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Amb. Agostino Palese

Italy affirms greater engagement in Ethiopia's mega dams

- Hails Salini's role in cementing Ethio-Italy ties

BY DESTA GEBEREHIWOT

ADDIS ABABA— Italian Ambassador to Ethiopia pledged his country's increased engagement in Ethiopia's hydropower developments while hailing Salini's years of contribution to Ethio-Italy ties.

Ambassador Agostino Palese's comments came following the death of Simonpietro Salini, an Italian Architect and Engineer who led Italian construction company Salini Impreglio (now Webuild) from the 1960s.

Simonpietro took over the running of the business from his father Pietro, who founded the renowned construction company in 1936.

The company has been in charge of the civil works of the Grand Abbay dam, took part in various dam projects.

While mourning the loss of Simnptroine, the ambassador said that Italy is committed to elevating ties with Ethiopia in green and clean energy development.

"I would like to guarantee that the engagement

See Italy affirms greater... Page 3

Commission intensifies support for landslide survivors, displaced persons

- Supplies 520 quintals of food items

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA – Following the devastating landslide that claimed many lives in the Gofa Zone of South Ethiopia State, the Ethiopian Disaster Risk

See Commission ... Page 3

Ethiopian MRO to develop ATR maintenance

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopian MRO and ATR announced yesterday the signature of a Letter of Intent aimed at developing Ethiopian MRO's ATR aircraft maintenance and training capabilities.

It was learnt that Ethiopian MRO is Ethiopian Airlines Group's world-class maintenance and training provider while ATR is the world's number one regional aircraft manufacturer.

The agreement was signed at Farnborough International Air Show 2024, Farnborough, England.

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Photo: Ashenafi Gudeta

New initiative encompasses multilateral purposes: Senior Officials

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Hawassa foresees corridor dev't increasing tourist influx

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – Hawassa city is expecting an increased tourist inflow on the heels of the completion of recently launched corridor development works, Mayor Mekuria Mereshaye said.

Mayor Mekuria Mereshaye told The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the corridor development, which has recently been launched in the Hawassa city of Sidama State would build the good image of the city and revamp the tourism sector.

The project includes the construction of roads, bike lanes and walkways in a way that considers the needs of persons with disabilities, according to him.

As to Mekuria, it would also bring additional beauty to the city thereby increasing tourist inflow.

“The corridor development was started to expand infrastructures and promote areas at the center of the city. It incorporates the development of 10 highways having 34.5 kilometers distance,” the mayor noted.

Apart from promoting road development, public toilets and fountains have got priority under the project to protect the cleanliness of the environment, he indicated.

The road infrastructure is being developed



along the Haile Resort, Membo Cafe, Hawassa Referral Hospital, Hawassa University to Black Water Entrance.

“The 1st phase of the corridor development demands three to four months to be finalized, and research is being conducted

to commence similar activity during the 2nd phase. The activity requires 2 billion Birr capital to make it real. Hence, a total of 3 billion Birr is required and public participation and institutions contribution is highly expected to well develop the

area.”

Moreover, residents are assisting the corridor development activities with knowledge, finance, and morale support. The corridor development is one of the huge projects of the town administration.

Hospital provides cancer treatment to 16,600 patients

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - Saint Paul Hospital Millennium Medical College Cancer Treatment Center said it has provided over 16,000 patients with cancer treatment during the just ended Ethiopian fiscal year.

Approached by the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) Saint Paul Hospital Millennium Medical College Cancer Treatment Center Head and Cancer Specialist Mohammed Ibrahim (MD) said that the center provided cancer treatment to some 16,600 patients over the just ended Ethiopian fiscal year. Of the patients, 15,000 were outpatients and the remaining inpatient ones.

Talking about the construction of cancer complex, he noted that the completion of the complex would highly contribute a lot towards overcoming sector barriers. Currently, it has been providing treatment services with 20 beds for inpatients and three rooms for outpatients. It has been focusing on finalizing the construction of complex to fill gaps, he said.

“Lack of treatment space, shortage of radiotherapy equipment and inpatients treatment beds as well as lack of different machine in the center are



Mohammed Ibrahim (MD)

among the challenges. It needs some 120 chemo machines as per World Health Organization’s standard and it also requires one cancer chemo machine for one million people,” he added.

Hence, to make this real, it demands the involvement of private sector, he underscored.

Furthermore, the most of the patients who come to center are breast cancer patients. In the future, it has planned to provide better and technologically supported services in collaboration with other health institutions, it was learnt.

Town licenses 216 investors with over 30 bln Birr

- Working on becoming investment hub

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – Debre Birhan Industry and Investment Department has provided over 216 investors who registered over 30 Billion Birr capital with investment licenses during the just ended fiscal year.

Debre Birhan Industry and Investment Department Head, Birhan Gebrehiwot told The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the department has licensed 216 investors who registered 30 Billion Birr capital whilst some 22 industries have gone fully operational.

As to the Head, during the just ended period, the town planned to provide investment license for 200 investors who have a capital of 26 Billion Birr. However, some 216 investors who recorded 30 Billion Birr have gained investment license, which is remarkable outcome in the sectors compared with what was planned.

He added that the license is given for manufacturing, service, Real Estate, and other related sectors and has a potential to create over 46,000 jobs when they put in to full operation. In this regard, more than 15,000 jobs were created during the stated period.

Similarly, some 22 industries were engaged in manufacturing and created jobs for 5,400 citizens during the aforesaid period. Following reform, over 35,000 jobs created



Photo: Eyob Teferi

Birhan Gebrehiwot

merely in investment sector, he cited.

Furthermore, Debre Birhan has over 780 domestic and foreign investors who registered a total of over 120 Billion Birr capital. They have potential to create 100,000 plus jobs when they go operational. Of 780 investors listed above, 80% of them are operating in manufacturing industry, Birhan added.

“Five industries have been producing goods and saved over 80 million USD. In a similar manner, six industries which are filling the national market needs have secured a revenue over 60 million USD by exporting products,” he said.

Birhan also expressed that various activities are being carried out to realize Debre Birhan’s vision to be investment hub. Besides, researches were conducted on 74 sectors to identify the potential of the town whilst providing proficient leaders, experts, and promotion activities in various areas.

Awash Bank reports 11.6 bln Birr profit

- Collects 1.5 bln USD

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - Awash Bank has reported 11.6 billion Birr profit before depreciation and provision for the 2023/24 financial year.

Briefing media, Awash Bank CEO Tsehay Shiferaw said that the bank has managed 232 billion Birr deposit in the 2023/24 financial year noticing 45.1 billion Birr increment compared to the same period of the previous year.

It also collected 3.3 billion Birr via interest free banking as interest free banking service sector total deposit has reached 19 billion Birr, he stated.

The bank has recorded a 27% increase in deposits from the previous year registering 36.4 billion Birr total revenue, he said, adding that it has amassed 11.6 billion Birr profit before depreciation and provision.

Accordingly, Tsehay, expressed that the bank's total asset grew by 60.3 billion Birr or 25%.

In the realm of foreign exchange, Awash Bank earned 1.5 billion USD marking an increase of 26.8 million USD, he emphasized.

According to the CEO, as part of modernizing banking services, the bank has now operates 1220 ATMs and 2373 POS.

Furthermore, the bank disbursed a total of over 37.6 billion Birr new loans across various sectors of economy, which reaches the total amount of loans issued by the bank 183 billion Birr, he expressed.

As to Tsehay, the loans given to small and medium enterprises reached 5.2 billion Birr during the stated period.

Its total assets also reached to over 300 billion Birr. Its paid-up capital saw to 20.3 billion Birr for the 2023/24 financial year, he added.

In the aforementioned period, the bank also opened 74 new branches reaching the total number of branches to 947, while opening 10 special digital branches in Addis Ababa and other towns, he noted.

And the bank also registered two million new customers so that the total number of customers reached 12.4 million, he stated.

The bank is playing a leading role in country's private banking industry withstanding local and global challenges, according to the CEO.

New initiative encompasses multilateral purposes: Senior Officials

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- The newly launched "5 Million Ethiopian Coders" initiative would be instrumental to enhance employment opportunities, competitiveness, as well as allow nation to realize its economy goals, so stressed Higher Officials.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) has recently launched the "5 Million Ethiopian Coders" program which is a collaborative digital skills initiative between the governments of Ethiopia and the UAE, designed to empower the next generation of Ethiopians to actively participate in the growing digital economy.

Deliberating on the essentiality of the initiative, Education Minister, Prof. Birhanu Nega stated that the initiative would allow the country to provide practical and standardized digital skills for students besides the formal education.

He said that interest and skill based approach would be applied to engage individuals, and graduate students with ICT skills to take the coding training. Moreover, the coding course is planned to be offered in ICT centers across the country thereby enhancing the number of skilled individuals that could be competitive internationally.

"The competency certificate that would be given afterwards would allow trainers not only to make earning in remote areas but it would also enable

them to compete at the world stage."

Labor and Skills Minister Muferiat Kamil on her part mentioned that the initiative is vital to enter to international market through coding skills in which the nation has already begun performing.

Citing a study, she stressed that coding would be amongst the fields that is projected to be highly demanded career till 2029, which could create ample jobs in the market.

She further mentioned that it could encourage the youth to develop problem solving software that could be sold at international market. As to her, the nation has so far received over 70,000 remote jobs within two months. Similarly, Planning and Development Minister Fistum Assefa said the initiative could be exerted in align with nation development plans.

"Building technological capacity and digital economy is one of the major pillars in the ten years development plan. Digital economy is also priority area depicted in home grown economic reforms."

