



The Ethiopian Herald

AGI CONSTRUCTING THE FUTURE AFRICA
Abyssinia Group of Industries

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

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

Vol. LXXX No 287 10 AUGUST 2024 - Nehase 4, 2016 **Saturday** Price Birr 10.00

Ethiopia joins Worldskills International

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopia has become the 88th member of WorldSkills International, a global charity that organizes world and national championships for vocational skills, Ministry of Labor and Skills (MoLS) announced.

MoLS Minister, Muferihat Kamil told media outlets yesterday that the WorldSkills Board approved Ethiopia's submission to the charity and granted the country full membership after various application procedures that took two and half years.

The competition held every two years that inspires youth to discover the many interesting careers that are available in the skilled trade and technology sectors, she added.

Ethiopia's membership has political and social aspects such as creating linkage, increasing opportunity to transform skills, and sharing

See Ethiopia joins ... Page 3



Ethiopia's agricultural transformation: Navigating global trends, market dynamics

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

Ethiopia's agricultural landscape is undergoing a significant transformation, driven by a strategic blend of integrated policies and market dynamics. The

evolution of the country's food systems is not an isolated process but a synergetic one, requiring a coordinated approach to foster progressive change. As part of the UN's global initiative, Ethiopia is committed to providing a nutritious and healthy diet for all by 2030 through a transformative food

system.

The current agricultural market in Ethiopia is characterized by a complex interaction between input and output markets,

See Ethiopia's agricultural ... Page 3



Ethiopian embarks on building Africa's largest airport city

• Two-phase project expands passenger capacity to 100 million

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopian Airlines Group has inked a deal with global firm Dar to construct Africa's largest airport city in Abusera, Bishoftu. The mega project slated for completion in five years, will be executed in two phases and ultimately accommodate

over 100 million passengers annually.

Speaking at the press conference yesterday, Ethiopian Airlines Group CEO Mesfin Tassew hailed the partnership as a historic milestone, emphasizing Dar's expertise in designing and managing mega-airport

See Ethiopian embarks... Page 3

Expert pans Egypt's obsession with HoA's affairs

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA - Egypt is intervening in the internal affairs of Horn (HoA) of African countries to pick out and threaten Ethiopia, an International Affairs expert disclosed.

In an exclusive interview with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), an expert in International Affairs, Abdul-Rahman Ahmed (PhD), stated that Egypt has been perpetrating to affect Ethiopia's interests.

Egypt's involvement in the HoA pertained to instigating parties that oppose or in conflict with Ethiopia. This has become clear since the signing of the Ethio-Somaliland Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), Ahmed explained.

See Expert pans... Page 3



Abdul-Rahman Ahmed (PhD)

News

Lifetime Award bespeaks *Ethiopian's* reliable services: *businessman*

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA – The Lifetime Achievement Award the Ethiopian Airlines (Ethiopian) recently received from the US President Joe Biden is a recognition of the airlines services to US communities for more than two decades, Zemedeneh Nigatu said.

In a statement posted on X, Fairfax Africa Global Chairman, Zemedeneh Nigatu said that the award from President Biden recognizes the airlines' 25 years of service to communities in the U.S.

He also stated that the *Ethiopian* is now one of the largest and most profitable airlines in the world and 3rd most admired African brand.

The Ethiopian Airlines, the leading aviation group in Africa and the rapidly expanding global airline brand, has announced that accolade recognizes its outstanding



contributions and dedicated service to communities in the United States.

The award, signed by the US President Joseph R. Biden, was presented to Ethiopian Airlines during the 8th Annual Galla Dinner, hosted by the Black IAM organization at the Hilton Atlanta Airport Hotel. Ethiopian Airlines continues to set industry standards for excellence, reinforcing its commitment to connecting cultures and fostering international collaboration, the airlines said in a statement.

Receiving the award, Ethiopian Airlines Group CEO Mesfin Tasew expressed that the President's Lifetime Achievement Award is a testament to the hard work and commitment of the airline's employees, partners, and stakeholders.

"Our commitment to excellence and the spirit of unity has been the driving force behind our services for almost eight decades. This accolade is not only a recognition of our past efforts but also a bright beacon for the future, guiding us towards even greater heights in service and connectivity," Mesfin said.

The *Ethiopian* also reaffirmed its pledge to enhance its services and strengthen its ties with the US community.

As member of the America's TSA PreCheck program, Ethiopian will continue to innovate and expand its customer experience, ensuring that passengers enjoy unparalleled travel experiences, according to the statement.

The award acknowledges *Ethiopian Airlines'* unwavering commitment and outstanding contributions to the US community over the past 25 years. It has also been actively involved in community outreach programs, including supporting educational initiatives, sports, healthcare projects, and cultural exchanges, the airlines announced.

Ethiopian Airlines Group is one of the fastest-growing airlines brand globally and the continent's largest airline brand. In its seventy-eight years of successful operations, *Ethiopian* has become the continent's leading carrier, unrivalled in efficiency and operational success. Ethiopian commands the lion's share of the African passenger and cargo network operating the youngest and most modern fleet to more than 150 domestic and international passenger and cargo destinations across five continents, it was learnt.

U.S. announces 536 mln USD aid for Africa amidst displacement crisis

• Earmarks 97 mln USD for Ethiopia

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA – In a significant move, the United States has announced a new aid package of nearly 536 million USD to support refugees and conflict-affected populations across Africa, with 97 million USD earmarked for Ethiopia.

