



# The Ethiopian Herald

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Professor Teshome Soromessa

## Corridor dev't ushers citizens' right to clean, healthy environment

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - The ongoing corridor development project would ensure citizens' constitutionally guaranteed right to clean and healthy environment, an expert in the issue said.

See Corridor dev't ... page 3

## How newspapers stay afloat in digital era?

BY BILAL DERSO

Amidst digital revolution and the emergence of modern media technologies, the traditional media has been rocked by a frightening

change. Hence, the survival of conventional media, print, in particular, will be relied on new and innovative approaches.

While the readership decline is especially evident in the Western world, not all hope

is lost elsewhere. The 2022 World Press Trends Survey of the World Association of Newspapers (WAN) shows print circulation increases in Asia, Latin America, and Africa.

See How newspapers ... page 3

## Expert outlines foreign banks' multifaceted significance



Costantinos Berhutesfa (PhD)

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopia's opening up for foreign banks would expedite the national economic growth through stimulating investment with improved financial services, an expert in the issue said.

Approached by the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), a Public Policy expert Costantinos Berhutesfa (PhD) stated that permitting the foreign firms' entry in the banking sector would bring tangible economic improvement.

According to him, the country had been prohibiting foreign banks' participation in the sphere while permitting only domestic investors to buy bank shares.

For this reason, he said that Ethiopia had lost the opportunity to exploit the contribution of potential foreign banks that facilitated the development of many countries including

See Expert outlines ... page 3



Umed Ujulu

## Gambella surges gold supply to central bank

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA – Gambella's gold supply to the National Bank of Ethiopia has seen steady growth since the reform, the State Chief said.

The Chief Administrator Umed Ujulu expressed that the gold production in Gambella has

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# News

## Ethiopia

### zooming efforts to nurture vibrant TVET sector

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

**ADDIS ABABA** – Ethiopia is embarking on various policy and structural shifts to garner a global standard Technical and Vocational Educational Training (TVET) hub, the Ministry of Labor and Skills (MoLS) said.

Addis Ababa City Administration Labor and Skills Bureau held a panel discussion yesterday in connection with the ongoing 14<sup>th</sup> City-wide TVET exhibition week under the theme of “TVET for sustainable development”.

MoLS State Minister Teshale Berecha (PhD) said that the government has made commendable reforms on policies and frameworks and incorporated vocational training in the curriculum thereby registering notable outcomes.

Teshale has also stated that the country has recently approved a qualification framework and policy environment revision of the sector’s strategy to excel in its performance.

“To leverage the country’s immense potential in the sector, the ministry is delivering cooperative training and services to produce responsibility and equip every fellow citizen with their single skills in any field to avoid expectations and income generation.”

Emphasizing the need to strengthen cooperative training to improve the quality of training and better resource mobilization endeavors, he has called on pertinent vocational institutions in the capital to actively engage in the ongoing development projects in the metropolis to make it livable in the continental and global arena.

Similarly, the country is currently participating in skill competitions at the continental level. In addition, as an international competition association



member, he said, “It is facilitating efforts to take part at the international level, which help garner global standard skilled labor force.”

He said, “Since recently, the TVET system has been increasing both in size and quality. Accordingly, there are over 1,500 technical and skill institutions, 30,000 teachers in the sector with various vocational trainers across the country.”

Federal TVET Institute Leadership and Management Department Head Abebaw Lemma remarked that the country need to comprehend streamlined outcome-based training and learning activities to support the learning outcomes.

He further emphasized that TVET should feature outcome-based school training and end with customers’ needs and evaluation-based industry works standard. It is also the bedrock of socioeconomic development

and to meet the ever-increasing number of citizens to ensure gainful employment.

“Competent trainees should fulfill task skills, competency and task management skills, and job environment skills. Lack of proper customization, low involvement of industries and private sector trainees and poor industry exposure are critical challenges that are impacting the sector,” he remarked.

Nowadays, Abebaw emphasized that competency assessments have become the sector’s culture. And outcome-based TVET requires active engagements of private sectors or industries.

Industry, Urban and Infrastructure Policy Research Center Head Amare Matebu (PhD) stated that Ethiopia’s labor force is ever growing rapidly; therefore, it should produce quality skilled power to bridge the demand and supply chain.

Emphasizing producing quality and upgrading skills, Amare elucidated that TVET is highly required to be a fit in all sectors to facilitate technology transfer through research and development.

Emphasizing the private sector’s role, he said, a teacher’s skill or quality is an engine for the real development of the sector.

On his part, Senior Policy Advisor Antonios Philiche remarked that an effective training system and workforce bring a strong national economy.

He has also underscored the need to revise training organizations and customize global countries’ experiences accordingly.

Moreover, he reiterated that prime attention should be given to the sector to build a vibrant economy and industrialization journey.

## Institute recommends hotels to incorporate traditional foods

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA**- The Tourism Training Institute (TTI) called on hotels to incorporate traditional foods into their menus to better attract and serve tourists.

Despite Ethiopia’s rich cultural diversity and culinary heritage, many hotels do not currently offer the traditional dishes that visitors are eager to experience, according to the Institute.

In interview with Ethiopian Press Agency, Deputy General Director of the Institute, Yitaseb Seyoum said that the potential of Ethiopian food tourism as a significant draw for international tourists.

He also noted that traditional foods in all

regions and ethnicities are integral part of the Ethiopian cultural experience. By excluding these dishes, hotels are missing opportunities to enhance the overall tourist experience. They can differentiate themselves in the growing and competitive tourism market by featuring under-advertised foods, he highlighted.

All 80 and more ethnicities have own cuisine renowned for their unique flavors, ingredients, and preparation methods, reflecting the country’s diverse ethnic backgrounds. This diversity presents a rich tapestry that could enrich the hospitality industry, he added.

Hotels could be beneficial of training their chefs in traditional cooking and

incorporating locally sourced ingredients into their offerings though it needs further research and budgets.

Though the number of hotels and the tradition of incorporating traditional foods into menus are rising, it has not yet widely exercised. The Institute is expecting better provision to tourists demanding a real taste of Ethiopian foods. The institute is encouraging hotels proving culturally immersive experiences, according to him.

“Some hotels even having foreign food items are not cooking their own national traditional foods. We tried to convince them to add and feature local traditional foods. Moreover, the institution is promoting hotels having traditional cuisines,” he remarked.



Yitaseb Seyoum

# News

## USAID

### safe drinking water project in Somali State

BY STAFF REPORTER

**ADDIS ABABA**— USAID has announced the launch of a new \$10 million water supply system under the Resilience in Pastoral Areas (RIPA-North) program, funded by Feed the Future with additional cost sharing from the Somali Region Water Bureau.

This initiative responds to the severe drought, which has led to water shortages in the region, a press release the organization sent to the Ethiopian Herald disclosed.

The new water supply system provides safe drinking water in Adadle and surrounding areas, benefiting over 14,200 households, including Internally Displaced Persons in the Shebele Zone. Key components of the project include the Shebele River Water Intake Structure to provide a reliable water source; Water Treatment Plant Construction to ensure the provision of safe drinking water; and a Distribution Network to deliver water to the targeted households.

Additionally, the project involves watershed

rehabilitation using nature-based solutions such as soil and water conservation, flood water harvesting, and enhanced water governance. The RIPA-North Water Security Project supports the Somali Regional State Multi-Year Resilience Strategy developed with USAID.

For 120 years, the United States and Ethiopia have partnered in health and education, agriculture and food security, science and the environment, and many other areas to improve the lives of all Ethiopians.

## Expert outlines'...

UAE, Singapore, China, and Vietnam.

According to Costantinos, foreign capital is important to achieve development, if not, governments would be dependent, or aid, remittance or export incomes to get foreign currency to import goods and implement projects.

