



# The Ethiopian Herald

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## PM, DPM met with African personalities

• Minister emphasizes sport, art's role in cementing Africa's bondage

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) and Deputy Prime Minister Temesgen Tiruneh met on Friday evening with former African footballers, famous artists, influencers, and renowned designers who arrived in Ethiopia to participate in the Shenen Africa Festival.

Accordingly, the leaders met with former African footballers of Nigeria Nwankwo Christian Kanu, Daniel Owefin Amokachi and Senegalese footballer Henry Camara who took part in the festival.

Famous artists from the continent, influencers, and renowned designers are also members of the troupe who met with the Ethiopian leaders.

Tourism Minister Nassise Chali, who also launched the festival along with Culture and Sport Minister Kejela Merdassa, stressed that sport and art play an irreplaceable role in strengthening the relations between African brothers and sisters.

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Belayneh Akinachew

### Ethiopia secures over 4 bln USD from remittance

• Licenses Diaspora investment worth 72 bln Birr capital

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Costantinos Berhutesfa (PhD)

### Financial liberalization ushers Ethiopia's global investment portfolio

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA - Apart from promoting the role of the domestic banking ecosystem, the entry of foreign banks in Ethiopia would usher the country's integration into the emerging global investment portfolio, figure economist said.

See Financial... page 4



Ambassador K.K. Theshantha Kumarasiri

## Ethiopia, Sri Lanka explore new opportunities for cooperation

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

ADDIS ABABA- Leaders of Ethiopia and Sri Lanka are giving importance to build strong partnership and explore new opportunities for cooperation in different arenas, the country's ambassador said.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, Ambassador K.K. Theshantha Kumarasiri stated that discussions are being held between leaders of the two countries and they give the importance of building partnership in areas of mutual benefit.

As part of the new foreign policy approach dubbed 'Look Africa,' Sri Lanka is keen to advance its relations with Africa while attaching due focus to Ethiopia.

According to Ambassador Kumarasiri, the leaders' deliberation focused on developing partnership for trade and investment, prioritizing sectors including apparel and textile, manufacturing, tourism, agriculture, ICT, innovation, logistics, and construction. Such approach aims to create a wider Africa-centric partnership,

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Yohannes Benti (PhD)

## ETA working to ensure quality education in conflict-ridden areas

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA** – Ethiopian Teachers Association (ETA) announced that various activities are being carried out to ensure quality and inclusive education in conflict affected areas.

Association President and Member of the Education International Executive Board, Yohannes Benti (PhD) told The Ethiopian Herald that works are being done in collaboration with stakeholders to back students to education through renovating schools distracted during the conflicts.

As to him, students and their schools were directly exposed to difficulty in the northern conflict. In this regard, ETA contributed over 650,000 Birr to fulfill education materials such as chairs, students' textbooks, and the like.

Yohannes further stated that lack of proficient teachers, below schools standard, education materials are serious challenges that are hindering the bringing of quality education mainly in the above listed areas in particular and across the nation in general.

Though the government has been striving to quality education, there are a number of challenges among which inadequate budget in the sector is the main one.

ETA is the board member and committee at Global Partnership Education (GPE) through representing the African continent. Being a member of GPE helps to receive education assistance from international partners who strive for quality and inclusive education for all, he added.

"Besides, ETA is hosting two conferences annually by presenting researches and findings to know the root causes of education challenges while directing relevant solutions through a hand-in-hand approach."

Furthermore, ETA is working with local investors, international partners, government bodies, and the likes to ensure quality education and nurture competitive students at the international level.

"ETA has over 700,000 members and it has been undertaking various activities in the education arena during the past over 70 years in Ethiopia," the association president remarked.

It is to be recalled that Amhara, Tigray, and Afar states were exposed to massive damages during the northern conflict in which a number of students dropped out for the distraction of schools.

# Ethiopia steps forward to take advantage from AfCFTA

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

Ethiopia is ready to take advantage of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) coupled with implementing the national strategy, the UNECA Regional Integration and Trade Division Director said.

Ethiopia's commitment and actions towards the implementation of the national strategy for AfCFTA and bringing all stakeholders are well recognized and appreciated.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration (MoRTI) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and other stakeholders, Policy Studies Institution (PSI) has organized a consultation Forum on the Development of Ethiopia's National AfCFTA Implementation Strategy yesterday at Skylight Hotel, Addis Ababa.

Speaking to The Ethiopian Herald at the sidelines of the event, Stephen Karingi (PhD), Director of Regional Integration and Trade Division of UNECA, stated that Ethiopia is one of the 22 founding members who ratified AfCFTA, and the country is moving towards its national AfCFTA implementation strategy.

The Director stated, "The efforts of Ethiopia in terms of infrastructure development are appreciated. Ethiopia is ready to take



Stephen Karingi (PhD)

advantage of the AfCFTA in relation to infrastructure, connectivity, productive capacity." Adding, the nation is on the right track in the logistics and services transport component that the Ethiopian airlines offer, the industrialization and trade diversification potential and capabilities through the special economic zones in Hawassa and everywhere.

"All these make Ethiopia ready for this. And when it comes to human capital, a lot of Ethiopians are well-educated, very entrepreneurial. Ethiopia really needs to have started implementing the AfCFTA and taking advantage of this from day one,

because it's actually ready."

The government, as to the director, needs to ensure that this brings on board all the stakeholders. This strategy is going to bring all the voices together. The country is ready to play with the AfCFTA.

"Africa has a lot of experience in terms of implementation of trade agreements. Most countries are members of regional economic communities. Ethiopia is a member state of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa. And through these regional economic communities, they have a lot of experience," said the Director.

Regarding the setbacks observed in the implementation, the Director mentioned, "We have this principle of variable geometry, whereby countries that are ready to progress with the implementation of the agreements, they have actually been able to do that, as you have witnessed in COMESSA. These lessons are going to be critical to the implementation of the AfCFTA."

Dealing with the hiccups, as to the Director, Africa should have a strategy as Ethiopia is putting together because through the strategy, all the stakeholders including the government, the civil society, private sector, women and the youth, will be able to disclose their issues. And that creates an environment for smooth implementation of the agreements.

## Ethiopia plans to harvest 616 min. quintals of crop in Meher season

BY MENGESHA AMARE

**ADDIS ABABA** – The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) expressed that efforts are being exerted to harvest 616 million quintals of agricultural products this *Meher* season.

In an interview with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), MoA Public Relations and Communication Head, Kebede Lakew stated that preparations have been made with a view to produce 616 million quintals

of product from 20.4 million hectares of land.

To this end, he said that a range of activities are being undertaken including land and seed preparation as well as agricultural input importation.

According to him, some 14 million quintals of fertilizer have been imported so as to promote production and productivity.

He said, "A lot has been done regarding the agriculture sector as it has been the backbone of the economy of the country.

The farming community on its behalf is well preparing its farmland, nurturing farmlands for crop cultivation and undertaking all responsibilities assists the effort geared towards bolstering production and productivity in the country."

He added that since the rain showering right now is convenient for agricultural preparation, farmers are laboriously working towards recording better production. It has been planned to cover almost all arable land across the nation with seed to late July to meet the intended target for *Meher* season.

## FM Taye confers with Italian parliamentary delegation

**ADDIS ABABA**- Ethiopia's Foreign Affairs Minister Ambassador Taye Atske Selassie, welcomed an Italian parliamentary delegation led by Senator Stefania Craxi, President of the Senate Foreign Affairs and Defense Commission.

During the discussion at the Foreign Minister's office, the two sides brought up bilateral, regional, and multilateral issues of mutual concern.

While discussing bilateral issues, Ambassador Taye appreciated the Italian Government's realistic approach to supporting Ethiopia in a variety of sectors.

The two sides also noted Ethiopia and Italy's ever-growing relationship, according to Foreign Affairs Ministry.



The discussion also included various development and security challenges that are besetting the Horn of Africa.

Ambassador Taye stated that working on development projects, in addition to humanitarian assistance, will have a

significant impact on the lives of many people in the region.

When it comes to addressing regional security challenges, both sides emphasized the importance of cooperation and understanding among all stakeholders, ENA reported.



# Editorial

## Making Addis livable, loveable!

Addis is going through a rosier period of transition with construction going on 24/7 days. Constructions are ongoing round the clock in every nooks and crannies. From Unity Park to friendship from Abrehot Library to the ongoing corridor development, Addis is adding a new face. The diplomatic hub is witnessing a rapid turnaround and becoming a more attractive city. The renovation work the city is undergoing speaks volumes about the resolve of the incumbent to make the city livable and lovable Africa's capital. The projects signal the effective management and execution capacity of the government. The renovation and reconstruction works coupled with new development projects beautifying the city while serving as torchbearers in terms of development endeavors at the national level. Indeed, the changes create optimism among the public.

The city's corridor development project, a brainchild of the Addis Ababa City Administration, is revolutionizing the urban landscape. This ambitious initiative aims to revitalize the city's major corridors, incorporating innovative design, sustainable infrastructure, and community engagement. As the city's economy grows, this project is poised to elevate Addis Ababa's status as a hub for commerce, tourism, and cultural exchange.

The project is not just about physical infrastructure; it's also about transforming the city's aesthetic appeal. The renovated corridors are now adorned with vibrant street art, lush greenery, and modern streetlights, giving Addis Ababa a fresh and inviting atmosphere. The addition of public parks, walkways, and plazas has also created a sense of community and social cohesion among residents and visitors alike. These public spaces are now hubs for social gatherings, cultural events, and performances, making Addis Ababa a more enjoyable and vibrant city.

