. By clustering industries, industrial parks promote economies of scale, innovation and efficiency.

Strategically located, Ethiopia's industrial parks maximize accessibility to key markets and resources. For instance, the Eastern Industrial Park near Addis Ababa and the Hawassa Industrial Park successfully attracted significant foreign investments. These parks focus on sectors such as textiles, apparel, and agro-processing, which are crucial for Ethiopia's economic diversification and export growth.

Complementing this, special economic zone further boosts Ethiopia's appeal as an investment destination. Special economic zone provides additional incentives, such as extended tax holidays, duty-free import of raw materials, and expedited administrative processes, making them particularly attractive to multinational corporations looking to establish manufacturing bases in Africa.

The establishment of special economic zone in Ethiopia follows global best practices, drawing inspiration from successful models in China, India, and other rapidly industrializing nations. Special economic zone in Ethiopia has been designed not only to attract FDI but also to stimulate technology transfer, skill development, and infrastructural improvements, thereby fostering sustainable economic growth.

The impact of industrial parks and special economic zone on Ethiopia's economy is multifaceted. These parks and zone attract substantial foreign capital, crucial for financing infrastructure projects, enhancing productivity, and creating jobs. The influx of foreign investments into these centers also facilitates technology transfer and capacity building, helping local businesses upgrade their capabilities and integrate into global value chains.

Moreover, the zone is instrumental in diversifying Ethiopia's economic base. Traditionally reliant on agriculture, Ethiopia is now experiencing significant growth in the manufacturing and services sectors. Industrial parks and special economic zone are at the core of this transformation, enabling the production of higher value-added goods and boosting exports.

The development of these parks and the zone also fosters regional economic development. As infrastructure improves and businesses thrive within these centers, surrounding societies benefit from increased economic activity, better services, and greater employment opportunities. This progress is crucial for achieving balanced economic growth and reducing poverty across the country.

Fostering strong partnerships with international investors and organizations is also essential. Engaging with stakeholders, both domestic and international, will enhance the effectiveness of economic zone and the parks and ensure they meet global standards. Continuous improvement in ease of doing business, transparency, and policy consistency will further bolster investor confidence.

In sum, Ethiopia's strategic focus on developing industrial parks and special economic zone is a powerful driver of foreign direct investment and economic transformation. This and similar initiatives are unlocking new opportunities for growth, innovation, and industrialization, positioning Ethiopia as a competitive player on the global stage. With continued commitment to improving infrastructure and regulatory frameworks, Ethiopia is well on its way to achieving sustainable economic development and prosperity for its people.



The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays
By The Ethiopian Press Agency

Office of the CEO

Tel. 011-126-42-22
Fax. 251-011-156-98-62
email- epa@press.et

Advertisement and Dist. Department

email: etpresspromotion@gmail.com
Tel. 011-156-98-73/011-811-13-15
Telegram :- 0976084707 - press
Editor-in-Chief: Worku Belachew
email- workubelachew@press.et
Address- Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-city
Woreda - 05, House No----
Tel- +251 111 26 41 98

Managing Editor: Wakuman Kudama
Email: wakuma220@gmail.com

Deputy Editors-in-Chief:

Alem Hailu
Elizabeth Mengistu
Zekarias Woldemariam
Desta Geberehiwot
Daniel Beyene

Website: www.press.et
email: ethiopianherald@press.et
Fb/ /Ethiopian Press Agency/
The Ethiopian Herald

Opinion

Ethiopia ensuring sustainable development that leads towards peace, justice

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

Sustainable economic development is one of the factors used to measure the effectiveness of a government's performance. In a democratic system government must work hard to ensure sustainable economic progress within a country there by win the go ahead by the electorate.

Above all, making sustainable progress that benefits the people is essential for a government. A government that excels economically has a higher chance of being repeatedly elected as it addresses the economic issues of society. In short, economic progress serves as a tool for retaining power.

A segment of society that is unemployed may later turn to aggression and significantly contribute to the downfall of a government. Therefore, every government has ample opportunity for economic progress, especially in volatile regions like East Africa.

Recognizing this truth, the Ethiopian government introduced the Homegrown Economic Reform Agenda (HGER), consisting of three pillars: macro-financial reforms, structural reforms, and sectoral reforms. These reforms aim to achieve macroeconomic stabilization and return the country to a path of high growth.

Hence, the focus on the Ethiopian economy should center on increasing saving and investment, enhancing human capital, minimizing the impact of weather on the economy, and addressing the rapidly growing population.

To achieve successive economic progress, the Ethiopian government, led by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD), has been ardently striving day in and day out. The strategy clearly outlines the direction the country is headed and how the necessary progress will be achieved. Ethiopia's successful economic performance over the past ten months in major macroeconomic sectors indicates the potential for achieving the projected 7.9 percent growth for the current fiscal year.

Recently, the performance of the final 100 days of the fiscal year was evaluated in a meeting attended by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. The Minister of Planning and Development, Fitsum Assefa, presented a report on the performance of the past 100 days, the second phase of the Homegrown Economic Plan, and the focus areas for the 2017 fiscal year.

