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Ethiopia, Ireland discuss bilateral, multilateral issues

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) and Deputy Prime Minister (DPM), Foreign Affairs and Defense Minister of Ireland, Micheal Martin held discussions on bilateral and multilateral issues yesterday.

Following the meeting, Abiy posted on X that he was pleased to meet with the Deputy PM

and his delegation for bilateral discussions on a number of issues.

Micheal Martin on his part expressed that the two have discussed on the bilateral relationship between the two countries.

“Ethiopia is our largest partner in development cooperation,” the Minister wrote on X, mentioning that he also talked with the Premier about the experience of Ethiopia and

Ireland regarding peace processes and how they can improve such collaborations.

Meanwhile, the Irish DPM and his delegation also discussed with President Sahlework Zewde at her office.

The information from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs indicated that the two sides engaged

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Ethiopia attracts over 3.8 bln. USD in FDI

• *Vows to implement investment adjustment modalities*

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia has attracted 3.82 billion USD in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) witnessing 11.5% increment compared with the previous period, the Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC) announced.

In her briefing in connection with the commission’s annual performance yesterday, EIC Commissioner Hanna Arayaselassie stated that the national investment commission

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Ethiopia’s diplomacy improves in leaps, bounds : MoFA

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA - Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) announced that the 2023/24 fiscal year (2016 E.C.) was a strong year for Ethiopia’s diplomatic affairs.

Several diplomatic successes related to national economic and political interests have been registered, according to MoFA statement.

See Ethiopia’s diplomacy... page 3

Scholars laud Ethiopia’s move to mediate Sudanese warring parties

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA – Scholars have commended Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's recent visit to Sudan as a reaffirmation of Ethiopia’s support for Sudan during trying times.

In an interview with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), The Institute of Foreign

Affairs Horn of Africa (HoA) Researcher Befikadu Bogale, commented that Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's (PhD) recent visit to Sudan was a testament to Ethiopia’s unwavering commitment to regional security.

He added that the visit demonstrates Ethiopia’s deep concern and dedication to resolve the ongoing civil war.

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ECCSA prioritizes expanding trade, investment

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - Providing alternative policy ideas and expanding trade and investment are among the primary activities to back national development endeavor, the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Association (ECCSA) said.

The ECCSA has held its annual meeting yesterday in the presence of members, associations, officials and others.

In his keynote speech, ECCSA former President Eng. Melaku Ezezew stated that the Association has been primarily working on generating alternative policy ideas and expanding trade and investment across the country.

The Association is also striving for building strong and influential national association, creating conducive business environment and establishing training center among others, he mentioned.

According to the President, media outlets

have a great contribution in creating a strong private sector to play their critical role in various economic endeavors.

He indicated that the association has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with some 24 countries while accepting the membership request of associations from four regional states including Sidama and South Ethiopia, which increased its members to 21.

The association has been offering trainings to its employees to boost their competence and helping the nation to have a robust and sustainable economy with valuable training opportunities to enterprises and entrepreneurs, according to Melaku.

He furthermore noted that the ECCSA has limitations including in handling members data and others so as to facilitate trade and investment as well as bringing alternative policy ideas. The partnerships between the public, private sectors, as well as international organizations would contribute to facilitate business connections and others.

Ethiopia's horticulture export earnings hit 535mln USD

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA - Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) stated that Ethiopia earned some 535 million USD from Horticulture exports during the just concluded Ethiopian fiscal year.

This was disclosed yesterday at the validation workshop on National Horticulture Strategy that was held under the theme: "The Future is Horticulture".

On the occasion, MoA Minister Girma Amnte (PhD) stated that the ministry secured over 535 million USD exporting horticultural crops during the reported period.

Nonetheless, the performance has shown a decrement compared with last year's similar period, as to him.

Flower, being the leading in the export performance, fruit and vegetable exports, said to be underperformed, contributing less than hundred million USD.

Mentioning that the sector has immense contribution to ensure food security, enhance job creation, attract foreign currency and expand industrial input, he stressed that it needs to be led with technology and research based approach.

Despite the nation's rich potential in the sector, lack of access to finance, poor infrastructure, absence of cold chain facility, as well as post harvesting constraints, among others, remained challenges in the sector.

Thus, the National Horticulture Strategy, which will be operational soon, would play a significant role to address the major challenges, he noted.

The Minister further elaborated that the efforts that have put in the agriculture sector have allowed the nation to increase its forest coverage, modernize agriculture, enhance fishery production, and build a climate resilient economy.

Particularly, the activities carried out on wheat



Girma Amnte (PhD)

production enabled to substitute import hugely, he underlined. To this end, he added that similar effort needs to be put to sustain best practice in the horticulture sector as well.

Highlighting the issues of the draft national horticulture strategy, MoA State Minister Meles Mekonen (PhD) stated that the strategy which identified plenty of strategic challenges, aspires to solve major issues that are hindering the sector from achieving the desired result.

Apart from expanding export and substitute import, he said the strategy is expected to enhance the export performance from 658 million last year's performance to 3.3 billion USD and create more jobs from two hundred thousand to two million by 2026 E.C.

Moreover, the strategy would enable Ethiopia to become one of the leading manufacturing and exporting African countries and become competitive at the international level in the horticulture sector.

At the validation workshop, three papers were presented by officials and discussed among experts, officials, investors and among others.

ethiotelecom plants 3.8 mln trees in Green Legacy

• To plant 500,000 saplings this FY

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA - State-owned company ethiotelecom said it is working to assist the national green development effort and contributing a lot to green development campaign over the past five years by planting about 3.8 million saplings across the nation.

The company's higher management and employees planted trees in Akaki Kaliti, Gelan area yesterday.

Speaking at the event organized to plant saplings, ethiotelecom CEO, Frehiwot Tamiru noted that the company has planted about 3.8 million



all over the nation by the company's management and employees in 698 sites of Ethiopia over the last five years.

She added for this plantation campaign,

the company has invested about 124 million Birr and created 20,000 temporary jobs over the last five years.

"The company has also allocated 50

million Birr for this year's greenery program creating 4,000 temporary jobs. We are taking care of the planted trees to thrive and create a conducive living environment for human beings," she noted.

She further said that the company has planned to plant about 500,000 saplings this fiscal year.

Moreover, the planting of saplings will take place from July 18 to August 6, 2024 throughout the nation by the company's workers, Frehiwot said.

"The company is also providing inclusive financial services and others to ensure sustainable development across the country in all aspects."

News

Ethiopia to host Int'l conference on financing for dev't

ADDIS ABABA (ENA) - Ethiopia has signed a Host Country Agreement with the UN to host the first preparatory session for the fourth International Conference on Financing for Development which will be held in Addis Ababa from July 22-26, 2024.

According to Foreign Affairs Ministry, the agreement was signed in New York.

Ambassador Tesfaye Yilma, Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations while Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs inked the agreement representing the UN.

During the signing ceremony, Ambassador Tesfaye underlined that hosting the conference is an expression of Ethiopia's firm commitment to a more effective UN development system and a reinvigorated



multilateralism.

The Under-Secretary-General on his part appreciated Ethiopia's commitment

and role in hosting the UN preparatory Conference on Financing for Development.

