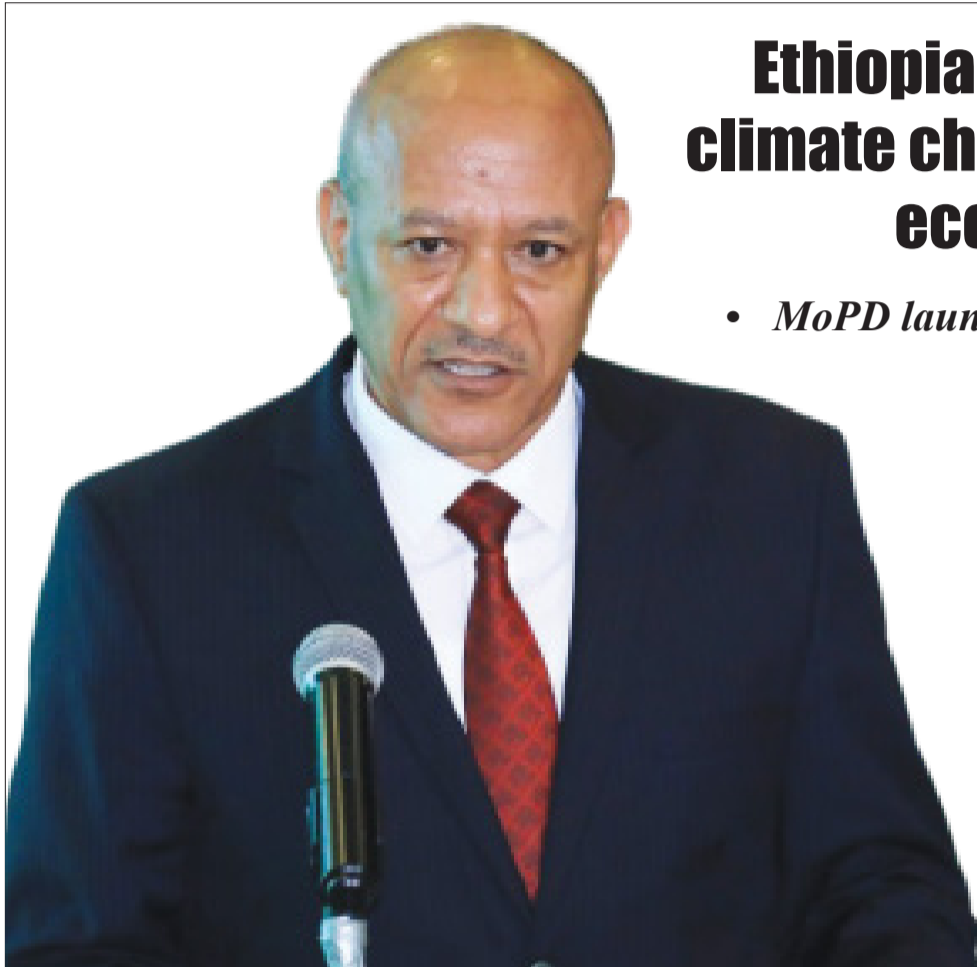




AGI CONSTRUCTING THE FUTURE AFRICA
Abyssinia Group of Industries

Manufacturer of Rebars, Angles, Channels, Flat Bars & Round Bars. Introducing cut & bend service for rebars.

Contact & Address
Tel: +251 116 63 97 55/ 251 116 63 51 22/25
Mob.: +251 962 009 072/ +251 949 440 868
+251 911 45 9790
E-mail: sales@agiethiopia.com
4th Floor, Dabi Building, Bole road Addis Ababa Ethiopia



Temesgen Tirunch

Ethiopia strives to combat climate change, achieve green economy: DPM

• *MoPD launches NDC implementation plan*

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA - Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) Temesgen Tirunch stated that the government is actively fighting against climate change to ensure a sustainable green economy.

The Deputy Premier made this statement yesterday during the launch of the “National Determined Contribution (NDC) Implementation Plan” by the Ministry of Planning and Development (MoPD).

In his opening remarks, Temesgen emphasized that the Ethiopian government is prioritizing the fight against climate change and the realization of a green economy to address numerous constraints. He recalled that climate change has

See Ethiopia strives ... Page 3



Photo: Ashenafi Gideta

Ordin Bedri

Harari pledges further incentive packages for investors

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA - Harari State has pledged to provide additional incentive packages for investors and Diaspora communities interested in the hotel and service industries.

The State’s Chief Administrator, Ordin Bedri, made this announcement

See Harari pledges ... Page 3

Experts plead urgent reform to address Africa’s UNSC underrepresentation

• *Ethiopia’s BRICS membership diversifies external relations*

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – Africa’s underrepresentation in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) urgently requires reform to ensure more inclusivity in the world’s principal decision-making body, Turkish international relations experts said.

Experts approached by *The Ethiopian Herald* emphasized that Africa’s lack of representation in the UNSC dictates reform to enhance the continent’s role to global peace and stability. To address this issue, the Council must undertake reforms to make the decision-making process more inclusive.

Accordingly, International Relations Associate Professor at Ege University Ali Onur Tepecilioglu stated that reforming the Council would improve Africa’s presence and representation in global governance. Addressing Africa’s critical peace, security,

See Experts Plead ... Page 3



Aynalem Niguse

Ministry aims to enhance tax collection awareness

BY FIKADU BELAY

ADDIS ABABA - The national movement of taxes and customs has significantly improved the capacity to collect income in the sector and prevent illegal activities, the Ministry of Revenue said.

In a joint press conference they gave here yesterday, the Ministry of Revenue and Customs Commission highlighted the achievements of the annual tax and customs national

See Ministry aims... Page 3

Nature or nurture? African immigrant talent in western cultures

Page 7

A bleak future 50 years after the New International Economic ‘non-order’?

Page 8

Meeting Africa’s burgeoning energy demand via nuclear technology

Page 9

Jimma University graduates 1,747 students

BY WAKUMAN KUDAMA

ADDIS ABABA - Jimma University awarded degrees to 1,747 students from various disciplines, including regular, summer, evening and distance learning programs last Tuesday. This group includes 22 PhD graduates, 254 master's degree recipients, and 1,471 bachelor's degree holders.

Jimma University President Jemal Abafita (PhD) warmly congratulated the graduates, their families, and the entire university community. He expressed confidence in the graduates' ability to apply their knowledge and skills to make significant contributions to their country.

The president reiterated the university's dedication to its mission, emphasizing its commitment to innovative teaching, research, and community services through its acclaimed Community-Based Education model.



Jemal Abafita (PhD)

Additionally, Jemal highlighted that 83 percent of the students who took the exit exam successfully passed, underscoring the university's educational quality.

Jimma University is Ethiopia's pioneering institution in innovative, community-oriented higher education, particularly renowned for its healthcare training centers. It stands as a trailblazer in public health education and maintains extensive academic and scientific collaborations with numerous national and international partners.

As one of the largest and most comprehensive public research universities in Africa, Jimma University boasts thousands of faculty and staff members. The university features several research facilities, a modern hospital, a community school, a community radio station, an ICT center, libraries, and various revenue-generating enterprises.

Currently, the university serves several thousand students through undergraduate and postgraduate programs offered in regular, summer, and distance education formats, with plans for further expansion in the coming years.



Fulfilling quality standards augments Ethiopia's benefit from agri business

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopia needs to ensure its agricultural products meet international quality standards to fully utilize the sector's immense potential, actors in the area said.

Accordingly, Ethiopian Agricultural Authority Deputy Director General Wendale Habtamu stated that countries are implementing restrictive measures to prevent agricultural imports infected by insects. "The dynamic nature and globalization of markets have escalated the spread of these insects globally."

As a result, countries are ratifying regulations that require Ethiopia to adhere to strict safety measures for its agricultural goods. Wendale stressed that failing to take such measures could result in a significant loss of agricultural export earnings.

The advancement of international trade over the past few decades has increased the transaction of agricultural commodities in the global market. This has prompted countries to apply restrictive regulations to inhibit the entry of insects along with agricultural products, he explained.

However, international laws ratified to inspect the safety of agricultural products present challenges for export items. For instance, the European Union has announced it will not import coffee linked to deforestation. The deputy director general also mentioned that these countries are considering ratifying more laws in the next three years that would require Ethiopia to reduce agricultural chemical usage, including fertilizers, by 50 percent.

"Ethiopians must understand these laws and work on increasing productivity while adhering to the standards."

Ethiopian Horticulture Producer Exporters Association (EHPEA) Director General Tewodros Zewde for his part noted that various laws are being enacted to control the quality of products. European countries, for example, have increased their inspection level from 5 to 25 percent, which could tighten further if Ethiopia fails to take strong measures to improve the quality of its agricultural products.

Tewodros warned that without attention to these regulations, the agriculture industry might face significant challenges. He suggested that Ethiopia could learn from countries like the Netherlands about inspection practices, noting that the Netherlands is a major cut flower receiving country with notable agricultural research institutions.

Although Ethiopia earns not more than 100 million USD from the horticulture industry, which has a global market worth trillions, it has created a wide market in cut flowers. Ethiopia has abundant water resources, annual sunlight, and a productive human resource base with an agricultural background. Its geographic location is also advantageous, being close to the Middle East and European markets.

To capitalize on these opportunities, Ethiopia should focus on supplying products that meet market demands. Tewodros suggested raising awareness regarding safety measures and implementing systems to meet international quality standards.



Asfaw Reta



Asmamaw Jemaneh



Rachel Owino

Maize farmers pin hope on grasses trapping Armyworm

BY YESUF ENDRIS

Having 2.5 million hectares of maize farm, Ethiopia's agriculture has been infested with Fall Armyworm which could diminish the production by more than 30 percent. Amid the infestation, Brachiaria and Desmodium grasses remain best solutions to control the pest.

Farmer Asfaw Reta is from the Eastern Wollega zone of Oromia State, whose largest farming is maize. He is fighting against the invasive and devastating Fall Armyworm. His seven hectares of maize farm, the major income to his family, is under threat of the pest. At this time, he is struggling against the pest using agro-ecological solutions that he learnt from agricultural experts and their partners.

"I thought I would lose everything if I was hesitant to use the solution. Neighboring farmers are copying solutions from me. We all are hoping to lessen the impact, not to eradicate the pest," he expressed.

According to him, using Brachiaria and Desmodium grasses is the best eco-friendly solution to combat fall armyworm.

These types of grasses are false habitats which can trap and catch the pest and halt its eggs from hatching speedily. On the other hand, the farmers are also using the same grasses as animal fodder, he said.

