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PP VP emphasizes Africa, Latin America's broader representation

- Confers with China, Russia ruling parties' officials



BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA –Africa and Latin America should have better representation in international institutions so that their voices can be heard, the Prosperity Party Vice President said.

Ethiopia's ruling Prosperity Party Vice President Adem Farah made the above remark on Sunday at the BRICS countries' political parties' international forum in Vladivostok Russia.

Addressing the gathering, Adem expressed belief that BRICS will help to build a new world order. "Our party understands the potential of BRICS in the international arena, and that the party follows what BRICS is doing."

He explained that the forum will be more helpful for the creation of a multipolar world order.

Adem also called for the creation of financial and economic ties that contribute to the development of economic relations.

On the sidelines of the forum, the Ethiopian delegation met with Liu Jinchao, Minister of International Affairs of the Communist Party of China.

Adem, who is also Head of the Democracy System Building Coordination Center with the Rank of Deputy Prime Minister, stated China is

See PP VP emphasizes .. page 3



Aynalem Nigussie

Gov't toiling to increase domestic resources of Nat'l budget

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA – The government of Ethiopia announced that it is maximizing efforts to improve domestic resource mobilization for the national budget through advancing tax management and trade systems.

Presenting the 100-day work performance of the revenue and trade activities of the government, the Ministries of Revenue, and Trade and Regional Integration announced that they have registered remarkable achievements in

See Gov't toiling .. page 3



Ethiopia amasses 209 mln USD from coffee export in 1 month

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Some 209 million USD was secured from coffee export in a month alone, the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority (ECTA) revealed.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency

See Ethiopia amasses .. page 3

UNGA President lauds Ethiopia's commitment to conflict resolution

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA - The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) President Dennis Francis praised the Ethiopian government's commitment to resolve conflicts through peaceful means, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said.

Foreign Affairs Minister Taye Atske-Selassie and UNGA President Dennis Francis held discussions here yesterday.

MoFA Spokesperson Ambassador Nebiyu Tedla, who attended the meeting, told journalists that President Francis commended Ethiopia's efforts respecting peaceful means to stabilize domestic and regional affairs.

President Francis emphasized the importance

See UNGA Presiden .. page 3



News



Ethiopia, Cuba need to enhance cooperation to address common challenges: Ambassador Nicolás

ADDIS ABABA-The outgoing Cuban Ambassador to Ethiopia, Jorge Lefebre Nicolás, has underscored the need for deeper cooperation between the two nations to tackle their shared obstacles and aspirations.

In a wide-ranging interview he had with ENA, the ambassador reflected on the unbreakable bond forged between Cuba and Ethiopia when Cuban soldiers fought alongside Ethiopian forces to preserve the country's territorial integrity against foreign occupation nearly half a century ago.

This friendship, cemented in blood with 163 Cuban lives lost on Ethiopian soil, has blossomed into a multifaceted partnership over the decades, he said.

As Ethiopia and Cuba prepare to commemorate the 50th anniversary of their diplomatic relations in 2025, Ambassador Nicolás emphasized the importance of leveraging this relationship to confront modern-day challenges.

Key areas identified for potential collaboration include agriculture, healthcare, education, water resource management, and biotechnology.

He stated that agriculture represents a promising avenue, with Cuba offering its four centuries of expertise in the sugar industry to bolster Ethiopia's burgeoning sugar production.

Reciprocally, Ethiopia as a major coffee producer could assist Cuba in increasing its coffee yields and varieties.

In healthcare, the focus in Ethiopia has evolved from addressing physician shortages to enhancing specialization.

In this regard, Cuban experts can train Ethiopian medical professionals in niche fields, while the two nations explore joint biopharmaceutical research and development, building on Cuba's success in developing its own COVID-19 vaccines.

Ambassador Nicolás also highlighted Cuba's island experience in water transfer systems as valuable for improving agricultural productivity in Ethiopia, a water-rich nation.

Recalling educational and cultural exchanges, which have seen over 5,000 Ethiopians study in Cuba historically, he called for strong South-South cooperation through multilateral blocs like BRICS, of which Ethiopia is the newest member, and the G77.

With mutual understanding, the ambassador noted that as Ethiopia and Cuba overcome external pressures and internal obstacles, the half-century bond between the countries could forge an exemplary model of South-South partnership for a more equitable global landscape.

According to him, developing economies can rebalance trade negotiations and financial institutions currently dominated by wealthy Northern nations, if united.

Ambassador Nicolás expressed optimism that the deep people-to-people connections, rooted in Cuba's indelible African heritage, will buoy relations.

While embracing their Latin American identity, Cubans see themselves as an "African country away from the continent" with the island's cultural fabric stitched in African traditions, he elaborated.

Ethiopia to embark on nation-wide voluntarism campaign

• Plans to reach out 50,000 communities

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA –Ethiopia is strengthening efforts to promote national voluntarism engagements and community services for nation building, Ministries said, unveiling plans to benefit about 50,000 people across the country.

The Ministry of Peace, Ministry of Women and Social Affairs and Ministry of Education made the joint press briefing in connection with the summer voluntarism program which is to be held under the theme of "Volunteerism and togetherness for Ethiopia's rise" as of 19 June.

Speaking at the occasion yesterday, MoWSA State Minister Muna Ahmed said that the Ethiopian people in all walks of life have long been carrying out voluntarism programs on regular basis thereby enjoying notable socioeconomic development.

Since recently, the government has given prime attention to voluntarism engagements spearheading viable initiatives by identifying thematic areas including green legacy, house renovation, health, education among many other, she underscored.

"It is also critical to streamline structural cooperation's to push the initiative forward to develop attachments, social cohesion and garner sense of common ownership. Also, it is an ideal platform to discharge social corporate responsibility and tailor untapped blessings for nation building."

To streamline the program, she said the ministry has drafted a national voluntarism strategy framework which helps develop patriotism spirit.

On his part, MoP State Minister Keiredin Tezera (PhD) stated that the initiative is an ideal soft power to bridge and address common gaps, revive common values and accelerate national development aspirations.

Keiredin (PhD) added that it is also a critical scope to sustain togetherness, share common values, and solve common problems. To help this, the ministry has designed pillar trainings in areas of national identity.

Since the reform, he has also underlined that the national voluntary community service is contributing a practical role in nation's peace building and strengthen social bond.

In this summer program, close to 40 million volunteers are expected to engage in various voluntarism activities in all walks of life to benefit about 50 million citizens which worth over 21 billion Birr, it was stated.

He emphasized that voluntarism is not a single institutions task; rather, it is everyone's all-weather consolidated effort.

Ministry of Education State Minister Kora Tushune on his part underscored that this national call would be significant to promote knowledge exchange culture and social values, personality building and others.

The ministry has also planned to evolve over 4.3 million high school students and 20,000 university students to engage in border crossing empowerment classes and other community services, Kora underscored.

The national official launching ceremony will be held at Adwa Memorial Museum on June 19, it was learnt.

They called on the media to facilitate the advocacies and create awareness's to the general public.

Authority holds final discussion on draft EV charging directive

• Aims to significant reduction of fuel imports

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – The Petroleum and Energy Authority held discussion with stakeholders on the draft EV (electric vehicles) charging directive outline to collect final inputs to endorsement.

Speaking at the occasion, the Authority's Energy Sector Deputy Director General Mohammed Seid said that they have been working to standardize charging facilities and to determine the electricity supply and related tariffs by endorsing draft EV charging directive.

The government has keen interest to widely engage the private sector in the directive that requires the installments of charging stations and the development of charging facilities.

Mohammed further noted that the new directive outline primarily aimed to leverage fuel stations facilities for electric vehicle charging infrastructure development. Stations can easily integrate EV charging

facilities alongside fuel stations. "Ethiopia allocates some 6.4 billion USD annually to fuel imports and this situation needs to be changed and it is mandatory to replace it by renewable energy."

Currently, the country is importing large number of electrical vehicles and discouraging the importation of fuel-powered vehicles. As a result, these vehicles need energy for mobility. This also requires directive to determine facilities and others. The Authority examined other countries' experiences to develop a new directive. "I hoped that a new directive would be endorsed shortly."

The authority offered a six-month relief for private and public institutions that built charging facilities and stations earlier until the endorsement of the directive. Moreover, the Authority is ready to provide necessary supports.

