



State striving to rescue, rehabilitate people affected by landslide

• Parties express condolences for loss of lives

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- The rescuing and rehabilitating efforts have been continued to save people affected by landslide occurred in Geze Gofa District of South Ethiopia State, Officials said.

In an interview with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), South Ethiopia State Communication Bureau Head, Senait Solomon said that the state administration has organized a committee that facilitates utmost efforts to rescuing as well as supporting affected people in the area.

She expressed that priority has been given for rescuing the people while taking precaution measures to protect citizens from similar circumstances.

“Over 229 people have lost their lives due to the incident. The community, in concert with the government and other stakeholders, are striving to provide the necessary support to rescue as well as rehabilitate affected people,” she underscored.

The incident was said to be occurred while the community trying to rescue a family that has been affected by the landslide that followed the heavy rain, she added.

The Zone Disaster Management Bureau Head, Markos Melese also announced that the Emergency Rehabilitation Committee has

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Photo: Ashenafi Gudeta

Gov't debuts initiative to benefit 5 mln Ethiopian coders

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA - As part of the national Digital Ethiopia 2025 strategy that aimed at bridging the digital skills gap, the government has launched the 5 Million Ethiopian Coders Initiative to benefit citizens with digital technology training.

Launching the project yesterday at the Science Museum, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) said that Ethiopia has hope through a forward-thinking youth population.

“The 5 Million Ethiopian Coders Initiative we launch today is a great opportunity,” he expressed.

By 2026, the program aims to equip five million Ethiopian youth with foundational digital skills in Web Programming, Android Development, Data Science, and Artificial Intelligence.

Prime Minister Abiy has called upon all

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Mekonnen Ayana (Prof.)

Scholar touts imminent Nile Basin Countries' commission

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA - Following South Sudan's Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) ratification, the establishment of the Nile Basin countries' commission is now closer to be a reality, said scholar in the area.

See Scholar Touts ... page 3

Ethiopia slams Addis Ababa Action Agenda implementation low performance

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- The implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the United Nations' (UN) Financing for Development is unsatisfactory and caused developing countries significant financing gaps, said Finance Minister.

Speaking at the opening of the first Preparatory committee conference on the fourth Financing for Development Conference, Ethiopian Finance Minister Ahmed Shide said that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda which the United Nations adopted in 2015, has not been implemented as anticipated.

“Despite some achievement, Developing countries like Ethiopia continue to face significant financing gaps which affect hard-earned progress and are exacerbated by



Ahmed Shide

recent global crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic, political conflict and economic instabilities,” he said.

The agenda was expected to lead a new era of global cooperation and ambitious financing

development. It underscored the need for a comprehensive holistic and transformative approach to achieve the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, he stated.

He also highlighted that the escalating burden, particularly concerning with many countries which are allocating more resources to death in services rather than investing in basic social service, is undermining financing for development.

He also underlined the need to lay out bold actions ensuring the realization of sustainable development goals.” We should critically examine the challenges and implement coordinates reductions to accelerate the implementation of sustainable development goals.

“We must advocate for comprehensive

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Photo: Hadush Abraha

News



UN applauds Ethiopia's gender equality, women empowerment move

BY DIRRIBA TESHOME

ADDIS ABABA—United Nations (UN) Deputy Secretary General and Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group acclaimed Ethiopian government yesterday for its exceptional gender equality and women empowerment efforts.

The Deputy Secretary General Amina J. Mohammed highly praised the Ethiopian government for its exceptional gender equality and women empowerment efforts.

During a forum organized by Ministry of Women and Social Affairs Amina said: "Having 42 percent exceptional women representation in the Parliament and over 40 percent cabinet member women is a great achievement. Among the many women leaders in Ethiopia, I have known two incredible women leaders: President Sahlework Zewdie and Ergogie Tesfaye (PhD)."

Appreciating government's comprehensive efforts in poverty reduction, she noted that Ethiopia has given due attention to gender equality and women empowerment that all nations need to follow.

"We are also thankful to Ethiopian government for ending child marriage and female genital mutilation for which we have recently awarded Ethiopia. Besides, Ethiopians of course Africans as well, should make the narratives known. Ethiopia is a big rising country as its GDP is becoming close to 80 percent."

She called on women to occupy immediately when they get space and promised to be voice to the women across the world in order to avoid gender based violence.

Women and Social Affairs Minister Ergogie Tesfaye (PhD) on her part noted that Ethiopia has prioritized women's empowerment and gender equality in the formulation of its national policies, strategies, and programs.

She also said: "The government has shown its dedication establishing favorable legislative, policy, and administrative frameworks throughout the country. If international supports are provided, Ethiopia is committed to enhancing women and girls equal opportunity in the social, economic, and political spheres,"

Corridor dev't exemplary to realize country's aspirations: *Contending Parties*

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA - The Addis Ababa corridor development demonstrates Ethiopia's potentials to achieve ambitious goals with joined hands, contending political parties so remarked.

The political parties that paid a visit to the corridor development work in the capital on Monday noted that the project clearly indicates Ethiopia's development is on the right path.

They told local media that the effective and successful project management that has seen in the accomplishment of the timely and quality corridor development project is a practical example to achieve national development.

During the visit, Ethiopian Political Parties Joint Council Chairperson Desta Dinka said that contending political parties are working with the government on national issues including development activities.

He mentioned that the corridor development will contribute much on beautifying the capital and it should be expanded to other parts of the country.



Gamo Democratic Party representative Berhanu Gadebo said that all politicians are expected to support such development works.

"We can compete and oppose policy issues but not on development matters and this helps to develop the culture of democracy."

Feysel Abdulaziz, who participated in the visit on behalf of the Wolene People's

Democratic Party, stated that the project exhibits country's capacity to complete development projects on time with the required quality.

The representatives stressed on the necessity of cooperation to achieve development and expressed commitment to work with the government on national development agendas to improve the lives of citizens.



Association urges youth to join "Journey to Green Dev't"

BY YESUF ENDRIS

WOLKITIE- The Gurage Development and Cultural Association called upon the youth and its members across the country to join the green journey for combating the impact of climate change.

This year, the association has planned to plant over 20,000 seedlings as part of its annual campaign.

During the annual seedling day held late last week, Central Ethiopia Chief Administrator Endeshaw Tasew praised the dedication of the youth, who are also members of the Gurage Development and Cultural Association.

He highlighted that their commitment, noting that many traveled hundreds of kilometers to

their birth villages solely to plant seedlings. He emphasized the importance of nurturing such values, pointing out that this initiative not only reflects the community's dedication to environmental conservation but also underscores the power of youth involvement.

The campaign witnessed hundreds of young association members traveling to the Gurage zone. As the number of dedicated individuals grows, so does the state's forest coverage, he noted.

This enthusiastic and determined journey has significantly contributed to the reforestation efforts that have been a hallmark of the association's activities for over a decade, according to him.

Association Board Chairperson, Shisema Gebreselassie, also added that for the past 12

years, the association has been at the forefront of environmental conservation in the state. Each year, they meticulously plan and execute seedling planting campaigns, steadily increasing their impact and outreach.

This sustained effort has not only enhanced the local ecosystem but also raised a sense of responsibility among community members; particularly the youth are living out from their birth villages.

The Gurage Development and Cultural Association's annual seedling campaign continues to be a testament to the community's dedication and the powerful role of youth in driving environmental change. As they plant more seedlings each year, their hope for a greener, more sustainable future grows ever stronger, according to the Board Chairperson.

News

Public enterprises making strides without new commercial loans

• Mobilizing over 1.5 trillion Birr capital

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - Following the implementation of homegrown economic reform, none of public enterprises have received new commercial loans, said the Public Enterprises Holding and Administration (PEHA).

Approached by *The Ethiopian Herald* PEHA Director General Habtamu Hailemichael stated since the implementation of the first and the second homegrown economic reform agenda, public enterprises have not received new commercial loans.

