



# The Ethiopian Herald

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## Some 7.6 bln saplings ready to current Green Legacy

• *Pre-launch program scheduled for today*

BY STAFF REPORTER

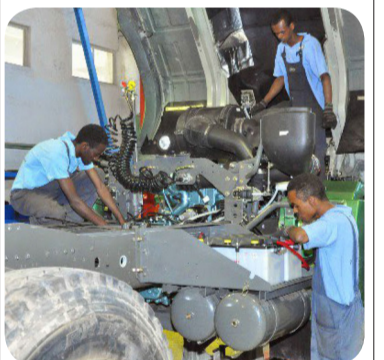
ADDIS ABABA - Some 7.6 billion seedlings have been prepared for this year's Green Legacy Program, the Ministry of Agriculture

(MoA) has announced, adding that the target is set to plant 150 million seedlings in a single day.

Approached by the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Agriculture State Minister Eyasu Elias

(Prof.) stated that some 7.6 billion saplings have been prepared for the current Green Legacy Program at the national level.

See Some 7.6 bln... page 3



## Officials commit to uplift TVET's contribution for dev't

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA – Authorities capitalized on the requisite to raise public awareness regarding merits of TVETs to increase sector's contribution to national development.

The national commitment towards Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) needs to be strengthened and public awareness raising activities ought to be improved, to enable the sector contribute fair share

See Officials commit... page 3



Nebiyu Tedla

## BRICS members give green light to Ethiopia's NDB pursuit: MoFA

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA - The founding members of the BRICS economic bloc have pledged support for Ethiopia to achieve membership in the New Development Bank (NDB), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) announced.

MoFA Spokesman yesterday that the founding members of BRICS, including Russia, China, and Brazil, have committed to supporting Ethiopia's bid for NDB membership.

According to the spokesperson, the pledge came during Ethiopia's Foreign Affairs Minister Taye Atseke-Selassie's (Amb.) deliberations with his BRICS member state counterparts during the bloc's recent summit in Russia.

"BRICS members will support Ethiopia's and other new entrant's aspiration to join the New Development Bank, as stated during the

See BRICS members give... page 3

## Phytosanitary measures facilitating trade for harmonized rules, standards: EAA

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA** - Phytosanitary measures is facilitating trade via harmonized rules and standards thereby avoiding non-tariff barriers, said the Ethiopian Agriculture Authority (EAA).

Ethiopian Horticulture Products Export Association (EPHEA) in collaboration with the EAA held the National phytosanitary conference.

Speaking at the occasion, the EAA Director General Ambassador Deriba Kuma said that the phytosanitary measures facilitate trade via harmonized rules and standards thereby avoiding the use of the system as a non-tariff barrier.

According to him, phytosanitary is a technical measure supported by legal frameworks to protect plant resources, biodiversity and environment from havoc, insect pests, diseases and weeds.

“The purpose of the phytosanitary measures and systems is either not comprehended adequately or ill understood by most people even by many agricultural professionals of different disciplines. This is mainly because the area is a specialized field where much of the details can hardly be achieved from university courses, but through special training, personal efforts and experience sharing.”

For his part, EPHEA Executive Director Tewodros Zewdie stated that serious phytosanitary concerns are emerging and measures are being taken in major market destinations. This jeopardizes the export in strategic commodities including coffee, cut flowers, fruits, vegetables and among others.

Phytosanitary system is not a matter of choice; rather it is a question of necessity so as to ensure country's export competitiveness, he noted.

He called on the private sector to take a lead through applying self-policing together with other front runners.

And all concerned stakeholders need to engage and support all the initiatives that are targeted at reinforcing effective phytosanitary systems in Ethiopia, he urged.

The effort requires all stakeholders to work in unison to overcome sector challenges for sustainable agriculture, quality food system, inclusive development and safe environment, he underlined.

Ethiopia has huge potential in plant products, not only growing, but also in export. The two countries signed a grant agreement of 11 million Euros to establish cool port facility near Mdojo within two years said that Agricultural Counselor at Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands Meeuwes Brouwer.

## Parties give heed to strengthen Nat'l Dialogue for lasting peace

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

**ADDIS ABABA** – Contending parties have underscored the need to further promoting the ongoing National Dialogue addressing major cleavages to ensure sustainable peace in the country.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Ethiopian Citizens for Social Justice Party Chief Executive Kidist Girma stated that National Dialogue is a significant milestone to ensure lasting peace and transcend the country to posterity.

Cognizant of its significance, she emphasized that her party as an entity has been supporting the notion from the very establishment of the Commission through its own national dialogue commission which mainly focuses on facilitating the Commission's core missions by identifying common causes of differences that arose across the country.

Referencing the effects of both internal and external chaos, peace is a fundamental preceding tool to undertake any common and national agendas, so it should be everyone's mandate including militants to get involved to ensure nation's sovereignty, Kidist pointed out.

She added that, “There is no gain from conflict as it claims many lives, humanitarian crisis and property damages; therefore, it is prime time to table old-aged



Kidist Girma

differences and issues.”

Recommending all the parties and communities to refrain from triggering provocative agendas by promoting community based peace building mechanisms, she emphasized that the government is the forefront responsible body to facilitate peaceful mechanisms and open its gates wholeheartedly more than ever.

From the very beginning, the political parties had not been keen to get involved in the issue, but gradually they have joined witnessing its feasibility.

Welcoming the initiative, she said adding that her party has been carrying out ranges of activities in parallel with the commission in all phases inclusively in areas such as agenda setting, identifying and selecting from the entire communities.



Rahel Baffe (PhD)

Moreover, the commission is also aggressively working to enhance women representation which is now not exceeding 30% in the dialogue as well as in other sectors.

Women are the primary vulnerable community, she said, “They are catalysts for the socioeconomic and political achievements.”

On her part, the Ethiopian Social Democratic Party Vice Chair Rahel Baffe (PhD) has also spotlighted that the National Dialogue is a new chapter and a very concern of the joint council that everyone should not miss.

The vice chair has called on the people in all walks of life to support the historic peace process for the country's prosperous and sustainable socioeconomic development aspirations.

## Universities alliance vital to tackle climate change: MoPD

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

**ADDIS ABABA** - The Ministry of Plan and Development (MoPD) emphasized the role of collaborations among higher education institutions to address the pressing climate change issues.

The ministry yesterday held a workshop organized in partnership with the Global Green Growth Institute themed “A Greater Engagement of Universities on Climate Change Issues in Ethiopia” with the view of fostering collaboration and partnerships for addressing climate change and other environmental challenges.

On the occasion, MoPD State Minister Seyoum Mekonnen said that universities are the forefront actors that are playing a huge role towards tackling the impacts of climate change through research-based interventions, advocacies and awareness creation among many others.

Ethiopia is aggressively implementing a national adaptation plan, nationally determined contributions and long term low emission development strategy in line with its 10-Year Strategic Plan, he said.

As to him, the country has been actively implementing various climate action initiatives for several years thereby



Seyoum Mekonnen

registering significant outcomes on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and building resilience against the impacts of a changing climate.

Moreover, recognizing the fact that Ethiopia is experiencing the adverse impacts of climate change such as droughts, floods, desertification, and displacement, therefore, institutions' joint efforts need to be enhanced to address these shocks and achieve its ambitious climate goals, he added.

Currently, the country is doing its level best through various initiatives including Green Legacy, ‘Yelimat Tirufat’, national resource conservation, renewable energy, and green industrial park developments to

address the challenges of climate change.

In line with its mandates, the ministry is discharging its responsibilities by carrying out various activities including knowledge transfer information development, restructuring legal frameworks with various actors, and institutional structure to ensure resilience, he said.

“Thus, this kind of workshop with the universities would be of a great significance to further fostering cooperation to well manage climate governance systems and discharge common shared responsibilities.”

On his part, Addis Ababa University Bikila Workineh (PhD) said that all universities should discharge their shared responsibilities meaningfully and take visible action towards net-zero emission.

Accordingly, undertaking successive interdisciplinary climate change research, multidisciplinary approaches and multilateral workshops is fundamental to foster the country's socioeconomic development endeavors through withstanding climate change impacts.

Higher education institutions should also be a part of the curriculum for climate resilience and work with government institutions jointly, he stressed.

# News

## Group expresses Desire to Engage in manufacturing of EV in Ethiopia

**ADDIS ABABA** - FOTON Motors Group, a Chinese vehicles manufacturer, announced its desire to engage in the production of electric cars in Ethiopia.

FOTON is a Chinese company that designs and manufactures trucks, buses and sport utility vehicles.

State Minister of Transport and Logistics, Denge Boru discussed with delegation of the company.

On the occasion, the State Minister thanked the members of the group for expressing their desire to participate in the transport and logistics sector by investing in the production of electric cars and added that his Ministry is ready to cooperate with various institutions to fill the demand gap in the sector.