Over the past ten months, the country attracted \$3.2 billion in foreign direct investment, marking a 14.3 percent increase compared to the same period last year. Additionally, the government collected 425 billion Birr in revenue, with 271 billion Birr from domestic sources.

Exports of goods totaled \$2.9 billion, while remittances reached \$4.2 billion. The government's budget deficit decreased by 14 percent compared to the same period last year. During this time, 2.5 million job opportunities were created for citizens within the country, along with over 300,000 opportunities for citizens abroad. Overall, the success in major macroeconomic indicators suggests that Ethiopia is on track to achieve a 7.9 percent growth rate this fiscal year.

The state of macroeconomic development, infrastructure development, public participation, and inclusiveness, achievements under the homegrown economic development plan, and general monitoring and evaluation conducted over the fiscal year were discussed.

According to the report of the Minister of Plan and Development Commission, significant growth has been recorded in macroeconomic development in agriculture, industry, and service sectors over the fiscal year.

Achievements in the Yelemat Trufat Campaign have made substantial contributions to enhancing production and productivity in the livestock resources development sector.

The figures mentioned clearly demonstrate how the economic measures taken thus far are fundamental in addressing economic challenges observed in the country. If things continue in the same manner, it is not difficult to anticipate a 7.9 percent growth in the economy.

Ethiopia's economic growth over several years has significantly contributed to national development in various ways, impacting different sectors and improving the overall well-being of its population. Here are some key contributions of Ethiopia's economic growth to national development:

- *Economic growth leads to increased incomes and reduced poverty levels, providing more people with access to better housing, nutrition, healthcare, and education, ultimately improving their quality of life.*
- *Investments in infrastructure like roads, railways, and energy projects have been substantial, with projects such as the Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway and the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam playing pivotal roles in improving transportation, energy supply, fostering economic activities, and regional integration.*
- *Continued economic growth is expected to create jobs in various sectors, including agriculture, manufacturing, and services. The growth of the manufacturing sector and the expansion of industrial parks have provided employment opportunities for thousands of Ethiopians.*
- *Growth in the agricultural sector, supported by government initiatives and improved agricultural inputs, has increased food production, enhancing food security and reducing dependence on food imports. Programs promoting modern farming techniques and irrigation have boosted productivity.*

Increased government revenue from economic growth will allow for higher investments in education and healthcare, resulting in improved literacy rates, higher school enrollment, better healthcare facilities, and reduced child mortality rates.

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

Art & Culture

Words great for poetry

BY LADYSPHINX

Without a vocabulary better than six-grader poems tend to be boring and boring poems don't get read. I love to read poetry in general and I read a lot of poetry and have come across some very boring unimaginative poetry with only the most basic words.

Then on the other side you get poems with so many high English words that one has to use a dictionary on every second word and most people just end up skipping these poems as they are hard to understand. If you do not grasp the underlying meaning of a poem and take nothing from it, you lose interest. It is like trying to read in a different language.

It can take hours to find the right word to use in your poem that makes it interesting without making it impossible to read and enjoy. I have found some great websites and programs that can help with this problem. The first problem is in finding these sites and programs if you are new to writing just as many of us have been at one stage. I will give the links to some of these at the bottom of my blog page.

The next problem you can find when you have decided to spruce up your poem with some new words you are not used to using is using them in the right context and this can and has happened to many poets/poetesses at the beginning of their learning curve. I should know as I'm one of them and sometimes it can still happen to even some poets one can find these days on the World Wide Web.

The only way to fix this is by trial and error and of course the help of other poets. I have found that the poetry community can be just as closely knit together as some of them can be harsh to the newer poets trying to find their way.

I love to look for new words all the time when writing poetry words, I don't know or have not thought of using. I have decided to make a list in the hope of inspiring some poets.

Ambivalent: Having mixed feelings about someone or something. **Ambrosian:** Anything particularly delightful to taste or smell. **Amorist:** A person who is devoted to love and lovemaking or writes about love.

Amorphous: Lacking definite form; having no specific shape; formless. **Amort:** Spiritless; lifeless. **Anathemise:** Wish harm upon; invoke evil upon. **Aphonic:** Mouthed but not spoken; noiseless; silent.

Appendence: Attached or suspended; annexed. **Aquiline:** (Of the nose) shaped like an eagle's beak; hooked.

Aquiver: In a state of trepidation or vibrant agitation; trembling. **Arcane:** Known or understood by very few; mysterious; secret; obscure; **Archaic:** Commonly used in an earlier time but rare in present-day usage except to suggest the older time,

Ariose: Characterized by melody; songlike. **Asunder:** Apart or widely separated: as wide asunder as the polar regions.

Athirst: Having a keen desire; eager (often followed by for) She has long been a thirst for European travel. **Aureate:** Golden, gilded, brilliant or splendid.

Auric: Of or containing gold in the trivalent state. **Aurify:** To cause to appear golden; gild: Dawn came, and sunlight aurified the lead-grey ocean.