In spite of the availability of agro-ecological solutions, Asfaw expressed that the seed of the grass is "very expensive" for farmers.

"Personally, I have sufficient seeds of Brachiaria and Desmodium grasses. I sometimes supply seeds for farmers. But it needs to be addressed with government or stakeholders' effort," he commented.

Asmamaw Jemaneh, an expert on the Fall Armyworm working for the Ministry of Agriculture, stated that training is being arranged to all experts and maize farmers to control the invasive pest.

A survey conducted this year by the Ministry indicated that 450,000 hectares of maize farm is affected by the Fall Armyworm despite the fact that the scale of infestation varies from one place to another.

Out of the infested land, almost 309,000 hectares has been treated with traditional and chemical solutions while the chemical

aspect has its own side effects. "So, we are now recommending using natural solutions," he said.

Yielding more than 107 million quintals per a year, maize is the second largest growing crop in Ethiopia. The consequence on the crop directly impacts the food security, according to Asmamaw.

The International Center of Insect Physiology and Ecology-ICIPE has been working with a three-year project, community based monitoring and forecasting for early warning and timely management in fighting the armyworm.

Rachel Owino, a Technology Transfer Expert at ICIPE, told *The Ethiopian Herald* that the pest is becoming a global threat.

Fall Armyworm has led to production losses in Ethiopia and neighboring countries, she said adding, it needs comprehensive collaboration among agricultural stakeholders to prevent further damage.

Farmers who have adopted natural solutions are seeing positive results in defending their crops from the pest, she noted.

EEG, Danieli Co., Ltd. Agree to revive Nekemte steel plant

ADDIS ABABA— A significant breakthrough has been achieved as Ethio Engineering Group (EEG) and Italian steel firm Danieli Co., Ltd. have signed an agreement to revive the stalled Nekemte Steel Processing project.

The agreement was signed by Ambassador Suleiman Dedefo, Chief Executive Officer of Ethio Engineering Group, and Danilo Drolini, President of the Africa Partnership Project at Danieli Steel Plant. This deal marks a major step forward in reviving the 50 million Euro project, which was put on hold prior to the ongoing reforms.

Once completed, the Nekemte Steel Processing Plant will have the capacity to produce 300,000 tons of steel and various Rebar and steel profiles annually. The project's revival is expected to have a significant impact on the nation's steel production supply.



Under the terms of the agreement, Danieli's experts will conduct inspection and consulting works to facilitate the project's resumption. This partnership is crucial in ensuring the successful completion of the

project, which has been on hold for years.

The revival of the Nekemte Steel Processing project is expected to contribute significantly to Ethiopia's steel production and supply capabilities, FBC reported.

Ethiopia strives to combat...

caused droughts and floods, leading to significant health and economic problems for Ethiopians over the years.

"Ethiopia is implementing policies, strategies, and plans to achieve fruitful outcomes in combating climate change," the DPM further stated that Ethiopia is working to meet the Paris Agreement by mitigating climate change impacts. The country has developed indicators of the Green Economy System Strategy to be utilized in the forthcoming three decades.

Similarly, Temesgen indicated that Ethiopia has a plan to ensure sustainable and green development in the future. The number of seedling beds has increased from 45,000 to over 121,000, which he attributed to the efforts of the reformist government to achieve the Green Legacy Initiative.

Above all, combating climate change would bring significant benefits such as boosting wheat irrigation, ensuring food security, providing renewable energy, and reducing CO2 emissions, he elaborated.

MoPD Minister Fitsum Assefa (PhD) said for her part that the country is committed to meeting the Paris Agreement goals, aiming to reduce global warming by 1.5 degrees and greenhouse gas emissions by 68.8 percent. The implementation plan aims to reduce the exposure of various sectors, including agriculture and forestry, water and energy, transport, industry, urban infrastructure, mining, and health, to climate change impacts.

Experts plead urgent reform...

and other concerns would contribute to sustainable peace on the continent.

According to Tepecikoglu, Africa's current underrepresentation in the UNSC and its institutions necessitates institutional reform. "Given Africa's vast size and diverse dynamics, it deserves greater representation in the UNSC."

Tepecikoglu also mentioned that Turkiye, as a non-permanent member of the UNSC, shares a common perspective with African countries, reinforcing the need for UNSC reform.

Ankara University African Studies Associate Professor Elem Eyrice Tepecikoglu

highlighted that UNSC reform would bring more opportunities and representation for Africa in decision-making processes, potentially reducing security challenges on the continent.

Furthermore, Ethiopia's membership in BRICS economic bloc is seen as a means to diversify the country's external relations. The bloc, composed of major emerging economies, could enhance Ethiopia's global image and support the development of its own payment systems.

Tepecikoglu pointed out that BRICS, as one of the world's major institutions, offers an alternative agenda for development and could

significantly benefit Ethiopia by improving its economic and security situation.

In conclusion, both experts expressed conviction that reforming the UNSC and Ethiopia's involvement in BRICS are critical steps toward improving Africa's representation and influence on the global stage.

Ethiopia has been a member of the United Nations since November 13, 1945 and it has won a seat on the UNSC for the year 2017-2018 along with Sweden, Kazakhstan and Bolivia. The East African nation obtained an overwhelming support of 185 out of the 193 members of the UN General Assembly.

Harari pledges further incentive packages...

yesterday while launching the Trade Fair and Bazaar, organized as part of the 26th International Harari Day, celebrated under the theme 'Harari, Beacon of Peace, Tolerance, and Unity.'

Ordin called on investors and diaspora members worldwide to engage in various investment sectors in the state, promising full support, including land provision and other incentives.

He also noted that the day aims to strengthen social cohesion and stimulate the economy, asserting that it would significantly enhance cooperation and harmony among people. Furthermore, the bazaar is expected to promote investment and increase employment opportunities for youth and women. By showcasing manufacturing industry products, it aims to boost productivity and product output in the state.

The State Chief emphasized that Harari would provide necessary support for investors in the tourism sector and that efforts are being made to ensure lasting peace and stability.

Harari, an ancient city with a history spanning over a thousand years, is internationally recognized for its economic, social, and historic significance. Its historical role in international trade through the Berbera and Zeyela areas is noteworthy.

The city has two globally recognized heritage sites and was known for using its own currency over a thousand years ago. Ordin stressed the importance of Ethiopian nationals and diaspora members contributing significantly to the economy.

Representatives from the neighboring states and cities, manufacturing industries, micro and small enterprises, service providers, importers and exporters and various commercial agents partook in the trade bazaar.

In a related development, Harari State Deputy Chief Administrator Rosa Umer inaugurated the Amir Abdullahi Hall, located in Jegol International Heritage within the premises of the Harar City Municipality. The renovation of Amir Abdullahi Hall was completed and inaugurated on the eve of the 26th International Harari Day.

Rosa said during her visit that the hall, in service for many years, has been renovated to provide better quality services without compromising its historical significance. The Amir Abdullahi Hall is a historical venue for meetings, social events, and entertainment.

The deputy state chief also mentioned that the high-quality renovation is a model for other institutions to follow, emphasizing the importance of quality and speed in their work.

Ministry aims to enhance tax...

campaign and the launch of phase two of the program.

Revenue Minister Aynalem Niguse stated that the national tax and customs movement, launched under the motto "Tax for the Country's Honor," has been ongoing since February 2023. As part of this effort, around 500 taxpayers were recognized and rewarded for their compliance during the one-year movement program.

The Minister further mentioned that over 4,049 citizens received capacity-building training on tax payment, contributing to increased public awareness. Extensive work has also been done in all states and city administrations to raise media awareness about the importance of tax compliance.

The movement also involved legal accountability, procedural updates, and the establishment of tax awareness circles in 240 schools across the country, she added.

Aynalem also noted that joint discussions and consensus were reached with the country's religious leaders on the tax and customs law movement. Plans are in place to prepare a document to raise awareness among religious communities starting next year, which will be jointly prepared by the Assembly of Ethiopian Religious Institutions and the Ministry of Revenue and Customs Commission.

Regarding the role of scholars and former revenue and customs employees, the Minister mentioned that various researchers and



Debele Kabeta

academic lecturers at universities are actively engaged in a forum to collaborate with the institution and prepare research papers on tax and customs to further enhance tax morale.

Customs Commissioner Debele Kabeta emphasized that the revenue performance of the national tax and customs movement will continue to improve, and the movement will be carried out more robustly.

According to him, joint efforts with federal security agencies have resulted in the seizure of assets worth an estimated 106 billion Birr to prevent smuggling and tax evasion. In the last 11 months alone, assets worth 14.3 billion Birr have been seized due to these efforts to prevent and control smuggling of income and expenditures.

The conclusion of the current tax payment movement and the launch of the next phase will be held today in the presence of senior government officials, it was learned.

Opinion

Effectuating AfCFTA through collaboration, coordination

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

As things stand at the moment, a diverse range of effective strategies have been put in place for the most part with a number of regional and international market blocks with a focus on augmenting trade integration to make each and every one beneficiary.

Beyond a shadow of a doubt, the continent of Africa would give a boost to fashion new employment prospects and consolidate battling against poverty and kindle socio economic development and take the continent to the next level of development in the shortest possible time.

Notwithstanding the fact that member states have been working around the clock with the purpose of bringing the agreement into effect, the intended destination has not been attained yet in accordance with expectations. In the face of challenges the future is rosy for AfCFTA.

If African nations put the accent on business opportunities through the agreement by getting to the bottom of technical quandaries making the most of action oriented measure, the continent of Africa for sure would enhance regional value chains.

AfCFTA's tagline is creating one African market; the first step is developing Africa's customs union with a common external tariff, AU Trade Commissioner said. "Thus, we are working towards this direction to enable the continent to pursue free trade with third parties."

In a press briefing he gave in the recent past, the AU Economic Development, Trade, Industry, and Mining Commissioner Ambassador Albert Muchanga stated Africa's enormous potential in education and training, tourism, healthcare, and transportation also make the free trade area a huge opportunity.

"The implementation of the AfCFTA should not be left to a single AU entity or member state and the participation of all concerned actors are so crucial." "Here, the key priority is to supply the market of AfCFTA. Without production, there is no trade. We have to produce. In this respect, we are promoting the development of regional and continental value chains across Africa."

It is recalled that the commission published a study under the title 'Made by Africa', in close collaboration with the International Trade Centre (ITC) to identify sectors with high potential for sustainable value chain development in Africa. The study also classified bottlenecks preventing businesses from full implementation.