Both underscored the importance of the

conference in setting the right tone to galvanize the international community to mobilize finance for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and for Sustainable Development.

In 2015 Ethiopia hosted the Third Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa which adopted the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, a landmark outcome document that outlined a comprehensive global framework for financing the Sustainable Development Goals.

The upcoming preparatory conference will review the progress and the gaps in the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, and identify actions and ideas to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Scholars laud ...

"The instability in the HoA cannot be easily managed until countries integrate their economies and trade. It is also needed not only to address the geopolitical crisis but also to collaborate on issues such as terrorism and natural disasters that challenge the region," he said.

Ethiopia is maintaining its relations with Sudan in good faith during these difficult times, Befikadu noted.

He pointed out that infrastructural connections, such as roads, water and electricity, between Ethiopia and Sudan remain active despite the war.

"These ongoing connections prove that Ethiopia is committed to building sustainable peace in the region," he highlighted.

He also indicated that Ethiopia's national interests cannot be achieved while the region is in crisis that's why country's foreign policy prioritizes cooperation with neighbors.

An Assistant Professor of history at Addis Ababa University, Adem Kamil expressed that the crisis in Sudan concerns Ethiopia.

"Sudan and Ethiopia have a long history of cooperation; the process to mediate the conflicting parties should not be seen as a short-term endeavor," Adem remarked. "Given the historical ties between the two countries, the mediation has a strong chance of being successful."

He also warned that if the war continues, the region could become uncontrollable due to terrorism, migration, and lawlessness.

Ethiopia attracts over 3.8 bln. ...

has been facilitating notable promotional and investment backings, thereby generating 3.82 billion USD in FDI which is 80% of the plan in the just concluded fiscal year.

Pledging commitment to promote the export performance capacities of industrial park enterprises and expanding global market destinations, the commissioner remarked that about 115.2 million USD has been secured exporting industrial items showing a slight decrease compared to the 2022/23 fiscal year.

According to the United Nations Trade and Development 2023 report, Ethiopia is among the top five FDI receiving countries in Africa.

Hanna underscored that EIC has licensed 329 new investment projects planning to issue 378 project investment licenses during the same

reported period. Here, the manufacturing sector takes the upper hands from the total licenses which account for 246 projects followed by information technology and construction sectors.

"Some 169 projects both in and out of the industrial parks are transferred to the manufacturing stage," she indicated.

Also, approximately 53,590 jobs were created during the concluded period, the commissioner added.

Hanna said that the commission has set numerous revised strategic areas such as creating enabling investment environments, employing endorsed directives, logistics and investment in the current fiscal year.

"It is also embarking on implementing new strategies and systems in investment promotion

activities and services, new economic zone, restructure and digitization with a view of enhancing investment capacity," she remarked.

Accordingly, EIC has planned to promote FDI volume to 4.52 billion USD and issue 386 new investment licenses. Besides, it has slated to promote the export volume in the industrial parks to 153 million USD and creating 2,352 decent jobs and promoting import substitution products, according to her.

Moreover, it has also planned to implement investment modalities on export and import, job creation, market linkage, knowledge transfer among many other engagements by identifying operational businesses and investors' critical setbacks by improving investment climate to increase investor's competitiveness and address forex crunches, it was learnt.

Ethiopia's diplomacy ...

Briefing journalists yesterday, MoFA Spokesperson Ambassador Nebiyu Tedla stated that these successes were achieved amid regional and international challenges.

Ethiopia has marked a series of significant diplomatic achievements over the past fiscal year. Key areas of progress include neighborhood diplomacy, BRICS membership, setting agenda on the sea access, migrant repatriation, multilateral and bilateral diplomacy, and foreign direct investment, according to the spokesperson.

In strengthening its international presence, Ethiopia participated in 501 international discussions and bilateral events. About 195 international diplomatic decisions, compliant with Ethiopia's stance, were passed, he noted.

Several joint meetings, including leaders' summits, ministerial forums, and high-level meetings, were held in Ethiopia. Twelve agreements in education, tourism, economy, and infrastructure were signed between Ethiopia and neighboring countries, he added.

Under the frameworks of the African Union and the United Nations, Ethiopia's diplomatic journey was also successful. The Pretoria peace agreement received further support from international organizations, he remarked.

High-level conferences held during the year contributed to the development of conference tourism. About 29 African leaders and high officials visited Ethiopia for bilateral purposes, he added.

In total, 71 bilateral agreements were signed; 19 of these were with African countries, while the rest were with countries outside Africa, he said.

He further remarked that international funders have been supporting Ethiopia's developmental and humanitarian missions. For example, the European Union donated 35 million euros for green energy development. The governments of the United States and the Netherlands have also shown their support for demobilization, disarmament, rehabilitation, and agricultural programs, respectively.

He also highlighted the registration of three Ethiopian intangible heritages by UNESCO as a great diplomatic success in tourism diplomacy.

Ethiopia's membership in BRICS is another notable achievement. Amid regional challenges and global geopolitical shifts, Ethiopia's diplomatic mission has successfully navigated complex negotiations, secured critical partnerships, and advanced national interests on the global stage, he added.

"Ethiopia also set its agenda related to access to the sea; it will not be seen as taboo as before," he added.

In related news, MoFA State Minister Ambassador Birtukan Ayano stated that several diplomats appointed last May would be deployed soon. "The Ministry is currently training the newly appointed diplomats. In a few days, their assignments will be announced. Some diplomats working in Ethiopian embassies will be returned," she highlighted.

Ethiopia, Ireland discuss ...

in extensive discussions on various bilateral and regional matters of mutual interest.

Both parties affirmed the necessity to fully harness the potential for cooperation between the two countries in the economic

sphere, particularly in trade, aviation and tourism, it said.

They also deliberated on Ethiopia's potential role in contributing to regional security, considering its influence in the Horn of

Africa, according to the Ministry.

Moreover, DPM Micheál Martin conducted several meetings with government officials. The Deputy Prime Minister's visit to Ethiopia marks the thirtieth anniversary of

diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Ireland.

The Minister and his delegation is expected to return to Dublin wrapping up the visit to Addis Ababa on Friday.

Opinion

Why an increased and multifaceted external drills against Ethiopia since the MoU?

BY BEFEKADU BOGALE,

Researcher at the Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA)

Background

Ethiopia signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Somaliland on 1st January, 2024. The MoU, which is a bold part of the post 2018 Ethiopian government's pursuit to diversify the country's access to the sea, is believed to clear the way for Ethiopia to have a lease-based naval presence in the Somaliland proper of the Red Sea in addition to facilitating an enhanced use of the Berbera port for the import-export trade.

While it is hailed by many domestically and beyond for its contribution for national development and also for regional integration in the Horn of Africa, there are oppositions to and criticisms of the MoU. The oppositions and criticisms are primarily marked by set of direct and indirect diplomatic, political and military drills aimed at Ethiopia by some states, individuals and institutions.