He said apart from planting billions of



trees across Ethiopia every year to curb the effects of climate change, the country is also engaged in expanding the growing demand for electric cars.

The State Minister said he is delighted to accept the desire of Foton to engage in the manufacturing of electric cars in Ethiopia.

Denge further noted that as a strategy to lure the manufacturers of electric cars in Ethiopia, the government has introduced a wide range of tax related incentives to encourage the sector.

In this regard, Foton Motors Group can effectively exploit the provisions of the

incentive package by importing spare parts and assembling them in Ethiopia as GERD is under completion to ensure sustained supply of hydroelectric power.

Chang Rue, CEO of FOTON Motors Group has inquired on policy and national strategies that would enable his company to engaged in the production and marketing of electric cars in Ethiopia and was extensively briefed by the officials of the Ministry.

Chang said that FOTON Motors Group will make greater contributions in the production of energy saving and pollution free electric cars and would also conduct scientific and technological researches on further promotion of the sector and will work towards making the discussions conducted with the Ministry come to fruition.

### Some 7.6 bln...

The state minister further noted that of the total seedlings, 56% are fruit and firewood with multiple uses. The remaining 44% has also great significance in increasing environmental protection and forest cover.

According to Eyasu (Prof.), it is planned to allocate 1.8 eight hectares of land to plant the prepared saplings and so far 1.71 million hectares of land have been allocated. Some 960,000 hectares of the allocated land have been mapped and anyone can monitor the seedlings from anywhere.

In addition to the preparation of seedlings and land allocation, 5.3 billion wells have been prepared in different areas of the country.

“The pre-launch program of this year’s Green Legacy Program is set to be held today in the presence of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD). There will be a discussion on the outcomes of the saplings planted in five years in terms of food security, environmental protection, forest cover, and job creation.”

He pointed out that the official launch of the nationwide Green Legacy Program will be held on June 29, 2024 in the presence of relevant stakeholders.

The State Minister also said that a program set to be held in the coming August whereby 150 million seedlings are to be planted in a single day. “Efforts are underway to register the amount of land covered by this program, the number of saplings that will be planted, and the number of people participating in the planting in the Guinness World Records.”

Ethiopia is planning to triple India’s record of planting 50 million saplings in a single day and is working to plant 150 million saplings.

All segments of society are expected to exert overwhelming participation to support Ethiopia in archiving such a milestone, Eyasu (Prof.) appealed.

### BRICS members give green...

joint announcement following the summit’s conclusion.”

He also highlighted that the joint announcement directed Ethiopia and other new BRICS member states to receive support to join the NDB based on their financial capabilities.

Foreign Minister Taye reportedly emphasized Ethiopia’s aspiration within the BRICS framework during the summit. “The ongoing geopolitical tensions among superpowers are affecting developing countries. Ethiopia believes in the need

for a genuine global partnership. In this regard, the Foreign Minister urged BRICS members to craft constructive mechanisms to navigate these geopolitical challenges,” Nebiyu elaborated.

The spokesperson further mentioned the necessity of the United Nations reform, highlighting development financing and debt relief as issues that could be addressed through such reform. “Despite having over 190 member states, the UN and its agencies are often influenced by the decisions and struggles of a few superpowers, which

### Officials commit to uplift

to Ethiopia’s development, officials said.

Ethiopian Technical and Vocational Training Institute Director General Biruk Kedir (PhD) believed that TVETs play a crucial role in the country’s economic growth mainly through stimulating industrial productivity.

TVETs have a paramount importance in producing well-trained human resource that can contribute a lot for the national development engaging in various fields, he stated.

Addis Ababa Labor and Skills Bureau Head’s Advisor Cherinet Belachew on his part noted that the training provided by TVETs excels citizens enrolled through a regular or irregular programs in a certain field.

This sector helps citizens to receive basic training that enable them to be equipped with the required knowledge and skill to get employed in various industries or start own businesses, he indicated.

He suggested that bolstering the sector is vital to produce competent human resource that fill the gap created for the ever expanding industries.

As to Cherinet, the TVET sector had not been given the required attention in the past for poor awareness.

However, Biruk mentioned that currently

the sector has got the needed consideration since the incumbent established the Ministry of Labor and Skills as a coordinating organ of the TVET education to exploit potentials for economic growth.

In addition, he said, the country is also implementing TVET policy.

According to Cherinet, the industry sector requires competent manpower, thereby TVET institutions play a significant role to achieve national development for ensuring industrial competitiveness and import substitution.

For Biruk, one of the major bottlenecks challenging the TVET sector is lack of awareness about its invaluable role for individual and national growth and it requires extensive effort to curb this problem and make the field preferable by citizens.

As to him, many parents still influence their children to prefer universities over TVET institutions.

Therefore, he expressed that much remains to be done to improve the public attitude to assume TVET as important education sector that enable students to change their life through developing skills and getting jobs.

The Addis Ababa City Administration is providing a budget support to TVETs which would be continued to make them assertive, it was learnt.

### Corporation...

in the pursuit of exploring the country’s business prospect.

According to Aklilu, the government has been undertaking various activities to encourage domestic investors to involve industrial development during the past several years. Due to this meticulous intervention, the number of domestic investors has increased from 10 % to 55 % across 13 industrial parks and in the Dire Dawa Free Trade Zone.

“Home-grown investment would play a paramount role in bolstering economic development. Without domestic investors’ initiation, it is difficult to ensure development at all.”

The CEO further stated that permitting the local firms’ entry into the industrial parks by Birr (previously restricted to USD only), tariff law improvement (from 100,000 to 15,000 Birr-rent fee per 1000 square meter a month) and providing investors with cultivable land were among the bold measure taken by the government to encourage domestic investors over the year. Similarly, the down payment has also reduced to 5% for domestic investors from 20 % that is required from foreign investors.

Solosa Pharmaceutical Manufacturing PLC Head Solomon Sebsbie, one of the investors who signed the agreement with the IPDC said that such type of opportunity is game changer in maximizing the domestic investors’ involvement in the IPS.

“Lack of manufacturing shades is a serious challenge to run the business during the past over many years though we have the potential to produce. Thanks to IPDC that is solving our problem with in a short period.”

The investor underlined that the government’s initiate is admirable because a limited number of domestic investors are involving in the industrial sector due to limited foreign exchange supply over the past many years. It is important to support the country by producing quality items in the years to come, Solomon remarked.

# Opinion

## Sure, 'plant our future today' pays off!

BY MENGESHA AMARE

It is an undeniable fact that trees, plants and other biodiversity accumulation at and in the surrounding of forestlands, roadsides, riversides, farms and grazing lands as well as residential areas and parks which grow naturally or developed in some other ways are immensely contributing to the perpetuation of life on earth.

As part of, and even located at the heart of the tropical East African strategic site, Ethiopia has been well entertaining the golden axiom 'Plant our future today,' to make the nation green through formulating the green legacy initiative as not only does this initiative contribute to curbing the consequences of climate change but it is also an opportunity for intensifying job creation scheme across the nation and beyond especially in urban areas.

It is also recurrently stated that when all Ethiopians are to decorate Ethiopia, a national call has been amplified to cover the nation in green setting the minor dividing lines citing regional, ethnic, religious and so forth factors, aside, as nurturing nature and greening plots of land would be of significantly useful in breathing clean air and feeding painstaking production on the land.

Not only does the green legacy initiative in Ethiopia aim at covering the nation with forests but it also changes the way people think about their environment and surrounding localities. Such a positive and remarkable move helps the nation to make the nation green and come up with a greener future would definitely be a viable, achievable reality. Ethiopia's green legacy initiative is of paramount importance in creating sustainable and resilience economy, indeed! That is why Ethiopia adopted the climate resilience green legacy strategy in 2011. This gutsy initiative has positive effects on a variety of interconnected goals including environmental protection, restoration of overused and damaged natural resources such as soil, and water as well as discontinuing desertification.

The initiative would also help all Africans see the continent they want and meet the Agenda 2063 for Sustainable Development. Yes, Ethiopia's long term dedication to a multifarious response to the effects of climate change and environmental degradation is demonstrated by the initiative that includes agro-forestry, development of the forest sector, greening and renewal of urban areas as well as integrated soil resource management.

It is clear that natural forests can sequester huge amount of carbon thereby contributing towards climate change mitigation efforts. Dependence on sectors that are climate change sensitive such as rain-fed agriculture, water, tourism, and forestry as well as a high level of poverty are the main factors that exacerbate Ethiopia's vulnerability to the impacts

of climate change. Needless to state, environmental protection is a global issue beyond geographic or politically limited areas of sovereign states' jurisdiction.