According to the Director General, the public enterprises have not received new debt and the country has restructured most of its foreign debt and is properly repaying local debt.

“If the commercial loan is necessary for enterprises, they can receive it based on feasibility study and other criteria to utilize it in effective sectors.”

All public enterprises have been mobilizing



about 3 trillion Birr capital. Specifically public enterprises under PEHA are mobilizing more than 1.5 trillion Birr capital which amounts 15% of country's GDP, he said.

Some public enterprises have been burdening country's economy for highly

receiving commercial loan, he remarked, adding that the enterprises are now working in partnership and getting loan from local banks.

The public enterprises are strongly catalyzing country's economy with huge capacity and contribution by generating high revenue and creating job opportunities, Habtamu noted.

The government has been focusing on the effectiveness of enterprises to support the overall economic development, he added.

The PEHA has been working to resolve major challenges of public enterprises through revising their codes to improve corporate and finance governance as well as the overall system, he underlined.

The Administration has also been working to maximize their revenue and profit as well as to offer capacity building training. Accordingly, it offered capacity building training to 5, 000 individuals in the just ended Ethiopian fiscal year. The public enterprises have also created some 43, 000 jobs over the last ten months, it was learnt.

Gov't debuts initiative..

stakeholders to encourage the youth to register for the program, gain skills, and acquire international certification.

He entrusted them to use this opportunity to create a movement aimed at producing 5 million Ethiopian coders within the next three years.

Abiy expressed his appreciation to the government of the United Arab Emirates for their partnership in this project. “My greatest gratitude goes to the government of the United Arab Emirates for the partnership in this large scale capacity-building project,” he said.

He further stated that these 5 million coders will not only create innovative local solutions but also become a beacon of hope for the continent.

The 5 Million Ethiopian Coders Initiative is a collaborative effort between Ethiopia and the United Arab Emirates, aimed at training 5 million citizens in digital technology, artificial intelligence, and related digitization skills.

Scholar touts imminent...

Adama Science and Technology University Water Resource Engineering Department Lecturer and Researcher Mekonnen Ayana (Prof.) told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the Nile Basin countries' commission that would take into effect soon is expected to ensure equitable use of the Nile River among riparian countries.

Since the Permanent Commission of the Nile Basin States is on the verge of establishment, the members of the commission will work closely ever to administer, utilize, exchange of information about the security and sustainability of water resources, it was learnt.

When the commission goes fully operational, he reiterated that some groups' allegations and agenda over the Nile colonial treaties to the United Nations Security Council will have no more spaces.

The commission, which has a universal recognition, would also shape allegations, disinformation, vested interests and eases pressures imposed on Ethiopia. Similarly, it helps spurring the common benefits of riparian countries.

He said adding that the commission will

also have a legal mandate to promote cooperation and fair utilization of water basins.

He said: “Sudan, Egypt and Democratic Republic Congo are supposed to join the commission after the realization of the commission as there are no other way outs.”

Talking about CFA, he indicated that it embraces equitable and reasonable utilization of Nile River and trans-border administrative principles.

“Egypt has long been debating to exempt the fair utilization issues from the framework, instead he said, it was reverberating the issue as ‘water security’ to ensure its own vest interest that did not recognize the upper riparian countries right over the water.”

Moreover, he said: “The Nile Cooperation Framework doesn't recognize Egypt's one sided laws and gives legal ground for Ethiopia's long standing stance on colonial era treaties.

Having ratified CFA, South Sudan has become the sixth country among the eleven member of the Nile basin Countries, it was learnt.

Ethiopia slams Addis Ababa...

reform of the international financial architecture including improving global economic governance, enhancing data lab measures and reducing cost of sovereign borrowing.”

He also urged that explore and implement innovative finance in solutions to mobilize resources effectively.

Mobilizing private investment and strengthening multi-development banks are also important steps. Innovating climate financing mechanism, such as debt for climate swaps, carbon trading and green bondage should be promoted and extensively used, he mentioned.

He further noted that Ethiopia stands as a testament to resilience and determination striving to overcome challenges and forge bright future for its people.

“We embark on an ambitious transformation aiming to lift millions out of poverty, enhance infrastructure, improve education and ensure healthcare for all.”

As to him, significant stride has been made in poverty reduction, education, health, sustainable energy, and gender equality. In response to agenda 2030, the government of Ethiopia is committed to combating climate change. It has made substantial achievement in restoring millions of hectares degraded

landscapes through initiative such as the Green Legacy initiative which is a champion initiative by the Prime Minister.

“We have managed to increase our national forest cover to 23.6 percent from 14.7 percent in 2014. Our paths on this climate resilient and green economy development focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, promoting renewable energy sources like hydroelectric, wind and solar power, and fostering sustainable agricultural practices,” he added.

UN Deputy Secretary General, Amina Mohammed also said that most developing countries are facing high costs of capital. “Many of them cannot invest in the future as they struggle to meet their immediate needs, paying salaries and meeting debt service”.

The international financial flow is not based on developing countries' economic outlook. Developing countries remains in bleak while the global economy has been described as in resilience, according to her.

There is a soft landing in the north but not in the south. The southern is a crash landing. The need for reform was evident in 2015. The series of shocks that have rocked the world since 2020 are a testament to the urgency of delivering on the Addis Ababa commitments, she underlined.

State striving to rescue,...

already begun facilitating support and restoration.

Meanwhile, Prosperity Party has expressed its deep condolences for the lives claimed during the landslide that occurred in the state.

In its statement, the party conveyed its readiness to be part of the effort that would be put to rehabilitate the people that have been affected by the landslide while expressing condolences to the family, relatives and friends for their loss.

Similarly, the Ethiopian Citizens for Social Justice Party also expressed deep sympathy for the lost lives in the disaster.

Precaution measures need to be taken in advance, the party urged on its social media account, while calling media outlets

to provide necessary information timely.

The government including civic society organizations need to provide necessary support while raising awareness to avert similar situation, it stressed.

Opinion

CFA ratification signals a new era of cooperation: *Ethiopia at the forefront*

BY HIZKEL HAILU

The ratification of the Nile River Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) by South Sudan signifies a new era of cooperation among the Nile Basin countries, with Ethiopia playing a crucial role. As the source of the Blue Nile, Ethiopia's commitment to a responsible water resource management is vital in shaping the future of the Nile Basin. The CFA establishes the Nile Basin Commission, providing a platform for dialogue and joint decision-making. This cooperative approach ensures the equitable usage and sustainable development of the Nile waters.

Ethiopia's leadership in promoting collaboration and development in the region is reinforced by the CFA's ratification setting the stage for improved economic opportunities, poverty alleviation and enhanced food security in the Nile Basin countries. Through embracing shared interests and addressing challenges, Ethiopia and the Nile Basin countries can harness the full potential of river for the benefit of their respective populations, fostering stability and prosperity in the region.

Heralding the historic moment for Ethiopia as the Agreement on the Nile River Basin Cooperative Framework (CFA) is ratified by South Sudan recently, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) said that this diplomatic milestone marks a significant step in Ethiopia's collective aspiration for regional cooperation in the Nile Basin. "The ratification will provide impetus for working towards the common good of our people through the establishment of the Nile Basin Commission," the Premier added.

The ratification of the CFA brings forth numerous advantages for each signatory country, fostering cooperation, development, and equitable resource management in the Nile Basin. While delving into the benefits that this historic agreement holds for the countries involved, it is crystal clear that each signatory country including Ethiopia can take the advantages.

As the source of the Blue Nile, Ethiopia stands to gain multiple advantages from the CFA. The agreement recognizes Ethiopia's right to develop its water resources in a sustainable manner, enabling the country to harness the potential of the Nile for hydropower generation and irrigation projects without posing significant harm on lower riparian countries. This will contribute significantly to Ethiopia's energy security and agricultural development, driving economic growth and poverty reduction.