He further stated that economists in collaboration with the government have worked a lot in amending the financial policy to allow foreign banks to enter the country.

The expert suggested that expediting the development of the agricultural and manufacturing sectors including the expansion of fertilizer, sugar, edible oil, and flour factories is significant to ensure food self-sufficiency and boost export shortly.

“Such development requires sufficient foreign currency, which the incoming foreign banks might bring with it.”

Besides, avoiding bureaucratic red tape in government institutions and private sector involvement would play a pivotal role in bringing meaningful impact in the country, he added.

Many expected that the country's opening up to foreign banks would bring improved financial services in Ethiopia for ramping up the overall economic development of the country.

The foreign banks will bring new technologies and new services in both corporate and retail banking, which will force the existing players to significantly upgrade what they are offering to businesses and consumers, Mirkarim Yakubov, an Asset Manager based in Addis Ababa, recently told the African Business.

He also added that the entry of foreign banks would help to expedite economic growth by encouraging more foreign direct investment in important industries such as agriculture and manufacturing for providing advanced financial services.

## Corridor dev't ushers citizens' right...

Approached by the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) AAU College of Natural Science and Computational Science Prof. Teshome Soromessa (PhD) said that the ongoing corridor development project in Addis Ababa and other cities would ensure citizens' right to live in a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment. The project is in right direction and it is aligned with the constitutionally stipulated right of citizens.

The Constitution in Article 44 stated that every citizen has a right to live in clean and healthy environment. In addition to ensuring citizens' right, the project has been facilitating people's mobility, the

scholar noted, adding, “One can experience the beauty and comfortably of corridor development in Arat kilo area.”

According to him, most of Ethiopian cities do not have smart urban plans. It is customary to see vehicles, passengers share the same asphalt road, this condition prevents a free movement of people and goods, and therefore, the corridor development is a necessary task for people to be able to move freely and healthily.

Lauding the implementation of the modern corridor development, Prof. Teshome indicated that in connection with this

development, indigenous trees should be planted for both benefit and beauty purposes.

“Moreover, the project requires the active involvement of experts in the field for that would ensure its success. Corridor development is a standard project displaying the government's adherence to citizens' rights to clean and healthy environment.”

Therefore, it is imperative to create a clean environment for citizens. The promising activity, which has been launched in Addis Ababa, should be expanded in other cities as well, the academician pleaded.

## Gambella surges gold...

increased over the past six years, and so has its contribution to the national reserve.

According to him, the mining industry is among the major sectors identified to be promoted to boost the national economy in which the State is contributing an increasing volume of gold reserves to the central bank.

For instance, the amount of gold produced in Gambella has increased from 122.24 kg in 2019 to 1206.51 kg in 2022. The State has also produced 225 of kg gold just in the last nine months.

Umed expressed that the State has been consistently supplying the product to the national bank to play an important role in the development of the national economy.

Gambella is also undertaking development activities including the construction of a 612 km road infrastructure with the support of the federal government, he added.

Moreover, the construction of health and education institutions, water facilities and other infrastructures is enabling the state administration to respond to public

grievances, according to him.

“On the other hand, the green legacy activities being undertaken in the state helped to achieve notable results. Meanwhile, the state also prepared 10.2 million saplings to be planted along its basins.”

These all development activities were achieved withstanding various security problems that have been resolved in cooperation with the Ministry of Peace and other security apparatuses of the federal government, Umed stated.

## How newspapers stay afloat in digital...

Speaking to *The Ethiopian Herald*, Addis Ababa University Journalism Associate Professor Teshager Shiferaw (PhD) stated that the print media in Ethiopia and Africa at large has faced political, financial and technological constraints. The Ethiopian media landscape is littered with the skeletons of once-brave newspapers that did not stand the test of time. However, some did survive and continue.

Teshager is optimistic that journalists of noble caliber could lead the way in ensuring the survival of the print media. “The key question is whether those of us with a love for print will simply lie down and die or will we manage to adapt to remain relevant?”

The scholar also suggested the need for the coexistence of multiple-platform media and print should continue to have a place in the mix. Print and online media could be mutually supportive when it comes to

promoting development and both are vital constituents in the democratic process and together can contribute to the development of an engaged citizenry and realize the goal of true media pluralism.

Free speech and media were once considered the exclusive realm of journalists. This is no longer the case- the right to freedom of expression belongs to all people. The combined traditional and new media, if harnessed, will surely give great impetus to the ongoing battle for freedom of expression and access to information, not only in Ethiopia but also across the globe, the academician remarked.

A veteran journalist and senior consultant in media and communication, Eshetu Geletu stated for his part that print journalists should believe in the power and the ability of the pen to change the world, be prepared to adapt and innovate to remain relevant in

the digital era as their predecessors did in the arrival of television and radio.

“The biggest danger to newspapers is undoubtedly the loss of public support. It remains critical to enhance professionalism, investigative skills and a commitment to ethics among journalists to retain and regain credibility and to stay close to the communities they serve.”

According to Eshetu, cross-border collaboration in investigative reporting in print and online, to maximize resources, reach larger audiences and endure the ever-increasing cost of printing are ways for newspapers to stay competitive in the digital era. Moreover, publishing in local languages and providing SMS short-message pages to create a link between people and government are just a few of the successful innovations local newspapers should adopt.

For Teshager (PhD), in a faster-paced media, journalists will be required to adapt their skills to both print and online. The deadline-driven environment has always faced changes and challenge and committed journalists have proved themselves up to the task.

The inability of many on social media to differentiate between hate speech and free speech as well as other online abuses play directly into the hands of governments looking for excuses to “regulate” freedom of expression online. Media literacy campaigns about online media and information are crucial for people to maximize the use of what could be a tremendous resource for their development.

Eventually, there will be those who seek out alternative sources of reliable news and information and newspapers could be there to catch them, both experts expressed conviction.

# Opinion

## A glimpse into the historical root of access to seaport

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Historically, Ethiopia had access to the sea. The Kingdom of Axum, during the Common Era, of course, had a heavy presence on the other side of the Red Sea and stationed in South Arabia.

Dispatching expedient forces to patrol the Red Sea trade lines and to monitoring the marine security around had been common among the kings. Port of Adulis had served to import and export various commodities and the kingdom had institutional and trade relations with the ancient empires of Farce, India and Greece. Strong naval force was also deployed on the Red Sea.

In the 6<sup>th</sup> century, Emperor Kaleb with his forces expedited to southern Arabia by crossing the Red Sea and controlled the surrounding places and subjugated the community there under his rule. However, after the Arab expansionists crossed the Red Sea and destroyed port Adulis, the kings began to pay attention to the territorial expansion towards the southern part of the country.

In the middle age, the Ethiopian kings stretched their trade roots to the eastern part and conquered Zeyla port which is currently located in Somaliland. It served as the nerve center for the import and export trade.

Port of Tajura located in the now costal part of Djibouti also had been serving for import and export trade until Djibouti was annexed and colonized by the French in the late 1880s. Back to the north after Massawa was occupied by Turks in 1557, the presence of Ethiopian forces in the coastal areas was declined for the next successive centuries and its campaign was confined in the high land parts.

In 19<sup>th</sup> century when the Turkish Empire in the Horn of Africa was shrinking due to inability to govern because of various factors, they abandoned Port of Masawa, and later on the Egyptians annexed it.

After the completion of Suez Canal which connects and facilitates trade between Europe and Asia in 1869, European powers increased their presence in the Horn of Africa. And the costal part of the Horn was their major target. Their main interest had been to use the coastal areas as a main spring board to occupy the hinterlands of the countries.

Meanwhile Ethiopian kings had urged then superpower countries which influenced the region to get access to the sea for centuries. Emperor Yohannes IV who reigned from 1872 to 1889 was preoccupied with defending the nation's territorial integrity from foreign intruders who crossed the Red Sea.