Thus, she highlighted that the initiative would play invaluable role in realizing development goals as well as expanding capacity to ensure digital economy.

Civil Service Commission Head Mekuria Haile (PhD) indicated that the initiative would play vital role in supporting the effort that is being put towards building modernize civil service. He added that it would also contribute to build modern government administration system.

Ethiopian MRO to develop...

An official press release from ATR confirmed that the cooperation would cover the development of Ethiopian MRO's maintenance capabilities for ATR aircraft types and the establishment of a local spares' stock to reduce response time for ATR operators in the region. It would also explore collaborative ways to train new ATR pilots with the Ethiopian pilot academy.

With its extensive aircraft maintenance and repair capability, an international network for seamless spare parts delivery, multiple hubs across the continent, and an aviation training university, Ethiopian MRO is a key player in the aftermarket and the ideal local partner to cater to the needs of the 36 airlines operating 131 ATR aircraft across Africa and the Middle East, the press note added.

During the signing ceremony, Ethiopian Airlines Group's Chief Executive Officer Mesfin Tasew Bekelesaid: "This partnership aligns with Ethiopian Airlines Group's vision to become a leading aviation reference for the African continent and the Middle East. We aim to share our expertise and benefit the

entire African and Middle Eastern aviation community."

He also said that this collaboration reinforces Ethiopia's positioning as a key hub, and the fact that an established OEM such as ATR approaches Ethiopian to leverage its capabilities for their fleet and operators is a testament to the recognition the airlines have earned."

On her part, ATR's Chief Executive Officer Nathalie Tarnaud Laude said: "Ethiopian MRO's significant investments over the past years to expand their facilities combined with their dedication to developing their capabilities, present a timely opportunity for ATR to provide better support to our African and Middle Eastern operators.

"We are confident this cooperation will help boost regional aviation locally and unlock further potential for growth for ATR. Our operators will benefit from an improved quality of service, lower maintenance costs, reduced downtimes and lower emissions through the support of an experienced partner close to their needs."

Italy affirms greater ...

of Italy and Salini will continue in hydro dam building and energy development despite Simonpietro Salini's loss."

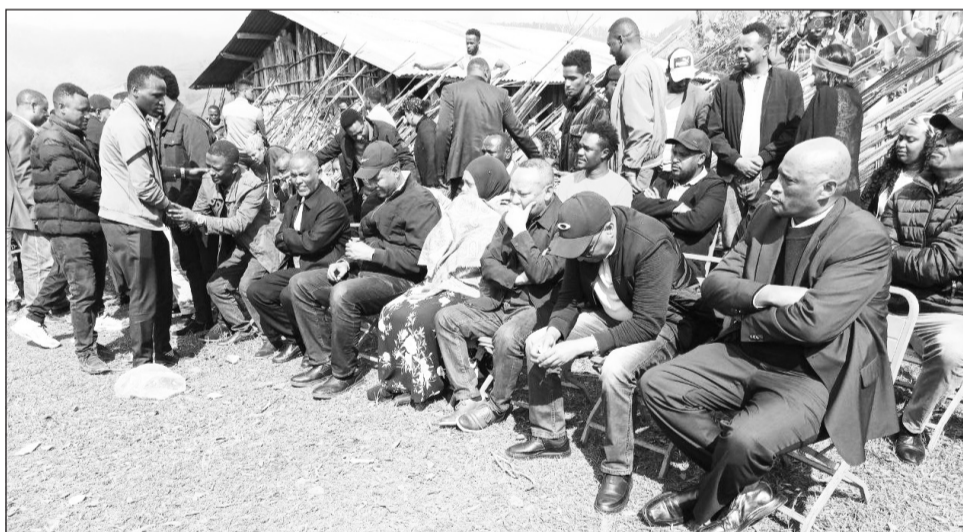
Salini has been a giant company playing a big role in Ethiopian and Italian cooperation, said the ambassador adding that that is why the Prime Minister in his twitter acknowledges the incredible works Salini did in Ethiopia in hydro dams and other infrastructural development describing the late Simonpietro Salini as a good friend of Ethiopia.

The ambassador further noted that Salini, now called 'Webuild', has created massive jobs in Ethiopia and helped technology transfer in the

areas of construction, engineering and other fields.

"We are focused on cementing longstanding and strategic partnership and economic cooperation with Ethiopia. There are various areas of collaborations including green and clean energy development projects. Ethiopia's 90 percent energy is clean and green; we will continue to work in the sphere as well"

Webuild has been engaged in various constructions in Ethiopia since 1957. It has been involved in Gibe II, Gibe III, Koysha and other mega projects.



Commission intensifies support for...

Management Commission (EDRMC) disclosed that it has supplied over 520 quintals of food items.

EDRMC Public Relations and Communication Representative Atalel Abohay told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the commission is exerting its utmost efforts to rescue the survivors and settle the displaced in the area.

Accordingly, the commission has been deploying the assistance team to provide psychological and lifesaving supports through its emergency coordination center at Sawula Town.

He further stated that the commission has supplied about 520 quintals of food and other nonfood items worth over 5.7 million Birr and reached out over 3,000 citizens since this report was incorporated.

Atalel said that over 100 tent kits are dispatched to about 600 people who are displaced by the coincidence.

The federal institution leaders and experts from various sectors are deployed to the area to further strengthen the rescue efforts, he added.

It is also indicated that an online fundraising platform is also installed to support those affected by the landslide.

The landslide, which occurred on Monday in the Kencho Shacha Gozdi vicinity of the Gofa Zone of South Ethiopia State claimed the lives of 229 people, according to reports. More than 400 individuals have also been displaced from their homes and are being provided with basic supplies. Teams of experts have been deployed to assess the situation and implement preventive measures, it was learnt.

Opinion

Domestic arrangements: Prior means for political dispute settlement

BY GETACHEW MINAS

Political dispute settlement in Africa is a very complicated process influenced by domestic and external factors. There is a possibility that such domestic political entities are manipulated and guided by foreign powers. These powers have hidden motives in creating disagreements, divergences and deviations among ethnic, tribal and clans living in the region. Also, political disputes are caused by domestic power mongers in African countries, including Ethiopia. Political disagreements in these countries are complex as they are influenced by the multi-ethnic composition, historical background, circumstance, and context.

Ethiopia, being an independent country for millennia, has been exposed to political manipulations by external and alien powers. These powers have envisaged that divisive ethnic politics would expose the country to the exploitation of its natural resources by alien forces without any obstacle. The political disputes in Ethiopia might be settled by domestic arrangements without the involvement of foreign powers.

Currently, Ethiopia functions under a Federal system in which regional states operate as provided in the Constitution. These states are largely operating based on ethnic lines. This constitutional arrangement has been designed to give autonomy to the different ethnic groups of the country. In case disputes arise among these groups, they are often mediated within the Federal framework.

In this situation, the regional governments have considerable power. They have the authority to collect revenues, to administer the various regional bureaus, to prepare and implement regional development plans and programs in collaboration with the Federal government of Ethiopia. They conduct elections as per the guidance and support of the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) which plays a crucial role in overseeing elections. The Board ensures the fairness and proper conduct of election at Federal and regional levels. It settles election disputes using mechanisms including appeals by political contenders through legal means.

Ethiopia has used dialogues and mediation processes to resolve political conflicts, disagreements and clashes. These may require negotiations facilitated by independent mediators. The National Dialogue Commission established to run the process is working vigorously to conduct national dialogue that includes all sections of the country's people with their respective agenda. Applying the age old dialogues and mediation processes, Ethiopia expects its citizens come to common grand narrative that moves the country forward in peace, security and development.

The commission's effort to engage institutions with the involvement of religious bodies is commendable. This may require the participation of elders, community leaders, and civil society organizations. Community and traditional leaders play an important role in settling disputes, including political conflicts.

These leaders are respected for their experience in solving disputes, clashes and rows among people of the same or different communities. Their acceptance and respect arises from their wisdom in handling the affairs of individuals residing within their residence or community. They have amassed relevant experiences of what happens if minor disputes are not resolved in time. Such disputes would be magnified to a disproportionate level, leading to conflicts between higher levels of social organizations. These minor disputes may cause human rights violations in different parts of the local administrations.

In Ethiopia, various institutions have been created to prevent or settle human rights violations. The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has the goal of monitoring human rights violations and related issues. It has the duty of intervening in political disputes involving human rights violations. Based on a thorough investigation, it makes recommendations on how to settle political, social and other types of disputes. It also conducts dialogue, discourse and exchange of ideas between conflicting political parties and other groups.

Experts have found out that minor and personal conflicts would involve organized political parties. Certain influential persons tend to deliberately confuse personal and political issues within the parties they are members. Some individuals have used party organizations for their personal advancement. The opposite is also true for genuine party apparatchiks whose objective is to serve the public in good faith. They are seriously concerned about respect for basic human rights that are abused.

Apart from local organizations, there are international organizations that often play a great role in resolving political skirmishes. These global institutions gather information on existing political, economic and social situations in countries that are facing internal political problems, including Ethiopia. Based on the information, these institutions try to mediate political disputes. Moreover, they observe the political realities within the country and arrange for consultation between concerned entities. They provide the necessary and pertinent assistance through mediation and pressure on the parties concerned to come to a peaceful resolution.

These global agencies have experiences related to political dispute settlement in different countries. If such a dispute is

not resolved in due time, it might lead to country-wide disputes, clashes, fights and even wars. The major driving force for political disputes is personal ambition by petty leaders who are short-sighted about the impacts of clashes on innocent members of a community.