Though the drills against Ethiopia and its government are not sudden development upon signing of the MoU, they were significantly escalated immediately then after. For instance, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, the Prime Minister and other current and former officials of Somalia continue to pursue media propaganda along with fruitless and some provocative visits. There also have been attempts to draw the Arab League, the African Union (AU) and the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in relation to the MoU.

Ambassador Mike Hammer who is the US Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa has been regular visitor of Ethiopia and the region; Ambassador Ervin Massinga has brought unforeseen tradition of meddling in domestic affairs through media statements and meetings; while the AU Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) has been directed to leave Somalia on grounds of shortage of funds, the US signed bilateral agreement to strengthen the Danab Brigade including establishing military basis; and the major intelligence and media outlets including those in the US reported ongoing and burgeoning connections between Al-Shabaab and the Houthis though there has been no concrete plan or action from the US including collaboration and joint actions inclusive of countries like Ethiopia.

Djibouti is also less ready to go along with an emerging dynamics and shifts in the sub-region including Ethiopia's justifiable attempt to diversity port usage and establish access to the sea. Djibouti's opposition to the MoU has been expressed via various diplomatic and security actions aimed at Somaliland and also Ethiopia.



Ethiopia and Somaliland agreement

Why?

A question that shall be first in the order should be about the factors that motivate the various actors to ensue political, diplomatic, military and other concerted pressures on the Ethiopian government under Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD). The top in the list perhaps is the MoU Ethiopia signed with Somaliland in January 2024. The fundamental basis for the opposition and criticism of the MoU is the fear of a regional power with an immense naval history and also a huge economic and demographic power coming to the waters of the Red Sea and Indian Ocean. Thus, the MoU is feared to facilitate a regional power and its partners to take over the security of international water bodies across the coastal areas of the Horn.

This contravenes the established interest of the great and regional powers oscillating in the sub-region and its coastal waters bodies. The various countries' establishment of naval and inland military basis and the warships' movements in the name of fighting illegal activities may gradually become obsolete as Ethiopia and its sub-regional partners could capably take over security matters. It seems that most of the great and regional powers do not want this to happen.

Secondly, while some presumed that Abiy Ahmed (PhD) and his reform government will lean towards the West and rapidly embrace series of neoliberal reform measures, the post 2018 Ethiopian government choose to pursue balanced foreign relations. While efforts were made to maintain and strengthen Ethiopia's relations with the West, the reform government also took series of balancing measures. Prime Minister Abiy successfully lobbied Ethiopia's membership of the BRICS. The Ethiopian government repeatedly expressed its support for reforming of the existing global governance architecture including the UNSC and the international financial institutions (IFIs).

Thirdly, the post 2018 Ethiopian government took set of independent

actions which seem less liked by certain countries and their state and institutional nodes for deviating from the established patron-client pattern. The list may include zealous commitment towards completion of the GERD despite the multifaceted pressures; the proactive attempts to project power including reinstatement of the Navy and the signing of the MoU with Somaliland; the own-paced reform and liberalization measures despite direct and indirect pressures by and through the IFIs; the national wheat flagship program which signals a significant step towards food sovereignty, the country emerging as net wheat exporter, and also provide a lesson and confidence to fellow African countries; the attempts to revitalize regional integration such as the joint-financing agreement of a transboundary road with South Sudan; and continued neutrality but proactive peace efforts to address peace and security challenges in the region such as the recent visit by Prime Minister Abiy to Port Sudan to mediate for the resolution of the Sudan conflict which partly builds on his successful mediation of Sudan's political transition in 2018 and also on the trust towards Ethiopia by the key Sudanese civilian and military groups.

These major factors may have angered, disappointed and/or shocked some great and regional powers, their agential institutions, and also client states and leaders in the region. Thus, the diplomatic and other drills has been staged from multiple fronts though the foundational cause of the onslaught revolves around the insistence of the post 2018 Ethiopian government to pursue balanced and national interest guided international relations with actors near and far.

What shall Ethiopia do?

In light of the multifaceted drills by the various actors, Ethiopia shall take a set of measures to ensure its national interest. First, as the criticisms and coercive measures aimed at the country are often inferred on, the efforts to address the domestic issues shall be enhanced. Thus, concluding the ongoing efforts to solve instability in certain parts of the country, seriously handling sensitive issues

such as the issue of Sudanese refugees in the country, and consolidating the implementation of the Pretoria agreement are commendable.

Secondly, Ethiopia shall intensify self-guided but inviting initiatives towards peace and security and regional integration in the Horn of Africa. This may include strengthening Sudan conflict mediation efforts, implementation of the recent joint infrastructure agreement with South Sudan and also providing election-related supports to the country, devising comprehensive strategic cooperation initiatives with Kenya on issues such as Lamu port development and use, joint military drills and adoption of common position on post-ATMIS Somalia.

Thirdly, it is important to pursue a proactive agenda setting and countering at multilateral forums. Ethiopia shall enhance its agenda setting efforts at the IGAD, the AU, and the UN. For instance, Ethiopia could articulate issues such as impact of Red Sea insecurity and increased militarization on the Horn of Africa, regional and global challenges related to the post-ATMIS Somalia, and the need for an increased financing of cross-border infrastructure initiatives in the sub-region for the achievement of the UN Agenda 2030 and the AU Agenda 2063.

Lastly, Ethiopia may have push Somaliland to make proactive and strategic moves. For instance, Ethiopia may encourage Somaliland to approach countries such as UAE, Kenya, UK, and China in its pursuit of recognition and development; to revisit and sharpen its relations with Somalia and Djibouti commensurate to the historical trajectories and the post MoU developments; to call to the IGAD, the AU and the UN to guarantee the right to self-determination of the Somaliland people; to initiate cross-border infrastructure developments to enhance connectivity and mutual benefits; and to leverage countries given its resource and economic potential (i.e., mining, tourism, power, construction, port potential including Berbera port's superior standing) and also the positive effects of the burgeoning Ethiopia-Somaliland relations.

In a nutshell, the direct and indirect multifaceted drills against Ethiopia by the various actors are reaction to the country's visioned efforts towards emancipatory national development, founded regional integration and assertive power projection. Accordingly, comprehensive and integrated measures both at the domestic and external arena are necessary. Noteworthy, there are multiple concrete foundations that may serve as a spring board for the journey ahead.

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

Editorial

With CFA, all riparian countries are winners!

In what could be said to be a stunning breakthrough to a fair utilization of shared resources, the Nile Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) entered a significant stage with the Republic of South Sudan ratifying the agreement on July 8, 2024. This watershed moment opens a new era of cooperation in utilizing shared resources. Trans-boundary natural resources have been sources of conflicts and confrontations among nations. The scarcity of natural resources like water and the sharp population growth have been pitting countries against each other.

The ever-increasing demand for electricity, drinking water and other development undertakings fueled by ever-expanding population is forcing nations to come up with various initiatives. Ethiopia's Abbay Dam commonly known as the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam is a solid instance. But the dam is more than a project as it sends a clear signal to the world that cooperation is the way forward to ensure mutual growth. The dam that brings no significant harm however is part and parcel of Ethiopia's longtime principle when it comes to Nile utilization.

Ethiopia's courageous and bold leadership has made significant progress over the years in fostering regional collaboration and opening the door for fair and reasonable resource sharing.

