



The Ethiopian Herald

Vol LXXX No 242 19 June 2024 - Sene 12, 2016

Wednesday

Price Birr 10.00



Eyasu Elias (Prof.)

Ethiopia's Green Legacy boosts agri'l production: MoA

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

ADDIS ABABA— The Green Legacy Initiative that has been implemented in the last five years enabled Ethiopia to increase agricultural productivity in addition to preserving natural resources, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) said.

The ministry also stated that Ethiopia's leading position in Africa's fruit export is also attributed to the initiative that has been undertaken under the slogan "Let's Adorn Ethiopia."

MoA State Minister Eyasu Elias (Prof.) told *The Ethiopian Herald*

See Ethiopia's ... page 3

Office foresees media's unique role to Abbay Dam execution

• *Iconic project reaches 96 percent completion*

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA - Media should keep on playing its irreplaceable role in mobilizing the public's participation in the Abbay Dam's critical completion tasks, the coordinating office said.

Office of the National Council for the Coordination of Public Participation on the Construction of Abbay Dam held a consultative meeting with media professionals on ways to join efforts to the execution of the mega dam under the theme "We made it possible in unison."

Speaking at the occasion, Office Director-General Aregawi Berhe (PhD) stated that the national flagship project is the new chapter for the emergence of fresh, free and resilient economic development.

See Office foresees ... page 3



EU awards Erasmus+ Masters scholarship for 48 Ethiopian students

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDISABABA- The European Union (EU) announced that it has awarded full Masters Scholarship to 48 Ethiopian students for the academic year of 2024-2025 through its

See EU awards ... page 3

COMESA promotes gender equality in aviation industry

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA-The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) made a call to regional aviation actors to mainstream gender equality in their tasks.

COMESA conducted a workshop on gender equality and available career opportunities for women in the aviation sector yesterday.

Approached by Ethiopian Press Agency, COMESA Gender and Social Affairs Director General Hamusonde Beatrice Simwapenga said that women are predominantly engaged in the aviation industry as hostesses and in other mid and junior-level careers, but are not

represented well in higher positions.

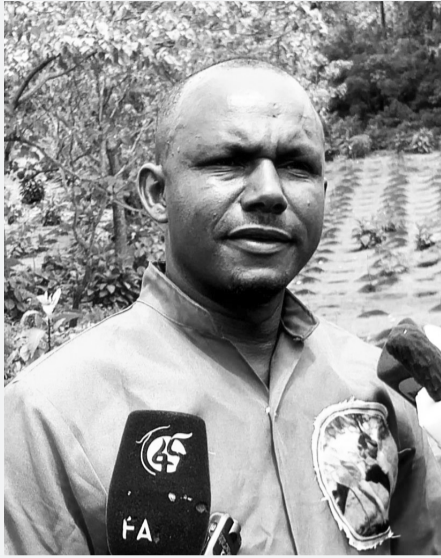
Despite some progress, women are not well represented in higher positions in the aviation sector. Gender is a serious agenda



in all sectors and aviation is also one of the areas that COMESA needs to see gender equality, the director general emphasized.

See COMESA promotes ... page 3

News



Gemechu Gurmesa

Kellem Wollega turns face to dev't activities

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA - After settling down security problems that have been witnessed in the past nine years, Kellem Wollega is undertaking agricultural, infrastructural and investment activities, Zone's Chief Administrator said.

Kellem Wollega Zone Chief Administrator Gemechu Gurmesa stated that his office is striving to achieve economic progress that had been paused for the past nine years for security reasons.

He said that the zone administration is conducting urban and rural development works to increase productivity and extra efforts will be exerted to utilize the abundant water and land resources to achieve economic progress.

According to him, the zone has more than 467 thousand of hectare land coffee plant and 367 thousand hectares of additional farmland is being prepared this year.

Gemechu recalled that 197 million coffee trees were planted in 2023/24 fiscal year to increase production and additional 378 million coffee saplings are being planted in the zone.

He further stated that over 150,000 quintals of fertilizer was distributed to 50 percent of famers reside in the zone, and over 4,000 quintals of selected seed has also been supplied.

In addition, the zone is also endeavoring to achieve progress in livestock, dairy and poultry production, he added.

According to Gemechu, Kellem Wollega has experienced security and development challenges since 2015 until peace restored by the joint efforts of the federal and the regional government security bodies.

Institute underscores green economy significance

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA-The Federal Training and Vocation Institute revealed that encouraging environmentally friendly approach in conjugation with green skills would help realize sustainable future and ensure resilience green economy.

The Institute organized a half day discussion forum yesterday under the theme "Green Skills for Green Jobs" in collaboration with GIZ, and forum aims at equipping the Ethiopian workforce with the green skills needed for a sustainable future.

Speaking at the outset of the forum, Institute Director General Biruk Kider (PhD) said that applying the concept of green skills in the technical and vocational sector will help build a responsible society and a green economy.

According to the Director General, Ethiopia has attached due emphasis to green economy for protecting environment. That is why the reformist government gives due attention to environmental protection even to the extent of substituting the fuel consumption vehicle to electric power consumption.

As to him, expanding the tourism attraction sites attests how the country gives due emphasis to green economy, but lack of



Biruk Kider (PhD)

skilled human power has been hindering the effort to realize country's ambition.

"Ethiopia needs to draw important lessons from German, Finland, China, and Singapore with regard to producing proficient human power in green aspect. In a similar manner, stakeholders' integration would bridge skilled human power," he advised.

Presenting an initial discussion paper under the theme "Green analysis Policy Economic sub sectors and occupational standards" GIZ Green Skills Advisor Michael Aserat on his part said that Ethiopia is working hard in realizing green development.



Michael Aserat

He also noted that the country has signed international policies such as Paris declaration being part of solution in tackling climate change. The nation has also strived to ensure sustainable development goals (SDGs) 2030. It is also the pathway to bring a strategy called climate resilience green economy.

"We have been working hard to realize the ten years prosperity development plan in various sectors that would bring green economy, create jobs, and reduce wastage. For instance, cutting emission by 89 million tone, creating 3.6 million tourism jobs, and boost power from 4,478Megawatt to 19,900 megawatt are listed out," he noted.

Photo: from Hadash

MoH seeks CSOS' active role to end cervical cancer by 2030

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Civil Society Organizations (CSOS) like Mathiwos Wondu-Ye Ethiopia Cancer Society (MWECS) has immense contribution to support the global goal of putting an end to cervical cancer by 2030, the Ministry of Health (MoH) said.

The MWECS celebrated the 20 years founding anniversary through various activities yesterday.

MoH Disease Prevention and Control Directorate Lead Executive Officer Hiwot Solomon (MD) stated on the occasion that the ministry in partnership with MWECS, have been undertaking several activities in fighting against non-communicable disease particularly cancer.

Apart from providing financial and psychosocial support, MWECS has implemented over nine projects in concert with the MoH, Black Lion Hospital and other centers.

Hiwot(MD) further noted that the Non Communicable Disease (NDC) has been recent agenda in the country while the negative impact it has put on the socioeconomic aspects of low and middle income countries becoming devastating.

To this end, she stressed that MWECS needs to be recognized in paving the way in the implementation of policies and strategies that MoH formulates on NDC.

"For the past eight years, the Ministry, besides formulating policies and strategies, has also put effort in ensuring the expansion of cancer treatment centers, making the service accessible in different hospitals as well as enhancing health extension to reach more societies at all levels. "

She also highlighted activities that have been carried out in informing the society regarding implementing healthy and modern life style



while avoiding unhealthy foods.

The ongoing activities regarding alcohol, intake of salt and sugar are worth mentioning and the MWECS has immense contribution and has remained one of the concerned bodies in this regard, as to her.

The officer pointed out that Chemotherapy treatment which has been offered in Black Lion Hospital, is being delivered in four centers in the country, and activities are underway to increase the centers to seven.

Despite the inaccessibility of the treatment centers in the nation, the vaccination that is being given to high school girls would play a major role in meeting the goal of ending cervical cancer by 2030.

"Nonetheless, the efforts of government and health centers by itself are inadequate. Thus, societies including the MWECS have huge role to play in filling the gap, "Hiwot (MD) stressed.

Founder and CEO of the MWECS, Wondu Bekele on his part stated that they have been working on cancer as well as non-communicable

disease for the past 20 years. The society has been providing cancer patients with different supports such as covering the full expense of bed, food, transport and counseling of Pongasile Patients Centers that accommodate more than 30 patients.

Moreover, it has been covering the transportation fee of patients residing in states, purchasing expensive medicines, as well as covering laboratories expense and offering monthly pocket money for student patients and inpatients.

The Founder further highlighted activities that the society has been carrying out with the MoH. Of which, National Cancer Control Plan, Tobacco control plan, Inclusive health coverage and non-communicable diseases reports are among others.

For its outstanding performance, the society has been awarded five international and two national prizes, Wondu indicated.

