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## Premier, parties' representatives discuss cooperation on Nat'l issues

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- With a view to working towards forging a consensus on national issues, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) held talk

with representatives of political parties again.

In his social media account, the premier announced yesterday his 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting with contesting parties' representatives.

It is to be recalled that the Premier discussed

with political party representatives to discuss cooperation on national issues on April.

"Earlier in April, I met with political party representatives to discuss cooperation on

See Premier, parties' ... page 3



## Gov't pays respects to late Simonpietro Salini

• Salini dies at 92

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA –Ethiopia is indebted to the renowned builder Simonpietro Salini, for his contribution to the country's development through constructing mega projects including Abbay Dam, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) said.

Extending condolences on the death of Simonpietro Salini, a prominent Italian architect and builder and friend of Ethiopia,

See Gov't pays ... page 3

## Expert weighs currency swap in unlocking financial opportunities

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA - The emergence of cross-border transaction 'currency swap' would be a monumental opportunity for Ethiopia to gain easy access to forex and hedge potential exchange rate risk, a policy analyst remarked.

Approached by *The Ethiopian Herald*, Senior Policy Advisor Costentinos Berhutesfa (PhD) said that while the country is undertaking diligent efforts to reform the financial sector, the commencement of this monetary operation will create an enabling playground for the financial ecosystem.

In addition to the aforementioned significance, it stimulates the financial industry and reduces the cost of borrowing in foreign currency, he stated.

He has also remarked that this move is



Costentinos Berhutesfa (PhD)

firmly believed to address Ethiopia's perennial problem of sequencing policy reforms occurring while it is going through achieving notable achievements in Gross Domestic Product growth.

See Expert weighs ... page 3

## Ethiopia insists global financial system reform to achieve equitability

• UN Secretary General admits dysfunctional financial architecture

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- The global financial system needs ambitious reforms to address the inequitable and dysfunctions that mainly affects developing countries, Ethiopian Foreign Minister urged in a meeting where the UN Secretary General also admitted the assertion.

Speaking at the opening of the first preparatory committee conference for the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4), Foreign Minister Ambassador TayeAtske-Selassie said that the Addis Ababa Agenda is not being fully implemented as anticipated so that it needs to search for



See Ethiopia insists ... page 3 TayeAtske-Selassie

Photo Hadush-Abreha



# News



## POESSA raising employers' awareness on effective resource management

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA** – A standout awareness creation campaign is well underway to ensure effective and responsible management of human and material resources for improved productivity, Private Organization Employees Social Security Administration (POESSA) announced.

POESSA Operation Department Deputy CEO, Meseret Zeleke told The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that his institute has been undertaking various activities to raise employers' awareness to implement effective human and material resources management to increase production withstanding various challenges.

According to the CEO, POESSA is working in close collaboration with employers and government to solve the common constraints of the social and economic challenges.

Sporadic conflict in some parts of the country has still been a serious challenge for investors and employees to run business, he indicated.

“Though the reformist government is initiating the private sector involvement in the national development activities, assistance from banks is not as expected due to the instability prevails in some parts of the nation. Apart from this, inflation, lack of industrial input, the slowdown of agricultural development is also cited as a challenge,” he added.

Meseret further stated that concerned institutions should work on awareness creation among the investors and employees to save the national resource and boost mutual benefit.

All employers are expected to know the legal procedure of the nation about protecting workers' rights so as to realize this, he stressed.

He added for instance, the majority of investors have not adequate knowhow about POESSA's proclamation whilst many of them are facing challenges in their businesses.

Therefore, the Deputy CEO emphasized that domestic and foreign investors should know the exact rule and procedures of POESSA before starting business.

He also noted that his institute will carry out various awareness creation campaigns to fill knowledge gaps among the employers regarding POESSA's legal procedures in various areas of the nation.

## Modjo attracts investors with 24 bln Birr capital

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA** - Some 284 investors with 24 billion Birr capital have been engaging in various economic activities in Modjo town, said the Modjo Town Administration.

Modjo City Town Deputy Mayor Eshetu Shumi told *The Ethiopian Herald* that some 284 investors have been engaging in various economic activities registering worth of 24 billion Birr capital.

The town has full infrastructure package to facilitate investment activities. Leather and tannery industry, manufacturing, trade, construction and others are among projects, It was learnt.

The administration has also finalized preparations to welcome new investors to the city in the future.

Hence, the town completed the construction of 60 infrastructure projects during the just ended Ethiopian fiscal year. The administration has also planned to complete the construction of some 80 projects such as schools, health centers, walk ways, G+2 shades and others this fiscal year, he said.

Since the city has huge investment potential, it has been contributing to have sustainable economic mobility. The city has conducive investment opportunity. The presence of dry port has been contributing a lot in facilitating city's import and export trade activities, Eshetu added.

According to him, to attract more investors,



it has identified investment potential, economic zone, trade and industry areas and others via local development plan as well as promoting these areas for investors.

He believed that the town was not developed per to its huge potential and strategic location because of investors was focusing on other towns and cities. However, ten years or five years onwards, the town is attracting more investment and found in rapid economic growth.

During the just ended Ethiopian fiscal year, the town has collected 1.01 billion Birr revenue, double of the last fiscal year.

This is a showcase that the town has been attracting more investors and several investors are commencing operation every year. Furthermore, it has planned to collect over 1.8 billion Birr. The establishment of Gadaa Special Economic Zone (GSEC) in the heart of Modjo town would further encourage attracting new investors.

He urged potential investors to invest in Modjo town since the town is a hub of logistics and industry.

## Hope working on creating ample jobs for youth

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA**- Hope Enterprises said it has set a plan to create 1,000,000 jobs for the youth within the next five years in collaboration with other entities.

Approached by the journalists recently, the Enterprises Deputy Executive Director Frew Desalegn said that Hope is working to create jobs for the youth in collaboration with MasterCard Foundation, Ethiopian Airlines and Ministry of Labor and Skills, and out of one million jobs, 200,000 jobs would-be created by the enterprises.

He said the company has prepared five years strategic plan to reduce unemployment rate by selecting 100 TVET colleges in Ethiopia and to make them competent in creating jobs for the youth.

Frew also noted that the enterprise has seven branches in schools nationwide, which teach disadvantage, coming from low income family and the youth from KG to university.

“We have three TVET colleges providing

trainees with vocational training across Ethiopia.”

Hope Enterprises focus on supporting the marginalized citizens through a holistic program including feeding program for the homeless, numerous vocational training courses and adult literacy workshops delivered at sites across Ethiopia.

The enterprise is also working to become self-sufficient by generating its own income in Ethiopia to reduce foreign aid dependence.

The enterprise provides the youth with training incorporating technical skills, building electrical installation, hotel kitchen operation, basic apparel production and basic automotive technology in short term TVET training scheme to make them self-reliant and able to run their life by themselves, he said.

Hope Enterprises or Hope is a local NGO that was established in 1971 in Addis Ababa to help the needy through basic needs, education, competence, job and business mediation and value education. It was learnt.

## Corridor dev't creates livability in metropolis : Expert

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA** – The Addis Ababa City corridor development has brought manifold benefits to residents for creating conducive and livable environment, Expert in the field said.

Ethiopian Civil Service University Urban Design and Plan Assistant Professor Daniel Lirebo (PhD) told The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the corridor development in the capital created suitable environment and provided other multilayered significances to residents.

As to him, the project is a model of urban design as other countries have implemented this to facilitate modern urban practices. For instance, corridor development or re-development of cities started in England during the industrial revolution.

“The promotion of factory production, proper transportation, environmental cleanliness, city beautification and related activities were among the major happenings under the city redevelopment works in the aforesaid period,” he added.