These people are mostly not given information on what is happening at the community and country levels. They are mainly engaged in economic activities, including farming, small-scale manufacturing and local trading. They may be manipulated by politicians of evil intent who manufacture stories to win their confidence. Petty politicians appeal to these people using local ethnic, tribal and clan attachments and expressions such as language, religion, and fabricated stories that help win their confidence for wrong ends.

Mostly, these persons are political entrepreneurs who want to climb the ladder of success for abusing power, including corruption. They try to amass the wealth of the nation through misuse of authority, which is the ultimate end of their political efforts. They repeatedly refer to the poverty and suppression of local people by the local authorities. They also accuse these authorities for being corrupt and injudicious, imprudent and unwise in the manner they treat the taxpayer that provides for their salary and luxurious life. But, they also commit the same mistakes immediately after winning political power in their place of origin, which leads to political disputes.

The local politicians resort to customary and traditional means of dispute settlement. In many regions of Ethiopia, political disputes and conflicts are resolved through traditional mechanisms which are still in place. Elders and community leaders have considerable and significant roles in mediating disputes, both political and personal. Usually, political disputes arise out of personal ambitions or grievances. A person may aspire to access authority through political means to deal with his/her petty, sometimes irrelevant, grievances, complaints and objections.

At the grassroots level, individuals may take advantage of their political influence through the formal judicial processes. They also use immoral means to achieve success in the service of their personal interests. But, they tend to forget that they will also climb down using the same ladder, a used and dirty one. The unlucky ones may not be able to use it, as they are overthrown. Politicians have, therefore, to serve the electorate in good faith only to address the interests of the people. Where the politicians truly and sincerely serve the people they represent, they primarily settle disputes of any nature, using relevant government agencies.

Various governmental agencies are involved in dispute resolution. These agencies often coordinate several efforts to settle

political conflicts. They also coordinate and implement peace-building initiative at any level within the Ethiopian communities. Also, political parties in the country, both ruling and opposition, have to engage in the process of negotiations to settle disputes. These negotiations may be preceded by consultations among all concerned parties. This may be done through direct talks conducted by third parties that are neutral and independent.

However, this neutrality may be challenged by various political, economic and social factors. Politically, Ethiopia has faced major conflicts, especially in its various regions. These conflicts required reforms for peaceful resolution of disputes. These reforms have been major political changes aimed at opening up the avenues for addressing historical grievances. But, these reforms have also caused major political rivalry, antagonisms and tensions.

Ethiopia has been exposed to global power pressures due to its attractive natural resources. These powers have been conspiring to exploit these resources through creating domestic conflicts and tensions. Conversely, these entities camouflaged and disguised themselves as peace promoters. But, they encourage political and social conflicts in the country. They also pretend to be actively involved in creating pressure for peaceful resolutions through providing humanitarian aid during conflicts. Such aid discouraged the beneficiaries from working and earning income using their labor.

The alien forces also arrange for political dispute settlement in Ethiopia through a multifaceted approach, involving a combination of formal and informal mechanisms. They also engage local Elders and traditional leaders that resolve conflicts at local and higher levels. Currently, instruments of national dialogue and international mediation are conducted to resolve political disputes.

However, the effectiveness and success of these institutions and mechanisms is often challenged by ethnic, tribal and clannish divisions. It is also negatively affected by historical grievances, and political differences. Therefore, dispute settlement in Ethiopia is a complicated process influenced by the social composition, historical factors, and evolving political developments.

What is essential, thus, is Ethiopians from all corners have to work hand in glove for the fulfillment of the national dialogue process. Its success, ensures not only peace and security, but also highly contributes for the prosperity the country is aspiring to come true. The international community, as well, has to contribute its share for the country's journey to be peaceful and developed.

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

Editorial

FfD requires genuine action

The 4th International Conference of the Financing for Development (FfD4) is well underway here in Addis Ababa raising important issues that relate to the very needs of Africa. Stakeholders should seize this opportune moment to come up with viable solutions to help the continent catch up with the rest of the world.

Development is a global agenda of all times. It is a human right as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the respective laws and policies of countries. Development is also an outcome of the joint efforts of nations across the world to see a better world.

One of the most important inputs for development is finance. It is an all-round input that can help address many of the challenges that developing countries like Africa are facing. Africa faces a lot of challenges due to lack of financing for its development. Indeed, Africa is endowed with abundant natural resources and human resources that can support its rapid development.

However, Africa needs to properly harness the exploitation of its resources so that it can support its development needs with its own resources. To achieve this, the continent must make sure that it can harness its resources efficiently which means exploiting them with the least cost and time as well as quality.

This calls for modernizing and expanding its development. For instance, the continent needs to upgrade its agricultural, mining, manufacturing and tourism sectors. Furthermore, it has to build the capacity of its human resource to become more efficient in its utilization of domestic resources. The continent must create more jobs.

All these need appropriate and more financing. Yet, the continent needs to attract finance from outside sources. Also, it has to be backed to wisely and efficiently use resources found at its realm. However, it is a hard fact that the continent loses a huge sum of capital due to problems like illicit trade, tax evasion and failure to collect revenue commensurate with the economic growth.

Africa needs due support to devise and implement appropriate financial policies and technologies so as to diversify its domestic resource mobilization through taxation and capital market among others. Being able to revamp the utilization of domestic resource would help the continent harness more resources from inside and outside with due efficiency.

However, the collaboration of partners so far has not been that adequate to build its capacity and attain sustainable development. The financial and technical aids were mostly focused on addressing temporary problems. As a result, the continent is known to be off the track in keeping pace with the rest of the world in achieving the Sustainable development goals. Furthermore, it still is lingering in difficult situation in terms of development.

Hence, the forum must take the right measures to align its actions with the continent's long term development agenda.

Opinion

What does South Sudan's CFA accession mean for Nile Basin?

BY KIRAM TADESSE

The late Sir William Gerald Golding is often attributed for saying: "he who rides the sea of the Nile must have sails woven of patience." This expression of the English novelist denotes the virtue of patience. Indeed, it's been way more than a decade since the Nile Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) set to sail over the governmental and diplomatic shores of the Nile riparians in its quest to institutionalize a basin wide cooperation instrument. The process of formulation of a CFA to establish a permanent River Basin Commission for the Nile River Basin was initiated by the riparian countries early in 1997 even before the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) set its vision. For nearly three decades the CFA was negotiated and signed by six countries and its ratification has since been a slow ride that requires patience.

Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda made historic development in 2010 by signing the CFA in Entebbe, Uganda, and were subsequently joined by Kenya and Burundi, raising the number of the signatories to six. However, for the Treaty to enter into force it requires accession from six countries, whereby it was ratified by five of them except Kenya. The entering of the Framework into force means bringing consensus based modalities among all riparian countries to decide future development in the Nile Basin by accommodating their rational interests.

Then South Sudan emerged as an independent country in 2011 with great appetite for Nile cooperation, and subsequently joined NBI in 2012. Although it could accede to the instrument, the young country could not sign the CFA because the signing process was closed in 2000. Again ushered by Egypt's rapprochement, South Sudan had been wavering on accession and non-accession to the CFA for a while. Later on the accession of South Sudan rested on the agenda table of its lower house; i.e. the Transitional National Legislative Assembly (TNLA), and come to unanimous approval on 8 July 2024 making the country the sixth signatory. This move could greatly impact the political and security situation in South Sudan as well as the broader hydro-politics and power dynamics in the Nile River Basin.

Understanding CFA

The CFA outlines key principles regarding the use, rights and obligations for cooperative management, protection, conservation and development of the Nile Basin water resources. Although it doesn't

quantify the notion of 'equitable rights' or 'water use allocations,' the Treaty however intends to establish a framework to "promote integrated management, sustainable development, and harmonious utilization of the basin's water resources, as well as their conservation and protection for the benefit of present and future generations".

In broader terms the framework serves as essential water conservation guide for the protection, consumption, conservation and development in accordance with its general principles of cooperation among basin countries on the basis of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, mutual benefit and good faith in order to attain optimal utilization and adequate protection and conservation of the river basin and to promote joint efforts to achieve social and economic development. It also states the importance of sustainable development and subsidiarity, whereby development and protection of the river basin water resources is planned and implemented at the lowest appropriate level.

The framework also entails fundamental issues of equitable and reasonable utilization, prevention of the causing of significant harm to other countries of the basin, while promoting the right of basin countries to use water within their territories in a manner that is consistent with the other basic principles of the framework. Along with the principle that the basin countries take all appropriate measures in protection and conservation of the basin individually and jointly, the framework states that the basin countries exchange data, and information on planned measures through the new Commission to be established. While the environmental impact assessment and audits is crucial the framework notes that water must be managed in an integrated and holistic manner considering its finite and vulnerable character.

In its bid to materialize Nile basin cooperation the framework also states peaceful resolution of disputes in line with the principle of water security for all basin countries. Moreover, the CFA is modeled on the 1997 UN Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses also known as the Watercourses Convention that was endorsed by more than one hundred countries, and has been in force since 2014.

The contention

Egypt and Sudan resisted the CFA mainly due to their longstanding 'historical claim' over the waters of Nile. Their main source

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

Business & Economy

Getting tourism bigger for augmenting economic growth

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Needless to mention, tourism provides numerous benefits to economic progress in various ways as is playing a crucial role in local, continental and global contexts. As well attested from what the tourism sector has been contributing to economic progress, the sector is of paramount importance in bolstering economic growth by generating income and a number of employments for fellow citizens. Ethiopia is working a lot in this regard.

Taking the role of tourism in assisting the economic progress in various ways, *The Ethiopian Herald* conducted a short interview with Alemayehu Balcha, an agricultural economist graduated from Haramaya University, and working as an economic, environmental and agricultural expert.