During the event, the MWECS recognized various institutions and individuals that have contributed to the cancer cause.

News

Multi-sectoral economic approach key to overcome dependency: Officials

ADDIS ABABA (ENA)- Ethiopia's multi-sectoral economic approach is supporting the nation's ambition to overcome dependency, high-level government officials noted.

Trade and Regional Integration Minister Gebremeskel Chala (PhD) and Finance State Minister Eyob Tekalign (PhD) had an exclusive interview with the Ethiopian News Agency.

According to the Trade and Regional Integration Minister Gebremeskel Chala, successful measures have been taken to improve the economy by introducing the Homegrown Economic Reform.

He noted that Ethiopia has witnessed concrete achievements in recent years mainly due to the multi-sectoral economic approach.

Changing the previous narrowly framed economic approach played crucial role for the achievement, the minister added.

Gebremeskel revealed that the multi-sectoral economic approach has enabled the country to register productive achievements, mainly in agriculture, mining, tourism, industry, and ICT.

The per capital income of citizens has doubled from the previous 800 USD before the reform, the trade and regional integration minister stated, adding that the economic growth of Ethiopia has therefore been internationally recognized.

Finance State Minister Eyob Tekalign said the national reform has fundamentally changed Ethiopia's economy.

The economic growth registered under the ongoing reform has in particular helped to align the country's development potential with citizens' demand, he added.

Citing the country's vision to see Ethiopians becoming examples of change, the state



Gebremeskel Chala (PhD)

minister pointed out that activities are underway to ensure national development by creating better living conditions at the family level.

Eyob further stressed the need to tackle aid-dependency, adding that activities have been

carried out for citizens to properly respond to their livelihood and provide for others in a sustainable manner.

For the state minister, the opening up of wholesale and retail export-import trades for competition will have a huge role in stimulating competitiveness in the market and the country's overall economic growth.

According to him, the government also realizes the essential role of startups in the effort to move from aid-dependency to productivity by providing special support to youth creativity and skill development.

The two high-level government officials furthermore emphasized the significant role of citizens to end aid-dependency.

Finally, the officials stressed the need for Ethiopians to support the successful developmental leadership role of the government to overcome dependency.

Office foresees media's...

Citing most of vicious circles of poverty, conflicts and extremism arising from unfair resource distribution, Aregawi (PhD) elucidated that it is critical to insist on promoting self-development endeavors to get out of the shackle of economic dependency.

During the event, it was also mentioned that the project's surrounding development, the functionality of 13 turbines, reaching out remote communities and environmental conservations and tackling sedimentations are the core remaining focus areas.

According to the director-general, the total project stage reaches 96% and the remaining critical stage requires about 45 billion Birr.

"Abbay Dam, as it was described as 'The second Adwa Victory,' is a turning point to leverage own resources, expedite economy and get rid of external socio economic dependency."

It is also significant to document and transcend the entire process of the project, which encounters many internal and external diplomatic pressures to the next generation," he emphasized

It was learnt that Ethiopia contributes about 86.5 and 14.5 percent of water to the upper and lower riparian countries in which they are cultivating for agriculture, industrial expansion and electric export.

Abbay Dam Project Senior Expert Alebachew Sisay on his part stated that the grand project is a testament of unity and common assets.

Thus far, the Diaspora community and diplomats have been mobilizing resources, and they have been engaged in advocacy, bond sale and other fundraising activities by streamlining holistic initiatives.

"Apart from building national image, it would be of significant virtues for

tourist attraction, ensure food security, biodiversity, fishery, local and international tourism destination."

In the same vein, Alebachew stated that it would also enhance power diversification and sale, reduce carbon emission, improve job creation, ensure green economy, infrastructure development and promote sound diplomatic gains.

During the panel, issues related to the project's holistic socioeconomic virtues, its historical backgrounds, Ethiopia's immense role for fair, equitable and mutual benefit to riparian countries and the media's immense role were extensively deliberated.

Praising the profound contributions of media in the public diplomacy engagements since the foundation of the Dam, the participants called on the general public to extend their unwavering support till the completion of the iconic project.

EU awards Erasmus+...

flagship education initiative, Erasmus+ European Scholarship Program.

In a press statement sent to *The Ethiopian Herald*, the EU noted that the students will spend two years full time in prestigious European Universities and will be studying at various higher institutions in 12 European countries. The Master's degrees are offered by university consortia, including universities from at least two EU Member States.

The Erasmus+ program aims to enhance quality in higher education through scholarships and academic co-operation between the EU and the rest of the world. Ethiopia is one of the top beneficiary countries of the Erasmus program.

According to the press statement, since 2004, Ethiopia is one of the top 10 performing countries in the world, and amongst the top five in Africa both in terms of student selection and application in the Erasmus Scholarship program. Since 2010, the EU has awarded the Erasmus scholarship to more than 600 Ethiopian students.

EU Ambassador to Ethiopia, Roland Kobia said: "The Erasmus+ European scholarships highly contribute to the country's human development effort in higher education. The program offers a lifetime opportunity for young Ethiopian students to pursue their studies at the highest level, to learn more about European cultures, languages, academic systems and, not least, people at some of the best Universities in Europe.

Apart from improving the student's expertise, the scholarships are also meant to enrich their life experiences, help create mutual understanding and openness between people and cultures. We hope that these scholarships will help these students to excel and that they will return to Ethiopia with enhanced skills and knowledge useful for the country and themselves, as well as with fond memories of Europe," Ambassador Kobia remarked.

COMESA promotes gender...

"We need to promote women to have equal share in the aviation industry. Of course, we are seeing developments and women are being pilots and co-pilots. For example, the Ethiopian Airlines has female pilots which are exemplary to other carriers."

"The aviation sector has various career opportunities. So, women can aspire to be pilots, engineers," she added.

COMESA has initiatives to promote gender equality and women's empowerment and it has a platform to discuss the agenda with high-level governmental entities and aviation sector stakeholders.

The Ministry of Women and Social Affairs Women's Empowerment Chief Executive Officer Ashenafi Feyissa also stressed that gender parity in the aviation industry requires consolidated efforts of penitent

actors.

The call to action underscores the necessity of creating more opportunity for women across all areas of the industry, from piloting and engineering to leadership and decision-making roles. Women empowerment in the aviation sector is not just a matter of equity; it is also about harnessing the full potential of human resources to drive innovation and excellence, Ashenafi remarked.

Ethiopia's Green...

that poor utilization of land, water, and human resources had been hampering the country from ensuring its food security. "This poor agricultural performance has made Ethiopia and other developing countries vulnerable to frequent droughts in the past 10 to 15 years."

The state minister, noted, however that Ethiopia's political reform that began in the middle of 2018 has helped it to take drastic measures in natural resource development including covering stripped and degraded lands. The political reform also paved the way for extensive afforestation, and soil and environmental protection work, with quality and

speed.

Prof. Eyasu believed that these activities have paid off the nation by boosting agricultural productivity and increasing its share in the macroeconomy.

More importantly, the Ethiopian Green Legacy Initiative is critical for enabling the country to plant 32.5 billion saplings in the last five years, he said, adding that 60 percent of the seedlings are agroforestry plants cultivated in farmers' backyards.

"Farmers who planted seedlings in their backyards have begun producing and exporting fruits which makes Ethiopia the leading exporter in Africa.

Similarly, the initiative has also enabled Ethiopia to become the second-largest avocado exporter in Africa next only to Kenya."

According to the state minister, 35 percent of Ethiopia's seedlings had been planted to prevent floods, land degradation, soil erosion among others. This will support the country's agriculture sector to yield the expected result and withstanding climate change.

On the other hand, five percent of the saplings planted in cities over the past five years were selected for their ornamental purposes, as well as preventing climate change.

Prof. Eyasu further highlighted that over 6.5 billion saplings have been prepared in 123,000 nurseries to turn Ethiopia green through the nationwide rollout of the Green Legacy Initiative program.

As a result, those who farm during the autumn have begun planting saplings, while others have finished preparation for the program during watershed development activities in January and February.

Combining natural protection and preservation activities with watershed management is critical to supporting the agriculture sector in a sustainable manner across the country, the state minister emphasized.

Opinion

Rising costs of living

BY GETACHEW MINAS

The effects of wars in different parts of the world have contributed to rising costs of living. This has created adversity and sufferings for the wretched people of the developing countries, with Ethiopians suffering immensely. They are unfortunately exposed to severe crises due to the civil war that create havoc to the people living the war areas. They have suffered from shortages of basic necessities due to continued skirmishes in their places of residence, both urban and rural. The scarcity of goods has led to high costs of food, health, housing and education. These social amenities have been caused to migration of people from their place of origin. Sometimes, such movement of people has been obstructed by unexpected civil wars or disturbances. These people have also been affected by lack of transport services due to shortage of fuel. Even if these services are available, their costs have not been affordable, accelerating the susceptibility and helplessness of the rural people. These situations have contributed to the reduced welfare of the poor.