The ongoing corridor development project is an exemplary act for many African countries in employing collaborative efforts for the betterment of the public, said Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (Ph.D.)

Premier Abiy made the above remark last Friday while inaugurating the Mexico Square-Sar Bet section of the Addis Ababa Corridor Development Project.

Abiy stated that Africans could draw lessons from the project that would bring multifaceted benefits for Addis residents and help the city to become a true political capital of the continent.

The Ethiopian government has been engaged in infrastructural development that would expedite the country's overall progress. Improving the infrastructure, changing the working culture, and building the walkways and vehicle paths are critical to urban development and growth, he emphasized.

PM Abiy further noted that the ongoing renovation activity is part of improving the livelihoods of Addis residents and making the city live its name. Addis would be one of the cleanest cities in the world with its comfortable weather and landscape and the ongoing renovation activities would further glorify its beauty and give lots of lessons to fellow African brothers and sisters.

"Today, we have inaugurated the second section of the Addis Corridor Development Project which stretches from Mexico Square to Sar Bet, marking a key milestone in our city-building efforts. Consolidated efforts are required to execute the project with desirable quality level."

According to him, renovating cities and towns is part of the necessary steps for the betterment of future generations. Sustaining progress is critical as Addis' growth is just the beginning. A bright future would be achieved with collective efforts.

The corridor development project in Addis Ababa is a shining example of innovation, beautification, and sustainability in urban planning. As the city continues to evolve, this project will serve as a model for other cities in Africa and beyond. Combining innovative design with community engagement and a focus on environmental sustainability, Addis Ababa is poised to become a beacon of progress and development in the region. As the city celebrates its 125th anniversary this year, the corridor development project is a fitting tribute to its rich history and a testament to its bright future.

It is important to note that the administration to continue to involve residents in the decision-making process to ensure that their needs are met.

# Opinion

## National Dialogue: Bedrock for the emergence of a new political culture in Ethiopia

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

Dialogue is a human attribute, and any kind of dialogue conducted between two or more persons by various means is a reflection of a human social attribute and a form of communication typical of human beings. Refusing to take part in any form of dialogue, including political dialogue, is not in line with normal human behavior and is often shrouded in hatred, biases, and emotionally charged irrational wishful thinking.

Dialogue refers to a conversation between two or more individuals aimed at discussing issues, sharing perspectives, and reaching a mutual understanding or agreement. In a broader context, dialogue can also involve larger groups or entities, such as communities, organizations, or nations. Key elements of any dialogue include active listening, in which participants listen attentively to understand each other's viewpoints.

Conversations are conducted respectfully, acknowledging the validity of different perspectives. All relevant stakeholders are included, ensuring a diverse representation of opinions.

Every participant has an equal chance to express their views without fear of domination or suppression. The primary goal is to understand different perspectives rather than to win an argument. Dialogue often aims at finding common ground or solutions to shared problems. There is often a structured format, including rules or guidelines to facilitate productive discussions. A neutral facilitator may guide the dialogue to ensure it remains focused and constructive.

While complete agreement is not always necessary, dialogue seeks to build consensus or at least mutual respect and understanding. Ideally, dialogue results in actionable steps or commitments to address the discussed issues.

National dialogue is one form of dialogue among various types, including interpersonal dialogue, community dialogue, intergroup dialogue, and international dialogue.

As the author has stated in his previous contributions, Ethiopians have long-standing traditional ways of engaging in dialogue in the most respectful and dignified manner. Traditional means of conflict resolution, well-practiced for thousands of years among the people of Ethiopia, are based on traditional rules and regulations for conducting dialogue at the community level.

Political dialogue has now emerged as a critical element in Ethiopia's evolving political landscape. This shift towards a more inclusive and participatory political culture marks a significant departure from historically centralized and authoritarian governance structures. The promotion of political dialogue is essential for fostering national unity, stability, and democratic governance. A participatory approach is essential for consensus-building on the most important national issues that affect every Ethiopian here and overseas.

Ethiopia's political history has been characterized by a series of regimes that often relied on centralized power and limited public participation. The transition towards a more open political environment began with the political reforms introduced by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed since 2018. These reforms aimed at democratization, respect for human rights, and the inclusion of diverse political voices.

Political dialogue provides an important platform for addressing and resolving conflicts through peaceful means, particularly in a country with diverse ethnic groups and a history of ethnic tensions. It ensures the participation of various political actors, including opposition parties, civil society organizations, and marginalized groups. This inclusivity is crucial for building a broad-based consensus on national issues.

Engaging in dialogue helps to build trust among different political stakeholders, fostering a sense of ownership and commitment to the political process and the country's future. Moreover, through dialogue, diverse perspectives are considered in policy formulation, leading to more comprehensive and effective policies that reflect the needs and aspirations

of the broader population.

Ethiopia faces significant political polarization, which can hinder effective dialogue. Differing political ideologies and agendas often create barriers to constructive engagement

Ethnic divisions and conflicts pose a major challenge to political dialogue. Addressing these deep-seated issues requires careful and sensitive handling to avoid exacerbating tensions. Weak political institutions can undermine the dialogue process. Effective dialogue requires strong institutions that can facilitate, mediate, and implement the outcomes of discussions. Historical grievances and mistrust among political actors can impede dialogue efforts. Building a culture of mutual respect and understanding is essential for successful dialogue.

Ethiopia pursues a multi-party system in which ethnic-based political parties are dominant while parties calling for civil nationalism are relatively few in number. This mere fact justifies the need for a national dialogue, which would help the parties to focus on their political common denominators and pave the way for nationwide inclusive development of a new democratic political culture.

The development of a new democratic political culture requires the necessary economic bases and the

establishment of adequate social services that are currently demanded by all Ethiopians across the country.

Economic growth that is being registered in the country makes Ethiopia one of the strong economies in Africa. The reciprocity between a democratically instituted political superstructure and developed economic bases is essential for establishing and sustaining a new democratic political culture.

The prevalence of a new democratic culture creates a common peaceful social psychology that unites all Ethiopians under a common national interest, social needs, values, and positive attitudes among the people of Ethiopia.

No democratic political culture can prevail in Ethiopia through war or instigating conflicts. Such a strategy is not only divisive but also a threat to the entire population in the Horn of Africa.

Promotion of a clean and green Ethiopia is one of the recent evidences that clearly indicated the enthusiasm that the people of Ethiopia have demonstrated in standing together for working on developing clean cities in Ethiopia based on an unflinching desire to fulfill their interests through practical measures.

Political elitism is an antithesis to the development of a new democratic culture in Ethiopia. This is based on false consciousness, arrogance, and disrespect to various ethnic groups that have helped to bring up the country and have paid in blood and flesh to ensure the unity, peace, and territorial integrity of Ethiopia.

Political elitists in Ethiopia and overseas live in the present but think in the past because they are afraid of any change that may affect their political interests. Therefore, they keep discrediting and disqualifying even the most conspicuous national achievements like the National Green Legacy Initiative, which is currently lauded by the international community of nations, including the UN.

National image building is one of the most important outputs of a strong and democratic political culture that is expected to prevail in Ethiopia. While extreme ethnic-ism only helps to destroy a democratic political culture in Ethiopia that could enhance the visibility of the nation among countries of the world.

Efforts currently underway will also help to effectively curb the protracted conspiracy against the political order in Ethiopia in the form of direct arms attacks and instigation of proxy war and a bandwagon of social media propaganda. The Ethiopian media outlets are certainly not doing enough in repulsing these propaganda fanfares in the country.

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



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The Ethiopian Herald

# Ethiopia secures over 4 bln USD from remittance

## • Licenses Diaspora investment worth 72 bln Birr capital

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA** - Ethiopia secured over four billion USD in the form of remittances during the current fiscal year, the Ethiopian Diaspora Service (EDS) said.

The EDS held a consultation forum with stakeholders on ways to maximize the Diaspora's investment involvement yesterday.

Speaking at the consultation forum, EDS Deputy Director-General Belayneh Akinachew stated that the Diaspora community has been actively contributing to their home country's development in various ways.

This fiscal year, Ethiopian Diasporas purchased 750,000 USD worth Abbay

Dam bond, contributed some 1.6 million USD for the Gebeta Lehager and Clean Ethiopia projects, and extended 18.6 million USD for voluntary support.

Moreover, Diaspora investment projects with an aggregate capital of over 72 billion Birr have obtained permits in the reported period.

According to Belayneh, although promising results have been gained in attracting Diaspora investments, the country has not well exploited the capacity of its citizens living in different parts of the world. Enhancing the service delivery, incentivizing the Diasporas' economic engagement and other measures would contribute to tapping the untapped potential.

"In this regard, attempts have been made to draw the lesson from the Somali

and Hariri states' success in designing and applying the Diaspora-friendly investment and trade packages and expand the practice into other parts of the country."

Cognizant of the fact that enhancing the Diaspora's economic participation is a cross-border mission, the EDS held consultative discussions with Diaspora members via different mechanisms to garner their support for the overall development, he elaborated.

Accordingly, the EDS has been providing awareness creation programs for more than 5,000 young Diasporas to further boost their participation in Ethiopia's overall economic progress and scale up their involvement in national projects.

Currently, some five million Ethiopian Diasporas are estimated to live abroad.

## Ethiopia,...

particularly in blue economic initiatives.