For his part, GIZ Ethiopian German Energy Cooperation Project Head Samson Tolessa stated that Germany's energy sector de-



carbonization practices would contribute to Ethiopia's aspiration to build green infrastructure. The partnership between the GIZ and the Ethiopian government in the energy sector would strengthen the two countries' holistic cooperation.

According to Samson, Ethiopia has a potential to be regional energy hub in the future. "It requires the proper utilization of the available potential and working together with private sector and stakeholders."

The participants requested the government to extend incentive packages and other supports since they are joining a new sector.

News

Premier Abiy's visit instrumental in Ethio-Korea ties

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA- South Korea's Ambassador to Ethiopia Jung Kang said that Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's recent visit to Seoul will further solidify the deep-rooted relationship between the two nations.

Ambassador Jung Kang emphasized that his country's development cooperation with Ethiopia will continue to be strengthened.

Reflecting on the longstanding and historic Ethiopia–Republic of Korea relations and cooperation in various fields, the ambassador expressed confidence in the continued growth of their partnership.

During his recent visit to Seoul, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed of Ethiopia solidified the deep-rooted relationship between the two nations, further expanding their cooperation

in politics, economy, and development, the Korean diplomat said.

Ambassador Jung Kang underscored that their partnership is expanding into other areas of cooperation as well.

During Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's visit to the Republic of Korea with his delegation, the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding between the Ethiopian Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission and the Republic of Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission.

Additionally, the ambassador recalled the signing of a 1 billion USD financial framework agreement for projects to be implemented in the next four years in Ethiopia. Ambassador Jung Kang expressed his belief that this agreement will elevate



the relationship between the two countries.

Ambassador Jung Kang emphasized that the financial framework agreement signed by the two countries will be instrumental in Ethiopia's efforts to build a resilient economy and ensure prosperity.

He confirmed that he will work closely with the Ethiopian government for the successful implementation of these agreements.

Ethiopia amasses...

(EPA), ECTA Public Relations and Chief Communication Officer Shalemariam Gebremedhin stated that the stated amount was gained from over 43,481 tons of coffee export in last May.

During the past 11 months, over 252,466.98 tone of coffee was exported and the nation has gained 1,208,073,000 USD in return.

Compared with the past three consecutive years, the export performance is said to register upsurge. Besides the emphasis given by the government, the active participation of farmers, suppliers, exporters and other key actors in the coffee sector have contributed to the growing performance.

Highlighting activities that the Authority has been undertaking to enhance productivity and address challenges related to market, Shalemariam noted that promising results have been gained in creating smooth purchasing system.

"The fact that the marketing opportunities have been varied, it has contributed to address the sector's challenges."

The price of more than 80 to 90% of the export coffee is being set by suppliers and exporters. Hence, the direct market linkage created few years back, not only allowed to increase quantity but it had also played vital role in ensuring quality in the coffee sector," the officer stressed.

With regard to expanding market destinations, Shalemariam mentioned that the ECTA has put in place various strategies in sustaining the already existing market destinations as well as exploring new ones. Thus, it has explored new destinations including China, UAE, Taiwan, Japan and Sudan, among others.

Similar efforts have been exerted in maintaining the existing market destinations, promoting Ethiopian coffee through taking part on international exhibitions, as well as in coffee cup of excellence. Moreover, the authority will continue providing follow up and support on coffee exporters and closely work with state bureaus and concerned institutions, he remarked.

PP VP emphasizes Africa, Latin America's...

Ethiopia's strong development ally.

He expressed gratitude for China for its unwavering support in challenges that Ethiopia has faced at various times. "The political friendship between the two countries will continue to be strengthened."

The vice president also thanked the Chinese Communist Party and the government for their support in making Ethiopia's diplomatic effort to become a BRICS member country with a high role in the field of diplomacy.

Ethiopia will work to take its strategic partnership with China to a higher level and invited Chinese Communist Party leaders including Liu Jinchao to visit Ethiopia, he remarked.

Liu Jinchao, on his part, conveyed his congratulatory message to Ethiopia for becoming a BRICS member and stated that

China will continue to strengthen its long-standing relationship and cooperation with Ethiopia.

"Since Ethiopia is the center of the African Union, China has the desire to utilize the former as a gateway in its cooperation with the African continent.

The two countries also expressed desire to strengthen the party-to-party relationship through experience exchange, training programs and capacity building.

"China will work to increase the bilateral relations in terms of trade and investment. The Addis Ababa-Djibouti railway line, which was built with the cooperation of the Belt and Road Initiative, is an example of the robust relations."

Subsequently, Liu Jianchao extended an invitation to the Ethiopian delegation to

participate in the China-Africa Forum, which is scheduled to take place in October 2024.

By the same token, Adem also discussed with Andrey Klimov, Deputy Secretary of the General Assembly of the United Russia Party.

On their discussion, he noted that Ethiopia and Russia will increase their people-to-people and government-to-government level relations. He thanked Russia government and the United Russia Party which are voiced to Ethiopia being member of BRICS+ family, whilst it is a big progress in diplomatic effort.

"There is a need to create enabled environment to export Ethiopian agricultural commodities such as coffee, vegetables, and fruits, sesame, and different cereals to Russia," Adem elaborated.

UNGA President lauds Ethiopia's...

of maintaining the peace established by the agreement that ended the two-year conflict in Northern Ethiopia and praised the government's commitment to implementing this agreement.

President Francis also pledged the UN General Assembly's support for all peaceful initiatives undertaken by the Ethiopian government, the Spokesperson noted.

FM Taye urged the President to advocate for greater inclusivity within UN agencies, including the UN Security Council, stressing that Africa deserves a permanent seat. He noted that Ethiopia's inclusive diplomacy policy aligns with the need for UN reforms that consider the interests of all nations and contemporary developments, *The Ethiopian Herald* learnt.

He also expressed his gratitude to the UN

General Assembly for its contributions to developing countries, particularly in environmental protection, financial and technological aid, debt relief, and other areas supporting sustainable development goals.

Additionally, FM Taye and President Francis discussed regional peace developments, including the conflict in Sudan and security issues in Somalia.

Gov't toiling to increase domestic resources...

developing domestic capacity to boost financial sources of the national budget in modernizing the tax management and trade systems.

On the occasion, Revenue Minister Aynalem Nigussie expressed that Ethiopia records a staggering economic performance in the past 100 days, which implies country's potential to cover its national budget with local capacity.

Over the past 10 months, she said, the ministry has achieved 96 percent execution performance through collecting 425 billion Birr revenue from tax.

Despite the strong performance, the ministry is striving to collect more revenue from tax in the coming year, she added.

According to Aynalem, the Ministry of Revenue,

in close collaboration with stakeholders, has been undertaking various activities to stop contraband.

To this end, the federal and regional security bodies and custom commission have joined hands to control illegal traffic of goods in import-export trade activities, she stated.

She said that her ministry is working extensively to modernize tax management system to properly collect tax revenues and prevent contraband with advanced system and technology.

Similarly, Ethiopia is also advancing the trade and regional integration ministry services which includes implementing legal frameworks poised to modernize and control the trade system, and

fuel supplies.

Trade and Regional Integration Minister Gebremeskel Chala (PhD) stated that the ministry has modernized the trade registration and licensing system thereby citizens could renew their license immediately after paying tax.

On the other hand, he mentioned that the country has implemented a digital fuel solution to modernize the distribution and monitoring of fuel.

In addition, the ministry is smoothly undertaking the gradual elimination of fuel subsidy in a way that doesn't affect cost of living, he noted. The ministry has been carrying out fuel subsidy cut to reduce government expenses.



Gebremeskel Chala

Opinion

Some notes on growth and development of TVETs in Ethiopia

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

Historical records on Ethiopia indicate that the first attempt to introduce technical education in Ethiopia was made by Emperor Tewodros II (1855-1868). He seems to have the conviction that young Ethiopians with technical skills could support European work men who were engaged in the manufacture of mortars at the Gafat Foundry. To that end, he established the first technical school at Gafat in the early 1860s (Bahru, 2002). The establishment of the technical school and the foundry were part and parcel of his modernization program.

However, the turbulent political atmosphere that was prevailing at the time did not allow Tewodros to implement most of his reforms.

