



The Ethiopian Herald

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Maternal mortality, new HIV infections reducing : UNFPA

- Launches 2024 state of world population report in Ethiopia

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – The maternal mortality ratio and new HIV infections rate have reduced over the past three decades, said the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

The UNFPA launched the 2024 state of world population report in Ethiopia on Thursday in presence of senior officials, stakeholders, invited guests and others.

Speaking at the occasion, UNFPA Country Representative Koffi Kouame stated that over the last three decades, the UNFPA made significant improvements in reproductive health and rights of women and girls.

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Ethio-Saudi diplomatic, trade ties flourishing: Ambassador

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA - The diplomatic and trade relationship between Ethiopia and Saudi Arabia is experiencing significant improvements, said Ethiopian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

Currently, about 80 Saudi businesses, primarily from the private sector, are in Ethiopia to explore investment opportunities. Commenting about the latest visit by Saudi business delegation in Addis Ababa, Ethiopian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Lencho Bati told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that

more Saudi investors are expected to come to Ethiopia as the diplomatic relationship has seen a significant development. Saudi Arabia, a rapidly growing nation, is now opening its doors to foreign investors. Saudi investors are also diversifying their

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Ambassador Nebiyu Tedla

Ethiopia's economic diplomacy pays off in FDI surge: MoFA

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- Prioritizing economic diplomacy has brought about surge in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) flows to Ethiopia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) announced.

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Cuba ready to assist Ethiopia's sugar production enhancement

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA -Cuban Embassy has finalized technical assessment to assist Ethiopia in the production of sugar and utilization of water resources. In exchange Cuba is highly interested to take lesson from Ethiopia's rich experience of producing coffee and onion. Ambassador Jorge Lefebre Nicolas who is concluding a two and half years tenure as Ambassador of Cuba to Ethiopia told *The Ethiopia Herald* that during his stay in Ethiopia he has observed Ethiopia coming out from the deadly conflict in the north and attaining economic and diplomatic success in the global arena. He said despite the pressure , Ethiopia is

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Ambassador Jorge Lefebre Nicolas

News

Israel keen to advance health technology exchange cooperation

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA - Israel is highly interested in exploring cooperation in health technology exchange with Ethiopia, so said Deputy Ambassador of Israel to Ethiopia.

In a press briefing on the premises of Embassy of Israel in Ethiopia, Embassy of the state of Israel to Ethiopia, Burundi and the AU, Deputy Ambassador Tomer Bar-Lavi, mentioned that health technologies is an important field that Israel want to explore and see how it can give extra boost to Ethiopia.

He said that the country is increasing more collaboration and looking forward to see how Israeli companies can be more involved and integrated with Ethiopian company.

“Israel is quite strong in health tech sector and many companies with various technologies in the health sector are rising up. The innovation ecosystem in Ethiopia is currently on the rise and Israel is involving in that as well,” he underscored.

He went on saying that Israel has much experience and expertise in number of fields particularly in the health sector.

There have been initiatives that have been quite active in the health sector in building



cooperation between the two countries. Many of these initiatives come through NGOs and private sector such organizations like save the child’s heart which functions in pediatric cardiology, he added.

Moreover, it has brought over 900 children from Ethiopia to Israel during the past 25years for lifesaving heart surgery. The organization has also trained 15medical professional in the field related to pediatric cardiology.

As to Tomer, another organization named Operation Ethiopia which helps with eyes surgery comes every few months and perform

mass operation on children and adults who are in need of eye surgery.

Few months ago, an Israeli company assembled ultrasound machine which is the first of its kind in Ethiopia, this is part of the ongoing cooperation between the two countries, he noted.

He further indicated that they are holding meetings with the Health Ministry this week. “During this week, we will continue to strengthen the relation between the two countries and people to people relations and think of more practical ways to specifically focus on health sector and advance

collaboration.”

Avi Yitzhak, MD, CMO, Assuta Medical Center, on his part mentioned that the two countries have long cherished relationships that dated back to old days particularly in the health sector.

Through Government to Government relationship (G2G),he recalled that Israeli President and few medical teams recently paid visit to Ethiopia and undertook assessments on how the emergency and trauma services are being delivered in the country.

He noted that the major objective was to identify the areas that the two countries need to cooperate as well as clarify how Israeli could deliver support as an advanced country in the health sector.

He noted that he will held talks with official from Health Ministry to visit St. Paul Hospital to see how Ethiopia is delivering medical services such as trauma and emergency services in modern way.

Due attention should be given on how to transfer knowledge in sectors that Israel has already advanced on such as agriculture, cyber security, more importantly health sector to Ethiopia. And, as a professional, he pledged to be instrumental in any field in the health sector that is available.

ESOT calls for due attention to Orthopedics

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopian Society of Orthopedics and Traumatology (ESOT) has called on government and concerned bodies to pay due attention to the Orthopedics which seeks intensive medical equipment and technology.

During the 17th annual general meeting and scientific conference, Leader of the conference and Executive Member Ephrem Gebrehana (MD) indicated that Orthopedics is an expensive sector that requires massive equipment and technology.

Nonetheless, the medical equipment that is being used in Orthopedics treatment in the country has been gained through donation.

The bureaucratic as well as taxing system have remained a challenge in the sector. Thus, government and concerned bodies are expected to exert their responsibilities in addressing the major challenges in the sector, as to him.

Moreover, that efforts are need to be geared towards creating the capacity in manufacturing medical equipment locally, he stressed, adding that making the Orthopedics treatment available with affordable price and covering the medical expense with insurance is another area of focus.

The orthopedists, orthopedic students as well as those who are currently on training are needed to be supported with the latest technology in the sector.

“With only donated equipment and



Ephrem Gebrehana (MD)

inadequate attention from government, enhancing the sector and providing adequate service would be unthinkable,” he underscored.

Ephrem urged government and concerned bodies to give special attention to the sector given its essentiality on various levels.

Ethiopian Society of Orthopedics and Traumatology, which was established in 1994, has over 523 specialist and subspecialist members.

Currently, there are over 11 Orthopedics specialty training centers in the country that provides trainings for professionals locally as well as neighboring countries namely Rwanda, Uganda, South Sudan and Eritrea. It is now delivering training for over 275 professionals.

Apart from being the voice for Orthopedist, the association is engaged in advocacy, training and empowerment activities, it was learned.

City to plant over five mln saplings soon

BY EPHREM ANDARAGCHEW

MAYA - Over five million tree seedlings have been prepared for this year's Green Legacy initiative planting program, the Oromia State Maya City Administration said.

The City Administration Mayor Efrahwzir Abdullahi (PhD) said that understanding the significant advantages of the Green Legacy Initiative for the eastern part of Ethiopia, particularly Maya City, the city administration, in conjunction with the people, has been planting millions of saplings for the last five years.

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

This year, too, watershed management, soil conservation, and seedling planting sites were prepared with the participation of youth and diverse segments of society. As a result, the preparation work for this year's Winter Green legacy initiative, which plans to plant nearly 5 million saplings, is completed. Taking the community's initiative to plant additional saplings into consideration, the City administration has asked Haramaya University to prepare extra tree seedlings, she added.

She also highlighted that the City administration's soil and water conservation



Efrahwzir Abdullahi (PhD)

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

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

Maya City was established on 3710 hectares of land that has been divided into 12 kebeles and three sub-cites: Aweday, Addelle, and Haramaya.