He said, “Tourism has become the world’s third-largest export industry after fuels and chemicals, and ahead of food and automotive products. The measures Ethiopia has these days been taking are being instrumental in promoting favorable tourism policies to push up the economic growth and in turn economic growth will positively contribute to national, regional, continental and even international tourism.”

For instance, he said the mega projects undertaken at national level under the “Dine for Sheger,” “Dine for the nation,” are attested fruitful in terms of attracting tourists at home and from abroad. Even the very recently initiated project, the Corridor Development, has had triple merits—beautifying the capital as its name bespeaks by changing/modifying the slum scene, attracting tourists from different corners of the nation and from abroad as well as creating a range of job opportunities thereby contributing a lot to the economic growth. Such an appealing experience has to be duplicated to other towns and cities of the nation.

Yes, he further elucidated that the tourism sector is playing an irreplaceable role in introducing Ethiopia’s historical, cultural and catchy spatial textures to the rest of the world. Basically, intensifying tourist destinations in Ethiopia attracts due attention and it has been proved that the tourism sector is playing a range of roles across the nation, among others, expanding investment, change nation’s landscape, creating job opportunities, boosting national image as well as supporting economic growth.

Cognizant of all this fact, the Ethiopian government has been implementing a number of remarkable projects to make nation’s vision a reality. Ethiopia has now been seizing the right direction for growth and real change via properly and effectively employing what it has had a hand—untapped tourism potential.

“Ranging from Entoto park, Unity Park to nationally designed projects like Gorgora Eco Resort, which is part of the ‘Dine for the nation,’ and Koisha, Wonchi and others can be cited as an exemplary steps taken towards attracting many more tourists from all over the globe,” he added.

As to him, the Dine for Ethiopia project, an endeavor spearheaded by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD), encompasses tourism



Halala Kella resort-photo Google

destination projects situated in Gorgora, Wonchi, and Koysa, located in the Amhara, Oromia, and South West Ethiopia regional states, respectively.

By the way, he further elucidated that all the tourist destinations expansion projects do definitely have the potential of creating a number of jobs, contributing their respective share to the effort geared towards changing national image thereby making great contribution to economic advancement, and so do have sectors.

He said, “The projects like Halala Kella Lodge; Chebera Churchura Elephant Paw Lodge and Wonchi Eco Lodge have been recently inaugurated, and started contributing a lot to the economic growth of the country. The ‘Dine for Ethiopia’ initiative has aimed at bolstering tourism, a cornerstone of our national homegrown economic reform program.”

“All the regional and national initiatives stand as symbols of innovative project management and swift completion. Entrusting their operation and management to our national flag carrier, Ethiopian Airlines, promises not only enhanced service but also an avenue for international tourism promotion,” he added.

Since Ethiopia’s unique and mesmerizing tourism attractions have never been adequately tapped due to lack of infrastructures and other related facilities, engagement of the general public in financing the colossal projects like the aforesaid ones has to be well underlined. The ongoing extensive efforts to address the limitations and foster the development of the tourism sector have to be well reinvigorated and lessons need to be drawn to other sectors as the cumulative effect of all helps the nation bring about actual change. Mobilizing the public has to be given due emphasis, too, so as to well spearhead all the national initiatives.

“Coherently, tourism is an impetus to promoting economic growth from perspectives of its economic impacts, contributions to poverty reduction, the efficiency and productivity, and impacts of several external economic factors. To achieve this, labor, capital, technology, environment, public mobilization have to be focused on more than ever before,” he opined.

Alemayehu also stated that apart from assisting the national economic strength, the

various tourist attention sites exemplify the vast potential of tourism in the country and they are significantly useful in addressing nation’s most pressing challenges, including socio-economic growth, inclusive development and eco-friendly settings.

“Once essentially entertained the tourism industry, Ethiopia has now been working to make its cities mesmerizing and suitable to live and work majorly by exploiting its tourism potentials across the nation,” Alemayehu added.

He further elucidated that the importance of inbound tourism has grown exponentially, because of its growing contribution to the economic growth in the long run. It enhances economic growth by augmenting the foreign exchange reserves, stimulating investments in new infrastructure, human capital and increases competition, promoting industrial development, creating jobs and hence to increase income. The tight nexus between tourism and economic growth can all the time bear fruits if properly handled and well channeled.

As to Alemayehu, the positive impact of tourism on financial development can also be attributed to the fact that inflows of foreign exchange via international tourism not only increases income levels but also leads to rise in official reserves of national banks. This means that tourism is not only an engine for economic growth, but the economic outcome on itself can play an important role in providing growth potential to tourism sector.

On the other side, he said if economic-driven tourism growth is supported, more resources should be diverted to leading industries rather than the travel and tourism sector, and the tourism industry will in turn benefit from the resulting overall economic growth. The policy implication is that resource allocation supporting both the tourism and tourism-related industries could benefit both tourism development and economic growth and advancement.

Yes, said Alemayehu, tourism can spur economic prosperity in Ethiopia and for this reason; policymakers should give serious consideration toward encouraging tourism industry or inbound tourism. The country should thus focus more on tourism infrastructure, such as, convenient transportation, alluring destinations, suitable

tax incentives, viable hostels and proper security arrangements to attract the very potential tourists. Both state and non-state actors must recognize this growing industry and its positive implication on the national economy.

He said, “Undeniably, tourism is vital for the success of many economies around the world for there are several benefits of tourism on host destinations. The sector boosts the revenue of the economy, creates thousands of jobs, develops the infrastructures of a country, and plants a sense of cultural exchange between foreigners and citizens. The jobs created are not only a part of the tourism sector but may also include the agricultural sector, communication sector, health sector, and the educational sector, too.”

According to Alemayehu, many tourists travel to experience the hosting destination’s culture, different traditions, and gastronomy. Safe and innovative infrastructures allow for a smooth flow of goods and services. Moreover, local people experience an opportunity for economic and educational growth.

Tourism creates cultural exchange between tourists and local citizens. Exhibitions, conferences, and events usually attract foreigners. Organizing companies, authorities, organizations, among others, usually gain profits from registration fees, gift sales, exhibition spaces, and sales of media copyright. Furthermore, foreign tourists bring diversity and cultural enrichment to the hosting country. Hence, as tourism is instrumental in boosting the economic growth of Ethiopia, it has to well embark on the sector.

Not only is tourism is a great opportunity for foreigners to learn about a new culture, but it also creates many opportunities for local citizens and allows the youth entrepreneurs to establish new products and services that would not be sustainable on the local population of residents alone. Moreover, citizens experience the benefits that come with tourism occurring in their own country, Alemayehu said.

The sector is one of the fastest growing sectors of the world economy. Tourism development may promote economic growth both directly and indirectly, first by stimulating the growth of other sectors and second by increasing domestic incomes and effective demand.

Art & Culture

The reflection of women sympathy in Zimbabwean novel 'Nervous Conditions' (Part One)

BY MEKDES TAYE (PhD)

Nervous Condition is a novel written by Zimbabwean writer Tsitsi Dangarembga in 1988, and it is situated in imagined Rhodesia. *Nervous Conditions* derives its title from Jean-Paul Sartre's renowned introduction to Frantz Fanon's *The Wretched of the Earth* (1961), which states that 'The colonial condition is a nervous condition'. Dangarembga's female characters (Nyasha, Maiguru, MaShingayi and Tambu) experience nervous conditions brought about by gender discrimination, social class and the cultural norms, which downgrade these women to inferior positions.

The story starts its development after the death of Nhamo. The elder brother of Tambu's father, Babamukuru, proposed educating a member of each family, focusing especially on the neediest branch, Tambu's clan. The family chose Nhamo to go to the mission school, but after his sudden death, Tambu is selected to replace him.

Sympathy or "no ego" concept is the basic idea that is raised under the theory of Nego Feminism. The notion of this aspect is Africa had a culture of sympathy. People are characterized by exceeding the needs of others than self-interest. The proposer of the theory Obioma Nneamaka found this approach to be the principle of examining women and men relationship based on this factual trait of the continent. Especially African woman is supposed to be sympathetic and cooperative with others at the expense of own interest and individual-based benefit. This idea had emanated from the principle of shared culture of the continent. The logic behind this aspect is when the woman becomes sympathetic for others around her she can preserve or even change the environment into peaceful and harmonious destiny. Her sympathy can also help her get what she wanted from people if she is too strategic in her approach.

Though literary materials are creative and not found in the real world, the writer creates fictitious world based on the tangible and factual life of the people. The novel *Nervous Condition* as the writer Tsitsi Dangarembga said in her interview, is written based on a true story partly of her during the colonial period. Thus the reflected phenomenon can show the real cultural practice of the people of the country. Here under are the detected references that portray the sympathy of the women in that period. Have a good read.

The major character is Tambu and the story revolves around this young girl thoroughly. Tambu's family was poor and was not able to cover the school fees for her and her brother at a time. The family only paid Nhamo's schooling. Teaching boys was preferred in that setting since it was believed that teaching girls could not help their family because when the girls got married, they are supposed to leave their salary for



Teaching boys was preferred in that setting since it was believed that teaching girls could not help their family because when the girls got married, they are supposed to leave their salary for their husband

their husband. Thus, their own family could not get any benefit from them. In addition to this, the traditional patriarchy appreciates male sections to educate than females. Females are expected to stay home for household works. For these reasons, it was Tambu's brother who was sent to school, and she was supposed to stay at home.