The first technical school in Ethiopia was established in 1942 named Addis Ababa Technical School or better known as Tegbare Ed. Students who completed their junior secondary education were admitted to a four year training program. The school was offering training in auto mechanics, carpentry, welding and electricity. Likewise, the Asmara Vocational School came into existence in 1952. Like the Addis Ababa Technical School, it had a four year training program which included forging and welding, auto mechanics, carpentry, electricity and machine shop. (Young and Ross 1965)

Some writers also claim that the history of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Ethiopia dates back to the early 20th century during the reign of Emperor Haile Selassie. The first technical school, known as the Menelik II School, was established in 1908. This period marked the introduction of formal technical education, primarily focused on providing basic technical skills to a limited number of students.

Because of the growing demand for trained manpower in the industrial sector, the Imperial Government of Ethiopia wanted to expand technical education. As a result, in addition to the existing technical schools, in Addis Ababa and Asmara, the government decided to open another technical school in Bahir Dar popularly known as Bahir Dar Policy Technical College which was established in 1963 through the assistance of the former Soviet Union.

Following the Italian occupation (1936-1941), Ethiopia saw renewed efforts to rebuild and expand its education system, including technical and vocational education. Emperor Haile Selassie emphasized education as a key to modernization and national development. During this period, several technical schools and colleges were established, including several institutions.

The Derg regime, which came to power in 1974, placed significant emphasis on vocational training as part of its socialist policies. The government aimed to align education with the needs of the centrally planned economy. Key developments during this period included:

The number of technical and vocational schools increased, with a focus on producing skilled labor for industrial and agricultural

sectors. Efforts were made to reform curricula to better match the skills required by the economy.

With the fall of the Derg regime and the establishment of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in 1991, the government launched extensive reforms across various sectors, including education. Key initiatives and developments in TVET during this period include:

Education and Training Policy (ETP) of 1994: This policy provided a framework for the development of education and training systems in Ethiopia, emphasizing the importance of TVET.

Education Sector Development Programs (ESDPs): These programs, launched in phases since the late 1990s, included significant components dedicated to expanding and improving TVET. The ESDPs aimed to make education and training more responsive to labor market needs.

In the 2000s, Ethiopia implemented a comprehensive TVET strategy, focusing on improving the quality and relevance of vocational education. The strategy included:

Competency-Based Training (CBT): Shifting towards a CBT approach to ensure that training programs align with industry standards and the practical skills needed in the workforce.

Public-Private Partnerships: Encouraging collaboration between TVET institutions and industries to enhance the quality and relevance of training.

The Growth and Transformation Plans (GTP I and II), covering the periods 2010-2015 and 2015-2020 respectively, further emphasized the role of TVET in achieving industrialization and economic growth. These plans aimed to:

Expand TVET Institutions: Increase the number and capacity of TVET institutions across the country.

Improve Quality and Relevance: Enhance the quality of TVET through better training for instructors, updated curricula, and stronger linkages with the private sector.

In recent years, Ethiopia has continued to focus on expanding and improving its TVET system. Key areas of focus include:

Digitalization and Technological Integration: Incorporating digital technologies into TVET programs to prepare students for modern workplaces.

Sustainability and Green Skills: Emphasizing sustainable practices and green skills in training programs to support Ethiopia's environmental goals.

The history of TVET in Ethiopia reflects the country's commitment to developing a skilled workforce to support its economic and social development. From the early technical schools of the early 20th century to the comprehensive reforms of recent decades, TVET has evolved to meet the changing needs of Ethiopia's economy and labor market. The government's ongoing efforts to expand and improve TVET demonstrate its recognition of the critical role that vocational

education plays in national development. Top of Form Bottom of Form

Since the 1990s, Ethiopia has implemented several Education Sector Development Programs (ESDPs), which include significant components dedicated to expanding and improving TVET. These programs have aimed to align vocational training with the labor market demands and national development goals.

In 2008, Ethiopia launched a comprehensive TVET strategy aimed at improving the quality and relevance of vocational education. This strategy emphasized competency-based training and the establishment of industry linkages.

TVET programs have diversified to include a wide range of fields such as agriculture, construction, information technology, manufacturing, and services, ensuring that training is relevant to various sectors of the economy.

The shift towards CBT has been a major reform, ensuring that the training provided aligns with industry standards and equips students with the practical skills required in the workplace.

Efforts have been made to improve the quality of trainers and to develop curricula that reflect the needs of the economy. This includes partnerships with industries to ensure that the training is up-to-date and relevant.

Strengthening linkages between TVET institutions and industries has been a key focus, with various initiatives to promote internships, apprenticeships, and collaborative training programs.

Encouraging private sector participation in TVET has led to the establishment of private training institutions and increased investment in vocational education.

Ensuring consistent quality across all TVET institutions remains a challenge, particularly with the rapid expansion of the sector.

Adequate funding and resources are essential to maintain and improve TVET programs, which can be a constraint in a developing economy.

Continuously aligning TVET programs with the evolving needs of the labor market requires ongoing collaboration and flexibility.

Continued efforts to expand access to TVET, particularly in rural areas, are crucial for inclusive economic development.

Integrating digital technologies into TVET can enhance learning experiences and better prepare students for the modern workforce.

Emphasizing sustainability and green skills in TVET programs can contribute to Ethiopia's environmental goals and create new job opportunities in the green economy.

The growth and development of TVET in Ethiopia reflect the country's commitment to equipping its workforce with the necessary skills for economic development. While significant progress has been made, ongoing efforts are required to address challenges

and harness the full potential of TVET in contributing to Ethiopia's development goals.

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) serves multiple purposes. A key purpose is preparation of youth for work. This takes the form of learning and developing work related skills and mastery of underlying knowledge and scientific principles. Work is broadly defined and therefore refers to both formal employment and self-employment. To support self-employment, TVET curricula often include entrepreneurship training. Related to this is the social reproduction and transformation of occupational and vocational practices.

A related role is continuing professional development. The rapid technological changes demand that workers continuously update their knowledge and skills. Unlike the past where a job could be held for life, it is common place to change vocations several times. TVET enables that flexibility in two ways. One is providing broad based technical knowledge and transversal skills on which different occupations can be based on.

The role of TVET is providing continuing vocational training to workers. In contrast with the industrial paradigm of the old economy, today's global economy lays the onus on the worker to continually reinvent him or her. In the past, workers were assured of a job for life, with full-time employment, clear occupational roles and well established career paths.

This is no longer the case. The knowledge dependent global economy is characterized by rapid changes in technology and related modes of work. Often, workers find themselves declared redundant and out of work. TVET today has the responsibility of re-skilling such workers to enable them find and get back to work. Apart from providing work related education, TVET is also a site for personal development and emancipation. These concerns the development of those personal capacities that relate to realizing one's full potential with regard to paid or self-employment, occupational interests, and life goals outside of work. At the same time TVET seeks to enable individual overcome disadvantages due to circumstances of birth or prior educational experiences.

The total number of TVET colleges in 2018 was 1,672 (of which 670 were public, 952 private and 50 non-governmental organizations). It must be noted that the number of TVET institutions have continued to grow both at federal and regional levels.

TVET programs in the country need to produce highly qualified and skilled young persons to fill in the main pillars of the Ethiopian economy including agriculture, manufacturing industries, mining, health development, IT development and digitalization, tourism and the development of National Green Legacy Initiatives both in rural and urban settings across the country.

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

Editorial

Towards efficient and effective public funds

The Ethiopian government has projected a proof of financial plan of about one trillion birr for the 2024/25 fiscal year showing a 25% increase compared with previous year same period.

Ethiopia has thus allocated the stated budget for running a number of social, economic and other related undertakings and the revenue is highly presumed to be secured from various ways such as tax, donation, grant and loans and the private sector contribution. Especially the latter here is of paramount importance in making great contribution to the effort geared towards making the revenue and expenditure at a relatively symmetry end.

Yes, the government needs to generate sufficient revenue to fund its operations and provide citizens, the general public of course, with efficient and concrete services. Be that as it may, such a positive stride to do so can be a challenging task, particularly when tax revenues are insufficient or unpredictable.

Since the Ethiopian government has faced increasing pressure to do more with less, effective revenue collection and management has to come to the forefront as it will become increasingly important in achieving its goals and serving the needs of citizens.

Here, the role of the public, especially that of the private sector is really untold. Hence, the government needs to embark on encouraging the private sector to be forerunners in paying taxes, genuinely rendering service and bolstering effective revenue management as this approach can help the government identify new revenue sources, optimize existing revenue streams, and minimize wasteful spending.