News

Ethiopian Diaspora send worth of 30 mln USD medical equipment

BY DIRRIBA TESHOME

HARAMAYA – Thirty million USD worth medical equipment aids supported by members of the Ethiopian Diaspora have been distributed to the intended hospitals, Haramaya University announced.

Haramaya University (HU) Vice President for Research and Community Engagement, Yesihak Yusuf (PhD) told *The Ethiopian Herald* that health institutions have received the medical equipment aids collected so far by the university from the Ethiopian Diaspora residing in the US - initiated by HU President Jemal Yousuf (PhD).

"We have reached an agreement of twenty eight million USD health facilities and two million USD transportation cost support. We have received six containers so far while the rest are in process," Yesihak said.

Similarly, Haramaya University College of Health Science Dean, Ahmed Mohammad (MD) stated that all the received six containers of both consumable and permanent medical equipment distributed to the respective hospitals.

"Hiwot Fana Comprehensive Specialized Teaching Hospital, Bedanno Primary

Hospital, Dadar General Hospital, Haramaya General Hospital, Galamso General Hospital and Kombolcha Health Center have received a forty feet container of various health facilities."

Their contents include consumable medical goods like gloves, bedsheets, gowns, tubes and equipment like OR tables, moveable OR lights, electrical ICU beds, laboratory tubes, machineries like mechanical ventilator, endoscope and colonoscope or condoscope (used for examining cervical cancer), he specified.

"We are assessing their implementation using our bio-medical engineers. And the second round six containers will come in this June and the processes of the next 32 containers are started," he expressed.

According to the Dean, the rest of the medical facilities yet to come will be distributed to hospitals in East and West Hararghe and, Wallagga, Jimma, Arsi and Borena.

"They have planned to come home in June for the third round assessment, which is a great opportunity for similar health institutions," he said, while appreciating all individuals participated in the process.



Maternal mortality...

Report showed that among the other achievements, maternal mortality ratio and a new HIV infections rate have reduced considerably during the past 30 years.

The government of Ethiopia has been exerting efforts to achieve remarkable results in this area, he said, while urging the government and development partners to continue their support and commitment to mobile the resources supporting this endeavor especially in procurement of reproductive health and public planning commodities.

For her part, State Minister of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA) Muna Ahmed said that the large portion of Ethiopian population lives in the rural setting and 58% of the population is a workforce and

the substantial share is taken by women and youth active labor forces.

The effort that the country has been investing in empowerment of the workforces is not compatible with corresponding population growth rate, she stated.

The MoSA considers the 2024 population report as guideline for rethinking and strategically planning for emancipation of women and youth social segments from poverty by empowering to ensure sustainable development and equality, Muna indicated.

"The principles in the report are not mere suggestions, there are foundational guidelines underscoring our commitment for sustainable development, social justice and human rights," she stressed.

Ethio-Saudi...

investment destinations including significant ventures into Ethiopia, he said.

In alignment with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, which aims to secure the kingdom's future food and economic security, venture capitalists are expanding their investments globally in sectors such as tourism, livestock, agriculture, and real estate.

Ethiopia's abundant natural resources, geographical proximity, and cultural similarities are particularly appealing to these investors, offering a promising business environment for new ventures, he said.

The Ambassador also expressed that most of delegation members are informed of Ethiopia's unique opportunities for their enterprises. Ethiopia has undertaken significant reforms in various sectors, including finance, to create a more inviting business landscape for foreign investment.

"The ongoing reform of National Bank of Ethiopia that could allow foreign investors to transfer profits abroad, are among the

measures enhancing investor confidence."

To him, new investments are expected to make difference in Ethiopia, focusing on real estate, agriculture, tourism, and health.

Besides, the international trade between the two countries is growing. Ethiopian exports to Saudi Arabia, the start of this trade relationship is appreciable but needs for higher quality products to fully leverage Ethiopia's export potential, according to the Ambassador.

"Ethiopian products have not yet been fully explored in the Saudi market despite of the significant opportunity for growth," he highlighted.

Despite past challenges, including a high number of illegal migrants during Ethiopia's internal conflicts, efforts are underway to improve bilateral relations. All this burgeoning relationship between the two countries signal a new era of economic cooperation and mutual growth, driven by strategic investments and a shared vision for the future, he added.

Ethiopia's economic...

In his biweekly press briefing held yesterday, MoFA Spokesperson, Ambassador Nebiyu Tedla said that previously held series of business forums with delegations of several countries paved the way to the incoming investors to explore investment opportunities.

In recent weeks, Pakistani and Saudi Arabian business delegations had visited Ethiopia. Likewise, the Ethiopian delegation had also visited Istanbul and discussed new partnerships with Turkiye businesses.

Accordingly, members of the foretasted delegations have shown interest to invest here as the Saudi Arabian chamber signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with its Ethiopian counterpart. Some Pakistani investors also agreed to partner with Ethiopian businesses and exploit country's investment opportunities, he said.

Ethiopia and Saudi Arabia have been in trade relationship for the past 70 years, but it was almost unmatched to their abundant potentials in business, the Spokesperson said, adding that the visit has helped Saudi investors to observe Ethiopia's lucrative investment opportunities in agriculture, manufacturing, transport and logistics,

pharmaceutical and tourism sectors.

Over the past 20 years, Saudi national enterprises invested about 260 billion Birr worth 233 projects that have created 75,000 jobs. Ethiopia's export to Saudi Arabia during the fiscal year 2022/23 was also about 325 million USD incorporating meat, flower, coffee and cereals among dominant export products.

Ambassador Nebiyu believed that the visit of Saudi delegation to Ethiopia would enhance this business relation.

Pakistani delegation having 80 members had also a six-days of visit here. "We are expecting them to come back to Ethiopia for practical investment," he said.

The Ethio-Turkiye business forum is also another economic diplomacy events that take place lately. According to the Spokesperson, more than 350 Ethiopian and Turkiye businesses conferred partnerships.

In the past five years, Ethiopia registered the largest FDI flow in East Africa and ranked as the third on the continent. The government of Ethiopia has been providing offerings and incentives for foreign investors, he added.

Cuba ready...

able to remain one of the vibrant economies of Africa as well as to join the new bloc of economic giants called BRICS, which is an important opportunity for collaboration between Ethiopia and Cuba.

He further indicated that the diplomatic relations between the two countries is now 49 years old and the cooperation that began in the field of military cooperation against foreign aggression committed on Ethiopia has been scaled up in the fields of health, education ... etc.

Now that the country has built a good capacity in health and education in the last 50 years, it does not need Cuba's support

to basic services like in the past. But the collaboration in both sectors has continued on a better standard like provision of specialized health services.

The Community of Ethiopian students who studied in Cuba has been instrumental further maintaining the overall ties of the two countries as the former students have formed and Association called Ethio-Cuba Friendship Association which works with the governments.

He further appreciated the collaboration of the two countries in the global diplomatic forums where both face external pressures in their sovereign internal affairs.

Ambassador Nicolas also disclosed that in the field of economy Cuba is working on assisting Ethiopia to boost its sugar production and water resource utilization. Recently a technical committee has paid a visit to the sugar factories in Ethiopia and has assessed the need to support Ethiopia in the production of sugar cane in which Cuba has a good expertise.