There is also a political will from both sides to address common challenges like climate change and to join forces for shared aspirations including sustainable development, economic growth, energy, and security through South-South cooperation, he elaborated.

"We have a lot to learn from each other. As the representative of Sri Lanka, we need to foster the multifaceted relations with Ethiopia. We are going to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cultural cooperation which will help us expand our partnership, particularly in the literary sector, library documentation, film industry, photography and other related areas."

Such dynamism will also help the two countries to be more connected and pave the way for further engagement in political and economic domains, he noted, adding that the collaboration is aimed at bridging the gap between the people, the business community and policymakers and more.

Mentioning the existence of two agreements with Ethiopia - one for political consultations and another for technical cooperation, Kumarasiri pointed out that several accords are in the pipeline in the fields of defense and energy as well as cultural exchange. There is also a potential for the two countries to set up joint ventures in agriculture and the plantation industry and Sri Lankan companies are particularly interested in those areas.

"We have proposed collaboration in the tea, rubber, wheat, and rice plantations and to forge collaboration in science, technology, and the energy sector. We have introduced seven Ethiopian companies to Sri Lankan partners with a focus on areas like the cosmetic industry and mining. We are also working on bolstering the connectivity between the two countries, with plans to sign a MoU for air services and potentially establish direct flights between Colombo and Addis Ababa."

The ambassador further highlighted that expanding cooperation in trade, tourism, and digitalization is a priority for his country and Sri Lanka's rich hospitality, emerging industry and tourism sector capabilities could be shared with Ethiopia, which is currently promoting its tourism and eco-tourism potential. "There is also a potential to collaborate in Ayurveda tourism and technology sharing."

## Financial...

Approached by *The Ethiopian Herald*, Senior Policy Adviser Costantinos Berhutesfa (PhD) said that Ethiopia's increasing financial reforms and privatization coupled with the development of the stock market and well-functioning banking system help participate in the growing allocation of global investment to emerging markets.

Liberalization creates not only for the private sphere but also brings fresh market opportunities for state-owned enterprises, Costantinos (PhD) said, adding that it improves microeconomic efficiency, the role of the private sector in the economy and state financial vigor.

"Well-streaming risk-sharing and liquidity provision mechanisms should also be facilitated for the well-functioning capital market and investor-friendly environment in the economy."

According to him, domestic banks have limited resources both in local and foreign currency as they are mainly

insisting on small-scale financing for urban buildings and small-scale industries. They are not able to finance major infrastructure and industrial development commensurate with the country's plan to be a middle-income country by 2030.

Furthermore, foreign banks are firmly believed to infuse huge capital for national development and promote FDI since it depends on the ability of banks to provide investors with convertible capital for agricultural, industrial and mining development.

In the same vein, foreign banks will be delivering significant experience in financial management, prudential administration of credit resources, and global capability in risk management that benefit consolidated local banks.

"Financial liberalization accelerates the integration of a developing country economy into the global market economy and reversal of capital flight,"

*The Ethiopian Herald* has learned.

On the contrary, Costantinos said: "If the financial liberalization is not handled through well-endowed regulatory functions, it will cause uncontrolled financial instability and regulatory complexities, potential destabilization of the local banking sector, and the risk of financial contagion."

"Financial liberalization improves the country's financial vigor, free resources for social policy, public sector finance and potential reallocation of outflows to human development. They also bring advanced technologies, innovative financial products, and efficient banking practices that can lead to a more competitive and dynamic banking environment," the expert underscored.

It is to be recalled that the Council of Ministers has recently endorsed the draft banking business law that allows granting foreign banks with licenses to operate in Ethiopia.

## PM, DPM...

The minister further highlighted that the continental events that are organized on tourism, sport and art have also paramount significance in cementing the ties between the people of Africa. "The main reason that the festival was held at the Adwa Memorial Museum is to emphasize to the place where our forefathers and foremothers laid

a foundation to fight colonialism."

Culture and Sport Minister Kejela Merdassa on his part noted that the festival aims to promote Ethiopia's immense tourist potential and enhance its ties with the rest of Africa.

Through introducing and promoting

its cultural heritages, norms and tourist attractions, Ethiopia could encourage more African visitors to come here, Kejela stressed.

Diplomats, tech professionals, artists, social media influencers, designers, models, and public figures from different sectors were in attendance at the festival.

Dagem Tibebe is the founder and CEO of Shenen Africa whose objective is stimulating African tourism, products and sports. It also aspires to enhance the feeling of Pan-Africanism through bringing together professionals from various sectors including sport, art, and others, it was learned.



# Opinion

## Exploring Addis Ababa's 24/7 Working Culture: The City Corridor Development Project

BY LANDUZER ASRAT

Addis Ababa, Africa's vibrant capital, is embarking on a transformative journey with its pioneering City Corridor Development Program. At the heart of this ambitious initiative lies a revolutionary shift towards embracing a 24/7 working culture, setting a new standard in urban development and economic vitality. The corridor program heralds a new era at the national level.

In the heart of Ethiopia's bustling capital, Addis Ababa, a groundbreaking initiative is transforming the urban landscape. The city's vibrant pulse now beats around the clock with the introduction of the program, which embraces a novel working habit. This ambitious project marks a paradigm shift, redefining how cities can thrive and evolve in the modern age.

Addis Ababa has long been renowned for its vibrant daytime energy, but now, under the new development program, it is embracing a new rhythm that extends well into the night. Streets, once quiet after sunset, now teem with activity, offering a bustling environment where businesses thrive and communities come together under the city lights. This shift not only enhances economic opportunities but also fosters a more inclusive and lively urban atmosphere.

The City Corridor Development Program strategically revitalizes key urban corridors, transforming them into hubs of activity that buzz with commerce, culture, and community interaction day and night. From bustling markets to innovative startups, the city's nocturnal economy is prospering, offering new opportunities for businesses and entrepreneurs to flourish.

The initiative is not merely about physical infrastructure but also about economic empowerment. By embracing a new working culture, Addis Ababa is fostering a dynamic business environment where opportunities abound at any hour. Local entrepreneurs, artisans, and innovators are seizing the night to showcase their talents and services, fueling a vibrant economy that knows no bounds of time.

Central to the project's ethos is sustainability. Addis Ababa is paving the way for eco-friendly urban living by integrating green spaces, promoting energy-efficient technologies, and advocating for responsible consumption practices. The city's commitment to sustainability ensures that future generations inherit not just a vibrant metropolis but an ecosystem where balance between development and environmental stewardship is paramount.

The program represents more than just a physical transformation of its urban landscape; it embodies a visionary approach to city planning and development. By the new working habit, the city not only unlocks its full economic potential but also enriches its cultural fabric and ensures a sustainable future for generations to come. Addis Ababa is not just building corridors; it is paving the way towards a brighter, more inclusive future where the city truly never sleeps.



*Punctual visit helps speedy accomplishment of projects*

At the core of the City Corridor Development Program is a commitment to enhancing connectivity and accessibility throughout the city. Strategic planning and infrastructure improvements ensure smooth transportation and access to amenities around the clock. This comprehensive approach not only supports local businesses but also promotes sustainable urban growth, making Addis Ababa a model city for innovation and development in Africa.

The city is undergoing a remarkable transformation under the visionary leadership of Mayor Adanech Abiebie. With the launch of the City Corridor Development Program, coupled with her innovative approach of personally supervising the progress at 15-day intervals on the night times, the city is embracing a vibrant working culture that promises to reshape its urban landscape and enhance quality of life for all residents.

This hands-on approach allows her to closely monitor progress, address challenges promptly, and provide strategic guidance that steers the city towards achieving its developmental goals. Her leadership style not only instills accountability but also inspires a culture of hard work and excellence among stakeholders involved in the program.

By extending business hours and creating conducive environments for nighttime activities, the City Corridor Development Program aims to stimulate economic growth, attract investment, and create employment opportunities that benefit the city's residents. Under her guidance, Addis Ababa is poised to become a hub of commerce and innovation that thrives around the clock.

Stimulating economic growth under Mayor Adanech Abiebie's guidance, Addis Ababa is poised to become a regional economic powerhouse. The City Corridor Development Program revitalizes key urban corridors, transforming them into hubs of commerce, innovation, and entrepreneurship that operate around the clock. By extending business hours and creating conducive environments for startups and businesses, the city is fostering an ecosystem where economic opportunities flourish day and night.

Mayor Adanech Abiebie places a strong emphasis on sustainability and environmental stewardship in the City Corridor Development Program. Green spaces, energy-efficient technologies, and eco-friendly transportation options are integral components of the city's nighttime infrastructure. By incorporating these elements, Addis Ababa not only

enhances its resilience to climate change but also preserves its natural beauty for future generations to enjoy.

Beyond economic gains, the importance of cultural and social enrichment in urban planning. The extended hours of cultural institutions, galleries, and performance venues supported by the program promote Addis Ababa's rich heritage and creativity.

A Model for Urban Excellence Mayor Adanech Abiebie's leadership and the City Corridor Development Program position Addis Ababa as an exemplary for urban excellence and innovation. By embracing the new working culture and implementing sustainable practices, the city sets a precedent for other global metropolises seeking to enhance livability, inclusivity, and economic vitality. Under her guidance, Addis Ababa is charting a course towards a future where cities thrive dynamically, day and night, fulfilling the aspirations of its diverse population.