This was the decision of the family because women were not required in the fields of self-cultivation. On the contrary, what they were required to do was to be engaged in feminine jobs that were instructed and allocated by the

family and the society. As Tambu narrated the story their mother had started boiling eggs and sold them to the passengers for covering Nhamo's school payment. It was Tambu's mother who was responsible for working such jobs that could incur money for supporting the family but not their father who did take this responsibility. In this incident, Tambu did not insist on her family to send her to school in any way. Rather, she began to think about reasons that pushed her parents to make such a decision. "I understood that selling vegetables was not a lucrative business. I understood that there was not enough money for my fees. Yes, I did understand why I could not go back to school, ... my circumstances affected me badly" (Dangarembga, 1988, p. 15).

Tambu was not selfish and ignorant about her family's economic status. However, she didn't stop thinking about her education too. Even if her goal was to continue her education, she logically tried to identify strategies that could help her go back to school without affecting the economy of her family. Instead of blaming her family and giving up her education, she looked for a solution for her financial problem. She had started planting maize cobs for sell. But her brother Nhamo was so selfish and inherited patriarchal ideology from the family and the society. He was not happy to see his sister going back to school. He wanted to be the only one who should get educated and respected in the family. This was evident that when Tambu's crops of maize were ready for selling, they disappeared. The narrator told this to the reader as: "A few days later, when the cobs were ripe for eating, they began to disappear" (Dangarembga, 1988, p. 21).

Tambu was disappointed by the happening. It was her brother who stole them and gave them to school friends as her friends told her later on. He did this as he didn't want Tambu to go to school. When she faced him about the matter, he responded that: "what did you expect?" Nhamo said. "Did you really think you would send yourself to school?" (Dangarembga, 1988, p. 21).

This shows that Nhamo was very self-centered and insensitive about how Tambu would feel. She did not stop planting the cobs. She continued working hard on the farm since she had decided to continue her education in any way. Even if she was staying at home with routine house chores and besides he was her younger brother, she was serving him without any complain. Therefore, Tambu was not selfish and ego centric as he was. This helped her to create good relations with the family and at the same time this could teach the society about the relevance of selflessness. Here I can say that. Since Tambu respected her culture, she did not confront her family or her brother; rather she used the cultural production of maize to solve the problem.

In the novel, the writer describes two

important situations through the characters. First, there are characters who hate their cultures and identities that they nurture from the family and the society in that specific setting. This was seen in Nhamo's reaction to the news which was about his shifting to his uncle Babamukuru's house so that he could have a decent education.

"I shall no longer be Jeremiah's son. ... I shall wear shoes and socks, and shorts with no holes in them, all brand new, bought for me by Babamukuru. He has the money. I will even have underwear – a vest and pants. I shall have a jersey in winter, and probably a blazer too. I shall stop using my hands to eat. I will use a knife and fork" (Dangarembga, 1988, p. 48).

Here what fascinated the boy was the values that he was going to stray from, and the values that he was going to hold in his uncle's house. This means that this boy was not happy with the identity he had developed at his home. He went to the extreme of forbidding his father. His father was too poor and an-educated; that was why Nhamo has got such identity. The luxuries that he was eager to have did not belong to him. He did not rationally think about how he would handle the benefits he would get from the new situations, from his uncle Babamukuru. He was self-centered and material-centered.

Unlike her brother, Tambu was proud of being who she was, and she adores her culture which was the source of her identity. But she hated those consequences of poverty driven aspects. She didn't hate the values she acquired from her family and the society. She dreams to see a new personality when she went to her uncle's house; the new personality which was not irritated by economic insufficiency. This was mentioned in the extract under:

"Corrugated black callouses on my knees, the scales on my skin that were due to lack of oil, the short, dull tufts of malnourished hair. This was the person I was leaving behind. At Babamukuru's I expected to find another self, a clean, well-groomed, genteel self who could not have been bred, could not have survived, on" (Dangarembga, 1988, p. 58-59).

The wish of Tambu was personal improvement. Since she was worrying about economic insufficiency, the only way out was education. After she got educated, she could help the family like Babamukuru. This can be inferred from the fact that she was frequently mentioning her uncle's support to her family. She was always fully committed to education because she wished to be educated like him since education brings about social and economic advancement.

The essence of sympathy was also revealed through the wife of Babamukuru and other characters in the novel. Their no ego reflections will be examined in the coming article.

Indepth

Capitalizing on our tourism potential

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

No one has ever put in doubt the tourism potential Ethiopia avails. We have seen countries with much less attractions benefiting enormously economically from their tourist attractions even if they are not as numerous and varied as ours. The Ethiopian government realizes that tourism is a huge economic asset that should be exploited to the maximum and it has been listed tourism among the sectors that we need to expand and make the best use of it. In fact tourism figures as one of the five pillars of the Homegrown Economic Reform Program.

In many respects Ethiopia is a country that is endowed not only with natural wonders given its extremely varied landscapes and its unfathomable varieties of wild animals and birds species but also given its various religious and cultural monuments, statues, castles and other remarkable artifacts that witness the thousands of glorious years of history of its peoples and its majestic leaders as inherited to us. Furthermore, Ethiopia is also considered by scholars as the 'cradle of mankind', the home of 'Lucy' the millions years old first hominids and 'Selam' another human skeleton which archeologists and paleontologists have admired as being the most ancient of complete remains of human beings. That is why the Ethiopian government has changed the old slogan used to promote tourism from the land of the "Thirteen Months of Sunshine" to the "Land of Origins". Paleontologists have confirmed that the first human being has appeared and lived in Ethiopia. This by itself is a huge catch phrase that can be put to attract tourists to the country. It is well known that tourists adore and enjoy visiting rarities which could be historical, cultural as well as geographical or natural.

The importance of tourism cannot be overstated because it plays a huge role in the economy of the world in general. In many countries it constitutes a sizeable part of their GDP. There are countries including the most industrially advanced and rich ones who do everything within their capacity to attract more and more tourists to their countries because they know and have seen how much they earn in foreign currency from international tourism. In fact it has been named the 'smokeless industry' and given full attention by governments as it is also a source of millions of jobs.

In many advanced countries it is among the top ten huge income generators. It touches upon a variety of sectors such as the hotel and culinary industries, the transportation and logistics as well as other related factors, the sale of souvenirs and other related objects that all add up to making a huge impact on the overall economy.

Ethiopia's tourism potential is practically untouched given to what extent it can go. When we see countries with much less tourist attractions capitalizing a lot on

It appears that the time has come for Ethiopia to capitalize well more than ever before on this tourist attraction and adding to those that are being carried out in Addis, the prospects remain bright

tourism we can say that we have a huge lot to go. As one of the most important and influential African countries Ethiopia can attract a lot of tourists to its beaches if it can prepare all the ground work for tourists. In the past few years there have been lots of efforts aimed to do exactly that.

The various resort projects that have been initiated by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed can be noted here. All of them have been completed and ready for use or are in the final phases of completion. The tourist attractions have not been limited to distant places from Addis but even here in the capital tremendous attractive initiatives have been taken and completed. It is worth noting that Addis is also a huge international airlines hub and millions of passengers transit here. This presents the occasion to attract these people to visit a few tourist destinations that could be of their taste or interest. Addis now presents several interesting tourists spots beginning with its monuments to its historic parks and museums.

Ethiopia's magnificent sceneries have been put in display by the various projects under Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's initiative launched four years ago with 'Dine for the Nation' project. Resorts such as Koyisha, Halala Kela, Chebera Churchura and Wonchi, and now only a few days ago the Gorgora Eco Resort Project that was inaugurated by the premier and other high government officials have been visited by many international organisations' officials who are resident here. All those projects highlight the unique natural endowments of the country.

After their visit the diplomats stated that the Gorgora Eco Resort is a state of the art tourism destination that has a wonderful work of harmony between history, nature and human wisdom. UN Resident Humanitarian Coordinator Ramiz Alakabarov described the project as a

state of the art facility that has everything to engage in ecotourism. He added the way the project has been designed is fully integrated with the landscape and does not destroy the harmony of the forest. It also has economic benefits that are vital to accelerate development.

Similarly Aurelio Patrizia Calabro of UNIDO expressed her amazement by the location and the way the place has been realized transmitting Ethiopian values. She said Gorgora is a jewel on a very ancient and famous lake that is Lake Tana. This is the historical path and it reflects the history of this beautiful country. Given that it has involved the community in its construction and later on management, particularly women will benefit from it in terms of availing employment which will contribute to the gender development project. Gorgora Eco Resort will be instrumental to promote culture, nature and tourism. Ethiopia's competitiveness in the tourism industry will now increase with all these hidden attractions brought to the fore, she remarked.

The fact that Addis Ababa is the diplomatic capital of Africa and seat of many international organisations puts it at an advantageous place to better exploit its tourism potential if it readies it well as it is now doing. Conference tourism is not something that can be undermined because it presents the occasion for those who attend the frequent conferences to visit the country but also encourages them to come again with their families or tell others what they have seen here and encourage them to do the same when they have the time to go on a trip outside their respective countries.

In many ways Ethiopia is a tourist friendly and attractive country and this is what all those who have been here testify. With more than ten UNESCO inscribed world heritage sites and intangible items to be explored and viewed it can only be a especially curious and attractive place to visit and cultural and historical events to witness. In the past Ethiopia has not been well prepared to receive tourists with all the potential it could do because of lack of the necessary infrastructure such as the up to standard hotels in every spot where there are tourist sites, but also the best means of transportation and the best organisation to receive and accommodate tourists.