Daniel further stated that the Addis Ababa corridor development realized the freedom of urban people where to move, live, enjoy tourism, and the likes. Therefore, such type of development activities need to be expanded to other urban areas to become development centers in the nation.

He recalled that the 1<sup>st</sup> Armenian architect made efforts to plan the Addis Ababa city's design in 1907 and Italy also tried to do the same after the second Italo-Ethiopian war.

“The city is now on the right track witnessing a remarkable development due to the commitment of the reformist government. However, it needs to construct more houses, shopping, manufacturing, job creation, tourism center for creating a bright future to the next generation,” he underlined.

Daniel also noted that although the metropolitan has a huge potential and ranked as the 4<sup>th</sup> world diplomatic city, it is not gaining adequate benefits for absence of corridor development in the past over many years.

To him, urban development must have proper plan, adequate water and energy, schools, universities, health and sanitation facilities, parks, children play grounds, and the likes.

Aster, 24, who enjoyed the walkways constructed under the corridor development project around Bole area, said that the development activity is splendid for incorporating bike lanes, pedestrian lanes, sanitations, green spaces, recreation areas and the likes.

As to her, such type of activity should be expanded to other urban areas of the country to facilitate the traffic flow and create magnificent places nationwide.

However, residents should take the required care to the road by sense of ownership to enjoy its service for long, she suggested.



# News

## Premier, parties' representatives...

national issues. A direction was set for discussions to continue at various levels. We met again as a continuation of the April meeting, working towards forging a consensus on national issues of importance for all," he underscored.

Very recently, the Joint Council of Political Parties also discussed on common issues as well as national interest.

On the occasion, the Council emphasized that joint discussions among political parties to lay foundation for resolving national issues and building strong democracy.

Speaking at the discussion, Adem Farah, Head of the Democracy System Building Coordination Center with the rank of Deputy Prime Minister, mentioned that the discussion followed the dialogue that the political parties' council held with the Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) recently.

He said the discussion centered on the common interest of political parties as well as major national issues. They have also identified agendas that are going to be tabled on the main discussion.

Mentioning that that key agenda that were discussed at state level were part of the discussion, Chairperson of the Joint Council of Political Parties, Desta Dinka on his part highlighted that political parties need to embrace the habit of solving major differences on national issues through dialogue.

The discussion include national issues, building cooperation framework among government, political parties as well as contending political parties, expanding political landscape, peace and security issues as well as inclusive national dialogue and other issues, as to him.

He also stated that the discussion will continue on the aforementioned and other

agendas.

Admiring the commitment that the government is showcasing to discuss on common issues with political parties, political parties expressed that parties need to follow suit.

Moreover, they have also expressed that the discussion would be instrumental to solve national issues as well as build strong democracy. They stressed the need to stand together to hold agendas that could light hope to the people.

Head of the Democratic Culture Building Department at Prosperity Party and executive member of the Council, Meles Alemu on his part highlighted that discussion among political parties is a new political trend that is admirable.

Ensuring national interest, resolving differences and sustaining good habits through dialogue is essential, as to him

## Gov't pays ...

who died in Rome last Sunday at the age of 92, Abiy stated that the architect has contributed a lot for Ethiopia's development involving in various development projects for many years now.

"I extend my heartfelt condolences to the family of Simonpietro Salini and the entire Webuild Group on his passing. Ethiopia is indebted to Simonpietro Salini for his contributions to the construction of the Legadadi Dam, Addis Ababa University's Kennedy Library, the Tana Beles Project, the Gilgel Gibe 1, 2, and 3 hydroelectric power projects, and the GERD," he wrote on X.

In his post on 21 July 2024, Abiy also stated that the architect's love for Ethiopia is exemplified through his involvement in the nation's enduring development projects—a legacy continued by his son, Pietro Salini. "May his soul rest in peace."

The country has acknowledged the builder's company for its invaluable role in the construction of various public infrastructures including school facilities and power plants. Accordingly, Abiy had presented the honorary doctorate degree awarded to the current CEO of the Group by Addis Ababa University. By the time, Prime Minister Abiy posted on X stating that the recognition has been given for the great contributions to the field of engineering.

Following the death news of the architect, the company announced in a presser that Simonpietro Salini was a beacon to his country's economic boom during the 1960s, with his work on major infrastructure projects and buildings.

His innovative approach first turned to Africa, a continent that offered the greatest opportunities at that time for companies specialized in large-scale projects, the Group stated noting that the builder contributed to realize major infrastructure projects in some African countries including Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Nigeria, Algeria and Libya.

His commitment and dedication to the company, combined with his entrepreneurial talent, catalyzed the transformation of a family business into a major industrial group.

## Ethiopia insists global financial...

another ways to implement the pledge made a decade ago.

He mentioned that poverty and hunger are on the rise and geopolitical tensions are affecting global security and undermining multilateralism.

Covid-19 Pandemic aggravated the debt crisis in most developing countries and has led to a decline in government revenues and these countries also lack financial resource to effectively respond and mitigate the effects of climate change, he stated.

Existing financial mechanisms, such as government aid and climate funds are inadequate, fragmented unresponsive to the special needs of developing countries, Taye indicated.

"In evaluating the reasons for failure to deliver on the promise of the sustainable government agenda, it is fitting to mention the words of the UN Secretary General, who warned us that without massive investment or vision of creating a world free of poverty would remain elusive. The preparation for the fourth international conference on financing for development in Spain to be held next year, it is upon us to identify the gaps in the implementation

of the Addis Ababa action agenda," he remarked.

This process should lead to the adoption of a transformative and ambitious financial framework to achieve the sustainable development goals as promised and agreed in 2015, he added.

The FM also underlined the need to recognizing the abundance of sufficient financial sources to meet the 2030 agenda. The only thing that the international community lacks here is the political will. The financial architecture should be reformed to be more inclusive and equitable.

"We also must revamp efforts to combat illicit financial flows and we should enhance endowers on international tax cooperation. Moreover, developed countries should enhance climate financing including by operationalizing the loss and damage funding mechanisms."

UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, on recorded video, also transferred his message that the global financial system needs reforms, saying, the existing architecture is outdated and inequitable.

"Despite progress, we must face facts. Many commitments remain unfulfilled.

Meanwhile, the world is facing shocks that make financing challenges harder to solve. On the other hand, geopolitical divisions undermine collective action faced with sky-high debt burdens and cost of capital. Developing countries have limited prospects of financing the sustainable development goals," he noted.

The fourth International Conference on Financing for Development provides a unique opportunity to tackle these challenges. It opens the door for world leaders to adopt ambitious reform to deliver affordable long-term financing and presents a unique opportunity to reform an international financial system that is "outdated, dysfunctional and unfair" from the tax and debt architecture, to the system of public development banks to trade an investment rules, to the financial safety net and global governance, he mentioned.

"We need the best ideas to inform discussions and maximum political will to act. I count on all of you to move forward with the determination to rescue the 2030 agenda. And together, we can deliver, not only a financial system but a world that is more just, equitable and sustainable," he said.

## Expert weighs currency swap...

"The country is too late to this monetary operation in comparison even to some African neighbors where some part of the population operates in a cashless society," according to him.

Special acknowledgement and attention towards the importance of currency swaps, credit and capital markets should be well-developed to nurturing enabling environments for entrepreneurship to attract investors and tourists, he added.

Moreover, he highlighted that the business community can provide the nourishment, which capital markets require to grow and function effectively. Markets in turn provide the credit ingredients that the private sector requires to grow, expand, and significantly contribute to national development.

"Unlike any other financial instruments, currency swaps will possess several limitations, notably 'narrow liquidity', which makes it difficult to enter or exit

a swap agreement at a favorable rate," he noted.

Also, given the complexity of currency swaps, some financial institutions may find it difficult to use them effectively, he pointed out.