The announcement came during a visit by the United States Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights Uzra Zeya who held talks with Ethiopia's Foreign Minister Taye Atske Selassie (Ambassador) and Justice Minister Gedion Timothewos (PhD) focusing on human rights, rule of law, and humanitarian cooperation.

The aid package will primarily focus on bolstering host communities and local efforts to support refugees, including 87 million USD specifically for refugee needs.

During her address yesterday, the Under Secretary praised Ethiopia's hospitality toward over 1.8 million refugees and reiterated the importance of international cooperation in addressing the continent's displacement crisis, with over 38 million people uprooted from their homes in sub-Saharan Africa alone.

As part of her visit, she toured a local refugee center, highlighting the essential role of humanitarian partners in providing not only aid but also hope and resilience to those in need. "The Under Secretary's visit and the newly announced funding underscore the deepening partnership between the U.S. and African nations in tackling some of the most pressing humanitarian challenges of our time," the press release the U.S. Embassy sent to *The Ethiopian Herald* noted.



Uzra Zeya

The U.S. remains the largest single humanitarian donor globally and is intensifying efforts to promote peace, aid integration, and support the most vulnerable populations in the region. Also, the announcement brings the U.S. total humanitarian aid to sub-Saharan Africa to nearly 3.7 billion USD this year.

However, Zeya emphasized that the needs far outweigh the available resources, calling for increased global cooperation to address the crisis.

In addition to humanitarian aid, the U.S. pledged continued engagement with the Ethiopian government and civil society on human rights, transitional justice, and the country's territorial integrity. Zeya highlighted the strength and determination of Ethiopians working to create positive change.

Dashen Bank inaugurates Shoppers, Travelers' Club Cards

BY YOHANES JEMANEH

ADDIS ABABA - Dashen Bank has introduced two new club cards aimed at providing financial services to elevate customers' travel and shopping experiences.

The Travelers Club card helps club member customers with financing services that will make their journey seamless while the Shoppers Club card is prepared for frequent shoppers to create better shopping experiences through transaction discounts and financing the purchasing of household items, Dashen Bank's CEO Representative Tibebu Solomon said.

The inauguration of the new services is part of the bank's endeavor to enable citizens' benefit from the latest technologies the banking industry is introducing, he noted.

According to Tibebu, the newly launched club cards are operated through a club membership debit card and can be opened and operated individually or jointly.

The club accounts that are needed to hold these cards are opened with a minimum initial deposit balance based on the customers' desired status of membership, he stated.

The bank announced that travelers club members have to deposit 500,000, 1,000,000, 1,500,000, 2,000,000 and 2,500,000 Birr to secure Basic, Blue, Silver, Gold and Platinum Travelers' Card Club membership respectively.

It also pointed out that Shoppers club members have to respectively deposit 50,000, 100,000, 200,000, 300,000 and 400,000 Birr to get Basic, Blue, Silver, Gold and Platinum Shoppers' Club Card membership.

The minimum initial deposit balance for each club membership shall be locked to maintain club membership of the customer, it was learnt.



Photo: Berihun Tadele

For members of travelers Club Card, five percent discount on local transactions and purchases from the bank's partner travel agents, hotels, resorts, and other shopping, recreational and vacation centers, Bank's Agency Banking and Digital Sales Director Brook Hailemeskel said.

For frequent shopper club members, the bank offers 6% on Basic, 7% on Blue, 8% on Silver, 9% for Gold and 10% of platinum club account transactions conducted on the bank's partner and purchases from the bank's partner travel agents, hotels, resorts, and other shopping, recreational and vacation centers, he noted.

The bank will pay an annual interest rate of 7% on the monthly minimum balance, he indicated.

The Travelers' Club Card and Shoppers' Club Card also create privileged and expedited access to Fly Now Pay Later and Dube Ale loans and priority to access the bank's other customer loan products. To be eligible for both accounts, one needs to have valid and renewed ID card, two recent photographs, and optionally tax registration certificate, according to the bank.

News

Ethiopia intensifies tax collection efforts amid economic reforms

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA- The Ministry of Revenue (MoR) has outlined plans to significantly boost tax revenue through modernization and digitalization. The ministry believes that these initiatives, coupled with ongoing macroeconomic reforms, will be instrumental in propelling Ethiopia's development.

A recent half-day forum which was held under the theme "Institute with Excellence: Revenue with Successes" with middle-level

taxpayers underscored the government's commitment to enhancing tax compliance.

Revenue Minister Aynalem Nigussie emphasized the impressive growth in tax revenue, which has tripled in the past five years, reaching 512 billion Birr. However, she stressed the need for continued efforts to expand the tax base, improve administrative efficiency, and leverage technology to optimize collection.

In the previous fiscal year, the MoR managed to achieve 96% of the plan that was set for tax collection.

Finance Minister Ahmed Shide outlined the government's comprehensive macroeconomic reform agenda, which aims to enhance Ethiopia's global competitiveness, modernize its systems, and foster a stable economy. Key priorities include boosting GDP, strengthening the banking sector, increasing exports, and creating a sizable number of jobs.

To address pressing social and economic challenges, the government plans to allocate additional budget funds for fuel subsidies, salary increases, edible

oil, fertilizer, and social safety nets, he remarked.