The city is also undergoing a transformative metamorphosis under the strategic direction of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Mayor Adanech Abiebie. Their joint leadership in the City Corridor Development Program, marked by a rigorous 30-day interval night time supervision of progress, is setting new benchmarks in urban revitalization and economic growth across the continent.

Strategic Leadership and Visionary Oversight Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's and Mayor Adanech Abiebie's collaborative approach to governance is characterized by meticulous 30-day interval supervision of the City Corridor Development Program. This hands-on involvement allows them to closely monitor milestones, address challenges promptly, and provide strategic guidance that propels Addis Ababa toward its developmental objectives. Their proactive leadership fosters a culture of diligence and excellence among stakeholders, ensuring that every aspect of the program aligns with the city's long-term vision.

Empowering Local Enterprise under Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's and Mayor Adanech Abiebie's jointly leadership, the City Corridor Development Program prioritizes empowering local businesses and entrepreneurs. The strategic supervision ensures that initiatives support Addis Ababa's economic priorities, fostering an ecosystem where startups flourish and established enterprises expand their reach. By providing strategic guidance and steadfast support, he cultivates an environment where hard work and innovation fuel sustainable

economic development, benefitting the city's residents and driving inclusive growth.

By extending operating hours and creating conducive environments for nighttime activities, the City Corridor Development Program aims to stimulate economic dynamism, attract investment, and generate employment opportunities that benefit the city's residents. Their unified direction positions Addis Ababa as a vibrant hub of commerce and innovation that thrives day and night.

As the program continues to unfold under her guidance, it promises to elevate Addis Ababa's global standing as a city where innovation, inclusivity, and prosperity thrive around the clock.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's strategic supervision of the City Corridor Development Program is nurturing a vibrant day and night working culture, empowering economic vitality, fostering cultural richness, and championing sustainability; he positions the city as a model of inclusive and sustainable urban living. Under his steadfast guidance, Addis Ababa is poised to thrive dynamically, offering its residents and visitors an exceptional urban experience that embraces progress while preserving its rich cultural heritage.

Empowering Collective Leadership and Community Collaboration, Addis Ababa, the pulsating heart of Ethiopia, is embarking on a transformative journey with its visionary City Corridor Development Program. At the forefront of this ambitious initiative is a commitment to fostering a vibrant night working culture that embraces collective leadership and active engagement from residents across all levels of society.

Uniting vision and action The City Corridor Development Program exemplifies a unified approach to urban revitalization, where collective leadership and community collaboration drive progress. Leaders at the municipal, regional and grassroots levels work hand in hand with residents to co-create a vision for a thriving Addis Ababa. This inclusive governance model ensures that every voice is heard, priorities are aligned with community aspirations, and decisions reflect the collective will to build a more prosperous and livable city.

Before three months started Addis Ababa's City Corridor Development Program exemplifies a forward-thinking approach to urban renewal, where collective leadership and community engagement drive transformative change. By embracing a 24/7 night working culture and nurturing inclusive governance, economic prosperity, cultural vibrancy, and environmental sustainability, the city sets a global benchmark for innovative urban development. With residents at the heart of its transformation, Addis Ababa is poised to achieve enduring prosperity and emerge as a beacon of inclusive and sustainable urban living in Africa and beyond.

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



# Business & Economy

## Foreign insurances are as significant as banks

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Since the recently introduced regulation by the Council of Ministers to allow foreign banks to locally operate did not comprise foreign insurance companies, the situation created some sort of confusion on insurance provision, as stated by the professionals association.

The association board discussed the matter and took resolution in this regard. The association assumed that if the government gave green light to foreign banks to operate here, foreign insurance companies would need to be allowed to operate here, too. However, it is clear that the government directives do not include insurance companies, which has created some sort of vagueness and doomed scenario.

The association board also agreed to discuss the matter with the governor of the national bank of Ethiopia to know whether the Ethiopian insurance market is open to international competition similar to the banking industry.

According to Ethiopian Insurance Provision Association President Yared Molla, until the Council of Ministers decision was heard, he did not think that the directive did not include the insurance industry.

The question of why the insurance sector is excluded in this regard has been amazing. The association is forced to discuss the matter with the pertinent government body because it is unable to find sufficient information along this line. The association believed that foreign insurance would be allowed to operate here but by now felt skepticism. He further said that months ago, the association forwarded questions to the government, and a positive response was obtained. It was also optimistic that foreign insurance companies would be allowed to run their businesses locally.

When a workshop took place in the recent past with regard to financial institutions with government officials on the occasion, among the three major questions raised by the association was whether the Ethiopian insurance market is allowed to foreign insurance companies. During the meeting, the Minister of Finance, Ahmed Shide, told that the question will have acceptance.

However, the recently introduced directives, which indicate that foreign banks are permitted to operate here, forwarded by the council of ministers did not mention the fate of the insurance industry. That is why the association is forwarded its plea to the governor of the National Bank of Ethiopia to thoroughly consider the issue.

According to the association explanation, the coming of foreign insurance companies here helps the Ethiopian insurance companies to be strong and competitive.

Therefore, the association called for the government policy makers that whenever they prepare policy with regard to the financial sector should pay attention to

the insurance industry. On the other hand, though reform works are currently underway in many sectors, the insurance sector is still intact from the reform; therefore, the government should consider this. In fact, the reform reached a little bit of the banking industry but not the insurance sector.

As to the members of the association, the insurance industry has its own character and philosophy; hence, whenever measures are put in place to improve the sector beforehand, an insurance commission is established, which has the mandate to administer and supervise the sector. The association also demands that, the commission independently govern the sector from the National Bank of Ethiopia. Such a statement was approved by the Minister of Finance when a recent discussion took place with stakeholders.

“We understand the value of insurance to the nation’s economy, and we will give you a response to the question concerning the insurance industry soon,” said Ahmed. Therefore, the government should pay attention to the plea of the sector, and the association believes that the government does not neglect the sector. As to observers, here in Ethiopia, a better enabling environment is being created to attract foreign insurance companies than foreign banks, and policymakers must recognize such a situation.

According to Yared, he does not believe the opening of the insurance market to foreign companies abruptly; rather, he suggests that their operation must be done step by step because, before the implementation of the directives, discussing the issue is vital. The policy with regard to allowing foreign insurance companies should be prepared by identifying the sectorial behavior and examining the experiences of the experiences of other countries. The involvement of foreign insurance companies in the Ethiopian insurance market should not harm the local companies, and to that end, studying the environment with the cooperation of pertinent stakeholders is essential.

As to Yared, the insurance sector has international character and the existing legal frame work of the insurance business connects the local insurance companies with that of the international insurance companies with high competitive capacity through re insuring system. Therefore, when thinking of inviting foreign financial companies to operate here, it is vital to prioritize the foreign insurance companies.

For example, 95 percent of the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam insurance is covered by foreign reinsurer companies. The share of the local insurance companies is only 5 percent. It should be also recognized that the insurance coverage of the Ethiopian airline and other mega projects is mostly comes from foreign reinsuring companies.

House or vehicles supplied for sell here in Addis Ababa obtain insurance

coverages similar to houses and vehicles sold in London or New York and this indicate that the insurance law has international character. The insurance coverage task is not simply left to a given company rather it transfers the responsibility to the transnational companies which are foreign by their nature.

The involvement of foreign insurance companies is fundamental because, in addition to playing a key role in transferring knowledge and sharing experience, they can stimulate the life insurance business, which has not been boosted to date. Till now, in Ethiopia, life insurance coverage remains at its infancy level, and local insurance companies are unable to promote the sector; hence, if foreign insurance companies are involved in the business, they will upgrade the life insurance status. Moreover, they can reach the ordinary segment of society through their services and play a pivotal role in promoting saving culture. As to Yared, one country’s economy will be meaningful if the life insurance business flourishes; therefore, the current gap witnessed in the sector can be closed by foreign companies because Ethiopia can’t be intact to foreign financial institutions. If foreign companies start business here, they may not request collateral for the loan they provide, but to invest money, they may request a place and property guarantee.

Therefore, they need insurance which goes in line with their service provision and forward such request. Hence, the government must give green light to both foreign banks and insurance companies to operate here. In Ethiopia, there are about 18 insurance companies and in 2014 budget year they could collect 16.74 billion birr premiums.

As it is known, Ethiopia is an inhabitant of 100+ million and its economy is characterized by agrarian and underdevelopment. Currently, though the financial sector is growing from time to time, as compared to the population, there is a huge gap between supply and demand for financial services. Still, very few segments of society are in the financial sector. In fact, in the last 20 years, the expansion of microfinance institutions in the rural part of the country could enable them to reach the poorest segment of society. However, banking and insurance services still play an insignificant role in the rural part of Ethiopia.

Therefore, boosting the sector is essential. In the last three decades, the opening of the financial sector to the local private sector has boosted the economy. However, to create a viable economy that can be competent at the international level, inviting foreign financial companies such as banks and insurance companies is essential. The influx of foreign banks can shore up shortages of foreign currency, technology, and knowledge transfer; hence, similar to the banking sector, it is hoped that the government will soon open the insurance market to foreign companies.

***The involvement of foreign insurance companies is fundamental because, in addition to playing a key role in transferring knowledge and sharing experience, they can stimulate the life insurance business, which has not been boosted to date***

# Planet Earth

## Unlocking the secrets of Ethiopia's land preservation system

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Soil conservation and watershed management are not new concepts in Ethiopia. Despite political differences, successive Ethiopian governments have made significant efforts to address environmental issues such as soil erosion, land degradation, and water resource management.