On one hand, through ratifying the CFA, South Sudan demonstrates its commitment to regional cooperation and responsibility to water resource



NILE BASIN INITIATIVE
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management. The agreement offers South Sudan the opportunity to actively participate in decision-making processes regarding the utilization of Nile waters. This ensures that the country's interests are safeguarded and promotes a sense of ownership and collaboration within the Nile Basin.

Not only the two countries, but also other riparian countries, such as Egypt, Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya, and Burundi can be benefited through providing a cooperative framework for Nile Basin management. The agreement promotes equitable and reasonable utilization of the Nile resources, fostering a spirit of collaboration and shared responsibility. It establishes a platform for dialogue, negotiation, and conflict resolution, ensuring that the interests of all countries are taken into account.

It seems important to understand that Ethiopia's commitment to the common good and regional cooperation in the Nile Basin has been unwavering. The country has consistently advocated for a fair and inclusive framework that recognizes the rights and aspirations of all riparian states. Ethiopia's dedication to sustainable development, poverty eradication, and energy security has been the driving force behind its efforts to hitch the Nile's resources responsibly.

Ethiopia's commitment to CFA aligns with its broader vision for economic growth, social progress, and environmental sustainability. The country recognizes that cooperation and equitable sharing of Nile waters are crucial for the prosperity of the entire region. Through prioritizing dialogue, negotiation, and consensus-building, Ethiopia has played a pivotal role in fostering a constructive environment for reaching a consensus on the CFA.

Ethiopia's dedication to the common good extends beyond the CFA. The country has actively engaged in various regional initiatives, including the Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) and the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI). These platforms facilitate dialogue and cooperation among Nile Basin countries, promoting peaceful coexistence, shared benefits, and sustainable development.

As the issues move forward, it is crucial for all signatory countries to uphold their commitments, foster trust, and engage in constructive dialogue. Implementing the CFA and establishing the Nile Basin Commission in order to pave the way for transformative regional cooperation, mutual benefits, and sustainable development in the Nile Basin.

The ratification of the CFA by South Sudan serves as a shining example of the positive outcomes that can be achieved through collective efforts, cooperation and a shared vision for the future of the Nile Basin. It is a testament to the power of regional cooperation in realizing the aspirations and common good of all riparian states.

The Nile River, with its vast resources and historical significance, has long been a source of both cooperation and contention among the countries it traverses. The ratification of the CFA by South Sudan further demonstrates willingness among the Nile Basin countries to come together and find mutually beneficial solutions to long-standing issues.

Ethiopia, as the source of the Blue Nile, has a crucial role to play in the sustainable management of the Nile River Basin. The ratification of the CFA by South Sudan reinforces Ethiopia's position as a key player in the region and strengthens its ability to shape the future of the Nile Basin. It is an acknowledgment of Ethiopia's commitment to responsible water resource management and its dedication to promoting cooperation and development in the region.

The establishment of the Nile Basin Commission, as envisaged in the CFA, will provide a platform for dialogue, cooperation, and joint decision-making among the riparian states. This commission can serve as a forum for addressing the concerns and interests of all stakeholders, ensuring that the development and utilization of the Nile waters are carried out in a fair and sustainable manner. By fostering collaboration and understanding, the commission can help build trust and promote long-term stability in the region.

The ratification of the CFA by South Sudan also holds immense potential for economic development and poverty alleviation in the Nile Basin countries. The equitable sharing of the Nile resources will create opportunities for irrigation, hydropower generation and expanded agricultural activities. These developments can stimulate economic growth, improve living standards and enhance food security for millions of people in the region. By working together, the Nile Basin countries can harness the full potential of the river for the benefit of their populations.

However, it is important to recognize that challenges lie ahead. The implementation of the CFA and the establishment of the Nile Basin Commission will require

sustained commitment and cooperation from all parties involved. The interests and concerns of each riparian state must be taken into account and mechanisms for dispute resolution must be established. It is essential to foster an inclusive and transparent process that allows for meaningful participation and ensures that the voices of all stakeholders are heard.

Furthermore, the ratification of the CFA should not be seen as an end in itself but rather as a starting point for further collaboration and dialogue. The Nile Basin countries must continue to engage in open and constructive discussions to address the complex issues surrounding the river's management. This includes exploring innovative approaches, such as the adoption of new technologies and practices, to maximize the benefits derived from the Nile waters while minimizing potential negative impacts.

Coupled with these, environmental sustainability should be a key consideration in the development and management of the Nile River Basin. Climate change poses significant challenges to water resources worldwide, and the Nile Basin is not immune to its impacts. By prioritizing sustainable practices, such as water conservation, ecosystem protection, and climate change adaptation measures, the Nile Basin countries can ensure the long-term viability of the river and its resources.

Public participation and inclusivity are vital in the decision-making processes related to the Nile River Basin. It is crucial to engage civil society organizations, local communities, and other stakeholders in the dialogue and decision-making processes. Their input can provide valuable insights and ensure that the interests and concerns of all those affected by the management of the Nile waters are considered.

All in all, the ratification of the Agreement on the Nile River Basin Cooperative Framework by South Sudan is a historic moment for Ethiopia and the Nile Basin region. It showcases the commitment of the riparian states to work together towards a sustainable and prosperous future. The establishment of the Nile Basin Commission and the cooperative management of the Nile resources hold tremendous potential for economic development, poverty alleviation, and regional stability. Through seizing this opportunity and navigating the challenges ahead with diligence and cooperation, the Nile Basin countries can create a brighter future for their people and set an example for trans-boundary water management worldwide.

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

Editorial

Keep seeing the bigger picture

Last Monday, July 22, 2024, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) held a discussion with representatives of various political parties on core national agendas and common political interests, to build consensus and work together for the common good of all.

In fact, unlike the preceding systems, since the reform years, holding constructive discussions with contending political parties has become a new trend in the Ethiopian political order.

The government has been making every effort to work in concert with representatives of various competing political parties and individuals; and inviting them to hold peaceful dialogue aiming to establish a culture of a modern political and democratic system, create a level playing field so that to enhance parties' participation in the country's overall activity.

Aside from this, during the reform years, exiled members of contending political parties were invited to come back to their homeland and struggle peacefully to contribute their share for their homeland.

At discussion forums held in various times and different situations among the ruling and contending parties, it was possible to gather important feedback, collect concerns, as well as devise a mechanism on how to work in collaboration. As the continuation of the discussion held in April this year on national issues, last Monday, the Premier met again with representatives of various political parties and discussed national issues. This was truly one of the achievements that the reform program has brought about to the country.

It is an open secret that before the reform years, there was mistrust among the government and competing political parties. Even, they were seeing each other as enemies. Due to this, opposing parties always preferred guns to resolve disagreements over peaceful talks. This unfortunate practice cost the country dearly and cast a cloud over its energy to ensure sustainable economic growth. As far as it can be seen, conflicts and disagreements are inevitable phenomena.

However, opposing every single effort and promoting destructive views would not benefit any party and get no one anywhere other than inciting conflicts and pushing the country to the brink of a precarious state. Understandably, in the real world, no political system is perfect. Even the most economically advanced and politically mature countries are also facing numerous challenges for the reason that there is no perfect political system in the actual sense.

In essence of this, reaching an agreement on common grounds and working in partnership for the interests of the general public as a whole is fundamental to creating a better life and a more just society over time. In black and white, getting together around the peace table, struggling peacefully, working on differences, and creating a common understanding is the only viable path for transition to peace, stability, and prosperity. The more the engagement of the contending political parties in common national matters enhances, the more confronts and grievances will lessen as holding constructive discussions allows entertaining and addressing different perspectives and creating understanding.

This, in turn, will circumvent the tendency to see each other as enemies, curb the trend of using guns as tools to solve differences or problems; and initiate all to work for the good of the general public. In this regard, the political culture that was created over the reform years in Ethiopia's political landscape, which engaged contending political parties to discuss on issues of common interest and reach consensus should be further strengthened and sustained at all levels for long-term stability and prosperity.