Balmily: Mild and refreshing; soft; soothing;

balmy weather. **Beau geste:** A fine or noble gesture, often futile or only for effect.

Bedraggle: To make limp and soiled, as with rain or dirt. **Beldam:** An old woman, especially an ugly one; hag. **Beleaguer:** To surround or beset, as with troubles. **Belesprit:** A person of great wit or intellect.

Beshrew: To curse; invoke evil upon. **Blithely:** Joyous or merry in disposition; glad; cheerful: Everyone loved her for her blithe spirit.

Burdly: Bold; audacious; defiant. **Calix:** A cup; chalice. **Canorous:** Melodious; musical. **Capacious:** Capable of holding much; spacious or roomy: a capacious storage bin.

Caterwaul: To utter long wailing cries, howl or screech. **Chimera:** A horrible or unreal creature of the imagination; **Clangor:** A loud, resonant sound; clang. **Collocate:** To set or place together, especially side by side.

Corpulent: Large or bulky of body; portly; stout; fat. **Crestfallen:** Dejected; dispirited; discouraged.

Deluge: Anything that overwhelms like a flood: a deluge of mail. **Denigrate:** To speak damagingly of; criticize in a derogatory manner; sully; defame: to denigrate someone's character.

Derisory: Characterized by or expressing derision; contemptuous; mocking: derisive heckling. **Desultory:** Lacking in consistency, constancy, or visible order, disconnected; fitful: desultory conversation.

Diaphanous: Very sheer and light; almost completely transparent or translucent. **Disconsolate:** Without consolation or solace; hopelessly unhappy; inconsolable: Loss of her pet dog made her disconsolate.

Dulcet: Pleasant to the ear; melodious: pleasant or agreeable to the eye or the feelings; soothing, sweet to the taste or smell.

Effusive: unduly demonstrative; lacking reserve: effusive greetings; an effusive person. **Egregious:** Extraordinary in some bad way; glaring; flagrant: an egregious mistake; an egregious liar.

Elysian: Blissful; delightful. **Empyrean:** Pertaining to the sky; celestial: empyreal blue. Formed of pure fire or light: empyreal radiance.

Ephemeral: Lasting a very short time; short-lived; transitory: the ephemeral joys of childhood.

Epoch: A particular period of time marked by distinctive features, events, etc. the treaty ushered in an epoch of peace and good will.

Esoteric: Belonging to the select few. **Private;** secret; confidential. **Ethereal:** Extremely delicate or refined:

Eviscerate: To deprive of vital or essential parts: The censors eviscerated the book to make it inoffensive to the leaders of the party.

Facile: Moving, acting, working, proceeding, etc., with ease, sometimes with superficiality: facile fingers; a facile mind.

Fastidious: Excessively particular, critical, or demanding; hard to please: a fastidious eater. **Fatuous:** Foolish or inane, especially in an unconscious, complacent manner; silly. **Unreal,** illusory.

Frivolous: Characterized by lack of seriousness or sense: frivolous conduct. **Gamboled:** To skip about, as in dancing or playing; frolic.

Garrulous: Excessively talkative in a rambling, roundabout manner, especially about trivial

matters.

Gaunt: Bleak, desolate, or grim, as places or things: **Gossamer:** Something extremely light, flimsy, or delicate.

Grody: Inferior in character or quality; seedy; sleazy: **Impalpable:** Not palpable; incapable of being perceived by the sense of touch; intangible.

Intricate: complex; complicated; hard to understand, work, or make: an intricate machine.

Inveigle: To entice, lure, or ensnare by flattery or artful talk or inducements (usually followed by into): to inveigle a person into playing bridge.

Jaunt: A short journey, especially one taken for pleasure. **Kismet:** Fate; destiny.

Knavish: Like or befitting a knave; untrustworthy; dishonest. **Languid:** Lacking in vigor or vitality; slack or slow: a languid manner.

Lecherous: Given to or characterized by lechery; lustful. **Loquacious:** Talking or tending to talk much or freely; talkative; chattering; babbling; garrulous: a loquacious dinner guest.

Lurched: An awkward, swaying or staggering motion or gait. **Machination:** Usually, machinations. **Crafty schemes;** plots; intrigues.

Maunder: To move, go, or act in an aimless, confused manner: He maundered through life without a single ambition. **Motley:** Being of different colors combined: a motley flower border.

Nebulous: Cloudy or cloudlike. **Nexus:** A means of connection; tie; link.

Niche: A place or position suitable or appropriate for a person or thing: to find one's niche in the business world. **Ogle:** To look at amorously, flirtatiously, or impertinently. To eye; look or stare at.

Panacea: A remedy for all disease or ills; cure-all. **Pellucid:** Allowing the maximum passage of light, as glass; is translucent.

Penchant: A strong inclination, taste, or liking for something: a penchant for outdoor sports. **Placate:** To appease or pacify, especially by concessions or conciliatory gestures: to placate an outraged citizenry.

Puerile: Of or about a child or to childhood. **Childishly foolish;** immature or trivial: a puerile piece of writing. **Puissance:** Power, might, or force.