The MoR has set a target of collecting 50.9 billion Birr from middle-level taxpayers in the current fiscal year. To achieve this goal, the ministry will focus on capacity building, stakeholder engagement, public awareness, and digitalization.

By combining enhanced tax collection with broader economic reforms, the Ethiopian government aims to accelerate development and improve the lives of its citizens.

Ethiopia's agricultural ...

influenced by both domestic policies and external interventions. Agricultural economists emphasize the importance of integrated policy frameworks in shaping a resilient and prosperous agricultural landscape capable of sustaining the nation's growth and development aspirations.

Ethiopia's agricultural transformation is influenced by global trends, including integration into global value chains and the advent of technology, such as digitization, which opens new avenues for innovation and efficiency. However, Ethiopia's large, growing, and increasingly urbanized population presents both opportunities and challenges. Enhanced competitiveness is necessary, particularly in the context of market liberalization and global protectionist trends in agricultural markets.

Alemayehu Seyoum (PhD) highlighted that Ethiopia's agricultural transformation is influenced by global trends, including integration into global value chains and the advent of technology, such as digitization, which opens new avenues for innovation and efficiency. However, Ethiopia's large, growing, and increasingly urbanized population presents both opportunities and challenges. Enhanced competitiveness is necessary, particularly in the context of market liberalization and global protectionist trends in agricultural market.

Endeshaw Habte (PhD) stressed that while market dynamics drive resource allocation, viable policy frameworks and competitiveness are essential in transforming Ethiopia's agricultural value chain. He pointed out that mass production alone is insufficient without fair distribution, efficient logistics, and a user-centric market information system to ensure food sufficiency.

The expert also noted that the revised foreign exchange rate is expected to expedite export-led economic growth, though it may introduce short-term challenges. Managing

production costs, particularly as most agricultural inputs are imported, is crucial, and this can be achieved by maximizing production efficiency and addressing market irregularities.

As urbanization and population growth continue, Endeshaw emphasized the importance of nurturing skilled manpower and investing in capacity building to effectively harness agri-digitalization and modernize the sector.

Another agricultural economist Dawit Alemu (PhD) discussed the challenges in Ethiopia's agricultural inputs marketing, particularly in seeds, fertilizers, and agrochemicals. He noted that the seed sector struggles with demand and supply mismatches, illegal marketing, and inadequate governance. To improve seed marketing, he suggested clarifying roles between public and private sectors, revising regulations, commercializing public varieties, liberalizing seed price-setting, and promoting domestic investment in seed production.

Similarly, the marketing of agrochemicals involves the importation of herbicides, insecticides, fumigants, and fungicides, with over five tons used annually by seven million smallholders. The expert called for modernizing the demand and supply system, enhancing import substitution, strengthening regulatory capacity, and professionalizing agrochemical application.

Prof. Mengistu Ketema emphasized the importance of the horticulture sector in Ethiopia's food systems transformation, with a focus on increasing land allocation, irrigated production, and exports. Ethiopia's proximity to Europe and the Middle East, favorable climate, and competitive labor provide a comparative advantage in commercial production. However, low per capita consumption of vegetables and fruits, high post-harvest losses, and limited use of improved agricultural technologies present challenges to market efficiency.

Ethiopia joins Worldskills...

experiences each other, according to Muferihat.

The membership helps the country to expand access and equity to disadvantaged groups, develop quality and skilled human resource, promote professionalism and enable the youth to get jobs, she noted.

The Minister expressed that WorldSkills Lyon 2024 provides Ethiopia with a chance for information and market exchange experiences with the other members.

Ethiopia's membership will be officially announced by the General Assembly at the 47th WorldSkills Competition that would take place from September 10 to 15, 2024, in Lyon, France, Muferihat noted.

She further noted that Ethiopia has prepared two competitors in the competition in various skills such as carpentry, machine production and information technology as the country would represent two leaders in the competition as permanent committee in the event.

Following its membership of WorldSkills, Ethiopia will support the newly formed WorldSkills Africa, the regional skills



Muferihat Kamil

platform align with the continent's overarching framework, Agenda 2063: The Africa we want, a programme aimed at empowering all Africans with the most relevant skills to help each country flourish, the Minister said.

WorldSkills is an international charity established to promote skills and vocational training for young people through the organization of skills competitions.

Ethiopian embarks on building ...

projects. The initial phase will focus on a terminal capable of handling 60 million passengers, requiring a six billion investment while the second phase will expand capacity to over 100 million.

The CEO also noted that the agreement comprises the design of the new airport and includes supervision of the construction work from the beginning to the end.

To finance the mega-project, Ethiopian Airlines is exploring various options, including loans from interested entities, Mesfin remarked.

Dar's Operation Director, Tariq Al Qanni,

underscored Ethiopian Airlines' pivotal role in African connectivity and expressed confidence in the project's potential to redefine air travel on the continent. Leveraging the design prowess of ZahaHadid and Pascal Watson, Dar aims to create a world-class airport city that meets the highest global standards.

"We are a one-stop shop," said Tariq, adding "the way we deliver design is integrated and comprehensive. We manage the entire project with a single point of viability coupled with our vast experience in the design of airports from major aviation hubs that makes us unique and suitable for the job."

Expert pans Egypt's obsession...

According to him, Egyptian experts, officials and media are actively campaigning against Ethiopia's cooperation with neighboring nations, which directly threatens country's interests.