Various measures and methods have been developed to conserve soil, manage watersheds, and recognize their crucial role in maintaining agricultural productivity, conserving natural resources, and ensuring the well-being of the population.

The country places a strong emphasis on soil protection through practices such as terracing, agroforestry, contour plowing, and reforestation. These conservation methods are particularly important in highland areas where agriculture is prevalent. Additionally, watershed management initiatives have been implemented to protect and restore the health of watersheds, reduce soil erosion, manage water flow, and conserve water resources for various purposes.

The political reforms in mid-2018 have created new opportunities for afforestation and land restoration in Ethiopia. The Green Legacy Initiative program focuses on afforestation and reforestation projects to increase forest cover, combat deforestation, and rehabilitate degraded areas. These efforts help protect watersheds by reducing soil erosion and increasing water retention.

Integrated land use techniques have also been crucial in ensuring sustainable natural resource management, including soil and water conservation. Zoning for different land uses, promoting sustainable agriculture, and reducing land degradation are among the strategies implemented by the government.

According to Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture State Minister Eyasu Elias (Prof.), soil preservation and watershed management have become ingrained in Ethiopian culture. Each year, millions of Ethiopians come together for several weeks to work on soil conservation and watershed development, resulting in millions of hectares being conserved annually.

As a result of these efforts, over 28 million hectares of land have been preserved and protected from degradation through soil conservation, watershed management, and reforestation programs. These initiatives have helped cover degraded lands with a variety of plant species, contributing to climate change mitigation and food self-sufficiency.

Besides, the country is also making significant efforts to remediate acidic soil to enhance soil fertility, prevent erosion, and boost output. Farmers are especially being urged to use a variety of techniques, such as preparing natural fertilizers, rotating their crops, and keeping some living crops and plants on the land, with the aim of boosting soil fertility and avoiding acidification.

He remembered that climate change is causing variations in monsoons around the world, recurrent droughts, decreased water levels, and disruptions to natural equilibrium. As a result, Ethiopia's annual soil preservation and watershed projects play an important part in the country's agricultural efforts to cope with the negative impacts of climate change.

In addition to efforts to improve soil conservation and watershed management, small-scale irrigation development projects and the annual building of expansive irrigation networks in collaboration with partners to optimize irrigation operations are also underway. This not only helps the country mitigate climate change, but it also makes progress in developing summer irrigation.

Accordingly, the country is now able to produce and replace wheat that was previously imported for over 1 billion USD. Furthermore, large-scale fruit production has become conceivable, and local beer barley imports have been substituted, he stated.

Furthermore, the country intends to replace its current rice consumption with domestic production through irrigation expansion, improved soil and water conservation, and other measures, he clarified.

Recognizing the immense value of the 28 million hectares of land and related activities they have given to global environmental preservation and mitigation, the ministry is working hard to publish it in academic international publications and educate the public about climate change resilience, he noted.

Ethiopian soil preservation and watershed management work ought to be acknowledged and published in internationally renowned scientific publications since it has substantial implications for climate change mitigation, food security, and so on.

Indeed, publishing work on environmental preservation, climate change mitigation, and soil and watershed management in scholarly international journals is critical for knowledge dissemination because these journals serve as platforms for disseminating new innovative approaches, and best practices in environmental preservation, climate change mitigation, and soil and watershed management. As a result, knowledge dissemination is critical for informing policymakers, practitioners, partners, and academics worldwide about Ethiopia's efforts to mitigate climate change.

Moreover, Ethiopia's soil conservation and watershed management initiatives have the potential to have a worldwide influence. By publishing in international journals, academics may reach a worldwide audience, resulting in greater impact and influence. This is especially critical for environmental challenges, which frequently cross national borders and necessitate global collaboration.

If the government completes and publishes



Eyasu Elias (Prof.)

**Soil protection and watershed management in Ethiopia meaningfully contribute to global climate change mitigation efforts by sequestering carbon, reducing soil erosion, improving water management, increasing resilience, conserving biodiversity, promoting sustainable agriculture, and aligning with national climate change policies**

climate change.

Policymakers and practitioners frequently depend on evidence-based research to inform their decisions, therefore academic publications play an essential role in developing environmental policies and practices. This, in turn, has a long-term impact by giving useful insights and solutions to help future generations solve environmental concerns.

In general, soil protection and watershed management are integral components of Ethiopia's efforts to ensure sustainable agriculture, conserve natural resources, and minimize environmental hazards. These initiatives are essential for the country's long-term economic development and the well-being of its people.

Furthermore, soil protection and watershed management in Ethiopia meaningfully contribute to global climate change mitigation efforts by sequestering carbon, reducing soil erosion, improving water management, increasing resilience, conserving biodiversity, promoting sustainable agriculture, and aligning with national climate change policies. These activities are critical to Ethiopia's broader climate change response and sustainable development objectives.

Therefore, publishing the preserved 28 million hectares of land from erosion and related activities will assist future generations in environmental preservation, climate change mitigation, and soil and watershed management, as well as advancing scientific understanding, informing policy decisions, fostering global collaboration, and making meaningful contributions to our planet's protection and sustainability, according to State Minister Eyasu Elias (Prof.).

In a nutshell, Ethiopia's soil conservation and watershed management initiatives play a vital role in sustainable development, environmental preservation, and climate change mitigation. By preserving 28 million hectares of land and implementing related activities, Ethiopia is making significant contributions to global efforts to protect the environment and promote sustainability.

its soil conservation and watershed management efforts, it will have policy and practical implications. Research published in international journals has the potential to impact policy formation and practical actions in environmental preservation and



# Art & Culture

## A harbinger of China's swift ascension in the superpower's hierarchy

BY ALEM HAILU G/KRISTOS

For a long time, the larger segment of the gigantic media houses of the conceptual western block has been offering us a distorting political prism via which we diminishingly perceive the one on the other end of the scale as well as Africa as uncivilized and undemocratic.

For want of other alternatives, we have but to consume all without separating the seed from the chaff. Tacitly, the former were magnifying self-image and underplaying the latter. Via image-tainting tasks, the Western block was persistently sidelining such objects of media ridicule from global partnerships seen as unbecoming for forging chemistry.

Like a blow by a double-edged sword, it was not only the image-tarnishing tendency carried out covertly and overtly affecting the victims of mudslinging but also the victims' inaction in selling themselves and portraying their true picture. The shortfall related to the inaction was also making them a soft target for those who wanted to fish in troubled water. To add an insult to injury, victims had to fight with one hand tied behind their back in the red-hot global competition characterized by a lopsided clicking landscape.

For want of monitoring and appropriate explanatory response-giving print media, if not counter-offensive-dealing ones in the medium of international language, countries in the short-end of the information stick were languishing under defamation. Parrying the belittling arrow targeting them on one hand, they had to project their true image on the other. A microscope that magnifies their genuine self and a soft power-utilization bent that assists sell themselves to the rest of the world were lacking.

It was against this backdrop that the topical China Daily popped up on the media landscape to neutralize defamation and amplify virtues like cooperation, partnership, and common growth that China wholeheartedly espouses.

Though to naysayers a bitter pill to swallow, the paper is serving as a window into fascinating China. Nothing short of the international standard, creating a bridge to the rest of the world, China Daily brings this great country and continent to the doorsteps of almost all countries dotting the global map. To the delight of readers, making a plunge they by themselves could decode the mystery of China that was shrouded in clouds of misinformation and disinformation for long.

The eye-catching broadsheet paper exhibits paper, photo, page layout, and design quality as well as the economy of space putting esthetics atop the list. Above all the broad spectrum of skillfully and knowledgeably penned issues in different genres—hard news, news features, news analysis, and articles—are palatable. There is a saying "Not the gift but the way it is presented matters most." The mesmerizing designs of the paper every time lure those who picked it to get glued to it and keep on leafing through it and probing into the content crafted to synchronize with each eye candy piece.

Ideas are well developed with interviews with pertinent gurus or professors and the like. Quenching readers' information thirst, the paper does not pick an issue that it does not finish. The country profiles that often garnish the paper render China Daily a looked-forward piece. Business, economy, political



economy, geopolitics, technology, and artificial intelligence are the salient topics one comes across while sifting through the paper. The business and economy columns are sure to touch on global inflation and investment. For instance, how China's Foreign Direct Investment acting in synchronicity with the domestic ones is beefing up China's muscles on all fronts including knowledge sharing, creativity, and innovations. As the paper kept its tempo, it persisted as a dynamic one as it started. Filling the big information chasm about China, this communication channel is bridging the continent to the rest of the world.

It accords due focus to illumining diplomacy and bilateral relationships taking all the necessary care not to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries. The paper bears three editorials that unerringly hit the intended objectives enabling it to touch salient economic and diplomatic issues among others. Knowledgeable and sophisticated readers scouting for uptakes will not be discontented, for they will get something enlightening and informing.

In giving responses to wrong-headed and politically charged media comments, especially from doomsayers the editorials are apt and swift. Dilating on issues of international concern like health and environment is on their radar.

China Daily is also a sought-after one for it espouses a participatory approach. It brings together issues and people across the globe. In so doing, it creates a sense of belongingness. Besides, it demonstrates the adage that "variety is a spice of life. Hence, it is a hub for the global community and a marketplace for ideas. It makes voracious readers addicted to the paper. At this juncture, it is important to note that such a thing creates a seedbed for people-to-people communication and cultural diplomacy.