During the years of COVID 19, Ethiopia's tourism industry was highly affected as has when there was the conflict in the north. Furthermore, the consistently negative publicity that was aired in many international media has also hurt the industry because what was aired was often exaggerated such as describing the situation in the country as 'total chaos' or destabilized every where while the conflict zones were the only exceptions and all the rest of the country was peaceful, safe and business as usual despite the instability in the zones where there could have been active hostilities. There are so many attraction

sites in the south and east that are worthy of consideration even if the most reputed and known ones happened to be mainly the ones situated in the north. The resort areas of Koysha, Hallala Kela, and Chebera are all in the southern part of Ethiopia.

What was recently inaugurated around Gondar, Bahir Dar and Lake Tana, traditionally historical cities with immense attractions are now enriched by even more splendid site in the Gorgora Eco Resort, a place that many have described as having few equals any where in Africa. It is a huge tourist attraction that has been hailed as extraordinary by many visitors who went there to find out for themselves. Only words of admiration and appreciation have been expressed by all those who happened to have the privilege to visit it. For Ethiopia it is yet another touristic gem to be added to the already existing ones and this will further stimulate the appetite of visitors to step there and enjoy nature at its best as well as have an insight into the history and culture of the country.

It appears that the time has come for Ethiopia to capitalize well more than ever before on this tourist attraction and adding to those that are being carried out in Addis, the prospects remain bright. Ethiopia needs foreign currency and among the ways it can have it is by attracting as many tourists as possible. The new face of Addis thanks to the Corridor Development Project we now have a truly modern and green cosmopolitan that does not envy any other capital or attractive city in the world. It now has ultramodern avenues decorated with wonderful sidewalks and greenery with separate pavements for cyclists and people with disabilities. Based on the project of constructing a clean and healthy city things as moving fast towards constructing as many sanitary facilities as possible thanks to the intense participation of citizens particularly the business community who want to see their city beautiful, clean and healthy.

As the capital city of the African Union, the great Victory of Adwa is now immortalized at the newly inaugurated Adwa Victory Memorial which is also a pride of Africa. Africans and peoples of African origin can now come to Addis and be well informed about what their forefathers did in 1896 to foil the expansion of European colonialism on the continent. Which African would not like to come to Addis and immerse themselves in a memorable victory that shines across the years? The Adwa Victory Memorial is a window to the history of one of the greatest battles held on African soil. This is a story that has not been told and understood as it would deserve by all Africans and the memorial fills this gap that existed for years. Credit of course goes to all those who conceived, drafted and realized this extraordinary monumental gem that adds to the attractions of the City of Addis, in particular to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and the City Mayor Adanech Abiebie.

Law & Politics

People queue outside a bank where they access diaspora remittances in Bulawayo

As the African diaspora continues its growth, agencies are seeking ways to tap into this vast demographic to help with the continent's development.

Remittances from millions of Africans scattered across the globe have been hailed for sustaining local economies, but a new initiative is aiming to form upscale diaspora investments for longer-term economic development.

In June 2024, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) partnered with the African Development Bank and the African Union Commission (AUC) towards the implementation of a USD5.2 million project.

According to officials, the fund aimed at eight African countries will "strengthen investment, human capital and philanthropic engagement from the diaspora in eight African countries."

Most diaspora remittances in Africa go directly to beneficiary families to support anything from buying food to school fees.

The Streamlining Diaspora Engagement to Catalyze Private Investments and Entrepreneurship for Enhanced Resilience" (SDE4R) project will help The Gambia, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Somalia, South Sudan, Togo and Zimbabwe identify the best methods for effectively mobilizing the human and financial capital of the diaspora.

This follows the signing of a protocol agreement in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in December 2023.

The project will "support socioeconomic development by reviving the domestic private sector or recovery from political or humanitarian crises by leveraging the expertise and networks of Diaspora groups," according to the IOM.

The fund will go towards supporting socioeconomic development by reviving the domestic private sector and recovering from political and humanitarian crises by leveraging the expertise and networks of diaspora groups.

"The African diaspora, with its vast resources, skills, and networks, holds an unparalleled capacity to drive economic growth, innovation, and resilience in our home countries," said Lamin Drammeh, a manager at the African Development Bank financial intermediation and inclusion division.

"This multi-country intervention will contribute towards strengthening private sector development, which will foster economic growth as well as socioeconomic resilience in the beneficiary countries," Drammeh said.

The initiative will also enhance "business development by leveraging diaspora-oriented financing opportunities and



People queue outside a bank where they access diaspora remittances in Bulawayo

tools and entrepreneurship initiatives," Drammeh added.

The African diaspora has been hailed by the continent's governments for driving human development through annual multi-billion dollar remittances, but with little formalized investment.

The IOM's partnership with the AU and the AfDB seeks to change that.

"Acknowledging the important role diasporas play in their countries of origin, several governments in Africa have developed policies that seek to harness the potential of their diaspora in national development through financial and social remittances," said Mariama Cisse Mohamed, Director of the IOM Special Liaison Office in Addis Ababa.

"However, there are persistent challenges, including governments' constraints on data collection among diaspora to facilitate meaningful engagement, limited dialogue between African governments and diaspora and the high transfer costs associated with remittance transfers," Mohamed said.

With an ever-increasing number of African migrants making perilous

journeys to developed countries seeking better economic opportunities, agencies are calling for the formalization of the continent's development agenda with the Diaspora.

The multi-million-dollar SDE4R project is expected to address the needs of Africa's most vulnerable populations, with the incentives also expected to stem the dangerous and usually illegal journeys African migrants continue making.

"It is further expected to contribute to reinforcing socioeconomic resilience of vulnerable populations, particularly women, youth, rural dwellers and forcibly displaced populations," said Angela Naa Afoley, Head of Division of the African Union Commission's Citizens and Diaspora Organization Directorate.

This will include assistance "through diaspora-related humanitarian, educational, health and other resilience-building support and the temporary return of skilled and qualified diaspora members," Afoley said.

"By streamlining processes, reducing barriers, and providing strategic support, the SDE4R project will unlock new

opportunities for investment, spur entrepreneurial ventures, and ultimately enhance the resilience of communities, nations and the continent," Afoley added.

According to the IOM, the USD5 million project is expected to have 10,000 direct beneficiaries and 40,000 indirect beneficiaries in communities affected by conflict, climate change and other humanitarian and environmental disasters.

The IOM is implementing the project over three years with strategic oversight, guidance and advisory from the African Union Commission.

The initiative is part of the IOM's Humanitarian Development and Peace (HDP) program, which focuses on the implementation of strategic frameworks and shared priorities among humanitarian agencies.

According to agencies, an estimated 160 million Africans are in the diaspora, remitting USD96 billion in 2021, more than double the USD35 billion recorded in official development assistance that flowed into Africa in the same year.

(INTER PRESS SERVICE)

Women in Focus

An Ethiopian woman resistance, agency in political leadership

BY MEKDES TAYE (PhD)

In a society like Ethiopia which is basically characterized by rooted patriarchy and socially approved female humiliation and degradation, the women's efficacy and cautiousness is massively needed than anything.

Ethiopia is a country where the people are densely located in the rural areas. This did mean that there is an intensifying degree of women subversion when compared with urban areas. Here, the logic is the highest number did mean the highest number of women is collected there since women's access to education and interaction is lower comparatively.

The other logic is in the urban areas the rationality of the people is better so that women's treatment is healthier. A huge number of the society believes in the socio-cultural norms and principles which are away from logical and scientific justifications. On issues like gender, female marginalization has been reflected through cultural practices, proverbs, religious preaches, and certain customs.

Thus, overcoming such troubles and being able to compete with their male counterpart did cost a lot for females. With these pressing challenges, there have been prominent women who succeeded and outshined in various competitive spheres. These women made a remarkable effort by resisting harmful customs and enabling themselves or being agents to be effective in going through troubles and getting over to leadership. Here, I want to extend my salute to Empress Taytu Betul, Patriot Shewareged Gedele, and others who paved the way for the successive generation.

These days, in the political sphere, lots of women leaders are progressively joining the nominees to step up to the ladder of leadership. Luckily, since the past few years, relatively, a good number of women have been taking more positions in the political leadership than ever.

In this regard, the political journey of one of the effective women leaders who can put her blueprint into leadership is presented under. Her experiences are referred from various interviews she had made with different media outlets.

Birtukan Mideksa, I would like to call her 'an iron woman', was born in Addis Ababa and she was the first woman leader from a competing party.

When she was in grade 12, the EPRDF party, which promised to entertain a multi-party system for the first time in the history of the country, took political power. This promise was her hope to look forward to the party. She was a very active and well-informed girl who was hotly debating politics with her batches. As she was narrating her story, since the country was under the operation of the military regime that suppressed freedom,

this new political party, she thought, could be much better. For this expectation, the initial philosophy of this party that underlined a multiparty system, diversity, freedom, and equality were among the attractive phenomena for Birtukan.

But things started changing following the international political shift. In the very beginning, publications were criticizing government policies. But after some time, the government started repressing the media, persecuting the journalists. Freedom and democracy did not prevail as expected. She consciously recognized such things. And such drastic changes let her start questioning.

This alerted woman had got her first degree in Law from Addis Ababa University and became an associate judge. While she was on this duty, in July 2002 she faced a critical court case. The top-ranking politician, who was the former minister of defense Siye Abrha, was accused of corruption and taken to court to be judged by Birtukan.

The skilled and self-esteemed Birtukan released this person with bail, which was not the intention and expectation of the ruling party. This was a great deed of the woman that showed her bravery. Hailu Araya, who was the Vice-President of Unity for Democracy and Justice (UDJ), shared this prudent decision as "that case showed her courage and her sense of justice." But she never feels it is something special because she believes she was doing her job.