In 1875, Egyptian forces stationed in

**In Africa there are about 16 landlocked countries and all relied on other countries ports for their import-export businesses**

eastern Sudan in the place known as Kufit were besieged by the Mahdists. To set those Egyptians forces free, the British had sent a delegation led by Major Hiwett to Emperor Yohanes' court in Adwa and sought to obtain military supports. Per the agreement, the British should have given back Massawa to the Emperor. The Ethiopian forces led by Ras Allula Aba Nega campaigned to Kufit and liberated the trapped Egyptian forces by paying heavy price. However, later the British betrayed the emperor and gave Massawa to the the Italians. The measure had paved the way for the creation of new territory or colony. Ethiopia's dream to get access to the sea water became unrealistic and it was formally barred from the Red Sea until the end of the WWII.

After 50 years of the Italian colonization and 10 years of British Occupation in 1951GC, Eritrea was federated with Ethiopia through the United Nations monitored referendum and Ethiopia realized the centuries old dream to get access to the sea. To achieve this, the role played by the then Minister of Foreign Affairs, Aklilu Habtewold, in the diplomatic battle at the United Nations will never be forgotten. Eight years later, the Eritrean parliament unanimously abolished the federal act and Eritrea became the fourteenth province of Ethiopia and such step sow its own seed for the out breaking of insurgency by Eritrean liberation forces which lasted for thirty years.

The second Ethiopian constitution was introduced in 1955 clearly endorsed that Ethiopia had its own land, air and sea territory with its own marine resources and Islands. The third constitution introduced by the Derg in 1987 also ratified that Ethiopia had sovereign rights over its land, air and water territories with its own Islands.

However, after three decades of liberation struggle, in 1995 Eritrea formally seceded from Ethiopia through conducting UN sponsored referendum which is still legally questionable. The EPRDF regime was not an elected government that time. It was a transitional government. Ethiopia again became landlocked country and it was forced to conduct 90 percent of its import-export trade through port of Djibouti. Contrary to the above mentioned two constitutions, the constitution introduced by EPRDF in 1995 which is still functioning, unequivocally endorsed that Ethiopia is a landlocked country.

Until the coming to power of the reformist government led by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (Ph.D), raising issues with regard to access to the sea was seen as taboo and political parties which demand for sea outlets were regarded as chauvinists. Even the EPRDF officials considered the quest for sea port as only trade matter to advance commercial interest rather than as strategic affairs.

In Africa there are about 16 landlocked countries and all relied on other countries ports for their import-export businesses. This made them economically disadvantaged. As compared to the port owning countries, landlocked countries have a lesser chance to achieve economic growth because they spend their sizable amount of revenue to the port services. The arbitrary price hike of port services coupled with external shocks make landlocked countries to suffer from inflation. Therefore, obtaining sea access to facilitate trade is essential not only to boost economy but also to realize regional stability.

According to the international law, Ethiopia has the right to get access to sea outlets through negotiation and making contract with the neighboring countries. Ethiopia is the second most populous country in Africa next to Nigeria with more than 120 million population.

Its economy is growing from time to time. Almost all sectors such as the agriculture, manufacturing and service play pivotal role in this regard and to keep the economic growth steadily, access to sea is the fundamental issue. Ethiopia aspires to attain middle income countries status by 2030 G.C. and is striving to achieve the goal. The manufacturing sector which is expected to bring structural change is growing.

The sector plays pivotal role for import substitution, boosts exports, links with other sector such as agriculture and service, attract local and foreign investments, strengthening international value chain and creates job opportunities to hundreds of thousands of citizens. When industrialization is booming the nation integration economically with the outside world is increasing, import and

export trade volume will be enhanced and such a situation necessitates a viable access to sea.

Cognizant of the vitality of ports for commercial and strategically values, the government aggressively engaged in diplomatic efforts through negotiation and dialogue with the neighboring countries.

The recently signed agreement between Ethiopia and Somali land to provide port to Ethiopia is unprecedented phenomena and plays vital role to meet the nation quest for access to sea. The agreement in addition to boosting regional trade strengthening the two countries peoples century old relations, it helps to attain political stability around the region.

Recently Somali Chief Administrator, Mustefe Muhammad has highlighted the immense significance of the Berbera Economic Corridor for the development of people-to-people ties in the region.

A panel discussion on the Berbera Economic Corridor and People's Movement was conducted in Jigjiga city, Somali Region of Ethiopia. Mayor of Hargeisa City in Somaliland, Abdulkerim Ahmed Moge; Mayor of Berbera City, Abdushukur Mohamod, Mayor of Borema City; Mohamed Ahmed Warsamena, and the Mayor of Gabilai City, Mohamed Amin Omar were in attendance at the panel discussion organized by Jigjiga University in collaboration with the Jigjiga City Administration and the Ethiopian Cities Forum.

Somali Chief Administrator, Mustefe Muhammad, Jigjiga University Board Chairman, Tesfaye Beljige and officials of Ministry of Urban and Infrastructure and Jigjiga University were also participating in the meeting.

Mustefe said on the occasion that the utilization of the Berbera Economic Corridor is crucial for fostering regional development and strengthening people-to-people connections. He also highlighted the importance of port and sea transport services for the people in the region.

Jigjiga University Board Chairman and Chief Government Whip at the House of Representative, Tesfaye Beljige, emphasized the significant role of the development activities along the Berbera Corridor in facilitating the transfer of African trade, services, and capital. He underscored the importance of the Berbera Economic Corridor in the implementation of the African Union Agenda 2063, by boosting trade and investment activities in the region.

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

# Editorial

## National dialogue to hit the nucleus of evils

In the national dialogue process being held in Ethiopia, a number of cardinal national issues have been thoroughly identified, raised, discussed, and the summed up ones, including what has been raised in Addis Ababa, are categorically presented for framing the ultimate core issues for a concluding national dialogue.

Cognizant of the fact that incongruity, discrepancy and rivalry have to be well addressed and transformed into fraternity, unity and cooperation for the sake of the general public, Ethiopia has set up the national dialog commission. The commission in turn has been undertaking a range of activities to make the national dialogue a success.

As deduced from the all-rounded discussions across the nation, it has been proved that the national dialogue is a dependable tool for addressing a range of problems and national evils. The dialogue can be further made participatory and inclusive thereby helping the nation root peace, security, stability and other related socio-economic facets.

Unequivocally, the foundations of a sustainable peace, lasting stability and real development needs to be unwaveringly laid through devising local solutions to the long heaped disagreements and multifarious social, economic and even political troubles.

A cross-section of Ethiopian civil society groups has played a significant role in booming peace effort as a domestic mediator in the political crisis that engulfed the country since the outbreak of the conflict in the northern part of the country.

With the institutional process faltering, the national Dialog Commission has stepped in to mediate between the conflicting parties, armed groups here and there as well as proposing a detailed political roadmap towards the completion of the transition process—from being hub of conflict and confrontation to composure and cooperation.

Truly speaking, the Commission deserves credit for providing Ethiopia with productive political establishment with a viable route out of the conflict and related crisis. The action of the Commission speaks either to a genuine commitment to reconciliation, justice and inclusivity, or a well orchestrated illusion of intent to appear so-committed.

The government has to continue making itself committed to ensure peace and security, stability and sustainable development and other related aspects. To this end, the Commission has to run a participatory, inclusive and trustworthy discussion that would help the nation ensure lasting peace via getting elites, political parties, civil society organizations, religious leaders, but not limited to, involved and publicly consulted so as to ensure lasting peace across the nation.

The Dialogue needs to be fair and legitimate to proportionally represent all segments of the society in the country. Since the main objective of establishing national unity, peace, and stability will not be sustainable if participatory approach is not entertained, the government needs to walk the talk thereby coming up with a satiable nation.