Perusing the paper, people of the world understand the commonalities they share with China and the peculiarities that characterize them. What better understanding could one ask for? The paper streamlines the global outlook to create a confluence of the common good in a win-win approach, for it does not entertain a hidden motive like most media outlets on the other end of the scale.

True to modern writing simplicity is among the overarching qualities that make China Daily stand out from the crowd. This shows how much time and energy the content and language editors inject into the paper devotedly. It tilts towards features news and stories adding spices

that whet the audience's appetite.

Aside from throwing light on China's ascension in the superpower's hierarchy, it also addresses well China's multifaceted development-related engagements across countries like Ethiopia which is getting off the ground and struggling to catch up with affluent nations by harnessing bountiful resources at hand.

Through China Daily, China's soft power, China is elbowing its way into the hearts of the global community—Africa, Asia, Europe, and slowly but surely America. It has a version in Arabic that is centered in Cairo. How else could we have known about China and its development partnership? It is via the paper that takes readers aboard to crisscross the global sky with a bird's eye view without leaving the safety of our seats we have come to realize China's thrust towards a cooperation that aims at kissing poverty goodbye via a turnaround in joint progress through hard work, commitment and honesty.

Economic affluence obtained properly tapping into one's population wealth surely percolates down to all striking out possible room for grievances thereby ushering in the oxygen of democracy. What a democracy not tailored by others in an unbecoming way! Addressing demands priority-based is what is recommended by Development Economics. Food sufficiency, housing, access to clean water, and infrastructure are properly addressed in today's China sprinting in the global racing economy lane, the paper vividly shows us.

Democratization to pseudo-democracy is what the paper is belaboring on. That is what one gets from poring over the paper that bears three editorials that unerringly hit the intended objectives enabling it to touch salient economic and diplomatic issues among others. Knowledgeable and sophisticated readers scouting for uptakes will not be disappointed, for they will get something enlightening and informing from China Daily that embraced developmental journalism. Here we can cite an instance of the benevolence of the government in deciding zero tolerance to COVID-19 out of consideration for its people and the determination of contented citizens towards the execution of the nation's safety and development objectives.

Global competitiveness—says in vehicles, mobiles, 5G and space exploration—is among the issues it raises.

Regarding necessity-born innovations based on domestic and international experiences

pushes are underway. The moves are frequently spotlighted in China Daily in attention galvanizing manner.

Reminiscent of ancient China's silk and road trade routes, the Belt and Road initiative, is a showcase of global partnership and assistance through the western block, in a futile bid, paints it as a communist propaganda machine.

Facts on the ground suggest China's development and knowledge experience are often depicted as best for African development.

The big measure China took to root out corruption putting in place capital punishment exemplifies the consummate success that awaits an impulsion for socioeconomic and political turnaround if the rent-seeking mindset ceases to be a logjam. China has also computerized land administration according to transparency and accountability. China's model acid tested and proved correct is recommendable to corruption-assailed Africa. Sharing development experience and knowledge China Daily indicates Africa must follow suit.

The ironwork discipline that characterizes citizens is among China's salient virtues that contributed to its swift progress.

Let us wind up seeing points raised by interviewees and contributors on burning issues.

Unlike the conceptual West, China doesn't attach a political string to aid and loans and takes back such money in the form of exorbitant salaries to highly paid experts from the donor country, says a voice from Africa.

As Karl Marx put it capitalism at its last stage turns into communism. Following the advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI), which is sure to be attended by a high turnover of employees or the replacement of human labor by AI, people will get a salary for free, as put it Elon Musk.

China's development experience and wealth of knowledge set a standard for the wise to follow. Surely, Africa must go for it. It is ironic that China Daily is aggressively reaching a multitude of readers while many well-established papers are shying away.

Anyone interested in international affairs and issues related to the probing paper will find it handy. Especially for diplomats, it serves a good purpose, for it zeros in on diplomacy and bilateral relations based on genuine cooperation. One can dare say China Daily is a harbinger of China's ascension to the helm in the power hierarchy.



# Society

Women 4 Social Change



## African STIWA in African women leaders' experiences

BY MEKDES TAYE (PhD)

African STIWA, which is an abbreviation and stands for Social Transformation Including Women of Africa, is one perspective under African Feminism. African feminism was recognized as a theoretical framework in the study of gender issues on the continent as a response to indigenous knowledge by African women philosophers. It was developed by more than two hundred African feminists who sit in Accra, Ghana in 2006. They developed a Charter of Feminist Principles for African Feminists.

The theory was advanced by Ogun-dipe-Leslie in 1994. It basically suggests the relevance of women's inclusion in social spheres for the transformation of society and the continent at large. She defines it as, "It is not about warring with the men, the reversal of roles, or doing to men whatever women think that men have been doing for centuries, but it is trying to build a harmonious society. The transformation of African society is the responsibility of both men and women, and it is also in their interest" (Ogun-dipe-Leslie, 1994, p. 1).

She stresses that both sexes have complementary roles in the process of social change. She believes that if men and women work together without subverting roles or fighting each other, transformation could be fostered and sustainable development could follow naturally.

From the theory, the writer of this article picked up four core points to examine the experiences of the noticeable African women leaders so as to posit lessons for fellow women and young leaders.

The first suggestion from this perspective is that African women need to be conscious of their real situation. They should know and be alerted that they are African and third-world women. As half of society, women are responsible for the transition and betterment of society and the continent. They need to understand their current status and react to it to be part of the solution. In this logical attempt, various women in different times have been portraying their efficacy in certain countries of Africa. Empress Etegie Taytu Betul of Ethiopia is the most notable advisor and solution maker, whom I salute most in the country's political history. Let's refer to the two strongest and most capable women presidents' consciousness.

The former president of Malawi, Joyce Banda, was a strong, passionate, and organized woman who detected her situation very well. At the conference where she presented her case study internationally, she spoke about how she attempts to solve the continent's challenge, which she found to be the exclusion of women and girls from many spaces. She said the following regarding her concern for her life: "There are two things that I have been passionate about. First is women's, girls' education. As an African woman leader, I am making a case study. What can we do to help and support many more women to become leaders and participate in leadership in Africa."

The president was performing a double burden, I believe. That is the political leadership and beyond that as an African woman to be active in considering the contextual reality of the people. Systematically and scientifically, she did a case study and proposed way outs. She identified the girls' problem and the women's one. She said, "Regarding girls, we need to focus on their situation at the household level."

Women's challenges as the case study showed were addressed through the association called 'The Joyce Banda Spa Foundation.' She reported that this foundation had mobilized over 1.3 million women. This commitment was primarily done by the former Liberian President Ellen Jonson. In her presidency, Ellen had taken a practical measure for combating gender based exclusion. She formed a foundation called "Allen's Market Women's Association." As Joyce remarked, Ellen's organization had mobilized over one million women. These two women were cautious about the continent and its root cause and reacted to it strongly for the better life of the people of Africa which is the central aim of the theory.

The second point, which the principle raised, is the idea of complementarity. African men and women are not enmities. Rather the one is needed for the sustainable harmony of the other. But the rooted patriarchy which left the man to stay at the top, reserves positions for him. Thus, getting such spaces for the woman is very challenging because of the untransformed society. The sympathetic, active and committed nature of the woman these days is becoming the potential resource for the revolution of societal beliefs and trends in the continent. In his keynote speech at 'Women's Leadership in Peace, Democracy and Political Transitions in the Horn of Africa', U.S. Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa Amb. Mike Hammer had

underlined that "when women are involved in all walks of life but it is certainly in positions and leadership positions that the prospects for peace tend to be greater."

In the socio-cultural reality of the continent, with the prevailing patriarchy and the religious perspective, which is socialized in a way of preventing male supremacy, women, I believe, are expected to be doubly effective in competing for positions. The challenge is very deep and complicated for African women. To come on top in the front line, women need to be smart in learning and adapting how to work with men who naturally take over the positions. The philosophy is that women should be optimistic in filling gaps and exhibiting their efficacy to be part of the effort of men for inclusive success. To come on top of the front line, women need to be smart in learning and adapting how to work with men who naturally take over the positions.

Ellen Jonson was asked how she got into the situation when working with men during her presidency. She said, "Women are wives and mothers. So their primary priority is the home. They have to take care of their children and pay attention to them. This prevents women from participating at ceremonies, meetings, and conferences. But men are free of these things." She appreciated the slowly changing trends of these realities. Nowadays, men are giving their hands to the women in the house. Household chores are becoming issues for men too. Here is her utterance. "Men now share some of the burdens in the home. So women are in a much better position to be able to compete and to achieve their leadership goals."

In Ethiopia, the predisposed attitudes of society and the perception given to marriage, I believe, are gradually changing over time. But as far as my examination of my society and my own personal experiences are concerned, I may say that women are under the exploitation of patriarchy in other African countries.

The principle of complementarity argues that in a meaningful job or responsibility sharing between men and women, the destiny is the cumulative benefit and holistic harmony of the two sexes and the environment too.

African patriarchy can be challenged by the equal contributions and reactions of men and women. Joyce Banda unfolded the role of her husband in her success in political leadership. She said, "Throughout my career, he has stood by me. He has been my best friend, and I think that is very important. What is more, I have

been lucky that I have had a wider supportive family." The well-known and influential lawyer and political leader, Betty Mould Iddrisu, was also amplifying the role of her husband and the family as a whole in her political path and prominent contribution to her career.