Recalling the recently signed currency swap agreement between the National Bank of Ethiopia and Central Bank of the United Arab Emirate governors, he said, "This move reflects the robust economic

cooperation between the two parties and the latter's significant source of foreign investment and development finance."

It is also worth mentioning that this accord allows for the exchange of Emirati Dirham and Ethiopian Birr and a memorandum aiming at promoting the use of local currencies in cross-border transactions and enhancing integration of payment systems and financial technology between the two nations.

# Opinion

## Protective leadership: Ethiopia's antidote to procrastination

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

As the geopolitical landscape of the Horn of Africa continues to evolve, the need for decisive and protective leadership in Ethiopia has never been more pressing. The country, long hailed as a beacon of stability in a volatile region, has in recent years grappled with a series of complex challenges that have tested the mettle of its political class. Amidst this backdrop, the temptation of procrastination has loomed large, with some leaders succumbing to the allure of delay and inaction. However, a new generation of protective leaders is emerging, dedicated to safeguarding Ethiopia's hard-won progress and securing a more prosperous future for its people.

Here is a detailed, opinionated article about procrastinating leaders, their impact on posterity in volatile regions, and how statesmen should react to such situations:

### The Perils of Procrastination in Ethiopia

Ethiopia's journey over the past decades has been marked by both remarkable achievements and daunting setbacks. The country's rapid economic growth and improvements in social indicators have lifted millions out of poverty, while its role as a regional peacekeeper and diplomatic powerhouse have solidified its standing on the global stage. Yet, these gains have been threatened by the resurgence of ethnic tensions, the outbreak of civil conflict, and the destabilizing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the face of these crises, some Ethiopian leaders have fallen prey to the trap of procrastination. Rather than taking decisive action to address the root causes of instability, they have opted to defer difficult decisions, hoping that the problems will somehow resolve themselves. This reluctance to confront pressing issues head-on has allowed tensions to simmer, extremist ideologies to flourish, and the country's hard-won progress to be jeopardized.

### The Rise of Protective Leadership

Recognizing the perils of procrastination, a new generation of Ethiopian leaders is stepping forward, committed to a model of protective leadership that prioritizes the long-term stability and prosperity of the nation. These leaders are acutely aware that the decisions made today will have far-reaching consequences for the country's future, and they are willing to make the tough choices necessary to safeguard Ethiopia's hard-won gains.

At the forefront of this protective leadership approach is a steadfast commitment to conflict resolution and national reconciliation. These leaders understand that the path to lasting peace requires inclusive dialogue, the negotiation of compromise solutions, and the establishment of robust mechanisms for addressing grievances and promoting social cohesion. They are willing to deploy peacekeeping forces, impose

These leaders are acutely aware that the decisions made today will have far-reaching consequences for the country's future, and they are willing to make the tough choices necessary to safeguard Ethiopia's hard-won gains

targeted sanctions, and leverage regional and international partnerships to deter aggression and uphold the rule of law.

In addition to their focus on security and stability, protective leaders in Ethiopia are also investing in the country's long-term resilience. They are channeling resources into the development of robust institutions, the strengthening of public infrastructure, and the promotion of sustainable economic growth. By addressing the underlying drivers of instability, such as regional disparities, youth unemployment, and environmental degradation, these leaders are laying the foundation for a more prosperous and equitable future.

### Securing Ethiopia's Future

As Ethiopia navigates the treacherous waters of regional volatility, the role of protective leadership has never been more crucial. By eschewing the temptation of procrastination and embracing a proactive, forward-looking approach, these leaders are positioning the country to withstand the shocks of the present and seize the opportunities of the

future.

Through their steadfast commitment to conflict resolution, institutional strengthening, and sustainable development, protective leaders in Ethiopia are charting a course towards a more secure, prosperous, and equitable tomorrow. By empowering civil society, fostering regional cooperation, and cultivating a culture of accountability, they are creating the conditions for a more resilient and self-determined Ethiopia – one that can serve as a beacon of hope and stability in a volatile region.

As the world watches the unfolding drama in the Horn of Africa, the rise of protective leadership in Ethiopia offers a powerful counter narrative to the perils of procrastination. It is a testament to the transformative power of courageous statesmanship and the enduring resilience of the Ethiopian people.

Woe to the politics and chronology of human beings and the rapacious experiences of the age of exploration starting from the trans-Atlantic slave trade to the new form of exploitation under the guise of colonialism and then the neo colonialism.

The failure of mighty nation is incepted with procrastination approach and belittling the others, others in a precise terms those that have optional approach in confronting the concurrent world. In Ethiopia there had been turmoil and this is synthesis, anti-synthesis politics starting from state formation and then converted to be nation building.

In the ever-shifting geopolitical landscape, the decisions and actions (or inactions) of national leaders can have profound and long-lasting consequences for their countries and the global community. Nowhere is this more evident than in volatile regions, where delayed or ill-conceived responses to emerging crises can lead to devastating outcomes. The growing trend of procrastinating leaders, who prioritize short-term political calculations over the long-term wellbeing of their citizens and the stability of their nations, is a troubling phenomenon that demands urgent attention.

### The Peril of Postponed Action

When leaders in volatile regions succumb to the temptation of procrastination, the ramifications can be catastrophic. In the face of simmering ethnic tensions, territorial disputes, or the rise of extremist ideologies, decisive leadership is paramount. Yet all too often, we witness heads of state hesitating to take decisive action, choosing instead to defer tough decisions in the hope that the problem will simply "go away" or resolve itself.

The consequences of such inaction are manifold. Unresolved conflicts fester and escalate, leading to increased violence, displacement of populations, and the erosion of regional security. Extremist groups capitalize on the vacuum of leadership, consolidating their power and expanding

their influence. Economic development stagnates as investors shy away from the uncertainty, and the prospects for lasting peace and prosperity become increasingly elusive.

### The Intergenerational Burden

Perhaps the most insidious aspect of procrastinating leadership in volatile regions is the burden it places on future generations. By failing to confront pressing issues head-on, leaders rob their successors of the opportunity to build a more stable, prosperous, and equitable future. Unresolved border disputes, sectarian divisions, and environmental degradation become the inheritance of the next generation, who must then expend precious time, resources, and political capital to untangle the web of problems left behind.

This intergenerational injustice is particularly egregious in regions where young people make up a significant portion of the population. As the youth of today are denied the chance to shape their own destiny, they may become increasingly disillusioned with the political establishment and susceptible to the siren call of extremism or authoritarian alternatives. The failure of procrastinating leaders to address the urgent needs and aspirations of the younger generation can ultimately undermine the long-term stability and prosperity of the entire region.

### A Call to Courageous Statesmanship

In the face of these formidable challenges, the onus falls on statesmen and women to rise above the temptation of procrastination and demonstrate the kind of courageous leadership that can transform volatile regions. This requires a willingness to make difficult decisions, to confront entrenched interests, and to prioritize the long-term wellbeing of their people over short-term political calculations.

Effective leaders in volatile regions must be willing to engage in preventive diplomacy, fostering inclusive dialogues and negotiating compromise solutions to prevent conflicts from spiraling out of control. They must be prepared to take robust action, including the deployment of peacekeeping forces and the imposition of targeted sanctions, to deter aggression and uphold the rule of law. And they must invest in the development of resilient institutions, robust civil societies, and equitable economic frameworks that can withstand the shocks of regional instability.

By embracing this mantle of courageous statesmanship, leaders in volatile regions can break the cycle of procrastination and forge a more secure, prosperous, and equitable future for their people and the generations to come. It is a daunting challenge, to be sure, but one that is essential for the well-being of the global community as a whole.

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



# Editorial

## Action agenda for financial power, inclusive development

A range of natural resources, many potential areas for investment and/or tourism, the existence of various lucrative sectors for financial alternatives in Ethiopia are attributable to generating huge income if systematically singled out and thoroughly managed.