The study included 94 regional value chains that are going to be promoted by both the African private sector and the global community. The African Capacity Building Foundation, the training, which is designed explicitly for African Ambassadors and diplomats posted at Permanent missions to the African Union aims at enhancing their understanding of AfCFTA and equip them with the knowledge and skills to accelerate its implementation effectively, according to a Press Release sent recently to The Ethiopian Herald.

It would also generate valuable insights and policy recommendations that can drive the African Continental Free Trade Area forward



African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

significantly increasing intra-African trade improving regional integration. Moreover, enhancing economic growth, job creation as well as providing better livelihoods for the continent's people is amongst the major impacts that the training would highlight.

Thus, governments are encouraged to take advantage of the AfCFTA to promote inclusive and structural transformation in African countries to increase the volume of intra-African trade.

Ethiopia's economic plan should encompass policies targeting full utilization of Africa's free trade area, Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce and Sectorial Associations (AACCSA) suggested.

AACCSA Secretary General Shibeshi Betemariam told local media that the country ought to formulate economic policies compatible to the protocols of the AfCFTA in order to enhance the full utilization of the continental integrated market. "Nations like Kenya and Rwanda design their policies and strategies guided by their Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Ethiopia has also designed its policies in response to SDGs but what remains is taking the AfCFTA protocol such as protocol of trades on goods, services and investment into account," he underscored.

With regard to digital transaction, he indicated that the government has formulated Digital Ethiopia 2025 which aimed at integrating states, creating efficiency and convenience and linking Ethiopia's economy with neighboring countries. Furthermore, the Secretary General said that it would have great impact on global value chain in allowing cross border market linkage not only in between neighboring countries but also across the globe.

Emphasizing that being producer is not mandatory to engage in digital transaction, creating platform would serve the nation hugely. To this end, he indicated that there are emerging platforms such as Ride, delivery, digital health and other services.

In the same way, the UNECA Regional Integration and Trade Division Director said Ethiopia is ready to take advantage of AfCFTA. Ethiopia's commitment and actions towards the implementation of the national strategy for AfCFTA and bringing all stakeholders are well recognized and appreciated.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration (MoRTI) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and other stakeholders,

Policy Studies Institution (PSI) has organized a consultation Forum on the Development of Ethiopia's National AfCFTA Implementation Strategy recently at Skylight Hotel, Addis Ababa.

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

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

Ethiopia is set to commence trial trading of commodities under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration (MoTRI) announced.

In an interview with local media, MoTRI Minister Gebremeskel Chala said recently that Ethiopia has made the necessary preparations put in place the trial trading phase and implement the framework agreement through streamlined strategies.

"Alike other African member countries, Ethiopia is currently employing preliminary activities to commence commodities trial exchange of goods with selected counterpart countries," he underscored. He further mentioned that the Ministry has also projected to nullify 90% import taxes of agricultural and industrial products within ten years.

Similarly, some 7% of goods are also approved to be nullified in the long term and other 3% strategic items exempted from the list that is believed to give policy space for the given nation framed as per the common framework agreement, the Minister noted. Thus, the country has approved 90% of commodity tariffs for 6,000 goods to the African Free Trade Zone, he further remarked.

When this trade agreement framework is effectuated in full swing, it would become world's leading free trade zone that realizes the African Union's Agenda 2063 goal of becoming economically vibrant and influential continent, it was learnt. It should be borne in mind that the leader of the African Union

member states has recently endorsed Ethiopia's tariff line poised to exchange goods within the AfCFTA.

Facilitating the operation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is instrumental to foster economic integration and build lasting peace in the Horn of Africa (HoA), the Ministry of Peace (MoP) said.

The Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) in collaboration with the MoP and Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP) held a panel discussion recently on regional peace and stability matters.

Speaking at the occasion, the MoP Minister Binalf Andualem stated that Ethiopia has a huge responsibility to ensure enduring peace and stability as well as to foster economic integration in the HoA. In this regard, facilitating the operation of the AfCFTA would expedite efforts that aim to build solid peace and economic interconnectedness in the region and the entire continent at large.

Ethiopia is committed to the realization of economic integration vision and its Foreign Policy gives equal weight to neighbor's peace to its internal stability and this principle is the root cause for the country's huge involvement in peace-enforcing missions in the HoA. Ethiopia also believes that the trade supply-chain among countries should be supported by proclamation and other legal frameworks, Binalf elaborated.

According to him, having considered its huge responsibility in the HoA, Ethiopia should focus on activities that foster regional economic integration and stability through consultation, cooperation, discussion and others. The country should also devise mechanisms to overcome challenges that have been posed by lack of peace and conflict in the strategic region.

Evidently, Ethiopia has been experiencing relative peace in most areas and enduring peace will be ensured through the active participation of citizens. This lasting peace offers an opportunity and capacity to resist external challenges and pressures.

For his part, EEP Director General Ashebir Balcha said that the country has been hugely working to integrate the HoA as well the continent via electricity. "Currently, Ethiopia sells electricity to four countries and plan set to provide power to another three states that would greatly contribute to pacify the volatile region."

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

Editorial

Ethiopia's pioneering role in fostering green economy goes beyond its borders

Ethiopia's Green Legacy initiative has been resulting huge significance as an all-inclusive restoration and conservation program aimed at addressing environmental, human health and socio-economic challenges.

Beyond this, Ethiopia has emerged as a beacon of environmental stewardship and sustainable development in Africa. As the world struggles with the escalating impacts of climate change, Ethiopia's robust commitment to fostering a green economy and reducing carbon emissions stands out as a commendable example. This commitment not only propels Ethiopia toward a sustainable future but also inspires and supports neighboring nations to actively participate in combating climate change.

Central to Ethiopia's green initiative is the ambitious Green Legacy initiative. Launched by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed in 2019, the program has set an unparalleled precedent by mobilizing millions of Ethiopians to plant billions of trees. The initiative aims to plant several billion seedlings by 2024, a goal that reflects the nation's dedication to environmental rehabilitation and carbon sequestration. By 2023, over 10 billion trees had already been planted, transforming vast stretches of deforested and degraded land into vibrant ecosystems.

The impact of the Green Legacy initiative extends beyond Ethiopia's borders. Recognizing that climate change is a transnational challenge, Ethiopia has been proactive in sharing its resources and expertise with neighboring countries. Through the distribution of seedlings and the dissemination of best practices in afforestation and sustainable land management, Ethiopia fosters a collaborative spirit in the fight against climate change. This regional solidarity is crucial, as the environmental challenges faced by one nation often ripple across borders, affecting entire regions.

Ethiopia's efforts are particularly significant in the context of Africa, where many countries are disproportionately affected by climate change despite contributing the least to global carbon emissions. Leading by example, Ethiopia provides a blueprint for sustainable development that balances economic growth with environmental preservation. The nation's emphasis on renewable energy, particularly hydropower, further underscores its commitment to reducing reliance on fossil fuels and cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Moreover, Ethiopia's holistic approach integrates environmental initiatives with socio-economic development. The Green Legacy initiative, for instance, not only aims to combat climate change but also addresses issues such as food security, soil erosion and unemployment. By creating green jobs and improving agricultural productivity through reforestation, Ethiopia is demonstrating that environmental sustainability and economic development are not mutually exclusive but are, in fact, mutually reinforcing.

The success of Ethiopia's environmental initiatives owes much to the active participation of its citizens. The nationwide tree-planting campaigns have become a symbol of national pride and collective responsibility, galvanizing communities across the country. This grassroots involvement is essential for the long-term sustainability of environmental projects, ensuring that the benefits are both widespread and enduring.

Ethiopia's leadership in fostering a green economy and combating climate change is a testament to what can be achieved through visionary policies, collaborative efforts, and a steadfast commitment to sustainability. As the world continues to confront the pressing challenges of climate change, Ethiopia's endeavors serve as a powerful reminder that proactive and inclusive approaches are vital.

In conclusion, Ethiopia's unwavering dedication to environmental stewardship sets a high standard for other nations. By sharing its seedlings and rich experiences in green legacy, Ethiopia not only contributes to regional environmental resilience but also reinforces the collective effort needed to address global climate challenges. As neighboring countries follow Ethiopia's lead, a stronger, more united front against climate change is forged, bringing hope for a greener and more sustainable future for all.

Opinion

Green Legacy Initiative a practical tool for promoting unity in Ethiopia

Part II

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

The initiative has mobilized millions of Ethiopians from all walks of life, including government officials, community leaders, students, and ordinary citizens. This collective effort fosters a sense of national solidarity and cooperation, breaking down ethnic and social barriers.

Large-scale tree planting events bring together diverse groups, encouraging interaction and understandings among different ethnic communities, which can help reduce tensions and promote peace.

The shared objective of improving the environment provides a common purpose that transcends political, ethnic, and religious differences. Working towards a greener Ethiopia gives citizens a unifying mission, fostering national pride and collective identity. By focusing on environmental sustainability, the initiative redirects attention from divisive issues to constructive activities that benefit everyone.

Community-based tree planting activities encourage local cooperation and collective action. These activities help build trust and social networks, which are essential for maintaining peace and resolving conflicts at the grassroots level.

The initiative also supports local economies by providing job opportunities in tree nurseries and forestry management, which can alleviate poverty and reduce the socio-economic disparities that often fuel conflicts.

Environmental education programs associated with the Green Legacy Initiative promote awareness about the importance of sustainability and conservation. These programs often emphasize the shared responsibility of protecting the environment, reinforcing the idea of unity and collective action.

Ethiopia has a rich history of traditional environmental conservation mechanisms that have been practiced for centuries. These indigenous practices are deeply rooted in the cultural and social fabric of the communities and have played a significant role in preserving the country's natural resources. Here are some of the key traditional environmental conservation mechanisms in Ethiopia:

Many Ethiopian communities have designated certain forests, groves, and trees as sacred. These areas are often associated with religious and spiritual beliefs and are protected from exploitation and deforestation. The Orthodox Christian Church, for instance, preserves church forests, which are patches of native forest surrounding churches and monasteries.

Ethiopian farmers have long practiced agroforestry, integrating trees and shrubs into their agricultural systems. This practice not only enhances biodiversity but also improves soil fertility, reduces erosion, and provides additional resources such as fodder, fruit, and firewood.

Indigenous methods such as terracing, stone bunds, and check dams have been used for centuries to control soil erosion and manage water resources. These structures help in retaining soil moisture, reducing runoff, and

preventing land degradation. The Konso people of southern Ethiopia are renowned for their intricate terracing systems, which are recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Traditional Ethiopian societies often manage natural resources communally. This involves community rules and regulations that govern the use of forests, grazing lands, and water sources. These rules are enforced by local elders and are aimed at sustainable resource use.