The government also needs to improve its financial stability by reducing reliance on volatile or unpredictable revenue sources, ensuring that it has had a stable source of income to fund public services, even during times of economic uncertainty or catastrophe. Such a systematic stride can help prevent budget shortfalls and minimize the need for austerity measures or borrowing.

The government also needs to prioritize public expenditure and investments. Since this can be done through analyzing revenue streams and identifying areas of high potential growth, the Ethiopian government is expected to make informed decisions about where to allocate resources. This can help ensure that public funds are used in the most effective and efficient manner and those investments have targeted towards areas that will have the greatest impact on citizens.

As having a well-organized and streamlined financial means would help promote transparency and accountability in administering, the government is expected to make public finances available via transparent portal since citizens can ensure that funds are being used in a responsible and ethical manner. This can help build public trust and confidence in government, which is essential for promoting civic engagement and participation.

Since optimizing pricing and taxation policies is a doable strategy, the government had better do this by carefully analyzing economic activity and market trends, and adjusting pricing and taxation policies accordingly. Such a remarkable trend can help maximize revenue and minimize expenditure.

Of course, the government would gain insights into revenue trends and patterns, and make informed decisions about resource allocation and investment by using advanced scrutiny techniques.

In a nutshell, the government is looking forward to seeing new tax legislation scheduled for enactment in the coming fiscal year so as to boost its revenue. Besides, it is high time for Ethiopia to introduce a new VAT law, new property tax and other related potential sources of revenue next year since such routes will increase government revenue. Besides, entertaining revenue maximizing scheme and expenditure minimizing trends via following cost effective strategies can be regarded as an essential practice for ensuring financial sustainability and reaping long-term success. The government would have ample opportunity to generate sufficient revenue to fund its operations and provide public services, build public trust and confidence by optimizing revenue streams, prioritizing investments and promoting transparency and accountability. Plus the government has to devise possible solutions to make budget deficit leveled, cover development finance by extracting domestic revenue in order to reduce the pressure emanating from low level of revenue.

Opinion

GERD's transformative potential for regional economic integration

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

From the very moment the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) kicked off, Ethiopians at home and abroad has been devotedly playing a part in contributing their share with the intention of making the colossal dam see the light of day.

In this day and age, the dam has turned out to be a unifying power that plays a huge role in bringing the people of Ethiopia residing in the length and breadth of the world skiestogether. Though a lot has been said following the laying of the cornerstone for the dam, the country has been realizing its dreams against all odds and bringing about the envisioned target.

The flagship's project's ability to provide uninterrupted supply of electricity holds tremendous potential in attracting foreign investment for the most part in producing capital intensive industries. The existence of credible power infrastructure can meaningfully boost the attraction of the Nile Basin region for international investors who seek balanced energy sources to sustain their business operations.

In point of fact, motivated by a strong sense of willpower and commitment to their motherland, Ethiopians from all walks of life have enthusiastically unified their role in pressing forward the project, which is the pride of all Ethiopians. On account of the determination of the government the whole loton the topic of the colossal dam is heading in the right direction igniting a sense of unity and harmony among the people of Ethiopia.

It is common knowledge that since the laying of the cornerstone for the construction of the dam Ethiopia has passed through many ups and downs as well as twists and turns.

For the sake of truth, Egypt has never attempted to solve its problem related to Nile peacefully with Ethiopia or any other upper basin nations. Rather it strived to fulfill its interest destabilizing Ethiopia. Since ancient times the issue of the Nile and Ethiopia have been means of solutions to the problems of internal politics in Egypt. In a similar way, today's government of Egypt is politicizing the Nile issue and attempting to cover the face of its people by instigating "water war" against Ethiopia, according to sources.

In the face of oppositions brought by downstream nations, Ethiopia keeps its nose to the grindstone in its pledge to the dam. More often than not these nations make reference to colonial-era pacts that dictate the sharing of water resources from the Nile River utilizing as a basis for their antagonism.

Apart from supplying electric power for the country, the dam can provide power to neighboring nations in the Nile Basin. This concerted energy exchange arrangement can promote closer cross-border relationships, encourage shared reliance, and play a part in inclusive progress in the region.

In the face of discordances coming from the downstream nations under the veil of the colonial agreements on the water share of the River Nile, Ethiopia managed to turn the historical injustice through the launching of the torchbearer project.

In spite of the fact that Ethiopia around the clock jumped through hoops with the purpose of making the international community conversant

with the fact that the dam connects millions of Ethiopians to the power grid without making any significant harm happen, the downstream nations had been baffling the worldwide community with cock and bull stories.

Egypt must work hard to reduce wastage of water by evaporation from the dams, artificial lakes, canals and other related aspects built in the extreme desert aiming at sustaining vague "historic right" than scientific methods and appropriate water management principles.

In a previous interview with local media Aregawi Berhe (PhD) said the construction of the dam has manifested the country's desire to connect the region through electricity and its belief in mutual growth.

The Director-General of the Office of the National Council for the Coordination of Public Participation on the Construction of GERD stated that the mega dam was designed in the way to embrace Ethiopia's neighbors. What's more, the dam is expected to contribute a great share for Ethiopia's regional economic integration vision by generating electricity without disrupting the water share of the Nile low riparian countries.

Once the dam is fully operational, neighboring nations will access electricity at fair price and the situation will transform the region to cooperation and address suspicion. GERD is a game changer project and the people of Ethiopia have built the dam without any foreign support.

In actual fact, the project should be considered as a symbol of regional economic integration in addition to its contribution to Ethiopia's socio-economic development. In this regard, much is expected from scholars and universities to work together in a coordinated manner to the realization of national goals, according to an article.

"The dam plays a very significant role in smoothing the path of economic regional integration in the midst of the Nile Basin nations. One of the key features of the dam is its potential to greatly boost the hydroelectric power generating capacity in the region at the earliest possible juncture."

By putting the power of the flagship project to use, Ethiopia can provide a significant increase to the attainability of electricity possibly modifying the energy curve of the Nile Basin nations. The collective efforts needed to plan, construct, and preserve such a colossal flagship project helps in developing enhanced connections among these nations.

In a similar vein, the dam functions as a stepping stone for dialogue and harmonization allowing them to act in concert towards a shared objective of considerable growth and broader prosperity. In addition to holding the potential to stimulate economic development, the project plays a huge role in attracting foreign investments making smoother industrial development and creating employment opportunities.

The existence of the dam can attract overseas investments to make possible industrial growth and encourage job creation. This economic expansion can give rise to enhanced standards of living for the local populace and provide opportunities for alleviation of poverty. Besides its electricity generation and economic advantageous, the game changer project plays a very significant role in environmental sustainability and plummeting greenhouse gas secretions backing up climate change alleviation endeavors and fostering a climate friendly future.



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Business & Economy

Towards tackling bottlenecks hampering export

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

According to the Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration, currently the export sector faces various challenges and among others the absence of sufficient logistic system, warehouses and congestion in ports.

In addition to these, various criteria and standard for export products introduced by importing countries further hampered the sector activities.

The recently announcement of the European Union new requirement for the entry of Ethiopian agricultural products to the market can be mentioned as the case in point and has been a worrisome phenomenon for Ethiopian exporters.

Some of the sectors which are expected to be impacted if the new criterion fully implemented is the horticulture sector. If the sector failed to fulfill the criterion, the nation might lose the hard currency garnering from the sector.

Worse to these, some exported Ethiopian products after reaching to the European markets deported back because of failure to full fill the criteria and such a situation further aggravate the situation.

To bring the long lasting solution to the bottleneck witnessed in the sector and to mitigate problems that may arise in the future, way outs are forwarded by the stake holders. Some of the forwarded solutions are capacity building of producers and exporters.

In addition, establishing new system which enables to give response to the problems is recommended.

The horticulture sector as mentioned above is repeatedly asked to full fill various requirements and to with stand the challenges, it crafted projects and prepared for its implementation. For the efficient execution, the Ethiopian Flower, Vegetable and Fruits Association recently signed agreement with two international organizations.

Totally 350 thousand Dollars is allocated for the implementation of the project and the main objective of the project is to identify the foreign trade constraints and fill the gaps and in so doing trainings will be provided and knowledge transfer also realized.