From the ratification of the CFA to the signature of the Declaration of Principles, the country has been leading by example to the fair and equitable utilization of the longest river in the world.

In so doing, the country has been vehemently opposed to colonial treaties in the Nile which downstream nations always refer to. Though the Abbay River is a common resource, Sudan and Egypt have been the only countries to benefit from it for a long time. The two countries were declared the exclusive owners of the world's longest river under the patronage of colonial powers, while other riparian states, such as Ethiopia, the river's source and primary contributor, have been living in darkness due to lack of electricity.

Ethiopia's grand dam for those even-minded countries is a textbook example of regional integration for it would connect other nations to the power grid as well. The country was the first to ratify the CFA following the establishment by the Nile Basin riparian countries of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI).

In addition to Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Burundi signed the opened CFA in Entebbe, Uganda in May 2010. The other two countries Kenya and Burundi signed the CFA in their respective countries. The majority of the signatory countries ratified the document by their respective legislatures in the subsequent years. Recently, South Sudan ratified the agreement laying the ground for the enforcement of the agreement. Accordingly, the CFA is now entering into force in 60 days now that the number of countries that ratified has already reached six.

It is obvious that by bringing the agreement to force, the basin countries will know the importance and reap the fruits of cooperation aligned with their national interest to create a harmonious regional cooperation through a win-win approach.

Enforcing the CFA creates the fundamental idea that every state in the Nile Basin is entitled to use the waters of the Nile inside its borders. The implementation of the CFA would bring about significant changes that Egypt and Sudan cannot afford to ignore or undervalue. It is, therefore, in Egypt and Sudan's best interests to join the CFA and collaborate with the other Nile riparian nations to manage, share, develop, and safeguard the Nile River Basin.

Opinion

Rights to Water and Sanitation

Part I

BY TESHAY ABATE ABEBE

Since water is indispensable to a healthy, dignified and productive life, access to safe drinking water has become a human right. According to UN Water, at the globe, 2.2 billion people lack safely managed drinking water services, while 4.2 billion people lack safely managed sanitation services.

A research made by UNICEF Ethiopia discloses that only 14 % of the rural area and 20% of urban area of the Ethiopian population have got basic sanitation service. This indicates that the right to sanitation is not properly fulfilled in our country. In addition, 7% of urban population and 38% of rural population continues to practice open defecation. Poor hygiene and contamination of the environment in Ethiopia are considered to be the major combustors for the child mortality, illness, under nutrition and stunting. In Ethiopia, unsafe water supply, unsanitary and unhygienic waste disposal are the causes for 60-80 percent of health causes for contaminated diseases like diarrhea.

Further, a research undertaken by Alemu revealed that water in Ethiopia is being polluted by source and non-source pollutants. He pointed out that the Akaki River in Addis Ababa is polluted with heavy metals, and urban agriculture using this river produces different vegetables that include those heavy metals. Then, those heavy metals will be transferred to human being by food chain that means people who eat those vegetables will intake those heavy metals, and they cause health problem of.

The above health problem calls the attention of the relevant bodies particularly the Government to do what is appropriate. At the international level, there are various efforts made by the UN agencies to recognize the right to water and sanitation as human rights. The efforts include considering the issue at the UN meetings and passing relevant resolutions including the recognition of the right as human right.

The right to drinking water is defined as the right of everyone, without discrimination, to have access to acceptable, physically accessible and affordable, safe and sufficient water for personal and domestic use. Both right to water and sanitation are components of the right to an adequate standard of living. The right to drinking water emanates from the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and

Cultural Rights, specifically articles 11 and 12 which provide for adequate standard of living and the highest attainable standard of health.

According to Article 21 of UNDROP, the rights to water and sanitation is defined as the "human rights to safe and clean drinking water and to sanitation, which are essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights and human dignity. These rights include water supply systems and sanitation facilities that are of good quality, affordable and physically accessible, and nondiscriminatory and acceptable in cultural and gender terms."

This definition recognizes it as human right, which indicates that the right to water and sanitation is one of the components of human rights. Those couples of rights are considered as indispensable for the enjoyment of life and all human rights as well as human dignity. Regardless of the fact that the right to water and sanitation is crucial for life, there are many instances whereby the water is polluted by the activities of human being. Water could be contaminated and not to be safe for drinking, and there are instances by which waterborne diseases are caused by the contaminated water and the state should ensure its quality.

What is more, the state is duty-bound to fulfill sufficient amount of water necessary for personal, domestic, and productive use. The state must also fulfill non-discriminatory access to drinking water and sanitation, particularly for disadvantaged and marginalized groups like nomadic pastoralists, plantation workers, migrants, and persons living in informal settlements. Physical and economic accessibility to water and facilities for productive works, protection of water resources from pollution and overuse are paramount. Further, the state must ensure the protection of customary water rights of people from interferences by third parties, employing water management and respect the priorities for the domestic, small-scale food production, ecosystem needs and the cultural use.

Water is the heart of ecosystem, and therefore, the state must protect and ensure the conservation of water resources, such as the surface water, the generation of watersheds, aquifers, wet lands, ponds, and lakes.

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Business & Economy



Banking system in Ethiopia is showing remarkable progress

Vital role of liberalizing financial sector to accelerate economic progress

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

In recent years, the banking and financial sector has emerged as a key priority for the Ethiopian government as it seeks to drive economic growth and development across the country. As the second most populous nation in Africa, with a burgeoning middle class and ambitious plans for industrialization, Ethiopia recognizes the crucial importance of a robust, well-functioning financial system.

Over the past decade, the government has implemented a series of reforms and initiatives aimed at strengthening the banking and finance industry. This includes measures to enhance access to financial services, improve regulatory oversight, and encourage the entry of new domestic and foreign players into the market.

According to financial empirics in Ethiopia, one of the cornerstone achievements has been the expansion of branch networks and service offerings by state-owned banks. These larger public financial institutions have made concerted efforts to reach underserved rural and urban populations, providing basic banking, credit and savings products to communities that were previously cut off from the formal financial system.

Complementing this, the government has also actively promoted the growth of private commercial banks, microfinance institutions and other non-bank financial entities. This diversification of the financial landscape has increased competition, driving innovation and better service delivery for consumers.

Moreover, the National Bank of Ethiopia has strengthened its regulatory and supervisory capacities. It has introduced measures to maintain the stability of the financial system, manage foreign exchange risks and protect the interests of depositors and borrowers.

Looking ahead, the government has outlined ambitious plans to transform Ethiopia into a regional financial hub. This includes proposals to establish an international financial center in the capital Addis Ababa, attract more foreign direct investment into the banking and insurance sectors, and leverage financial technology (fintech) solutions to drive financial inclusion.

Crucially, the prioritization of the financial sector aligns with Ethiopia's broader economic development strategies. Access to affordable credit, secure savings mechanisms and efficient payment systems are seen as essential for stimulating private enterprise, boosting agricultural productivity, and funding critical infrastructure projects.