The nation has embarked on an ambitious endeavor to combat climate change and deforestation. As widely attested so far, forests play a significant role in the livelihood of the people, serve as a buffer in maintaining livelihoods, provide environmental services such as carbon sequestration and provide social or cultural benefits to the local people in Ethiopia. However, the contribution of forests to the overall economy of the country is still very low as public awareness about forest management and nurturing is minimal, too. As a result, there has not been significant progress in reversing the situation though several direct and indirect drivers of deforestation and forest degradation have been identified. Moreover, forests provide social or cultural benefits to the local people.

Forest products play a significant role in the livelihood of rural communities in Ethiopia. Households use forest products such as firewood, fodder, honey, wild coffee, mushroom, spices, medicinal plants etc. The demand for wood products is increasing in the country due to rapid population growth and urbanization. Fuel wood extraction for fire wood and charcoal production is also another significant driver of deforestation in the country.

The country to depend heavily on imported wood products for its wood-based industries. It has direct impact on the forest cover as expansion for more land usually takes place in the forested regions. In addition, large farms displace farmers and push them to the remaining forest areas in search of farm land, which could result in successive deforestation of the natural forest lands.

Local values, institutions and knowledge have enabled people to understand the happenings and changes in their environment. Local perceptions and knowledge provide a crucial foundation for community-based climate change adaptation measures and natural resource conservation.

The Green Legacy is the silver bullet for soil conservation, forestation, reforestation and large-scale land reclamation projects are the way forward for a sustainable and economic management of siltation. As the seedlings mature, they will take root and grow into trees to effectively trap soil on site. Linking tree planting to increased stream flow is not trivial because of the scale of climate and hydrology like representing the mass balance and physics at a local catchment scale representing stream flow, as they tend to operate differently.

Soil conservation, a forestation and reforestation practices obviously take a long time to be effective across the nation. Ideally, such environmental protection practices, especially in relation to dams

and siltation, should be implemented proactively, well ahead of the actual projects.

Looking at the green legacy as a cost-effective measure than a volunteer activity could go a long way. For this to happen, dedicated funding will need to be in place for enhancing afforestation which helps the percolation of underground water the source of rivers. During drought, the inflow of rain water to rivers will decline consequently dams power generation capacity will also be severely affected followed by loss of manufacturing production and economic impact which Ethiopia cannot afford to lose. While it is the government leadership that is the driving force of this environmental project, its success ultimately is up to every individual to be part of this environmental protection and reclamation project. Such mutual measures in environmental resource conservation like forest are said to be critical to benefit from their services. However, diverse views, laws, and practices related to human actions have been challenging such aspirations. The variations begin with diversified definitions given to the term forest, which stems from the diversity of the forest itself and forest ecosystem at international, national, and community levels. But cooperation needs contextualized the concepts to protect, maintain, and restore forest resources for the intended purposes.

The forest ecosystem gives many services to humans and nature, including but not limited to fuel, non-wood forest products; soil and water protection; protection of fragile ecosystem, biodiversity conservation; climate change mitigation/ carbon sequestration; other economic and socio-cultural values and services.

Forests maintain the quantity, quality, and regular water flow; store carbon in their organs and soils, including absorbing atmospheric carbon dioxide to keep climatic balances and prevent atmospheric disruption. As they usually grow on mountains and elevated areas, forests also prevent soil erosion. Economic-wise, a forest accelerates the economic development of a state in general and hosts wildlife in particular. Forests are sources of medicine, food, dwelling place for humans and wildlife for a long, and mainly, indigenous people and other rural communities' livelihood, social-cultural, and spiritual manifestations are based on forest products.

The imbalance between the replaced and lost forests coupled with the global nature of forest loss impacts, the need to enhance forest services, and the complexity of scientific and technological knowledge on forest conservation impelled regulations of deforestation/degradation and forestation measures in cooperation.

Advancement of technology and knowledge revealed invaluable ecosystem services and functions, which have trans-boundary impacts, and necessitated legally

binding international norms to avail such benefits to all worldwide at later times.

The essence of global forest governance depends upon the scope and purposes of the conservation and rehabilitation/restoration provisions provided under these treaties and practical implementation by the state parties at the domestic level. Failure to succeed in increasing amounts of the forest also stems from gaps of domestic laws to include historical and customary attachments of indigenous people to their forests.

Ethiopia has taken early initiatives to reduce carbon emissions from various sectors and build a green economy that can withstand climate change. Besides, the country is now taking various measures such as implementing the green legacy. True, Ethiopia is rich in great biodiversity as it has improperly used this biodiversity for many years; the trend has to be deterred in whichever way, in fact.

Ethiopia's natural resources, the arable and pasture land, and other related untapped precious assets have to be well taken care of. As some of the prevailing problems in the country are land degradation, deforestation, forest loss, and air pollution, the colossal effects of these elements have to be properly addressed so as to help the nation keep environments safeguarded. Interestingly, following the remarkable outcomes of the green legacy, the deforested and degraded lands have been restored to normal conditions. Besides, the country's forest area is now increasing due to the green legacy. The trees planted based on the green legacy now save water as the leaves and roots of the trees absorb the rain, which has a positive effect on the accumulation of crust water; that is why it is repeatedly heralded that 'plant our future today' pays off! Unequivocally, the green legacy initiative mobilizes people not only to plant trees but also to stop them from cutting down, and the initiative has made an important contribution to the fight against deforestation and degradation.

Generally, since the implementation of the Green Legacy Initiative will help protect climate change and biodiversity, prevent desertification, and develop a green economy and food security, Ethiopia has to work on it from dawn to dusk via propagating the saying 'We are better today than in the past, and we will be more prosperous tomorrow.' Hence, all citizens of the nation, with a particular reference to environmental scientists, line ministries working on the area, are expected to coach the general public about the irreplaceable role of perpetuating the essence of the green legacy via working collaboratively and developing love, empathy, compassion and unity among the general public. Yes, the campaign 'plant our future today' pays off!

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

# Editorial

## Another season of leaving imprints!

In Ethiopia, this is a season of leaving one's mark to save our planet from the ominous situation that climatic variability has posed. Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative (GLI) is a local hallowed endeavor whose impacts go well beyond Ethiopia. Climatic shocks know no bounds. So do the good impacts of the GLI.

Reliable data show that over the last five years, 35 billion saplings have sprouted roots. The plan is to plant 50 billion saplings till the end of the Second Green Legacy Program which is in 2026. Last rainy season (June-August of 2023), over 7.5 billion young trees were planted. Of these, the Ministry of Agriculture announced that over 85 % have managed to survive.

The GLI is perfectly aligned with UN Decades of Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 and many other important issues expressed in the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The Initiative has gained traction over the last years. Ethiopians from all walks of life, as well as members of the foreign community based in Addis are leaving their imprints every planting season. What is more, Ethiopia's neighboring countries have benefited from it. The country provided seedlings to neighboring countries for it fully understands that a single-handed effort cannot yield fruit in the fight against climatic shocks.

Ethiopia's GLI is a two-pronged effort. In one hand, it plants seedlings aimed at conserving the environment. These plants play a pivotal role in sequestering carbon, recharging groundwater, and improving soil fertility. On the other hand, edible fruit trees and commercial crops also take root envisaged achieving food security and improving export earnings. The greening initiative is, therefore, part and parcel of the national scheme to ensure sustainable food security.

Of course, the vast arable land, rich water resources, and favorable climatic conditions of Ethiopia had not been properly harnessed to produce adequate food crops. What rubbed salt into the wound was, the environmental depilation that resulted from traditional agricultural practices and the like. Hence, the country was visited by recurring droughts. This is not to mention the catastrophic famine of the early 1980s which caused the deaths of millions of citizens, leaving its protracted impacts on the country.

The clear policy direction and workable strategy aimed at creating resilience are now helping the country stand in a better position in the area of agriculture. The GLI compounded by allied efforts would help ensure food security and create millions of jobs for the unemployed youth.

To this effect, the reform government has started to think outside of the box. Its multi-sectorial development program that keeps agriculture at its center has started to produce fruit. Previously, the farmers/pastoralists considered that crops were able to be produced during the rainy season. Today, farmers know full well the fact that they can cultivate their lands both during wet and dry seasons so long as they conserve the environment. Ethiopia produced over 106 quintals of wheat by cultivating around 2,199,402 hectares of land in the just-ended dry season, for instance.

The summer irrigable wheat production was piloted in a few areas. The experience has been scaled up to regions such as Amhara, Oromia, Sidama, South Ethiopia, Central Ethiopia, South West Ethiopia, Afar, Gambela, Somali and Benishangul-Gumuz states. There are similar achievements registered in rice production as well.

Over 7.6 billion seedlings of various sorts are made ready for this planting season. Ethiopians and foreign nationals based in Addis will surely discharge their historic responsibility of saving mother earth for themselves and posterity by keenly involving themselves in the planting campaigns.