For the National Dialogue Commission and the resultant national dialogue to have the desired reconciliatory effect, there has to be inclusion of all stakeholders and all segments of the society. Furthermore, there must be inclusion of power-holders from the informal and traditional segments of Ethiopia including religious fathers, opinion leaders and cultural chiefs.

The national dialogue Commission has to work towards inculcating the spirit of national ownership in the minds of the generation, who are the prime sources of both constructive and/or destructive aspects. Yes, indigenous practices of conflict resolution have to be well recognized and incorporated in well entrenched systems so as to come up with lasting stability.

In sum, the Ethiopian Government should ensure that the National Dialogue is not perceived as an end goal; rather it has to be taken as part of a larger transitional roadmap that is accompanied by economic, structural, political, and judicial reform processes as it is becoming an increasingly popular tool for conflict resolution and political transformation.

# Opinion



## A pan-African media to reshape the continent's global image

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

There is an urgent demand for Africa to have its own media for the purpose of face negotiation, rebranding itself and connecting Africa together in all core endeavors of the spirit and dimensions of Africanism. It's a high time for Africa to take an inward looking perspective for prosperity and voicing dealing with African issues in African way, according to sources.

It is stated that Africa has gone through uncountable struggles on the ground to emancipate itself from invaders of various forms, most interestingly, both direct and indirect. Even after independence, African nations have gone through dividing political ideologies as a result of the dictations of their former western colonizers in the name of compensation, aid, development or care taking endeavors. These have been at the expense of Pan-Africanism spirit, African nation building process, crafting African nations' brotherhood with the content and salience of Africanism.

No one deny the fact that the continent of Africa which is a home of over a billion of people has sustained without its own media since long back. Needless to say Africa has to have an influential, holistic and impartial media serving all member states on an equal footing. It should be borne in mind that at the 35th ordinary Session of the AU Assembly, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) laid the emphasis on Africa's media representation on a worldwide scale.

It is learnt that Africa is often portrayed in the international media negatively. The endless representation as a continent troubled by civil wars, hunger, corruption, greed, disease and poverty is demeaning and dehumanizing and likely driven by a calculated strategy and agenda.

The African Union Commission (AUC) Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat on his part said that AU is committed to realizing the proposal of PM Abiy to own a Pan-African media that is necessary to perform various tasks.

It is discovered that the interference of the former colonizers of Africa in terms injecting western political ideologies did not help Africa to move forward to brand its pleasant face to the world and engage itself in development efforts in African way. Rather, Africa is considered synonymous to a continent of famine, war, drought and

conflict. This mischaracterization of Africa should be stopped by Africans' engagement to avert the causes, taking inward looking perspective to deal with African issues.

It is added that Africa should be engaged in a new version of Pan-Africanism collectively in all dimensions. It has to say no to foreign adopted political and development ideologies in the spirit of Pan-Africanism to portray its real face, rebrand its actual identity in a collective manner connecting Africa together. Media is one of the war fronts for this cause. It is vital to remind the power of media in this 'fight' given the current western media abuses in reporting African issues. Added to these, it is significant to think of Pan-African media to air African views and connect Africans together to craft sense of African union and brotherhood.

No doubt, media is power and it is a cohesive apparatus to glue society, culture and the continent Africa together. Healthy interaction among these parties is important in political and socio-economic discourse among citizens in a given political map. As a tool of mass communication, media is pivotal to entertaining contending political ideologies and at the same time work for continental integration and social cohesion in the same. It is also a vital machine in enlightening societies and in the attempt to create democratic culture and peaceful social co-existence in the continent.

It is possible to change the world's view of Africa by establishing a Pan-Africa media house and providing accurate and verifiable information about the continent, according to an expert in the field.

It is recalled that speaking to The Ethiopian Herald, Dilla University Journalism and Communication Lecturer Alebel Guangul stated that the proposed Pan-Africa media is crucial to provide accurate news and information about Africa and share its narratives thereby countering misrepresentation of facts.

As long as responding to every story presented by the international media about Africa is impossible, establishing a continental outlet is indispensable.

By establishing their own media houses like Press TV, Turkish Radio and Television (TRT), Russia Today (RT), countries like Iran, Turkey, and Russia respectively have been able to communicate the world of

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The Ethiopian Herald

**Editor's Note: The Author is Ambassador of Russian Federation to Ethiopia**

# Business & Economy

## Intensifying fertilizer utilization for better production

BY MENGESHA AMARE

In a given nation, like Ethiopia, in particular and across the globe in general where a number of people are in acute food insecurity, they have so little access to food that their lives and livelihoods are in danger, intensifying a multitude of means for a better production and productivity has to come to the forefront.

Of the myriads of mechanisms by which food insecurity can be definitely addressed, but not limited to, is widely working on the agriculture sector. This cardinal sector does need a range of inputs to provide the operators with ample yield and better productivity, i.e. fertilizer.

Cognizant of this fact, *The Ethiopian Herald* approached Dawit Nemomsa, an agriculturalist graduated from Haramaya University in agro-economics to have a professional standpoint and convincing proficient expertise regarding the use of fertilizers, their pre-harvest and post harvest significance.

He said, “Fertilizers can be a key part of the solution. Within a single cropping season farm productivity can be doubled or tripled by fertilizers, which could allow subsistence farmers to produce a surplus that they can sell to buy additional food for their families, send their children to school and pay for health care.”

He further stated that, one key blockage to food production in many developing countries like Ethiopia is access to fertilizers, which enrich the soil with the nutrients needed for healthy crops. Sufficient primary raw materials – nitrogen, potash, phosphate, and natural gas – and fertilizer production facilities are essential to farmers, indeed!, but high fertilizer prices are blocking the proper crop cycle. Besides, these days fertilizer prices are out of reach for most farmers, putting the crop cycle and rural stability at risk.

Sadly, Russia, an important fertilizer supplier for Africa including our country has been disrupted by the war, while some other exporting countries have restricted the supply through export taxes, bans and licensing requirements, in part to protect their own farmers. With agricultural prices high, farmers in more advanced countries can afford to plant more and order more fertilizer, benefiting from subsidies that often cover the cost of the natural gas needed for fertilizer and the diesel fuel needed for farm equipment.

If current trends continue – high prices for natural gas and coal, commodity crops and fertilizer and elevated consumption of the available supplies by those with higher incomes and subsidies than Africa’s – the more-industrialized economies will increase their market share and dominate even more of the world’s total crop production and agricultural fossil fuel use. This will leave little room for farming in Sub-Saharan countries, especially poorer households, resulting in a long and deep food and jobs crisis, especially in rural Africa.

The world’s ability to quickly realign energy and fertilizer supply chains in ways that leave room for poorer farmers will be one of the determining factors in the length and severity of the food crisis in Africa and the displacement of rural populations already



Crucial agricultural inputs, fertilizers

under pressure from climate change. This entails substantial change in both advanced economies and developing countries.

Fertilizer is not a large cost factor given other inputs such as labor and equipment, so the amount being applied is less scrutinized. Farming practices are hard to change.

“The world’s ability to quickly realign energy and fertilizer supply chains in ways that leave room for poorer farmers will be one of the determining factors in the length and severity of the food crisis in Africa and the displacement of rural populations already under pressure from climate change.”

Africa must help in this realignment by improving its internal trade and logistics barriers. Approximately 90% of fertilizer consumed in Sub-Saharan Africa is imported, mostly from outside the continent. This reflects inefficiencies in shipping and port costs, distribution chains, information availability and other trade frictions. Each factor needs a concerted effort by African nations to fix the system. Better trade infrastructure and trade facilitation measures such as harmonized rules have an important role. When technically and economically feasible, local production can complement trade by reducing transport and logistics costs.