True, hitting the already set development goals highly requires firm commitment, local collaboration, private sector active participation, regional as well as continental integration apart from fattening financial muscles. Cognizant of this fact, Ethiopia is working to make the national plan intertwined with development goals and regional cooperation.

The United Nations adopted in 2015 the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), which in turn spells out a dedication to a new social compact fostering social protection systems with national spending targets for essential services like health and education and other related socio-economic trajectories. It is an outcome document of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and a framework for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It has targeted at addressing the financial needs of developing countries like ours to achieve sustainable development.

AAAA also highlights the need to mobilize domestic financial resources and private investors. Obviously, Ethiopia is working hard to come up with inclusive development and a gut towards confidently combating the impact of climate change via comprehensively entertaining the potential of the private sector, too.

It has established a strong foundation to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a new global framework for financing sustainable development by aligning all financial flows and policies with economic, social and environmental priorities.

The AAAA also pronounces the proliferation of domestic public resources, domestic and international private business and finance, international development cooperation, international trade as a means that can be engines for development.

In relation to this, Addis Ababa is hosting Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, which is believed to address new and emerging issues, and the urgent need to fully implement the 2030 Agenda to support reform of the international financial architecture. Yes, it is supposed to promote the financial autonomy and integrated urban planning at local level as key sustainable development. With public sector participation, it is strongly believed that the financing for development involves funds generated in the country using taxation, as well as financial support of others as a benefit of regional or continental integration and spirit of growing together.

It addresses all sources of finance, and covers cooperation on a range of issues including technology, trade, and capacity building, among others.

The Action Agenda also provides a new global framework for financing sustainable development by aligning all financial flows and policies with economic, social and environmental priorities. As it includes a comprehensive set of policy actions, requirements to generate income from all sources of finance, technology and deals in order to support achievement of the sustainable development goals, the Agenda needs to be well eyes at in future.

The AAAA highlights the need for integrated national financing frameworks to leverage the full potential of all finance flows—the private and public partnership for sustainable development.

The AAAA also reflects an international agreement to work together to fund infrastructure for energy, transport, and water and sanitation, as well as step-up investments in agriculture and nutrition and facilitate innovation and scientific cooperation.

The forum in turn is believed to provide participants with a starting point to discuss local finance in the context of sustainable development. It would also present a coherent framework for financing the 2030 Agenda, including the SDGs, by putting forward a comprehensive set of analogous policy actions.

Generally, the fourth International Conference on Financing for Development targets at reviewing the AAAA, other forums' outcomes as well as the means of implementation of the SDGs and is expected to consign to concrete deliverables on financing for development and in a bid to update policy frameworks in the eyes of the contemporary global realities.

# Opinion

## Corridor development puts finger print in transforming metropolitans' life

BY HENOK TIBEBU

The old heart of Addis Ababa has, for too long, been the result of an actual lazy work force. This old heart of the City includes places such as *Piasa, Erri Bekentu, Arat Kilo, Aware, Kera, Mercato* etc. All these neighbourhoods, until recently, had been congested slums, with some historical buildings and heritages.

It is not only the above mentioned parts of the City, which have been surrounded by congested slums but for the unfortunate economic status of the public and lazy management of the past City administrations, Addis Ababa has been increasingly swarmed up by shanty places in its many corners lately.

Administrations of the *Derg* regime, for good causes built millions of shades for poor residents of the City. These poor people lived in the shanty shades with very low, almost for free, rental payments for many years.

The economic growth during the Ethiopian People's Democratic Front (EPDRF) regime, encouraged a passive working culture between the public and forced uneducated innocent poor mothers to carry the economic burden of their households, as they continued raising their children with daily incomes from selling cabbages, fruits, fast foods with low prices. In the process the EPDRF had also encouraged ruthless entrepreneurs to build their own empires and leave the poor behind.

As the rich got richer, the poor remained poor. The rich kept on scrambling parts of the City. The then elites didn't stop by scrambling Addis Ababa but also expanded to the lands of the nearby cities of Oromia State. Meanwhile, the poor continued to get used to the low income miserable life style, which they afford by doing hard labour or selling local alcohols and whatever else worth to maintain their family's routine lives.

Of course poor uneducated mothers and sisters wouldn't complain as long as they and their children were still under their shanty shades for low rent money. This reality continued for many years as some people prospered and the mass went poor. It made people to remain captives of, the result of a lazy work force or culture.

Most of the mothers wouldn't raise their children right because they have to fight with economic inflation, bad governance and other family and social problems. So, many of their children wouldn't commit to labour work or education. Children were still being spoiled by low standard education and poverty which would lead them to choose the hard ways of life, such as illegal migration, theft, commercial sex and drug abuse. This was the result

of a lazy work force of past regimes and it needed a paradigm shift.

That is why the city administration has to come up with new approach of a city development. Giving deaf ear to draggy political criticism of people on social platforms was also vital in the implementation process. The then lazy working culture had also left many with unaffordable ethnic scandals that made them interpret every development activities negatively. The best example for this would be the construction of the Addis Ababa Corridor Development Project. When it begun, people who lived in those shanty neighbourhoods had to be relocated to better and modern apartments, but the loud mouths on social platforms would say the project targeted at dislodging the poor from their residences or livelihoods. They didn't stop there. They added that the demolition of the old slums was meant to create a new demography by settling a specific ethnic group on those places. There have tried everything to agitate the residents of Addis Ababa by fabricating several reckless stories.

However, areal working force has taken over the City and the development started with a speedy pace. The residents of Addis Ababa gave also deaf ears to the social platforms and went on cooperating with the government. Task force comprised of higher officials of the City Administration is still effectively monitoring the construction day and night. Addis Ababa is turning in to a new flower as its name depicts.

Not only the corridor development projects but also other initiatives that will change the residents' life style and bring Addis Ababa to a modern standard are launched by the Premier. Who would hate to live a modern and healthy life style in a big city except for those who are poisoned by ethnic lunacy or racism? In this case, people who live by social platform incomes must stop fabricating false and distractive stories just for their own fancy life abroad. Whether they like it or not they must also accept the reality that residents are enjoying the development and Addis Ababa is blooming.

The new working culture that flourished in connection with the corridor development and contemporary projects have laid a benchmark for the efficient execution of similar initiatives. They have also made the future of the City is beyond hopeful. Cooperative and positive attitude of the public is an indication that a new working force is taking over the City and there is no doubt Addis Ababa will shine bright and prosper in a near future.

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



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Office of the CEO

Tel. 011-126-42-22

Fax. 251-011-156-98-62

email- [epa@press.et](mailto:epa@press.et)

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Department

email: [etpresspromotion@gmail.com](mailto:etpresspromotion@gmail.com)

Tel. 011-156-98-73/011-811-13-15

Telegram :- 0976084707 - press

Editor-in-Chief: Worku Belachew

email- [workubelachew@press.et](mailto: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](mailto:wakuma220@gmail.com)

Deputy Editors-in-Chief:

Alem Hailu

Elizabeth Mengistu

Zekarias Woldemariam

Desta Geberehiwot

Daniel Beyene

Website: [www.press.et](http://www.press.et)

email: [ethiopianherald@press.et](mailto:ethiopianherald@press.et)

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The Ethiopian Herald



# Business & Economy

## Modernizing the economy through excelling technology, skills

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Ethiopia is one of the growing economies across the globe. The nation is the second populous country in Africa next to Nigeria with more than 126 million. According to the recent World Bank report, 85% of the population engaged in farming as the nation's main stay of the economy is agriculture. The country is one of the least urbanized countries in the world with only 19% of the population is urbanized. The agriculture sector is predominantly rain fed and utilizing less modern inputs which results in less output.