He noted that Egypt has never criticized the presence of 11 foreign military bases in Djibouti, Somalia, and other locations in HoA, but reacted immediately to Ethiopia's MoU

with Somaliland which sparked a media storm. "Such responses from Egypt are not new when it comes to Ethiopia's development interests," he argued.

Abdul-Rhman also pointed out that Egyptian politicians are not only targeting Ethiopia but also interfering blatantly in Somaliland's affairs. Although Somaliland declared its secession from Somalia in the 1990s, it has

yet to receive international recognition. Nevertheless, Somaliland maintains its own parliament, government, army, police, borders, and special passport, he stated.

He believes that Somaliland's response to Egyptian interventions is both natural and reasonable.

The Ethio-Somaliland agreement is likely

to proceed, as Ethiopia is committed to establishing a maritime connection with Somaliland, which is keen to strengthen its relationship with Ethiopia, he said.

Abdul-Rhman recommended that neighboring countries should concentrate on shared interests and avoid incitement and conflict to promote security, peace, stability, and prosperity in the region.

Opinion

Nile Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement for fair use of resources

BY GETACHEW MINAS

The Nile Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) is a legal document with the goal of establishing equitable and sustainable use of the resources of the basin among the riparian countries. The basin comprises of eleven countries including Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. The objective of the agreement is to enhance cooperation and sustainable development among these countries.

The CFA ensures fair use of the resources of the Nile water among the countries of the basin. The agreement stresses the principle of equitable and reasonable utilization of the Nile waters. This arrangement takes into consideration the factors such as population needs, geography, climate, and the existing and potential use of the water resources. The needs of the population in each country of the basin are given priority over other considerations. The size, growth rate, and distribution of population within and between countries are critical factors that determine regional economic development.

The utilization of the waters should not create any major harm to other riparian states. This stipulation is designed to preclude any disputes among the concerned countries. These states have designed an institutional framework for the establishment of a Nile River Basin Commission. This commission would serve as a platform for cooperation among the states. It also serves as an instrument of coordination and center of information exchange.

However, the CFA has been confronted by Egypt and Sudan in its operation. These countries argued that they have historically held the major rights over the Nile waters. Their argument has been based on colonial-era agreements. These countries have been very concerned that the CFA could cause a reduction in the volume and share of their water. With the number of riparian states increased it causes tensions among the two countries that had enjoyed considerable colonial-era privileges on the use of the Nile waters.

The current status of CFA reflects that it has been signed by several upstream countries. The list of these countries involves several countries including Ethiopia. It is on record that it has not been fully ratified and implemented by all riparian countries. This has been due to disagreements among the Nile Basin countries over the allocation and usage rights of water.

The CFA embodies a crucial attempt and endeavor to control and administer the shared water resources of the Nile in cooperative and accommodative manner. It also reveals the intricate and difficult political and environmental challenges. These confrontations become complex due to the difficulty of trans-boundary water management. The reality on the ground reflects that the achievement of the objective of CFA is a difficult task. The reason behind this difficulty is the diverse interests of the riparian countries. This situation makes it



difficult to ensure fair distribution and use of the Nile water resources.

The objective of equitable and rational utilization of the Nile waters is not achievable in a situation where the riparian countries have divergent interests. The CFA includes a provision that concerned states should not cause harm to other states. This provision reveals anticipation of disagreement on the equitable use of water. The initial provision for creating an institution for facilitating cooperation is indicative of the lack of harmony among riparian states. This is revealed by the controversies and oppositions made by major stakeholders in claiming a title to major use of water rights.

It has been expected by experts that controversies would arise among major users of the Nile waters. These countries have been worried that the CFA would lead to a drastic reduction in their water share. The agreement has highlighted the complex political and environmental challenges involved in the Nile water management.

The agreement signed by riparian countries has led to the establishment of the Nile Basin Commission (NBC). This commission is an intergovernmental organization that promotes cooperative development and management of the Nile River Basin. The primary objectives of the commission are to ensure sustainable use of water resources. It guarantees equitable share of the resources of the Nile water among the basin countries.

The basin water has long been a source of sustenance, nourishment, nutrition and provisions. It has also been a cause of tension, strain, pressure and apprehension. Consequently, the need for a cooperative framework has become a necessity for the riparian states. They sought to manage together and utilize the resources of the basin. This helps to meet the varying developmental needs of each and every country along the basin. Of course, cooperation is necessity to reduce the hydrological dependence of concerned countries.

The NBC emerged, as mentioned earlier, from the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), which is an intergovernmental affiliation among the countries that share the basin. It has been established in 1999 with the goal of promoting collaboration, development, and management of the resources of the Nile water. The

primary objective of the NBI has been the encouragement of member states to manage and utilize the resources sustainably. The initiative focused on water security that meets the needs of member countries.

Through regional integration, NBI promotes economic growth via joint programs and projects. The programs are designed to implement the goal of the NBI through the preparation of projects. These projects are specific and realistic addressing the needs of the people along the river basin. Also, projects for environmental conservation are to be prepared for the purpose of protecting the ecosystems and biodiversity. The NBI also implements several programs and projects which focus on development of the region. The NBI focuses on capacity building, providing training and resources to the staff of member countries, including Ethiopia, to improve water resource management.