Further documents in the financial reform tell that as Ethiopia continues its march towards middle-income status, the banking and finance industry will undoubtedly play an integral role in unleashing the country's full economic potential. The government's unwavering commitment to strengthen this vital sector signals its recognition of finance as a key enabler of sustainable and inclusive growth.

In recent years, after the breakneck reform about six years before, the Ethiopian government has been taking steps to open up its financial sector to foreign banks. This is part of a broader economic reform agenda aimed at modernizing the country's financial system and attracting more foreign investment.

In 2020, Ethiopia passed a new banking law that lifted the previous restrictions on foreign bank participation. Under the new law, foreign banks are now allowed to establish subsidiaries or joint ventures with local banks in Ethiopia. This represents a significant change, as previously only domestic banks were permitted to operate in the country's banking industry.

Since the new law was enacted, several major international banks have expressed interest in entering the Ethiopian market. Some of the banks that have announced plans to set up operations in Ethiopia include Kenya's Equity Bank, Nigeria's United Bank for Africa, and South Africa's Standard Bank. These banks see Ethiopia as an attractive market given its large, growing population and the under-penetration of formal financial services.

National Bank of Ethiopia has been actively working with these foreign banks to facilitate their market entry. This includes providing guidance on licensing requirements, capital adequacy rules, and other regulatory procedures. The bank is aiming to create a more level playing field and promote

competition in the banking sector.

At the same time, the government is also taking steps to strengthen the capacity of local Ethiopian banks. This includes measures to improve their technological capabilities, risk management practices, and ability to offer a wider range of financial products and services.

At this stage, the process of foreign banks establishing operations in Ethiopia is still underway. It will likely take some time for them to fully set up their local presences and begin competing with the incumbent domestic banks. However, the overall direction of policy is clearly towards greater openness and integration with the global financial system.

The activities being underway to allow foreign banks engage in the finance sector in Ethiopia will help to further promote foreign direct investment (FDI) and international trade, a Senior Economic Researcher at the Policy Research Institute, Berhanu Alemu (PhD) remarked.

In his response to the questions raised by the members of the House of Peoples Representatives on the 36th Regular Session, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) said that the number of banks which were only 17 over the past years have now grown to 32.

Compared to the previous years, the profit generated by local banks has grown by 24% and the government is making preliminary preparations to facilitate the entry of foreign banks into the economic system of the country, the Premier added.

The Prime Minister also called upon local banks in the country to strengthen and modernize their operation systems by utilizing new technologies and deploying skilled professionals to enhance their competitiveness and expand their services accordingly.

Brehanu, on his part told ENA that areas of operations that were disallowed for foreign investors in the past have now been opened for them during the last several reformative years.

Foreign and local investors are now encouraged to promote foreign direct

investments in line with the Ten Years Perspective Plan of the country which has focused on strengthening the role of the private sector in the economic development of the country, the researched noted.

Legal and operational measures taken to allow foreign banks to operate in the country will enhance competition among the banks allowing them to grow and expand their services, he added.

He further remarked that the engagement of foreign banks in Ethiopia will help to promote quality and efficient payment services and for attracting more FDI into the country.

The engagement of foreign banks in Ethiopia will also play instrumental role in developing highly skilled manpower and modern technology as well as sustained flow of capital into the country.

The move will also help to advance the sector and further enhance foreign trade transactions, the researcher added.

Brehanu recommended that local banks need to introduce new technologies and systems to help them provide efficient and quality services for their customers.

He stressed the need to provide all the necessary support for local banks and be able to effectively control the operations of prospective foreign banks that will operate in the country.

Restrictions made on the level of loans extended to the government will also be useful to implement monetary and fiscal policies and thereby strengthen the capacity of the National Bank to enable it to conduct monitoring and evaluation services in a more effective manner, he further noted.

The fact that the government was allowed to borrow with no restrictions has resulted in siphoning more money into the economic which in turn exacerbates inflation in the country.

He further remarked that the promised pledge and will of the government for enhancing the economy help the country to stabilize the level of inflation and is equally important to collect public revenue in a more meaningful manner.

Art & Culture

Art conservation in Africa and Ethiopia-realities and prospects

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

Art conservation and restoration, is any attempt to conserve and repair architecture, paintings, drawings, prints, sculptures and objects of the decorative arts. A brief definition of conservation tells us it is a process of cleaning, preserving, and occasionally repairing works of art. The people who are engaged in art conservation are conservators. Another definition of art conservation is, "the process of documenting, stabilizing, and preserving objects. Conservation combines historic research, scientific analysis and material science."

What is the role and necessity of art conservation? Basically art conservation safeguards the longevity of artworks and doing so, it ensures the continuity of culture itself. According to available information on this issue, the past decades have seen a deep and profound evolution in the protection of artworks, something which has given rise to the contemporary profession of the art conservator. And the role of the art conservator is to preserve art so that future generations can continue to enjoy these pieces.

Art conservation in Africa, although not sufficiently developed at present, faces a bright future because of the diversity of artistic tapestry across the continent. According to available information, "Africa's artistic tapestry is as diverse as its people. Africans breathe life into art and craft, with every stroke of the brush or mark of a chisel telling a story of resilience, heritage and boundless imagination."

The top ten African countries best known for their art conservation are, Niger known for its bronze sculptures, textiles and beaded jewelry. Ghana is famous for its Kente cloth, black pottery, and Andinkra symbols. Morocco is renowned for its Zellige tiles, carpets, and metalwork. South Africa is famous for its diverse crafts including beadwork, textiles, and basketry. Kenya is recongnized for its basketry, woodcarvings, and beadwork. Senegal is known for its textiles, jewelry and masks. Ethiopia is renowned for its textiles, metalwork, and coffee ceremony equipment. Rwanda is famous for baskets, pottery and painting. Mali is famous for its earthen architecture, carved doors and jewelry. Zimbabwe is recognized for its sculptures, and beadwork.

Art conservation in Africa is important although the efforts made in this direction by individual African countries are quite limited. Art conservation in Africa is an activity that requires a lot of professionalism and a lot of investment in building museums and similar institutions that would serve this purpose. As a matter of fact, the biggest or most museums for the conservation of African art are not found within the African continent but outside of it.



For instance, the National Museum of African Art is "the only national museum in the United States dedicated to the collection, exhibition, conservation and study of the art of Africa. On exhibit are the finest examples of traditional and contemporary art from the entire continent of Africa." The mission statement of the National Museum of African Art further articulates its mission as being one of, "inspiring conversations about the beauty, power and diversity of Africa's arts art and cultures worldwide."

As we said above, there is no such museum in any African country and this is really a disgrace because African countries should have come up with a common center for art conservation as a place where the identity of the people of Africa could be collected and preserved for eternity. The African union cultural committee and other organizations within and outside Africa should rally their

efforts to come up with something similar to the museum in the one in United States. That would be an important institution for the collection, display and preservation of the legacies of African art.

In this column of *The Ethiopian Herald*, we have often carried articles highlighting the importance of such a unified or central art institution could play the role of unifier of African identity while we suggested at the same times such a centre could be built in one of the African capitals such as Addis Ababa or Cairo or Cape Town in South Africa. It is however never too late for this dream to become true with the concerted efforts of the dispersed conservation groups the national governments in Africa. Such a centre could at the same time become a tourist centre where foreign and African tourist would come to visit the place and contribute to its growth and expansion.