He added that Ethiopia also needs due support in utilizing its abundant water resource to feed its 120 million people; and his country will provide expertise support to Ethiopia to harness water resource and irrigation potential.

According to Lefebvre, Cuba also wants to learn from Ethiopia's rich experience in the production of coffee and onion.

He further noted that Ethiopia and Cuba's relation has yielded more fruitful outcome as the two countries have brought their respective continents closer together. He added Cuba has also encouraged many Latin America countries to bolster their diplomatic ties with African by increasing their presence in the continent or at least Africa's diplomatic hub, Addis Ababa.

As a result his country has now embassies in 34 African countries, next only to Brazil which has 36.

Opinion

Essence of making labor migration under legal framework

BY GETACHEW MINAS

Migration of workers from developing countries to the Middle East has not been a new occurrence. There has been a constant and rising demand for labor in these countries. Private agencies that have facilitated the movement of workers have encouraged the Ethiopian labor migration which has been dominated by females. These agencies have benefitted from the service charges they made on these migrants.

The story about such migration by the global media has largely been negative. In their writing they referred to the young attractive migrant women encountering desperate economic situations. They have written that the women workers have been cheated by human traffickers into inhuman working conditions. News reporters have noted that they had to return to their country with “broken spirits, perhaps broken bodies,” with nothing to indicate it. Ethiopian women workers have revealed themselves as trafficked, cheated, or blinded by the hope of earning income. In the past, the Ethiopian government had placed an official ban on the migration of low-skilled workers to the Middle East.

The government had explained at the time that the women workers have been pushed by “illegal human traffickers,” that have created enormous problems for the job seeking people. Similarly, labor specialists asserted that labor migration to the Middle East has affected numerous young job-seekers. These laborers have been hooked out, tricked and deceived by the human traffickers. This situation has created an enormous socio-economic problem to the unemployed Ethiopians.

Even though the information provided on the risks of labor migration to the Middle East, Ethiopian women have continued to migrate there. In particular, the rural young women wanted to move to the Middle East in search of jobs. Upon arrival in the Middle East, they have been engaged as domestic workers. Experts have revealed that the wish to migrate arises at a particular moment. This has occurred during the transition from adolescence into adulthood.

It has been reported that the reality for the young migrants at the place of their destination has not been an encouraging one. It has not been conducive for the fulfillment of their life time aspirations. However, studies revealed that these aspirations were facilitated by the dealers of migration that reduced the constraints of leaving Ethiopia. These dealers have been promising the youth wages and benefits that would enhance their socioeconomic status. This indicated that migration of job-seekers to the Middle East has been encouraged by dealers that attracted a large section of the unemployed Ethiopian youth.

The dealers have been focusing on rural women who could be attracted by the wages paid by their employers in urban

centers. The good life for the rural women was no longer in the village. According to migration experts, for female job-seekers in rural Ethiopia, the Middle East is often a “short-term, long-distance strategy” to finance their economic needs.

The migration of Ethiopian women to the Middle Eastern countries had been part of a global picture in the international labor migration. Domestic workers received significant attention by the agency of labor migration as women had to pass through this office. As the experts revealed, domestic workers in the Middle East were victims of traffickers who attracted them into “contract slavery.” They were also casualty of a migration system that bound them to their host employers. This created conditions in which the domestic workers were more exposed to exploitation and abuse. In a research work on Ethiopian domestic workers in the Middle East, the practice of “trafficking” was widely and freely applied.

Some studies make distinctions between regular migration, trafficking, and smuggling. Mostly, however, trafficking becomes associated with informal labor migration. It is used to describe the experience of domestic workers who have been subjected to exploitation irrespective of their legal status.

It makes a legal case to describe migration to the Middle Eastern countries of adolescent girls in terms of trafficking. Agents or traffickers argue that even the migration of minors to the Middle East could be regarded as a means to improve their opportunities for school and work. These events would lead to achievement of a better and secure future for migrants. Many adolescents have moved willingly and freely for economic reasons. It has been argued that family pressure, poverty and unemployment forced migration of the youth.

Also, reliance on illegal dealers who provided false or limited information has led to the exploitation of girls. At the country of destination, the modality of migration consisted of both “forced and voluntary” one for female workers. Actually, almost all migration needed an agency to make it legal. In other words, Ethiopian women migrating to the Middle East have been provided with legal protection in case they faced exploitation and abuses of rights.

Applying legal protection basically helps the migrants. Apart from that, the system reduces the government’s burden in terms of finance, diplomatic interactions and related issues when returning them from the countries they are considered illegal and put in jail. Besides, migration through legal means accompanied by essential training positively helps the migrants earn fair wage and the country as well in terms of remittance and image building.

Though trafficking of female workers has obviously been dreadful and inexcusable, it deserved political attention to assist the migrants. Yet, individual migrants have

proved capable of meeting their aspiration to migrate anywhere and earn income. Their aspirations to migrate are based on the belief that migration has been preferred to staying at home locally. The goal of migration has been more specific, including access to income, training, and status as productive worker.

Apart from such economic benefits, aspirations imply hopes and goals that guide ones decisions. The desire to migrate could be shaped by hopes for higher standards of life and well-being. If such desire is based on cultural grounds, it would reveal the reasons of the people that are determined to migrate. In other words, the social, economic, and cultural forces allow migrants to decide on their future course.

Studies on migration identified the factors that guided the decisions of migrants. To this effect, analyses have been made on the process of decision making by migrants. However, problems arose when analyzing costs and benefits of migration. Costs were only partial and narrow economic aspects which were unrealistic because they ignored the social environment. The social factors were crucial which decision on migration was made. Aspirations of migrants, for example, showed the social factors as major determinants of the decision of the individual migrant.

However, studies show that the actual costs are on balance with the benefits of migration. These studies also reveal that the “ability of the migrant” to have the means and opportunities to resolve constraints determine the achievement of aspirations. But, in contrast to earning income which has been used for consumption and happiness, these possibilities would vary from person to person. They might be influenced by individual character, gender, education, social class, and networks.

Ethiopians working in the Middle East in various jobs, who do not have the required skills, are forced to adjust their objectives and aspirations. The high earnings they aspired for would have to be changed based on the demand for their skills. The aspirations of Ethiopian migrants normally determine their demand for high wages and better working environment.

Moreover, the aspirations of the youth and what they are capable to perform as migrants have been the only means of realizing a better life. In addition to gaining training that makes them fit to the destination country’s work character, Ethiopian oversea workers have to pay attention how they manage the income they earn. Some Ethiopians migrate repeatedly because they couldn’t save seed money for their future investment when returning home; so that they waste their life under slavery. The viable way to overcome this problem might be saving their money in a reliable financial institution instead of wasting on minor costs.

Studies have been conducted to understand

migration patterns and what social changes influenced them. Such studies have been conducted to evaluate what demographic characteristics are associated with various aspect of social mobility. The samples picked for these surveys have been Ethiopian returnees who had work experience in the Middle Eastern countries. They consisted of various groups in terms of age, sex, and migration experiences. The studies revealed personal histories of migrants and forms of mobility characterizing their past, present, and future.

The studies helped in understanding how domestic migration and external mobility affected family members, husbands, wives and children who had not left but desired to. Several women who have not left and never wanted to think of migration have also been covered by the studies. As a result, the studies have been able to cover three types of workers. These were migrants, returnees and non-migrants that would give a clear picture of causes and effects of migration.