The NBI has been confronted with challenges and controversies as mentioned earlier. It faces political disparity and variance among member countries, predominantly regarding water distribution and usage. The construction of large infrastructure projects, such as dams, irrigation channels have led to pressures, tensions and disputes over water rights. The significance of NBI is that it represents an exceptional and unique effort to promote collaboration, assistance and support using dialogue among riparian countries, including Ethiopia. These countries share a vital water resource in the continent.

The NBI searches for a relevant strategy that leads to the balancing of the diverse and various interests and requirements of its member states. In so doing, it promotes sustainable development and peace in the region. These would promote in fighting poverty thereby enhancing the standard of living of the people, including Ethiopians, residing along the Nile River basin.

It is noted that as of 2024, the NBI continues to focus on enhancing cooperation and sustainable management of the Nile water resources. Among the major recent developments and ongoing efforts, the cooperation framework agreement still remains critical. As mentioned earlier, it aims to establish principles for equitable water use, but not all Nile Basin countries have ratified it.

Ethiopia is one of the major proponents of

the implementation of the agreement. It still continues to urge other riparian countries to do so. It supports the design and implementation of programs and projects targeting various areas, including irrigation, hydropower, environmental conservation, and regional integration in the Nile basin.

Irrigation projects in the Nile basin support modern agriculture in the riparian countries. This project would support food self-sufficiency in the countries that have suffered from shortage of foodstuffs. The hydropower is affordable providing low-cost electricity that is durable over time compared to other sources of energy. Hydropower complements other renewable energy sources. Environmental conservation is also the practice of preserving the natural habitat for human wellbeing.

The Nile Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement has helped in initiating development projects in the riparian countries. As mentioned earlier, these projects enhance the capacity of member states to manage the safety of the dam. Particularly, the NBI has initiated a Regional Dam Safety Training Center for enhancing the overall capacity of the member countries. However, experts have pointed out the challenges and future prospect in the basin.

The NBI have faced several challenges including water, energy, and food security, which are worsened and aggravated by climate changes. The NBI emphasizes the significance of cooperative actions for joint development. These actions would help address the issues identified among the riparian countries, including Ethiopia.

In recent years, the NBI has been encouraging and sponsoring basin-wide discussion and dialogue on strategic frameworks to promote regional cooperation. Such action would help unlock the potential of the Nile Basin for advancing socio-economic development in the riparian countries. Generally, the NBI would provide a useful platform for dialogue and cooperation. Consequently, Ethiopia would reap the benefit of joint development in the Nile region.

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

Editorial

Ethiopian Airlines honored with US President's Lifetime Achievement Award: A testament to excellence and resilience in global aviation

Ethiopian Airlines, the leading aviation group in Africa and a rapidly expanding global airline brand, has been distinguished with the US President's Lifetime Achievement Award, the airline confirmed last Thursday in an official statement. This accolade recognizes the airline's outstanding contributions and dedicated service to communities in the United States.

The award, signed by US President Joseph R. Biden, was presented to Ethiopian Airlines at the Hilton Atlanta Airport hotel. Mesfin Tasew, CEO of Ethiopian Airlines, said, "Our commitment to excellence and the spirit of unity have been the driving forces behind our services for almost eight decades. This accolade is not only recognition of our past efforts but also a bright beacon for the future, guiding us toward even greater heights in service and connectivity."

Indeed, the flag carrier of Ethiopia deserves such recognition for its contribution to connecting people from different continents across the globe. Especially during the prevalence of COVID-19, while most airlines around the world were grounded, it played a magnificent role in providing necessary life-saving equipment, including vaccines. Ethiopian Airlines Group has been awarded for the unique agility and resilience it displayed amid the COVID-19 global crisis. In doing so, the airline has become a champion of taking risks and demonstrating commitment to saving lives.

Founded on December 21, 1945, and commencing operations on April 8, 1946, initially with former military Douglas C-47 transports, Ethiopian Airlines has grown over the years to become Africa's largest airline, with a fleet of 130 aircraft. The airline has been a member of the International Air Transport Association since 1959 and of the African Airlines Association (AFRAA) since 1968. Ethiopian is a Star Alliance member, having joined in December 2011. The company's slogan is "The New Spirit of Africa." Ethiopian's hub and headquarters are at Bole International Airport in Addis Ababa, from where it serves a network of 155 passenger destinations.

As the leading airline in Africa, it serves millions of passengers and carries cargo to many destinations, including 63 African cities. It has also contributed to African independence by replacing foreign flying staff with local personnel and providing training for many African pilots.

Ethiopian Airlines is among the highest revenue-earning companies in Ethiopia, thereby contributing a remarkable amount to the nation's economic advancement. It has announced strong performance for the 2023/2024 fiscal year, raking in USD 7.02 billion in revenue. This represents a 14% surge compared to the previous year.

The airline has also made progress in infrastructure development, with new airports set to open in multiple locations across Ethiopia within the next year. An investment of over USD 458 million was channeled into capital projects.

Despite such achievements and recognition, some entities are attempting to smear the name of this renowned airline in vain. Nowadays, voices are being heard here and there attempting to blackmail the airline under the guise of alleged maladministration. Some countries have even gone to the extent of banning the airline's flights to their airports. While errors, including property loss, are common everywhere, they are not uncorrectable. Moreover, no mistake carries equal weight to banning flights unless there is an intention to defame the airline.