There is also a need to invest in green fertilizer production and efficient use. The technology to produce ammonia needed to manufacture nitrogen fertilizer with renewable energy has not yet been widely adopted.

Importantly, we must also take advantage of existing opportunities to use public spending to build longer-term food systems resilience. Fertilizer subsidies in both developed and developing countries can be repurposed towards measures that reduce overuse, decreasing the sector’s carbon footprint while increasing fertilizer availability. In sum, it’s urgent to make fertilizers more accessible and affordable to avoid prolonging the food crisis. Lives and livelihoods depend on the choices of policymakers.

One key obstacle to food production in many developing countries is access to fertilizers, which enrich the soil with the nutrients needed for healthy crops. Sufficient primary raw materials – nitrogen, potash, phosphate, and natural gas – and fertilizer production facilities are essential to farmers.

The world’s ability to quickly realign energy and fertilizer supply chains in ways that leave room for poorer farmers will be one of the determining factors in the length and severity of the food crisis in Africa and the displacement of rural populations already under pressure from climate change. This entails substantial change in both advanced economies and developing countries.

“The world’s ability to quickly realign energy and fertilizer supply chains in ways that leave room for poorer farmers will be one of the determining factors in the length and severity of the food crisis in Africa and the displacement of rural populations already under pressure from climate change.”

Importantly, we must also take advantage of existing opportunities to use public spending to build longer-term food systems resilience. Fertilizer subsidies in both developed and developing countries can be repurposed towards measures that reduce overuse, decreasing the sector’s carbon footprint while increasing fertilizer availability.

Marketing constraints: these are constraints related to market development and infrastructural constraints. The former include uncertain policy environment; inadequate human capital; limited access to finance; lack of market information; weak and ineffective regulatory frameworks/ systems; limited access to finance; size of commodity markets; and high fertilizer retail prices. Infrastructural constraints include inadequate road and railway networks; high transport and handling cost from the port; inadequate port facilities; and poor input dealer network.

For fertilizer demand finance, the sources are private foundations/non-governmental organizations, governments/public institutions and microfinance institutions. However, it is becoming increasingly clear that some arrangements of public-private partnership would be required, given the fertilizer market risk on both the supply and demand sides. The fertilizer manufacturing and processing plants and the fertilizer projects in the clusters involve the private sector from Africa and abroad in collaboration with state-owned companies.

Good fertilizer policies can raise agricultural productivity and farm income by creating a system that supplies high-quality fertilizers

to farmers at affordable prices, along with information on how to use them effectively. Liberalization and privatization in most countries have transformed fertilizer markets in Africa. One-third of African countries have a formal fertilizer policy.

Encourage transport policies that increase competition in the trucking industry; Encourage procurement policies that enhance bulk buying of fertilizers if an assessment shows it is effective; Encourage countries to address NTBs both at the regional level such as weighbridges, police road blocks/checks, cross-border procedures, etc.; Supporting some form of guaranteed output markets, complementary measures such as seeds, extension, and research to improve fertilizer use efficiency and effectiveness; and Support improvements of rural/feeder roads that reach agricultural production zones.

One of the main reasons for state intervention in agricultural input market in Ethiopia is failure of the input market. The recent revival of interest in subsidizing agricultural inputs to alleviate market failures stems from the concern to increase agricultural productivity, a prerequisite for meeting the needs of an ever-growing population.

Increased yields from fertilizers and other agronomic improvements help Ethiopia improve productivity. By providing precise amounts of nutrients to meet crop needs, fertilizers can ensure consistently high crop yields. Using fertilizers to help African farmers sustainably intensify their productivity on existing farmland can forestall the loss of biodiversity and carbon rich forests, peat lands, wetlands and grasslands.

By ensuring that plants receive all the nutrients they need, fertilizers can help crops thrive in a wide variety of circumstances. Healthy soils and plants can better withstand climate stress (extreme heat, cold and drought), pests and diseases than those with nutrient deficiencies. Fertilizers help increase carbon capture on arable land by increasing the amount of carbon-rich crop residues which are grown and remain in the soil in the form of plant roots and stems. Using on-farm organic sources of nutrients supplemented with mineral fertilizers in Africa could not only improve soil health and productivity but result in greater carbon sequestration which removes CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere.

# In the Sphere of Diplomacy

## Ethiopia: Ardent campaigner of climate diplomacy

BY STAFF REPORTER

Green diplomacy has taken center stage recently and it remains to be a top global priority as the impacts of climate change severely being felt across the planet.

Albeit too late, the world has realized that climate change is real and that everyone is experiencing its effects on a profound level. Ironically, those biggest polluters have done little while developing nations that have little to do with climate change have become the hard-hit nations.

These days, the urgent global issue is brought up at practically every meeting and is one of the topics on which opposing nations may agree. For example, despite simmering difficulties in some areas, China and the US have been looking for ways to collaborate on climate change.

Because all nations share the same planet and are equally impacted by the global issue, green diplomacy has already emerged as a necessity for the entire globe.

It is becoming increasingly obvious that all countries, big and small, are struggling to deal with the escalating environmental crisis. Despite not being immune to the effects of climate change and making minimal contributions to the global issue, states like Ethiopia have so far gotten much rhetoric but few measures from the leading carbon emitter nations, which is in contrast to their stance as the world's biggest polluters.

Given the severe natural disasters that climate change causes, there is a growing call for further involvement. The world has suffered greatly as a result of the issue, not to mention the continuous high heat wave that is developing in Europe and other regions. The world still constantly fears natural calamities, such as droughts and floods.

Despite all the challenges, Ethiopia has taken the lead in combating climate change and advocating for environmentally friendly initiatives. For many years, the country has been actively participating in large-scale tree-planting campaigns, leading by example for Africa on international fora about the worldwide situation.

The program is a part of the Green Legacy Initiative, which Abiy Ahmed (PhD) is supporting to meet national environmental green targets and arrest the effects of deforestation and climate change on the nation. Its emblem project is also having a domino effect in East African countries. In 2021, the country had a plan to distribute one billion seedlings to East African countries including Eritrea, Kenya, South Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti, and Sudan.

For the past five years, Ethiopia has diligently pursued an annual planting program under the Green Legacy Initiative, initiated by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed in 2019.



During the Green Legacy pre-launch program held at the Office of the Prime Minister last week, Ethiopia's Forest Cover report was launched, followed by the premiere of an international documentary film that captures the essence and impact of this significant national initiative through human stories.

Ethiopia's forest cover report had increased to 23.6% by 2023 from 17.2% in 2019, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed revealed, emphasizing the need to continue building on this progress.

"Today, we mark the beginning of the 2024 planting cycle, reflecting collectively on the impact of our efforts over the past five years," according to the Office of the Prime Minister.

Meanwhile, the premier wrote on his social media account stating that a paradigm and mindset shift is needed for the change we want to see in our Green Legacy endeavors.

Our goal for this year is to reach 40 billion seedlings from our overall target of 50 billion, which means we need to collectively plant 7.5 billion seedlings this planting cycle, Abiy added.

For anyone who wants to leave a legacy for future generations, we must invest in the future today, Prime Minister Abiy stressed.

Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative has been becoming a critical demonstration in the endeavors of withstanding climate change impacts, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Director for the Regional Office for Africa (RAF), Agnes Kijazi said.

Kijazi told ENA that, climate change is a global threat as African countries are being tested severely.

Regarding Ethiopia's continued efforts in the Green Legacy program, the Director underscored the Green Legacy initiative is resulting in a remarkable outcome to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Noting that Ethiopia's green legacy development is a clear manifestation of resisting the climate-induced impacts, she stressed the need for global collaboration to resolve the problem sustainably.

"I would like to appreciate and congratulate the government of Ethiopia for this action of planting trees. The more trees you have, the more carbon you will take from the

atmosphere.