During the occasion, the Ethiopian Flower, Vegetable, Fruits Producers and Exporters Association Executive Director Tewodros Zewdie Said that, the objectives of the project is to enable stake holders to full fill the criterion requested by the importing European countries. In addition, helps to coordinate stake holders comprised in the value chain and to perform their job based on knowledge and skills.

The training will be provided with the support of cutting age technology and helps actors engaged in import and export trade in East Africa to conduct their export business in the better way. The training will be provided by Trade Mark Africa Company.

As to Tewodros, though the Ethiopian Horticulture sector is reached to the higher



Ethiopian flower export products

level of performing trade, as compared to the sector potential, the products are not sufficiently produced and exported. Shortage of better skilled producers attributed to the witnessed mal performance. «The horticultural industry needs well trained productive force» said the director and this will be realized through providing better training. He further said that, the shortcomings witnessed in the sector will be resolved through capacity buildings.

When the training begins the flower, vegetable and fruits producers will obtain the trainings in their local areas and issues raised by the importing countries will be discussed and solutions will be forwarded.

Among the criterion required from the horticulture sector which must be full filled are social affairs such as proper administration of workers, utilization of pesticide on farm, handling and utilization of water.

After the trainee discussed the outcome will be utilized as inputs for the implementation of the project and for production and export performance.

The Trade Mark Africa Country Director Ewnetu Taye on his part said that, the project enables the horticulture sector to tackle its problems witnessed in the export business.

It also enables to resolve the problems observed in export standard of the products and fill the technology gaps pervasive in the sector. The technology can identify new working deficiencies and simply notify to the members working in the value chain.

Moreover, it enables to change the manual system conducted in the past in to the new digitized system. Members in their local areas obtain information and capacity building trainings easily through the network system and can boost their production and export.

As mentioned above, the problems of the sector was emanated from lack of working

method and skill problem. Hence, through providing continuous training on production and export to the members of the association realizing knowledge transfer and bringing change will be realized.

In the past, the members of the horticulture association only knew how to produce rather than in what standard the products are produced, what the market demand and this knowledge gap will be bridged through the mentioned project.

According to Ewnetu, the main value of the project is training exporters on how to prepare their export products to the level of the required criterion stipulated by the importing countries and to conduct their export in line with the requirement.

As to him, sometimes some exported products deported back again because of not full filling of the required criterion.

Therefore, the provision of capacity building training to the actors working in the value chain is expected to address the problems.

As to Ewnetu, for the accomplishment of the project 350 thousand Dollars is allocated and the main task of his organization is developing the system, supplying inputs vital for the system and providing training to the members of the association to utilize the system and the technology. The training will be lasted for 6 months and after producing well qualified persons from the members of the association all tasks will be led by the association. As to him, the project will bring a difference in the sector and cited the effectiveness of the system witnessed in the 14 African countries.

He also said that, his organization engaged not only on technology transfer but also in some construction of infrastructure. Particularly in addition to enhancing construction of infrastructure, it participates in the investment activities. His organization accomplished the construction of digital cargo tracking system, electric system and the one stop shot started from Port of

Mombasa located in Kenya stretched to six Eastern African countries. Moreover, it totally changed the one stop shot and could reduce the transaction cost by 300%.

He also said that, in order to reduce the transaction and logistics costs, similar projects are undergoing which enable to connect Ethiopia with Somali land and Ethiopia with Djibouti. Trade Mark Africa started its first project in Kenya and currently it works in 14 projects in various African countries

For the accomplishment of the project in addition to the Trade Mark Africa, the European Union and the French Development Organization allocated money and on its part to support the Ethiopian Flower, Vegetable and Fruits Producers and Exporters association, it agreed to provide more than 8.15 million birr for the accomplishment of the project.

The Ethiopian Flower, Vegetable and Fruit sector is the major foreign currency earner next to Coffee and in 2015 EC budget year, it earned more than 658.3 million Dollars and out of it flower export earned 566 million Dollar.

As it is understood, agriculture is the main stay of the nation Economy and the means of living for more than 85 % of the population.

It also contributed 75 % to the nation export earnings nevertheless, the sector is subsistence, traditional and rain fed in which vulnerable to the extreme weather condition.

The agriculture products are exported in their raw form which intern affects their competency in the world market.

The newly introduced European Union instruction to the agricultural products further compromises the nation foreign currency earning capacity. Therefore, through the mentioned project and by deploying other mechanism protecting the nation export from risk is essential.

In the Sphere of Diplomacy



A deepening tie between the two aisles of the Red Sea

BY EYUEL KIFLU

Ethiopia and Saudi Arabia have been rapidly strengthening their economic and political alliance over the past year. These two nations, positioned on opposite sides of the Red Sea, have historically maintained a cordial yet distant relationship. However, a flurry of high-level visits and landmark agreements signed in 2023 has brought the countries into closer alignment.

In November 2023, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed led an Ethiopian delegation to Saudi Arabia for the inaugural Saudi-Africa Summit. This gathering aimed to enhance political coordination, address regional security threats, promote economic transformation through research and local energy solutions, and boost investment cooperation between the two nations.

During the summit, Ethiopia's Finance Minister Ahmed Shide met with his Saudi counterpart Mohammed Al Jadaan. They discussed Ethiopia's on-going economic reforms, development initiatives, and debt restructuring efforts. The Saudi Finance Minister reaffirmed his government's commitment to supporting Ethiopia's development activities.

Furthermore, Ethiopia and Saudi Arabia signed a ground breaking memorandum of understanding to collaborate in the critical domains of petroleum and energy. This cooperation agreement, signed between the finance ministers, paves the way for joint ventures in oil supply, energy technology transfer, and energy investments.

The growing partnership was further cemented by a recent visit to Riyadh by a high-level Ethiopian delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Temesgen Tirunch and Foreign Minister Teye Atske-Selassie.

Temesgen engaged in a discussion with Prince Faisal Bin Farhan, to explore avenues for deepening the ties between the two nations. During the discussion,

Temesgen asserted Ethiopia's ongoing efforts to enhance collaboration with Saudi Arabia in economic, security, and overseas employment domains.

He underscored the significance of convening a joint commission meeting in the future, formalizing the overseas employment agreement process, and bolstering cooperation in trade and investment.

Furthermore, the Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister emphasized the critical importance of Ethiopia's legitimate pursuit of access to a seaport for regional economic integration. Prince Faisal Bin Farhan commended the progress achieved by Ethiopia under the leadership of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

He highlighted Ethiopia's pivotal role as a bridge and key player in Saudi-African relations, emphasizing the significance of collaborative efforts between the two nations across diverse sectors. Discussions during the visit also delved into regional peace and security, emphasizing the shared commitment to cooperation in fostering peace and stability in the region.

The high-level Ethiopian delegation's visit reportedly coincides with the country's preparations to repatriation of over 70,000 Ethiopian nationals facing challenging circumstances in Saudi Arabia. This repatriation process is set to begin in early April. Many Ethiopians have travelled to Saudi Arabia seeking better economic opportunities, but often face exploitation and deportation.

The two countries have been working to address the issue of undocumented Ethiopian immigrants in Saudi Arabia. Dozens have already been repatriated following bilateral agreements. It's estimated that over 750,000 Ethiopians currently live in Saudi Arabia, many working as domestic workers.

Beyond this the two countries ties are incising in recent years in the area of

agriculture, investment and other. On the beginning of June, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed met with representatives of a high-level investment delegation from Saudi Arabia, concluding their three-day visit to Ethiopia.

Discussions focused on investments in agriculture, housing, and tourism, with a special emphasis on local fertilizer production. The visit by the high-level delegation, comprising 79 investors, resulted from bilateral talks between Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in November 2023 during the Saudi-Africa Summit.

Moreover, Plan and Development Minister Fitsum Assefa (PhD) has called on Saudi businesspeople to invest in Ethiopia and utilize country's lucrative opportunities that have been facilitated to allure Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the past few years of reform period.

During the Ethio-Saudi investment and trade forum, the Minister said that the policy reforms particularly implemented in six economic sectors, including international trade, capital and labour market, and foreign direct investment is making positive changes.

Accordingly, Saudi Arabian investors can engage in various investment areas through exploring business opportunities including tax incentives, she indicated. The visit of Saudi delegation marks a significant milestone in the economic relations between the two countries, Fitsum said, adding that Ethiopia is committed to create more developed investor-friendly environment.