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The Ethiopian Herald

# Opinion

## Ethiopia is the best place for horticulture businesses

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

Ethiopia is a country blessed with various natural resources. Investors who recognize this are now flocking to this East African country to invest in agro-forestry and earn more dollars. Today, both local and international investors are exporting their products to foreign countries.

Ethiopia boasts a suitable climate, proximity to Middle East and EU markets, cheap and abundant labor, and a reliable transport system that supports the growth of the floriculture industry. Like many other developing nations, Ethiopia is pursuing rapid economic growth, diversifying its export base, and earning foreign exchange to reduce exposure to price volatility in international markets.

The first floriculture companies emerged in the early 1990s, and with government support, Ethiopia has attracted foreign investors in recent years to export cut flowers, mainly to European markets. Investors are enticed by an improved investment code, a five-year tax holiday, duty-free imports of machinery, easy access to bank loans, and readily trainable labor. Moreover, this development has created employment opportunities for unemployed citizens, with women accounting for 70 percent of the workforce in rural areas.

The flower subsector of the horticulture industry in Ethiopia is only 20 years old but has quickly become one of the top four countries in supplying quality flowers to the world, ranking second in Africa after Kenya. The conducive agro-ecology and topography of Ethiopia make it an attractive destination for investors in agro-forestry and agro-processing. The country's railway infrastructure connecting Djibouti and Ethiopian Airlines' direct flights to market destinations, especially European countries, provides efficient logistics at reasonable costs.

The government's incentives, such as five to seven years of tax relief and duty-free imports of capital goods, have encouraged more investment in the flower sector. Over the past years, flower exports have shown an annual growth rate of 9.8 percent, with increasing market destinations leading to better selling prices and a reliable source of foreign currency. However, the flower sector's growth area is limited to 1,700 hectares of land, and further investment could significantly alleviate foreign currency shortages.

While Kenya has been a leader in exporting cut flowers since the 1990s, Ethiopia is quickly catching up, surpassing countries like South Africa and Mozambique. European markets are the primary destination for Ethiopian flowers, with 76 percent of exports going to Europe, followed by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates.

The Aalsmeer Flower Auction in the Netherlands, the largest in the world, plays a crucial role in distributing Ethiopian flowers globally. Ethiopian flowers exported to this market are bought by European wholesalers

and distributed to various countries.

In nine months, Ethiopia earned more than \$390 million from the flower export trade in the past ten months, with the Netherlands being the primary destination.

The horticultural sector in Ethiopia has created around 200,000 jobs, with the flower subsector contributing 80 percent of new employment opportunities. Ethiopia's progress in becoming the fourth-largest flower exporter in the world is remarkable, considering its humble beginnings two decades ago.

To enhance competitiveness and quality, Ethiopia is adopting a consolidation system and implementing wetland management, hydroponic irrigation, and integrated pest management systems. These efforts have improved the quality of Ethiopian flowers and positioned the country as a strong competitor in the global market.

The leadership's continued support for horticulture farming is due to the promising success witnessed in the area. As a result, the horticulture subsector yielded 344 million quintals during the past 10 months of the current fiscal year, exceeding the plan by 26 million quintals. Compared with the same period last year, the current performance shows a 222 million quintal increment.

The result indicates the special attention given by the government to inspire private investors' involvement in the sector. This shows the possibility of maximizing production by providing increased assistance to businesses.

Previously, there were various grievances related to service provision, including the provision of land, which remains a concern for investors. Many investors are keen to increase their businesses and request an increased amount of foreign currency supply to purchase inputs for production and land. With the requirement of different infrastructure, including seamless logistics and power supply, for efficient horticulture farming, the government has shown special concern for the sector by providing attractive incentives.

One of the business community's primary grievances was the delay of horticulture products in ports, which has been reduced from 12 days to 9, and efforts are yet underway to further minimize it.

The various technologies applied in the horticulture sector can also be utilized in the Yelimat Tirufat projects, which are implemented in every household with a small plot of land. Indeed, the horticulture sector is effective in utilizing a small number of people and a small plot of land.

By and large, the government has given prime attention to the horticulture sector; initiatives like the Green Legacy are going parallel to this with a vision of ensuring food security by planting a number of seedlings. This all tells us that Ethiopia is the best alternative for the horticulture business.

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

# Business & Economy

## Apiculture for socio-economic expansion

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Bolstering Ethiopia's economy is pivotal in resolving its multifarious socio-economic problems via expanding all the potential sources of revenue at large. Of the many sectors the country can garner revenue or income at a smaller scale, the potential of apiculture industry in social and economic development it really immense.

Cognizant of the fact that apiculture does contribute a lot to the development of the agriculture sector, The Ethiopian Herald conducted an interview with Miftah Birru, who graduated in Agricultural Economic and working as an agriculture expert, to have viable information about the apiculture sub sector.

He said, "Hive products such as bee-wax, pollen, royal jelly, among others are known to have contributed largely to the economic development of developing countries like ours. Honey from Ethiopia will command higher demand and prices in various parts of the African continent as its medicinal and antimicrobial qualities, thereby serving as a good foreign exchange commodity in international market. As part of its contribution to economic growth, apiculture is a good source of income for beekeepers; it involves the use of little land. It empowers small scale farmers and also does not damage the environment."

He further elucidated that not only is apiculture important for generating income, it also curbs the state of rural migration as the community does have alternatives to produce more. Apiculture protects the environment and also an important non-timber forest product. Doing honey business to make money has now been a culture, indeed!

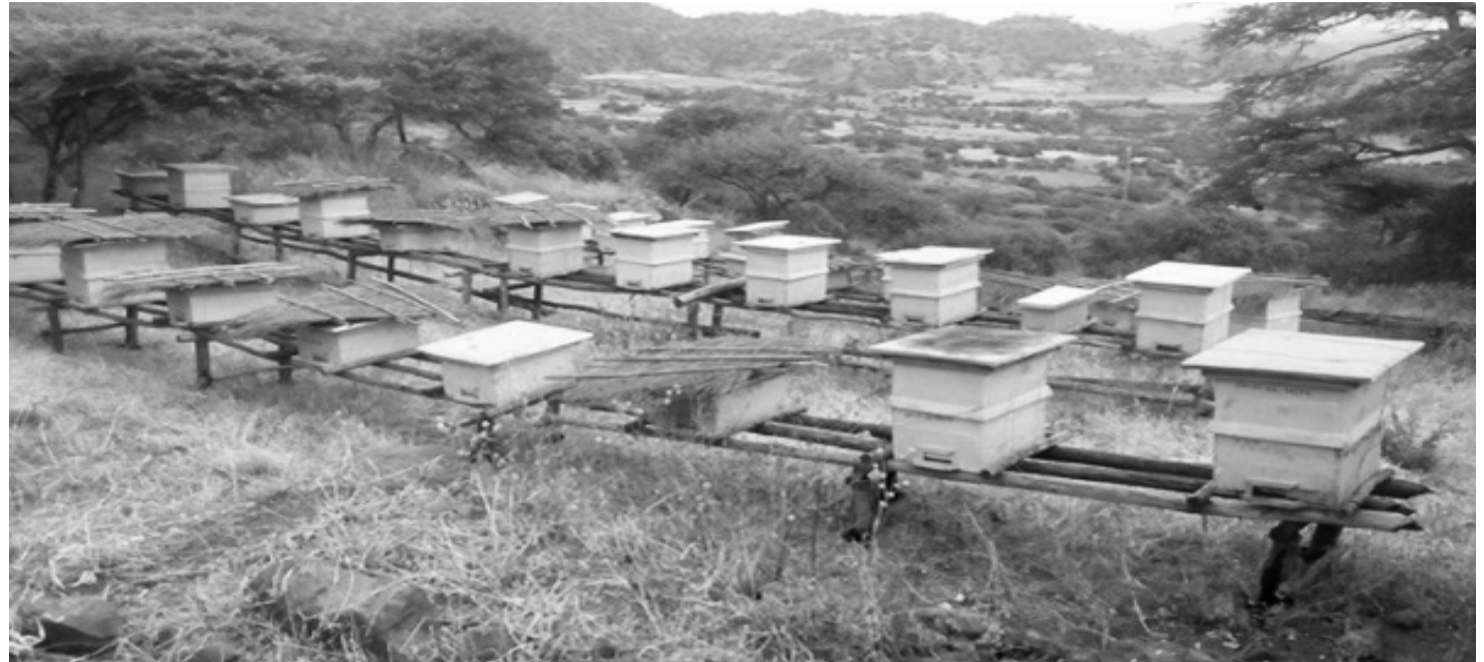
Revenue from honey harvesting and small-scale farming is meager, and communities suffer from chronic poverty, poor housing and an inability to pay school fees. However, at present these people do have access to rich natural resources, especially honey bees and forest resources, he said.