The studies have also covered social leaders, government employees, and women. Studies on migration experiences have resulted in deeper knowledge of the social factors that shaped migration. These factors were the aspirations of the youth and the opportunities and constraints women have faced in the Middle East. It stressed that the belief in economic development in low income countries could not prevent migration, but encouraged it.

When the poor countries face social change related to economic growth and development, more people tended to leave the rural areas. Also, with improved infrastructure and communication, the expansion of formal education, reduced mortality rates and young population, people tended to move to urban areas.

Also, greater gender equality has influenced development in the poor countries. Researchers have revealed that the socio-economic development of a country has led to “migration transition.” They claimed that as low-income countries move toward middle income level, the share of the population living in rural areas declines.

The rise in the share of urban population has stimulated an increase in external migration. There are, however, variations in the nature, timing and type of movement in the developing countries. Thus, labor mobility seems a common phenomenon in developing countries, including Ethiopia. The best way of handling it, however, is making under legal framework for the sake of every migrant and image building of the country.

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

Editorial

Ethiopia's maintains role in pan Africanism

Ethiopia has enjoyed fruitful diplomatic relation with countries near and far. Among these are its longstanding bilateral relations with South Sudan. Ethiopia has remained committed for its newly born neighbor's wellbeing even prior to its independence and extended support in experience sharing, providing diplomatic training and offering scholarship for its students.

The three-day diplomatic training for the South Sudanese diplomats held here in Addis recently invigorates togetherness of both countries in all political, economic and social aspects. The event paves way for the two countries to stand firm and confront the volatile nature of the Horn of Africa region that has been experiencing common challenges such as peace and security, environmental degradation, piracy, and irregular migration, as to Jafar Bedru, Executive Director of the Institution of Foreign Affairs (IFA) of Ethiopia.

In relation to the training, it was clearly elucidated that Ethiopia has always stood by the people of South Sudan since their independence, and the two nations share a common destiny of prosperity and stability.

Indeed, the government of Ethiopia continued to share resources with the southerners since during the struggle to ensure that they were free. This practical move of Ethiopia makes it an all-weather friend.

Ethiopia's holistic contribution for freedom goes beyond its neighbor. It has gone long distance and paid utmost sacrifice when fighting for independence from colonialism. The victory of Adwa extended beyond Ethiopian independence and served as a symbol of hope for the continent's liberation movement.

Apart from that, as a freedom loving country, it provided practical support of military training and armament for the peoples of Zimbabwe, South Africa and others in their struggles against colonialism and apartheid.

In later days, as well, Ethiopia engaged in peace keeping activities in different parts of Africa and registered exemplary record as a result of which its peace keeping troops are mostly welcome in various troubled parts of the world.

Again, on the political arena, it has shown firm stance in making voice of Africans to be heard loudly. When the continent aspired to gain permanent seat at UN Security Council, for example, Ethiopia becomes in the forefront.

Cognizant of the essence of regional and continental integration, Ethiopia along with its friendly countries of the continent is working for its fulfillment tirelessly that resulted in political, economic and social unification.

Its endeavor to making one Africa was shown earlier during the establishment of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and later on the African Union (AU) being seat of its office and accommodating assemblies peacefully.

Africa still needs more freedom especially in the economic arena. Even though it is blessed with natural and productive human resources, it could not feed its population yet. This really is humiliating for the proud Africans to see they are repeatedly knocking the westerners' doors to get daily bread.

It is, thus, a critical time for Africans to look inward, work on peace and security, coordinate their power, and invest on the continent's resources foreseeing its prosperity.

Ethiopia's move in this regard can be taken as a good model especially its effort to achieve food self sufficiency through applying wheat revolution. This move realized that it is possible to stop importation of food items like what Ethiopia achieved in wheat.

With a shared destiny of mutual prosperity as well as regional and continental stability, strengthened people-to-people connection of Africa is essential. Thus, leaders of the continent, along with their respective peoples, should exert maximum effort for the developed and prosperous Africa to come true.

The training that the Institute of Foreign Affairs provided for South Sudanese Diplomats is also a continuation of the pan African campaign that Ethiopia conducts and Africans should follow suit to share their knowledge and expertise with fellow Africans to see bright future of the continent.



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The Ethiopian Herald

Opinion

The role of media houses in promoting national dialogue in Ethiopia

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

Ethiopian media houses can play a pivotal role in promoting national dialogue by facilitating informed discussions, providing balanced reporting, and creating platforms for diverse voices. How is this to be accomplished? The author would like to forward some suggestions.

Under the current political situation in the country marred by political extremism and wide range of misinformation, media companies in the country Ensure all information related to the national dialogue is thoroughly fact-checked to maintain credibility. Even under normal media coverage, media houses are legally and professionally expected to accent the truth and the correct information that the public needs both for personal and group decision making on current political issues in the country. When it comes to promoting national dialogue, it is far more important to verify politically motivated social media propaganda and agitation from deliberately broadcasted false information over the social media.

Media outlets can run educational campaigns to inform the public about the objectives, processes, and importance of national dialogue. The author believes that little has been done both by public and commercial media firms in this direction.

Creating explainer segments that break down complex issues discussed in the dialogue for better public understanding.

The media can share case studies and success stories from other countries that have successfully conducted national dialogues. Highlighting local stories of communities or individuals who have benefited from the dialogue process is also important to let the public know the experience of various groups who are participating in the entire process.

Ensuring that programming related to national dialogue is available in multiple languages to reach a broader audience is one of the most important strategies that the media can employ to promote national dialogue.

By adopting these strategies, Ethiopian media houses can significantly contribute to the success of national dialogue initiatives, fostering a more informed, engaged, and united society.

Media coverage for national dialogue needs to pay attention to very sensitive issues of the agenda and make sure that they are well covered. Although the National Dialogue has issues a code of conduct to be followed by the participants, journalists also need to pay special attention to several journalistic ethics standards. The author wishes to mention some of these ethical standards.

Journalistic ethics play a crucial role in media coverage of national dialogue, especially in a complex political landscape like Ethiopia's. Adhering to these ethical standards ensures that media outlets contribute positively to the process and foster a constructive environment for dialogue. Here are key ethical principles that Ethiopian media should follow in their coverage of national dialogue:

As mentioned earlier, it is important to present all sides of the story, giving equal coverage to different viewpoints and avoiding bias. This helps in building trust among the public and stakeholders involved in the dialogue.

In maintaining neutrality and avoiding taking sides in political disputes, journalists should

be mindful of their language and tone to avoid inadvertently influencing public opinion or escalating tensions.

Understanding the impact of reporting on national dialogue processes is very useful i media coverage for national dialogue. Media should aim to support peace building and reconciliation efforts rather than sensationalize conflicts or disputes.

Ensuring respectful and dignified coverage of all individuals and groups involved in the dialogue need to be considered. It is very important to void defamatory, discriminatory, or inflammatory language that could harm individuals or groups.

Respecting the confidentiality of sensitive information especially when it pertains to ongoing negotiations or private discussions is of critical importance. Disclosing such information prematurely can jeopardize the dialogue process.

Transparency about sources and methods used in reporting is required. If using anonymous sources, provide as much context as possible to help the audience understand the reliability of the information.