The Gada system of the Oromo people is a socio-political structure that includes environmental stewardship as one of its key components, promoting sustainable land and water management.

Indigenous irrigation techniques, such as floodwater farming and river diversion, have been developed to cope with the country's varied climate. These methods are tailored to local conditions and help ensure water availability for crops during dry periods.

The Tigray region, for example, has a long history of using diversion weirs and canals to irrigate fields.

Pastoralist communities in Ethiopia have developed sustainable grazing practices that include rotational grazing and transhumance (seasonal movement of livestock). These practices help maintain the health of grazing lands and prevent overgrazing.

The Afar and Somali pastoralists are known for their adaptive strategies to manage scarce water and forage resources in arid and semi-arid regions.

Ethiopian farmers traditionally save seeds from their harvests for future planting, ensuring the preservation of local crop varieties. This practice maintains genetic diversity and resilience against pests and diseases.

Seed exchange networks within communities facilitate the sharing of diverse crop varieties, contributing to agricultural sustainability.

These traditional environmental conservation mechanisms are crucial for the sustainable management of Ethiopia's natural resources. They are deeply embedded in the cultural and social systems of the communities and have been effective in preserving biodiversity and ensuring ecological balance. Integrating these indigenous practices with modern conservation techniques can provide a holistic approach to environmental sustainability in Ethiopia.

The above mentioned environmental protection schemes are all done both at community and national level and over time, they create a condition in which people long to meet each other on such occasions like tree planting national events under the auspices of the G.L.I. Under such circumstances people tend to avoid conflicts and work together for common objectives from which everyone will benefit either directly or indirectly.

The Green Legacy Initiative effectively helps to buttress the socio-economic, political and cultural development of Ethiopia in conformity with international standards of environment friendly economic development. Ethiopia has come a long way towards creating a new political order that is based on unity in diversity.

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



The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays
By The Ethiopian Press Agency

Office of the CEO

Tel. 011-126-42-22
Fax. 251-011-156-98-62
email- epa@press.et

Advertisement and Dist. Department

email: etpresspromotion@gmail.com
Tel. 011-156-98-73/011-811-13-15
Telegram :- 0976084707 - press

Editor-in-Chief: Worku Belachew

email- workubelachew@press.et

Address- Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-city

Woreda - 05, House No----

Tel- +251 111 26 41 98

Managing Editor: Wakuman Kudama

Email: wakuma220@gmail.com

Deputy Editors-in-Chief:

Alem Hailu
Elizabeth Mengistu
Zekarias Woldemariam
Desta Geberehiwot
Daniel Beyene

Website: www.press.et

email: ethiopianherald@press.et

Fb//Ethiopian Press Agency/

The Ethiopian Herald

Business & Economy



Climate smart agriculture has to be well expanded in the nation

Promoting climate-smart agriculture in Ethiopia

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Agriculture is the key sector in Ethiopia due to its wide socio-economic features and being the cardinal driver of many sectors. Hence, promoting this sector would help the nation attain the long-term growth and food security. On the other hand, complex and widespread poverty, food insecurity, low productivity, famine and degradation of natural resources are among the challenges seriously compromising the sector in the country.

Keeping this in mind, *The Ethiopian Herald* held talks with Melaku Dendena, an agricultural expert graduated from Haramaya University, to have relevant information about the issue under discussion, peculiarly how to have climate smart and lucrative agriculture.

He said, “The agricultural sector in Ethiopia uses low capital intensive agricultural technologies that results in low productivity and income that constrain farmers’ capacity. Cropping systems in the Ethiopian highlands consist primarily of cereals in rotation with grain legume and oilseed crops. Bread wheat is the dominant crop in wheat belt of Ethiopia and its production is mainly challenged by continuous wheat cropping year after year.”

He further stated that chemical fertilizer faces significant constraints in terms of low availability of credit and limited reach of distribution networks in contexts where appropriate application can enhance yields. In Ethiopia, low and declining soil fertility due to net nutrient extraction by crops is responsible for low agricultural productivity and food insecurity.

Since the current population growth rate in Ethiopia appears to be greater than the agricultural production rate contributing to the food insecurity and environmental degradation, everyone has to focus on contributing their share to help the agriculture sector.

He said as a result of rapidly growing population and lack of proper land use management systems in some parts of the country, Ethiopia has attached due emphasis to the modernizing the sector more than any time else. Given the very high population growth rate and continued degradation of natural resources, the opportunity to increase production through area expansion has to be the prime step. The greatest potential for increasing

agricultural productivity is likely to come from increasing yields through efficient and wide spread applications of improved agricultural inputs and related technologies.

However, the vast majority of the farmers in the country continue to use traditional production techniques. Probability of adoption of crop rotation appears to be significantly and positively influenced by education, extension service and farming experience.

Thus the government has to give due attention for training farmers through strengthening and establishing both formal and informal type of farmer’s education, farmer’s training centers, technical and vocational schools. Since extension services are the main instrument used in the promotion of demand for modern technologies, appropriate and adequate extension services should be provided. This could be done by designing appropriate capacity building program to train additional development agents to reduce the existing higher ratio of farmers to development agents as well as to provide refreshment training for development agents.

He said, “The long term viability of agriculture has been affected by soil deterioration resulting from intensive farming practices and unsustainable procedures. The efficacy of using diversified crop rotation as a strategic measure to address this scenario has been shown. Properly prepared organic fertilizers such as farmyard manure, enhance soil structure, water retention, nutrient availability and microbial diversity are important steps to promote agricultural production.”

As to him, crop rotation systems especially dominated by cereals like maize and wheat are intimately linked to soil properties. Ethiopia is one of the well-endowed countries in sub-Saharan Africa in terms of natural resources and agricultural potential. However, natural resource degradation in Ethiopia has been going on for centuries. The major causes of land degradation in Ethiopia are rapid population growth, severe soil loss, deforestation, low vegetative cover and unbalanced crop, and livestock production.

Ethiopia is reported to have the highest rates of soil nutrient depletion through soil erosion in Sub-Saharan Africa. Sheet, rill, and gully erosion are commonly observed in various parts of the country.

A great deal of attention has been paid to soil management practices that promote sustainable soil quality and productivity. Crop rotation is the practice of cultivating different sequences of crops on the same plot of land. It can have a major impact on soil health, due to emerging soil ecological interactions and processes that occur with time. It is a beneficial approach to reduce soil erosion, balance, manage and improve the fertility of the soil, improve soil structure, avoid excessive depletion of soil nutrients, and control weeds, pest, and diseases.

For a better agricultural production, trapping sediment and nutrients, promoting formation of natural terraces over time, preventing flooding of neighboring lands, reducing sedimentation of waterways, streams, and rivers, and improving soil properties or land productivity have to come to the forefront and applied well, he added.

The culture of using traditional and rain fed subsistence-oriented farming system has to be appealingly altered. Besides, the common farming practices like intensive and continuous cultivation, free grazing, and overgrazing need to be addressed as they do have negative repercussion on crop production.

“Though Ethiopia is an agrarian country, imbalance between the population growth and the agricultural production growth rate is one of the pronounced national problems that the country is facing. In addition, the agricultural sector in the country is characterized by inadequate resource endowment, traditional methods of cultivation and husbandry practices, limited access to land, credit and agricultural innovation despite its rich resources,” he opined.

He said it is well known that agriculture is the mainstay of the Ethiopian population and a key sector of the country’s economy. Thus conservation of agriculture needs to be promoted by all actors including the private sector and agricultural offices at all levels. True, the promotion of conservation agriculture technology has been affected by a lack of common understanding as well as other social and environmental issues that like open grazing, as to him.

Ethiopia has a number of adequate policies and strategies pertinent to climate change adaptation and mitigation as well as agriculture and food security.

According to Melaku, Ethiopia has so far been characterized by low agricultural production and productivity and there are significant yield gaps. Such low productivity is emanating from environmental factors such as climate change, soil erosion and land degradation as well as weak extension services. Such an appalling trend is now changing.

There has to be organization responsible for the promotion and technical support of conservation agriculture at all levels. There is a wealth of knowledge held by farmers on traditional soil and water conservation methods that can be useful in supporting the up scaling of climate smart agriculture across the country. These practices need to be well expanded across the nation.

Aside from facilitating economic growth, the agriculture sector also plays a vital role in achieving other developmental goals, such as ensuring food security, promoting employment creation, and improving the living standards of people by lifting them out of extreme poverty.

As to him, the use of indigenous soil fertility management practices as complementary can also render extension programs more relevant and useful, and thus, acceptable to farmers.

Since agriculture has been seen as a low-productivity sector in the country so far, a lot has to be done to transform the sector thereby helping the country meet its dual missions-ensuring food security and ending poverty, the ultimate one, of course. In a nutshell, growth in agriculture contributes to rapid rises in agro-processing and processed food marketing, which not only provides new engines of growth but also an opportunity to foster import substitution.

Furthermore, agriculture and food production are important areas, which have rendered a significant contribution in not only focusing food security and well-being of the individuals, but also in generating employment opportunities. The farming community and other concerned bodies are getting involved in the sector, not only to augment their knowledge and understanding in terms of bolstering production and productivity but also to generating a source of income to sustain economic development and growth in an appropriate manner. No doubt, the development of agriculture has had a direct impact on food security and sustainable economic development.