"Ethiopia is renowned within Africa for its beekeeping potential as well as its highly diverse honeybee flora and number of bee colonies (the highest on the continent). These characteristics contribute to the country being one of the largest honey producers, granting it first place in Africa and tenth worldwide," he added.

He further said that beekeeping is a sustainable form of agriculture, which is beneficial to the environment and provides economic reasons for the conservation of native habitats and potentially increased yield of food and forage crops.

As to Miftah, there are already well-established trade routes for honey, people are familiar with bees, and the area is suitable for beekeeping. The honey hunters have expressed a huge interest in beekeeping however they lack knowledge, experience and the means to begin, as there is no culture of using bee hives in this area. As human populations grow, communities move into habitats, clearing land previously home to wildlife to make room for human settlement and agriculture.

He said, "Beekeeping is a well-established



*Beehives have to be made much more modern*

practice in the farming communities of the Amhara region and it plays a significant role as source of additional cash incomes and nutrition for many thousand subsistence farmers. However, in spite of its significant economic contribution and its great potential for sustainable development for the region, the attention given to the sector until recently was not satisfactory. The sub sector has been left for nature with little attempts to support it with technological packages to improve its production and productivity. Thus, the farmer beekeepers in particular and the region in general are not benefiting from the sector as the high level of the economic potential of the apicultural resources would allow."

Beekeeping could probably be a profitable activity to undertake in most parts of the country like Amhara and Oromia states. The ownership pattern of honeybee colonies is widespread and nowadays the previously neglected 'micro-animals' are gradually gaining a respectable place in research and development programs. Thus, developing appropriate policy and beekeeping development strategy that would be applicable to the different production systems and agro-ecological zones of the regions and give a clear sense of direction is vital to improve the utilization of the region's apiculture resources with a promising economic future, he opined.

The major problems of honeybee production in the country can be tackled with the appropriate research and development. Inadequate feed sources (nectar, pollen, and water) due to drought and deforestation is a major limiting factor to honeybee production in Amhara region, particularly during the long dry season.

Most of the honey plants flower and provide ample nectar and pollen sources after the main rainy season comprising September, October, November and December. "Integration of beekeeping to others development activities such as conservation of natural resources and promote the sowing of multipurpose legumes as a soil conservation measures as well as a fertilizer saver and that retain moisture to the soil may help as best means to green the futures. They also provide nectar and pollen for honeybees. Some browses can also occupy an important role in honeybees feeding, particularly during the dry season. This is because most browse species are drought resistant," he said.

Techniques of beekeeping management like moving bees out of hazardous areas, supplementary feeding and various protective measures that will reduce the harmful effect of exposure to insecticides should be developed and practiced.

Locally beekeepers would be train and then serve as extension agents in their own village. Moreover, modern beekeeping requires close attention and giving technical assistance to the farmers who had little knowledge in operation techniques. In all of the working areas developing honeybee calendar, continuous supervision and some assistance in hive management would help farmers learn more and improve their working capacity better.

According to Miftah, most of the beekeepers in the region have been using local beekeeping technique that result in low hive products. Much of the honey produced by the beekeeper is of very low quality because it is mixed with wax, pollen and brood. Some of the products are even unknown or unexploited. Management systems need to be improved in order to improve the quality and quantity of hive products. The beekeepers should use a year-round plan of management favorable to the bee colony. The choice of beekeeping technologies varies across geographical areas because of differences in biophysical and economic conditions of beekeepers.

He further elucidated that the indigenous honeybee colonies exist in large numbers in most parts of the region, and a small increment in productivity per colony will collectively lead to large volume of hive products. Moreover, at any kind of beekeeping development the use of the necessary tools and appropriate hives is essential for effective result. Effort should be done to evolve the most suitable hives to the beekeepers local condition so that they can understand and operate the hives without badly stung and destroying the colony. Knowledge on how to incorporate new technologies profitably into farm level production strategies will become more important.

He said, "Honeybee pests and diseases threaten most parts of the regions and cause high mortality rates and severe economic loss. The needs for effective honeybee health delivery service and appropriate control methods in order to reduce diseases, pests and predators constraint remain very important."

Linking production and post-production components to efficient market information and extension services, infrastructure and marketing schemes, and establishing standards for quality control of bee products should be the major focus in hive products marketing. Farmer beekeepers should be encouraged to establish a honey and beeswax producer cooperatives, trained in proper management and processing of locally produced hive products, thus creating better potential to the local and international markets. Much of the honey produced from local hives is mixed with wax, pollen and brood and this procedure has not changed because there is a high demand for the supply for the making of local beer '(Tej)'.

In a nutshell, there is a strong need for an apiculture development policy with appropriate guides and well-defined goals in order to attain a thriving production sector with accelerating and environmentally sustainable growth. Technology packages have to be developed through farming systems research. A research system that benefits small-scale farmers operating in different farming systems and agro-climatic zones should be strengthened. Creating a system that develops a mechanism for strong links between research and extension services should also be an integral part of the envisaged development strategy and policy. A successful apiculture development strategy requires the formulation of natural resource management plans that complement the wider economic and specific agro-ecosystems objectives. The strategy will also need to consider the social, cultural, political and institutional elements that affect the management of natural resources.

Majority of the beekeepers lack the knowledge of appropriate methods of beekeeping. In the country there is no concerned college or university which can provide diploma or certificate level course in beekeeping. Ethiopia, as one of the sub-tropical countries, the land is not only favorable to bees, but also for different kinds of honeybee pest and predators that are interacting with the life of honeybees. The existence of pests and predators are nuisances to the honeybees and beekeepers. Pests and predators cause devastating damage on honeybee colonies with in short period of time and even overnight.

# Art & Culture

## I knew why poets never die (In praise of classic poets)

BY ALEM HAILU G/  
KRISTOS

Absorbed in  
An anthology of  
Classic poems  
On a quiet night  
With wings of  
Uptake & delight  
Unbeknownst to me  
My soul took flight  
To wonderland that  
Whets poetic appetite  
With musical poems  
Some brain-racking,  
While some are  
Savory but light.

Crossing paths with  
Celebrated poets  
From my fantasy plane  
I decided to alight  
So that  
The messages  
By respective poems,  
They further explain.  
Cognizant that  
Hearing things from  
The horse's mouth  
Like Antarctica  
Will not make things  
As far south.

I saw  
Helen Steiner Rice  
To read  
Whose inspiration works  
Like 'Christmas Guest'  
Is upliftingly nice.  
Me when she beheld  
This she said  
"Till your  
Corporeal being's  
Turn come to be a sod  
Never desist to  
Vest hope in God,  
Who foresees and shapes  
All that will unfold.  
Always dwell  
In the vineyard of  
The Lord."

Drew close  
James Stephens  
With Helen  
You are right nod.  
"Chap,  
If you look around  
You will behold  
On everything  
The hallmark of  
Creation stamped  
By God!  
Also excellent, from  
The ordinary extra,  
You will hear  
Nature's God-praising  
Orchestra!"  
William Henery Davis  
Courteously came by  
To say hi &  
"Be content with  
What you have  
You will be happy  
When that gratuitously  
You learn to love.  
See not you why  
The example set  
By the butterfly,  
On a rough rock  
That sleeps content

Neither with  
A mattress  
Nor a blanket!"  
Enda St. Vincent Millay  
Soon I met  
Whose fame surfing  
The tide of time  
To date, which  
Continues to resonate.  
"As the saying goes  
'The world is lovely  
& the loveliest  
is enough!'  
To be happy  
Try to nurture  
The culture  
Of admiring nature.  
Waste no time  
Visit the mountain  
The secret of happiness  
To you, it will explain."

After seconds' walk  
William Ernest Henley  
Approached me  
For a hard talk  
"When beset  
By challenges  
Never give in  
That is a great sin!  
As for me, whenever  
I experience a fall  
Soon I get up as the  
Captain of my soul.  
Though  
In the dark night  
Of the soul  
God's eyes seem far,  
For the downhearted  
He is a lodestar."

I saw Elenor Frajeon  
By a roadside  
With a book in her hand.  
"Love to books  
Is a launching pad  
To a wonderland,  
Where readers  
Stumble on authors  
Of this & that brand.  
Hence, books  
Window to audience's  
Souls they will stand.  
Also, read my poem  
That draws attention  
To unconditional  
Mother-to-child affection  
That defies description."

I met anon  
Austin Dobson  
"A rose  
To itself  
A question  
Opted to pose.  
'I wonder why  
This hoary-headed  
Gardner refuses to die?'  
But soon  
A wind blew up  
Its sun-withered  
Petals to the sky.  
The analogy teach  
On the timeline  
Brief, beauty to a halt  
Will screech.