The government was disappointed by her decision. Thus, violating court's decision, it rearrested Siye. At a moment Birtukan had received lots of threatening and harassing words from the ruling party. But she never being influenced and shrunk by the acts of the ruling party. She noticed the massive violations of the rule of law. Then she preferred to leave her job and started a new job at an independent law firm.

This remarkable court decision had gained her a greater respect and to have a special place in the minds of the people. She was called a heroine woman at that time. Then she decided to challenge the then ruling party. She joined an opposition party called the Coalition for Unity and Democracy (CUD). She was among the leaders of this party. She exhibited a qualified leadership style as her colleagues said it in different ways.

When she was on this path, she received various stereotypes and warnings from the ruling party. But she kept on moving forward. That means she portrayed resistance to those challenges. Again she had a knowledge and logic that strengthened her to face things confidently. That is an agency of this woman.

She was at the front with her male colleagues. Alerting followers, explained their goals and missions. She was very strategic and effective in mobilizing the people. That party was very active in changing the political spirit of the country. Various reports and politicians argue that much of peoples' passion and political pledge was not ever seen in the country



Birtukan Mideksa

before and even still, I believe. Her agency and commitment moved her forward over her patriarchal sourced humiliations.

In the 2005 election which is registered as the most controversial and highly competent election period that has ever again seen in the history of the country, CUD had won over a third of the seats of the parliament. The members were claiming even more seats if the voting was not abused deliberately by the government. Then the disappointed ruling party saw great shares in its power and started searching for those influential leaders of this opposition party. Birtukan was the one who was targeted by the government. The ruling party accused her as if she was in a way of overthrowing the constitutional order. Then she was sentenced to life in prison and thrown into jail.

While she was imprisoned in a prison center called 'Kaliti', she was not giving up. She was very resistant. To mount up her efficacy, she was working on her mind. *The Guardian* had written about her saying that 'people in the prison did beg their relatives to bring them food, but Birtukan was asking her mother and daughter to bring books.' This is a very practical instance for the mean of women agency and resistance in a given context. Shining woman will keep on shining for the coming women in various areas.

Birtukan was released from prison by pardon in 2007. However, the pardon was becoming very controversial among members of the opposition party. Then, she cooled down the issue of the pardon process when she was making a speech abroad. That was again the source of the government's grievance. The former police officer Workneh Gebeyehu

commanded her to ask for an apology for her say in the process of the pardon made for her. She was unwilling. This woman did not know what would happen if she refused, but she did it with confidence. Then, the ruling party sentenced her to life in prison again.

In October 2010, she signed another pardon document and was freed from prison. This time, she fled and started living in USA with her daughter. After the withdrawal of EPRDF, the country was facing a certain reform with the new ruling party called Prosperity Party. This party came up with the philosophy of togetherness and mercy for wrong deeds. The high-profiled Birtukan was recognized and considered by the Premier to return to her home country and to be a Chairperson of the National Electoral Board (NEBE).

She was excited since she was missing her homeland and was worrying about ways to serve the people. She had accepted the invitation and served dedicatedly. She had led the Board with passion and commitment and a visible positive image of the board or nomenclature was noticed in her leadership duration.

This woman has passed through certain challenges and reacted to these threats effectively. Ethiopian and African women should be active and strong in making themselves agents enough so as to be important in filling a given space. This is, I believe, the gun for the female till the eradication of patriarchy from the continent. Commitment and being goal-oriented, as it is seen in this woman, are particularly crucial to moving up the ladder to leadership.

Opinions, suggestions, and comments are highly welcomed via our address.

Society

Planting tomorrow today

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

As we navigate the complex challenges of the 21st century, it has become increasingly clear that the success of any country depends not just on the actions it takes today, but on the long-term vision and foresight it cultivates. Countries are becoming well aware of the undesirable and severe impacts of climate change on the environment and are advocating for more practical interventions and impactful actions including seedling plantations and natural conservation measures.

The Ethiopian Green Legacy Initiative, launched by Prime Abiy Ahmed in 2019 has these same multiple targets - to rehabilitate and restore the nation's degraded lands, halt deforestation, increase the country's forest coverage; reduce the effects of climate change and contribute a share to the global efforts exerted to curb climate change related catastrophes.

The initiative also aligned with the various goals of the 2030 Agenda. Due to this, the country is working aggressively to rehabilitate depilated lands, and increase its forest coverage meaningfully and minimize the effects.

According to documents, in 2023 alone, the country planted more than 7.5 billion seedlings; surpassing the set target of 6.5 billion seedlings by mobilizing Ethiopians from all walks of life.

The Green Legacy Initiative, aside from showing government's effort in increasing nation's forest coverage, mitigating the impacts of the change, and building a green and climate-resilient Ethiopia, has also practically demonstrated Ethiopia's long-term commitment to a multifaceted response to the impacts of climate change at a global level. These days, an annual mass tree planting activity is becoming a culture among Ethiopians.

This year's seedling plantation campaign was also launched at nationwide and massive seedling plantation activities are ongoing across the country. Public and private institutions, as well as common citizens in urban and rural areas, are also planting various types of seedlings.

Recently, employees of the Addis Ababa City Government's Women and Children Affairs Bureau planted different kinds of seedlings at Entoto Park.

Speaking on the occasion, Bureau Head Woyinshet Zerihun, said that Ethiopia is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change related impacts, facing frequent droughts, floods, and locust infestations, which some are the manifestations of extreme climate events. Thus, to curtail the impacts, focusing on climate change mitigation efforts, including seedling plantation is vital.

According to her, while tree planting and



other immediate environmental initiatives are undoubtedly important to restore degraded lands, maintain soil fertility and creating a greener Ethiopia, strengthening efforts and working on the posterity is critical to promote the culture of tree planting.

"Nation-building requires a deeper, more holistic approach that prioritizes the needs and well-being of future generations," she underlined.

She also emphasized the need to shift our mindset and embrace a more expansive, intergenerational perspective. This means not only planting seedlings through reforestation and ecosystem restoration schemes; but also nurturing the metaphorical seeds of social, economic, and cultural progress that will shape the lives of our children, grandchildren, and generations to come.

One critical aspect of this long-term approach is investing in high-quality education systems that empower young people with the knowledge, critical thinking skills, and ethical foundations necessary to navigate an increasingly complex world. By equipping the next generation with the tools to address emerging challenges, we can ensure that they are prepared to build upon the progress made so far, as to her.

Woyinshet noted that it is high time to work in unison and attain the set target, as it is the best approach to save humanity and ensure that the next generation enjoys clean and green places.

According to the Bureau's Service

Department, more than thousands of seedlings have been planted. She called for coworkers and the entire community to care for the seedlings to ensure their growth after the plantation is over.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) has also underscored the need for a paradigm mindset shift to realize the Green Legacy endeavor that was commenced throughout the country.

In his remark during the launching of this year's green legacy seedling planting program in the Hayk Town of South Wollo Zone, Amhara State, PM Abiy said, "Our goal for this year is to reach 40 billion seedlings, which means we need to collectively plant 7.5 billion seedlings this planting cycle." He emphasized that "For anyone who wants to leave a legacy for future generations, must invest in the future today, leave a good country for his children, he should plant a sapling today."

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, Amhara State North Shewa Kewot Woreda REDD+ Coordinator Senior Expert, Shambel Sharew said that the sapling plantation effort is a game-changer that helps the nation to reduce climate change-induced impacts. However, to ensure sustainability, it is important to incorporate environmental education into school curriculums to cultivate eco-conscious citizens. This approach allows students to explore environmental issues from diverse perspectives and understand the interconnectedness of environmental, social, and economic systems.

Shambel further emphasized the importance of engaging students in hands-on, collaborative projects that address real-world challenges such as environment related instances within their communities. This approach opens opportunities to develop critical, problem-solving thinking, and teamwork skills while fostering environmental stewardship among the posterity. He also highlighted the importance of incorporating field trips, outdoor classrooms, and experiential learning opportunities that enhance collaboration among students and connect them with the natural world.

By implementing these strategies, schools can cultivate a generation of eco-conscious citizens who are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and motivation to address environmental challenges and contribute to a more sustainable future.

He also urged stakeholders to strengthen environmental education and long-term thinking, as it is crucial for building a sustainable future. At the same time, he emphasized the importance of prioritizing peace, love, and healthy relationships in the present, so as not to lose sight of the human connection and the immediate need to foster harmony, understanding, and compassion among people.

By creating a balance between environmental education, long-term planning, and the nurturing of human connections, we can empower students to become well-rounded, eco-conscious, and socially responsible citizens who can build a more peaceful, loving, and sustainable world for all.

International News

Africa's Green Economy could create more than 3 million direct jobs by 2030: Research

• *Ethiopia will see between 30,000 and 130,000 new green jobs by 2030, mainly in energy and power production*

BY STAFF REPORTER

NAIROBI (KENYA) – A recent research has forecasted that Africa's green economy has a potential to create more than 3 million direct jobs by 2030.

The research has also indicated that Ethiopia will see between 30,000 and 130,000 new green jobs by 2030, mainly in energy and power production, according to a Press Release from FSD Africa.org.

Shortlist and FSD Africa, with analysis from the Boston Consulting Group, today published "Forecasting Green Jobs in Africa," a first of its kind report that forecasts the new direct job creation potential of 12 "green" sub-sectors by 2030. The report predicts the creation of up to 3.3 million new direct green jobs across the continent by 2030, with the majority in the renewable energy sector, particularly solar.