The third principle from African STIWA is the idea that says, "African women are not voiceless; the problem is we are looking for their voices in the wrong places." The theoretician stressed that African women did utter it in various contexts and places. For instance, in churches, markets, farmlands, different social groupings, and even in houses, when they get alone, they pronounce their minds in songs or in any other form of folktale. Thus, the theory advised that the real situation of the women needed to be heard appropriately to react to it for fruitful improvements.

Let's see this concept in the deeds of the following woman. The former Liberian President, Ellen Jonson, formed an organization that targeted women after realizing the lowest proportion of women in the government's program, which was centered in urban areas. She addressed various women through different influential methods. She reached massive women with a special approach since most of them were left out of technological devices and didn't know how to use them. She succeeded. She mobilized a good number of women.

Joyce Benda was also effective in giving ear to women in their places. She did a case study, reached out to the core problem, and formed an association for empowering women. Her organization is working with fellow women and young leaders. Training and support are going to be delivered within the organization. That way, she was equipping women with skills and knowledge of leadership.

Nowadays, in Ethiopia, there are strong female leaders taking positions in various spheres. Having them there is very important for echoing the efficacy of women in doing well there too. But these leaders should shoulder the burdens of their sisters, women, and girls and need to be creative in how capable females are in their own realities.

The fourth paradigm is social transformation. The question is: can women bring about social transformation if they hold leading positions? Those who have been leading in various spheres said, 'sure' practically. I will get back to this point in the next article.



## Law & Politics

# A perspective into ongoing dev't approaches

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

### PART TWO

Agriculture is still the pace setter of the Ethiopian economy and a source of the major export commodities from which the country obtains foreign exchange earnings. Export diversifications of agricultural commodities and increasing their volume and quality for marketing on world markets have proved to be a viable alternative to increase Ethiopia's revenue in foreign exchange.

Over the last several decades, Ethiopia has depended on coffee, pulses and oil seeds to obtain foreign currency. It is therefore imperative to further diversify export of agricultural commodities by adding value to these products for better completion at the world market. The introduction of cut flowers, live animals, and horticulture products for export has earned the nation better foreign exchange but that is still at its lower scale compared to several Sub-Saharan African countries.

Ethiopia is now engaged in massive import substitution programs primarily in the agriculture sector. The country is now ready to fully produce wheat for local consumption and for export as well. This is a promising trend and is expected to grow over several decades.

The country is still importing edible oil which could have been produced locally. There are several ongoing attempts to produce food oil locally but still there is a long way to go before the country could be self-sufficient in edible oil and export it to the world market.

With a promising bumper harvest in cotton, the country can produce high quality garments that can even be exported. The industrial parks in the country are already exporting a considerable amount of garments and apparel to countries near and afar earning the nation a considerable amount of forex.

Cluster farming system that was introduced in various regions of the country have proved to be effective in increasing productivity per hectare as more crops are being produced in this way. Cluster farms can easily use agricultural modernization techniques and mechanization that is important to markedly reduce post-harvest losses

Ethiopia's foreign trade through import substitution mechanisms is growing. Leather products and foot wear from Ethiopia have already proved to be marketable in large amounts and quality but the sector has still not developed to the desired level.

With the introduction of small scale and large scale irrigation schemes in various

regions of the country, farmers have been able to produce 2 to 3 times a year including the main agricultural season. Ethiopia has so far utilized less than 3% of its total irrigation potentials which are generally evenly distributed across the country. Regions like Afar, Gambela and Benishangul and the SNNPRS have started to engage in irrigated farming focusing on the main marketable agricultural products which can also be exported.

Micro financing institutions across the country have already have the practice in providing loan to able farmers who can use the cash to purchase fertilizers and other agricultural inputs to enhance their productivity.

Profiting from *Yelemat Trufat* Development Campaign as the name tells is to be conducted through campaigns in which all the regions in the country are expected to participate. Conducting such development programs in the form of campaign, although possible could face challenges in terms of coordination with regions, zones and districts across the country. The issue of input provision and conducting the campaign along with the regular agricultural practices across the country requires strong managing skills and capacity building at all levels. Besides, it is important to create awareness creation sessions on the campaign so that all concerned will participate in a more meaningful and productive manner.

It is very important to develop simple booklets and manuals that could be readily used as reference for farmers when the DAs are not around. Moreover is good to develop agricultural demonstration plots in every village as farmers can replicate the good practices on their own homesteads and community owned orchards and vegetable gardens.

It is also important to link food production and diversification with the National Initiative for Green Legacy as one could complement the other in the entire food production cycle.

The *Ethiopia Tamirt* campaign, also known as the "Made in Ethiopia" initiative, is a government-led effort to promote the production and consumption of domestically manufactured goods. The campaign aims to boost the country's industrial sector, create jobs, and reduce reliance on imported products. By fostering a sense of national pride and encouraging citizens to buy Ethiopian-made products, the initiative seeks to stimulate economic growth and development.

The major objectives of *Ethiopian Tamirt* Campaign include boosting the manufacturing sector to contribute significantly to Ethiopia's GDP, generating employment opportunities in various industries, particularly for the youth,

reducing dependency on imported goods by encouraging the production and consumption of local products through national import substitution programs, enhancing the quality and competitiveness of Ethiopian products in both local and international markets and foster a sense of pride among Ethiopians in their locally made products. Key components of the campaign include, implementing policies that support local manufacturers, such as tax incentives and subsidies, improving infrastructure, including transportation and energy, to facilitate industrial growth, providing training and skills development programs for workers in the manufacturing sector, creating platforms for local producers to access domestic and international markets, conducting awareness campaigns to educate consumers on the benefits of buying locally made products.

The campaign is instrumental for diversifying Ethiopia's economy by strengthening the manufacturing sector for creating numerous job opportunities, thereby reducing unemployment and underemployment rates. It will improve the trade balance by increasing exports and reducing imports and foster the development of various industries, including textiles, leather, and agro-processing. It will also contribute to promoting sustainable industrial practices that minimize environmental impact.

Although the sector is steadily growing, addressing the lack of adequate infrastructure that hampers industrial growth, ensuring local manufacturers have access to affordable financing options, meeting international quality standards to make Ethiopian products competitive in global markets, overcoming challenges in penetrating both domestic and international markets, keeping pace with technological advancements to enhance productivity and efficiency of the sector are some of the challenges that need to be addressed over time.

The above analysis clearly shows the complementarity among the various economic development plans that Ethiopia is currently conducting. What is therefore to be done to further accelerate the development of each sector to accelerate the economic development of the country?

In the first place, it is important to adhere to the Ten Years National Perspective and Home Grown National Economy policies that are currently under implementation. Continuous monitoring and evaluation of the processes and results achieved is very important to maximize the performances in each area.

Second, it is important to measure the extent to which each component of the national development program is contributing to the promotion of the other sector.

Third, conducting environmental impact assessment on all current and future development interventions is of crucial importance to maintain the development of clean and green economy that grows with no interception. It is good news that the government is working on developing EIA strategy document to ensure the continuity of the development of the national economy with no interruption.

Fourth, the positive impact of the National Green Legacy Initiative must be assessed every year not only to measure the results but also to document the most outstanding success stories of the program for a learning process and for sharing with the rest of the world.

Fifth, it is important to establish and operational linkage between all stakeholders involved in developing the national economy of the country. This could include the Ministry of agriculture, Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research, Climate Change and Environmental Protection Institute, Agricultural Transformation Agency, universities across the country and all stakeholders involved on issues related to the environment in the country and international partners.

Sixth, Ethiopian media outlets need to vigorously work on documenting, promoting and marketing on all the above mentioned campaigns and initiatives currently being conducted in the country.

Seventh, as Ethiopia is now effectively contributing to the mitigation of climate change, the nation needs to be supported by the international community of nations and the UN systems alike. The projects underway in the country require huge amount of fund that cannot be secure only by the efforts of the government.

Eighth, it is important to link all the above interventions with the development of Tourism Ethiopia as an important pillar of the national economic development with a particular emphasis on eco-tourism projects which are already established across the country. These projects are the products of the NGLI and provide an excellent situation for the promotion of the initiative.

Finally, the author of this article recommends that the necessary integration between the implementation of the programs is a guarantee for the success of each sector and the government must be supported in beefing up a national budget for the implementation of NGLI to maximize the outputs of all the initiatives. International and local NGOs, the private sector, and universities across the country need to take up joint initiatives in conducting extensive researches which primary focus on the National Green Legacy initiative and other campaigns that are recently under operation.



EPHREM ENDALE

# Between you & me

## It's all About Focus

It's all about focus isn't it? Unfortunately, many of us seem to lose that fact. It's like in the adverts. You can't help asking yourself, "Is there some unwritten mandatory in-house rule within the advert community?" Don't you ever wonder why there so many pretty young ladies in almost every advert? Maybe just for being nice we might try to understand why those pretty souls are featured in certain adverts. I don't have any reason backing this assumption so let's skip the details. Of course the catch here is impressing us customers and clients. Are we impressed? Well let's be frank why might not actually impressed a faint whistle or two would not be out of the question. Do we really focus on the service or product being advertised while there are the pretty young ladies their smiles radiating even in our living rooms? Am I letting out some secret here? Hmmmm.

I mean everything is about focus. The entities behind the advertisements would like us to focus on their products and services, don't they? We are supposed to be so mesmerized, so attracted by the advert they wish we crowded their offices and shops.