Journalists need to be prepared to correct errors promptly and transparently. Acknowledge mistakes publicly to maintain trust and credibility with the audience.

Applying similar standard of accuracy, fairness and respect to social media posts and interaction need to be carefully considered. Social media can amplify misinformation quickly, so careful management is of crucial importance.

It is useful to be aware of the potential for media reports to inflame existing tensions. Reports should aim to de-escalate conflicts and promote understanding and dialogue.

Implementing these ethical principles requires ongoing training for journalists, robust editorial oversight, and a commitment to ethical journalism by media organizations. External pressures, such as political influence or threats to press freedom, can pose significant challenges. Therefore, fostering a supportive environment for independent journalism is essential for the successful coverage of national dialogue processes.

By adhering to these principles, Ethiopian media can play a vital role in facilitating informed, balanced, and respectful national dialogue, contributing to the country's peace and democratic development.

It must be stressed that the world, partner agencies, continental organizations like the AU and the UN systems are eagerly waiting for the convocation of the Ethiopian National Dialogue. More so, the people of Ethiopia are desperately waiting for a successful dialogue process.

Journalists and media houses in the country are expected to play a major role in promoting both the unity, territorial integrity and the peace of this country which came down to the current generation as the result of sacrifices paid by forefathers. If this dialogue process fails, every citizen both in the country and overseas will certainly fail. As the author of this article has noted in the previous contribution, the people of Ethiopia cannot miss this opportunity.

The only path to resolve the political jigsaw puzzle in Ethiopia is to spell out the challenges the country is facing through comprehensive and inclusive national dialogue to which the media houses are one of the major stakeholders.

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

Art & Culture



City glowing in the teeth of acerbic remarks

BY NAOL GIRMA

A few months ago, several demolishing activities in the heart of Addis Ababa were drawing the attention of many local and international communities. The activities were the starting chapters of the City's Corridor Development Project. In the beginning, so much has been said and few critics were optimistic about it as so many remained bitter. Most critics, who live abroad, have been the first to hurl many negative comments such as the project targeted poor residents of the city and they were never willing to accept the fact that appropriate replacements, for those whose homes were demolished, were arranged.

Negative views and judgments about such development projects have been a growing culture for many local politicians and famous Ethiopians who live abroad. This culture, which was born from a seemingly reasonable suspicion, has grown into a sardonic criticism, as these people developed the habit of opposing everything that comes from the government's side. For instance, critics from abroad repeatedly aired that the demolishing activities were undertaken without the knowledge of residents. According to Deputy City Mayor Janttray Abay, discussions have been undertaken with residents at every level concerning the projects, even from the time the project design was prepared.

Even though there were critics who expressed reasonable concerns about priorities, those who create blemishing stories out of the blue were many. Concerning this, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed had already foretold such waves of criticism would happen. On the second assessment meeting about the progress of the project with officials, who were leading the project task force, the premier said too much bad criticisms were expected. "But we cannot deliver our promise of making Addis Ababa a flower, as its name depicts unless we go boldly and aggressively", he added.

Therefore, the Federal Government and the City Administration have to go ahead and fight against widespread ill-placed criticisms and boldly proceed with the development project. As the relocation of residents went in line with the construction of the project, critics resorted to the criticism poor people were displaced and rich elites of certain ethnic groups were likely to take over the



lands in Piasa, the ancient part of the city and the major site, where the development project is taking place. While City Mayor Adanech Abiebie, the prominent figure, who always stands on the front line with the Premier, for such development projects, explained dilapidated buildings would be renovated without losing their early cultural and historical touches. But always there were some excuses for doom sayers to say something bad like the loss of cultural and historical heritages.

Such negative insights, which contributed to the spawning of infectious criticism, could have resulted from the lack of understanding and taste. As to Daniel Mendelsohn, good judgment equals knowledge plus taste. Unfortunately, many Ethiopian politicians and social media activists living abroad prefer to disapprove of any positive aspects of the many development projects. They fall prey to the culture of scornful criticism which develops easily. Abiy's Social Affairs Advisor Daniel Kibret recently said the Premier and his administration are striving to hit the last nail on the coffin of old-fashioned and fictitious culture ceding place to the radical ones slowly but surely. This could be through injecting new developmental tastes and by creating a new working culture as well as national affiliation.

When the project sees the day of light, residents who have been cooperative in all ways and means for the progress of the project will have the taste of a new state-of-the-art city life. The project comprises multiple facilities, such as wide asphalt

and pedestrian walks, bicycle lines, smart parking lots, food courts, etc., according to Adanech.

residents are pouring out down the new streets every night for a walk and fresh air. Some are also giving their testimony about the positive aspects of the project.

According to Yehualashet Shiferaw, whose shop was deconstructed for the sake of the corridor development project, constructing wide asphalts and pedestrian walks is very significant. He said, "The outcome of the construction work is very pleasant, and I have no grievance about the deconstruction of my shop. We used to walk brushing sides with vehicles piercing the razor-thin road. I am happy to witness such a development project being realized in my Country in such a short period".

Million Abera is a young resident of Addis. He said there was a great deal of confusion during the deconstruction phase of the project, adding that, there was not much awareness about the plan of such a project. "What we have been listening to from social platforms was very disturbing and we didn't pay much attention to what the government said. I was shocked when I heard many people were displaced and reduced to homelessness because of the project. As a result, I have taken sides with the contentious and criticized the government for such a move. But lately, I have learned that the dislocated people have gained better homes than the previous ones. Now, I'm also witnessing how the renovation of the buildings in Arat Kilo and Piasa is going on. Moreover I am admiring the completion process of the corridor. It is enjoyable".

Elias Abebe works at the Embassy of Switzerland, located around the old Airport in Kolfe Keraneo, a part of the city. He said "Even if my workplace is a bit far, I walked all the way to Piasa and Arat Kilo to feast my eye balls on the progress of the project. What I witnessed is very astonishing and made me wonder whether I knew the place, where I am standing, in the past."

Young couples, family members across the age brackets, bickers, and people from all walks of life are enjoying the nights on this renewed block of the city, which is expected to shine brighter when the project sees completion. From the excitement and comfort that wash over the people on the streets, one can tell Addis Ababa is outgrowing the culture of lame criticism in one side and also welcoming a state-of-the-art city standard on the other side.

When the project sees the day of light, residents who have been cooperative in all ways and means for the progress of the project will have the taste of a new state-of-the-art city life

Law & Politics

Ethiopia, South Korea: A time-tested partnership

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

Ethiopia has a long and illuminating history regarding the nation's efforts to stand for global peace. The country has been involved in many peacekeeping missions. From the Korean peninsula to Somalia, Ethiopia made glittering contribution to global peace.

From the time of Emperor Haile Selassie I, Ethiopians were deployed in various peacekeeping missions including the United Nations as the country is one of the founding members of international blocs. The nation is still performing the same thing even with higher motivation and courage. Ethiopian troops are well-recognized for their discipline and bravery along with achieving their mission even in dire situations.

Accordingly, some nations, that got the support from the Ethiopian military, have been thankful for the blood and bone sacrifice and contribution of Ethiopians. Countries like South Korea still remember what Ethiopia did to them when they were at stake. The former commemorates the deeds of Ethiopians and they are thankful for the favor. On the other part, there are still some countries that ignore Ethiopia and its soldiers lost their lives for the safety of their country. However, Ethiopia has no intention to halt its contribution to the peace of the globe.