Any attack against Ethiopian Airlines targets not merely the company; rather, it should be considered part of an effort to destabilize the country that they could not achieve by other means. No matter what happens, their attempts will be vanquished sooner or later, as the US Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award is one of the testaments to the airline's outstanding performance against baseless defamation. It will continue to achieve success repeatedly, rising above the clouds of defamation and remain to be a source of pride for Ethiopia and Africa alike.

Opinion

How the Green Legacy Initiative and Macro economic reform support each other

BY STAFF REPORTER

As the government declared the macro economic reform program everyone is busy how the reform can bring about changes to the overall economic development of the nation. Both the issue of macroeconomic development and the afforestation or forestry development programs support each other to bring about optimal outcome to the nation.

According to FAO, the sectoral contribution of forestry can be measured in terms of such traditional indicators as GDP share, balance-of payments impacts or export revenue, industrial output, employment or income generation. As is frequently pointed out, the current accounting systems, particularly in developing countries' tend to leave out a significant part of sectoral contribution to GNP and related indicators while changes in physical stocks are also excluded (Gregersen et al., 1997; Poschen, 1997). This undermines the developmental role of forestry in policy decisions on resource allocation.

There is a need to look into some linkages between macroeconomics and environment. Macroeconomics influence forestry in a number of ways. First, macroeconomic stability creates necessary conditions for forest conservation. Instability is typically characterized by high inflation rates, large fiscal deficits, fluctuating exchange rates, slow or negative economic growth and high unemployment. These tend to prevent investment in forestry and to lead to perverse incentives contributing to excessive and reckless utilization of forest resources. Second, forest degradation is primarily caused by market and policy failures.

Unsustainable forestry practices Have negative macroeconomic impacts in the long term. The effects of degradation of forest resources, soil erosion or disruption of water catchments are gradual and dispersed over very large areas. Therefore, they tend to be ignored in macroeconomic decision-making. Macroeconomic policies tend to lack a long-term vision emphasizing solutions for urgent short-term problems. In the longer term, the result of such an approach may be a situation where the biophysical conditions no longer offer an adequate basis for sustainable development.

The environmental impacts of macroeconomic policies, particularly structural adjustment programmes, have been the subject of much debate. Even though, as is pointed out above, macroeconomic stability is a necessary precondition for forest investments, concern has been expressed on the possible contribution of such programmes to deforestation and excessive use of forest resources in the absence of adequate safeguards. Market liberalization, which is not accompanied by the correction of the sectoral market, and policy failures have the risk of leading to exploitative management practices without due regard to environmental impacts.

It is a commendable effort that the government of Ethiopia has continued the nationwide

program of transplantation of seedlings under the renowned Green Legacy Initiative. The initiative was launched in 2019 with the plantation of billions of seedlings annually with the active participation of people in all corners of the nation.

The effective undertaking of the program has played a big role not only in increasing the mere number of trees or density of forests across the nation but helped achieve much wider objectives. It is undeniable that the countries forest coverage still needs more efforts in the years to come as the resources have been depleted mercilessly in the past decades without the execution of a matching effort of replacing the destroyed ones.

The continued engagement of the government and the people will also help the nation economically in diverse ways. The principal contribution of the Green Legacy Initiative is that it is an integral element of the efforts of curbing climate change. This global threat unfairly affects developing countries especially those in Africa including Ethiopia. While the fight against climate change and environmental degradation continues at global level developing countries should intensify efforts of fending off the threat in their respective territories. Reclaiming forest resources is one of the significant measures to tackle the impact of climate change. In this regard Ethiopia is taking a rapid action that contributes to the prevention of climate change.

Furthermore through the reforestation works Ethiopia is likely to reap as much benefits from sale of carbon under the global scheme of carbon trade. By encouraging farmers and others to develop forests it is possible to earn economic benefits. Carbon offset markets allow landowners to sell the carbon taken up by their forest to another entity to compensate for emissions made elsewhere. Forest carbon offset projects can include improved forest management practices, avoided deforestation, or tree planting.

Equally important is the potential to earn abundant income from the forest is the possibility of growing edible fruits from the seedlings. The program intends to incorporate the plantation of fruit seedlings in areas where there is suitable weather and topography for such plants. Ethiopia is also endowed with a vast area of land that is favorable for the growth of fruit trees like avocado, mango and apple, among others.

Alongside the sale of fruits and other forests products, the development of forest coverage can spur tourism as it can improve favorable weather atmosphere and beauty of landscape. Forests, along with the wildlife that live there, are important to tourism. Their vast, secluded wilderness provides an ideal playground for hiking, camping, bird watching, mountain biking, and other recreational activities.

The effective resumption of the Green Legacy Initiative is likely to augment the new initiative of macroeconomic development in the country and vice versa.

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



The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays
By The Ethiopian Press Agency

Office of the CEO

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

Advertisement and Dist. Department

email: etpresspromotion@gmail.com
Tel. 011-156-98-73/011-811-13-15
Telegram :- 0976084707 - press
Editor-in-Chief: Worku Belachew
email- workubelachew@press.et
Address- Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-city
Woreda - 05, House No----
Tel- +251 111 26 41 98

Managing Editor: Wakuman Kudama
Email: wakuma220@gmail.com

Deputy Editors-in-Chief:

Alem Hailu
Elizabeth Mengistu
Zekarias Woldemariam
Desta Geberehiwot
Daniel Beyene

Website: www.press.et
email: ethiopianherald@press.et
Fb/ /Ethiopian Press Agency/
The Ethiopian Herald

Art & Culture



African Cultural diplomacy for boosting integrity

BY MEKDES TAYE (PhD)

While I was at Addis Ababa University for my first-degree study, I was exposed to experience one very important lesson aside from my academic study. I was from the northern region where the Amharic language is my mother tongue. The culture I had been having was a bit different than the thing I faced on campus. It was the first time for me to leave my birthplace. After I got into campus, I was assigned a bedroom. The allocation of rooms was done randomly, and I was separated from girls who were hailing from my area. Different languages, styles, behaviors, eating habits, religious views, and moods were all going to be hosted in our narrowest room.