The country is endowed with abundant natural resources including arable land, surface and underground waters, minerals and others but due to the absence of sufficient finance, technology, and human resource; it is not exploited as per the nation's demand. The successive governments in the last three decades tried their level best to enhance the nation's production and productivity to modernize the economy and to that end constructed infrastructure such as roads, rail ways, industrial parks, hydropower dams and wind farms. The allocation of capital budget utilized for accelerating development is increasing from time to time.

Side by side with these, in order to supply educated labor force to various sectors, they expanded educational institutions so that remarkable amount of well trained and skilled graduates have joined the labor market annually. The advent of information communication technology further contributes for the modernization of the economy. The digitization of financial transaction also helped to reduce transaction cost and enabled to create job opportunity to thousands.

Solomon Zegeye, an economist, working as a consultant for various local and international none governmental organizations said that to modernize the nation's economy and attaining development, expanding industrialization is essential because it plays key role in creating employment opportunity to thousands, boosts export, serves to substitute import, creates self-sustaining private sector, links with agriculture and attracts foreign and local investments.

He further said that as the agriculture sector is rain fed and utilizes archive farming techniques, realizing food security is unrealistic in such a way. Therefore, changing the way of farming and increasing the usage of modern agricultural inputs which enhance production and productivity is essential. Ethiopia has vast arable land with immense water resources which can be utilized for irrigation farm but according to the recent report, out of the total arable land that can be used for irrigation, only 10% of it utilized.

In the last five years, the government



*The expansion of Manufacturing accelerate industrialization*

has worked aggressively in expanding dry season irrigated wheat farming and tremendous results have been witnessed. Based on this outcome, experts predicted that if the trend is continues, Ethiopia can be exporter of wheat sooner than later on top of becoming self-sufficient.

However, he also said that currently, almost 50% of farmers have less than one hectare land and the population growth coerces the farmers to distribute their small plots to their offspring when they reach adult age which further fragments their plots and reduce their yield.

The land fragmentation also increases land degradation and soil erosion which again puts pressure on food supply chain and poses shortage of food in the market. As to Solomon, land fragmentation threatens the government's aspiration of ensuring food security. In addition, it makes the farming practice unfriendly to the environment. Therefore, shifting the labor force stranded in the rural part to the non-farming one should be strategized.

He further said that, in a given manufacturing located in small plots of land can create job opportunity to thousands. But had the plot been utilized for farming only one farmer can use it to produce small amount of crops. This indicates that how small plots of land used for agriculture is non economical as compared to the land used for manufacturing.

Expanding manufacturing helps to transform the economy from low productivity to the higher one through utilizing technology and entrepreneurship skill. It changes the production system from seasonal in to the day to day and paves the way for innovation and research based production.

As to him, the construction sector which is part of the industry sector also plays pivotal role in constructing real estates, roads,

and industries vital for the booming of the economy. Currently, the sector created job opportunities for hundreds of thousands. Besides, it creates linkage with the quarry, cement and other input producing sectors and plays key role in expanding urbanization. According to the Central Statistics Authority, urban centers contribute up to 50% to the Gross Domestic Production (GDP) from all economic sectors.

To advance industrialization, so far, the government has made partnership with stakeholders through multilateral and bilateral relations and more or less progress has been witnessed. Ethiopia's relations with the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and China enabled the nation to secure money, knowledge and technology transfer.

According to the recent World Bank report, the agriculture sector contributes 32% to the GDP while the service sector contributes 40% and the industry 28%. The later sectors are expected to stimulate the economy through attracting foreign and local private investment. One can understand that even though the huge labor force is engaged in agriculture, its contribution to the GDP is declining which necessitates bringing structural change through shifting the stranded rural labor force in to none farming such as industry and services.

The government's 10 years perspective economic growth plan aspires attaining structural change through expanding manufacturing sector, tourism, transportation, construction and Information Communication Technology. As mentioned above, Ethiopia still practices rain fed farming through traditional way and outdated techniques and in such a way, eradicating poverty and attaining prosperity is unrealistic. Hence, changing way of farming in to the modern one and utilizing more inputs is essential.

Cognizant of the vitality of technology and skilled labor force for attaining economic growth, Centre of Excellence is opened recently in Addis Ababa to promote sustainable industrialization, agricultural modernization and skills' development across Africa.

Recently, Gerd Müller, UNIDO Director General, LuoZhaohui, Chairman of the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), and Melaku Alebel, Ethiopia's Minister of Industry officially inaugurated the China-Africa-UNIDO Centre of Excellence located in Addis Ababa. The center is a pioneering tripartite initiative to promote sustainable industrialization, agricultural modernization, and skills development across Africa. The initiative is the first tripartite flagship program of its kind, between Ethiopia, CIDCA and the UN agency, according to UNIDO.

In his address, Director General Müller emphasized the significance of the center, stating, "The Centre of Excellence symbolizes a new era of cooperation and innovation, bringing cutting-edge low-carbon technologies and expertise to Africa."

Chairman of CIDCA, LuoZhaohui on his part highlighted that the center is a key implementation of President Xi Jinping's initiatives to support African development.

Melaku Alebel stressed Ethiopia's commitment to sustainable development and appreciated the support and cooperation with China and UNIDO. The Joint Declaration for the Centre of Excellence Program that was signed on this occasion highlights the ambitions for a long-term development of the program.

The Centre aims to align with strategic frameworks such as the African Union's Agenda 2063 and Ethiopia's Ten-Year Development Plan, contributing to the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As part of the overall program, Director General Müller signed agreements with CIDCA for two major projects in Ethiopia which will support mechanized agriculture systems and upgrade the national livestock value chain, improving the agri-business sector and increasing market access in Ethiopia.

Müller also participated in the Second High-Level Conference of the Forum on Global Action for Shared Development, hosted by CIDCA. In his key note speech, he emphasized the critical role of sustainable industrial development in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, stressing that sustainable industrialization is a key factor in ending hunger and poverty, providing clean energy for all, and ensuring environmental protection and climate change mitigation.



# In the Sphere of Diplomacy

## Diplomatic feats last Ethiopian fiscal year

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

Ethiopia's diplomatic history is very long tracing back to more than a hundred years ago and even before. Our relations with foreign countries have had their ups and downs and sometimes have given to misunderstandings, controversies and disputes ending even in conflicts. However, history tells us that Ethiopia has never compromised over its sovereignty, independence and freedom in exchange for whatever may be offered by countries which may have had intentions to patronize or even colonize it albeit indirectly.

Ethiopian leaders never forfeited their pride and dignity for any concessions or presents. They have always given priority to the national interest and the well-being of their people be it in the short run as well as in the long run.

Nonetheless, Ethiopia has also always believed in forming alliances and nurturing close relations with foreign powers to benefit its people and to feel secure in its sovereignty and independence. When it joined the League of Nations it was intended to sit at the international tables on an equal basis and to show that it is part of the international community that lives in independence and freedom. It never compromised its national interests even when there were pressures indirect and overt on the part of certain countries. There was what used to be called a sphere of influence.

It then joined the newly formed United Nations Organization in the 1940s even if it was once betrayed by its predecessor when it was shamelessly invaded by a foreign power that was part of the same organization. However, it never lost hope in the international body aligning itself to international law and order. It was among the few countries in Africa that had this privilege and given its history it was considered an avant-garde in Africa and a model for other emerging African states that were fighting for their independence from colonial forces.

When there was the so-called Cold War between the Capitalist West and Socialist East led by the US and Europe on the one side and the Soviet Union on the other, Ethiopia did not jump into this partisanship and instead kept its position as neutral looking only for its long term national interests. When the Non-Aligned Movement was founded it immediately joined it making it clear that it did not take part in any of the partisan politics or diplomacy that characterized the world at the epoch. Countries such as India and Yugoslavia were among the leaders of this movement and Ethiopia was welcome to the fore.