In Ethiopia there is an institution or a program for the conservation of the art of the country. "The mission of the Ethiopian Art Conservation Program is conserving and preserving the Ethiopian art and culture. The project is designed to deliver professional art conservators and restorers through an educative program resulting in the development resulting in the development of human resources in the art and cultural industry."

The Ethiopian Art Conservation Program (EACP) is a bilateral project between Belgium and Ethiopia which has been in place since January of this year. In August 2021 it became an independent organization responsible for providing restoration and conservation education in Ethiopia. Its headquarters are in Antwerp, Belgium, with the goal of establishing an MA university program in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia by 2030. For both the structural build-up of the project and the implementation of the education, EACP calls on Ethiopian professionals.

According to a blog post, "The beauty of art conservation for many conservators is that we strive to play a neutral, yet irreplaceable and universal, role in the world. Preserving the past is a pleasure because it often brings to light knowledge about the history and the creative soul of our ancestors. Through our cultural heritage we not only learn about revolutionary material and technical developments of the past, but we also gain insight into how our own visual culture will age in the distant future. Using our preserved heritage to look back can provide a new interpretation of both cultural issues and traceable evidence of our society's identity. It is precisely this search for identity that forms the founding principles of the Ethiopian Art Conservation Program."

The article on the blog post by an expert of art conservation in Ethiopia further states that, It stands above all else that Ethiopia is a crossroads of history, art and culture. It is therefore not surprising that the amount of protected tangible and intangible Ethiopian

patrimony dominates on the lists compiled by global institutions such as UNESCO.

"This documentation has resulted in significant foreign involvement with numerous research and international conservation institutes which are active at various sites in Ethiopia. There are a variety of projects including everything from excavation sites to well-organized conservation campaigns on historical Ethiopian artifacts inside the country as well as those located in institutions and museums worldwide. Not only have these projects increased the international knowledge of Ethiopian history, they have also stimulated tourist activities throughout the country. In fact, cultural tourism has grown to the point of becoming the number one source of income for local Ethiopian professionals."

Dealing with the nature of Ethiopian art, the same article says that, "Not only does Ethiopia have an unparalleled wealth of historical sites that are part of humanity's anthropological history, but the overwhelming amount of on-going art and cultural experiences is impossible to map. Ethiopian art is inextricably linked to daily and ceremonial life. From childhood one comes into contact with centuries-old traditions which carry liturgical and philosophical meanings. The traditions are recorded in everything, from art objects to utensils and in educational and decorative depictions."

Several reports from visitors to the churches of Lalibela give evidence of these circumstances, and a similar trend of invasive international interventions is also emerging in central and southern Ethiopia. As a result, preservation decisions for Ethiopian heritage are often based on incorrect or incomplete interpretations made by international conservators, decisions which often lead to drastic results.

According to other professionals in art conservation, one of the basic weaknesses of the program in Ethiopia is that there is no active grassroots participation in preservation activities. The above-quoted article also states that, "Although a vast knowledge of intangible and tangible heritage is widely represented in the local population—and often constitutes the subject itself—this population is never invited to participate in the decision-making process for conservation and restoration campaigns."

The other challenge might be the need to own the art conservation activities and programs in Ethiopia by training young professionals in order to allow them take over the management of art preservation. This process can be supported by foreign organizations through technical cooperation, training of manpower and even financial support. Government bodies involved in arts, culture, tourism and similar endeavors are expected to play a leading role in such an initiative of national importance.

Science & Technology

Digital economy:

Untapped, promising opportunity for new graduates

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

Are new graduates ready to make a difference? The digital era generation is expected to properly use and monetize digital technology. The era of digital technology is basically changing the way of doing business and transforming business activities. It opens a golden opportunity for startup businesses as it helps to penetrate the market and promote businesses easily. In addition, digital technology opens golden opportunity for the youth to join the business world by exploiting the untapped potential of the digital sector. As a new and growing industry, the digital sector opens equal opportunity both for newcomers to the business world and to the existing ones.

By its nature, the digital industry demands educated people. The youth generation has a comparative advantage in exploiting the untapped potential of the digital economy. Especially in developing countries like Ethiopia, the sector with huge potential is in its initial phase. Despite rapid growth during the past five years, the digital sector is still untouched. Youths, especially graduates of higher educational institutions, can easily penetrate the digital sector to create businesses using their knowledge with limited capital.

The digital era opens an opportunity to easily change ideas into businesses. The digital sector presents a significant opportunity for the new generation in various ways. Exploiting the rapidly growing opportunity of the growing industry is in the hands of the current generation, especially in the developing world. The new generation has the comparative advantage of easily penetrating the industry and exploiting the untapped business areas in the sector.

Ethiopia with over 100 million populations and a fast-growing economy places due focus on the development of digital technology. The country promotes the development of the digital industry to accelerate its economic development. As a result, the country focuses on developing the digital infrastructure which opens equal opportunities for newcomers and existing business activities. Knowledge-based business ideas by the younger generation especially graduates of higher educational institutions can easily penetrate the industry.

Wasting time to find jobs and waiting to be recruited is not profitable for the current generation. In the digital era, it has become easy to do business using your knowledge and skills. The development of the technology sector in general and digital technology in particular brings new opportunities for the younger generation. And the technological development opens comparative advantage for educated young.

Understanding the development of digital technology is important to exploit the opportunities of the sector. Graduating students have to look into the burgeoning sector. Leveraging the opportunities of



the growing digital economy, graduates of higher education institutions in groups or individually can easily start businesses and professional online services with limited capital. Using their knowledge and experiences, graduates of higher education institutions can significantly benefit from the growing digital sector and contribute to the growing digital economy, positioning themselves as key players in the country's economic development endeavors instead of wasting time and resources to find jobs.

June and July are graduation months in Ethiopia where tens of thousands of students are graduating from different Higher Education Institutions across Ethiopia. These Tens of thousands, of graduating students from different institutions in different fields of studies are joining the market with diversified knowledge, skills, and wisdom. This fresh energetic trained and skilled human resource is a blessing for the economy of the country, recruiters, and the family's recruiters as well.

Instead of wasting their energy, knowledge, and skills to develop businesses and companies of existing investors, the current generation has to use the knowledge, skill, and energy to create new and competitive businesses, innovations and companies using the current technological developments including AI, digital technology and other emerging technological developments. Emerging technologies are coming with new opportunities, new potentials, and new advantages, especially for the new generation. The new generation in the developing world has the comparative advantage of using these emerging technologies.

Speaking during the graduation ceremony of Debre Birhan University 2024 batch, State Minister of the Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MinT), Yeshurun Alemayehu (PhD) calls new graduates to stamp their fingerprint in Ethiopia's digital economy journey. Yeshurun stated that graduating students are entering to a new chapter of their lives calling the graduates to contribute their share to the development of Ethiopia's digital economy endeavors.