The study, the first in-depth analysis of workforce needs within major green value chains over the next five years, provides detailed forecasts for five focus countries, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and

South Africa, which together account for more than a fifth (22%) of new jobs, and in key sectors such as renewable energy, e-mobility, agriculture, construction and manufacturing.

"Forecasting Green Jobs in Africa" underscores the critical importance of a skilled workforce as an input accelerating African green industries, emphasizing the need for substantial investment in skills development and workforce mobilization. Moreover, the millions of jobs created in the green revolution will also contribute to the formalization of African economies, and the inclusion of whole populations in stable systems of remuneration, social security and taxation for the first time.

Based on the findings, the report also outlines key strategies required to cultivate Africa's green jobs ecosystem: from targeted investments in high-potential sectors and value chains, the fostering of cross-sector collaboration among governments, private sector, educational institutions and investors, to the development of comprehensive support policies for green sectors. The report also calls for further analysis and granularity to labour demand key value

chains to identify Africa's current skilled labour supply and any potential gaps.

While some experts have suggested that up to 100 million green jobs may be created by 2050, this report takes a more near-term, sober, and realistic look at the job creation potential of just 12 specific sub-sectors or value chains and only until 2030. This more conservative analysis is intended to guide near-term investments and policy decisions among universities, workforce development actors, and government as we ensure the mobilization of the right skills and workforce to meet demand.

Significantly it predicts that 60% of the employment generated by the green economy over the coming six years will be skilled or white collar in nature. Within this, 10% constitute "advanced jobs" (highly skilled, requiring university degrees to fulfil), whilst a further 30% are projected to be "specialized" (requiring certification or vocational training) and 20% will be administrative in emphasis. Crucially, these job types tend to attract higher salaries and will, therefore, play a central role in spurring the growth of the middle class in countries hosting

these high-growth sectors. Important also is the stability of the unskilled jobs created – which will offer ladders up the employment scale for candidates, whose employability will be enhanced by access to training and experience.

"There is a cross-sector effort across Africa to spur employment and sustainable development," said Mark Napier, CEO of FSD Africa, "but stakeholders lack a shared, granular understanding of where the green jobs are going to come from. This report offers a methodology for forecasting green jobs which allows us to get practical about where we need to invest to make these jobs happen."

"This is the first public report that takes seriously the notion that human capital and talent is important as both an input to green economic growth, and as a positive outcome - in the form of millions of new, direct jobs," says Paul Breloff, CEO of Shortlist. "Now policymakers, and funders, and workforce developers need to step up to meet this near-term demand with effective training, apprenticeships, and job/skill matching, in hopes of achieving Africa's green promise."

Claver Gatete Calls for Reform of the Global Financial System to Address Africa's Financing Challenges

NEWYORK (ECA) – During a joint press briefing on the margins of the recently concluded 2024 High Level Political Forum (HLPF), Mr. Claver Gatete, Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), called upon countries to explore reforms to the common debt relief framework to better address rising high indebtedness in Africa.

Highlighting the challenges of accessing financing for the continent's priorities, "especially the concessional funds that are long term and cheaper," Mr. Gatete said, "the reform of the global financing system is urgent, as it can mitigate access to critical resources needed for the implementation of the SDGs."

He noted that from 2010 to 2023, Africa's debt increased by 192 percent according to data by the African Development Bank stating: "African countries are paying \$163 billion per year with an external debt stock of \$1.1 trillion. This increase is the highest we have ever seen."

"This means that by paying the debt, countries have very little room to implement the SDGs and the next 10-year program of the African Union," he added.

Mr. Gatete pointed out the need for domestic resource mobilization in Africa to tackle illicit financial flows and improve taxation. He also emphasized the importance of developing capital markets to provide long-term resources as part of private sector engagement in Africa.

Furthermore, noted Gatete, there are opportunities in restructured green, blue and sustainability linked bonds that can attract more investors to fund climate-related solutions.

ECA, he said, is working with countries to strengthen domestic resource mobilization, such as through capital markets to improve self-financing and financial sustainability in Africa.

He also stressed the need to increase fiscal space and address interrelated issues, such

as peacebuilding and conflict prevention and the involvement of the youth in sustainable development processes to ensure long term progress.

For her part, Ms. Christina Duarte, Head of the UN-HQ based Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA) said SDG implementation is off track and only 12 percent of the 140 targets have been delivered.

"We need to understand the root causes of the financing challenges we face on the continent and the focus should be on sustainable financing and institutional strengthening in Africa to build resilience," she said.

Ms. Duarte highlighted the importance of long-term solutions, such as tackling economic and financial flows to address Africa's debt distress and deliver on the sustainable development goals.

The HLPF Africa Day is aimed at highlighting key issues stemming from the Africa Regional

Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD) and other major consultations. The joint briefing showcases how the African Union (AU), the UN Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA) and ECA work together to support African member states in implementing the SDGs and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) pulls together member states from around the world to forge pathways to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs, drawing on regional and local dimensions and experiences that foster resilience and innovative solutions. Countries present their Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) at the HLPF. They also look at global trends and their impact on the implementation process. For the first time, South Sudan presented its VNR, highlighting efforts to mitigate the challenges of implementing the SDGs.

Source: UNECA

What does South Sudan's CFA ...

of contention emanates from Article 14 of the CFA which deals with "Water Security". Even though the two demanded an explicit reference to those 'uses and rights' under this article, other basin countries vehemently rejected the demand stating "equitable and reasonable utilization" is already there.

Egypt in particular wants Article 14 to guarantee that no other riparian can take any action that 'would harm its water security and current uses and rights based on the 1929 and 1959 agreements.' It is evident that Egypt failed to buy the cooperative features of the CFA

fearing that it would be forced to put the old colonial agreements aside and come to share the water more equitably and reasonably with the other basin countries, eventually dodging its longstanding hegemony over the Nile waters. Nile riparian countries have been calling upon Egypt and Sudan to join the CFA and work in the spirit of cooperation with them; however the differences persisted and could not be resolved through negotiations. Hence the unresolved Article 14(b) is set aside to be resolved by the Nile River Basin Commission (NRBC) within six months of its establishment.

What is next?

In order to meet its purpose, the CFA envisages the establishment of a permanent institutional mechanism for cooperation among the Nile Basin countries called the Nile River Basin Commission (NRBC). The new Basin Commission would serve to promote and facilitate the implementation of the CFA and to facilitate cooperation among the Nile Basin countries in the conservation, management and development of the basin and its waters.

According to Article 42, CFA will enter into force 60 days after six countries have ratified or acceded

to the document and deposited their instrument with the African Union (AU). Thus, the Treaty is expected to enter into force on 6th October 2024. It is anticipated that the establishment of the NRBC would open gates for cooperation in translating NBI vision, and mobilizing funding to implement more development projects across the basin.

The author (kiram2212@gmail.com) is a researcher on the Nile and transboundary water resources. Interested in development and geopolitics, his work includes management consulting.



Published Weekly in Collaboration with Haramaya University

HU 2024 summer healthcare innovation competition

The 2024 Summer Healthcare Hackathon took place from June 7 to 10 at Haramaya University in partnership with Impact-Xcelerate.

The competition aimed to foster innovation in healthcare by bringing together interdisciplinary teams to address pressing challenges in the healthcare sector through creative solutions.

Abdi Namera (PhD), the Scientific Director of Haramaya Institute of Technology, explained that the goal of the HU-IX Healthcare Hackathon 2024 was to foster entrepreneurship and potentially encourage start-ups post-competition. The objective of the hackathon was to engage cross-functional teams in tackling pertinent healthcare challenges in Ethiopia or East Africa and present solutions to judges and a wider audience. Twenty-four individuals representing diverse backgrounds, such as students, healthcare professionals, and staff, participated in the event.

The hackathon focused on promoting maternal healthcare by addressing challenges such as developing vital signs monitoring wearable devices, creating a blood hemoglobin level early detection device to diagnose anemia, designing a low-cost ultrasound machine that can be easily operated by healthcare workers in remote areas, and developing a telemedicine



platform specifically for prenatal consultations with reliable connectivity and user-friendly interfaces for both healthcare providers and pregnant women.

Participants were encouraged to create solutions that would improve patient care, enhance healthcare delivery, increase accessibility, and make use of emerging technologies.

Haramaya University School of Electrical Engineering Head, Wahib Abubakar Abdullahi mentioned that interdisciplinary teams were formed, bringing together expertise in healthcare, technology, design, and business.

These teams actively brainstormed innovative solutions to address predefined challenges or identify problem areas within healthcare. They worked tirelessly to develop prototypes, leveraging technologies such as artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things (IoT), and data analytics.

Experienced mentors from Haramaya University and Impact Xcelerate provided guidance, feedback, and support throughout the hackathon, helping teams refine their ideas and strategies. Following the event, teams presented their solutions to a panel of judges from

Haramaya University and Impact Xcelerate, showcasing the impact, feasibility, and scalability of their projects. The hackathon yielded a wide array of innovative solutions addressing various healthcare challenges, including telemedicine platforms, wearable devices for remote patient monitoring, and mobile app solutions for secure health data management.

The event fostered collaboration among participants from diverse disciplines, nurturing a culture of teamwork and knowledge sharing. All participants received certificates of excellence in recognition of their invaluable contributions to the success of the hackathon.

The summer 2024 Healthcare Hackathon was a platform for creative thinking, collaboration, and innovation in healthcare. By bringing together diverse talents and perspectives, the event generated numerous groundbreaking solutions with the potential to drive positive change in the industry.

Moving forward, it is essential to build upon the momentum generated by the Hackathon and it continues to support and nurture healthcare innovation for the benefit of patients and communities in Ethiopia and East Africa, Haramaya University Public and International Relations Directorate reported.