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Opinion

Revamping efforts of food sovereignty to shun dependency

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

One and a half years have passed since the launch of the “Yelimat Tirufat” development campaign, which focuses on nutritional abundance. The traditional food container, Limat, serves as a connection between farmers, pastoralists, and consumers, aiming to provide adequate nutritional food, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (Ph.D) tweeted in November 2022 as he launched the initiative.

Food self-sufficiency is crucial for national sovereignty and dignity, and the Yelimat Tirufat campaign is accelerating efforts to achieve food self-sufficiency at both the family and national levels.

The “Yelimat Tirufat” program aims to replicate the success of the country's pantry in livestock, poultry, honey products, the Green Legacy initiative, wheat, vegetables, and fruits. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed announced the “Yelimat Tirufat” program in Arba Minch city, emphasizing food sovereignty and dignity.

The program enables Ethiopia to ensure food security, particularly with meat, eggs, honey, and milk, as essential, surplus products. By focusing on animal products like milk, honey, meat, and eggs, the program aims to shift the perception of these items from luxury foods to everyday ingredients.

By diversifying alternative food resources through coordinated sector management supported by technology, the program aims to increase production and eliminate production bottlenecks. Ethiopia has the potential for significant animal product output, but there is still progress to be made in harnessing this potential.

According to Ministry of Agriculture data, Ethiopia's annual milk production is 7.1 billion liters, with per capita consumption at only 66 liters, far below the recommended 200 liters per year for a healthy individual. Ethiopia spends over 25.5 million dollars annually on processed milk imports due to this shortfall.

The program's goals for the upcoming years include increasing annual milk production to 11.7 billion liters, chicken meat production to 240 thousand tons, and honey production to 296 thousand tons. These efforts not only aim to feed families but also to build a food-independent country.

The “Yelimat Tirufat” program is a comprehensive initiative with four main objectives, including enhancing food security, increasing animal production, improving productivity, and creating employment opportunities through product and market linkages. The program is being implemented at the

national level and officially promoted by various states based on their specific needs.

The program is part of a generational legacy, aiming to utilize natural resources effectively and promote livestock and horticulture potential. Involving farmers and pastoralists in the production of milk, meat, chicken, and eggs, the program lays the foundation for Ethiopia's journey towards prosperity.

Research institutions, like the Debre Zeit Agricultural Research Center, play a crucial role in making improved chicken and animal breeds accessible to farmers and pastoralists. The program is working to distribute improved chicken breeds that can significantly increase egg production, benefiting farmers and the economy.

Now, the program has been implemented at the grassroots level and the people at large have accepted it. Apart from creating jobs for many unemployed citizens, the program has regulated the market by producing excess milk, eggs, and other vegetables.

On the other hand, the program will help to improve the nutrition and food system. Malnutrition is a problem that we have not yet overcome. However, this problem has its own influence on the future social well-being of the people. Thus, this program has multifaceted benefits.

As mentioned earlier, the Yelimat Tirufat and other related programs will enhance social participation in development programs. Without a doubt, the program will ensure food self-sufficiency through excess agricultural products. When there are excess products, we need to prepare ourselves to export our products to international markets.

In the near future, Ethiopia will be the breadbasket of East Africa. Currently, Ethiopia has been producing a huge amount of wheat, rice, and other crops with the vision of ensuring food self-sufficiency. The government understands the possibility of ensuring food self-sufficiency and even being able to cover emergency food supplies from food banks.

Overall, the success of the “Yelimat Tirufat” program depends on cooperation and coordination among all stakeholders, including farmers, researchers, and government authorities. By working together, Ethiopia can achieve its goals of food security, economic sovereignty, and prosperity.

The program is another segment of the effort to ensure food self-sufficiency by engaging the public at large. In order to achieve the set target, development partners working in the area should provide every- assistance for Ethiopia to realize its dream within a very short time.

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

Business & Economy

Boosting domestic production, FDI and trade balance for Ethiopia's economic growth

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

It is common knowledge that economic experts place emphasis on the need to augment domestic production, exports, foreign direct investment (FDI) and other related aspects to help the country make trade balance certain in the shortest possible time.

With regard to boosting production, attracting production and ensuring trade balance, and other things of a similar kind, pertinent bodies have been working around the clock to make the impossible possible and the unthinkable thinkable.

In the present climate, the federal government has been moving heaven and earth to take the country's economy to the next level of accomplishment by effectuating a wide spectrum of fruitful strategies. It is true that in this day and age, the country has been putting into effect local resources to produce fertilizers domestically with the intention of achieving economic rewards and alleviate foreign exchange matters at the earliest possible time.

Senior Researcher of Economics at Ethiopian Policy Studies Institute, Jemal Mohammed (PhD) recently told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the country must boost production, attract FDI and ensure peace to bridge the trade deficit. He also highlighted that investing in manufacturing, agriculture, and mining sectors is vital for improving the balance of trade through increased production.

He warned that a trade deficit worsens financial burdens, foreign currency challenges and inflation. Therefore, he emphasized the need to boost production and FDI to ensure trade balance. Nations like China and Vietnam maintain a positive trade balance by exporting more than they import.

Supporting this rationale, Economist Costantinos Beruhtesfa (PhD) noted that implementing effective policies and creating an enabling environment for manufacturing and agricultural investments helps ensure trade balance and economic stability by increasing productivity, FDI, and export earnings. He emphasized that manufacturing and agricultural production has the potential to be game-changers in realizing Ethiopia's trade balance.

Agricultural researchers emphasize the importance of utilizing local resources to produce fertilizers domestically aiming to achieve economic advantages and mitigate foreign exchange issues.

In an interview he gave recently to the Ethiopian Press Agency, Biru Yitafaru (PhD), a soil researcher at the Ethiopian Institute of Agriculture, said the government is focused on local fertilizer production to save over one billion USD annually spent on imports. Urea and DAP fertilizers are in high demand in Ethiopia, and the country has the necessary inputs to produce them locally.

"Global market fluctuations often impact us negatively, with inflation making us

vulnerable. For instance, the war between Russia and Ukraine has caused a fourfold increase in fertilizer prices," he said.

Fertilizer production requires substantial raw materials and high electrical energy. Ethiopia is making strides in generating sufficient energy to support local fertilizer production. In a similar manner, Awoke Mulualem (PhD), the Natural Resources and Climate Program Director at the Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Institute noted that while fertilizers boost crop production, their overuse can lead to soil acidification and nutrient depletion.

The researcher emphasized that Ethiopia's crop production heavily relies on fertilizers, and the country has faced shortages. "Producing fertilizers locally would play a pivotal role in addressing these challenges and alleviating the foreign exchange shortage," he opined.

CEO of Ethiopia's Industrial Parks Development Corporation (IPDC), Aklilu Tadesse recently told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the reformist government has been working to achieve trade balance through boosting industrial production with the active engagement of local and foreign investors.

In the past, Ethiopia had been striving to maximize export while paying less attention to import substitution. Consequently, domestic investors had not played a significant role in the country's economy mainly in the industrial sector that's why close to 94% of the sector run by foreign investors over the past many years, he indicated.

Particularly, the government initiated the domestic investors by providing facilitated areas which has green spaces, asphalt, one stop services, power line, and water and sewerage system.

Chernet Gebremeskel (MD) from the Medical Glove Manufacturing PLC said in the recent past that alluring domestic investors is crucial to boost the economy.

"I have allocated over 160 million Birr to run business and planned to produce international standard quality medical glove in the years to come," he expressed.

Lack of medical glove is a serious challenge in Ethiopia in particular and the African continent in general. Therefore, substituting the product locally plays a significant role in addressing foreign currency glitches.

Approached by *The Ethiopian Herald*, MoA Food and Nutrition Coordination Office Head Alemtschay Sergawi said that expanding agriculture commercialization, ensuring food safety and reducing post harvesting losses would contribute to ensure food self-sufficiency in the country.