Pyre: Such a pile for burning a dead body, especially as part of a funeral rite, as in India. **Quiddity:** The quality that makes a thing what it is; the essential nature of a thing.

Quintessence: The most perfect embodiment of something. **Quixotic:** Extravagantly chivalrous or romantic; visionary, impractical, or impracticable.

Rakish: Smart; jaunty; dashing: a hat worn at a rakish angle. **Rancor:** Bitter, rankling resentment or ill will; hatred; malice. **Ratified:** To confirm by expressing consent, approval, or formal sanction: to ratify a constitutional amendment.

Resile: To spring back; rebound; resume the original form or position, as an elastic body. **Shrink back,** recoil. **Roquish:** About, characteristic of, or acting like a rogue; knavish or rascally

Sapidity: Agreeable, as to the mind; to one's liking. **Semblance:** An assumed or unreal appearance; show. The slightest appearance or

trace. **Seraphic:** Blissfully serene; rapt

Slipshod: Careless, untidy, or slovenly: slipshod work. **Sojourn:** To stay for a time in a place; live temporarily: to sojourn on the Riviera for two months.

Squalor: The condition of being squalid; filth and misery. **Susurrus:** A soft murmuring or rustling sound; whisper. **Svelte:** Slender, especially gracefully slender in figure; lithe.

Sylphlike: A slender, graceful woman or girl. One of a race of supernatural beings supposed to inhabit the air. **Throe:** A sharp attack of emotion. Any violent convulsion or struggle: the throes of battle.

Tumult: Violent and noisy commotion or disturbance of a crowd or mob; uproar: The tumult reached its height during the premier's speech. **Ululation:** To howl, as a dog or a wolf, hoot, as an owl. To utter howling sounds, as in shrill, wordless lamentation, wail.

Virtuosic: A person who has special knowledge or skill in a field. **Vivacious:** Full of high spirits and animation; lively or vital. **Wisp:** Wisplike; delicate, faint, light, etc.

Zaftig: (Of a woman) having a pleasantly plump figure. **Virile:** Having or exhibiting masculine energy, forcefulness, or strength in a marked degree.

Some of the words shown here have more than one meaning, I did not add all of them so it is worthwhile taking a closer look at them. I also added how they are used sometimes to give you a better idea. There are many more ways to use them and sometimes you have to make sure that you are using them in the right context. I have many more words but don't want to make the list too long.

Here are a few links to useful sites that can help with writing poetry:

Dictionary.com <http://dictionary.reference.com/>

Here you can find almost any word, the correct spelling, and even a sound file to help you pronounce the word correctly. It also tends to show you how the word is used in a sentence.

It even shows you where the stressed and unstressed syllables are by using bold letters to show the stressed syllables which can be very useful in writing in meter. The last thing that makes this site useful is that it shows you the syllables of the words, again useful when writing in meter.

<http://thesaurus.com/> This site gives you all the Definition, Synonyms, Antonyms to your hearts' content.

The suarus.com content which is also wonderful in the use of poetry. You can easily find another word with the same meaning for a poem if you feel the word, you are using is rather boring. I love this one!

Rhyme Zone <http://www.rhymezone.com/?loc=bar> another great site that helps in finding rhyming words with different numbers of syllable groups.

Word web: If you find yourself without the Internet while writing this little program is very useful. The only thing I find very lacking is the fact that it does not show the stressed and unstressed syllables.

You can download it here. <http://wordweb.en.softonic.com/>

I selected this post to be featured on Poetry Blogs. Please visit the site and vote for my blog! <http://ladysphinxpoetry.blogspot.com/>

Law & Politics

Taking an active role in BRICS

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

Like the good old days, Ethiopia has kept its momentum in advancing its diplomatic path in the international arena. As the nation is among the founding members of most international institutions, it is still performing the same and continues to be accepted in newly established institutions like BRICS.

The world has been ruled and shaped by a few entities in the past many decades. In good truth, the world is going in the ways that are designed by the globalization as every part is intermingled to each other. However, there are some objections regarding the global system including the financial and power division and holding them in hegemony. It is true that the world believes and works in a way that only the fittest survives. Those who cannot hold the pressure of the competition left behind.

The power and financial organizations of the globe are dictated by the few powerhouses of the world, and these nations have been pressing their agenda and interest onto other nations, especially on poor and developing nations, through their financial and veto power. Such moves definitely become a bottleneck for developing nations to exercise the power of being a sovereign state and their own agenda in the world arena.

It is clear that finance plays a pivotal role in every segment of the globe as it is used as a fuel to achieve any interest. Those who built their finance on a better foundation flex their muscles on those who have less potential and cannot find a way to generate the expected income. Indeed, the finance made the difference, and its consequence is shown in creating economic supremacy and isolation among nations. On the other hand, those who are financially weak and left out of the system have been looking for other alternatives that can have a stage to entertain every interest without creating levels in the multipolar world.

Those financial and power houses like International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank Group, and the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) are very much open to political and economic pressure from those permanent members. These global blocs, from their inception, seem to deliberately neglect the participation of countries, even a continent like Africa.