It is necessary and crucial to explore the various risks that people are exposed to. It is also important to figure out how the people will be facing the resultant cost-of-living crisis. Researchers have focused on the effects of the crisis on different parts of the country. Social conflicts have resulted in the most horrible results for those with the low incomes and for the unemployed. The recurrence of social conflicts and civil wars resulted in high cost of living that made Ethiopians war exhausted.

Yet, it is still steadily rising as a consequence of domestic and external factors. Raw materials, inputs, finished goods and services that are imported carry inflation. This is shown in the cost of goods and services produced domestically by using "imported" inputs. Studies reveal that imported materials and services are also carriers of world inflation into Ethiopia. Inflated local prices prohibit the low income workers from markets where they purchase basic goods and services. Those people of the society that are most affected by inflation are the poor families with large number of unemployed dependents residing with them.

Social security system that provides unemployment benefits is absent in Ethiopia. Thus, the impact of rising cost of living is intense on these families. They, however, devise ways and means of with which they feed in rotation. In other words, each family member may be forced to miss one meal a day. Moreover, the meal is found to be not nutritious and causes all kinds of exposure to diseases. There is, therefore, a need to help families to be relieved from the burden of the cost of living due to inflation. In most parts of Ethiopia, the costs of basic foods are on the rise. Simultaneously, wages are "not" rising proportionally to cover the cost of living. Real wages of workers fall



Social conflicts have resulted in the most horrible results for those with the low incomes and for the unemployed. The recurrence of social conflicts and civil wars resulted in high cost of living that made Ethiopians war exhausted

if they are not compensated for inflation. Collective agreements between employers and trade unions may not necessarily generate enough benefits to employees to cover the rising costs of living.

The rising cost of living increases the burden for disadvantaged workers when compared to the high income groups. This disparity becomes obvious after the emergence of social conflicts, which inevitably creates a shift in labor relations or disputes. In the labor market, skilled workers earn more pay, while unskilled workers suffer from inflation. Workers employed in the private enterprises earned insecure pay, and faced difficulty of supporting their families. This situation indicates that many workers will be forced to achieve high skills for escaping low pay. Low-skilled, underpaid workers would be helpless unless their employers invest in skills training. However, if the total costs of production are higher than revenues of enterprises, there will indeed be a cause for grave concern at country level. In Ethiopia, where costs of production rise, they lead to inflation making workers dissatisfied with their low earnings.

The weight and burden on households facing high food and energy costs would increase sharply and abruptly. Low-income workers with incomes below poverty line may not endure long with insufficient food. These workers and their families may be unable to pay rent, water and electricity bills. Those employees who reside in public houses may have to worry about paying rents that are very low. These employees face heavy risks in the urban centers. Other individuals facing vulnerabilities are those employed in the transport sector, mostly truck and taxi drivers. They are forced to take full responsibility for the costs of vehicles and maintenance. Added to these are insurance and fuel costs. Included in this sector are those workers who rely

on transport vehicles for their survival. However, all transport operators are able to transfer their expenses on to users of their services. These users of transport facilities come from all parts of the society, including the rural ones.

The rising cost of living may result from insecure and unstable economic conditions that imply the redesigning of economic policies. Policies related to tax and debt may need to be redesigned and applied for controlling the rising cost of living. Tax revenues of the government may be used to address it. These revenues may be used to address demand for and supply of goods and services in the economy. Of course, peace is crucial for enhancing labor productivity that raises supply to meet the economic demands of all Ethiopians. Without it, there is no market stability to address the demands of the citizens of the country. It is believed that a share in the "Peace Dividend" is the major objective of any society involved in social disturbances, civil wars, and infantile ethnic clashes. Social problems may contribute to low level of production and productivity. These may result in closing of enterprises, unemployment and poverty. These situations ultimately lead to hunger which result in dependency on food aid. Hunger in Ethiopia is caused by social disturbances and conflicts that forces Ethiopians dependent on food aid.

The rising cost of living is an excellent opportunity to the so-called donors to penetrate into the peaceful society of Ethiopia. In so doing, they create chaos and destruction of social relations making normal agricultural activities in the country a difficult task. This interference comes into the country in different forms and masks. One strategy is to look sympathetic to the hunger stricken people. They supply wheat grain that is not fit for seedling except for temporary feeding. Hunger stricken people,

however, would thank these aid givers that come with evil missions. They design the means to keep the people dependent on their food aid, leaving them poorer and unable to grow food grain and feed themselves. The Ethiopia poor have to become psychologically dependent on aid and do not have the means to farm their land and produce for their own consumption and for the market. This allows external investors to come into the country with the goal of keeping it underdeveloped.

As aid addicts, some of the poor Ethiopian peasants tend not to work on their parcel of land. This practice leads to low production and low supply to the market, causing high prices of grain that induce high cost of living. Because of this situation the poor urban consumers find it difficult to pay for the high market price of grain. The urban workers are also facing the hidden hunger caused by the high cost of living. These are symptoms of failure to face the economic challenges of imposed by alien forces. These forces are ready to provide Ethiopian with food aid thereby discouraging domestic production of grain. This is a strategy to make the country suffer from food shortage that indicates strong failure. This opens the avenue for aliens who design the outdated ethnic politics in the country. This becomes a strategy for entry into the country to deliver food aid to those parts of the country seriously affected by ethnic conflicts. Petty and normal local skirmishes are over magnified by the media of the donor countries.

These developments seriously aggravate rather than resolve problems. Food aid is supplied to some regions of the country where it is not needed. In this endeavor, foreign investors are welcome to operate in parts of the country where peace, law and order have reigned. These investors tend to produce goods and services for both the domestic and external markets. To maximize their profits, they raise prices to an inflated level. They also raise wages of Ethiopian workers, both skilled and unskilled, to boost their productivity. These developments have indirect impacts on some low salaried civil servants. A few of these state employees may be forced to accept bribes in the face inflation. One may safely postulate that there is a vicious circle of inflation and corruption. Experts think that annual increments of wages and salaries may not cover the fast rising cost of living. Consumers are scared of the situation in which prices of basic goods increase on a quarterly basis, if not monthly. It is, therefore, advisable to organize efficient and effective consumer societies. These ensure supply of basic goods and services that tame the rising cost of living in Ethiopia.

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

Editorial

Inexorable stance to maintain peace, stability!

Ethiopia has an unwavering desire and firm stance to sustain peace, tranquility and security within the Horn of Africa and across the globe.

The country has also a long history of taking part in the United Nations (UN) peacekeeping operations dating back to as early as the 1950s when it sent troops to Korea during the Korean War. Since that time to the present day, Ethiopia has been and is still playing an important role in global peacekeeping efforts.

Mainly, engaging under the blue helmet of the UN and the AU peacekeeping missions such as in the UNAMID, UNMISS, UNISFA and AMISOM as staff, police forces and military personnel, as well as initiating for peace negotiations, Ethiopia has paid the ultimate price in the service of peace and essentially shown its position in global peacekeeping efforts.

Accordingly, by joining hands with global peace actors, it strained every effort to stave off conflicts, forge amicable relations between conflicting parties and promote peace which in turn positions Ethiopia at the frontline in global endeavors for peace and stability.

The peacekeeping operations that Ethiopia has taken part in at different times in different countries such as Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Liberia, Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia among others, can be mentioned in this regard.

Ethiopia's commitment to peace is not limited in merely deploying a large number of troops and engaging its peace forces in peacekeeping operations. Equally important, by drawing warring parties to negotiation tables and making them resolve their differences through peaceful dialogue, it has contributed meaningfully to build peace and security in war torn countries. The peace mediation processes that Ethiopia participated in, for instance, Sudan, Congo and Rwanda are the other instances that can demonstrate Ethiopia's perseverance and commitment for peace and security.

Most importantly, Ethiopia's presence in the effort exerted to curtail the prolonged conflict, help reinstate order, peace and tranquility in Somalia by warding off the Al-Shabaab insurgents has been irreplaceably huge. The former's contribution has been huge in terms of helping the latter, which has been a breeding ground for the Al-Shabaab militant group, reestablish a functioning state and stand on its own two feet.

The Ethiopian military forces under the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) have played a crucial role in fending off Al-Shabaab in Somalia since 2007. Accordingly, Ethiopia's role towards the restoration of peace and stability in Somalia also received recognition and appreciation from various global actors; and the ENDF soldiers received the African Union medals.

Obviously, the Horn of Africa is one of the regions that are described as the most conflicted and unstable areas in the world for various reasons. It is also a strategic area where terrorist groups, which pose security threats for global people, are bred. For this and other similar reasons, strengthening cooperation and collaboration and engaging in constructive works is of critical importance to maintain regional and international peace and security.

In this regard, Ethiopia will further strengthen and reaffirm its commitment to join hands and work with continental and global forces to sustain peace, tranquility, stability and order within countries of the Horn region and beyond for the common good of all.