Ethiopia is doing a very good job in planting these trees and we encourage other members in Africa to do the same. We have several countries that are planting trees but they can also learn how Ethiopia is doing."

The Director stated the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Regional Office for Africa is supporting countries in the continent to develop a strong early warning system.

"For Africa, What we are doing now as WMO to support members in Africa is to make sure that we have very good early warning services. Having early warning services is a way to adapt for people to know that disaster is coming. So, we are enhancing early warning services as part of adaptation to these challenges of climate change."

Ethiopian Meteorology Institute (EMI) Director General, Fetene Teshome noted the green legacy program is being carried out with special attention as it is a developmental framework that enables mitigating the impacts of climate change.

The green legacy program is instrumental in preventing climate change and maintaining a sustainable ecosystem as Ethiopia's forest coverage has reached 23.6% recently, according to Ethiopian Forest Development.

Taking note of the extreme natural disasters that are triggered by climate change, the uproar for more intervention is getting loud. The problem has taken a big toll on the planet least to mention the ongoing high heat wave unfolding in Europe and elsewhere. The world continues to live in constant fear of natural disasters, from flooding to drought.

Against the odds, Ethiopia has led the fight against climate change and is a promoter of green projects. The nation has been actively involved in extensive tree-planting programs for many years, setting the example for Africa on international platforms regarding the global crisis.

The nation allows a sizable sum each year from its coffers for plantation and afforestation. Additionally, the government has already made green initiatives a high priority and an integral part of the economy. The nation has increased its efforts to plant billions of seedlings as part of ongoing green legacy programs over the years.

In actuality, Africa is one of the continents severely affected by the effects of climate change, including drought and other natural disasters. To address them, nations must have the political will and work together, which Ethiopia has been doing for quite some time. Ethiopians have been planting billions of seedlings over the past four years, exhibiting its excellent climate-resilient endeavor.

# Law & Politics

## Safeguarding the finance sector

BY EYUEL KIFLU

In recent developments, financial institutions have been grappling with a surge in financial fraud and cyber-attacks, posing significant threats to the security of the global financial system. These incidents have raised concerns about the vulnerability of financial institutions to sophisticated digital threats.

Financial fraud schemes, including identity theft, phishing scams, and fraudulent transactions, have become increasingly prevalent in the digital age. Cybercriminals are exploiting weaknesses in online security systems to gain unauthorized access to sensitive financial information, leading to substantial monetary losses for both institutions and customers as well as for the countries.

Moreover, the landscape of cybercrimes has evolved significantly in recent years, with an alarming trend emerging state-sponsored cyber activities. This shift has normalized what appears to be burgeoning cyber warfare among nations.

Governments worldwide are increasingly utilizing cyber tactics to achieve strategic objectives, ranging from spying and data theft to sabotage and disinformation campaigns. These activities not only pose a significant threat to national security but also have the potential to disrupt critical infrastructure and spread chaos in the digital realm.

The cyber-attacks targeting financial institutions have grown in frequency and complexity. Hackers are employing advanced techniques to disrupt operations, steal valuable data, and extort money from vulnerable organizations and states.

The repercussions of these incidents extend beyond financial losses, impacting customer trust, regulatory compliance, and overall market stability. As a result, there is a pressing need for enhanced cyber security measures, robust risk management protocols, and increased collaboration between industry stakeholders to mitigate these evolving threats effectively.

In response to these challenges, regulatory bodies are intensifying their oversight of cyber security practices within the financial sector. Institutions are being urged to invest in cutting-edge technologies, conduct regular security audits, and provide comprehensive training to employees to fortify their defences against potential cyber threats.

Overall, the financial fraud and cyber security issues require high-level attention, and global leaders and concerned parties should convene to discuss the matter. Also, robust financial security service is important to tackle the issues. The problem demonstrates the rise in finance-related crimes, as hackers and criminals typically view banks as prime targets of theft and fraud. This trend is worse in countries with insufficient technology and human resources to combat these crimes.

According to sources, in the current



**The recently spreading problem of money laundering is causing significant damage to the country's economy. It makes it difficult for the government to control inflation and to know how much money is circulating in the economy, as the supply of money fluctuates due to criminal activity**

Ethiopian fiscal year, a large number of financial-related crimes have been reported and are under investigation, with billions of birr seized and under scrutiny. From 2014 to 2015 E.C., banks in Ethiopia have lost one billion birr due to fake documents and other fraudulent activities. Furthermore, the country has foiled over 4,550 cyber-attacks in the first six months of the current Ethiopian fiscal year, marking a 115% increase compared to the previous year. Had these attacks succeeded, the country could have lost 186 million USD.

In addition to fraudulent acts, the digitalization of the financial sector also results in system failures, which sometimes disrupt the macro economy. A recent system glitch in Ethiopia's largest bank, the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE), led to the loss of billions of Ethiopian birr, though the bank was able to retrieve the stolen funds using different means.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald* Michel Habte, the Chief Operating Officer at the Ethiopian Securities Exchange acknowledged that glitches may happen in the most advanced countries and banks, and the key is to have an operational risk framework in place to cope with these challenges. "We cannot 100% prevent every glitch, but having protocols and procedures in place is crucial," he stated.

Regarding the country's financial security, Michel stated that, Ethiopia is advancing in financial security and has a very strong national security agency, INSA. However, the vulnerability of the financial sector is increasing due to the use of fake documents and other fraud systems.

Endale Assefa, the Financial Intelligence Service Public Relations and Communications Executive Officer, warned that if the financial system is not stable, it will put pressure on the country's economy and create political instability. There are financial crimes involving the use of forged documents and business licenses to make illicit profits, and the extent of the damage these crimes cause is very hard to prevent as criminals try to launder the money and give it legal status.

Endale further explained that, financial fraud damages the reputation of financial institutions, erodes the credibility they have with their customers, and disrupts their relationship with other international financial institutions, leading to punishment for the institutions. The Financial Intelligence Service works together with the financial institutions recognized by the National Bank of Ethiopia and other relevant stakeholders to prevent and control these complex crimes, which are often committed with the help of experts.

Ass. Prof. Habtamu Legese, an economics lecturer at Haramaya University, told to *The Ethiopian Herald* that political

instability, corruption, smuggling, and other factors are hindering the growth of the country's economy. In addition, the recently spreading problem of money laundering is causing significant damage to the country's economy. It makes it difficult for the government to control inflation and to know how much money is circulating in the economy, as the supply of money fluctuates due to criminal activity. This not only challenges the government's ability to control money supply and circulation but also prevents it from collecting the taxes that should be collected.

Individuals and institutions that participate in these illegal activities have a significant role in the country's political and economic stability. The individuals use the money they earn through these means to import unnecessary items into the country and engage in activities that may harm the citizens, such as the purchase of illegal weapons.

According to Habtamu, one of the things that threaten the world at the highest level is terrorism, and illegally obtained money and property are not only used for terrorist crimes but also a tool for many other crimes.

Michel on his part emphasized the importance of collaboration between the government, relevant agencies, banks, financial sector players, and the providers of these services to educate the population on how to use financial services safely, as users' limited knowledge of online financial services becomes advantageous for criminals.

As the landscape of financial crime continues to evolve in the digital realm, proactive measures must be taken by all stakeholders involved to safeguard the integrity of the global financial system and protect against malicious actors seeking to exploit vulnerabilities for personal gain.



# Society

## The prominent African woman in the eyes of African Motherism

BY MEKDES TAYE (PhD)

African Motherism is one of the theories among other African Feminist theories. Since the continent is characterized by togetherness and sharing cultural belief, the discourse of gender is examined based on cooperation and complementarity roots of men and women. Thus, theorists approach the discipline with the heart of mutuality and wholeness. The principle of motherism is theorized on this ground. The philosophy was coined by Catherine Obianuju Acholonu in 1995 to be used as an alternative to Western feminism.