The case of inclusion and equal participation pave different ways to look for new opportunities. Many believe that the world will no longer go further with such rotten system that gives the power to the few and leave the many behind. To this point, nations are seeking different yet inclusive blocs that can entertain multilateralism and incorporate all without equal opportunities. Having



a number of institutions on different sectors create a chance to choose which institution is better and has the expected opportunities.

In recent years, the emergence of different blocs like the BRICS opens doors for nations to be a part of it and realize the concept of multi-polar and multi-lateral world. The BRICS, which is an acronym, was formally established by those five founding members namely Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa back in 2009. Those members together cover account for more than 40% of the world population and a quarter of the global economy.

One of the major objectives of the bloc is to bring equality in the world that is mostly dominated by the West. Again, the bloc aims to promote the essence of a multipolar global order that can discover a path to a platform that can shape economic and political imbalance. It also plans to share the burdens of those high table institutions like the IMF and World Bank by incorporating the unincorporated. Besides, the bloc is committed to promote multilateralism, reforming the global governance, financial system, and increasing the representation and voice of emerging markets and developing countries.

Performing its goals in the past few years, the bloc wanted to act upon its vision to bring in new members. Back in 2023, the bloc held its 15th annual gathering, the BRICS 2023 Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa. The summit was held under the theme "BRICS and Africa:

Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development, and Inclusive Multilateralism."

During the summit, leaders of the bloc have discussed on the ways to expand the bloc so that it would incorporate many members as more than 40 countries showed their interest to be the a member of the bloc. On top of that, around 20 nations have formally applied to become new BRICS members, including Saudi Arabia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Argentina, Indonesia, Egypt and Ethiopia.

Again, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, during the summit said, "At this meeting, we could possibly decide by consensus which new countries will be able to join the BRICS. I consider it extremely important to allow other countries that meet the BRICS requirements to join the group."

The summit had, then, announced that the bloc would welcome six new members: Iran, Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from first of January 2024. After the entry, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD), on his social media account shared his opinion saying, "An important moment for Ethiopia, the BRICS leaders accepted our entry into the group today. Ethiopia stands ready to cooperate with all for an inclusive and prosperous world order. Congratulations to all Ethiopians!"

From the start of its membership, Ethiopia praises its entry and works to get the best advantage from the bloc and securing its national interest. Recently, Ethiopian delegation has participated at

BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Relations meeting which was taken place in Nizhny Novgorod, Russian Federation from 10-11 June 2024.

During the meeting, Taye Atske Selassie, Minister of Foreign Affairs, led the Ethiopian delegation and expressed the nation's stand in relation to the membership and other issues. The minister stated that Ethiopia greatly values its BRICS membership.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the minister highlighted the various measures Ethiopia has taken to enhance its active role in the BRICS family in line with its national development priorities.

Taye also stated that as the most pressing transnational issues cannot be addressed by any single institutions alone, renewed and genuine global partnership is not a choice but a necessity.

The importance of promoting collective solutions rooted in effective multilateralism and putting development at the center of the global discourse were given emphasis, he said.

The minister further stressed the urgent need to retool multilateral institutions, and an increased development financing and debt relief, in order to address and accommodate the legitimate interests of developing countries.

He also reaffirmed Ethiopia's resolve to the collective pursuit of peace and progress, inclusive and sustainable development, as well as effective multilateralism.



By engaging all segments of society Ethiopia can build peaceful, hopeful future for its young population

Oyvind Aadland (PhD)

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

Today's guest, Oyvind Aadland (PhD), is a Norwegian who has been in Ethiopia for over 60 years, arriving during the reign of Emperor Haileselassie I. He has lived through the Derg era, the revolutionary period, and the EPRDF's regime, and the incumbent, giving him a unique perspective over the years. Aadland considers himself half Ethiopian due to his deep emotional attachment to the country, its beauty, and its resources. He ponders when unity in diversity can lead Ethiopia to flourish peacefully.

Having lived in Ethiopia since the age of 8, Aadland's father played a role in enhancing education structures in southern Ethiopia. The Norwegian people gifted a regional hospital in Yirgalem to the Ethiopian people, and through the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, Norwegians established structures in education, health, and rural development programs.

Aadland's interest in living in Ethiopia for the past 60 years stems from his attachment to the language, culture, and people, which make him feel at home in the country. His academic pursuits in theology, communication/journalism and cross-cultural communication led him to obtain a PhD from Northwestern University. Now, Aadland is the owner of a consulting firm, which he used to provide education, research, and consulting services.

The Ethiopian Herald interviewed him on a range of issues, including the concept of nation-building, responsible journalism, national dialogue, and tourism potential in Ethiopia. Have a nice read!

How do you explain the concept of nation-building in general and how a given country can be built?

Well, in a country like Ethiopia, which is composed of people from diverse cultural backgrounds and ethnicities, creating a sense of belonging to one nation is quite challenging. There is a concept of nation-building that scholars worldwide have studied, suggested, and analyzed for how to build a nation.