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

TVET a tool for training skilled manpower for the manufacturing sector in Ethiopia

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) plays a crucial role in providing skilled manpower for the manufacturing industries in Ethiopia. The manufacturing sector is expected to play a greater role in the economic development of the country and is therefore important to provide quality TVET education to ensure integrated development of the sector how is this accomplished over time?

TVET programs in Ethiopia are increasingly designed to meet the specific needs of the manufacturing sector. This alignment ensures that graduates possess the skills and competencies required by employers. The adoption of Competency-Based Training (CBT) methods helps in tailoring the curriculum to match industry standards and demands. The trainings are expected to be of high quality and market based. This is of critical importance because much of Ethiopia's economic development will gradually be based on the manufacturing sector. The development of agro-industries in the country will help to link up the predominately agriculture based economy of the country to gradually shift to the manufacturing sector.

Local and international investors may use trained foreign nationals in their industries but they may not be able to meet the overhead cost required to employ foreign nationals. Therefore producing well trained and innovative TEVT graduates is very important to man the management and running of these industries

Through TVET, Ethiopia aims to enhance the quality of its workforce. Training centers provide practical and theoretical knowledge that prepares individuals for immediate employment in various manufacturing roles. This improvement in workforce quality directly contributes to increased productivity and efficiency within the manufacturing sector. However, improving the quality of the work force for the manufacturing industries requires a concerted cooperation and collaboration between the training centers and manufacturing industries that can confidently employ well trained and skilled manpower. The issue of quality workforce underpins scaling up production and productivity in the sector and to ensure competitiveness at the international commodity markets.

Ethiopia has now joined BRICS with a national optimism for promoting prosperity of the country which will be based on standardization on every aspect of cooperation and partnership. Specific polices and strategies must be put in place to ensure that the country could benefit from being a member of the alliance.

As Ethiopia is spearheading in connecting

Africa from coast to coast through integration in the aviation sector, producing highly competent and skilled aircraft technicians and engineers becomes more evident and urgent. The nation needs skilled railway captains and engineers who can man the technical aspects of the sector. Ethiopia is working towards accessing a number of sea ports that requires training qualified sailors which can be trained by TEVT colleges and maritime institutions in the country.

Ethiopia has already started to implement the AfCFTA program which again vividly indicates the need for highly qualified professional that could be deployed in the manufacturing sector which is expected to produce quality and exportable commodities.

The Ethiopian government has made significant investments in expanding access to TVET. This expansion includes building new training centers and upgrading existing ones, ensuring that more students have the opportunity to acquire technical skills. Increased access helps to create a larger pool of skilled workers, which is essential for the growth of the manufacturing industry. Besides government based international cooperation agencies like KOICA, JICA, DFID, Irish AID, and GIZ have helped to open and facilitate vocational trainings centers that are currently operating across the country.

Public-private partnerships are integral to the success of TVET in Ethiopia. Collaborations between TVET institutions and manufacturing companies ensure that training programs are relevant and up-to-date with the latest industry practices. These partnerships also provide opportunities for apprenticeships and on-the-job training, giving students hands-on experience. Although some efforts have been made in promoting public private partnership in the form of cooperation between technical colleges and universities across the country, these level of cooperation are going on either in slow motion or have never been adequately materialized.

TVET is a key component of Ethiopia's industrialization strategy. By producing a skilled workforce, TVET supports the establishment and expansion of manufacturing industries. This support is crucial for Ethiopia's economic growth and its goal of becoming a middle-income country sooner or later.

In addition, TVET institutions are increasingly focusing on integrating modern technologies and innovative practices into their curricula. This focus ensures that the manufacturing work

See TVET a tool for... Page 18

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

Business & Economy

Towards augmenting summer crop production

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Nature in the summer season is sleeping because of low temperature, frost in the air and snowing weather condition. Areas are seen green and most of plants and animals are thus having their hibernation period as the summer is not full of bright colors. Farmers grow crops, use the required agricultural inputs and sow some others, weed again others with a view to harvesting a good yield at the end of the day, particularly at the time of harvest season.

Taking all the fact regarding the activities carried out during summer season, particularly among the farming community, *The Ethiopian Herald* had a stay with Amanuel Hatiya, an agro-economist graduated from Hawassa University and working for a certain public enterprise as post-harvest and crop consultant.

He said, “The summer season is also a peak season for tourism, as many people take the opportunity of school holidays and travel to different parts of the country to explore its natural and cultural treasures. From the tranquil beaches of the south to the snow-capped mountains of the north, Ethiopia offers a variety of travel opportunities that can be experienced during the summer, but this is not that much common among the Ethiopian community.”

According to Amanuel, summer, the coldest season of the year in Ethiopia, comes between autumn and spring. It is associated with plunging temperatures and icy weather. It is also a time or season is the perfect time to be at home, drink hot tea or coffee, spend time with family, friends, watch movies and just enjoy every day!

As to him, it is all high time to look for a means through sowing and providing the plots of land with seeds and required fertilizers that can help the farming community increase their production, productivity and profit while improving soil productivity, boosting select seed utilization and keeping appropriate tilling timing.

“In an era of rapidly advancing technology and shifting consumer preferences, the agricultural sector has to receive modern way of bolstering production and productivity via overcoming unprecedented challenges and smartly making use of opportunities available.”

The farming community in Ethiopia has to embark on intensive summer programs with a view to improving the entire food supply chain, from agricultural production to the final plate as the basis for better production is laid at this time. The focus will be on emerging technologies and trends that are shaping the future of food, with special emphasis on animal-based agricultural sectors such as livestock, aquaculture, and insects,” he opined.

He said, true, summer crop production could be promoted through applying soil testing and analysis, weed control and irrigation planning, entertaining crop rotation and diversity, nutrient management and



Farmers in Ethiopia sow crops to harvest yield in return

Timing is one of the most important factors in farming and can result in farmers making huge profits or suffering heavy losses. Everything in agriculture should be done at the appropriate time

fertilization, pest and disease prevention, proper seed selection as well as timing and seasonality. Yes, farmers need to well prepare for the seasons as summer is here to have tips that can help them give the prepared soil apt seeds and apply what has to be done during rainy season via proper land management and seed dispersion.

Relatively speaking, in other parts of the world, summer means lots of sunshine and a rainy season in Ethiopia and it is a special one for farmers who can look forward to having good harvest in the near future, in the season of spring and the subsequent time. It is important to take advantage of these natural sources in conjunction with summer water supplies. Solely relying on summer or rainy season water can lead to high costs and eventually result in water restrictions if there are drought conditions in some areas of the country which constitute dry and semi-dry spatial allotment in particular, he opined.

He said, “If possible, try to capture any

rain if there is a short shower during the summertime. Rain barrels and water tanks can capture and easily store any precipitation. Healthy soil will always retain water more effectively than one without any organic matter. Add compost to pursuit farmland to keep the soil healthy and consider constructing water harvesting wells to ensure water gets into the soil.”

Maximizing water during the summer season is very important, and this approach can help keep the soil nourished while preventing water from quickly evaporating in the hot sun. Some hobby farmers will also constrict irrigation systems, like drip lines, to water in a targeted manner during the summer. Drip lines can help save water by cutting down on over-spray, he added.

According to Amanuel, aerating the subsoil in spring will increase the resilience of pasture of the farming community to a summer time. Aeration increases dry matter and also roots depth, which allows pasture to cope better with a dry spell.

This season falls between the previous two; crops are grown from February to May, which not only meets the nutritional needs of the soil but also provides an additional source of income for farmers who would otherwise migrate in search of work. Timing is one of the most important factors in farming and can result in farmers making huge profits or suffering heavy losses. Everything in agriculture should be done at the appropriate time.

He further elucidated that a farmer may lose some crops per hectare for every day delayed in planting. For farmers who rely on drought animal power, early preparations will enable them to prepare land and have time to rest the animals while maintaining them in good shape. Climate change refers to changes beyond the average atmospheric condition that are caused both by natural factors such as the orbit of earth’s revolution, volcanic activities and crustal movements and by artificial factors such as the increase in the concentration of greenhouse gases and aerosol.

He said “Above all, agricultural policy and low-carbon environmental policy should be properly integrated so that the concept of green growth in the overall agricultural sector in the country takes root. In order to

maximize the policy effectiveness through a proper combination of policy instruments in various relevant sectors, a green innovation system should be established where policy-makers, researchers, relevant organizations, farmers and other relevant bodies can have proper understanding of green growth and share their roles.”

As to him, from the tranquil beaches of the south such as Hawassa and Ziway lakes to the snow-capped mountains of the north Simien Mountains, Ethiopia offers a variety of travel opportunities that can be experienced during the summer, though muddy weather baffles all. Summer is when most plants and trees are evergreen. The summer season is also associated with the risk of vector-borne diseases such as malaria as high temperature and humidity levels create a favorable environment for the breeding and growth of mosquitoes and other disease-carrying insects.