Emperor Haile Selassie I of Ethiopia sent his elite Kagnew Battalion to the Korean War which was conducted back in 1950–1953. Documents disclose that the Kagnew Battalion took place in 253 battles and was never defeated, with 121 deaths and 500 injuries. None of the Ethiopian soldiers were captured. Even after the 1953 ceasefire, Ethiopian soldiers remained in South Korea to assist in the country's rebuilding.

Commemorating the long-standing partnership, the two nations put up different signs and monuments to remember the sacrifices to the generations to come. For instance, South Korea commemorates Ethiopia's assistance to South Korea during the war, including the War Memorial of Korea in Seoul. A monument to the Korean War soldiers was erected in Addis Ababa too.

The city of Chuncheon in South Korea has become tied with Ethiopia, and several monuments stand to show Ethiopians' role in the Korean War. In May 1968, Chuncheon erected a monument dedicated to the sacrifices of the Kagnew Battalion. Again, in 2007, the Memorial Hall for Ethiopian Veterans in the Korean War was opened in the same city.

The recurring actions of standing beside the needy by Ethiopia have paved multiple ways to establish strong and better bilateral diplomatic partnerships with those nations. Most of the countries where Ethiopian troops got involved in the peacekeeping mission accept Ethiopia as a permanent partner to their nations. The best example, in this case, is the bilateral relationship between Ethiopia and South Korea.

In the past many decades, the people and government of South Korea remember and appreciate what Ethiopia and its troops did to their country. They are always



standing beside Ethiopia no matter what the circumstances can be. The two nations indeed are very distant but their heart and compassion for each other are very close. The former has also been one of the major partners for the latter in its economic, political and social activities.

The government of South Korea has been contributing several support to the Ethiopian Government. Besides, the former has even supported the members and families of Ethiopian veterans who participated in the Korean War. Not only that, South Korea has been supporting Ethiopia in various terms.

On a very recent occasion, ahead of the upcoming Korean-Africa Summit, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) paid an official working visit to Seoul, South Korea on the 2nd of June 2024. During the time, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) and his South Korean counterpart President Yoon Suk Yeol talked about the two countries' bilateral relations and expressed commitment to bolster economic cooperation in Seoul.

Abiy has also reaffirmed Ethiopia's commitment to work together with South Korea to further enhance partnership between the two countries. He expressed views on social media mentioning that the two countries share a long history spanning over six decades, rooted in Ethiopia's support during the Korean War. "I am confident that we will work together to enhance our partnership further," Abiy wrote.

By the same token, Dessie Dalkie, Ethiopian Ambassador to South Korea, stated the Premier's state visit to Seoul helped to transform the bilateral relations into a new chapter.

He said that the visit is an important incident to initiate new cooperation and consolidate the existing friendship between the two as the leaders have expressed commitment to deepening cooperation in various areas including finance, trade and investment, technology, and agricultural development among others.

Efforts are also underway to bolster the two

nations' ties in people-to-people relations, culture, education and tourism, Dessie added. On the same day of the official visit, Ethiopia and South Korea also signed a 1 billion USD financing framework agreement, which would help to foster the economic relation.

According to Finance Minister Ahmed Shide, the agreement is a demonstration of the commitment of the two countries to reinforce economic cooperation.

He stated that the financing framework agreement targets projects related to infrastructural development, science and technology, capacity building, health and urban development that would be implemented in the next four years.

So far, the Prime Minister with his delegation has laid a wreath at the monument of Ethiopian veterans of the Korean War who fought alongside South Korean and United Nations forces.

During his stay, Abiy and his ministerial delegation will participate in the Korea-Africa Summit under the theme: "The Future We Make Together: Shared Growth, Sustainability, and Solidarity."

Ambassador Dessie described the summit as a historic event for providing opportunities for African countries to learn more about Korea's economic development experience. "I hope, both sides expand cooperation," he told Korean media.

Considering its geographic and historical importance, and huge population, Ethiopia is at the center of Korea-Africa economic cooperation, he said, adding the advanced connectivity backed by well-developed transportation contributes to the improvement of the bilateral cooperation.

The bilateral relations between the two nations began in 1951 following Ethiopia's participation in the Korean War alongside the South Korean and UN soldiers and this incident also initiated Korea's relationship with Africa, according to the Ambassador.

Countries like South Korea still remember what Ethiopia did to them when they were at stake. The former commemorates the deeds of Ethiopians and they are thankful for the favor



Ethiopia, Cuba relations has brought Africa and Latin America closer together

Ambassador Jorge Lefebre Nicola

BY ZEKARIAS WOLDEMARIAM

Ethiopia and Cuba's diplomatic relations started 49 years ago and kept on growing overcoming many difficulties. The very reason for the strong relations between the two countries that are located far away from each other is that the Cubans devotedly stood by the side of Ethiopia and sent an army to help Ethiopians fend off foreign aggression.

Even after the wounding of the war, Ethiopia and Cuba cemented their cooperation in the fields of health, education ... etc. Accordingly, many thousands of Ethiopians, including those who were orphaned by the war were allowed to study various fields of education in Cuba. These students have formed a large Ethio-Cuban Community that is now the backbone of the strong diplomatic and people-to-people relations that thrived for almost half a century and is still nascent.

Cuban Ambassador to Ethiopia, Jorge Lefebre Nicolás has been working as Ambassador here for the last two years and half. Unfortunately, he is cutting short his stay here in Ethiopia due to a new assignment from his government. In his exclusive interview with The Ethiopian Herald, he reflected his warm impression of the people-to-people relations, and economic and political cooperation between the two countries. Enjoy reading!

How was your stay as Ambassador of Cuba to Ethiopia in the last couple of years?

When I received the news of my designation to Ethiopia I was very happy. Because Ethiopia and Cuba share a long history of relationship; the next year 2025 according to my calendar, is going to be 50 years of diplomatic relationship. Ethiopia is a very beloved country in Cuba for the fact that many Cubans who participated here in Ethiopia in the war of defending Ethiopia against external invasion died in that military operation. There were doctors and teachers. A lot of people also travel to Cuba have children and study. And they were back in Ethiopia as Engineers, doctors, professionals.

I was expected to be here for 4 years, but I have to go back and go to another destination. But in these 2 years, I have found here an admiration and love for my country that is hard to find in other places. Here in Ethiopia when you walk on the street many people can identify the Cuban flag. When they see the flag on the car they say Cuba, and the second word is Fidel.

At this age, they have not passed through history. They don't know the close relationship that we enjoyed at that time but they can identify Cuba. And some others go beyond that and call Che Guevera because the leaders are very well recognized here in Ethiopia. And I have found that love for my country and I have enjoyed my short stay here in Ethiopia.

Ethiopia has been for me like what many people say "my second home, my second country"; but it's a cliché; I will say Ethiopia is very dear to me. It's a country where I and my wife have friends who

love the Cubans in the same way we love Ethiopia.

Could you tell us how Ethio-Cuban people-to-people relations progressed through time and where it has reached now?

In 1976, we sent soldiers to Ethiopia to help the Ethiopian government at that time to fend off an external occupation. We fought shoulder to shoulder alongside the people and we were able to know the bravery of Ethiopian soldiers. That was the first Contact of people to people. After that, the war was over, but we sent contingents of doctors, and teachers to the universities, and schools.