Art & Culture

Nature or nurture? African immigrant talent in western cultures

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

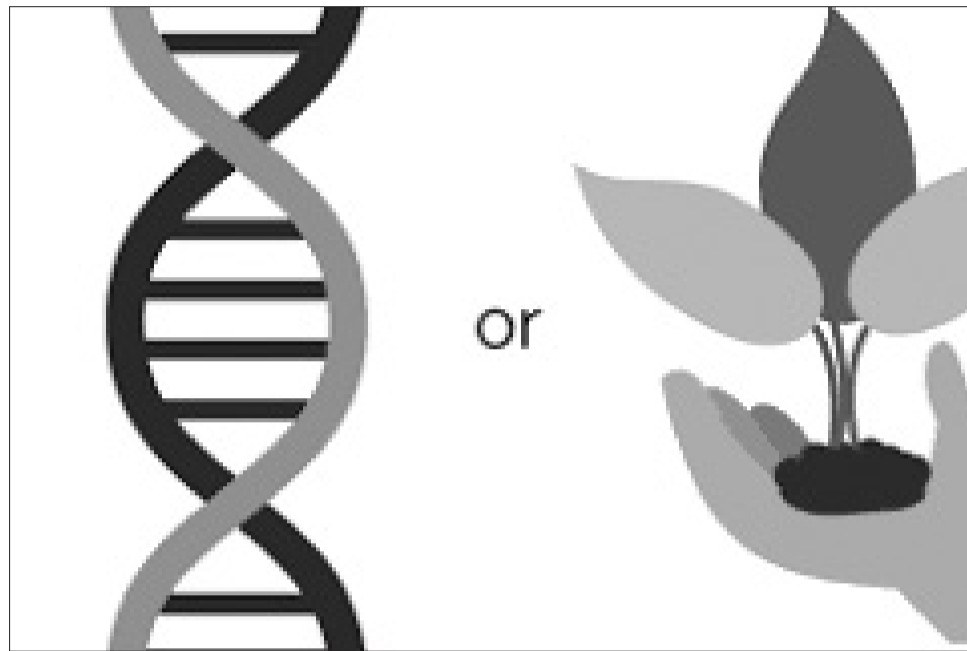
Although Africa is often maligned in the Western media as a “dark” continent without hope or imagination, it is impossible to deny the resurgence of African arts and artists who are showing the positive, brighter and more promising face of their continent to the world. They are fast becoming the positive and optimistic features of the other Africa that is inevitably rising despite the chronic ‘Afro-pessimism’ of the media. Africa’s problems are exaggerated while its promising features are overlooked if not denied. However, contemporary Western artistic establishments and the global artistic industry have reached a point whereby they are reluctantly recognizing Africa’s impact and benefits to global culture.

There is virtually no place anywhere in the world where African arts- music, dance, theatre, literature and painting have not made their presence felt and even shined over and above local productions? There is no global metropolis where their international arts centers and galleries have not collected and displayed African arts. African arts are no more shunned as “backward” or “primitive” as they did in the colonial and post-colonial eras. More than in any field, Africa is making its present strongly felt in the arts, ancient as well as contemporary.

Famous African musicians have built huge fan bases in the West. They have quickly become the jewels on the crown of the global art industry. African writers are enjoying huge sales figures in the book markets and their books are read everywhere in the world except in Africa. African art is appreciated from London to Paris and from New York to Tokyo or, from Rome to London. African music has huge fans in the West as well as in the Arab world. Soon, African arts, and music in particular, are going to conquer even Asia or China as these places are inevitably going to become more open societies in their own ways and at their own tempo.

There is a glaring paradox here. While African arts and literature are sought and avidly consumed by the outside world, they still remain relatively ignored or unknown here in Africa. There are many reasons for this state of affairs; the main one being that the post-colonial generations of Africans have fallen captive to Western arts and literature at the same time that the latter have managed to command global attention with their huge arts industries and marketing savvy and distribution power.

Regarding the success of African artists in the Diaspora or in the West, one has to go back to the 17th century and after. The cultural impacts of black immigration to the West in general and to the United States in particular cannot be underestimated. In the last three hundred years or so, there had been waves after waves of African and black immigration to the US that have deeply impacted the political, economic and cultural features of the country.



Black immigration to the United States has at least two characteristics, starting from slavery to the present. The first feature is forced immigration and the second one is what we may call voluntary immigration. Any way you look at it, the present American “melting pot” is a conglomeration of black as well white Hispanic and even Asian constituents, each with their own distinctive cultures, traditions and aspirations.

Recent black immigrants from Africa and the islands of the Caribbean are sometimes classified as African Americans. However, these groups, especially first- and second-generation immigrants, often have cultural practices, histories, and languages that are distinct from those of African Americans born in the United States. For example, Caribbean natives may speak French, British English, or Spanish as their first language.

Emigrants from Africa may speak a European language other than English or any of a number of African languages as their first language. Caribbean and African immigrants often have little knowledge or experience of the distinctive history of race relations in the United States. Thus, Caribbean and African immigrants may or may not choose to identify with the African American community.

When we look at the issue of immigration from the cultural point of view, we realize that the “melting pot” has led to cultural fragmentation and alienation rather than to cultural assimilation or cohesion. All the racial and ethnic groups in the US tend to maintain their own identities while the media are paying lip service to the notion of melting pot that has become a kind official ideology.

From the racial and other perspectives, the US is still a racially defined and demarcated country despite three centuries of coexistence or living together by those groups. The state of subtle alienation and oppression of blacks in America, segregation or discrimination in cultural and other social endeavors is however covered up by the official version or definition of American cultural life. This has long become a public and political issue that continues to animate, divide or challenge ordinary people as well as intellectuals who debate the various points of views.

The official way in which American culture is portrayed says that, “The American people express their culture through traditions in food, clothing, recreation, and ceremonies; through the education system and institutions of learning, including museums and libraries; and through the arts, encompassing the visual, literary, and performing arts.”

This is of course true in the US as it is in other Western countries. However, this statement does not go into the heart of the matter, that is to say, the racial aspect of the interaction among various strands of American society. As a distinct racial group, African Americans occupy a distinct place a distinct identity different from other ethnic groups. According to the officially held point of view, “African Americans (American Blacks or Black Americans), racial group in the United States whose dominant ancestry is from sub-Saharan West Africa. Many African Americans also claim European, Native American, or Asian ancestors. A variety of names have been used for African Americans at various points in history.”

True, African Americans and black people from everywhere in the world have contributed a great deal to the development of American music, literature, sports, cinema and the arts in general. However the often hidden fact is that control over these institutions is wielded by the white elites and the art industry is entirely managed by the same elites while grassroots.

America, that is to say the United States, have long become a melting pot of various cultures, languages and traditions that have given the country the misleading accolade of, “the Land of opportunities” although the black immigrants from Africa, the Caribbean and other places are still largely caught in the infernal cycle of racial segregation, ethnic marginalization and anti-black prejudices. Although Africans and black people from any part of the world have made huge contribution to the present shape of the country their merits are rarely recognized as a result of media prejudice and monopoly ownership by rich white Americans.

The slogan of “Land of Opportunities” largely and mainly applies to the white major-

ity that had emigrated from Europe and the English speaking world in general and have been successful in controlling and managing the huge government, economy, the media, society in general, pushing the other demographic components to the margins. The black population, including immigrants, is of course the most disadvantage ethnic group even if at one point a black man had become the president of the country, a fact that has changed little on the ground as far as racial, political, economic and cultural relations are concerned.

The huge contribution of African Americans to US culture is a fact that is not only indisputable but also well-established and widely acknowledged. According to Encarta encyclopedia “African American music has influenced musical tastes around the world. Africans introduced Americans to musical rhythms and instruments quite different from the musical traditions of Europeans or Native Americans. In some cases, African musical traditions have blended into American culture with little notice.”

When we look at the history of African American music and the contribution by black artists within it, we realize that “African Americans blended African musical forms with European century, the tradition of slave spirituals developed into gospel music, a religious song form which incorporated melodies and rhythms from popular music. Black church choirs around the country continue to sing both gospel and spirituals.”

What we described above is of course the tip of the iceberg on the subject of black artistic contribution to Western culture in general and American society in particular. Yet, the contribution of black’s people from Africa and elsewhere is not confined only to the area of culture. African Americans are reshaping the political contours and shape of America in the 21st century. Their influence is extending to other areas.

African Americans who are members of the more recent generation of immigrants are proving their mettle by taking the Western cultural establishments as the contexts within which they are not only surviving but also flourishing. Contemporary immigrants from Africa are taking the Western music and movie industries by storms.

Nigerians at home and in the Diaspora are leading the way and other Africans are following suit. Musicians, writers and filmmakers are shining in the Diaspora. This is due not because the fate of black people has improved worldwide but because the ongoing globalization process has pushed the boundaries of opportunities and made African and black arts in general not only enjoyable but also marketable. The future looks promising although the past was not an ideal time for immigrant cultures to flourish and enjoy worldwide acceptability. If African renaissance is a reality and not an illusion, it has already started with the renaissance of arts and culture not within Africa but in the global African Diaspora.

Indepth

A bleak future 50 years after the New International Economic 'non-order'?

Fifty years ago on 1 May 1974, the Sixth Special Session of the General Assembly (April–May) adopted a revolutionary declaration and program of action on the establishment of a New International Economic Order (NIEO) “based on equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest and cooperation among all States, irrespective of their economic and social systems”. The hope was that a NIEO would “correct inequalities and redress existing injustices, make it possible to eliminate the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries and ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development and peace and justice for present and future generations”. Alas, what evolved is far from what was envisioned or called for.

Failed aid promise

The NIEO resolution reaffirmed the minimum target – originally defined in the strategy for the second Development Decade – of 1% of the gross national product (GNP) of each developed country to be transferred to developing countries, out of which 0.7% of GNP would be as official development assistance (ODA).

But, ODA steadily declined from around 51% of GNI in the early 1960s to around 32% during 2017-2021. Oxfam estimated that 50 years of broken promises meant a US\$5.7 trillion aid shortfall by 2020. Only five countries met the ODA target of 0.7% of GNI: Denmark (0.70%), Germany (0.83%), Luxembourg (1.00%), Norway (0.86%) and Sweden (0.90%).

Unreformed international monetary system and financing of development

The NIEO resolution called for (i) full and effective participation of developing countries in all phases of decision-making at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank; (ii) adequate and orderly creation of additional liquidity through the additional allocation of special drawing rights (SDRs); and (iii) early establishment of a link between SDRs and additional development financing.

None has materialized. Despite repeated commitments, and notwithstanding some minor improvement between 2005 and 2015, the representation of developing countries in international financial institutions, regional development banks and standard-setting bodies, e.g., OECD's international taxation, has remained largely unchanged. The governments of the largest developed countries continue to hold veto powers in the decision-making bodies of these institutions.

The unchanged mechanism for allocating SDRs in proportion to countries' IMF quota shares meant that most of the latest SDRs allocation of (about US\$650 billion) in 2021 went to advanced economies; developing countries received only about one third, the most vulnerable countries receiving much less. While both G7 and G20 called for a voluntary rechanneling of US\$100 billion worth of unused SDRs, only a fraction has actually been rechanneled to developing countries.

Increased indebtedness

The NIEO resolution envisioned “appropriate urgent measures ...to mitigate adverse consequences for ... development ... arising from the burden of external debt”. These included debt cancellations, moratorium, rescheduling or interest subsidization, and reorientation of international financial institutions lending policies.