"Ethiopia offers vast opportunities for foreign investors, particularly in manufacturing, agriculture, and other critical sectors," she noted. She highlighted that sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, construction, and real estate are particularly lucrative for foreign

investment.

The importance of the geographical proximity and historical ties between the two nations these factors create a robust foundation for mutual cooperation and benefit, she stated. She also expressed her confidence that the discussions and site visits during the forum would pave the way for increased Saudi investment in Ethiopia.

Chairman of the Federation of Saudi Chamber, Hassan Moejeb on his part expressed his optimism about the potential for enhanced collaboration. "Our trade relationship with Ethiopia has been vibrant for centuries," Moejeb noted.

"I hope we will identify new areas for cooperation following these discussions," he added. Ethiopian Investment Commissioner, Hana Aryaselassie also expressed that the forum represents a strategic effort by Ethiopia to attract foreign investment and bolster economic growth. By opening up its diverse sectors to international investors, Ethiopia aims to leverage its resources and strategic location to become a key investment destination in the region, she stated.

The delegation, comprising about 80 businesses, which led by Chairperson of the Federation of Saudi Chamber, will spend three days here, visiting various tourist destinations and industrial sites within and outside of Addis Ababa to get a comprehensive understanding of the investment landscape in Ethiopia, according to Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Meanwhile, the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations and the Federation of Saudi Chamber have signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at creating collaborative platform. So far, Saudi Arabian companies have initiated 233 projects in Ethiopia that have created a significant number of jobs. The visit of the Saudi delegation represents a strategic effort by Ethiopia to attract foreign investment and drive economic growth.

Pioneering integration in Nile basin region

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

Utilizing natural resources and striving for regional integration is what Ethiopia has been working on for the past years. In regions like the Horn of Africa where everything is changed in a glimpse of an eye, standing in cooperation is the ultimate way for collective growth.

The region is well blessed with regional resources and secures one of the most important geopolitical sites. Such regional advantages must be a way forward for the regional countries to foster their partnership by equally sharing the risks and advantages. Apart from the issues of utilizing the Red Sea and the Gulf of Eden, the Nile River is one of the crucial natural resources that the basin nations have been working on using in better and more equitable ways.

For a century, the longest river in the world, Nile, has mainly been helping the lower riparian nations, Sudan and Egypt. Unfortunately, countries like Ethiopia which contributes around 85% of the Nile water coupled with other upper riparian countries have been by standers when it comes to using the transboundary river for their own national interest.

Colonial agreements among other things shackled nations not to use their natural resources. Ethiopia, the uncolonized nation, cannot stand such pressure from those colonial agreements. The country has been striving for better and equitable utilization of the river as the nation believes that every nation has the freedom to use its natural resources including transboundary rivers.

That is why such a legal framework is needed to exercise the sought-after result of equal usage of the resource. To this point, those Nile Basin nations have crafted the Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA). The CFA outlines principles, rights and obligations for cooperative management and development of the Nile Basin water resources. Rather than quantifying 'equitable rights' or water use allocations, the Treaty intends to establish a framework to "promote integrated management, sustainable development, and harmonious utilization of the water resources of the Basin, as well as their conservation and protection for the benefit of present and future generations".

Accordingly, back in May 14, 2010, four countries namely Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda signed the agreement. In June 2013, Ethiopia became the first country to ratify the agreement. Then, other states including Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda did the same. Such an agreement indeed paves the way to sustainable preservation and utilization of the resource. However, still, the lower riparian countries

The Two-Track process



NILE BASIN INITIATIVE



COOPERATIVE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

made the road difficult for the agreement to be effective.

In many scenarios, Ethiopia shows its firm stands in utilizing its natural resources. The case of Abbay Dam is the best example. The nation proves itself that it only uses its natural resources for its own use and works hard to avoid any harm or complication that may be caused in lower riparian. Ethiopia also committed to work in collaboration in any case related to the Nile River as it is a common resource.

In addition, regional agreements are also vital for the regional integration. In this case, Ethiopia has taken bold steps to foster integrity in the region by involving in many economic peace and security issues. Even in recent times, Ethiopia agreed to connect its neighboring states through electricity. The country has reached an agreement with its neighbors like Kenya to sell electric power at a relatively cheap price. Moves like this shows how committed the government of Ethiopia is when it comes to regional integrity and collective prosperity.

Lately, at the sidelines of the 3rd Annual Forum for Regional Integration and Reasonable Utilization of the Nile (AFRIRUN), Water and Energy State Minister Sultan Wali (Ph.D.) spoke to the media.

As to the minister, Ethiopia remains optimistic about the establishment of the Nile River Basin Commission though the process is delayed. Amidst a growing number of countries ratifying the Cooperation Framework Agreement (CFA), a commission dedicated to Nile water utilization is expected to be formed.

The number of countries that are required to establish the commission is approaching the minimum requirement. Some riparian countries have ratified the Nile River Basin Cooperation Framework Agreement which

was initiated 14 years ago. However, more countries are expected to join the ratification and facilitate the framework's transition to a formal commission, Sultan (Ph.D.) elaborated.

According to him, the commission's establishment is expected to proceed swiftly. The Nile River region, particularly the Horn of Africa, is characterized by diverse and often conflicting interests and Ethiopia believes that regional integration efforts will help address these differences.

"Cooperative water utilization and regional power integration are essential for sustainable development. The cooperation we seek aims to foster regional development. Without equitable water utilization and energy integration, sustainability cannot be achieved."

Ethiopia, as an advocate for regional energy integration, has been supplying electricity to Djibouti for ten years, to Sudan for eight years, and to Kenya for two years. Despite having one of the lowest electricity supply rates for its citizens, the country provides its neighbors with affordable electricity to maintain regional stability rather than for financial gain, the state minister emphasized.

"Ethiopia cannot develop without regional integration and generating hard currency is a secondary goal for us."

He further highlighted that economic development downturns lead to conflicts, and since 1970, global history has shown that electric power consumption correlates with economic health. "Therefore, cooperation in energy infrastructure development and equitable Nile River water utilization is critical."

During Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's (Ph.D.) recent visit to Dodoma, Ethiopia and Tanzania agreed to energy transmission. A similar agreement exists with South Sudan, and a request is also coming from Somalia. "No East African country can overlook Ethiopia's role in the power integration."

Speaking at the opening of the 3rd AFRIRUN, Foreign Affairs State Minister, Misganu Arega reiterated Ethiopia's commitment to expedite the establishment of the Nile Basin Commission.

Welcoming experts and participants of the forum, the Institute of Foreign Affairs, Executive Director Jafar Bediru highlighted the necessity of replacing unconstructive approaches with cooperative agreements for Nile water fair utilization.

The forum, held under the theme 'Shared Resources for Shared Future and Prosperity: Cooperation and Regional Integration through Equitable and Reasonable Utilization of the Nile,' saw participation from experts and government officials from Nile riparian countries.

Ethiopia shows its firm stands in utilizing its natural resources. The case of Abbay Dam is the best example. The nation proves itself that it only uses its natural resources for its own use and works hard to avoid any harm or complication that may be caused in lower riparian

Society

No ego and compromise; In African women inclusion in peace and dialogue

BY MEKDES TAYE (PhD)

In the process of understanding, solving and forecasting on various issues of human interest, theories and principles are needed to frame subjects in a certain way and mirror them scientifically and with common share of knowledge and experience. In this regard Kivunja said, "Theory is a set of assumptions or predictions about something you think will happen based on the existing evidence and that can be tested to see if those outcomes turn out to be true." (2018, p. 46).

On the bases of this justification, African theoreticians suggest perspectives to be applied as frameworks when dealing with gender related issues. Among these approaches Obioma Nnameka (2004) had proposed Nego Feminism as an appropriate philosophy to the field. This theory was scholarly debated and accepted as a frame after the thorough deal and analysis of the socio-cultural, political, economic and religious real background of the peoples' of Africa.

The theory raises concepts to be considered in the tenet of gender equality at all shares. The idea of 'No Ego or No Self and compromise' is among the focused concerns which are identified to be relevant principles in the process of women participation in peace and active dialogue creation.

Since the skeleton of all philosophies of African Feminism is the necessity of cooperation, togetherness, tolerance, negotiation and complementarity of females with males, approaches of African type are made with this umbrella.