Overall, the difficulties of the summer season can make it a challenging time for many people. However, by taking necessary precautions and adopting appropriate coping strategies, people can mitigate the negative effects of the season and enjoy its benefits.

We present a new seasonal forecasting model for the June–September rains in Ethiopia. It has previously been found that the total June–September rainfall over the whole country is difficult to predict using statistical methods. Scrupulous investigation has portrayed that the rainfall seasonality varies greatly from one region to another, which would explain why the total June–September rainfall over all nation is a difficult property to forecast. The spatial variability in rainfall by grouping the rain gauge stations into four geographical clusters based on seasonality and cross-correlation of rainfall anomalies.

He further added that summer (*Kiremt*) rainfall is expected to be the main source of water for even dams like the Grand Abbay Dam. There are three main rain seasons in the Upper Blue Nile River basin—the dry season from October to February (*Mehir*), the small rainy season from March to May (*Belg*) and the main rainy season usually from June to September (*Kiremt*).

The real summer rainfall, which peaks in July and August and concludes in September and October, is extremely important to the farming community as the have experienced substantial inter annual climate variability, which can have positive as well as negative impacts on local agriculture and major implications for national and thus for regional food security for trans-boundary hydro-economics are well experienced in this regard.

Amanuel has exhorted his idea saying ‘the ‘peak rainy season’ July and August, in particular, have helped the farming community capture precipitation at the end of the rainy season to pave conditions for the crop harvest season coming next. Though July and August are typically the major rainy months that are constituted in summer (*Kiremt*) in Ethiopia, fluctuated weather situations have been recorded, too.

Art & Culture

Indulging in more African culture to know the people, continent better

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

In the first place, why should we read more African books, see more African movies, and listen to more African music? The answer to this question is not a difficult one. Simply put, the answer is that we are Africans, and we need to know our people and continent better than we know other places and other communities or societies. This answer begs the following question: why should we know our people and continent better? Here too, the answer is simple. As the popular adage goes, knowledge is power, and more knowledge of Africa by Africans gives them power in all its forms: economic, political, and social.

However simple and obvious the above questions and answers may look, the journey to knowing Africa and its people better than we do now has its challenges, often formidable due to the complex historical and contemporary context within which these issues are dealt with. To begin with, Africans have never been encouraged to know themselves, their cultures, traditions, philosophies, and thoughts simply because colonialism, that old foe, has prevented them from knowing themselves and forced them to know the colonial way of life, or a caricature of it, as their only alternative vision or knowledge.

Colonialism did not come to Africa only to occupy and control our natural resources although that was its ultimate objective. Colonialism first controlled the African mind and prepared it for accepting willingly, if not by force, colonial rule and colonial occupation. Occupation of the mind preceded territorial occupation. It sent missionaries from Europe to preach to them the doctrine of submission as if Africans had never had their belief systems and religions for thousands of years before the advent of foreign rule.

The missionaries, most of whom were disguised colonialists, came with the Bible to secure the submission and acceptance of European civilization by Africans who were deemed uncivilized, godless, and even savages. This dilemma was captured by Chinua Achebe, one of the luminaries of African literature, who exposed the prejudices of missionary conquest in Nigeria as it came into direct collision with local African traditions and belief systems. His novel "Things Fall Apart" thus became a universal literary sensation for its artistic exposure to this dilemma. The book was also popular in Europe because it exposed the prejudices inherent in the so-called civilizing mission of colonialism in Africa.

Without first occupying the African mind, colonialism could not have the subjective condition ready for its objective occupation of the continent. It was aware of the stiff resistance of Africans to foreign rule and more so to foreign occupation. Thus, it had to occupy the African mind before it occupied African resources and



abundant raw materials. To be successful in this endeavor, European colonialism devised many tactics. Following its colonial conquests, Europe imposed on the continent European cultural practices and provided education to them that was specifically tailored to cement or consolidate its pernicious strategies of occupation and control.

African education was thus tailored to reflect European educational systems that subtly promoted the idea that since Africans could not educate themselves or develop their educational programs; they needed to be tutored by educated Europeans whose educational systems were the only ones feasible for Africans.

Education was thus used as a formidable tool for undermining African identities under a heap of European prejudices and Eurocentric biases. After independence in the 1960s, African leaders simply copied the European educational systems to govern their people the way the Europeans did by feeding them the same diets of cultural prejudices and superiority that were carefully cultivated under direct colonial rule. Africa was subsequently divided into Francophone and Anglophone Africa and African culture was reshaped accordingly.

The first generations of educated Africans were thus well-versed in British culture, literature and philosophy as they were educated in London and were shaped under the exclusive influence of British history, culture, and literature. Many of them were well-versed in Shakespearean drama and wrote their plays that were almost carbon copies of the British bard. Of course, Shakespeare's literary influence was universal. Elsewhere in the world, his works were critically accepted while in Africa they were indirectly imposed on

the educational system because Africans were considered illiterate when it came to culture and literature.

The fact that in the 7th century Axum in Ethiopia, people had the means of expressing themselves in their language derived from what was known as Ge'ez while Europeans still lived in caves. The civilizations that rose and fell in Egypt, and the African-Arab world in general had their own sets of written languages that expressed and reflected African traditions, cultures, and philosophies. In West and Southern Africa, too, little-known and original civilizations had appeared and disappeared while Europe secured its dominance and continuity by subjugating the people of Africa to its cultural and philosophical views that were anchored on the notion of African inferiority and European superiority.

The same paradigm was kept alive in Africa after independence and came to be known as neocolonial rule or colonialism by other means, mostly peaceful and deceptive. The entire cultural establishments in newly independent African countries continued to be dominated and controlled by the European models of education. Books written in Europe found ready markets in Africa as the educated elites popularized them and took them as models of artistic or literary excellence. Both in so-called, Francophone and Anglophone Africa, the newly emerging cultural elites adopted the respective traditions as their guiding lights in arts and literature.

It may not come as a surprise because the post-independence, as well as contemporary African elites, continue to be obsessed with European and Western arts and culture to the detriment of genuinely African traditions in literature and the arts in general. The question of

why many Africans do not read books written by Africans, see films made by Africans, or listen to music invented by Africans is not a mystery. In brief, why Africans do not know how their African compatriots live and think is the dilemma behind their self-alienation and cultural suicide which is reflected in politics as a lack of genuine African unity, integration, and economic and social development.

Most educated Africans were brainwashed into thinking that Western literature, arts, movies, and music are the best in the world and that there was no point in trying to rediscover the lost souls of African culture because we have the best alternative for sale in the market. This is the way Western capitalism has produced and reproduced the culturally submissive generations of Africans who lack the boldness if not the confidence to try to resurrect the lost souls of African cultures that have already demonstrated their potential for growth as part and parcel of the global cultural heritage or patrimony. That is also why the notions of "Africa rising" or African renaissance" have lost much of their appeal. Africa cannot rise on the soil of Western achievements. Neither can it bring about its renaissance on the crumbs of the European renaissance that reflected European visions. Africa should therefore build its vision to achieve a genuine rise from darkness and a genuine renaissance based on Africa's true soul or spirit.

This is not a call on Africans to abandon reading non-African books, stop watching Western movies, or listen to Western music. It is rather a call for African-educated elites to be more critical and more discerning in their approach to foreign cultures and arts. How many Africans know and appreciate our writers, filmmakers, and musicians? How many Africans are fans of Western movies and music?

How many of Africans know that Mulatu Astatke is the father of Ethio-Jazz while most of us know that Michael Jackson was one of the richest pop singers in American history or that Jay Z is his contemporary equivalent? How many Africans know that Haile Gerima is one of the best African filmmakers who has consistently championed African freedom and the African culture he expressed or reflected in almost all his productions?

The new generations of educated Africans turn to Western culture because we seldom celebrate our uniqueness and defend it in the face of the irresistible Western cultural domination through the marketplace. This is the time to look horizontally to us and relate to one another on the lofty ideals of African unity, and African cultural liberation while taking anything positive and constructive from the wealth of global arts and culture. Through time, what is authentically African can emerge and promote our vision of a rising Africa whose renaissance would be based on its cultural resources and the hard work of its talented sons and daughters.

Global Affairs

Africa doesn't have a choice between economic growth, protecting the environment: *How they can go hand in hand*

Heathrow Airport in the UK currently uses more energy than the entire West African country of Sierra Leone. Despite Africa accounting for less than 4% of all global greenhouse gas emissions, many of its countries face significant threats from climate change, including increased droughts, floods, heat waves and potential crop failures.

Climate change costs the continent US\$5 billion to US\$7 billion yearly, a figure projected to reach US\$50 billion by 2030. Estimates suggest its impact could push 50 million Africans below the poverty line, while 100 million are at risk of being displaced. At the same time around 600 million people in Africa still lack access to energy, fundamental for economic development.