The nutrition sensitive agro-food system strategy implementation, focusing on widely producing of green leafy vegetables and others would contribute to fill the micro nutrient deficiency. The process needed ensuring the availability of nutritionally enriched food products by affordable price to community.

Food import substitution would be achieved



by properly managing agricultural products' losses as well as enhancing quality production and productivity.

For his part, Hawassa University Agriculture Department Lecturer and Researcher Yirsaw Demeke (PhD) recently said that the country has been losing 30 to 40% of agricultural products during post-harvesting period. "If we manage this loss properly, the country would ensure food self-sufficiency shortly," he said.

Ethiopia's policy that was merely focusing on boosting production and productivity, lack of awareness, implementation limitations of policies and strategies and others contributed to result the aforementioned percent of loss.

Focusing on boosting of production and productivity alone is not satisfactory, but it needs reducing loss and improving quality.

Having different policies and strategies alone would not address the sector problems as lack of awareness among the community has been challenging post harvesting process.

Ethiopia can reduce the current post-harvest losses by half through proper awareness creation among communities. To do so, Yirsaw suggested that the country can draw experiences from European nations that minimized the post-harvest losses by less than 2%.

Fairtrade Africa Ethiopia Country Representative, Tadesse Negash recently told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the Fairtrade is providing technical support, training by creating market linkage across the world for 191 cooperatives to sell products in higher price.

As to him, the organization is following up 191 cooperatives of which 10 unions are certified comprising about 243,000 farmers.

He added that the organization is also working to improve traceability of products, participation of golden cup winners in the world of coffee event thereby connect to the market and expand their operations.

"Every year, after the Ethiopian Coffee Quality Contest held immediately the request comes from buyers then golden cup winners will export, share experience and sell at premium price".

The 4th edition of Ethiopian Coffee Quality Contest 2024 was held in the Fairtrade Africa in partnership with the International Trade Centre and in the competition, Layo Teraga, a local coffee union won the first place and received a certificate. Banko Michata and Oromia Coffee farmers' cooperative unions finished second and third in the competition respectively.

ITC Ethiopia National Coordinator of the Netherlands Trust Fund, Simachew Mekonnen on his part said that supporting coffee producers enable them to be competitive in international market by creating better market platform through digitalizing of their business.

Project is working with six coffee farmers' cooperative unions and 18 enterprises to strengthen more and designed to value addition, roasting, cubing and brewing technical support to coffee roasters, he said. It will facilitate capacity development as pilot project until 2025.

Economic Experts recently stated that allowing foreign banks to operate in Ethiopia would bring several benefits. Such banks would greatly contribute to tackle foreign exchange crunch, enhance investment and use of technology, ensure financial accessibility and create jobs among others.

Haramaya University Economic Lecturer and Researcher Assistant Professor Habtamu Legesse lately said that the foreign banks' entry in Ethiopia would also lure anchor investors apart from boosting production and creating ample jobs.

Furthermore, the move would increase FDI and support to overcome economic challenges, he said. "Still now, the bank accessibility in rural areas is low, thus, the foreign banks would ensure the overall financial accessibility."

Since the local banks are now providing loans to investors only, the foreign ones would pay heed to those who have not been benefited from such service.

He advised the local banks to extend financial accessibility via mobile technologies rather than opening branches. Such effort requires huge preparations plus the national banks of Ethiopia should consider the adjustment of interest to encourage saving.

Art & Culture



Adanech Abiebie

BY NAOL GIRMA

Mostly known for its luxurious facilities of the service sector, Bole is one of Addis Ababa's large residences, with complex images of other parts of the city. It comprises the most luxurious hotels, apartments, and villas. It was mostly known as the best image of Addis Ababa, where westernized modern lifestyles and extravagant recreations took place. Meanwhile, it is also a place, where luxury hotels, nightclubs, and restaurants widely promote the rich, harmonious cultures of Ethiopia. Even though other parts of the city have many attractive, historical and cultural sites, tourists love to spend their nights around Bole.

Bole has also been a block, to some extent, with wider asphalt roads and better-looking public spaces in comparison with the old shanty places in the heart of Addis. However, it doesn't mean that it would be left alone or that the city corridor development project would bypass this part of Addis Ababa. It is meant to be a VIP corridor, through which leaders, diplomats, and tourist's first land at Bole International Airport and pass through.

In addition, it is the one place where many sections of the corridor development project start or, lead to or meet at some point. The construction of the corridor, which starts from the Bole International Airport area and goes through Megenagna and CMC, is going on at a remarkable pace and is reaching its completion, according to the Communication Office of the Bole Subcity. Bole Subcity Chief Executive (CEO) Alemtsehay Shiferaw says for its speedy progress, every worker in the project has his/her persistent contribution. Noting that the Corridor Development Project, which is being implemented on a 24/7 basis, will certainly ensure holistic prosperity for not only Addis Ababa but also for the whole Country.

She also says the ongoing corridor development project in the capital is set to significantly enhance the city's green coverage, and once completed; the project will not only address the community's infrastructural needs but also transform the city's overall appearance. "This project will also play a crucial role in promoting culture and tourism, extending tourists' days of stay," she adds.

Dr. Efram Gizaw is the coordinator of this particular corridor project. He says the

Bole: Realizing artistic architectural designs



corridor includes the construction of a wide asphalt road that can serve five vehicles in one lane at a time. He noted that this wide highway is expected to reduce traffic jams and enhance facilities for the grand shopping malls and hospitals that will be built on this corridor in the future.

He also said two underground passageways for pedestrians are being constructed. The idea of underpasses for pedestrians seems to be a new experience for Ethiopian cities.

Ifa Gemechu, a young college student who came from the Arsi Zone of Oromia, says he had been to Addis Ababa two years ago. And the difference in the faces of the city from now and then is unimaginable. He says the new beauty of the city created by the Corridor Development Project has taken him by surprise.

He also adds up about the emerging new working culture and new ways of construction in the underpasses. He says, "I remember there were pedestrian bridges around Art Kilo and on the road from Megenagna to the airport. I came from Arsi a week ago, and I passed by the asphalt road between Gerji Mebrat Hail and Haya

Arat. When we passed by the main vehicle bridge, I looked for the pedestrian bridge that used to be next to it. There was no pedestrian bridge, and I asked people, where did it go? Then they told me the bridge was demolished and a new underpass was under construction."

He also believes that this new idea of underground pedestrian passes is very artistic and will play a significant role in ensuring safe traffic movements and lessening pedestrian's worries about crossing roads with moving vehicles in dangerous situations.

The prominent figure whose name is always mentioned whenever the corridor development project is discussed, Adanech Abiebie, Mayor of Addis Ababa, has recently spent time with a local television, touring and explaining the project in progress

The mayor walking down the stairs of a new on-going underpass construction around Arat Kilo says the underground pass way is approaching its completion. It is expected to have an elevator for disabled people and three entrances and exits. It will also



Alemtsehay Shiferaw

have small coffee shops and other facilities. The maturity work is also expected to be completed in a week.

According to the mayor, shops that will promote the Nation's cultural values, such as shops that sell traditional jewelry and handicrafts are planned to be open in the wide space of the underpass.

The Victory Monument above ground has also gained a brush of cladding renovation without losing its originality. It is also made to be surrounded by dancing fountains which gives it magnificence at night times. Explaining the significance of such renovation, Adanech says, "Citizens, the young generation in particular, will be more attracted to the memorial monument and will be inspired to ask and know deeply about their history".

To realize such a thoughtful and artistic project an inclusive working culture is implemented. Most of all, a sense of ownership between every citizen is crucial. If someone loves his/her job, not how from the top or bottom level it is, the hard work will pay off positively. Adanech says "I am a person who loves my job. I think everyone knows that. Authority may come by chance or could be earned. Meanwhile, we are all equal creations of God, and we will pass away someday. No one is superior to the other. Thus, we all have to respect and love our jobs," the mayor stresses.