Mentioning Ethiopia's efforts to develop

Digital economy fosters a startup and innovation culture where graduates can innovate and create their own tech companies, contributing to job creation and economic growth

the role of digital technology in economic development, Yeshurun stated that Ethiopia is creating a conducive ecosystem for the development of the digital industry. Especially the Digital Ethiopia 2025 Strategy is transforming the digital sector in Ethiopia and accelerating the role of the digital sector in the economic development of the country. As the sector demands skilled, well-trained, and equipped human resources, Yeshurun calls on graduates of higher education institutions to play their role for the development of the digital sector in Ethiopia.

Yeshurun stated that graduating from higher education means "starting a new chapter in your life." As to him "Graduating from higher education institutions is a transition to another chapter of your life, not the end of the journey. Hence, you have to be ready for the new world order" Yeshurun said. As

to him, using the knowledge and skills the graduates have developed during their stay in higher education institutions, they have to play their contribution in the development of Ethiopia's digital economy journey.

The growing demand in software development, IT support, developing new applications, cyber security, data analysis, development of digital payments, digitalizing traditional businesses, and innovating new businesses using emerging technological developments are among the areas where the new generation has comparative advantages. In addition, remote and part-time work, online services, and other merging activities are allowing graduates to work for international companies without leaving their country.

Similarly, the digital economy fosters a startup and innovation culture where graduates can innovate and create their own tech companies, contributing to job creation and economic growth. E-commerce, digital services, content creation, networking, and collaboration also provide opportunities for graduates to make businesses. Monetizing social media, exploiting e-commerce to start online businesses, and offering digital services like web design, app development, and content development are among the available businesses in addition to using the digital industry to promote business activities that are non-digital businesses.

Attending Addis Ababa University's 2024 graduation ceremony, Education Minister Berhanu Nega (Professor) stated that education brings a positive change in the world. He stated that education helps people to overcome existing challenges adding education is the base to elevate our country in technology, science, health, and other social sectors. Mentioned the interconnected and systemic crisis of the new world order, Professor Birhanu calls on the new generation to give due focus to quality education to compute internationally.

Professor Birhanu calls the graduates and the youth in general to exploit emerging technologies like AI for economic development before they become threats for developing countries like Ethiopia.

Society

African women resistance to challenges in the path of political leadership

BY MEKDES TAYE (PHD)

Though the dominant countries of Africa had been under severing European colonization, the continent is rapidly transforming in certain spheres. Skilled and equipped generation is progressively climbing the ladder to development and modernization. In this reform, the continent's inclination to its own knowledge that clearly considers its socio-cultural reality had played a greater role, as sources showed. Approaches and arguments which were forwarded from outside of it are becoming non-relevant in the study of several issues. In the examination of gender based treatments too perspectives that disguise the real background of Africa are continuously theorized by African scholars.

African feminism had posited perspectives that are used to form and argue women issues scientifically. As patriarchy is the cumulative threat of all countries of Africa, philosophers show way outs of it in their works. Till these days, African feminists believe in peaceful association between males and females for mutual harmony. For this destiny, they argued that a woman needed to be smart and active in her approach to her men around.

The idea of resistance has been raised in the theory of Nego Feminism. The founder of the theory advised African females to be very strategic in building their self-agency which could strengthen their resistance. The implication of the word in this article is the potential of the female to say 'no' to a certain gender based treatment. This is the logic to be stepped up for achieving a certain goal. With this ide, let's see how African women politicians resist challenges in their work to leadership.

The former Liberian President Ellen Johnson was once asked about the contests that she had faced in her political journey. Here is her reply. "When I ran for presidency in 1997, I was just leaving UNDP as a head of the Africa bureau and so I used all my passion for that and I was exhausted to be able to support a campaign. But it was still very difficult for me and so I was not seen as one that was well equipped to run. So I could not get all over the country because of the lack of resources. So I lost. In 2005, I did win. The local forces, those who wanted to see change in the country, particularly women, put their own resources together as meager as they were. But it all came together in a much professional women market, women student organizations. They all supported our effort and we were able to win."

In this narration of Ellen, the problems related to finance were blocking her move to leadership. But the woman resisted first her psychological state and secondly the effects of being out of any resources for her campaign. Thirdly, I believe, she showed a good performance so that she got the support of these associations to her group.

The other former president is Joyce Banda from Malawi. The intimidations that she raised at different stages and interviews



are related to patriarchy. "We operate on a very hostile platform. Up until now men feel political leadership is their domain. So, you are breaking into an area where you shouldn't go. So, they will do everything and anything possible to make sure that you get discouraged. But I never gave up." As it was mentioned in the previous articles, this woman had made lots of tangible impacts in Malawi. She sticks on her goal rather than being disappointed by those attempts which originated from patriarchal beliefs.

The first woman in Uganda's parliament, Rebecca Kadaga also mentioned the impact of patriarchy on her path to politics. "We are living in a patriarchal society where men think that they should be in every job. And they treat you like imposters and sometimes want to make it difficult for you to do your work. So you really have to be extra good."

The impact of patriarchy is not only reflected and exercised by males. It is exceedingly exhibited by females. Females' attitude and expectation is abused by the patriarchal belief so that they react in that line. This reaction which is specially applied by females on females, I believe, is too demoralizing. I said this because who could understand and support women more than women? For me, I can have a moral to expect better treatment from men before women. Women know the pain since they are women too. This woman did resist her subordination by her sisters by applying an extra effort. She exerts supper power to pass over that trail.

Some years ago UN women was examining some African women leaders to have a voice on the challenges that they have been through; therefore, fellow women leaders can draw lesson. Naomi Shabon is a member of parliament of Nigeria who confessed what things she was passing in the track of politics. "The opposite party members poured petrol around my home. They pelted my mother with stones. They took my three year old son. They wanted to put him in a pit-latrine. They beat up our house girl who tried to protect my

son. But, here I am today, including my first time." This woman has paid a greater price. They approached her with her beloved once. But she was very strong and goal oriented. She never leaves her path. She faces all and keeps moving in the leadership.

The other woman who is a member in the parliament of Nigeria and portrayed a shining resistance in the track of politics is Millie Odhiambo. "In politics, as women we need to learn many things. One day I was attacked in the parliament. The men beat me up and undressed me. Then, they went out and told people as I undressed myself. If I was bothered about it, I would never revive again. But you must also learn, which is I think one of my greatest assets is the ability to poke fun at myself all that requires a very healthy ego." This woman is personally exalted with positive attitudes of herself. People were reproaching and attacking her physically. Beyond that they were attempting to cause her emotional and psychological damage by fabricating things. But she was too strong to pass these challenges. As she said it she was making fun out of it and she passed it smoothly.

Martha Karua who was a presidential candidate was also raising the cruelty of patriarchal custom in her movement. "I was confronted by patriarchy. People were saying to me "go and get married as a woman. Go get a husband first." They were saying this after they learnt that the woman was divorced. This was too irritating for a woman. But this politician was sturdy. She never got nervous. "I was calmly asking them 'have you ever asked all the males who have been representing you since independence who their wives are? ...why should it matter to me?'" She built herself well so that she never blown away by the wind. She outsmarted them- left them to stay in shame and even to get lessons from their beliefs. This iron woman made the best contribution to society by letting them a bitter pill to swallow. I said this since she was facing the challenge from the social attitude.