This shows that Ethiopia had always an eye on its national interests independently of how the world was being divided or positioned. Firmly believing in the ideals of world peace and international bodies such as the United Nations Organization

it voluntarily contributed its forces to the battle for justice and peace sacrificing its citizens and sending them to harm's way to contribute to the international efforts to fight any form of dictatorship, expansion and aggression.

Its contributions to the UN Peacekeeper forces are always appreciated and earned it international acclaim including awards and acknowledgements. All these efforts are exerted in the interest of the nation as a peace-loving country and a rejection of any kind of imperialist tendencies by any force. It believed in international peace and order based on equality and justice and not based on the use of force.

In the later years, it made various contributions to free Africa from the colonial yoke and later on, when most African countries were freed, it contributed greatly to the formation of the Organization of African Unity by offering its capital city as the headquarters of the organization. Within the OAU later to be converted to the current African Union, AU, its contributions to peace and stability on the continent were notable and appreciated by all. Ethiopia's diplomatic history is hence rich, global and very meaningful. And this has its own advantages for its citizens and its development ventures in many ways.

Today Ethiopia has diplomatic relations and close ties with the majority of the world's nations and definitely with all the major powers. No one doubts about its influence on the African continent because most of the decisions regarding Africa are conceived and adopted in its capital city Addis Ababa where most of the AU summits are held.

Ethiopia's recent joining of the BRICS block is yet another demonstration that it pursues always its national interests independently of what others think or assume. The Ethiopian government has repeatedly asserted that Ethiopia's joining of BRICS does not mean that it is against other international grouping or alliances but it does what is advantageous for its people. With BRICS it realizes that it will have concrete economic benefits from the members of the organization that will help extricate its citizens from abject poverty and help it pursue further its development trajectory to new heights.

Ethiopia is a country that faces several challenges but this has not prevented it from carrying out its diplomatic ventures such as contributing to the safety of refugees that shelter in it and contributing to the fight against international terrorism as well as human trafficking. It also continues to subscribe to other joint ventures both bilaterally with various nations as well as multilaterally.

When it comes to what major activities were carried out this year, a few days ago the spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has given a bird's eye view of the major achievements. He has outlined how Ethiopia continued with its usual diplomatic

ventures by linking with various forces and conducting talks both at the highest leadership levels as well as at the level of high government officials with their visits to many countries and explaining the policies and priorities of Ethiopia. Accordingly the premier has visited numerous countries to strengthen our ties with several countries not only diplomatically and politically but also economically by signing cooperation agreements with these nations that may have the technology Ethiopia lacks and advantageous trade relations so that Ethiopian entrepreneurs have a chance to join the international market at better terms and conditions.

Ethiopian leaders have searched for parties that could benefit their country's long-term interests and worked hard to bargain with all those forces that have something to offer it. It always safeguards its strategic interests and strengthens its diplomatic ties with countries that are ready to respect and recognize Ethiopia's efforts to eradicate poverty from its soil. Accordingly in this ending Ethiopian year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has reported more than seventy agreements with various nations through the visit of its leaders while at the same time it has attracted more than five hundred pre-investment visits by foreign entrepreneurs and companies. Similarly, about twenty joint ventures were created with foreign investors and all this could be included in the diplomatic success Ethiopia has obtained in this ending year.

Regarding its debt burden with foreign countries and international financial organizations, Ethiopian leaders and diplomats have worked hard to lessen it with better terms of payment such as extending the payment dates and reducing the number of loans that would subject it to further financial burden and pressure. At the same time, Ethiopia has created according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs more than one hundred market linkages in the international sphere to promote Ethiopian products with its exports.

One of the most significant achievements that can be cited here is the legitimate claim that it has made to be granted access to the sea peacefully and diplomatically with a win-win position for both parties. Its agreement with Somaliland to secure access to the sea in exchange for economic advantages could be considered a diplomatic success. This venture is intended only to benefit Ethiopia and in the process also other countries in the region because if Ethiopia grows it can stimulate the growth of its neighbors, and even further eyeing always the objective of more integration in the continent. The AU has the Agenda 2063 in sight by which time the entire continent shall have been one big reality capable of exerting the influence it deserves on the international scene.

Ethiopia has always advocated for more integration in Africa and taking part in the likes of IGAD is also one demonstration of this objective. The construction of the

Grand Renaissance Dam is also one of the components of this scheme of further economic integration in the Horn of Africa that would benefit all. Even the launching of the Green Legacy Initiatives which has already planted more than thirty billion trees in four years is inspiring other African countries to do the same pushing them to exert effort to green their countries. By doing so and reducing the use of carbon and fossil fuels and using clean energy, they would contribute to the alleviation of the damages of climate change.

Ethiopia has always been at the forefront of this effort. It knows how climate aberrations have caused it immense damage including drought, flooding, food insecurity etc. This has contributed to the forced evictions of many people deprived of their livelihoods that were a direct consequence of climate change.

Furthermore, in the ending year, Ethiopia has materialized better its citizen-focused diplomacy by helping repatriate citizens from where they were in difficulty. This refers to countries particularly in the Middle East and neighboring Sudan. The situation in Sudan is alarming and with no sight to the end of hostilities between the national army and the Rapid Support Forces, civilians are caught in the middle and this is a concern to Ethiopians as well.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) has said that Sudan's destiny is very much linked to ours and we cannot sit idle when the fighting continues. That was why he recently travelled to Sudan to bring the two parties to a ceasefire without preconditions first and then proceed to talks. It is clear that war cannot be solved except to add further losses, suffering and misery to the Sudanese people. Ethiopia tries to intervene diplomatically acting in a lead position so that the hostilities cease just as it happened with the conflict in the north with the Pretoria Peace Deal.

Diplomacy serves to quell violence and hostilities and give priority to peaceful talks. Otherwise, the dead end would bury the chances of peace. At the same time, Ethiopia has been very much engaged in protecting its citizens in countries where they find themselves in difficulty. It has brought the case to the attention of the authorities so that their legitimate rights are not violated. Its embassies and consulates have taken the initiative to do that.

This year alone, more than 40,000 citizens in difficulty, mainly in Saudi Arabia and Sudan, have been repatriated. The government will help them readjust to their normal life back home. In the same period, it has through various bilateral agreements made possible the employment of thousands of Ethiopians abroad where they can work without fearing violations of their rights. Ethiopia's diplomatic ventures continue with the pursuit of peace in the sub-region and more economic integration and exchange of good relations with the rest of the world.



# Law & Politics

## Villa Somalia's short-sighted, counterproductive plot

BY EYUEL KIFLU

For over fifteen years, Somalia has been engaged in a relentless battle against the Islamist militant group Al-Shabaab, with the support of countries like Ethiopia and various world organizations. However, the terrorist group continues to pose a serious threat to the nation's stability and the wider region.

The recent incident in central Mogadishu, where a suicide bomber struck a café as football fans were watching the Euro 2024 finals, underscores the on-going challenge. While the attack left at least five people dead and another 20 injured, no one has claimed responsibility yet. Nonetheless, such acts of cruelty by Al-Shabaab have become all too familiar in Somalia.

Despite the efforts of many countries and entities, Somalia's former national security advisor and foreign minister, Abdisaid Muse Ali, has controversially suggested that Al-Shabaab is the only effective force capable of defending Somalia from any aggression. This neighbour's statement, made during an interview with the BBC Somali Service, has raised concerns about potential divisions within the Somali government.

Some have even suggested that, the Villa Somalia government may be surrounded by officials who are acting as "double dealers," using Ethiopia's need for sea access to maintain their positions and facilitate terrorist activities. However, the reality is that Addis Ababa has long expressed a desire for a mutually beneficial, "win-win" approach to the issue of sea access.