Tackling the twin imperatives of sustainable development – meeting the needs of the present without a negative impact on the future – and economic growth in Africa is paramount. It was a central theme at the first Africa Climate Summit, held in Nairobi last September. However, these challenges are typically seen as being diametrically opposed. Often, they are discussed in isolation. This conversation needs to change. We must acknowledge that sustainable development and economic growth are interdependent – one cannot occur without the other.

Based on my research into the role of multinational firms in the development of emerging markets, over the last decade, what's missing in the debates are answers to the question facing many commodity-rich African countries: do they use their natural resources for development and damn the environment, or seek an alternative which acknowledges that sustainable development and economic growth are interdependent?

Africa is highly dependent on extraction of natural resources for its economy, including oil and gas and minerals such as copper, cobalt, gold and diamonds.

In fact, 45 African economies are already reliant on commodity exports, including fossil fuels. Yet they are facing increasing pressure to turn their backs on this potentially lucrative revenue stream.

Rather than the simplistic arguments that all extractive engagement is bad, the question that really needs to be asked is how to extract resources while causing minimal damage to the environment.

Bypassing simplistic answers

Not unfairly, people across Africa demand the same kind of economic opportunities already enjoyed by those in the global north. But here lies the problem. To achieve this, the most obvious solution for many African countries is to adopt the



economic development model employed by the current developed countries. That means exploiting the large and relatively untapped natural resources that lie within their borders.

As former Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo put it at the Africa Energy Week 2023,

Where the justice is when you used what (fossil fuels) was available to you, but we (Africans) can't use it? You want to keep us in the habitual position of underdevelopment. We reject that!

The reality in many African countries is that using the natural materials found within their borders is crucial if they are to continue their economic development.

Many have claimed that Africa can become a green industrial hub to exploit its renewable energy resources and lead the charge towards decarbonisation. But to achieve this technological transformation and to construct the necessary batteries, solar panels and electrical vehicles requires raw materials.

Companies need to find better ways to extract resources while causing minimal damage to the environment.

The good news is that this is already happening. Mining firms like the Bill Gates-backed KoBold Metals are now using artificial intelligence to predict the location of deposits, minimizing the negative environmental effects of test drilling.

Firms are also exploring the potential of keyhole mining technology to reduce the need for open mines, which have a serious environmental impact.

The challenge of context

A green revolution needs money, innovation and technology to succeed. It also needs to address the unique needs of

individual countries and even individual people. Put simply, the launch of a green revolution is expensive and context-specific.

Green technology has typically been designed, tested and implemented in developed nations.

Solar energy works if your country has a reliable and extensive energy grid that can store and then effectively distribute the energy generated. It is not so practical when applied to a nation that has just emerged from a period of civil war and has a limited, damaged or non-existent energy network.

Take the installation of solar streetlights in Nigeria. The idea seems great and uses technology that works elsewhere. Yet it has been ineffective in practice. It's not an isolated case.

A 2017 research paper revealed some of the common causes of failure for renewable energy initiatives in sub-Saharan Africa. The study analysed 29 publicly funded projects across ten countries, ranging from electrification of public institutions and solar street lighting to micro-grid rural electrification.

The paper found that common factors contributing to failure included political agendas, flaws in the project awarding process, insufficient stakeholder cooperation, and issues in project planning and implementation, lack of effective maintenance and challenges related to public acceptance and inclusion. The last two points underline the importance of local context in green projects.

Time and money

Grand sustainable solutions like wind farms, public transport networks or geothermal plants also fall down when viewed through a more local lens. In

many developing countries energy needs can be as localised and immediate as someone heading into the forest to collect wood so they can cook their evening meal. Mega projects take time that those who need energy now just don't have.

Then there is the question of raising the external investment for these projects. The Nairobi Declaration, which was signed at the Africa Climate Summit in September 2023, called for an almost six-fold increase in renewable energy capacity across the continent. Yet, according to a 2022 report by the Climate Policy Initiative, Africa has received only 12% of the finance it needs to cope with climate impacts. This is due in part to concerns over the risk of investing in the continent.

Engaging the right stakeholders, the right way

It is also important that "green" development benefits as many local stakeholders as possible. While there is obviously an expectation that governments lead this conversation, companies must share this responsibility.

I've previously written about how companies can communicate better with different stakeholders. It's also vital that they properly understand their different needs and the contexts in which stakeholders live.

The differences in how people get food, shelter and energy, can be vast even in one country. One plan won't necessarily work for everyone.

Too often companies are misguided in their assumptions about what stakeholders want and need to make their lives better.

Very few people in developing countries are going to buy an eco-friendly cooking stove because it is better for the environment. But they will buy it if it makes their life easier. The only way to understand people's needs is to bring them into the process from the start. Firms need to design products and develop solutions that are sustainable. But they also must be practical and meet specific needs.

Creating new paths for sustainability

As countries around the world look to continue their economic development they also need to deal with the growing impact of climate change.

Having just one model for sustainable economic development is not an option. It's important to consider regional and local challenges, listen to the voices and needs of local stakeholders and accept that sustainable development means different things for different people.

SOURCE: THE CONVERSATION

Law & Politics

Making the breadbasket of the world self-reliant

BY STAFF REPORTER

According to the Foresight Africa 2022 report, Africa covers 20 % of the earth's surface and is home to 1.3 billion of its people, a number likely to reach 2.53 billion by 2050. But the continent's economic transformation, at both the structural and sectorial levels, is undermined because of the lack of investment in science and technology. In the absence of the economic and scientific infrastructure necessary for innovation, the continent has continued to rely on the colonial development model of resource extraction, a process which is unsustainable and largely responsible for continued poverty and dependence on aid.

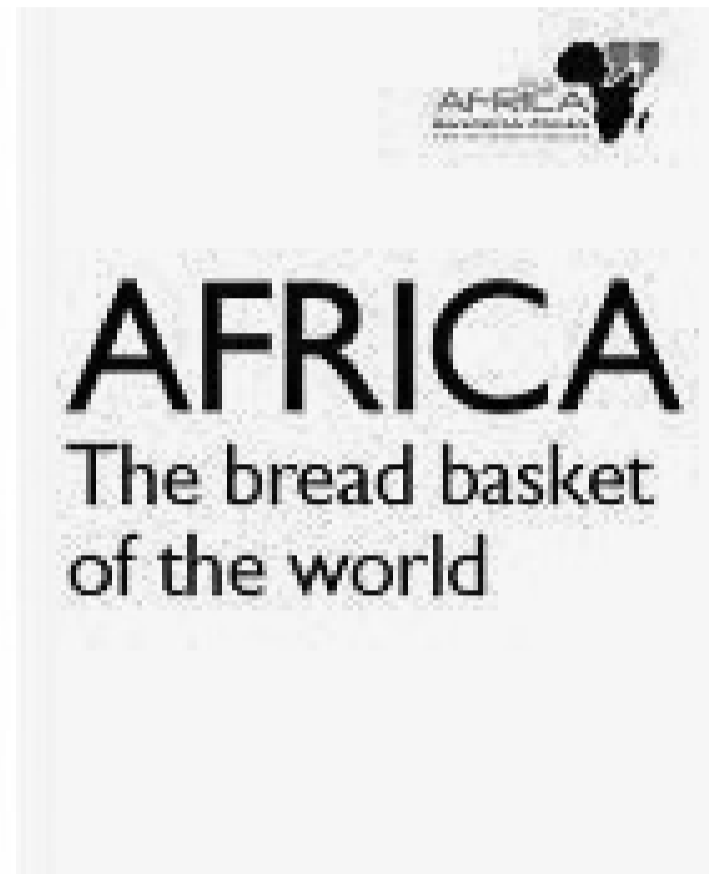
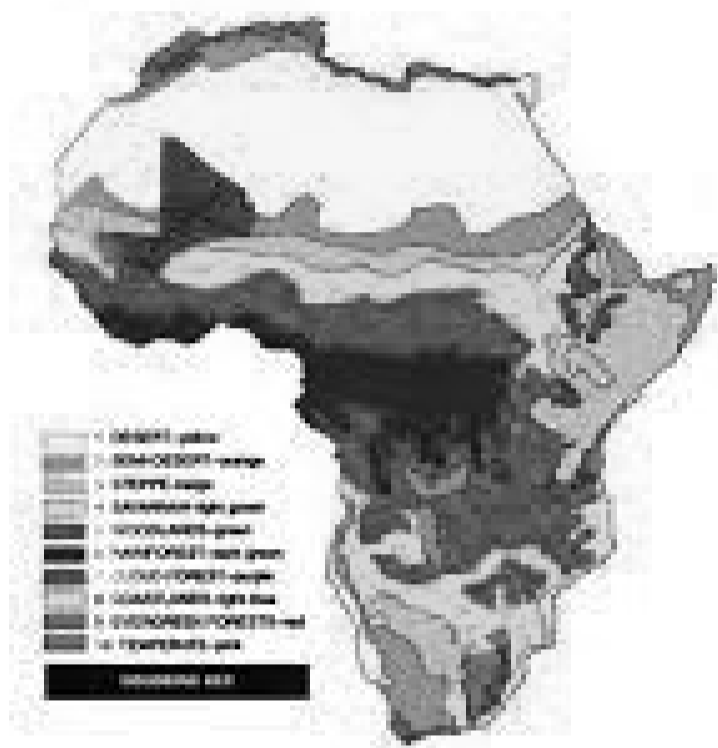
Africa despite being naturally wealthy continent continues to be impoverished. And despite minimal progress, the paradox still exists today. Dubbed as breadbasket continent, Africa is still unable to feed its expanding population. Additionally, millions of Africans rely on the generosity and support of foreign benefactors. Despite all of the positive developments on the continent, millions of Africans already depend on daily humanitarian assistance due to threats from both the natural and man-made worlds. Droughts and famines are the outcome of severe climate change effects that have become more frequent and intense throughout Africa.