Patted me on the back  
"My son,"  
Ben Johnson  
"Like a Lele



Being short and brief  
Could render life  
Ease and relief!"

Sat on a rock  
Samuel T. Coleridge  
A secret broke.  
With bitter smile  
Waving his  
Pen as a tool,  
"Those who think  
A poet is a fool  
They will know  
Who is rather the fool  
If they introspect with  
A head cool!"

I saw Walter De la Mare  
Exactly the way towards  
His poem character,  
Old Susan, he used to stare.  
"Susan was taken away by  
A romantic fiction  
Past midnight  
Sat on chair  
Absorbed in a monologue  
'Breeching  
Cultural norms  
Is not fair!'  
After  
One's age  
Did advance  
In reading fiction  
One stands  
For reliving  
The past  
A chance.

Soon came W. Blake  
Me to the graveyard  
To take  
Pointing to  
A headstone  
"Now, my enemy,  
My anger's object,  
Is dead.  
Subject to a  
Conscious pang  
My head,  
It is divested of  
A soft pillow  
I go to bed!  
Yourself you  
Must not find  
In a mood  
For an axe to grind  
Otherwise, for a reason  
You'll become blind."

For supper  
Volunteered to be  
My host

Robert Frost.  
He stressed  
"To settle  
Punitive price  
As lethal  
As fire is ice!"  
Came a guest  
Edmund Spencer  
To tell us  
The mystery  
That puts  
His phlegmatic  
Dream object  
And he, her

Pursuant lover, asunder.  
"When Fire and ice  
Are locked in  
A love's dorm  
Out of the norm,  
One may not change  
The other's form!"  
Via the window,  
I saw a graveyard  
Past the meadow.  
When my eyes  
Caught sight  
Of Julia Caroline  
I took steps  
To sit by her side  
The meaning of  
Eternal love  
To understand.

"A kiss on the lips  
From a lover  
Is a keepsake stamp  
That transcends  
An earthly map."

There in the graveyard  
I met Sara Teasdale  
"Like a low-hanging  
Ripe fruit  
In the gray time  
When a lass  
Is off guard,  
To better woo her  
A chance a lad  
May stand.  
Also, from affection  
For physical intimacy  
Many a lass could  
Give added attention."  
With raised brow  
I posed  
"Why should you  
Show a bent  
To profanity?"  
"My friend  
A poet  
Couldn't be

Taken naughty  
For expressing  
Man's sexuality!  
For the answer  
Try to meet  
Anne Bradstreet."

Before I asked  
Sara why "You  
Committed a suicide?"  
She got clear  
From my side.

Anne Bradstreet  
I met  
"It is tragic  
To have at home  
A child with  
A down syndrome!

What lurks  
In the subconscious  
Of an author or a poet  
In the heat of the moment  
Through his/her pen  
S/he may seek an outlet

So, to date,  
Regretting  
"Why did I  
Write this  
Taboo-seen  
Thing!"  
Seems  
Some author's fate.

I saw Thomas Hood  
Amidst his harvest  
That fares good  
He told me  
"From a perfumed  
And  
Well-attired lady  
Who belongs  
To the top brass,  
It is by far better  
To tie a knot  
With a provincial lass,  
In her hair  
With a fresh flower  
Plucked out of the grass  
She shines bright  
Bathed by sunlight!"

Out  
On the street again,  
I met  
Lithuanian  
Salomeja Neris,  
I became happy  
As I never wanted  
Her to miss.

I asked her about  
The harrowing fate  
She, her father,  
Mother, siblings  
Neighbors and  
Many an age mate  
Underwent.  
"During  
The World War II  
Children, who  
Otherwise, were  
Considered  
Unfit for themselves

To fend,  
Were forced  
The brutal Nazi  
To defend!"  
Soon I met  
Richard Lovelace  
And John Scott

Locked in  
An argument hot.  
The former  
"I want to head  
To the front  
It is  
A source of pride  
To fight on  
Nation's side."  
The latter  
"Paying a price grand  
I cannot understand!"

Edwin A. Robinson  
Came to tell me the story  
About Richard Cory  
"Measure not  
Your life by  
The success of your object  
Of admiration,  
The one a role-model  
You hold or held,  
I am afraid  
Off guard  
He can lodge  
A bullet in  
His head."

I saw William B. Yeats,  
An Irish poet  
Who raised issue hot.  
"How an  
Angel helped out  
A tired priest,  
A snap who  
Could not resist,  
While a laity  
In his parish  
Was ceasing to exist."  
Robert Herrick approached  
Me this to speak  
"I am smote  
By grief,  
To see a Daffodil,  
Like human beings,  
Turning brief."

Said Emily Dickinson  
"It is when you fail to hit  
A target heartfelt  
You'll understand  
The meaning of  
Having something desired  
Under your belt."

At last  
I saw  
Edgar Allan Poe  
To relate this to me  
He made haste.  
"Though a pauper,  
From my soul mate  
No earthly,  
Heavenly power  
Managed to asunder me  
To date.

After reading this long  
I realized why  
Poets never die."  
"Via my works"  
Like Shakespeare  
"I will tower  
Akin a mountain  
Basking with fame  
Even an emperor  
Could not obtain!"  
Expressed Pushkin  
The might of the pen.

At last I jolted back  
To my normal self  
And put the anthology  
Back on the shelf.

# Science & Technology

## Promising students' technological inventions

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

Science is the springboard for the leap in technology and innovations. And schools are the nursery of science and innovations. Schools are ideal places for students to change the theoretical ideas they learnt in classes into practice. Primary laboratories at school levels are helping youths to practice their ideas and to invent new things. Most of the time, students learn the science and practice the theory in schools. Hence, schools form the footwork for science, innovation and technology.

As a country which accords due focus on the development of science, technology and local innovations, Ethiopia focuses on promoting technological inventions in the younger generation. To cultivate the ideas of students, to promote the innovational products of students and also to develop competitions among students, nowadays, different exhibitions are being organized targeting school innovations.

Recently, the Addis Ababa Education Bureau has organized school level innovation expo that gathered innovations from all schools of the metropolis. The ninth city level science and innovation competition trade fair of schools was held recently in Addis Ababa under the theme "Innovative Generation for inclusive development and prosperity" organized for three days at Friendship Park.

Students, gathered from different schools of the city, presented their innovational products at the students' innovational expo. Bereket Belete was one of the mastermind students who presented their creative works during the expo. The Yemariyam TSION Catholic School Grade 12 student, Bereket, presented his innovational product of Silent and Supersonic Rocket Launcher weapon.

According to Bereket, his innovational weapon product has its own features compared to the current weapons. As to him, the Silent and Supersonic Rocket Launcher can serve multidimensional purposes at once. As to the student, the current weapons being used during wars demolish infrastructures, injure or kill civilians and even the weapons, by themselves, are exposed to destruction by other weapons. Bereket said that his innovational product was designed to solve these problems.

For Bereket, an artificial intelligence (AI) is installed in the weapon. Hence, the weapon is controlled by AI not by human beings. And based on the instructions and targets, the weapon performs the task successfully. He designed the weapon to perform multitasks at once, according to Bereket.

Relating about the benefits of the weapon, Bereket, said "by placing the weapon in the battle field, we can instruct and manage the weapon to fight the war from anywhere that allows fighters to fight the battle from afar or safe position" The other benefit of Bereket's innovational weapon, as to him, is the weapon cannot be targeted by radar system. "The current weapons are targeted by radar system and it is simple



***As a country which accords due focus on the development of science, technology and local innovations, Ethiopia focuses on promoting technological inventions in the younger generation***

to easily target and destroy the weapons," Bereket stated adding "However, the new innovation is designed with a radar barrier and it makes difficult to destroy the weapon using radar."

According to Bereket, during a war, the soldier only fulfills one man task and if the soldier may wound, the service that the soldier can play could fail. However, his Rocket Launcher placed in a hidden place and without sound can perform tasks replacing the role of six soldiers at once. As to him, the weapon is equipped with a system that enables it to function within the radius of up to 50 kilometers of a battle field within five minutes. As to the student, the weapon installed with a Rocket launcher never creates explosion and due to this reason, the weapon never creates infrastructural destruction.

The student stated that as it stands, the weapon product is ready to fulfill a task. He mentioned that by taking permission from authorized body, the weapon was tested. And as to him, the test confirmed that the weapon is successful to perform tasks. Bereket noted that he started to produce the weapon so as to avoid collateral damage of wars. "Infrastructures and urban centers are built with a huge resource but they could be destroyed within a single day due to wars. Battles are consuming lives. Hence, I innovated the product to manage the

collateral damage of wars and to minimize the lives lost in wars," Bereket stated.