The concept itself is not controversial, but the how part might be. Taking that into account, two of my Ethiopian friends and I designed a project to bring policy makers, scholars, civil society, other stakeholders... etc. together and hold discussion on this important agenda: nation-building. We invited scholars from Africa and beyond to share various approaches to nation building, past successes and failures in other countries and various ways of implementing it in the Ethiopian context. We held symposia in Ethiopia, USA and the Netherlands.

After a three-year process, we documented our findings in a proceeding and policy document and submitted them to various offices and libraries. One cannot simply impose ideas from one context to another without considering its unique situations and complexities. Adapting the concept to Ethiopia is challenging and requires contributions from various segments of society, including religious, political, and cultural groups.

This process demands time,

professionalism, research, and knowledge to avoid imposing foreign ideas that may not fit the Ethiopian context. While certain guiding principles can be universally applied, their applications may not be. It was for this reason that Ethiopians took the ownership of the process.

Recently, International Press Freedom Day was marked. How do you relate the concepts of press freedom and responsible journalism?

As we celebrate International Press Freedom Day, understanding and implementing press freedom throughout Africa is crucial. Press freedom is a fundamental human right that requires professionalism.

Press freedom remains inadequately enforced globally, extending to Africa. Regression in press freedom is observable in various regions, not limited to a single continent.

As we know freedom of expression is a fundamental human right that requires professionalism. I recall attending a human rights conference during the former PM Meles's tenure, where many individuals were involved in the program and panel discussions on human rights.

As Europeans, we see freedom of expression as critically important. I was at the conference with the Norwegian Ombudsman, and we were uncertain about the conclusions and content of the event. We decided to take a step back and carefully consider how we could



“
By immersing oneself in Ethiopian culture and history, visitors can appreciate the country's diversity and potential for tourism. Ethiopia offers a real adventure

contribute to promoting professional freedom of expression and press freedom in Ethiopia.

Personally, along with some Ethiopian friends, we sought funding from NORAD, the Norwegian governmental aid organization, to establish a School of Journalism and Communication at Addis Ababa University. Our goal was to nurture professional journalism that seeks the truth based on facts, as professionalism is essential for upholding the principles of journalism and freedom of expression.

This initiative aimed to nurture professional journalists who seek the truth based on knowledge. By engaging with international media professionals, we provided students with valuable insights and workshops to promote press freedom and democracy in Ethiopia. I am grateful, humble, and proud that we were able to establish the program.

The first cohort of students was taught by lecturers from prominent media organizations such as the BBC, as well as leading universities around the world. These leading scholars and practitioners conducted lectures, symposia, and workshops at the university.

Our aim was to gradually transition to Ethiopian staff and faculty. To this end, some Ethiopians were sent abroad to study their graduate degrees. I am unsure of the current status of the graduate program at the School of Journalism and

By engaging all segments ...

continued from page 8

Communication, but it was launched to enhance professional journalism and to promote press freedom and democracy in Ethiopia through professional and ethical journalism.

Regarding responsible journalism and press freedom, it's essential to balance legal and moral values. Freedom of expression must be upheld professionally to combat fake news and misinformation.

Protecting freedom of expression, as outlined in the Declaration of Human Rights, is crucial to promoting democracy and human rights globally. While challenges exist, nurturing professional journalism and press freedom can contribute to a more informed and democratic society.

As a foreigner who has lived in Ethiopia for six decades, you are likely to have a good knowledge about the country's tourism potential. What do you commend for international tourists?

As someone who has led study tours in Ethiopia, I highly recommend exploring the country's rich history, diverse culture, and natural beauty.

I have been on nearly 10 study tours with Norwegian students to Ethiopia. Ethiopia is a fantastic country to expose students to. We have traveled through its history, starting in Aksum, then moving on to Lalibela, Bahir Dar, and Gondar and further on to southern Ethiopia as well. The historical backgrounds differ greatly between the north and south, and so does the demography and landscapes, from the Simian Mountains to the Boran in the south, the savannah, and the lush greenery of Sidama and Gedeo.

Diving into the depths of Ethiopian culture and history reveals its diversity, and it's truly amazing.

We also spent time in "contemporary" Addis Ababa, where we studied dances, food, music, and all the vibrant "colors" of a complex nation.

Thus Ethiopia has immense potential for tourism in all aspects. Many of my students have later expressed that their trip to Ethiopia impacted their lives. Some have gone on to work in the Foreign Service and large NGOs, because Ethiopia inspired them. If this potential is utilized effectively, especially with the leading African airline connecting to destinations worldwide, Ethiopia has a bright future. However, it all hinges on peace.

By immersing oneself in Ethiopian culture and history, visitors can appreciate the country's diversity and potential for tourism. Ethiopia offers a



real adventure.

Ethiopia is now engaged in National Dialogue. As a communicator who knows the experience of others, what makes the country effective in the process?

As Ethiopia prepares for a National Dialogue forum, it may be important to revisit the nation-building project's findings among many other relevant documents. I recommend that our findings from the nation-building project should be revisited and consulted, as the insights and policy recommendations are extremely important. I apologize for sounding like giving advice. Foreign perspectives on Ethiopia must proceed with caution, considering the intricate tapestry of Ethiopian history, culture, and the multitude of ethnicities, alongside the profound challenges it faces. The deeper I delve into Ethiopian anthropology, history and politics, the more I recognize the need for humility in sharing any insights.