On the other hand, explaining where the city found the budget to build such huge projects, Adanech says Addis Ababa's income has grown highly in recent years. "In 2018, the city's income was 30 billion birr. Now we are claiming about 230 billion this year. 140 billion Birr will be utilized for the development projects of the city in 2024. About 30 billion Birr is for the corridor development project, and we have paid six billion Birr in compensation for our residents."

In this case, the mayor was openly grateful to the taxpayers of Addis Ababa. "Hadh't you paid your taxes appropriately, it would have been difficult to realize the new face of our city." She also notes that the development will bring more income to the city. It is warming up the economy even at its beginning. When it is through and every facility is open, it will result in more tourism and income. The more the city's income grows, the more the life status of its residents improves, according to the mayor.

Global Affairs

Can scientific freedom deliver development for Africa?

Scientific research has led to social and economic gains worldwide, but the scientists who make it happen face significant challenges.

Science propels development, yet scientists need the freedom to research and advance technology and innovation. Is scientific freedom a cornerstone of development for African countries to remain globally competitive?"

Constraining Science

Growing societal polarization, erosion of democratic processes, and a rise in populism, misinformation, and disinformation are some of the factors curtailing scientific freedom in Africa, a new report by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has found.

In a study, *African Perspectives on Scientific Freedom*, launched at the Sixth Science, Technology, and Innovation Forum in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in April 2024, UNESCO, highlights worrying trends that have increased pressure on the freedom and safety of scientists.

"When the voices of scientists are silenced, or societies' ability to produce relevant and unbiased knowledge, to think critically, and to distinguish truth from falsehood is undermined. Without the freedom and safety of scientists, the trust in science and culture of science-driven decision-making are eroded," said Gabriel Ramos, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, in a foreword to the study.

UNESCO developed a Recommendation for Science and Scientific Researchers, which noted that for science to reach its full potential, it is crucial that scientists "work in a spirit of intellectual freedom to seek, explain and defend scientific truth as they perceive it and enjoy the protection of their autonomous judgment against undue influence."

This followed findings that scientific freedom is being constrained by among other factors, declining civic discourse and armed conflicts. As a result of these constraints, UNESCO launched a new program on the promotion of scientific freedom and the safety of scientists in 2023 to collect data to inform decision-making.

Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserts the rights of all individuals to "share in scientific advancement and its benefits." While the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights calls for the protection of the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its application. The Convention explicitly refers to scientific freedom in requiring member states to undertake to respect the 'freedom



Lidia Brito, UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences

indispensable to scientific research'.

There is a caveat. UNESCO says scientific freedom must be exercised alongside responsibility, which is the duty of scientists to conduct and apply science with integrity, in the interest of humanity, in a spirit of stewardship for the environment, and with respect for human rights.

Science ecosystems in Africa are operating in a challenging environment, underscoring the need to restore trust in science and the recognition of scientists in advancing human development, UNESCO says.

Highlighting the restrictions of research freedom, Acting Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Town, Daya Reddy, who reviewed the *African Perspectives on Scientific Freedom* report, noted the need for increased collaboration between scientists and policymakers to foster science, technology, and innovation.

Reddy said the study focus area was for Africa to develop guidelines and recommendations on scientific freedom after gaining a better understanding of the state of scientific freedom in six African countries profiled under the pilot study. The study assessed scientific freedom in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Namibia, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. It found that scientific freedom was not uniformly understood and appreciated in different national contexts, which necessitated the creation of a robust framework of laws and policies to promote research and publication.

A lack of resources and a critical mass were identified as some factors impinging on scientific freedom which did not have an explicit profile or presence in policies and legal frameworks in the six countries. This is despite the fact that most national constitutions protected a range of human rights and freedoms, such as the freedom of expression, opinion, and information,

research in Africa.

Building a culture of science

We need to build a culture of science to accelerate sustainable development in Africa, says Lidia Brito, UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences. She argues that scientists play a crucial role in promoting the well-being of society and for science to deliver its full potential, scientists must be able to work freely, without any restrictions.

"Science needs space to develop. There is also the need to interact with society to understand their needs and then through scientific endeavors to come up with solutions but in a co-designer, co-participating mode, Brito told IPS, emphasizing that guaranteeing that scientists have the freedom in terms of finance and infrastructure, and the space to develop their scientific programs is key.

"We want science and scientists to be these heroes who come up with solutions to the pressing challenges we are facing globally," Brito said.

But how do we promote the culture of science given that in Africa there is poor investment in research and development?

The UNESCO report, *African Perspectives on Scientific Freedoms*, calls for more investment in science, in scientific organizations, and the training of more researchers in Africa. This will be possible through an enabling environment that fosters the growth of science and scientists to operate.

"It is also about protecting the profession of scientists and about creating a conducive environment to retain the scientists in the scientific career, which is particularly important for women scientists, Brito said, adding that many times women start their careers in science but then leave because the work environment is not conducive for them.

The study noted the underrepresentation of women in science, technology, and research in Africa as an issue that needed to be addressed. Fewer than 31 percent of scientists in Sub-Saharan Africa are women, according to UNESCO.

Plugging the brain drain

Besides, Africa is experiencing a brain drain of its scientists, attracted by better conditions in other countries, especially the global North. The World Economic Forum (WEF) found that Africa has fewer than 100 scientists per million inhabitants and will need to increase this to the global average of 800 by training millions of scientists, technicians, and engineers to post-graduate levels over the next few years.

SOURCE: INTER PRESS SERVICE

A lack of resources and a critical mass were identified as some factors impinging on scientific freedom which did not have an explicit profile or presence in policies and legal frameworks in the six countries

but were silent on scientific freedom. The Democratic Republic of Congo is an exception and asserts in its constitution, the freedom of access to research results, while protecting the interests of its authors.

Despite representing 12.5 percent of the global population, Africa was contributing less than one percent to global research output and the continent was spending even less on Research and Development. In 2006, African Heads of State and government agreed to commit one percent of the national GDP to research and development to boost scientific innovation. However, none of the African countries have met this threshold, pointing to pervasive low spending on scientific

Law & Politics

CFA into enforcement:

Historical Rights into the dustbin of history

BY DESTA GEBREHIWOT

In the Nile region, the so-called historical rights have become history with the Republic of South Sudan ratifying the Nile Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) ending the futile and vicious debate surrounding the Nile.

For centuries, downstream nations have been digging their feet in the colonial treaties to perpetuate their hegemonic grip on the Nile although Ethiopia and other upstream countries have been opposed to the rhetoric. Particularly, Egypt has been claiming the 1929 and 1959 treaties, which were signed under the auspices of the colonial powers. These treaties gave monopoly of the river to Egypt and Sudan while denying other upstream nations including the origin of the Blue Nile, Ethiopia to utilize the river.

The rather historical injustice came to a stunning end on July 8, 2024, as the world's youngest nation catapulted the CFA into effect following its ratification. This development marks a critical milestone in what may be considered a startling breakthrough to a fair utilization of shared resources. This turning point ushers in a new era of resource sharing and collaboration. Natural resources found across international borders have occasionally sparked hostilities and clashes. Countries are becoming more and more dependent on one another due to the shortage of natural resources.

Cooperation has become the order of the day and countries are being forced to implement a variety of initiatives due to the ever-growing need for power, drinking water, and other development projects fueled by an ever-expanding population. One notable example is the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, often known as the Abbay Dam in Ethiopia. However, the dam is more than just a project since it makes it abundantly evident to everyone that mutual growth can only be ensured via cooperation. Ethiopia has traditionally adhered to a concept about the use of the Nile, which includes the dam that causes no appreciable harm.

Ethiopia's courageous and daring leadership has done a great deal to foster regional collaboration and establish the framework for fair and sensible resource sharing over the years.