Cuba also took care of war-orphaned Ethiopians. They travelled to Cuba under the program created by Fidel Castro to give education to those children. Many of them spent 10 to 15 years in Cuba. Now they are back. They are working in Ethiopia as professionals. We used to call them Ethio-Cubans. They are our people here. So we consider them our own because Ethiopians are very friendly. They easily blend with Cubans and also speak very good Spanish. This confuses many people whether they are Ethiopians or Cubans.

How do Ethiopians and Cubans live in each other's country?

There are around 30 Ethiopians who study in Cuba every year. There are 3 or 4 that add to this free scholarship there. And there is an Ethiopian community that studied in Cuba and they stay there and they have their own family. They are interacting with the people while keeping their Ethiopian roots.

Unfortunately, we don't have a Cuban



community here. Some Cuban mixed families got married to Ethiopians in Cuba and they came here to work. They are living here. In 2 years and a half, I never had a weekend of my own. So, I have been invited to attend funerals, weddings, birthdays ...etc. I was even sent by one groom as one of his family elders (Shimagle) who, according to Ethiopian matrimonial culture, presented a boy's request to a family to give him their daughter off for marriage.

Ethiopians who have studied in Cuba have established an association that is called the Ethio-Cuba Friendship Association. It is an NGO that is recognized by the state and they work in many projects. They work along with the embassy; they defend the Cuban principles in front of the lies and the international pressure.

When I also need to do something in the embassy I don't hire people. I call them one weekend and we work together. And we later end up at a party just drinking and eating. This is the life that we have produced. This Association is very important.

In March every year, there is the anniversary of the Battle of Karamara (Battle of Ogaden). That was the final Combat between the Cuban troops and the invaders here in Ethiopia. And then those people remembered that because the people were still alive. They organized every year in the Memorial Park near the central post office.

So every year we organize that meeting with them. The association keeps that part and the world that keeps alive their

Ethiopia, Cuba relations ...

continued from page 8

memories and all the pictures of the people who died there. It's an obligation for us. It's a moral obligation to go to that Park and to preserve our respect for the people that have fallen far away from our country and that part is going to be perhaps the centre for that celebration what is going to be music is going to be big time just because we have a lot of people here to celebrate. You get more than 5,000 Ethiopians. Now there are about 2,000 in Ethiopia. We can gather 400 of them very easily because if we send a message 400 come every year. But this year we make something bigger because we feel that we must share the 50 years of cooperation that has never been interrupted.

There are many areas in which Ethiopia and Cuba can work together. How much is the cooperation between the two countries progressing?

We understand each other and also as a country, we share the same challenges, like the economic challenges. Ethiopia must feed more than 120 million people. But you do have a big territory. We are a small island lot of resources in Ethiopia. But we have to feed 11 million people; but this is the same kind of effort that we have to do to feed, to provide education as well as medical care to all our people.

In these two years, I have witnessed the peace process in Ethiopia. Ethiopia was coming from a very difficult crisis, the Civil War in the North and your diplomacy was very skillful and with the help of some friends you were able to sign that peace agreement. Ethiopia was able to recover from that and despite those sanctions difficulties like the war in Russia, and the food crisis everywhere it has managed to keep economic productivity as well as to be recognized as one of the most vibrant economies in Africa and also to join the BRICS. They are the most important economies of the world. The composition of the group is the most important economic group in the world. They are strong, big economies. And now Ethiopia is part of that; it is a new possibility of cooperation.

Throughout the years we have been able to establish some kind of cooperation in the health services. We have contributed to creating nurses and doctors here. Now is of no importance because in these 50 years, Ethiopians have been able to create their capacities and they all possibilities do have a lot of University Health Universities in the country and you create your own to graduate your students, but we continue giving some kind of assistance. We have confirmed that Ethiopia now needs specialization services, like cancer diseases that need surgeries and also using the capacity that Cuba has created. We have a very high standard in the health system. And we are



working on different projects. And now our health cooperation is 1 step higher.

We are working on some projects in the sugar industry. We have been able to identify that Ethiopia has built around 13 or 14 factories. Some of them are working. They are working with some difficulties because you have a very important technology in the sugar industry. But you have a lack of expertise in the harvest of sugar cane. We are definitely to finish one Big Technical mission that visits all the sugar Factories in Ethiopia. Now we are preparing a proposal on how to make cooperation that will benefit our countries.

Ethiopia has a long traditional expertise and an important culture of coffee producers. So we need your help. We need the Ethiopian varieties. And in Cuba, we consume a lot of onions, but we don't have that kind of production. We need varieties. The weather in Cuba is like that of the central part of Ethiopia. It's very hot. The production needs some expertise and we need to change the variety and increase the production because we need to provide food to the 11 million people. We cannot buy that from the international Market because of the economic sanction against Cuba.

We have different projects to help Ethiopia in its water resources. Ethiopia has a lot of irrigation and Water Resources in different places, but other places don't have them, so you need to transport that using gravity, and solar energy and we are working on processing that. And we are developing projects to make a better

potential of the water resource because you need it for agriculture.

What will be the role of Ethiopia's membership in BRICS to Ethiopia and friendly countries?

Ethiopia's membership in BRICS will open wider possibilities. BRICS are not a political consultation Forum but we have something as we are good friends. So we are confident that we have inside bricks the possibility to insert our economy through Ethiopia on the BRICS and also Ethiopia will get a fund to expand their economy. So we are like Ethiopia. We are countries with economic difficulties. We are calling the people to invest in Cuba and all the Ethiopian investment will be welcome in Cuba in the areas that we can't have from benefits to get together.

At the same time, Ethiopia is a member of BRICS means it is a member of a group of countries with some political power in the United Nations. That is also another edge of this issue. The BRICS defend their positions. And in that, we have a very fruitful cooperation in a multilateral forum. When we face challenges and attacks against our Internal Affairs we gather together and defend our interests.

How has Ethio-Cuba relations played in bringing Africa and Latin America closer together?

Ethiopia has helped us in Africa. It is the political capital of Africa. There are now about 130 embassies here. African countries are there. Even the quality of the African diplomats here is very good. This is very high. For any country that needs cooperation with Africa or needs African support, they need to contact all the representatives here and the government of Ethiopia which has become an important political spot in the African map. So in fact many countries that don't have so huge relationship with Africa, approach Cuba and they say "we need the support of the African country because this is very practical you are 54 states. So, 54 states are a third of the Supporters in any vote in the United Nations. So you need to work with the African culture. But if you are a country that comes here once every 2 years and can ask for support, you will not get it. In fact, in these 2 years, I have recommended many Latin American countries to open their embassies in Addis Ababa.

A few years back Cuba had the largest number of Embassies in Africa, which are now 34. By now Brazil has 36 Embassies in Africa. So I have hope that many more Latin American countries would open their embassies here in Addis Ababa.

Thank you very much and I wish you the best in your future career!

Thank you



In these two years, I have witnessed the peace process in Ethiopia. Ethiopia was coming from a very difficult crisis, the Civil War in the North and your diplomacy was very skillful and with the help of some friends you were able to sign that peace agreement

International

New African Energy Bank set to launch operations in July 2024

Two years after the signing of the founding protocol, the African Energy Bank officially opened its doors on June 4 and slated the operational launch for July. This supranational bank will focus on financing oil and gas projects in Africa, with a view to bridging the financing gap in these sectors and the continent's energy deficit.