I was first nervous. I was almost giving up my studies. But one day I noticed that a girl who was from the Gambella region was trying to communicate with me with broken words. I was very fascinated by her disorganized grammar and stylish pronunciation. Something intricate in me. That was affectionate love. I feel empathy. I saw her regard and value of my language. Instead of glooming my face, I felt togetherness. I hugged her and asked her to teach me her language too. While I pronounced some words, she laughed and hugged me in turn. Since then, she has explained to me her culture and respectable ways of acting in her society. I also dictated to her about my practice. We then started walking together, dining together, and studying together till she withdrew because of a health problem.

After noticing the attempt of the girl to know my language, the relationship we had was changed completely. The environment was drastically changed. Other dorm mates also started sharing their values. No more ignorance and individuality. All languages, styles, and moods were equally entertained with honest love and cooperation. Celebrations, fun, and even challenges were shared among us. We coexisted as a family. That time had laid down a base for me to adore and appreciate everybody's culture. I raised this experience to show the power of cultural exchanges wield on human relations. Before the classification into various cultures, we are human beings. Thus we had shared natural settings that can bring us together and integrate us on certain issues. Let me see how cultural diplomacy plays an important role in creating integrity.

Though the universe is undergoing the impulsive technological and innovative transformations and modernizations, some issues are kept important even preferred over the advanced ones. Contrarily, the rapidly changing human beings' way of life and modernization has compelled people to get focused on their indigenous knowledge and

More than 54 countries of the continent had their own cultures. That is they had unique, fascinating, historical, political, civilization and other markings which all are exhibited in a given culture

distinctiveness. Thus, African people, who had their own knowledge and identity markings, which are displayed through culture, are progressively portrayed to be exemplary way out for the continents' issues like diplomacy.

Diplomacy has been defined by various people from various backgrounds. "Diplomacy is the art and practice of building and maintaining relationships through tact and mutual respect." Since it is the art of the two parties, the efficacy of each of them in creating and influencing the other is dependent on the skill of them. As scholars advised, to be successful in their approaches countries need be effective in knowing their potential and resource before designing their tools of diplomacy.

As it is evidenced from several sources, Africa is very rich and had untouched indigenous cultures, arts and heritages. Since diplomacy is about the efforts to influence the decision or conduct of foreign actors through dialogue, negotiation, and other non-violent means, African culture is the one to be used as a non-violent means. Antonio Mascarenhas Monteiro (Former President of Cape Verde) had defined cultural diplomacy as, "the exchange of ideas, information and art in other aspects of culture among nation and their peoples in order to foster mutual understanding." The central point of diplomacy is making war unnecessary for any type of relation.

More than 54 countries of the continent had their own cultures. That is they had unique, fascinating, historical, political, civilization and other markings which all are exhibited in a given culture. In each country again there are very impressing and exclusive cultures. Thus these cultures which did mean a lot about a given people are artistic and illustrative in their nature so that anybody from another origin can feel them without knowing the language

or the people before. In relation to this ICD was conducting a conference with top officials coming from Africa. The former president of Burundi said that "people in my country who are very different in ethnic background and were not in a good connection were coming together with the cultural events, exhibitions and music concerts" Ministers in the conference commonly raised that cultural diplomacy is the best choice for the continent to succeed in good relations with the globe.

Cultural diplomacy was expressively said by H.E Navdeeo Suri (Indian ambassador to the UAE) as follows. "Diplomacy: for me is a dialogue between the countries, dialogue between the civilizations at the same time cultural diplomacy is also education. The more you learn the culture of other people the more you understand them. And if you understand the culture of other people you will always get soft. Always solve all the problems that may come in this or another situation. Cultural diplomacy is extremely important asset in the communication between the people."

There is a saying that runs "music is an international language." The art and creativity of a given nation is mostly attractive to any human kind. Thus this nature of the sector is the best means to create conducive environment and integration with different peoples of the world. The logical argument here is human beings have communal behaviors, feelings, emotions and threats which make us humans. The degree of incurring these natures may vary but still artistic approaches can catch people's sympathy and pave the way for better understanding and togetherness. This understanding is the key for the wellbeing of a given nation. James R. Marie Manccam (Former president of Seychelles) had argued that "peace cannot be imposed, peace cannot be legislated that peace requires a change of art." Thus it is possible to preserve peaceful environment as far as we are smart and effective in lining up influential tools of diplomacy.

In the process of using culture as a way of knowing other people, the logical premises is mutual cooperation will follow naturally. In the conference Adolphe Rukenkanya (Ministry of youth, sports and culture of Burundi) "sport and recreation can bring different people and the culture to work as a team with common goals." In the same way Joaguim Alberto Chissano (Former president of Mozambique) had reflected the raised idea as, "people who have to live together, work together, eat together, think together, build together."