Acholonu proposes this theory which is built on the significant nature and reality of African women. Thus, she put principles under the theory to be adapted by African women and men for the development and positive interaction of men and women in the future. The basic concepts posited from it are, motherhood (sympathy), creating structures, building, rebuilding, spirituality, tolerance, understanding and cooperation are picked up among other points for the purpose of this article.

Let's see these thoughts in the experiences of Ghazi Okonjo-Iweela, whom Forbes and Time Magazine list her as one of the world's most powerful and influential people as a renowned economist. She is a Nigerian most figurative and significant woman. She was a managing director of the World Bank in 2018. Based on the efforts she portrayed, she was appointed to be part of Twitter's board of directors. Before these positions, she was the first Nigerian female Minister at the Ministry of Finance.

The story of this prominent woman is taken from the interview she had been having with Hayley Adams Fitzpatrick at VOA on 'Our Voices' Program, special edition.

The basic principle of African Motherism is the mother's natural sympathy. Naturally mothers are sympathetic, give affectionate love, care, peace, safety and dreams all good to their offspring, the family and the nation at large.

Motherhood, as Acholonu stressed it clearly, is; "the mother is someone who is committed to the survival and maintenance of mother earth." African women and men should care for their continent and the universe at large is the implication of her say. In that process, caring starts from the vulnerable and disadvantaged groups like women. Echoing the women's inclusion is the responsibility of the two sexes.

Ghazi Okonjo spoke on the international stage about Africa. "I tell you, businesspeople in the audience. If you are not invested in Africa, then you will be missing one of the most important emerging opportunities in the world."

The journalist asked the woman the reason for her words. Here is her reply. "You should use your positions to advance women and it took me some time to realize. I have always been interested in how I can help. What can I do

# MOTHERISM

to materially change the position of women? When I was at the World Bank I was looking at it from a policy level. But when I became a finance minister the first time, I was doing a good job professionally. Doing the debt relief for my country that you know a 30 billion USD cut out in debt." She was caring for the benefit and relief of her country. She won it through effective jobs and commitments. That is what the theory needed African women to be.

Spirituality of African women is also the focused concept of the theory. In line with this idea, Ghazi was trying to recall God. This is also seen in her words. "I realized my God you know you have an instrument. Instead of talking about the problem and asking about it, I can do something and I could do it." Since she was optimistic in helping others, she was sure that God will help her back since he is there for good deeds.

The leader has shown a remarkable effort in the country since she was optimistic and a hard worker. She was also in a severe tension on how to improve the lives of women particularly. As the theory highlighted sympathy needs to be exercised after understanding the given context. With this logic, Ghazi was thinking of a mechanism to help Nigerian women. The solution she thought was taking action smartly. She knows one thing; her country's president was very supportive of women. She said, "I said to myself, to him and to my colleague ministers that they would be volunteers to get additional results that would improve the lives of women. They would get extra budget. Mr. President would you support me on that? He said yes. The Ministry of Health wanted to do additional works that would benefit women suffering from fistula... the Minister of Communication and Technology helped me train women with skills and technologies and others too."

She practically shares the problem as mothers do biologically. In addition to that she was helping women economically. Here is the evidence.

At the government level, there was a 'you win' initiative. It was about to call people below 40 to present their business plan for loan procedures. It was only 17% of females who applied for the program. Ghazi was asked why women are not equally participating. Referring to her exploration regarding the causes, she said that there were many challenges that women were passing through. Challenges like poor access to information, scarcity in computers and others. She was committed to solve the problems and bring up females to the initiative. She succeeded. "We carried out one program, and we got 2,000 women to get benefited; who created an average of six jobs for enterprise. So it can be done," she said,

The leader rebuilds the structure for the inclusion and fairness of the program. Because of the new structure and her patience, women were addressed and it was possible to exhibit effective results. This is what an African woman needs to do for the betterment of the continent and to ensure sustainable development. Here, the rebuilding was successful since it was done for good.

Policies, procedures and working organizational cultures could be there as structures in a given office. But the efficacy and sympathy of the woman and even the man can play a greater role in taking a commitment for solving barriers that block women's inclusion and participation in every sector.

The other point that the African Motherism raised is understanding and cooperation of men and women. African men, though the patriarchy leveled them at the top, are not enemies of African women. They need women for meaningful association. There

are things that women can do more smartly than men and vice versa. With this principle, Ghazi did understand and make cooperative jobs between men and women. The following is the proof. "African women are a variant brain area so finding the specific programs and methods to support them is difficult because it is not easy for them to access skills ... they sometimes need the expertise and the skills to get their business to the next level... Successful women sometimes do not know how to manage success... We thought that peer to peer, you could look at business men and women who have already succeeded in and bring them together so they can form a kind of mentorship."

Ghazi was finally asked for the advice she could have for prospective women leaders in the continent. "The advice I have for them is not to go back to the narrow vision; but to dream big. Go to the big vision of what your country can be and not just your country; but what the continent can be. If things don't work and you know; act positively not destructively. You need to act to make your country better."

The journalist was eager to know what mistakes that the leader believed not to be repeated by the coming leaders. Ghazi said, "They should rise above self. Remember the continent started with a lot of visionary leaders who opened up the doors in the 1960<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> and we are so proud and then something happened in between and we lost it... Africa can be strong and integrated again. Strongly seizing the technology challenge; and we have bright young people who can even make this work for us."

The journalist gave a closing remark by verbalizing the gist of their talk as, "change doesn't happen through passivity or complaints, but only through action."

The lesson to be taken is thinking beyond self. Beyond individual interest, ethnic origin, religious root, and other classes, the woman and even man have the big picture in mind. Ghazi was saying Africa throughout her conversation. She thought widely and acted at the country level. Women are naturally more sympathetic than men. Thus, this nature can be used as an opportunity to calm down our current situation.

Generally, in Ethiopia, we have a female president and a system which has opened the door to women and girls comparatively. There are female leaders on the stage to play their role beyond being role models in their positions. They need to consider and ask for women inclusion at every stage and be committed to pay prices for the improvement of gender equality. They should use their chair for the ratification and implementation of policies and be confident enough in rebuilding structures that advance females.

# Hossana constructs various projects

## • *Launches corridor dev't*

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA** - Hossana Town Administration said that it has been constructing projects with an outlay of over two billion Birr this fiscal year.

Approached by the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) Hossana Town Administration Mayor, Dawit Tumdedo said that the administration is carrying out the construction of urban infrastructure projects worth of over two billion Birr this year. Some 25 kilometers of asphalt, worth of 286 million Birr clean water projects, two schools and two health centers, public recreational centers, among others.

From the above mentioned projects, the construction of 60 million Birr worth clean water project has been completed. Besides, the construction of the second water project is also completed about 85%. The project would cover 85% of city's clean water demand upon completion, he said.

Furthermore, the construction of drainages, green area development and other road construction activities are well underway. To ensure city's beautification, efforts are underway aligned with development safety net, he added.

According to him, the engagement and contribution of the community or residents in the development activities is great. The city has also been working to reuse wastes via recycling.

He further noted that the administration



would focus on expanding revenue generation capacity and strengthening to further develop the town. Moreover, it planned to launch 5 kilometers corridor development taking best practices and experience from Addis Ababa City

Administration. Right now, one-kilometer corridor development is launched. It would continue strengthening it in the future following the same fashion.

Town's development is unique as residents

leave without requesting any compensation per to city plan volunteer. The corridor development compromises pedestrian roads, green area and other necessary infrastructures, he stated.

## A pan-African media to reshape ...

their own reality and change the negative narratives of the corporate media.

It is possible to change the world's view of Africa by establishing a Pan-Africa media and reports about its untapped natural resources, the vision and aspiration of Africans for development, their culture, interests and others. It is important to build a continental media that is independent, free from any influences, and that is competitive.