The country was the first to set the standard for the just and equitable use of the world's longest river with the ratification of the CFA and the signature of the Declaration of Principles.

Despite being a shared resource, Sudan and Egypt have traditionally been the only nations to profit from the Abbay River. Under the patronage of colonial powers, the two countries were designated the exclusive proprietors of the longest river in the world,



while other riparian states, like Ethiopia, the river's source and main contributor, have been living in darkness because of a shortage of energy.

In the Nile region, Ethiopia's grand dam serves as a model of regional integration since it will link other countries to the electrical grid. After the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) was established by the riparian countries of the Nile Basin, Addis Ababa was the first to ratify the CFA.

CFA also known as Entebbe agreement was signed in Uganda, in May 2010 by Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Burundi. Kenya and Burundi, the other two nations, each signed the CFA in their own nation. In the years that followed, the legislatures of the majority of the signatory nations approved the agreement. The agreement setting the foundation for its enforcement was just ratified by South Sudan. That being said, the CFA will come into effect in sixty days as a result of the six countries that have joined.

It is clear that by enforcing the agreement, the basin countries will understand its significance and benefit from collaboration that is in line with their national interests in order to establish peaceful regional cooperation through a win-win scenario. Enforcing the CFA creates the fundamental idea that every state in the Nile Basin is entitled to use the waters of the Nile inside its borders.

In his recent article published at international water law project blog under the title finally the Nile Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement Enters into Force, Dr. Salman M.A. Salman is an academic researcher and consultant on water law and policy and former water law advisor to the World Bank in his recent commentary stated that the

CFA lays down some basic principles for the protection, sharing and management of the Nile Basin. It establishes the principle that each Nile Basin state has the right to use, within its territory, the waters of the Nile River Basin, and lays down a number of factors for determining equitable and reasonable utilization. The CFA is modeled largely on the UN Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses.

He further stated that in addition to the factors enumerated in the Watercourses Convention, the CFA includes the contribution of each basin state to the waters of the Nile River System, and the extent and proportion of the drainage area in the territory of each basin state. The CFA will enter into force 60 days after six countries have ratified or acceded to the document and deposited their instrument with the African Union on 6 October 2024.

The process of ratification of the CFA started in June 2013, four years after its signature, by Ethiopia, followed in August of that year by Rwanda. Tanzania ratified the CFA in 2015, followed by Uganda in 2019. Burundi joined those four riparian's and ratified the CFA in 2023, raising the number of ratifications critically to five.

Subsequently, all eyes were cast on the ratification by Kenya, the sixth country to sign the CFA, which would enable the CFA to enter into force. However, that did not take place. Instead, South Sudan did it, putting Kenya in the awkward position of being the only signatory not to ratify the CFA.

The Republic of South Sudan emerged as an independent state on 9 July 2011, and was admitted to the NBI on 5 July 2012. That decision clearly favored the Nile upper

riparian's, based on ethnicity, geography, history, culture and interests. When it joined the NBI, South Sudan could not sign the CFA because the signing process closed in 2000, long before its birth. But, it could accede to the instrument.

The pressures from each of the two sides to the CFA on South Sudan kept South Sudan wavering on accession and none-accession to the CFA for a long time. In fact, the proposed bill for the accession of South Sudan had been on the agenda of the TNLA since mid-2023, until its unanimous sudden approval was announced on 8 July 2024.

The entry into force of the CFA will create new momentous realities which Egypt and Sudan cannot, and indeed should not, overlook or underestimate. It will enable the establishment of the Nile Basin Commission replacing the NBI with a wider and more elaborate mandate, power, visibility and recognition by the world water and development aid communities. Entry into force of the CFA will also end the long academic and futile debate on the Nile colonial treaties. Thus, it is for Egypt and Sudan's own interests to join the CFA, and to work in the spirit of cooperation with the other Nile riparian's to manage, share, develop and protect the Nile River Basin. After all, and as mentioned above, the CFA is modeled on the UN Watercourses Convention that was endorsed by more than one hundred countries in 1997, and has been in force since 2014.

The implementation of the CFA would bring about significant changes that Egypt and Sudan cannot afford to ignore or undervalue. It is, therefore, in Egypt and Sudan's best interests to join the CFA and collaborate with the other Nile riparian nations to manage, share, develop, and safeguard the Nile River Basin.

INTERNATIONAL News



Nape Nnauye served as information minister from January 2022

Tanzanian minister sacked after poll rigging remarks

Tanzania's information minister Nape Nnauye has been removed from his post following an outcry over comments he made suggesting that elections could be rigged.

Mr Nnauye was filmed at a rally on 15 July, saying that he would help a fellow ruling party MP win in the 2025 election.

He added that "election results are not necessarily those in the [ballot box], rather they depend on the person counting and making announcements".

Following a public backlash after a video of his controversial remarks went viral, Mr Nnauye said he had made them in jest.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan sacked him from the cabinet on Sunday as part of a wider reshuffle. She did not give reasons for her decision.

The video, filmed on Mr Nnauye's visit to the northern city of Bukoba, also showed the former minister saying: "Because I'm good at election tricks, I will assist to emerge victorious."

He said there are various methods to ensure a win - "legal, half legal and illegal".

"All of them could be used provided after the conclusion you seek God's forgiveness," Mr Nnauye added.

Many Tanzanians criticised the former minister, arguing that he had violated the principles of electoral democracy and did not respect the decision of voters.

In his apology, Mr Nnauye said he believed in "free and fair elections".

Mr Nnauye also came under fire during the run up to the 2015 elections, when, using a football analogy, he said the ruling CCM party would win the poll by all means - even if this meant scoring a "handball goal".

CCM - short for Chama cha Mapinduzi - is the one of longest-reigning parties in Africa.

It has been in power since its formation in 1977, with opposition leaders accusing it of winning recent elections through fraud and state repression.

The electoral commission, however, denies that results are rigged.

Mr Nnauye has served CCM "since his primary school days", a biography on the information ministry website says.

He was first appointed as information minister by the late President John Magufuli, before being removed in a reshuffle.

President Samia reappointed Mr Nnauye in January 2022.

He will now be replaced by former land and housing development minister Jerry Slaa.

Foreign minister January Makamba has also been sacked, with Tanzania's ambassador to Italy, Mahmoud Thabiti Kombo, chosen as his successor.

Source: BBC

Concern in Kenya after toxic chemical stolen from toppled lorry

Kenyan officials have appealed for help to find containers of a highly toxic chemical that were looted from an overturned lorry near the capital city, Nairobi.

Sodium cyanide is dangerous and can kill if swallowed or inhaled even in small amounts, health officials warned, adding that it also poses a major risk to the environment.

It is not uncommon in Kenya for trucks to be looted following a road accident - after the lorry overturned late on Saturday several containers were taken by people who rushed to the scene.

The government urged people to avoid the site, which is on the busy Nairobi-Nakuru highway, while the US embassy advised its citizens to take a detour.

The accident happened about 35km (22 miles) from Nairobi, and caused a spillage on the tarmac.

It is unclear what caused the lorry to overturn. The authorities have also not released details about the condition of the driver.

The national environmental agency urged the public to immediately alert the nearest police station if they spot the containers.

"The public is also cautioned against coming into contact with the contents of containers, which are white substances in pellets form," agency said.



Kenya's health ministry said the chemical should only be handled by people wearing protective gear.

"Sodium cyanide interferes with oxygen use, leading to rapid death if ingested or inhaled in high doses. Symptoms include headache, dizziness, rapid breathing, nausea, vomiting, and convulsions," it said.

Sodium cyanide can contaminate soil and groundwater, the ministry said, adding that the chemical can last in the environment for a long time and consequently accumulate in the food

chain.

Commercial uses of sodium cyanide include fumigation, extracting gold and silver from ores and chemical manufacturing, according to the US National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

Local media reported that while some people carted away containers of the chemical, others who came with jerry cans left without taking anything after realising that the substance was of no use to them.