In contrast to the grim reality, the continent ticks all the boxes to feed the entire world. Having 65 percent of uncultivated land, and over 70 percent young population, Africa indeed with the right policies and strategies, Africa has the potential to substitute dependency with self-sufficiency.

And the sharp growth in the number of global population and the ever-increasing impact of climate change and war and conflicts are expected to demand for food. Despite the long way to walk the talks, there is now increased ambition and push from the African side to encourage trade and discourage aid. Nations have begun investing aggressively in transforming the agriculture sector through innovation and technology.

Despite the same challenges facing the country over the years, Ethiopia has been doing its level best to secure self-sufficiency in food and curtail aid dependency. From the "Bounty of the Basket" (*Yelemat Tirufat*) initiative to the summer irrigated wheat project, Ethiopia has been taking a wide range of activities to scale up the performance of its agriculture sector. Encouraging results have been made and the country plans to further zoom in on the projects.

Lately, speaking after the 100-day evaluation meeting, Deputy Prime Minister



While the Ethiopian government has recognized the importance of ending dependency and food insecurity, now it is time for all to move from words to actions

Temesgen Tiruneh disclosed that concerted efforts have been underway to end aid dependency in Ethiopia by developing potential natural resources.

The performance evaluation focused on the performance of the macro-economy and the major sectors, local media reported.

High yield was obtained from summer irrigation, he said, adding that rice cultivation and crop cultivation in general gave abundant harvests. In addition to implementing initiatives, numerous forums have been held with the public in regions to ensure food sovereignty, Temesgen pointed out.

Here, we are reminded that government officials conducted consultations with communities in various parts of the country over the last two weeks to realize a transformative shift in the agricultural sector. The forums were imperative to shape the collective psyche towards self-reliance.

"The government is ready to work day and night with the hardworking people of Ethiopia to increase productivity by utilizing the fertile soil and water and end the country's history of aid dependency."

In this regard, the people who participated in the forums have affirmed their determination to stop aid dependence, he said, explaining that this was one of the directions set by the 100-day performance evaluation meeting.

The country's ambition relies on the ability to accelerate adoption and scale up promising projects like the aforementioned ones.

While the Ethiopian government has

recognized the importance of ending dependency and food insecurity, now it is time for all to move from words to actions.

Although not to the extent and ill-intended old stereotyping against Africa, the continent fails to feed its burgeoning population. And millions of Africans depend on the goodwill and assistance of international donors. As much as the good things happening in the continent, natural and man-made menaces are already leaving millions of Africans in need of daily aid support. The severe ramification of climate change which has increased in frequency and intensity in Africa has resulted in droughts and famines.

It would also be necessary to exploit various existing technologies to improve yields per hectare. Other experts say that local investment and knowledge transfer, for instance, on drip irrigation and the use of fertilizers, are also needed.

The continent meets all the requirements to feed everyone on the planet, in contrast to the bleak reality. With more than 70% of its population under the age of thirty and 65% of its land still uncultivated, Africa does, in fact, have the ability to replace dependency with self-sufficiency with the appropriate policies and techniques.

Additionally, the need for food is predicted to rise due to the world's population expansion, the growing effects of climate change, war, and conflict. Even though the discussions still have a long way to go, the African side is now pushing harder to promote trade and resist aid. Countries have started making significant investments to use technology and innovation to modernize the agriculture sector.

INTERNATIONAL News

Senegal Joins Oil-Producing Nations With Launch of First Offshore Field

Senegal has joined the ranks of oil-producing nations with Australian company Woodside Energy on Tuesday announcing the start of production in the West African country's first offshore project.

After several years of delay, Woodside said it had begun extracting oil from the offshore Sangomar field, about 100 kilometres south of the capital Dakar.

The floating facility has a storage capacity of 1.3 million barrels. At a depth of 780 metres, it contains both oil and gas and is expected to produce between 100,000 and 125,000 barrels per day.

High hopes

While Senegal's fossil fuel output is not expected to be as high as that of bigger producers such as Nigeria, there are hopes the oil and gas industry will bring billions of dollars in revenue to the country and contribute to transforming its economy.

"The start of oil production is very good news," Charles Thiemele, Africa director of trading company BNG, told RFI.



"It is the realisation of a project that began many years ago and should help reduce the country's energy bill, which posed many budgetary problems."

The extracted oil, meeting European and Asian market standards, is intended for export and the national market.

Thiemele, an oil sector specialist, said Senegal should eventually be able to

produce more than 200,000 barrels per day - approaching the production levels of countries like the DRC and Gabon.

The first development phase of the oil field, still ongoing with new exploratory drilling planned, is expected to cost between \$4.9 and \$5.2 billion.

Joint ownership

Woodside has an 82 percent stake in the

deepwater project with the remainder held by Senegal's state-owned energy company Petrosen.

The discovery of oil and gas fields in 2014 raised great hopes for the economy of Senegal, among the 25 least developed countries in the world.

Exploitation of Sangomar, however, has faced many delays. Initially set for 2021, it was postponed due to strategic changes and further delayed by the financial troubles of the Australian company FAR, whose shares were eventually bought by Woodside.

"The start of extraction at the Sangomar field marks the beginning of a new era, not only for our country's industry and economy but especially for our people," said Petrosen managing director Thierno Ly.

"We have never been so well positioned for opportunities for growth, innovation and success in the economic and social development of our nation."

Source: Radio France Internationale (RFI) website.

Uganda: One Million Households to Get Free Electricity Connection, Says Minister Nankabirwa

The Minister of Energy and Mineral Development Ruth Nankabirwa Ssentamu has revealed that government has received a loan from World Bank summing to USD638 millions under the Electricity Access Scale-Up Project to expand electricity connectivity in different parts of the country including refugee host communities.

Nankabirwa revealed this at Kande Village in Katikamu Sub County in Luwero district in an engagement with locals from the area following reports of extortion by private power companies with promises to connect them.

She said that, the ministry's target is to increase consumption of power to meet the costs of its production and this particular project is supposed to run for 3 years and over one million households will be connected at a free cost.

"We have started implementation of this project, put in place committees and we are now contracting out. We shall target those who have poles within their vicinity and we will connect them freely provided that houses are connected by certified people," Nankabirwa stated.

In the meeting, Livingstone Luzinda a resident of Kande Village reported that there's a private company that asked locals from over 40 house holds in the area to collect Shs 22 millions, each paying Shs 700,000 for electricity poles and connection expenses.

Luzinda told the minister that they had started collecting money but it was really a heavy burden for them and they decided to report the issue to the Deputy Secretary General of



NRM Rose Namayanja to help them report the matter to the concerned authorities.

"We have tried to get electricity in our area but in vain. Some company asked us to pay Shs 700,000 for poles and connection but we couldn't afford so we decided to run to Hon. Namayanja and we are pleased that she has heard our cry by bringing Hon Nankabirwa."

Namayanja who acted swiftly said that she was shocked to hear that companies are charging people that illegal big sum of money yet power is the engine of development.

" Requiring people to pay money to bring power lines, to me was extortion and it paints a very bad image for NRM because

this service is supposed to be free and this is why I decided to invite my colleague Hon. Nankabirwa such that she can directly get it from the horse's mouth," Namayanja said.

"I am glad that she promised to send a technical team to come and carryout the designs to ensure that this town that is near Kampala Gulu Highway gets power" Namayanja added.

Nankabirwa warned private companies to desist against charging people for power lines and connection because it is the responsibility of government to connect people to power.

"Government is obliged to connect people freely, so when I heard that there companies

charging people for electricity connection, I was concerned because it's not right, transportation of electricity is expensive so people should be calm and patient government is trying so hard to ensure that power is evenly distributed," said Nankabirwa.

However, Energy Minister urged those that can afford gas to slowly start using it to protect the environment.

"The government is looking for money to move people from using firewood and charcoal to gas or electricity to save the environment."

Source: Nile Post.