Failure to fulfill aid promises and reform the global financial architecture, including the IMF quota-based SDRs allocations, forced developing countries to borrow from commercial sources at exorbitantly high interest rates with shorter maturity terms and no mechanism for

restructuring. This has exacerbated the debt crisis. Almost 40% of all developing countries (52 countries) suffer from severe debt problems and extremely expensive market-based financing.

Only after extensive lobbying by civil society organizations, did the IMF and the World Bank jointly take the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative in 1996, supplemented by the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative in 2005. Despite the IMF's debt service relief, and some limited G20 debt service suspension during the Covid-19 pandemic for low-income countries (LICs), the debt crisis worsened, with 60% LICs already at high risk of or in debt distress.

Rising food insecurity

The NIEO resolution called for the accumulation of buffer stocks of commodities in order to offset market fluctuations, combat inflationary tendencies, and ensure grain and food security.

Developing countries are far from attaining food security. Even before the Ukraine war, food insecurity around the world was rising. The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) estimated that in 2022 approximately 30% of the global population (2.4 billion people), did not have constant access to food. Among them, around 900 million people faced severe food insecurity, and an additional 122 million people have been pushed into hunger since 2019. World Bank projections show that by 2030, over 600 million people will still struggle to feed their families.

Meanwhile, Africa turned from a net-exporter to a net-importer of food since the adoption of NIEO resolution. While developing countries had an overall annual agricultural trade surplus of almost US\$7 billion in the early 1960s, “since the beginning of the 1990s they have generally been net importers of agricultural products, with a deficit in 2001, for example, of US\$11 billion.”

Deindustrialization

The NIEO resolution called for “all efforts ... by the international community” for “the industrialization of the developing countries”.

Except for a few countries in Asia, deindustrialization has become the unfortunate fate for developing countries. For Africa, the GDP share of manufacturing declined from around 17% in 1990 to around 11% in 2019, and Africa remains the least industrialized region in the world. In most central Asian countries, manufacturing's GDP shares declined from around 20% in the early 1990s to less than 10% in 2015. Large Latin American countries, e.g., Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico also witnessed declines in manufacturing's GDP shares.

The deindustrialisation has seen increasing specialization in commodities, resource-based manufactures and low productivity services. Thus, majority of developing countries remain vulnerable to commodity price swings.

Even late-comer Asian developing countries, including China, face the risk of premature deindustrialization. Some, e.g., Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand, are already in a ‘middle-income trap’.

Trade, technology barriers

The NIEO resolution asked for “improved access to markets in developed countries through the progressive removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers and of restrictive business practices”.

Yet, there has been a resurgence of protectionism in OECD countries since the late 1970s. The trade protectionism under different guises, such as health and sanitary standards, persisted even after the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The World Bank has warned, “Protectionist measures are on the rise... [And] detrimental policies have been outpacing trade-liberalizing policies”.

The NIEO resolution also emphasized that developing countries needed to be given “access on improved terms to modern technology and to adapt that technology, as appropriate... and ... adapt commercial practices governing transfer of technology to the requirements of the developing countries”.

Still, strengthened intellectual property rights, reinforced in the WTO's agreement on Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs), have raised the costs of acquiring technology, reducing technology transfers, raising transnational corporations (TNCs)' monopoly powers. Developed countries refused to relax TRIPs to allow developing countries' access to Covid-19 vaccines, drugs and testing technologies.

Unabated power of transnational corporations

The NIEO resolution demanded “permanent sovereignty of States over natural resources”; and “regulation and control over the activities of transnational corporations... to prevent interference in the internal affairs of the countries ... to eliminate restrictive business practices... to conform to the national development plans and objectives of developing countries, ...to transfer ...technology and management skills to developing countries on equitable and favorable terms; to regulate the repatriation of the profits ... and to promote reinvestment of their profits in developing countries”.

The UN Commission on TNCs, a body created in 1974 for the purpose, struggled to agree on the draft code of conduct on TNCs, and in 1994 was replaced by a Commission of the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD.

TNCs continue to influence and mould domestic and international politics to their interests. TNCs have governments at their beck and call – witness their consistent success at dodging tax payments. Stringent WTO's TRIPs was adopted at the behest of TNCs, especially to protect monopoly profits of big transnational pharmaceutical companies.

TNCs exert political influence to liberalize trade and investment; obtain subsidies; reduce their tax burdens; dilute working conditions; relax environmental protection. As Dani Rodrik noted, the WTO is heavily influenced by major banks and TNCs. Through the World Economic Forum (WEF), the TNCs are now setting global economic agenda.

Diminished States

The NIEO resolution contained the Charter on Economic Rights and Duties of States. However, neo-liberalism promoted by US President Reagan and UK Prime Minister Thatcher sees State as a problem. Privatization, liberalization and deregulation have significantly eroded the State from its customary intervention in regulating economic growth and promoting redistribution. The erosion of the State as an institution is visible in underfunded social programs, a smaller public sector, weakened regulatory structures, foregone infrastructure projects, public assets sales and continued privatization.

Questionable legitimacy of global economic governance

The NIEO resolution demanded that the United Nations, in particular the Economic and Social Council, be entrusted with the responsibility of setting global economic agenda and coordinating it as the most inclusive organization with legitimacy. Besides the TNC takeover of global economic agenda setting through WEF, non-inclusive informal country groupings, e.g., G7 and G20, with questionable legitimacy and formal bodies, e.g., OECD and Bank for International Settlements, are acting as norm-setters. Thus, developing countries remain unrepresented and disadvantaged.

Opportunity lost

The NIEO resolution was initiated in the wake of the collapse of the post-World War II Bretton Woods System in 1971, aimed at supporting development aspirations of developing and newly decolonized countries. However, the developed world failed to see that more orderly world growth and prosperity of developing countries would have benefited them too.

Instead, they engaged in protected negotiations dragging on for about two years. The resolution was adopted by a divisive majority vote (123 for, 50 against and 1 abstention) amidst fierce opposition from developed countries.

The United States took the position that “it cannot and does not accept any implication that the world is now embarked on the establishment of something called the New International Economic Order”. The NIEO effectively went into oblivion after President Reagan declared in 1981, “We should not seek to create new institutions”.

Thus, the developed world ensured NIEO's failure while the global economy continues to struggle under a “non-system”. The world economy has also become more crisis prone; we had the Latin American debt crisis in the 1980s, the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis, the 1998 Russian financial crisis, the 2000 Turkish lira crisis and the 2002 Argentine crisis within a short span of two decades. And the global financial and economic crisis showed, a crisis originating in one corner of the globe can quickly engulf the whole world.

Yet, we still do not have a global financial governance mechanism to deal with such crises fairly. What is most disappointing may not be the failure of the NIEO as such, but the hope that it inspired.

A bleak future?

Initiated by Progressive International, delegates from over 25 countries of the Global South assembled in Havana on 27 January 2023 to declare their intent to build a NIEO fit for the 21st century, countering the TNCs' global economic agenda setting behind the WEF. The signatories of NIEO-Mark II seek to rebuild the collective power of emerging and developing countries for fundamentally transforming the international system, and for alternative ways to respond to global crises.

NIEO-Mark II is essentially, a call for shared and differentiated responsibilities for equitable development. Developed countries acknowledge the principle of ‘common but differentiated responsibilities’, formalized at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. But they have failed to meet their financing commitments and reneged on various targets to address global warming.

Amidst ongoing global challenges, including the climate emergency geopolitical conflicts, public health crisis, global food insecurity, outstripping the response capacity of the UN, the UN Secretary-General has called for a Summit of the Future – Our Common Agenda to be held on 22-23 September 2024.

The Summit of the Future is expected to find multilateral solutions for better tomorrow; resulting in an inter-governmentally agreed “Pact for the Future” to tackle emerging threats and opportunities.

What is the chance that the nations would agree to the “Pact for the Future”? To what extent the Pact will accommodate NIEO-Mark II?

The world now is more divided than it was in the 1970s when NIEO-Mark I was first proposed. Yet, plagued by ideological conflicts, NIEO-Mark I failed, making the world more crisis prone. One can only hope that the rising ideological and geopolitical tensions do not lead to a bleak future.

SOURCE: INTER PRESS SERVICE

Law & Politics

Meeting Africa's burgeoning energy demand via nuclear technology

BY EYUEL KIFLU

In recent years, African nations have been increasingly looking towards nuclear energy as a viable solution to meet their growing energy demands and drive sustainable development. With a focus on reducing carbon emissions and ensuring energy security, several countries on the continent are considering or actively pursuing nuclear power projects.

Most African countries currently lack access to reliable and affordable electricity. In 2021, around 600 million Africans, or 43% of the population, lacked access to electricity, according to the International Energy Agency.

Some African countries have made significant strides in developing nuclear energy infrastructure. South Africa, for instance, operates the continent's only commercial nuclear power plant at Koeberg, providing a substantial portion of the country's electricity needs.

However, many African countries still face challenges in embracing nuclear energy, such as high initial costs, concerns about safety and security, as well as the lack of technical expertise and regulatory frameworks.

Despite these challenges, the potential benefits of nuclear power in Africa are undeniable. By investing in nuclear energy, countries can diversify their energy mix, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, create job opportunities in high-skilled sectors, and bolster their overall economic development.

Beyond electricity generation, nuclear technology also has applications in fields like medical diagnostics and treatment, as well as industrial uses such as sterilization and food preservation.

The African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology (AFRA) is playing a crucial role in promoting the peaceful use of nuclear technology on the continent. AFRA is an intergovernmental agreement established by African member states to further strengthen and enlarge the contribution of nuclear science and technology to socio-economic development.

During the recent 35th AFRA Technical Working Group Meeting in Addis Ababa, participants from different African countries discussed various issues related to nuclear science and technology. Ethiopia, for instance, is investigating the possibilities of nuclear power for energy generation and plans to establish an institute to administer the sector sustainably.

In his introductory remarks, Innovation and Technology Minister Belete Molla (PhD) stated that Ethiopia is investigating the possibilities of nuclear power for

Nuclear technology plays a crucial role in enhancing animal health, soil and water management, insect pest control, food safety, and plant breeding

energy generation and intends to establish an institute to administer the sector sustainably.

"We are investing in research and development, building the required infrastructure, and implementing policies and initiatives to promote innovative businesses and entrepreneurs across all industries. As a result, the Ministry of Innovation and Technology is committed to promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy in order to build a strong and long-term nuclear program."

The Minister further stated that the AFRA technical working group conference aims to improve technical collaboration between state parties and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). In compliance with the regulations governing the provision of technical assistance to its member states, the IAEA provides technical, financial, and administrative support.