Ethiopia has repeatedly revealed its interest in the matter, offering a cooperative mechanism to utilize neighbouring countries' ports. Unfortunately, Somalia has denied these proposals, leading Ethiopia to explore alternative options, including an agreement with Somaliland.

However, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) claimed that, Ethiopia signed the Memorandum of Understanding with Somaliland "not because we have questions about Somalia's unity, but because we had tabled the question to all our neighbours and received no response."

This has further strained the relationship between the two countries, with Somalia accusing Ethiopia of meddling in its affairs.

Also, Prime Minister Abiy has stated that, the problems between Ethiopia and Somalia can be resolved through direct dialogue, "with one hour of flight and one hour of discussion," negating the need for the Somali government to travel to other nations and level accusations against Ethiopia.

This indicates that, the two countries should prioritize bilateral diplomacy



over seeking external mediators. Experts have emphasized the importance of strengthening diplomatic engagement, collaboration, and modern approaches to resolve the differences between the two nations.

In a recent exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, Haramaya University Political Science lecturer Emiru Gemechu (PhD) stated that, it is high time for all diplomatic communities, scholars, Diaspora members, and other segments of the community to strengthen diplomatic engagements in resolving differences between the two sisterly countries.

Drawing on the experiences of various landlocked countries' seaport accession and related issues, he emphasized the importance of stakeholder collaboration in navigating the root causes and bridging differences on both sides to promote cooperation and ensure long-term peace in the Horn of Africa.

"It is also highly critical to get rid of outdated diplomatic ventures and steadfast the modern diplomatic approaches that go along with the 21st Century through strengthening cooperation and partnership in the region."

He stated that, Ethiopia has been using win-win measures to ensure mutual interests.

Seconding the preceding rationale, Addis Ababa University Human Rights and Federalism Researcher Sisay Mengistie (PhD) emphasized that, both sides' ongoing diplomatic efforts should focus on avoiding escalation of the disagreement and using exhaustively peaceful avenues to restore diplomatic ties.

He emphasized the importance of convening meetings between Ethiopian and Somali experts, as well as diplomats from around the world, to maintain cordial relations.

"Apart from promoting the people-to-people ties and socioeconomic significance in between, Ethiopia's quest for sea outlets will have a paramount contribution towards ensuring peace and security for the region," he claimed.

Commending Ethiopia's all-weather alliance with Somalia, particularly during difficult times, he urged the latter to return to the negotiating table.

He also advised both countries to ignore those who seek to inflame tensions. According to him, intellectuals, diplomats, and others must play their proper roles in resolving the diplomatic crisis between the two countries.

Despite these diplomatic tensions, Ethiopia's support for Somalia in the fight against Al-Shabaab remains indispensable. On the military front, Ethiopian armed forces have conducted joint operations with the Somali National Army (SNA) and the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), targeting Al-Shabaab strongholds. This coordination and the deployment of Ethiopian troops have significantly bolstered the capabilities of Somali and ATMIS forces in their counterterrorism efforts.

Moreover, Ethiopia has worked to build the capacity of Somali military and security personnel, offering training in areas such as counterterrorism tactics, weapons handling, and unit-level operations. This investment in developing Somalia's security apparatus is seen as critical to the long-term efforts to weaken Al-Shabaab's grip. Currently, Somali police officers are undergoing training at the Ethiopian Police College.

Beyond the military realm, Ethiopia has provided substantial economic assistance to Somalia, including delivering development aid, facilitating trade and investment, and granting Somalia access

to vital transportation infrastructure. This economic support is crucial to undermining Al-Shabaab's influence and fostering sustainable development in Somalia.

Ethiopia's humanitarian aid has also been vital, particularly in areas impacted by Al-Shabaab's violence and the region's recurring droughts and famines. The delivery of food aid, medical supplies, and other relief materials to affected communities has helped to alleviate the suffering caused by these crises and strengthen the resilience of the Somali people. It is worth noting that many Somali refugees have found refuge in Ethiopia as well.

The decision to refer to Al-Shabaab as Somalia's defence force is not only misguided but also dangerous, given the threat the militant group poses to both the country and the region. It is crucial to prioritize discussions on sea access with Ethiopia over inadvertently empowering this group and causing regional instability. The recent talks between the foreign ministers of Ethiopia and Somalia in Ankara, Turkey, mark a commendable step in addressing the two countries' strained relations following the MoU.

The Ministers met in Ankara and had an open, friendly, and forward-looking discussion about their differences, exploring approaches towards addressing them within a mutually acceptable framework, according to a statement released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) after the discussion.

Ethiopia and Somalia both reaffirmed their commitment to resolving disputes peacefully and conveyed gratitude to Turkey for its helpful assistance and facilitation.

According to the announcement, the two ministers decided to get together once more for another round of talks on September 2, 2024, in Ankara.



# Society



## Making Addis modern, livable tourist destination

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

Addis Ababa, the economic, social, and administrative center of Ethiopia and Africa's diplomatic capital is not only becoming a city in transition but also pushing forward to emerge as one of the modern urban cities in the continent.

Following the various developmental activities, particularly the corridor development projects that are being carried out in the capital since the past few months, the appearance of the city is transforming rapidly and astonishingly.

Not only local people, but also foreigners who witnessed the progress are also appreciating and acknowledging the ongoing development initiatives and the remarkable transformation the city has seen subsequent to the corridor development initiative.

During their exclusive interviews with ENA Ambassadors of Indonesia and Russia lauded Addis Ababa's recent development efforts for bolstering the city's competitiveness on the continental and global stage.

Indonesian Ambassador to Ethiopia, Amb. Albusaira Basnur underscored Addis Ababa's pivotal role as the capital city of Africa and a prominent hub for numerous international institutions.

He praised the government's ambitious development schemes aimed at transforming Addis Ababa into a modern, livable city and elevates its status by advancing the city's infrastructure, upgrading public services like power and internet and enhancing its attractiveness.

Amb. Basnur could not hide his surprise at the positive change he has seen in a short

period of time. He said that, he is astonished by the ongoing magnificent development in Addis Ababa since his arrival at the capital city about five years ago.

Mentioning that, he has been here in Addis Ababa since the past five years, he said: "the rapid transformation I have witnessed during the last five-years in Addis Ababa is inconceivable. The construction of new parks, new buildings, libraries, and the museum, among others, in the city are some of the indicators that portray how magnificently and rapidly the city is transforming itself."

According to him the scheme is an important move that creates a more efficient and livable city in Africa for residents and visitors alike in addition to establishing a solid foundation for building a modern city.

"The roads are widened now. I was really shocked with the development in Addis Ababa; not only the road, but also the light. This city has really changed in the last five years when compared to when I arrived here in Addis Ababa."

According to him, this is one of the modalities and inviting sectors for foreigners to come, often to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, not only as tourists, but also as people seeking cooperation with the capital city.

Seconding the view of Ambassador Albusaira, Russian Ambassador, Evgeni Tarkihin highlighted Addis Ababa's eminence as Africa's diplomatic epicenter and lauded the city's ongoing transformation initiatives.

Drawing a parallel to Paris, which is today a renowned tourism site; but built over a century ago with visitors in mind, he expressed his belief that the development activities being carried out in Addis Ababa

currently will significantly bolster tourist arrivals, positioning it as a premier tourist destination in the near future.

Indeed, as witnessed by the two ambassadors and other diplomats who are residing in Addis Ababa, the corridor development project is not only enhancing the urban infrastructure in the capital city, but also contributing to sustainable urban planning and environmental conservation aside from turning.