All member states of the African Union (AU) have to work to bring this idea to execution, and need to make the issue their main agenda. Also, African leaders should capitalize on every opportunity to promote the idea.

Though the continent has been inundated with a plethora of natural resources that can take the entire world to the next level of development, they have been time and again preoccupied with blackening the positive images of Africa. They hate to death reporting the truth about the continent.

In actual fact, Africa has been a victim of the discredited media outlets' bogus stories. As they have been spewing negative information about Africa as if it is a dark continent known for its backwardness hunger, and other negative things, the attitude towards the continent



has been negative. In consideration of the foregoing, the positive image of Africa in several instances has been heart breaking.

In recent times, speaking to The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Addis Ababa University Journalism and Communication Assistant Professor Abdissa Zerai (PhD) stated that building a professional and independent continental media requires the active involvement of African leaders.

The establishment of a Pan-African media entails immense resources, trained professionals and advanced technology African leaders have to make concrete engagement to translate the vision into a

reality. It is common for African leaders to make similar claims, but in practice most African countries are reluctant to play their part. The idea that Africa should have its own media is not new.

During the Cold War, the overall flow of information was from the West to the other parts of the world, and the corporate media's coverage and their attitudes towards the rest of the world were highly distorted. People of the Third World waged stiff resistance to change this injustice.

As the media outlets have been persistently reporting negative stories about Africa intending to distort its good image, the

continent's reputation has been badly damaged. Until today, they have continued deliberately making the global community not to know the real image of the continent of Africa.

The struggles were intensified in the 70's and 80's and as a result of this, the Pan-African News Agency (PANA) was formed on 20 July 1979 in Addis Ababa by the Organization of African Unity with the intention of addressing the information distortion.

There is no question that establishing Pan-African media plays a huge role in making conversant the wider international community with the self-evident truth of the continent of Africa. Other than that bringing Pan-African media to fruition plays a paramount role in changing the negative image of the continent.

As the media outlets have been fully controlled by other entities intending to disseminate misinformation about the continent of Africa in a negative way, the continent is deprived of nondiscriminatory and genuine representations. To everyone's dismay, the media outlets have been spreading negative news about the continent aimed at imposing their hidden agenda going behind closed curtains by attaching significance to the continent's bad things among a great many things.

# Planet Earth

## Alliance of higher learning institutions addresses...

The issue of debt burden also limits access to non-concessional green and climate finance. At the international level, Ethiopia faces the challenge of meeting the cumbersome and stringent requirements set by international financial institutions and climate funds, which can be overwhelming for institutions with limited capacity.

Furthermore, the competition for international green finance is intense, with many developing countries competing for a limited pool of resources. The geopolitical landscape and donor priorities also significantly impact Ethiopia's ability to secure international green finance.

To overcome these challenges, Ethiopia is working closely with partners to enhance its institutional capacity and coordination to manage and deploy green finance effectively.

The country is creating a policy and institutional environment that incentivizes the participation of the private sector in climate change mitigation and adaptation actions, including in the generation of clean energy. Ethiopia has also embarked on large-scale restoration of degraded landscapes through nature-based solutions under the Green Legacy Initiative (GLI) and is working on a legal framework for sustainable financial mechanisms for the GLI and other degraded landscape programs.

Additionally, Ethiopia is exploring non-traditional sources of finance, such as debt-for-climate swaps, carbon trading, and green bonds. Through diplomatic engagements and processes under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Ethiopia is strongly calling on global financial institutions and donor countries to scale up their support and facilitate access to climate funds for the most vulnerable nations.

Changing Ethiopia's main energy sources to clean and renewable energy is the best way to stop using fossil fuels. These include technologies like solar, wind, wave, tidal, and geothermal power. Switch to sustainable transport. Petrol and diesel vehicles, planes, and ships use fossil fuels.

The biggest ecological problems facing the world today include climate change, loss of biodiversity, environmental pollution, and environmental degradation. These problems have both local and global impacts, affecting both human beings and the natural environment.

Among many stakeholders who need to partake in climate action, higher education has a significant role to play in guiding society towards a sustainable future through research, community engagement, and by developing the knowledge, skills, and attributes of students so that they are aware of the ecological and climate crises.

Environmental education encourages critical thinking and problem-solving skills. As individuals grapple with real-world environmental challenges, they develop the capacity to devise innovative solutions, contributing to the collective effort to build a sustainable future.

Higher learning institutions are now contributing their share to address the pressing issue of climate change. However, universities, be they private or government, are not able to create alliances to address the pressing climate change issues.

The Ministry of Planning and Development, mandated to lead coordination of environment and climate change issues, is recently hosting a half-day consultative workshop under the theme: "Towards a Greater Engagement of Universities on Climate Change Issues in Ethiopia."

The workshop brought together university presidents from across the country, representatives from the Ministry of Education, key climate-implementing ministries, and heads of selected research institutes.

Accordingly, the participants are discussing strategies and initiatives developed by Ethiopia to address climate change. This workshop is also believed to serve as a platform for networking and collaboration on the impacts of climate change.

Climate change has been becoming one of the pressing issues in Ethiopia, said State Minister Seyoum Mekonen. For this reason, the government of Ethiopia has embarked on the implementation of Green Legacy Initiative to promote a healthy environment in Ethiopia by restoring ecosystems, mitigating climate change, and fostering environmental awareness.

The initiative has been playing a paramount role in mitigating climate change impacts said the minister mentioning the 'Bounty of the Basket' (Yelemat Turifat), a national agricultural development initiative, and summer farming activities are helping the nation's efforts to put an end to aid dependency in Ethiopia, beyond dealing with climate change.

With the planting billion of seedlings in the past five years, the affected areas have been able to recover. In order to help mitigate the pressure of climate change, the need to engage universities in the areas of capacity building, research, and other activities.

In particular, establishing favorable systems to university scholars that allow their academic work to be utilized as a resource of knowledge for policy development is decisive. He urged universities to contribute and implement the outcomes of innovation and technology to protect cities and regions from the adverse consequences of climate change.

# Planet Earth

## Alliance of higher learning institutions addresses climate change impacts

BY STAFF REPORTER

It is necessary to emphasize the role of collaborations among higher education institutions to address the pressing issues of climate change.

Everyone who lives in this world needs to contribute to its sustainability. Climate change is caused by human activities and threatens life on Earth as we know it. With rising greenhouse gas emissions, climate change is occurring at rates much faster than anticipated. Its impacts can be devastating and include extreme and changing weather patterns and rising sea levels.

The impacts of climate change include rising temperatures, rising sea levels, and extreme weather (droughts, flooding, storms.) These impacts can lead to negative effects on the environment and society, such as land degradation, disease, death, and mental health issues.

Sustainability is concerned with protecting the planet, halting climate change, and promoting social development without endangering life on Earth or leaving anyone behind. This concept seeks to cover our present needs without compromising



resources for future generations.

Governments, companies, and individuals are becoming aware of the threats to sustainability and are taking action. Awareness by itself is not enough; every stakeholder needs to partake in climate action to ensure the sustainability of our environment.

Ethiopia is committed to playing its part in the global climate agenda. Ethiopia is integrating climate resilience into its

national development strategies and actively pursuing green growth pathways.

Ethiopia remains committed to creating an enabling environment for climate finance by implementing policies that promote renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and reforestation. In the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), Ethiopia needs approximately \$316 billion to achieve its climate goals by 2030, underscoring the urgent need for mobilizing substantial climate finance from diverse sources.

However, Ethiopia faces several challenges in accessing green and climate finance, both domestically and internationally.

Domestically, government institutions lack the capacity to present cohesive and compelling proposals to international donors and financial institutions, and there are inadequate mechanisms to monitor and report on the impacts of funded projects.

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