Meanwhile, Bereket stated that it is crucial to focus on technological innovations to solve societal and national problems. "The youth have the chance and capacity to innovate problem-solving products" Bereket stated calling the youth generation to give due attention for technology, innovation and science sectors. "We can come up with problem solving products to solve our country's problems," he stated.

According to Berekete, the Silent and Supersonic Rocket Launcher weapon was produced at prototype level from materials he found in his surroundings and he spent 30,000 Ethiopian Birr to produce the prototype weapon. As to Bereket, such invention-related expos can promote innovational and creativity competitions among students. In addition, they prompt students to translate the theoretical ideas they learnt in classes to practice to change the ideas into products. Bereket has received financial awards for his inventions and he said that he will continue to invent problem-solving gadgets to contribute his share for his country.

Yohannes Solomon and his two school friends had also presented their products during the exhibition. Yohannes and his two friends are 11th Grade students of School

of Indiana at Akaki Kaliti Sub City. They invented a product that can prevent water wastage. The product can measure and release water.

The three school friends started to invent the product as they observed the wastage of water in their surroundings. "This machine can save the water that lays waste due to misuse," Yohannes stated. In addition to using the machine in households, as to the inventors, it can be used in agriculture for irrigation system. As to him, farmers can order the machine the amount of water needed to irrigate the farm and they can perform other tasks as the machine fulfills the task by itself. The machine can also be used to watering plants.

Similarly, the machine can be used in the health sector to hold medicines in liquid form in the prescribed amount, in laboratories to measure and record chemicals and in gas stations to collect fuel, Yohannes noted. The machine can perform its tasks using energy sources both from electricity and battery. As to Yohannes, the product can be used as it stands as it was verified through inspection. Currently, team Yohannes members are working to produce a water filter machine.

The water wastage saver machine, according to Yohannes, is produced from simple products found locally and they spent 3,000 birr to produce the machine. "Compared to its benefits, the cost is cheap" Yohannes stated. Yohannes said that he participated in the expo for the first time and it inspired him and he drew a lot of lessons from other students.

Ahmed Jemal also presented his three innovational products during the expo. Ahmed is Alhuda School Grade 8 student. Ahmed created Smart Cape from blind people, Mathematical Calculator for children and flying train. The Smart Cape, according to Ahmed provides services for blind people. The Smart Cape senses things that can collide from 20 to 25 meters and alert the blind person to take care. Using the smart cape helps blind people to move from place to place freely. While his second product, calculator helps youth and deaf people to learn mathematics easily. The third product of Ahmed is a flying train.



# Society

## “Virtue and solidarity for Ethiopia’s height!!”

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

It is human nature to expect a reward for activities they carry out to benefit others. This reward and satisfaction vary from individual to individual. For some people, money is considered as the only reward and the ultimate satisfaction behind every accomplishment. For others, it is inner peace and seeing individuals smile by the service they received, make them feel good and satisfied. These types of people are in most cases found in all voluntary activities. They are courageous and compassionate people, who always feel the pain of others and keen to help others in every possible way, without expecting any rewards or responses.

Voluntarism serves as a catalyst for social change, creating a platform for individuals to contribute their share meaningfully to their fellow people. By volunteering their time, knowledge, skills, and resources, they actively engage in initiatives that address pressing social issues, ranging from poverty alleviation to environmental conservation. This spirit of volunteerism empowers communities to take ownership of their development, fostering a culture of collaboration and empathy.

Seeing the role of voluntarism to address social hurdles the government is also actively encouraging and supporting the efforts of volunteers. Last Wednesday, June 19, 2024, the annual national voluntary service campaign was launched under the theme “Virtue and Solidarity for Ethiopia’s height”.

Speaking at the launching event held at Adwa Memorial Museum, Deputy Prime Minister, Temsgen Tiruneh said that voluntarism is a powerful weapon to alleviate social challenges in a sustainable manner.

The Deputy Minister said that, voluntarism is one way citizens willingly offer their money, time, energy, knowledge and skills for the good of their country and the people who need service.

According to him, the free services provided by volunteers have key roles for countries like Ethiopia that are working aggressively to achieve social and economic development and realize prosperity. He also said voluntarism has a significant role in nurturing common values, strengthening solidarity and togetherness, developing the culture of helping each other and experiencing the real meaning of compassion. “Voluntarism has a significant contribution in alleviating serious social challenges, ensuring fairness and sustainable development.”

Speaking on her part, Women and Social Affairs Minister, Ergogie Tesfaye (PhD) said that voluntarism is one of the areas where the government has given special attention. This is especially true after the reformation.

Voluntarism by its nature needs coordinated efforts. In this regard, the active involvement of the three Ministries (Education, Peace and Women and Social



Affairs) and their consolidated efforts will avoid resource wastages and repetitive actions. In turn, it will help to execute activities effectively and efficiently, she added.

Ergogie also said that due to their unreserved efforts, volunteers are contributing their share to respond to the social challenges of the community.

Mentioning the fact that voluntarism plays for unity and nation building, Ergogie said, the movement should not only be confined to the rainy season. It should be the day-to-day activity of everyone. “Voluntary activities should not only be confined to the rainy season at the time of school closure. The campaign in the voluntary service is an indication of our commitment to build a strong nation.”

Education Minister Birhanu Nega (Prof.) also said that voluntarism has a significant role in nation building process and it further strengthens togetherness. For this reason, it should not be a seasonal activity. It must be performed conventionally with a budget.

In related news, State Minister for Youth Affairs, Muna Ahmed, revealed that more than 34 million volunteers will participate in this year’s voluntary service program which aims at strengthening solidarity, nation building, creating social cohesion and national unity. Accordingly, it is planned to benefit more than 50 million members of the society through the program. Development activities and social services, worth 21 billion and cannot be covered by the government and the community, are expected to be carried out in this program.

Participating in the Green Legacy program, strengthening solidarity and nation building, renovating and constructing the houses of the poor, supporting the needy, blood donation, road safety services, engaging in peace and security issues, providing tutorial services and training, humanitarian activities are some among the 14 areas that this year’s volunteers are

them a chance to discharge their social responsibility and understand the true meaning of voluntarism, Muna emphasized. She also conveyed a message to the media to cover the events and mobilize the masses to actively participate in the programs.

It is understandable that voluntarism is a powerful tool to address social challenges. This is especially true when the government is not able to fill all the gaps of the community for various reasons. As the second most populous country in Africa, Ethiopia has several social challenges that require the collective efforts of the society. While the government is aggressively working to fill most of the social and economic gaps of the society, volunteers’ intervention has a significant role in addressing the challenges.

As indicated by those senior government officials, in the fabric of a nation’s progress, voluntarism lies as a powerful force that transcends boundaries and unites communities in pursuit of a common good. Throughout history, various experiences in our country have underscored the pivotal role of voluntarism (though not in modern sense) not only in addressing social challenges but also in shaping the very essence of nation-building, community-based conservation, disaster relief, youth empowerment, exploring the culture of others and strengthening solidarity. It is through the acts of selflessness and collective effort that individuals from diverse backgrounds come together to create a tapestry of unity and resilience.

What is more, voluntarism plays a vital role in fostering national unity by bridging divides and promoting a shared sense of identity. When citizens join hands in volunteer efforts, they demonstrate their commitment to the welfare of the nation as a whole. By working towards common objectives, individuals can overcome barriers of ethnicity, religion, or socio-economic status, and embrace their shared responsibility towards building a stronger, more inclusive society.

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taking part.

Muna also said that the voluntary service is expected to bring people with different cultures and identity closer, give an insight for volunteers to explore the lifestyles, skills, and learn about the culture of fellow people living in different parts of the country.

The active involvement of the young people in voluntary services will give

# International News

## Kenya to host second US-African nuclear summit

Kenya will in August host the second nuclear forum between the US and Africa as the country gears up to join the league of nations generating part of their electricity from nuclear power.

The forum will attract top officials from the US nuclear energy sector to offer more insights on the technology besides pursuing possible engagement agreements as more African countries seek to pursue power generation from nuclear plants.

Kenya plans to set up a nuclear power plant and has already picked Kilifi, at the Coast, as the preferred host of the maiden nuclear power plant with the alternative being the neighbouring Kwale.

The Nuclear Power and Energy Agency (Nupea)— the agency in charge of the technology— is currently engaging residents of Kilifi County in a bid to create awareness in a bid to pave the way for the construction of a power plant in the county.

“Kenya will use this forum to make a big pronouncement on what we want to do with the nuclear power programme,” Justus Wabuyabo, the Chief Executive Officer of Nupea told this publication on Monday.

“Because this falls into something we call political commitment where the top leadership will give comfort to technology providers dealing with nuclear technology.”