Planet Earth

Transforming mineral wealth into sustainable development

BY FIKADU BELAY

Africa aims to utilize its natural resources to drive economic growth and social advancement. Through appropriate policies, investments, and technological advancements, Africa can unlock its mining potential, generating employment, attracting foreign direct investment, and fostering industrialization that benefits local communities and the global economy alike.

Africa is home to around 30% of the world's mineral reserves, which are now in high demand due to the global shift towards de-carbonization. The energy transition necessitates increased exploration and exploitation of critical minerals found in Africa, such as cobalt, lithium, gold, potash, and tantalum. Nations like the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zimbabwe, and Ethiopia possess abundant "green minerals" crucial for technologies like solar panels, battery storage, and wind turbines.

Ethiopia boasts a rich history of mining dating back thousands of years. With a diverse geology offering a variety of minerals like gold, platinum, tantalum, potash, iron ore, copper, and gemstones, coupled with a burgeoning economy and educated populace, Ethiopia's mining sector is poised to play a pivotal role in Africa's industrial development.

Despite Africa's mineral wealth, it has often failed to translate into tangible benefits for its people. The African Mines Development Center (AMDC), established to assist African nations in better leveraging their mineral resources and

avoiding the "resource curse," calls for more countries to ratify its founding statutes.

Reports from the AMDC indicate that only 4 out of the 15 required country ratifications have been achieved thus far. Ethiopia, a significant mineral producer, has yet to ratify the AMDC statutes.

According to Million Mathwos, the Minister of State for Mines, many African countries are collaborating closely with the center, and Ethiopia is also interested in joining the AMDC. He mentioned that various concerns raised by the center are being addressed in collaboration. Efforts are underway to approve the center's initiatives to safeguard the interests of participating countries, although only a few nations have fully committed thus far.

The AMDC has developed frameworks like the African Mining Vision and the African Green Minerals Strategy to assist countries in formulating appropriate policies, regulations, and negotiation skills when dealing with multinational mining companies. Importantly, the AMDC is working to enhance local technical and technological capabilities so African nations can move beyond raw material exports and up the value chain.

While the demand for critical minerals is soaring globally, the AMDC recognizes that many African countries are not yet fully prepared. The center's role is to provide the necessary guidance and support to ensure Africa is equipped to meet the growing demand responsibly and equitably, transforming mineral wealth into sustainable development for its people.

Ethiopia's relatively recent entry into the mineral extraction sector presents a unique opportunity, as its minerals were less exploited during the colonial era compared to other African nations. This positions Ethiopia well to develop its mineral resources and thrive in the industry in the future, noted the Minister of State.

He emphasized the importance of Ethiopia's mineral resource development in transitioning away from carbon-emitting economic activities. By focusing on mineral extraction for clean energy technologies, Ethiopia can enter the green industrial sector and establish a more sustainable economic future.

Africa, as a continent, is significantly contributing to global carbon emissions reduction by supplying essential mineral resources like copper, nickel, cobalt, and lithium crucial for renewable energy and electric vehicle technologies. Africa, through its mineral wealth, is poised to play a leading role in the global de-carbonization effort.

The private sector is actively engaged in supporting this green transformation, with top investors worldwide participating. Factories have been established in various Ethiopian regions like Benshangul, Tigray, Gambella, and Oromia to leverage the country's mineral resources, including gold and potash deposits linked to geothermal energy.

A survey conducted in the Ogaden region confirmed the presence of 21 billion, 336 million cubic meters of natural gas, revealed the Minister. He also mentioned oil and natural gas deposits

in six different Ethiopian locations, expressing optimism that further exploration could uncover more reserves.

The Minister stated that efforts are being made to bring the newly discovered natural gas into production by next year. While some exploration projects can take years, they are confident in achieving success in a shorter timeframe.

The government is providing various forms of support and monitoring to ensure the effectiveness of ongoing exploration and development efforts. Given the mining sector's importance in Ethiopia's economic development, the government is dedicated to maximizing Ethiopia's natural resources' potential.

Apart from the natural gas discovery, Ethiopia is focusing on developing its geothermal energy sector. The government, in collaboration with states and the private sector, is working on major geothermal projects to enhance the country's energy supply and create job opportunities.

The recent natural gas discovery in the Ogaden region underscores Ethiopia's rich natural resources and the government's commitment to leveraging them for economic growth and energy security.

Ethiopia's mining sector has the potential to drive economic growth and support the country's transition to a greener economy. By responsibly developing its mining resources, creating jobs, attracting foreign direct investment, and fueling industrialization, Ethiopia can position itself as a key player in Africa's green industrial revolution.

TVET a tool for training skilled...

force is adept at using new technologies, which can lead to improved production processes and the creation of higher-quality products.

Some examples of higher institutions of learning engaged in producing skilled technical work force include;

Adama Science and Technology University (ASTU): ASTU offers various TVET programs that include practical training in engineering and technology, directly feeding into the manufacturing sector.

Ethio-Japan Technical Training Center: This center focuses on providing advanced technical training, with a particular emphasis on automotive and machinery manufacturing skills. Addis Ababa Science and Technology University, Jimma University, Bahir Dar and Mekele universities which are also engaged in technical and vocational training activities can be mentioned.

Despite the progress, TVET in Ethiopia faces challenges such as limited resources, the need for continuous curriculum updates, and ensuring that all regions have equitable access to training. Future efforts will need to focus on addressing these challenges to fully harness the potential of TVET in driving the manufacturing sector forward.

TVET plays a pivotal role in providing skilled manpower for Ethiopia's manufacturing industries. By aligning training programs with industry needs, improving workforce quality, expanding access, fostering public-private partnerships, and supporting industrialization, TVET is essential for the economic development and technological advancement of the country. Continued investment and strategic development of TVET programs will further enhance their impact on Ethiopia's manufacturing sector.

The author of this article would like to suggest some ideas which may help to upscale and improve the role TVET institutions in improving the quality of education in the TVET framework to expand and develop the manufacturing sector in the country.

The educational curriculum that is currently in operation in the country need to create the necessary balance between practical and vocational training and theoretical trainings provided at junior and secondary school levels. This obviously requires equipping such schools with the necessary training materials and machinery that may be secured in cooperation with partner agencies and government procurement agency.

Improving the quality of TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) in Ethiopia requires a comprehensive approach that addresses various aspects of the educational system in Ethiopia.

Updating the TVET curriculum to match current industry needs and technological advancements will ensure that graduates have the skills that employers require.

It is also important to implement a competency-based approach that focuses on practical skills and hands-on experience rather than theoretical knowledge alone.

Providing regular training and professional development opportunities for TVET instructors to keep them updated with the latest industry trends and teaching methodologies

Encouraging and facilitating industry placements for instructors so they can gain practical experience and bring that knowledge back to the classroom.

Strengthening partnerships with industries

to provide internships, apprenticeships, and job placements for students is very useful to promote quality TVET education. Industry advisory boards can also help guide curriculum development.

Partnering with private companies for the provision of modern equipment, tools, and facilities necessary for practical training needs to be considered.

It is also important to Invest in state-of-the-art training facilities and ensures they are equipped with the latest technology and equipment.

Moreover, incorporating digital learning tools, e-learning platforms, and virtual reality simulations to enhance learning experiences is very important for quality TVET education. Developing and implementing national standards for TVET programs to ensure consistency and high quality across institutions is a good strategy to ensure quality TVET education.

Establish a robust accreditation system to regularly evaluate and certify TVET institutions based on their performance and outcomes.

Expand TVET institutions in rural and underserved regions to ensure equitable access to technical education.

Promoting gender equality in TVET programs by addressing barriers that prevent women from participating needs to be carefully considered for quality training.

In addition, integrating soft skills training such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving into the curriculum will help to increase the quality of training

Including courses on entrepreneurship to encourage self-employment and innovation among graduates is also of critical importance. This is particularly true for graduates who will

be interested in establishing their medium and small scale manufacturing industries.

Increasing government investment in TVET institutions to improve infrastructure, resources, and training quality is a useful strategy to prepare well trained professionals for the manufacturing sector.

Moreover, encouraging private sector investment through incentives and partnerships to support TVET programs can also be considered to improve the quality of the training programs.

Conducting regular assessments and evaluations of TVET programs to measure effectiveness and identify areas for improvement is very important to make improvements in training.

Establishing feedback mechanisms to gather input from students, employers, and other stakeholders will help to improve the quality of the TVET training in the country.

Learning from international best practices and innovations in TVET through collaborations with international organizations and countries will help to upgrade the quality of TVET training.

Facilitating exchange programs for students and instructors to gain exposure to global standards and practices will further help the promotion of quality TVET education in Ethiopia.

As stated earlier much of the economic development programs of the country hinges on the manufacturing sector over time.

By implementing these strategies, Ethiopia can improve the quality of its TVET programs, thereby producing a skilled workforce that meets the demands of the labor market and supports the country's economic development in all sectors including the manufacturing industries.