Ethiopia has been a member of AFRA since its inception in 1990, and has since collaborated in key economic sectors such as agriculture, food security, human health, water resource management, the environment, industry, and, more recently, research through human resource development, equipment procurement, and



donations, Belete stated.

Hua Liu, IAEA Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Technical Cooperation on his part emphasized the significance of AFRA as a pivotal regional framework for advancing nuclear science and technology. The collaboration between AFRA and the IAEA has yielded tangible outcomes that must be sustained through collective efforts. Liu urged AFRA to assess the economic impacts of its programs, particularly in addressing water scarcity affecting one-third of the region's population.

Acknowledging the pressing challenges faced by AFRA, Liu introduced a new initiative aimed at enhancing agricultural production, reducing food losses, ensuring food safety, and improving nutritional outcomes. He stressed the importance of adapting agriculture to climate change adversities. The development of small modular reactors (SMRs) was highlighted as a promising opportunity for Africa's energy sector due to their safety and convenience in construction and operation.

Liu underscored the necessity of human resource development in nuclear science and technology through training programs supported by the IAEA. He advocated for establishing regional training centres to enhance nuclear safety capabilities across Africa. Encouraging South-South cooperation and innovative funding approaches beyond traditional donors, Liu emphasized the need for African nations to collaborate on common interests like public health to attract private or developmental funding.

While noting progress in Africa's nuclear sector, Liu acknowledged persistent challenges that require flexible responses and sustained momentum. He called upon all African IAEA member states to ratify the revised Africa Agreement and fulfil their financial commitments to support technical cooperation initiatives. In conclusion, Liu expressed gratitude for on-going support while urging continued

dedication towards advancing nuclear science and technology in Africa.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald* John Jabati, a representative from the regulatory authority in Sierra Leone highlighted the progress of nuclear science and technology in Africa, particularly in human health, agriculture, and nutrition

Despite advancements, challenges persist due to the novelty of these technologies on the continent. A key obstacle is the limited capacity in Africa, heavily reliant on foreign experts. To address this issue, there is a pressing need for human resource development within Africa.

Jabati emphasized the significance of promoting training in nuclear science and technology to meet Africa's growing demands. He noted the potential benefits in various sectors such as human health and the emerging interest in nuclear power, particularly through small modular reactors. Many African nations are now considering nuclear power as a solution to their energy challenges, which could pave the way for achieving sustainable development goals.

According to Jabati, governmental commitment is crucial to kick-start progress in this field. Without strong support from African governments, advancements are hindered. He stressed the importance of building local capacity in nuclear science and technology as a fundamental step towards realizing these opportunities on the continent.

Nuclear technology plays a crucial role in enhancing animal health, soil and water management, insect pest control, food safety, and plant breeding. Its application in crop breeding can lead to the development of resilient varieties that can better withstand climate change impacts, aiding vulnerable nations in securing food and nutrition. In light of Africa's susceptibility to climate-related challenges like droughts and floods, leveraging this technology is vital for the continent's progress and the well-being of its people.

Women in Focus

African women, social transformation

BY MEKDES TAYE (PhD)

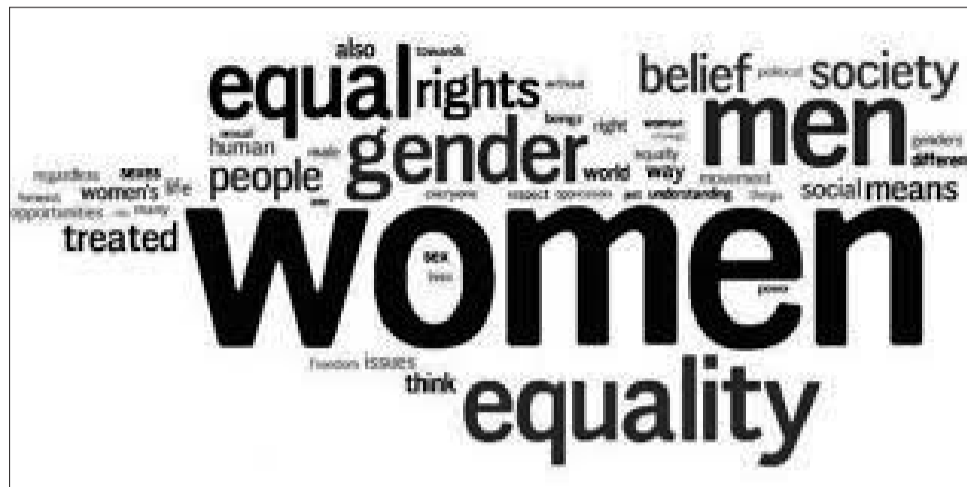
In the previous article entitled African STIWA in African women leaders' experiences, I have mentioned the notion of African STIWA and I picked up three core points to mirror the political experiences of two African prominent leaders. The fourth idea that is raised in the theory is the relevance of African women's involvement in social transformation.

The proposer of the theory Ogundipe-Leslie underlined that for the transformation of the continent both men and women are equally important. Since by its nature African feminism is accommodative, it entertains the two sexes equally for inclusive transition and harmony. She argued that unless the two involved fairly at every sphere, sustainable transition is impossible. Now, the debatable issue is what will happen if women are included in a certain leadership position and empowerments. The fewest women who came across to positions and empowerments have a say and a practical response for the raised question.

The former Malawi President Joyce Banda was asked why it is necessary to have women leaders in Africa. Here is her reply. "I have been a leader myself. So I can say without any fear of contradiction that we are better leaders. We mobilize and work together and create a network for the benefit of the people that have given us the mandate to serve them." She was confident in the efficacy of the women in bringing transformation. She said this based on what she and the former Liberian president did during their leadership period.

As Joyce Banda and other women leaders and even certain researches and reports revealed, the basic challenge for African women to take leadership positions and empowerment is patriarchy and shortage of resources. Though the women could win the patriarchy strategically, the scarce resources are a great obstacle that dragged her down. Associations and supportive institutions could play a significant role in enhancing women's capacity forward. Joyce Banda and Ellen Jonson were taking the position with the financial and training facility of an organization called African Women's Fund. Joyce said, "They supported Ellen Jonson and me. Then when Ellen became president, she formed Allen's Market Women's Association and mobilized over one million women. When I became president, I formed Joyce Banda Spa Foundation, and I mobilized over 1.3 million women ... so you see the multiplier effect when women became leaders."

These two presidents founded organizations that did support and train fellow women and young leaders. The logic is, women are relatively very close to the societies' problems, concerns and hopes



because they have gone through and experienced their socio-cultural reality with greater attachment than the male one. Thus, when they get the positions which enable them to utilize resources and powers; the primary issue that they took over is the issue of women and the society too. These women activated millions of people and showed visible impacts on society.

"Women leaders mobilize women leaders. They work together. Women leaders reach out and support others. Women leaders perform. Women leaders take risks. Women leaders fight corruption." Joyce was bringing her experience while she was mentioning corruption. "I mention corruption deliberately because it is very hard in Africa. I was advised by my male colleagues. They were saying 'just cover it up. You can never win. They could fight you back. You are fighting very strong people. I said well then... since I love the people I serve, I will not steal from them and I will not want anybody to steal from my people or to exploit them. I went ahead and arrested 72 people."

This deed of Joyce Banda had a multiple implication and impact in the society, I believe. The primary implication is it stays a tangible portrayal of women's potential, concern and commitment for all women of Africa. It again approves the philosophy of the say that 'teaching females is teaching the society but teaching the male is teaching an individual.' This is said because though she was informed that the people she planned to fight are very strong, she decided to face them since the ordinary people were her primary concerns rather than her positional challenge.

As it is mentioned above, women's foremost problem is directly or indirectly stemmed from resource scarcity. Resources could be financial related matters and limited access to information, thus if women get free of these traits, they could contribute more for their family and community they emerge from. They could drop a valuable thing to the people that evoke societal transformation in many aspects. The following is an Ethiopian woman who is found to be the best instance for the raised idea. Though

she is not in a governmental leadership position, she is empowered in knowledge and economy. These two basic inputs of the woman did enable her to consider her community's harmful socio-cultural practices.

This woman is Bogalech Gebre (PhD). Bogalech was a remarkable woman who had been through patriarchal ideology and injurious cultural practices of the society. She was from Kambata Tambaro Zone which is located in the southern part of the country. As she narrated her story at the stage which was once organized by Wilson Center, she said that she was obliged to pass through lots of challenges as a female and underdeveloped girl. Even though she was away from that area and was leading a good life abroad, she never ignored her community to stay with that seductive custom. This damaging drill is the practice of female genital mutilation and bridal abduction which terminated girls' education and left them with lasting health problem.

As she stressed it in the documentary which was prepared for the audiences, she succeeded in her study and started leading a luxurious life in America. Here are her words. "Having grown up in a condition I have experienced what I have experienced. Having been given the opportunity I was given, which is a miracle by itself to go from this place. To go through Israel and America and be in California at that in Santa Monica jog every day. Go to Spa ... you know, unquestionably unacceptable that I would not do something to change the life of the girls of my neighbor or my country. If I could, I would start in a place where I know the people, I know the culture, I know the faces, I know the language and I know the problem." But she was not satisfied. She worried on how to change her people's perception and practice on the subject. She decided to be part of the solution practically. She planned to form an organization that aimed at combating the problems of women genital mutilation and bridal abduction. She established an association called Kembatti Mentti Gez-zima (KMG).

This organization has an aim of freeing women from all forms of discrimination and violence which is approved by

the socio-cultural reality of the society. It primarily focuses on changing the pre-disposed attitudes of the society through influential approaching mechanisms. As she knew the background and culture of these people, the mechanism she devised was successful as was the reason to won a prize at its end.

Through social mobilization and community conversation, the organization has succeeded in helping the elderly women realize the meaning of women's organ elimination and its health related impacts. Then, these informed elders could first stop executing the custom on their daughters and be agents to alert the community too. But in schools, the organization has helped the girls first and the assisted girl will be the source of the family in return.

She explained how the organization was operating. She said, "Mothers, whom we have helped their children, first by providing school materials and uniforms for each family. We started helping one child... We build an asset for that family. We help that family to generate their own income, their own assets; so that they continue to teach the society to send their children to school; not only one child. They are organized when operating in areas. They are comfortable with that. They trade grain. They trade cows or whatever the market is." Dr. Bogalech was cautious on the relevance and meaning of education. She centered her project on schools since schools are crucial to bring people to logical reasoning. That was a long journey. But for an immediate improvement, she approached the society at certain ceremonies and gatherings. That appeal did great to achieving her goal. Thus, one can say that the organization has been working on women's economic opportunities, education and gender norms which are the very controversial issues of the society and the continent at large.