The raised models focuses and core clues that this article drew out are sympathy, skill of persuading the man to come to compromise and the willingness of the woman to give up for compromise. These arguments are discussed with reference to the African and Ethiopian practical experiences under.

No ego or no self is the leading perspective that Nnameka believed to be a principle for preserving African women gender equality.

In the context of this theory, the woman should not be selfish or self-centered. The theoretician said that the woman should think and care about others over her own interest. She should show sympathy and prioritize other's needs. The logic is the sympathy of the woman can recall respect, care, concern and sympathy of others back to her even more than her sacrifices. This is a very important experience to be adopted by African women in alleviating the current tensions and grievances between women and men and even across ethnicities and communities for a lasting peace in the continent.

As it is tangibly experienced, the continent is passing through lots of clashes, displacements, frustrations, poverty, sexual violence and many more humiliations. In such critical contexts



including women in institutions, decision making positions and various associations and committees are very significant to address the problem and to solve it meaningfully.

In his opening remark at a conference held once on women and democracy, Antonio G. underlined that "women's leadership and decision making is not a favor to women ... it is essential to peace and progress for all. Women not only have the right to participate meaningfully in efforts to achieve peace but also that peace is more easily reached and lasts longer when women react to the table."

Various studies showed that massive sexual abuses and criminals recording countries of Africa are characterized by male dominated sectors. Nigeria has been portraying gender based violence as a political means by the terrorist, Boko Haram. If women did equally take decision making positions in peace and get included in security related jobs, the thorny will not be and continue to be horrific to such a massive degree.

In Ethiopia, according to Filson Abdulahi, the former Ethiopia's Minister for Women, Children and Youth, the process of conciliation and peace between Oromo and Somali ethnic groups was successful with the active engagement of females and youths at large.

The second relevant point for this article which is taken from the principle of compromise is sympathy. As the theory underlined, African women should be very smart, cautious, contextual and systematic to convince their men to give up their valuable things for the sake of cooperation and a peaceful environment with their women in turn. This principle is highly dependent on the skill of the women. That is her efficacy of understanding, predicting,

and applying the appropriate approaching mechanism is relevant for the success of the process.

Filson Abdulahi was one of the panelists involved in a conference on women leadership in peace and democracy. She was asked to share the county's experience on women's role in the peace making process. She started saying that, "we had an engagement with the government and other political parties regarding women's inclusion. When we ask them 'where are the women' ...they asked us back 'where are the women'." She elaborated the inquiry by showing how her team did take the space for taking the initiative of capacity building for girls and women for taking political positions. She said, "there are trained, educated and skilled women, we, then focused on capacity building. There are energized women who have the potential to take positions in Ethiopia."

Fauziya Abdi Ali, Chair of Sisters without Borders, had also shared other African countries' practices. According to her, to bring peace and increase the participation of women in dialogue, policy formulations and implementations that confirm women inclusion are more needed these days than ever before to tackle tensions in the continent. In addition to that, transformative social construction is the most important factor to be looked at. She showed the data that demonstrate the lowest number of women in positions that work on peace and democracy, which in turn impact the nation negatively -to stay in controversies and underdevelopment.

The third theme that is taken from the theory is the willingness of the woman to leave her own valuable point of view or material to the man for the purpose of cooperation and meaningful

association. Nnameka stresses that in the course of compromise, the woman should be very smart in balancing and judging the future before giving up her values. In doing so, she needs to be patient, a good listener, predictor, and care-giver and see things beyond herself and her current context too. This viewpoint is very important in the process of peace and dialogue to foster development and modern nations on the continent.

When women are included in very sensitive and debatable issues like peace and dialogue, the smartness, activeness and the sympathetic nature of them can contribute more for its success. Since women are more nearer to the society than men, including them did mean enriching the society too. Moreover, their inclusion does show the share of the community by half percent. Women inclusion by itself could not be the only measure. Because of patriarchy and untransformed sociocultural reality, women could be frustrated to express their inside openly. They could fear to avail themselves on those hot issues. The two above mentioned women leaders were asked how fear could be avoided and women can come to dialogue.

Fauziya explained her reflections based on the analysis she had made in some Horn of African countries. Mentioning that the social contract itself has a problem she said "but we can use the problem as an opportunity. For example, there is a saying that 'weal up for peace not for conflict.' Such values can help to create peace." As to her, women could fear to express their mind because of weak institutions; security problems and then, social exclusions will follow their words. But, she advises, to take up the fears, saying that women should understand their rights and obligations clearly. She asks the social contract to be in line with her rights. Second, the woman is responsible for the betterment of her future life. Better life is possible when she participates actively on such issues. The third one she underlined is the importance of collective transformation.

Filson also shared her experience of Ethiopia as sharing ideas and participating accordingly is very important. In the process of peacemaking, speaking out for negotiation is very important because she said 'being muted kills oneself inside' thus; for successful dialogue and peaceful destiny, women need to be good at listening and respecting others' values and react in a way benefitting the mass.

The closing is African women and men interaction is a very typical aspect that should be approached as per its own nature. Men are not rivals. Women are not created to serve too. The continent has valuable assets, cultures, religions and a certain type of interactions which are dependent on respect and value. Thus, we can use this as an opportunity to solve our tensions and poverty through committed policies and implementation. The inclusion of women should not be the only concern of females but the assignment of males too for inclusive and pertinent transformation and prosperity that we are about.

International News

Kenya: Govt announces compulsory customer service training for all public servants

Nairobi - Head of Public Service, Felix Koskei has announced a compulsory customer service training for all public servants.

Speaking at the Kenya School of Government (KSG), Koskei said this training aims to transform public service delivery by embedding a culture of accountability and excellence.

Koskei noted that the training will improve service delivery and increase productivity in government institutions, highlighting how Huduma Centers across the country offer the best services to their customers as opposed to other government entities.

“Every institution and ministry must ensure their staff are undertaking this training to ensure the Huduma Kenya standardized service is shared across all public servants,” he said.

Public Service Cabinet Secretary Moses Kuria who was also in attendance, noted that this partnership will extend the Huduma ‘DNA’ to other public service sector.

“This collaboration is going to take the Huduma service DNA into the rest of the public service, since it is doing well with standardized customer service,” he said.

“It is time we extend that to the rest of the Government,” he added.

KSG chairperson Charles Nyachae termed this training as a way of breaking barriers to enhance better public service through revolutionisation of service delivery.

Source: Capital FM.



Former South African leader Zuma's party says it will join opposition in parliament

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa's uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK) party will join an alliance of smaller opposition parties in parliament in a bid to take on the African National Congress and Democratic Alliance-led coalition government, it said on Sunday.

The ANC and its largest rival, the white-led, pro-business Democratic Alliance, agreed on Friday to work together in a coalition it called “government of national unity,” a step change after 30 years of ANC rule.

Former President Jacob Zuma's uMkhonto we Sizwe party came in a surprisingly strong third in the May 29 election which saw the ANC lose its majority. MK won 14.6% of the vote, which translated into 58 seats in the 400-seat National Assembly.

However, MK lawmakers boycotted the first

sitting of the National Assembly on Friday after filing a complaint at the country's top court alleging vote-rigging, which the court dismissed as without merit.

Reading a statement on behalf of Zuma, spokesperson Nhlamulo Ndhlela told reporters that the MK party will join the alliance called the “Progressive Caucus,” which includes the Marxist Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) and the center-left United Democratic Movement.

This alliance commands close to 30% of the seats in the National Assembly, Ndhlela said, sitting next to Zuma - who had a cough but answered questions after the statement - and the leaders of a number of small parties.

“This united effort is necessary because the 2024 election has also resulted in the consolidation of right-wing and reactionary

forces who are opposed to economic freedom, radical economic transformation, racial equality and land repossession,” he said.

Ndhlela said that MK had decided to take up its seats in the National Assembly after receiving legal advice and that it would continue to raise its allegations of a rigged election in parliament and in courts.

The Independent Electoral Commission has said the election was free and fair.

Zuma also slammed the unity government -- which includes two smaller parties, the socially conservative Inkatha Freedom Party and the right-wing Patriotic Alliance -- calling it “meaningless” and a “white-led unholy alliance.”

Source: VOA

EAC States bank on agriculture to expand exports, grow economies

Agriculture has taken precedence in East African Community (EAC) countries' 2024-25 budgets with the nations seeking to maximise on the fairly good weather and previous expansion of the sectors.