Let me add one more woman's experience. This woman is Rachel Shebesh, a Kenyan. She is CS Minister of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs. I found her experience very practical in the Ethiopian context. "There is a special place in hell for a woman who fights other women. So, when you are a woman leader, if you have a problem with women, keep quiet.

If you cannot support her if you think what she has done is wrong just keep quiet. But when women are used to fighting other women, what we call PhD put her down; that to me becomes the reason why I cannot understand how far we will ever go. And we are moving on and for me one of the primary things for women leadership is being committed in supporting other women and women leaders do not pull her sister down." Such a woman's pressure on another woman has a greater impact on the psychological and social wellbeing of the woman. Though there are justifications on the psycho make up of a given individual, such rivalries between the two sexes, I believe, could worsen the complexity of patriarchy in the society. For this say, the underlining gist of African feminism which primarily aimed at the necessity of woman sympathy or selflessness is the ground. To assure the equal inclusion of women with men in any leadership, women cooperation and responsibility for other women is very relevant at least till the combat of patriarchy.

The conclusion is when women came to a certain leadership in Africa; it is inevitable that they had conceded through thorny paths. These dare need to be voiced by them for alerting the coming female leaders. Lessons could be taken so that mistakes could not be repeated. The updated and informed generation could get ready to face extra challenges.

Ethiopian women who have stepped up into politics have a lot to share for fellow women leaders. Some notable leaders' experiences could be visited by the next article.



This is Ethiopia

Gorgora Eco Resort:

Additional destination that spices Ethiopia's tourism industry up

BY MENGESTEAB TESHOME

Ethiopia has been working to diversify its economy in accordance with its potential and advance its economy. Shifting away from a single income source that is agriculture toward diversified sources, such as manufacturing, construction and tourism sectors, it has been striving to establish more resilient and dynamic economies capable of fostering sustainable growth, creating jobs for citizens, stimulating its economy and ensuring sustainable economic growth.

As a result, since recent times, the country has made remarkable progress in diversifying its economy and tourism is one of the sectors that the government eyes to generate foreign currency and contribute considerably to the country's economy, in this regard. As a result, a number of renovation and construction activities are ongoing across the country.

Particularly through the Dine for Sheger, Dine for Nation and Dine for Generation initiatives launched by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed to develop the existing and new tourist destinations throughout the country and promote tourism, remarkable achievements are seen.

Recently, the Gorgora Eco Resort, located in Gondar, Amhara State on the shores of Lake Tana; and developed under the "Dine for Nation" was inaugurated in the presence of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. The first phase of the project was launched by the Premier in March 2021.

When PM Abiy Ahmed first launched the plan to reconstruct Gorgora Resort, the renowned

When Prime Minister Abiy first launched the 'Dine for the Nation' project to refurbish and construct Gorgora, Wenchi and Koysa tourist sites, Prof. AlemayehuGebremariam (Al Mariam), had written about the breathtaking and magnificent panorama of Gorgora Resort, saying: "there is no place in Africa that represents the ultimate expression of ecotourism like Gorgora Resort,

Prof. Al said: "I have visited Gorgora and Gorgora Resort many times and followed the resort's construction from the very beginning. Gorgora is a small village/town set on a peninsula (a piece of land projecting into a body of water) on the north shore of Lake Tana, Mother of Abai (a/k/a Nile) River in the Amhara State of Ethiopia. It is barely an hour's drive south from the historic city of Gondar and a pleasant boat trip on Lake Tana from the port of Bahir Dar."

Gorgora preceded the founding of Gondar and was one of Ethiopia's earliest capitals during the reigns of Emperor Susenyos I and his son Fasilides, the founder of Gondar, in the 17th century. "During one of my visits, I was told Gorgora was named in honor of Gregory the illuminator, founder and first



Partial view of the newly inaugurated resort, Gorgora Eco Resort

official head of the Armenian Apostolic Church."

As to him, Gorgora is the ideal ecotourism destination. Old-style tourism is about going to a destination, having fun and going back home. Ecotourism is about visiting natural areas to interact and learn about the culture and traditions of local people and communities, enjoying the natural flora and fauna of the area, helping conserve the environment and empowering and improving the lives of the local people. Gorgora Resort sits on an elevated rocky promontory (cliff-type) with a breathtaking and spectacular view of Lake Tana and several inhabited islands. It is a resort ready to provide visitors amenities and personal services available at any world-class 5-Star hotel.

However, Gorgora, to him, is more than a luxurious vacation spot. It is a place of special spiritual experience. Watching the sunrise over Lake Tana from Gorgora hill is an uplifting experience. Tana changes its color from copper tan to blue to green and everything in between depending on the season and position of the sun. There are unique species of fauna and flora to behold. It is a haven for birdwatching and fishing. And the weather, ahh! It is perfect (for me):

Averaging around 74F (23C) daytime.

Visiting the magnificent ancient monasteries and churches in the vicinity of Gorgora and being blessed by the monks and priests has been my most memorable experience. By watching and interacting with those monks, I have learned unforgettable lessons in humility. So much can be learned from those who have totally and completely committed their lives to the service of the Creator.

And the GorgoraEko Resort that Prof. Alemayehu called it "The Great Star in the Ethiopian crown jewels of ecotourism destinations; and compelled him to put pen to paper and share his unforgettable experience about the site was inaugurated last week.

Speaking in relation to the inauguration of the Resort, Foreign Affairs Minister, TayeAtske Selassie for his part described the Gorgora Eco Resort as a wonderful work of harmony between history, nature and human wisdom commending the idea inceptors and those who made it possible.

Deputy Prime Minister TemesgenTiruneh also said that the Gorgora Eco Resort, built in Amhara State is a timeless national treasure with great potential for the tourism sector.

Ethiopia has unique tourism attractions that have never been adequately exploited due to lack of infrastructure. However, the ongoing extensive efforts to address the limitations and foster the development of the sector will have tremendous benefits for the surrounding community and the country at large.

As to him, the ongoing endeavors made to advance the tourism sector and the achievements gained so far through the mobilization of the public portray the government's commitment to develop tourism destinations, make it more attractive convenient for both local and foreign tourists; and by doing so gain better from the sector.

Several tourism projects have now been under completion, the Deputy Prime Minister said, citing the newly inaugurated Gorgora Eco Resort which had been isolated for centuries from development.

Tourism Minister Amb. NasiseChali on her part said that tourism development projects being implemented across the country have been able to showcase the country's hidden attractions

As to the Minister, the ongoing tourism development initiatives including the Gorgora Eco Resort are instrumental to advance the tourism sector and elevate the country's competitiveness in the industry.

Amb.Nasise invited tourists both from abroad and within Ethiopia to visit this mesmerizing natural beauty.

The Gorgora Project includes luxury resorts, recreational centers, and eco-friendly accommodations designed to appeal to both local and international tourists.

Gorgora
preceded the founding
of Gondar and was one
of Ethiopia's earliest
capitals during the
reigns of Emperor
Susenyos I and his son
Fasilides, the founder
of Gondar, in the 17th
century