South Africa is the only African country currently generating electricity from a nuclear power plant. Egypt is also setting up plants with a capacity of 4,400 mega watt energy (MWe). Kenya and Ghana are racing to build nuclear power plants.

Kenya has set an ambitious target of commencing the construction of a nuclear power plant in 2027 and commissioning it by 2034.

But a raft of hurdles are facing Kenya's

plan for the plant notably, awareness and acceptance of the project by Kenyans in Kilifi and source of funding for the plant.

The summit offers the US a chance to deepen involvement in African countries keen to set up nuclear power plants.

About 18 percent of the electricity used in the US is generated from nuclear power plants, making it one of the leading users of the technology to run the economy.

Andrew Worrall, the director of Nuclear

Energy Programs at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and DeLeah Lockridge, the Group leader for the Nuclear Operations and Licensing at the firm, are some of the key speakers set to address the forum.

Oak Ridge National Laboratory is an agency in the US Department of Energy Science and Energy Laboratory and is tasked with, among others, undertaking research and giving policy insights on nuclear energy.

*Source: The East African*

## Ramaphosa vows to fight inequality as power-sharing begins

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa reacts after being re-elected during the first sitting of the National Assembly following elections at the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) on June 14, 2024. REUTERS

A weakened South African President Cyril Ramaphosa pledged on Wednesday that his new multi-party government would work to improve basic living conditions for all citizens as he was sworn in for a second term in office.

Ramaphosa's African National Congress will be sharing power with five other parties after it was humbled in a May 29 election, losing its parliamentary majority for the first time in 30 years of democracy.

The voters “have been unequivocal in expressing their disappointment and disapproval of our performance in some of the areas in which we have failed them,” Ramaphosa said at his inauguration ceremony in the capital Pretoria.

He said the voters wanted everyone to have enough food, decent homes, clean water, affordable and uninterrupted electricity supply, well-maintained roads, good care for the sick and elderly, quality schools and other basic services.

“Today, I stand before you as your humble servant to say we have heard you,” he said. “In this moment we must choose to move forward, to close the distances between South Africans and to build a more equal society.”

The ANC remains the largest party after the election, followed by the pro-



business Democratic Alliance, a critic of the ANC's record in office which has agreed to join the new government.

### Ideological divisions

While investors have welcomed the inclusion of the DA, which wants to boost growth through structural reforms and prudent fiscal policies, analysts say sharp ideological divisions between the parties could make the government unstable.

Just before the election, Ramaphosa signed

into law a National Health Insurance bill that the DA says could collapse a creaking health system. It was unclear what would happen to that law under the new government.

The DA advocates scrapping the ANC's flagship Black economic empowerment programme, saying it hasn't worked -- a highly contentious topic in a nation grappling with huge inequalities, some inherited from apartheid.

Ramaphosa has yet to announce the make-up of his new government, to be negotiated

with members of the new alliance.

A former liberation movement, the ANC came to power under Nelson Mandela's leadership in the 1994 elections that marked the end of apartheid and had long been unbeatable, but it lost its shine after presiding over years of decline.

### Poverty and crime

Weary of high levels of poverty and unemployment, rampant crime, rolling power cuts and corruption in party ranks, voters punished the ANC, which lost millions of votes on May 29 compared with the previous election in 2019.

“Our society remains deeply unequal and highly polarised,” Ramaphosa said.

“We are divided between those who have jobs and those who do not work, between those who have the means to build and enjoy a comfortable life and those who do not.”

African heads of state and dignitaries from as far afield as Cuba, a historical friend of the ANC, gathered outside the Union Buildings in Pretoria, seat of the South African government, to bear witness to Ramaphosa's inauguration.

A ceremony full of military pomp and pageantry began with inter-faith prayers by Christian, Hindu, Muslim, Jewish and traditional African religious leaders, reflecting the country's diversity.

Military helicopters flew past in blazing sunshine, trailing South African flags, to cheers from the audience.

*Source: The East African*

# Ethiopian indigenous knowledge to...

Tourism Training Institute Deputy Director General, Yetaseb Seyoum on his part said that working on indigenous knowledge in collaboration with MoLS and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutes is vital to developing the tourism industry and solving the skilled human power limitation in the area.

Yetaseb noted that his Institute is providing capacity building training, conducting research and investigation, transferring knowledge and providing consultation services to advance tourism.

“Though a number of students have been graduating and seeking jobs, some hospitality services such as housekeeping and laundry are still facing shortage of competent human resource to the position,” he noted.

He added that the Institute conducted “Human Resource Demand and Supply Analysis on Tourism” aimed at balancing the proficient human power within the smokeless industry.

Yetaseb further stated that the Institute has planned to conduct research on cultural dishes in eight different states this fiscal year whilst five states were already addressed in the past nine months. As to him, Afar, Sidama, and Gambella states have been listed out in addressing cultural food preparation.

So far, experts agree that indigenous knowledge has contributed to the operation of cultural tourism through preservation of culture, learning community history, income generation, and maintenance of the relationship between the community and visitors.



*Konso cultural landscape*

One example of Ethiopian indigenous knowledge in tourism is the practice of coffee ceremonies, where visitors can learn about the traditional way of preparing and serving coffee. Another example is the use of traditional medicines and healing practices, which can be showcased to tourists interested in alternative forms of medicine.

Moreover, Ethiopian indigenous knowledge has the potential to significantly boost tourism in the country by offering visitors a unique and authentic experience that cannot be found anywhere else. By integrating this knowledge into the tourism industry, Ethiopia can attract more tourists, create economic opportunities for local communities, and showcase the rich

cultural heritage of the Ethiopian people.

Therefore, by incorporating Ethiopian indigenous knowledge into the tourism industry, local communities can benefit economically as well. Empowering indigenous communities to actively participate in the tourism industry can create economic opportunities for them. By providing training and support for community-based tourism initiatives, local residents can benefit directly from the influx of visitors while preserving their cultural heritage. Artisans, farmers, and other members of the community can sell their products and services to tourists, creating new sources of income and employment opportunities.

In sum, indigenous knowledge is a decisive tool for advancing the operation of cultural tourism. To strengthen and maintain it, the experts recommend that the local communities including the young people should be taught to exercise and preserve local practices which can market them in cultural tourism.

In addition, indigenous knowledge can also play a crucial role in sustainable tourism practices. Indigenous communities have a deep respect for the natural environment and have developed traditional conservation methods to protect it. By following their lead, the tourism industry can minimize its impact on the environment and contribute to the preservation of biodiversity in Ethiopia.



# This is Ethiopia

## Ethiopian indigenous knowledge to boost tourism

BY TEWODROS KASSA

According to the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the cultural diversity and knowledge of indigenous peoples can bring innovative experiences and new business opportunities for tourism destinations and local communities.

In this regard, Ethiopia is home to a wide array of indigenous communities, each with its distinct traditions, languages, and practices that have been passed down through generations and exercised for long. These communities have a deep understanding of the natural environment and developed sustainable ways of living in harmony with nature over centuries. By tapping into this wealth of indigenous knowledge, the tourism industry in Ethiopia can offer truly authentic and immersive experiences to travelers. These unique cultural resources can also play a significant role in boosting tourism in the country through attracting visitors from all over the world who are eager to learn about and experience the rich traditions of the Ethiopian people.

Tourism experts also accentuate the need to cultivate Ethiopian indigenous knowledge as



*Konso cultural landscape*

it is important for tourism because it provides visitors with a unique and actual experience that cannot be found anywhere else in the world. From traditional food and clothing to ancient rituals and ceremonies, Ethiopian indigenous knowledge offers a glimpse into a rich and vibrant culture that is sure to captivate the imagination of travelers.

Thus, by integrating Ethiopian indigenous

knowledge into the tourism industry, the country can offer visitors a more immersive and authentic experience that goes beyond just sightseeing. Tourists can participate in traditional ceremonies, learn from local artisans, and even stay in traditional Ethiopian homes to get a true taste of the culture.

Moreover, experts in the field suggest the effective utilization of indigenous knowledge

to realize sustainable tourism development and build the country's positive image.

Misrak Polytechnic College Business and Finance Trainer, Tewodros Beyene told *The Ethiopian Herald* that Ethiopia has diverse cuisines and rich culture though lack of attention for indigenous knowledge restricted the nation benefiting from these resources.

As to him, indigenous knowledge needs to be supported by research to bring significant outcomes in the tourism industry.

There are 49 food preparation units of competence in Ethiopia, he said, adding that merely three or six percent of them give attention to indigenous knowledge.

He further stated that trainers, educational institutes, and the Ministry of Labor and Skills (MoLS) should take the prime responsibility to apply indigenous knowledge in tourism to ensure the sector's growth.

He expressed that research works are being conducted at policy level to bridge gaps between the indigenous knowledge and the tourism industry.

*See Ethiopian indigenous ... page 15*