But we've got a story for them here. Life was never meant to be that easy that you get what you want. Our focus could be so fragmented by the very presence of the pretty lady we might miss the core message. It's not that easy also to have the pass into our minds at a time when we are burdened by a hundred and one issues and worries.

So, it's all about focus. You missed our focus

means you missed our attention; and that means if our focus isn't on the services or products then there will be no way we'll be acting. If I'm a sorry creature asking what in the world has a pretty lady to do with some electrical gadget or building materials. If you're selling screw drivers and the like and you show me a pretty girl holding one I can tell you I'd zero in on the pretty girl not your screw driver or whatever. Then it isn't only the question of the young souls, at times it becomes about what percent of the anatomy is covered and what percent bared! Look some of us may sound too conservative primitive creatures when such issues are raised. Maybe the competition is getting so fierce that those writing the advert scripts should be innovative. But alas! Do some of them do it in all the wrong ways! I've to confess that despite being confronted with scenes we would have liked to avoid turning off the TV seldom becomes the nearest option. Still however the flesh baring scene is overdone we still don't focus on what is being advertised. And in the event of there being multiple people the conversation goes somewhat like this;

"Do you see how pretty this young lady is?"

"You bet I do?"

"I wonder where they are getting such beautiful ladies. We don't even see them in the streets!"

"See them in the streets! You must be kidding.

Competitions could drive you all the way to the edge of the cliff if you're not smart. In case of adverts the talk of the cliff and its edge is about us. It means you're losing us and better wake up! to say it again in other words some gents even ladies are not at all comfortable with much flesh being exposed. This is not about conservatism or sticking to old ways. It's more about being civilized and putting things where and where they should be. What do you feel if the singer of a truly traditional filling TV screen with the shortest skirt? Just think how many of you would be focusing on the actual song and how many on the skirt!

There're so many adverts in the evening hours these days that sometimes you feel like you're being robbed off your precious time. But then the pretty ladies fill in for a very poorly written script, still the message is usually either ignored or, at the worst, lost. Indeed these days there are so many riddles that need to be solved but we've so little interest, time and motivation we're in the dark about many things.

In the morning we would be talking about the pretty lady who was advertising some item and not about the item advertised. That, gents and ladies, is the reality. Of course there is nothing wrong with that. How can you pay attention to the item being advertised when they have made sure to focus on the pretty soul whose smile overshoot the edges of her mouth and spills into the living room? I mean actually spills.

Take meetings many of which we seem to have these days. The initial agendas might be interesting and participants, some of them at least, come armed with ideas and suggestions. But once the meeting begins things don't go as stipulated in the initial plans. In the first place the chair and the never-missing guest of honor take much of the time with largely issues which have nothing to do with the meeting or anything at all. The minutes tick by and suddenly an hour or so has just gone out of the window. Then the chair, a not so-impressive fellow, reads the first agenda. Some section or department head takes the stage and starts what his section has been doing with much self-applauding rhetoric without actually deliberating on the issue at hand. By the time he finishes he hasn't said anything about the issue at hand and the funny thing is he still gets applause. Don't you sometimes think applause have become mandatory for everyone who speaks however nonsense and brazen still getting the applause? While the focus should have been on the agenda he strays miles away. Then participants are given the chance to make their views heard. Believe me those who have come with ideas they thought were worthwhile are left confused and choose to remain silent. Hands are raised and most of the opinions deviate further from the agenda with focus going elsewhere.

Where focus is lost, everything is lost. It's as simple as that.

## Yes, We Need Changes!

The time should come when we really should start using the "I'm a tax payer!" and really mean it.

In many places our rights are badly mutilated or even purely carpet bombed and the only thing we can do is maybe curse under our breath. Of course I'm not saying it doesn't mean things would be easy and the "I'm a tax payer!" message would scare some back to the right senses. Take the minibus taxis in the city. The world of the minibus taxis is so muddled, so out of shape that you've to experience it to realize its real feeling. I mean the crowd managing the minibuses the chauffeurs, the aids, the controllers and the whole lot seem to have carved out their own unique world out there. Of course it's not that every one of them fall into that pit of wrongdoing. But many of them do fall, and fall very deep.

Say then fare from one place to another is ten birr as the piece of paper awkwardly hanging behind the chauffeur tells you. During the normal hours, or working hours, things are quite smooth and every one of them seem to be headed for the gates of the heaven. But once the sun starts shying away behind the mountain tops their real selves come out and then, whether you like it or not, you know what the words selfish and even vicious means. With the working hours over and people clamor to get home as early as possible the ax falls, and falls heavy. The ten-birr fare is raised to twenty birr. What!

"We're not paying a single cent more than

ten birr!" A hero is born! Isn't that good? I mean someone standing for the rights of the crowd is good news all the way, isn't it? But then his isn't the turning point of the story, the reactions of the chauffeurs and the aids is. They said twenty and it's twenty! That's when you lose some confidence in the standing-for-your-rights rhetoric. Some of the passengers insist that they pay the twenty birr demanded so that they could reach home before the night gets any darker. "Hey we're trying to ensure our rights are respected and you are trying to destroy that!" No one says that as enthusiastically as it might sound on paper. I tell you if such things happened in a few places and they hit the headline and also those entrusted with the wellbeing of the public come out with guns blazing hitting the culprits where it hurts more, their wallets, things would have been improved with speed that would have left us wide eyed. Indeed there should come the time when we really stand on our own feet, dig deep, and say, "I'm a tax payer!" and the culprits whoever they might be would be running for cover.

You go to a certain office to claim some document which has been making the rounds of multiple offices within the organization for reasons you really couldn't understand.

It seems that those people think that if every and any document makes the rounds of multiple offices before finally being signed, the place gets that thumbs-up prize with the appreciation, "They are so careful in their

works that a single document be it one page or multiple pages, goes in almost every office before getting the final seal. But when you try to investigate what the document is doing on all those tables you'd probably throw up your arms with, "I tell you in some paces everything is hopeless."

"Why do you say that?"

"You could strike out the seven offices and everything would have been finalized in only the first three offices." Talk of inefficiency and you get nothing more interesting than such scenarios. All this time the client is suffering all those sleepless nights because every time he demands for his documents he's told, "It's in Ato such and such's office." What Ato such and such has to do with your particular case is the mother of all riddles for you. And if everything has been normal and life was somewhat fair you'd have said something like, "I'm a tax payer;" and that would have done the trick. In fact if that was a simple job you might add something like "You're paid your salary with the taxes we pay," that would have been the most brutal uppercut and the culprits would be gazing at the empty sky flat on their backs!

Yes, the time should come when people would say "I'm a taxpayer!" and Satan would be running for the hills his tail between his legs. But no; we're a long way of that road and it'd take time to come back to the highway of fair treatment and the establishment of real respect for the taxpayer.

Look Hollywood must have put all the wrong concoctions into our minds that some of us think the "I'm a tax payer," thing is all ferenji talks, as if it's copyrighted. It is not. It's only that maybe most members of our society are too timid and too shy to try something they think is reserved for the ferenjis. Don't ask me how things came to this. We have repeatedly talked about this gentleman who being maltreated in a certain office loudly says, "I'm a taxpayer," and every one of them had their best laugh of the day.

Wouldn't you like to see literary works focusing on such important issues where tax payers' stand strong and tall and demand for their rights to be respected since what keeps going the work forces are the taxes they pay? Wouldn't you want to see a work force that realizes without the taxes coming in the dinner table of everyone would be even emptier? Wouldn't you like to see which saves much of the excesses in its overdone tidiness and shyness and there was nothing wrong demanding for their rights to be respected as they've fulfilled the responsibilities expected of them? Believe me nothing is out of reach if there is the motivation, the willingness and the perseverance to make changes. And change means standing tall and strong and saying "I'm a taxpayer."

So, do we need changes in this respect? Yes, we do. That is progress, that is civilization and that is the way things should be!



## In Pictures

### Ethiopia's forest coverage reaches 23.6 percent

*PM Abiy launched has launched the beginning of the 2024 plantation cycle. This cycle is the sixth year annual plantation program of Ethiopia's 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 this week, PM Abiy and other current and former senior government officials attended the program.*

*During the event, it was learnt that Ethiopia's Forest Cover had increased to 23.6% in 2023 from 17.2% in 2019. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed underlines the need to continue building on this progress so as to reach the set target of increasing the forest coverage to 30% by 2030.*



*PM Abiy stated that the cities in Ethiopia are in their beginning stage and the development programs will sustain so as to make the cities well equipped in infrastructure, make life easy in the cities and make the cities ideal tourist destinations.*

*According to PM Abiy, the corridor development project is an exemplary act for many African countries in employing collaborative efforts for the betterment of the public. The above pictures were taken during the inauguration ceremony of the Mexico Square-Sar Bet section of the Addis Ababa Corridor Development Project.*



## In Pictures

## Corridor Development, Green Legacy: Gifts of the National Reform

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

*PM Abiy inaugurates Mexico-Sar Bet Corridor Development Project*

*Corridor Development remodels faces of Addis Ababa*



*Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) inaugurated the Mexico-Sar Bet section of the Addis Ababa Corridor Development Project. The inauguration of the project is a key milestone in the city building efforts, PM Abiy said adding enhancing infrastructure, workmanship, walkways, and vehicle paths are essential for urban growth.*



*The Corridor Development Project being underway in the metropolis is meaningfully changing and decorating the faces of Addis Ababa. Demolishing shanty parts of the city, the new project is making the city suitable and beautiful.*