Source: BBC



A curfew was imposed in the immediate aftermath of November's attacks to allow the security forces to gain control of the situation

Bodyguard of S Leone's ex-leader jailed over failed coup

A former bodyguard of Sierra Leone's ex-President Ernest Bai Koroma has been found guilty of treason and sentenced alongside 10 others over a failed coup last year.

Amadu Koita Makalo, who is also a former soldier, was sentenced to 182 years in prison on charges of treason, murder and shooting with intent to murder.

The charges followed attacks by gunmen on a military barracks and prisons last November.

It came months after a disputed election which saw President Julius Maada Bio narrowly re-elected for a second term.

More than 2,000 prisoners were freed and at least 20 people killed before the government regained control, terming the attack an attempt to overthrow the government.

Makalo, who was widely followed on social networks where he criticised the government, was accused of being among the organisers of the coup plot.

During his sentencing on Monday, a judge remarked that the former presidential bodyguard had shown no remorse throughout the trial, local newspaper Awoko reported.

"The purpose of this sentence is to serve as a deterrent for people to know that coups or attempted coups to overthrow any legitimate government is no longer accepted," Komba Kamanda was quoted as saying.

It reported that Makalo's co-accused received between 39 and 182 years in jail.

A judicial spokesman who spoke to the AFP news agency did not specify the length of their jail terms, as the court document had not

yet been stamped and signed.

At least 80 people were arrested in connection with the incident, most of them military personnel.

In January, 12 people, including former police officers, were charged with treason and other offences.

The same month, Mr Koroma, who ruled Sierra Leone for 11 years until 2018, was charged with treason in connection with the coup attempt. He denied the charges.

The former president was granted permission to travel to Nigeria on medical grounds despite the charges.

A court allowed him to be away for not more than three months, but is yet to return to Sierra Leone.

Source: BBC

Planet Earth

Untold story of Ethiopia's endeavor in combating climate change

BY AFEWERK SHIMELES

According to environmental experts, climate change is a shift in weather conditions with a global effect expected to last decades or centuries. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) defines it as a change of climate that has been attributed directly or indirectly to human activities, altering the composition of the global atmosphere. The occurrence of frequent climate change will pose an incredible challenge to our planet Earth and humanity. Nowadays, climate change has become a real threat at the international level posing an imminent danger that challenges the very survival of human beings.

Since the 1980s, the world has been experiencing extreme weather, frequent and severe heat waves, desertification, flooding, the melting of arctic snow, losses of biodiversity, land degradation, the reduction of productivity and other many challenges due to climate change. In this regard, developed countries, especially those in the Western Hemisphere, have contributed the lion's share by polluting the environment through greenhouse gas emissions from heavy industries. Africa has contributed the least toward current global warming and carbon emissions despite having been affected and suffering the most.

The Horn of Africa is an important geostrategic area on the global map. Countries in this part of the world have been hit by climate change-induced problems for the past five decades. The challenges are manifested by major environmental disasters such as desertification, loss of biodiversity, recurrent drought, flooding, land degradation and insect infestation. This global environmental problem has resulted in severe food and water insecurity and the rise of new variants and pandemic diseases. In this regard, the Horn region has also experienced a prolonged drought due to the failure of rain for three consecutive production seasons, exposing millions of people to chronic food shortage, suffering and displacement. The drought also affected the survival of livestock which culminated in the death of millions of cattle in just three years.

Ethiopia is at the center of the Horn of Africa countries and has been hugely affected by the impact of climate change such as recurrent drought, desertification and environmental degradation. Cognizant of the danger posed by climate change in the region in general and Ethiopia in particular, the reformist leader of Ethiopia, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, launched a national program of planting trees known as the Green Legacy Initiative in 2019. The initiative is an ambitious program embarking on planting billions of tree seedlings across the country aimed at building the green economy in Ethiopia. In the first year of the initiative, the government of Ethiopia planted over four billion various seedlings and shattered the world record planting over 353 million trees in a single day. For this to be achieved, the government inspired and mobilized a workforce of over 25 million each year throughout the country, fostering a collective sense of responsibility in combating climate change.

Since 2019, the government of Ethiopia continued



"A nation that plants; a generation that sustains" I call upon all to continue being part of this year's #GreenLegacy.

planting trees every year, mainly during the rainy season from June to September. This summer, Ahmed launched the Green Legacy Initiative for this year, setting a goal to plant 7.5 billion trees of various types. Over the past five years, more than 32.5 billion tree seedlings that adapt to different agroecological zones were planted all over the country. Due to the realization of the Green Initiative, the forest coverage of the country has improved from 17.2% in 2019 to 23.6% in 2023. In this connection, focus has also been given to indigenous trees such as *Olea Africana*, *Cordia Africana*, *Hagenia Abyssinica*, *Cupressus Lusitanica* and other many highland, midland and lowland trees. Besides, seedlings like avocado, mango, guava, peach and other tropical and sub-tropical fruits that will contribute to ensuring food security and food self-sufficiency have been given exceptional consideration in the Green Legacy Initiative.

The purpose of the Green Initiative is to address the challenges posed by shocking climate change in Ethiopia and the larger region of the Horn by greening the mountains, gorges, hills and cities of Ethiopia through the concerted efforts of the government of Ethiopia and its people. The Green Legacy program helps to enhance forest coverage, protect land degradation and balance the ecosystem in creating a greener and more sustainable environment for future generations. It also averts the devastating effect of climate change through afforestation and reforestation programs that will greatly boost the reduction of environmental pollution by absorbing atmospheric carbon dioxide and other dangerous

greenhouse gases that enormously contribute to global warming and depletion of the ozone layer.

To this end, the government of Ethiopia has mobilized people from all walks of life, including the diplomatic community in the country, to fight the effect of climate change tooth and nail, investing over \$50 billion in the past five years. On top of that, Ethiopia has also shared 1 billion seedlings with its six neighboring countries as part of regional integration through green diplomacy. On the other hand, by mobilizing the farmers during winter, the government continued to intensify soil and water conservation activities throughout the entire country. In the past five years, many thousand kilometers of soil and water conservation activities have been completed. These include the construction of physical structures such as stone bunds and soil bund terraces, building traditional ditches, gabions, culverts and canal structures throughout the country to restore degraded land, barren mountainous, gorges and hillside lands.

The afforestation, together with the construction of such soil and water conservation structures, on top of protecting soil erosion and land degradation, creates favorable conditions for the water to percolate, reducing flooding and runoff, and recharging the groundwater table that enhances the springs, streams and rivers. Such green legacy initiatives and water shade management in Ethiopia makes a tremendous contribution to normalizing the ecological system, averting desertification and environmental degradation, as well as sustaining the flow of water on Trans Boundary Rivers such as the Blue Nile (Abay).

In this connection, it would be advisable for the lower riparian countries of Egypt and Sudan, who have been claiming to have monopolistic control over the Nile River, to join in supporting and funding the Green Initiative for the sake of their own national interest that centers on ensuring the sustainability of water flow. Moreover, the international community, the United Nations and the Conference of the Parties (CoP) must support such an initiative that serves humanity as a common good to motivate other societies and governments to replicate the same program in other parts of the region.

The Green Legacy Initiative, apart from its achievements in improving environmental degradation, will also contribute to the grand objective of uniting the people of Ethiopia toward achieving the goal of the African Green Belt Initiative. Furthermore, the government of Ethiopia is working with full commitment to realizing a zero carbon emission target in 2030, generating its energy from clean sources such as hydropower, wind, solar, geothermal, etc. As the main driver of regional integration, Ethiopia connected via an electric grid to Djibouti, Sudan and Kenya, sharing its clean energy and working to connect with Tanzania, South Sudan and Somalia. It has also electrified the Addis Ababa Light Railway and the Ethio-Djibouti Railway as part of building a clean and green economy.

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