In its 10 years' experience, KMG had assisted the community to prevent the harmful practice of female genital mutilation; and in turn, the practice had dramatically reduced in the area. According to a study conducted by UNCEF regarding female genital mutilation in this zone after the mobilization program of her organization, the trend has decreased from nearly 100 percent in 1999 to less than 3 percent in 2008.

This remarkable effort of the woman had enabled her to win the 2012-2013 King Baudouin African Development Prize.

For this incredible achievement, her sympathy, care, cautiousness, smartness and organization as a woman, I believe, were very significant. A single woman who is empowered financially and mentally did shine for the mass and beautify the destiny of the dominant.

Let me borrow Dr. Bogalech's concise but complete expression as a closing remark. "Change takes commitment, not a miracle."

Society

Enhancing the involvement of second-generation Diaspora

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

Many countries with significant number of Diaspora populations abroad have recognized the importance of maintaining connections with the Diaspora community- the second-generation Diaspora with the aim to strengthen ties and to support young people understand about the historical and cultural identity of their parents and grandparents thereby enhance their involvement in countries of their origin.

It is clear that, these children and younger individuals often have a more tenuous link to their ancestral homeland, yet represent a crucial bridge to the global Diaspora community. As a result, numerous countries are implementing targeted initiatives to strengthen ties with children and youth Diaspora with their countries of origin, and support them understand about countries of their parents and grandparents.

For instance, India has made concerted efforts to reach out to its sizeable second-generation Diaspora. It organizes annual conferences that bring together younger members of the Indian Diaspora. The government also offers special programs and visas to make it easier for the second-generation Indians to visit, invest, and participate in the development of the country.

China also launched initiatives like the “Overseas Chinese Youth Entrepreneurship and Innovation Competition” to attract young Diaspora talent. The government provides fund, arranges mentorship programs and other resources to support the second-generation Chinese looking to start businesses or get involved in the country’s tech ecosystem.

Israel has gone to great lengths to solidify ties with the children of Jewish emigrants through programs like “Birthright Israel.” This initiative organizes free educational trips to Israel for young Diaspora Jews, with the goal of strengthening their connection to the Jewish homeland.

In Africa, countries like Ethiopia, Ghana, and Rwanda have ramped up outreach to their second-generation Diaspora populations. This includes hosting cultural events, offering investment incentives, and facilitating volunteering opportunities that allow younger Diaspora members to engage with their ancestral countries.

To bring the aforementioned benefits to the ground lately, a meeting was conducted with the Ethiopian missions and embassies and stakeholders to address the challenges of organizing the



travel of second-generation Ethiopian Diaspora returning home to reconnect with their roots.

Speaking during a virtual meeting held with heads and representatives of Ethiopian missions worldwide this week, Minister of Tourism and Chairperson of the National Committee for the Call of Second Generation Ethiopians Amb. Nassise Chali, said that the third phase of the second-generation Ethiopian Diasporas’ homecoming seeks to reconnect them with their culture and history, while also encouraging their participation in charity activities.

To successfully accomplish this, the National Committee is collaborating with states and city administrations, as well as federal government and private institutions, Amb. Nassise added.

Mentioning that the third round of the Ethiopian Diasporas’ homecoming program is set to take place from the onset of the Ethiopian rainy season from June 18 to September 30, 2024 under the theme “Leave your Legacy, savor your holiday”, the Minister urged the missions to continue their coordinated efforts to realize the desired objectives.

Ethiopian Diaspora Service, Deputy Director General Belayneh Aknaw, stated that various events have been designed to closely link members of the second-generation Ethiopian Diaspora who are returning to the country and make a lasting impact.

The third phase, “Leave Your Legacy, Savor Your Holiday,” aims to involve second-generation Diaspora in the national volunteerism initiative. Participants can participate in the green legacy program, assist those in need by building houses, make donations to vulnerable communities, and share their experiences with Ethiopians at home while enjoying their vacations.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, Ustaz Abubeker Ahmed shared his insights on the initiative of calling the second generation home.

According to him, this part of the community is missed for a number of reasons; thus, it is very important to let them connect with their origin. Because the calling engages this cohort, it has crucial importance as they represent a powerful bridge between cultures and economies. The invitation made by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) to the second-generation foreigners of Ethiopian origin to visit their home country is vital to enable them explore the vast existing opportunities in the country, and learn what is going on in person rather than hearsays, he remarked.

The invitation also could help to revamp the influx of tourists letting the nation generates income, he underlined.

He further noted that second-generation Diaspora possesses a unique blend of skills and perspectives, and the connections can be leveraged to drive

sustained development and innovation. In this regard, both the origin nation and the Diaspora can benefit meaningfully.

He also noted that, because the second-generation Diaspora community is well educated, and even some are entrepreneurs as well as technologically advanced; there must be platforms that could let them obtain first-hand information on what kind of role they could play.

As they are exposed to dynamic globalized environments, they are well-equipped to identify emerging opportunities and trends. Owing to this, it will become pool of talent, which could help Ethiopia to harness the innovative capacity.

“I hope through specialties’ exchange programs, entrepreneurship accelerators, and Diaspora networking events should be organized in a bid to foster a sense of belonging and galvanize the second-generation’s commitment.”

These efforts must go beyond symbolic gestures and provide tangible avenues to strengthen collaboration and bring about constructive impact, he added.

It is to be recalled that the homecoming call to the second-generation Ethiopian Diaspora was proposed late last year by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, which has been executed in three phases between December 2023 and September 2024. Each phase focuses on a distinct thematic area that complements the overarching theme, “Back to You Origin.”

International News

Tanzania zooms ahead with new electric trains, express service

Tanzania has taken a major leap forward in its railway modernisation efforts with the arrival of two new electric multiple-unit (EMU) trains from South Korea.

The trains boast eight carriages each and will be deployed on the new standard gauge railway route connecting the commercial hub Dar es Salaam and the capital Dodoma. The service is scheduled to begin on July 25.

Express service

An express train is set to be launched on Friday between Dar and Morogoro, easing the travel time from four hours by bus to just one hour 40 minutes.

The express train will leave Dar at 6 am and return at 7.10 pm. From Morogoro, the train will depart at 6.20 am and return at 7.30 pm.

The trains bring to four daily SGR trips on the route.

Regular trains, with stopovers along the route, will leave Dar es Salaam at 9.30 am and 4 pm, and from Morogoro at 9.30 am and 4.20 pm.

The Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC) said it would increase the trains based on passenger numbers.

“Passengers are advised to book tickets on the firm’s website or at the windows inside train stations two hours before the train departs to avoid congestion,” said TRC in a statement.

Travel speed

Tanzania has purchased 10 sets of locomotives and coaches from the Hyundai Rotem Company of South Korea.

Each set includes eight wagons, with a



Tanzania's new electric multiple-unit (EMU) trains. PHOTO | COURTESY

locomotive at both the front and back, and has a capacity of carrying 589 passengers and a travelling speed of 160 kilometres per hour.

Tanzania now has three EMUs, with the arrival of the latest two. The first set arrived in April this year and has been used for test

runs.

Read: Tanzania receives electric SGR trains

“TRC has received a total of 65 passenger wagons, 17 electric locomotives, and three sets of EMU trains; the receipt of

the equipment for the SGR operations is ongoing in different phases,” TRC said.

“The newly arrived equipment will continue to undergo testing for assurance before commencing provision of service.”

Source: The East African

Mauritania's Ghazouani Wins Presidential Vote, Despite Claim of Fraud

Mauritania's President Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani has secured re-election with a comfortable margin, garnering 56.12 percent of the vote. The results were announced by the electoral commission this Monday.

Mauritanians went to the polls on Saturday to choose between seven candidates vying to lead the sprawling nation, which has largely withstood the tide of jihadism in the region and is set to become a gas producer.

Overall turnout was estimated at 55 percent.

After all votes were counted, the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) had said that former general Ghazouani would win the election with more than 56 percent of the vote.

That puts him well ahead of the country's main opposition leader, human rights campaigner Biram Dah Abeid, the CENI predicting 22 percent of the vote in his favour.

Abeid said on Sunday that he would not recognise the results of “Ghazouani's CENI”.

“We will only recognise our own results, and therefore we will take to the streets” to refuse the electoral commission count,

he said.

But he insisted their response would be “peaceful”, calling on the army and the security forces “not to follow the orders of the regime”.

Some of his supporters demonstrated in the capital Nouakchott, burning tires and disrupting traffic.

Contestation

The opposition had however contested the legislative elections a year ago, which were won by Ghazouani's party.

They say the Mauritanian government has set up the national election monitoring body (CENI), which the opposition has denounced as a tool for manipulating the ballot.

In second place, the opponent and human rights activist Biram Dah Abeid had already in the last presidential election, and according to him, the result could be “false and manipulated” by the Electoral Commission, which he accuses of being used by those in power and of having committed fraud, as our correspondent in Nouakchott reported

Ghazouani's other main rival, Hamadi Ould Sid' El Moctar, who heads the Islamist Tewassoul party, came third with 12.76 percent of the vote, according to



President Mohamed Ould Cheikh El Ghazouani

CENI.

He said he would “remain attentive” to any breach of voting regulations.

At the end of Sunday's afternoon, Abeid's campaign headquarters were surrounded by security forces, according to an AFP journalist. His campaign manager was arrested, a spokesman said.

The police presence in the capital increased significantly later in the evening.

To display this content from X (Twitter), you must enable advertisement tracking and audience measurement.

Accept Manage my choices Business as usual

“The situation in the country is under control and citizens can go about their business in peace,” Interior Minister Mohamed Ahmed Ould Mohamed Lemine told reporters however.

The ministry “hereby reaffirms that it will not tolerate any action likely to disturb the peace and tranquillity of citizens and residents living in our country”, he added.

A 2019 election brought Ghazouani to power, marking the first transition between two elected presidents since independence from France in 1960 and a series of coups from 1978 to 2008.

While the Sahel has in recent years seen a string of military coups and escalating jihadism, particularly in Mali, Mauritania has not seen an attack since 2011.

Ghazouani has made helping the young a key priority in a country of 4.9 million people, where almost three quarters are aged under 35.

The African Union sent a team of 27 short-term observers, while the European Union has sent three election experts.

Source: AFP