True, the corridor development project in Addis Ababa stands out as a pivotal project that embodies the city's commitment to modernization and urban renewal. This infrastructure undertaking, along with other development activities, showcase Ethiopia's proactive approach to improving its urban landscape and fostering sustainable economic growth.

The fusion of modernity and tradition is evident in Addis Ababa's changing urban landscape. The construction of contemporary high-rise buildings, state-of-the-art facilities, and advanced transportation systems is reshaping the city's profile, symbolizing its readiness to embrace the future. These developments not only enhance the city's aesthetics but also reflect its growing economic prowess and urban sophistication.

This dramatic change in Addis Ababa is not only changing the image of the city, making it a livable city for all. It also has a direct impact on its tourism development and attracting more investors to the country. Enhanced tourism flow in turn can lead to the creation of jobs, increase revenue streams and it will create a vibrant cultural exchange, positioning Addis Ababa a dynamic global destination.

As Addis Ababa gains recognition on the international stage, it stands out as a city that honors its past while embracing the opportunities of tomorrow. The convergence of historical charm and modern innovation in the capital not only attracts tourists and investors but also fosters a sense of pride and belonging among its residents.

Addis Ababa's current pace towards becoming a city of the future in a manner preserving its historical and cultural treasures is a testament to government's resilience, adaptability, and forward-thinking approach. With each new skyscraper that graces its skyline and every cultural festival that celebrates its heritage, Addis Ababa solidifies its position as a city that honors its past as it strides confidently into the future.

The commendations from the ambassadors of the two countries regarding Addis Ababa's development activities, including the corridor project, highlight Ethiopia's journey towards urban excellence, and global competitiveness. As the city continues to evolve to modernization and fulfill the expectations of its name, New Flower, it not only showcases its progress on the world stage but also underscores its commitment to preserving its heritage, fostering sustainable development, and embracing a future that blends tradition with modernity.

The Addis Ababa Corridor Development project includes over 48 kilometers of asphalt road development, four underground walkways, 96 kilometers walkways, and a 100 kilometers cycle path. In addition, five kilometers running track and 48 new bus and taxi terminals that can facilitate the transport activities of the city, it was learnt.



# Planet Earth



## Ensuring traditional medicine safety for reliable community health

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Traditional medicine refers to knowledge, skills, and practices based on indigenous theories, beliefs, and experiences from many cultures. This style of medicine frequently makes use of natural medicines such as herbs, plants, and minerals, as well as procedures such as acupuncture and massage. Modern medicine, on the other hand, refers to the use of pharmaceutical medications, surgical techniques, and advanced medical technology to diagnose, treat, and prevent illnesses and health issues. It is built on scientific research and clinical testing to assure safety and efficacy.

Both traditional and contemporary medicine have their own advantages and disadvantages. Traditional medicine frequently emphasizes holistic techniques and has been utilized for millennia to solve health concerns. In contrast, modern medicine has achieved major advances in the treatment of complicated disorders, resulting in better health outcomes.

According to experts in the field, practically all medications have major side effects in addition to their medical advantages. The consequences could be serious, especially if the medications cannot be utilized according to the doctor's orders. The majority of the adverse effects of taking medicine are determined by its type and quantity, as well as the user's age, gender, and body weight, and they may overlap with other health issues.

When it comes to medication safety, people usually remember the name of Dr. Vladimir Lepak. The doctor's idea on the matter in 2005 will live on in history. He stated, "Death from sickness is sometimes unavoidable, but death owing to medication safety or adverse effects is unacceptable". This concept has been obtrusive for two decades and remains contentious now. Because drug safety is currently a critical international issue that deserves special

attention.

It is well known that the most effective way to avoid drug-related side effects and treat patients is to take drugs correctly and report any negative effects that arise. Given the significance of the situation, it is critical to ask what Ethiopia is doing to avoid the negative repercussions of drugs.

Ethiopia is addressing the issue head-on and pursuing a variety of strategies. To maintain community safety, productivity, and other factors, the nation is focusing on public health. Because the prevention of drug-related adverse effects depends on the nation's drug safety and control policies, particularly with regard to the type, reporting, and outcomes of hazardous events or drug properties, as well as the involvement and accountability of stakeholders.

Even, the Ethiopian Food and Medication Authority has urged the general public and health professionals to immediately report any significant or small adverse medication occurrence or behavior. According to Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority Proclamation No. 1112/2019, Article 24 (2), "Every health professional working for a medicine or medical device institution shall have the duty to immediately report risks of public health significance related to the quality, safety, and efficacy or medicine or quality, safety and effectiveness of a medical device, as appropriate, to the executive organ or a regional health regulator"

According to Asnakech Alemu, Executive Director of the Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority Drug Safety Monitoring and Medical Trials, each drug has both advantages and adverse effects. Medications, however, have the ability to heal provided they are manufactured, transported, stored, recommended by medical professionals, and used with caution and appropriateness. However, if any of these are compromised, it will result in harm.

Here, it is critical to note the two keywords "side effects of the drug" and "Drug Adverse Behavior." The term "side effects

of the drug" refers to any expected or unexpected negative effects that occur after taking a drug. This effect might be caused by the medication itself or by other reasons while "Drug Adverse Behavior" refers to any negative or undesirable reaction to the usage of any medication in regular dosages.

The authority also uses pharmacovigilance to control drugs. Pharmacovigilance is used by drug regulators and the pharmaceutical industry to detect, analyze, explain, and prevent side effects and other medication-related issues. Because all drugs are rigorously examined for safety and efficacy in clinical trials before being licensed for use. Even while in use, they are subject to close inspection. To conduct the proper therapeutic benefit-risk assessment, a package insert is necessary, which drug regulators and the pharmaceutical industry of Ethiopia use to establish a pharmaceutical safety monitoring system.

Ethiopia is also making a concerted effort to report any adverse drug events or behaviors, no matter how little. In addition to carrying out a number of efforts, especially in the past two years, to ensure the proclamation's proper execution, the Authority has been striving to develop its professional workforce's competence. Hence, it has trained more than 8,000 experts and established six drug monitoring centers at seven university hospitals throughout the country, she noted.

Moreover, the Authority has undertaken several initiatives to broaden and increase reporting mechanism possibilities. As a result, it now provides various mechanisms namely, a prepaid yellow form to be sent by the post office, 8482 (toll-free) line, e-report: [www.finhaca.gov.et-service](http://www.finhaca.gov.et-service) as well as email options.

Carrying out these and other comparable activities significantly increases the number of reports sent to the global database which helps Ethiopia rise from the bottom ranks to become one of Africa's top performers. Therefore, to upscale and maintain this



*Asnakech Alemu, Executive Director of the Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority Drug Safety Monitoring and Medical Trials*

outcome, the general people and health professionals who use the above-mentioned options should quickly report any major or mild adverse medication side effects to the Ethiopian Food and Medication Authority or Monitoring Centers. Additionally, she advised everyone to act as though "my medicine is my safety" since "the issue of medicine is the issue of all the people," she indicated.

Ethiopia indeed became a full member of the World Health Organization's International Drug Monitoring Program in 2017. Being a part of the WHO PIDM means bringing the support and shared expertise of a global medicines safety community to the national pharmacovigilance work, and by sharing the national insights with the program that the country contributes to greater patient safety worldwide.

Therefore, in addition to reporting, individuals should inquire about potential side effects of medicine, be aware of any safety concerns with pharmaceuticals, report any odd or heightened symptoms, and seek medical assistance immediately. Health professionals, pharmaceutical institutions/manufacturers, importers, distributors, pharmaceutical retail groupings, and health institutions should also work to fulfill their specific responsibilities. The Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority should also plan to improve the drug safety monitoring system, reform the regulatory framework, and educate specialists to strengthen follow-up and monitoring procedures. This, in turn, ensures the community's well-being and continues the already obtained results.