Ethiopia needs a real reconciliation that promotes unity in diversity, as there was much bloodshed in the past that has never been reconciled.

I am not sure how to put this, but a contextualized "Truth Commission" may introduce an inclusive reconciliation process beyond the court room, as was the case in the court

proceeds following the Derg era.

The focus should be on a process owned by each segment of society, rooted in traditional Ethiopian institutions, which still hold potential. Everyone must contribute to creating a new Ethiopia by looking inward and participating consciously to utilize the country's resources for a brighter future. With 70% of Ethiopians being young people, it is crucial to activate their potential and involve them in producing products from raw materials for export. A peaceful, hopeful future is needed, and achieving reconciliation, peace, and unity would bring me the greatest satisfaction.

While there are many obstacles, I believe that ownership and contribution from all segments of society are essential to overcome them. It is not just about pointing out what others should do, but about actively participating and contributing to progress.

Traditional Ethiopian institutions can play a vital role in fostering National Dialogue and ownership of the reconciliation process. By engaging all segments of society and focusing on contribution rather than imposition, Ethiopia can build a peaceful and hopeful future for its young population.

Many countries are talking about democracy, but they are not actually implementing it. Where do you think the real place of democracy is?

In terms of democracy and human rights, developing democratic institutions and upholding the rule of law are essential for Ethiopia's progress. While democratic principles are enshrined in the constitution, their implementation is key to ensuring justice and equality for all citizens.

Democracy must be contextualized and rooted in local institutions to be effective. By drawing upon traditional Ethiopian values and promoting freedom of expression, Ethiopia can strengthen its democratic foundations and empower its people.

What do you wish for Ethiopia to be?

I hope Ethiopia embraces its cultural diversity, empowers its youth, and pursues peace and reconciliation. By leveraging its abundant resources and advancing education and democracy, Ethiopia has potential to shine as a model of progress in Africa. I envision a future where Ethiopians, regardless of their backgrounds collaborate to construct a thriving and cohesive nation.

Thank you very much.

It is my pleasure.

***E*^{thiopia}
*needs a real
reconciliation that
promotes unity in
diversity, as there was
much bloodshed in
the past that has never
been reconciled***

Society

Arat Kilo : An area where every morning new surprises come into view

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

Advancement in infrastructure contributes significantly to the economic development of a given country; and the economic development of a certain country can indicate how well that country has worked in infrastructure expansion and development such as roads, transportation, water, telecommunication and electricity among others that are crucial to support economic activities.

Historical sources indicated that in the remote past, where ancient civilizations flourished, the level of development of those city states manifested through the infrastructure development of their cities and the lifestyle of the then society.

This is confirmed by archeologists and historians. For instance, the archeological findings of both the Roman and Greek civilization still confirm the kind of lifestyle their citizens used to lead and the level of their economic progress.

The ancient city of Rome is a marvel of urban planning, architecture and engineering. According to historical documents, the city was built on seven hills and its capital city, Rome, was the center of the Roman Empire. This witnesses how well the capital city was structured and to what extent its leaders were committed to ensure quality life to the people.

This excellence in urban planning, architecture and engineering is still manifesting itself in various capital cities of the world.

The various corridor developments in cities reflect the dedication of their populations and are an indication of the government's values, priorities, and vision for a better future. In other words, the quality and design of infrastructure, such as roads, public transportation, and utilities, reflect the city's priorities and values. The layout and designs of corridors in these cities also reflect the city's urban design philosophy, such as promoting walkability, bikeability, or accessibility. A city that prioritizes pedestrian-friendly design may create wide sidewalks and pedestrianized zones.

In this regard, Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia and "the political capital of Africa" due to its historical, diplomatic, and political significance for the continent, had been far behind the aforementioned facts. Despite the fact that it is the economic and political center of Ethiopia and the seat of the African Union, most of its infrastructure, urban planning, and architecture fail to fit its name—Addis Ababa—New Flower. This is especially true in the Arat Kilo and Piassa areas, which are the heart of the City and places where historical landmarks are found.

The old and shanty houses that used to dominate the innermost parts of Piassa and Arat Kilo had distorted the true images of the City for long. Poor urban planning together with absence of corridor developments, informal businesses carried out in public spaces by street vendors, limited green



spaces, bicycle lanes and absence of public service facilities (including proper restrooms) had created a mess on the already narrow pedestrian pathways.

The narrow Piassa- Arat Kilo road had no capacity to accommodate the ever growing number of Addis Ababa's vehicles. This was another challenge for traffic flow and had its own side effects on the socio-economic development of the city. However, following the government's dedication and the active involvement of the public, city's corridor development project is totally transforming the previous landscape of the city and Addis Ababa is on the right track to reclaiming its proper name- New Flower.