Modernising the sector through manufacturing and value addition besides allocations to facilitate access to affordable fertiliser are some of the areas of priority in the sector.

Uganda, which exports a lot of agricultural products among them milk and eggs to Kenya, in the financial year 2024-25, allocated Sh64.4 billion (Ush1.878 trillion) to deepen agro-industrialisation with an increased focus on commercialisation and value addition.

“This is attributed to streamlined implementation of the Parish Development Model (PDM); and fairly good weather conditions,” said MrKasajja. The Minister

noted that the share of credit to agriculture increased to 11.3 per cent by April 2024 compared to 11.1 per cent by April 2023.

Agriculture was also key in Kenya's 5.6 per cent growth in 2023 an improvement from 4.9 per cent the previous year. Due to improved weather conditions substituted by the Government's fertiliser subsidy program, the sector improved from negative growth in 2022 of -2.3 per cent to 7.0 per cent in 2023. In response, National Treasury Cabinet Secretary Prof NjugunaNdung'u announced a Sh10 billion allocation for the fertiliser subsidy programme with the sector getting sh54 billion in total in the coming financial year.

Like Kenya, Rwanda also plans to make fertiliser and seeds available to farmers at affordable prices in the 2024-25 budget.

DrUzzielNdagijimana, Rwanda's Minister of Finance, highlighted agriculture as a key

sector in the country's economic pillar. He projected the economy to grow at 6.6 and 6.5 per cent in 2024 and 2025.

“The domestic front, our economy's performance could be affected by bad weather conditions affecting agriculture production and disasters. On the external side, our economy could be affected by the pandemic and global conflicts,” he said detailing the headwinds the economy anticipates. The economic pillar where agriculture falls has been allocated Sh332.5 billion (FRW 3,393.6 billion).

The sector is projected to grow at five per cent in 2024 down from 1.7 per cent in 2023.

Some of the interventions outlined to effect this growth include: availing affordable inputs (seeds and fertilisers) on time, increasing crop climate resilience, scaling up animal and crop insurance, and facilitating access to agriculture credit.

Rwanda's budget for the 2024/25 financial year stands at sh557.4 billion (FRW 5,690.1 billion).

Tanzania Minister for Finance DrMwiguluLameck noted in his budget speech that due to the fiscal measures put in place, there has been a slight growth in the number of loans issued in the private sector to 17 per cent in the first quarter of 2024.

“A large number of these loans were issued in the agricultural sector, mining, and logistics,” he said.

He said Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank plans to grow its revenue to Sh2.8 billion (Tsh56.54 billion) targeting a profit before tax of Sh1.02 billion (Tsh20.83 billion) in 2024 compared to Sh923.8 million (Tsh18.79 billion) in 2023.

Source : The East African

Planet Earth

Electric transport reduces dependence on imported fuels

BY STAFF REPORTER

Ethiopia can play a balancing role in the region by establishing an electric power system interconnection with neighboring countries. The country boasts substantial renewable energy potential, with an estimated 45 gigawatts from hydropower, and a combined potential capacity of 15 gigawatts from wind and geothermal sources. Ethiopia is making significant strides in the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) and clean energy, with a series of initiatives and incentives driving this transition, as analyzed by CleanTechnica, the world's leading source for cleantech news and analysis.

Ethiopia has an exceptionally low motorization rate, with a population of 126 million people and only around 1.2 million vehicles registered in the country. Reports and announcements from the Ethiopian government suggest a plan to catalyze the adoption of electric vehicles with a target of 148,000 electric cars and close to 50,000 electric buses on Ethiopia's roads by 2030. The Ministry of Transport and Logistics recently reported that the target of over 100,000 electric vehicles had already been met in just the first two years of the plan.

Due to this progress, the target has been increased to close to 500,000 in the 10-year period.

In just two years, locally assembled EVs and imported EVs have added almost 10% to Ethiopia's current total ICE vehicle registrations. With the aim of displacing a significant number of ICE models, the Ethiopian government is pushing for restrictions on all ICE vehicle imports, aiming to save over \$5 billion USD annually spent on petrol and diesel imports.

Ethiopia's Ministry of Finance has introduced incentives to promote the adoption of electric vehicles, including exemptions from VAT, surtax, and excise tax for all electric vehicles.

This move has encouraged local assembly and component manufacturing sectors for electric vehicles. Additionally, customs duty taxes have been adjusted to further support the growth of the electric vehicle market in Ethiopia.

The transition to electric vehicles in Ethiopia is expected to continue, with a focus on sustainable renewable energy development and green growth. The country's commitment to renewable energy, particularly in the hydro sector, positions it as a leader in mobilizing finance, engaging the private sector, and developing skills for sustainable renewable energy development. Ethiopia's cooperation with APRA and its inclusive approach are commendable, setting an example for other African countries to follow.



Reports and announcements from the Ethiopian government suggest a plan to catalyze the adoption of electric vehicles with a target of 148,000 electric cars and close to 50,000 electric buses on Ethiopia's roads by 2030

Efforts to expand electric transport in Ethiopia align with the goal of reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels. The Ministry of Transport and Logistics aims to have 148,000 electric automobiles and 4,850 electric buses in Ethiopia by 2030, despite challenges such as higher vehicle costs and charging infrastructure shortages.

Ethiopia's low grid tariff and clean hydropower sources make EV charging from the grid a viable option, but improvements in transmission and distribution systems are needed for successful implementation.

In both urban and rural areas, the electrification of transport presents opportunities for cost savings and environmental benefits. Planning for public charging infrastructure and integrating it with urban development is crucial for a sustainable transition to electric transport. Ethiopia's focus on electric transport and renewable energy sources will contribute to filling the country's growing demand for electricity, further enhancing its energy independence and sustainability.

Safiatou Alzouma is a head of the Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa (APRA) Secretariat. She emphasized the importance of aligning national priorities and frameworks of African countries to ensure that initiatives are both relevant and

sustainable in the long term.

APRA's engagement involves country consultations and the development of national action plans to expedite the journey towards ambitious renewable energy development and green growth.

Ethiopia is rich in renewable energy resources, including hydro, wind, geothermal, solar, and biomass. Alzouma commended Ethiopia's cooperation with APRA and its holistic and inclusive approach, noting that Ethiopia, along with Kenya, Ghana, Namibia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and Zimbabwe, can lead the way in mobilizing finance, engaging the private sector, and developing skills for sustainable renewable energy development.

Ethiopia's commitment to renewable energy is evident, particularly in the hydro sector, which accounts for over 90% of the country's power mix. Alzouma highlighted Ethiopia's interconnections with neighboring countries like Kenya and Djibouti, which can help balance the intermittence of renewable energy sources.

The Ministry of Water and Energy reported that Ethiopia is supplying energy to neighboring countries such as Sudan, Djibouti, and Kenya.

In Addis Ababa, the majority of the population relies on walking and public transport, with only 15% using private vehicles. The focus on mobility solutions should prioritize those without adequate transportation access, aiming for efficient and sustainable urban planning.

Ethiopia's interest in electric transport aligns with the goal of reducing dependence

on imported fossil fuels. The Ministry of Transport and Logistics aims to have 148,000 electric automobiles and 4,850 electric buses in Ethiopia by 2030. Despite challenges such as higher vehicle costs and charging infrastructure shortages, the transition to battery electric vehicles (BEVs) offers significant efficiency improvements and environmental benefits.

Ethiopia's low grid tariff and clean hydropower sources make EV charging from the grid a viable option for decarbonizing the transport sector. However, challenges remain in the transmission and distribution systems, especially in urban areas like Addis Ababa where public charging infrastructure is limited. Planning for multiple charging outlets and integrating them with urban infrastructure is crucial for the successful implementation of electric transport.

In rural areas, electric motorcycles and bicycles present a lower barrier to electrified transport, with significant fuel cost savings. The electrification strategy will vary between rural and urban settings, with a phased approach needed for a sustainable transition. Planning for public fast charging stations and ensuring reliable grid supply are essential steps towards achieving a more sustainable transport system in Ethiopia.

Ethiopia has been producing electric power from its renewable energy sources. The hydro electric projects like Grand Renaissance Dam will bring hard currency for the country. The innovation of electric car is also a window of opportunity for the country to further enhance alternative electric power sources so as to fill the required electric demand.