The African Energy Bank (AEB) was created on Tuesday June 4, 2024, Ecofin Agency reported. The founding documents and charter were signed by Afreximbank and the African Petroleum Producers Organization (APPO), its two founding institutions.

Structured as a pan-African energy development bank, AEB has an initial capital of \$5 billion. It will focus on financing African oil and gas projects, without excluding renewable energy projects.

The operational launch is slated for July, pending the signatures and ratifications from two member countries besides the founding institutions. The bank aims to welcome investors who align with its mission and vision.

The AEB emerged to tackle the financing crisis in Africa's oil and gas industry, triggered by the withdrawal of foreign



financiers and international investors citing global energy transition. It aims to harness all available energy forms on the continent to bridge the energy gap.

“This moment marks a significant milestone in our continent's journey towards energy

independence and sustainable development. By harnessing our collective resources and expertise, we are paving the way for a brighter, more prosperous future for all Africans,” said Tarek El Molla, a member of APPO's ministerial council and Egypt's Minister of Petroleum and Mineral

Resources.

Africa, hosting the largest proportion of the global population without access to energy, could potentially bridge this gap with its vast reserves of crude oil and natural gas.

Source: North Africa Post

Verbatim and Caption

National Dialogue:

Golden opportunity to resolve deep-rooted problems

The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) already concluded agenda gathering in Addis Ababa. ENDC stated that the agenda gathering session will continue across the country as part of the national dialogue. ENDC officials and politicians call the general public to actively engage in the national dialogue process.

Gov't committed to implement national dialogue outcomes: PM Abiy



As one stakeholder in the national dialogue, the Ethiopian government is determined to implement conclusions to be made by the National Dialogue. Consultation is the only solution to solve the age-old national problems.

The national dialogue is a new chapter for Ethiopia. All stakeholders should actively participate in the new chapter to make Ethiopia a country of hope. Making good use of this historic consultation opportunity, which is not repeated in the course of history, will make us all winners.

The government has no intention of interfering in the work of the ENDC.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahamd (PhD)



Political parties should come with concrete ideas at the ND: Council head

The National Dialogue is a new chapter for Ethiopia and the role of politicians and political parties is critical in realizing the goal of the National Dialogue. Political parties are expected to not only actively participate in the national dialogue but also to bring concrete ideas to the national dialogue table.

Political parties need to focus on ways resolving the past and already existing challenges to create a better future. Not only political parties, everyone has the responsibility to exert utmost effort in order to hold fruitful dialogue.

Rahel Bafe (PhD), Ethiopian Political Parties Joint Council Head

Ethiopians have the ability to resolve differences: ENDC Chief Commissioner

The seven days agenda gathering consultation organized by ENDC concluded successfully.

The Addis Ababa agenda gathering consultation meeting demonstrated Ethiopians' ability to discuss national issues and resolve their differences when they get the opportunity.

Besides undertaking the agenda gathering process with the sense of belongingness, the Addis Ababa agenda gathering participants have realized that Ethiopians are capable of identifying, handling as well as resolving their differences by devoting the right amount of time and maturity.

The Addis Ababa agenda gathering participants identify core challenges that Ethiopia is facing. ENDC will continue the agenda gathering consultations in the other parts of the country.

Professor Mesfin Araya, Chief Commissioner, Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission



National Dialogue crucial to solve national problems: Ezema Party Deputy Leader



The nation has faced multiple challenges that constraint it from moving forward. Hence, political parties are expected to curb the challenges at grass root level through this platform.

Political parties are expected to come up with organized ideas that are relevant to leave past challenges behind. "Parties shall not bring common sense to the table; rather they are more welcomed to come up with organized thought that could help the nation move forward. Moreover, they need to make themselves ready not only to speak their minds but to listen to others willingly.

Isolating self from the dialogue would only widen differences

Yohannes Mekonnen, Ezema Party Deputy Leader

International

ECA and partners conclude training on electricity market design in Nairobi

Nairobi, Kenya, 7th June 2024 – The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), RES4Africa Foundation, and Gestore dei Servizi Energetici (GSE) have successfully concluded a High-Level Policy and Regulatory Training on Electricity Market Design.

Held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 5 to 7 June 2024, the training represents a significant step towards advancing Africa's electricity reform agenda and increasing private sector participation in clean energy infrastructure.

The initiative, titled "Advancing Africa's Electricity Reform Agenda: Towards Increased Private Sector Participation in Clean Energy Infrastructure," builds on a successful regulatory work conducted by ECA and RES4Africa since 2019. Over the past four years, the project has assessed the electricity policy and regulatory frameworks in 16 African countries, providing evidence-based recommendations to enhance regulatory openness, attractiveness, and readiness for private sector investments.

Robert Lisinge, Acting Director of Technology, Innovation, Connectivity, and Infrastructure at the ECA, highlighted

the importance of de-risking investments, stating "De-risking investment, especially in an environment where the continent attracts a fraction of global energy investments, calls for a serious look at the policy and regulatory system."

Mr Lisinge noted that addressing pressing regulatory constraints and, in some cases, regulatory absence, provides clarity to investors. He pointed out that "ECA's energy regulation and investment program aims to bridge this barrier by supporting member states in their efforts to advance regulation and de-risk their markets."

Similarly, Yohannes Hailu, Energy Policy Expert at the ECA, emphasized that enabling greater private sector investment and participation in Africa's electricity markets through policy and regulatory enhancements is crucial for sustainable financing. Mr Hailu said Kenya's effort to address bulk electricity supply and open access regulation "ensures not only broader openness of the electricity market to private investment, but it will also serve as a regulatory best practice to inspire similar initiatives across the continent."

At the heart of this training was the broader

initiative to provide technical support to Kenya in adopting and implementing Bulk Power and Open Access Regulation. This regulation has profound implications for opening Kenya's electricity market to further private investment.

Kenya's advancing regulatory framework and emerging public-private partnership models in transmission investment position it among the front-runners in Africa's energy sector reform.

"At RES4Africa, we believe that the future of Africa's energy lies in the hands of a well-informed and empowered community of policymakers, regulators, and industry leaders," stated Roberto Vigotti, Secretary General at RES4Africa Foundation. Mr. Vigotti said the training represents a "pivotal step towards creating an enabling environment for private sector investments in the clean energy sector," adding that "by collaborating closely with ECA, GSE, and other partners, we aim to drive the energy transition across the continent, ensuring sustainable, reliable, and affordable electricity for all."

Alberto Biancardi, Director of Studies, Monitoring, and International Relations

at GSE, said, "GSE is pleased to work together with RES4Africa and ECA in furthering the energy transition and is eager to continue supporting the creation of opportunities for building capacities to design the most effective ways of tackling persistent challenges and taking advantage of the wealth of opportunities on the continent."

ECA maintains ongoing collaboration with member states in advancing regulation and market de-risking measures. This collaboration involves developing and implementing supportive regulatory instruments, capacity-building initiatives, and technical assistance to address the investment gap in the sector.

The Nairobi training was made possible through the cooperation and support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Enel Foundation. AFRY Management Consulting and Grupo Mercados Energéticos Consultores (GME) are also valued partners in delivering quality knowledge and skills sharing with participating experts.

Source: UNECA