Fitsum Hailu, is a resident of Addis Ababa and a merchant in Arat kilo area. When asked by The Ethiopian Herald about his observation concerning the corridor development program and Addis Ababa's new look, he expressed his feeling with excitement.

"There was no time where I thought Arat kilo or Piassa would get this new look. I never expected the corridor development scheme to recreate Addis Ababa. When the government took the initiative to bring about radical change in the City, I was suspicious about its success. This is especially true when I heard the project would take a few months. However, my suspicion is disproved by all the radical changes that are now visible in the two areas. Every day is becoming a new day in Piassa and Arat Kilo. All activities undertaken under the corridor development projects are amazing and full of surprises."

Tefera Ayenew, a civil servant, was also approached by this reporter to hear his reflection regarding the progress witnessed in Addis Ababa and all the corridor development projects. According to him,

By doing so and enhancing its aesthetic values, the project has aimed to promote tourism in the historic city – Addis Ababa, ultimately boosting its economic progress

most of Addis Ababa's landscapes were once dominated by an age-old structure, substandard houses, narrow streets for vehicles and pedestrians.

Due to this factor, one can visibly see the contrasting image of Addis Ababa. "Some areas in the city are highly developed, roads and pedestrian pathways are well established to meet the standard of the capital city, and other areas that failed to fit the average standard. However now, I am witnessing Addis Ababa's rebirth with a new identity. All the corridor development activities that are being carried out all over the city are surprising. The dedication of

contractors and the commitment of those individuals engaged in the development project to effectively finalize it on the set time schedule and make it a success is beyond my expectation. Every morning is new in Arat Kilo."

Indeed, all the corridor development activities that are being accomplished in the City are real manifestations of government's dedication to ensure socio-economic and psychological relief of its residents and keeping Addis a vibrant African Capital city.

As indicated by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, the efforts to beautify Addis Ababa will make the City comfortable to its residents and ensure the determination to build a smart city. Premier also added that the progress which is being witnessed on the corridor development has been carried out smoothly and efficiently according to the scheduled plan.

Starting from the first time the corridor development was launched, activities have been carried out in a coordinated manner. In addition to beautifying the City, the project has also created job opportunities for several Ethiopians.

The project focuses on road expansion, including adding more lanes to the existing roads, gentrification and creating connections. When the project is finalized, it will connect various parts of the city, with corridors extending from Piassa to Arat Kilo, Arat Kilo to Bole Bridge, interconnecting Bole Bridge with CMC and Bole Terminal to other key areas. The project also includes upgrading outdated drainage systems and utility networks to improve the standard of the City.

By doing so and enhancing its aesthetic values, the project has aimed to promote tourism in the historic city – Addis Ababa, ultimately boosting its economic progress.

Verbatim and Caption

Ethiopia working to end aid dependency: DPM Temesgen

The Ethiopian Government is taking concerted efforts to put an end to aid dependency. Ethiopia is developing its potential natural resources with to end aid dependency.

A new chapter aimed at enabling every family to have a balanced diet and change their nutrition was opened through the “Bounty of the Basket” (Ye Lemat Tirufat) initiative. In addition to implementing initiatives, numerous forums have been held with the public in regions in order to ensure food sovereignty.

Ethiopia is aiming to realize transformative shit in the agriculture sector and forums were conducted to catalyzing a societal mindset change from aid reliance to self-reliance.

**Temesgen Tiruneh, Deputy Prime Minister
of Ethiopia**



Nation creates over three million jobs in 10 months: MoLS Minister

Ethiopia has created over three million job opportunities during the past ten months of this budget year. The three million jobs were created at national level and abroad in 10 months.

During the ten months of the fiscal year, more than 314,000 Ethiopians have benefited from overseas employment. While, more than 2.7 million job opportunities were created in the country. Accordingly, a total of more than three million job opportunities were created in 10 months of this fiscal year.

Muferiyat Kamil, Minister of Labor and Skills (MoLS)

ICAO confirms Ethiopia's aviation safety: ECAA

After a comprehensive audit, by a team of its experts, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has confirmed Ethiopia's aviation sector is free from any safety issues.

The ICAO audit took place over the course of nine days. The audit involved in-depth assessments across various areas, including inspections at Bole International Airport and other key aviation facilities. It also reviewed the country's legal and regulatory frameworks.

Following the comprehensive assessment, ICAO confirms Ethiopia's aviation sector is secure and free from safety issues. The result of the ICAO audit is a significant accomplishment for Ethiopia's aviation industry.

**Asrat Kejela, Civil Aviation Safety Director and
Coordinator of the Audit Process**



Ethiopia substitutes US\$2B worth import products in 10 months: Minister

Ethiopia has succeeded in substituting 2.2 billion USD worth import products during the past 10 months of this ongoing Ethiopian Fiscal Year. The industry sector has registered 10.1 percent growth.

The Ethiopia Tamirt (Made in Ethiopia) movement has played crucial role for the spurring of the sector. 129 heavy industries have entered operation in the last ten months. With the continued efforts, 2.2 billion USD worth import products were substituted with local products.

**Melaku Alebel, Minister
of Industry**