The people that knows the culture of another people are very soft for integration and cooperation than the uninformed one. These

means that the alerted people are ready and positive to extend their cooperation in to other sectors. This is the benefit that comes next to a peaceful stay of the two parties.

Cultural approach is very soft and attractive; it is a peaceful and easiest mechanism to address the need of a nation than other tools. Africa seems alerted on this as the top officials said it on the stage. Cirino Hiteny Ofuho (Minister of culture, youth and sports of South Sudan) "one of the debates we are making is sports and cultural activities have actually introduced in to life non-conventional means of diplomacy."

These days Africa is passing through lots of ups and downs. The continent is showing some rises at the same time. With these tracks, adhering very influential tools to diplomacy like culture is very relevant. The technological advancement and modernization for that matter is not appreciating the people to raise guns as a means of influence. Implementing peaceful mechanism is the sign of civilization. H.E Navdeeo Suri (Indian ambassador to the UAE) said that, "in a troubled times in which we lived cultural diplomacy is more important than ever. Hate can be eradicated by making different understanding among different cultures"

In Ethiopia the king of ancient Aksum called King Ezana was a very smart leader in using cultural diplomacy to get integrity with the rest of the world. He made a good effort to lead his kingdom both culturally and politically. "Ezana was the master of cultural diplomacy creating diplomatic ties with Persia and the Roman Empire. His inscriptions and coins are still there for his legacy." Antoine Lindley (Insight Ethiopia).

Thus, cultural diplomacy is not a new phenomenon for Ethiopia. The consecutive regimes in the country were trying to use it to create better relations with other countries. But the degree of emphasis, effort, and implementation, I can say, is not yet addressed as demanded. As part of the continent, which is characterized by the absence or scarcity of showcases, the cultures are not still portrayed as expected. There is a huge problem in having an appropriate platform for exhibiting the given cultural values of the people.

To solve the mentioned problem, sound policies and active implementations need to be applied. The cultural, sport, and youth ministers with the foreign minister should collaborate to create platforms for various cultures to be displayed in the country. This effort needs to be extended on a continental basis so that collaborations within African countries could be a step up for creating further relations ahead. This is very essential for a strong and unified continent that can create a cumulative effect in the eyes of the world.

Law & Politics

Ensuring African Representation in global frontiers

BY STAFF REPORTER

Africa, a continent rich in diversity, culture, and potential, stands as a vibrant tapestry of nations that deserve a seat at the table of global decision-making. As the world becomes increasingly interconnected and interdependent, it is imperative that Africa is not only represented but also actively engaged in shaping the policies, agendas, and initiatives of international organizations such as the United Nations (UN) and other global bodies.

Africa is home to over 1.3 billion people and 54 diverse nations, each with its unique challenges, aspirations, and contributions to the global community. It is essential that African voices are heard and African perspectives are taken into account in international forums to ensure that policies and decisions reflect the continent's interests and priorities.

Africa can contribute its wealth of knowledge, experiences, and solutions to pressing global issues such as climate change, poverty alleviation, peace and security, and sustainable development by promoting diversity and equity in international organizations,

Historically, Africa has been underrepresented and marginalized in international organizations, with power dynamics often skewed in favor of Western nations. This imbalance not only undermines the credibility and legitimacy of these institutions but also perpetuates a system of inequality that hinders Africa's ability to fully participate in global governance.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF), and other key international bodies, Africa can work towards redressing historical injustices and creating a more equitable and inclusive global order through advocating for increased African representation in the UN Security Council, the World Bank,

Africa is a continent of immense potential, with a young and dynamic population, abundant natural resources, and a growing economy that presents opportunities for innovation, growth, and development. By ensuring African representation in international organizations, the world can benefit from Africa's creativity, resilience, and entrepreneurial spirit.

International organizations can tap into the continent's vast potential to drive positive change, foster cooperation, and build a more prosperous and sustainable future for all nations by empowering African voices to shape global policies and decisions.

In an increasingly interconnected world, it is essential to build bridges of understanding, cooperation, and solidarity among nations. By including Africa in the decision-making processes of international organizations, the global community can foster a spirit of unity, collaboration, and mutual respect that transcends geographical boundaries and cultural differences.

The continent's representation in



United Nations Security Council

international organizations can serve as a catalyst for dialogue, partnership, and shared action on common challenges, enabling nations to work together towards common goals, address global crises, and build a more peaceful and prosperous world for future generations.

In what could be a promising move, IMF lately announced that it is working on creating a more inclusive international finance system. He remembered the time when the membership approved a 50 percent increase in IMF member countries' quotas and agreed to develop by June 2025 possible approaches as a guide for further quota realignment.

"IMF's Board of Governors issued a resolution to create an additional chair for Sub-Saharan Africa on the IMF Executive Board. This will come into effect on November 1."

Underscoring the growing importance of Africa, the IMF has offered sub-Saharan Africa an additional seat on its executive board. This will take the number of directors to three out of 24. The IMF's sister organization, the World Bank, is also planning to raise the number of directors from the African continent to three.

On the other hand there have been efforts to ensure a permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council. And over the years, there have been consecutive consultations between the African Union and other stakeholders.

The main objective of this Consultation was to avail a platform for a multi-stakeholder's conversation with the African CSOs to popularize and support the Common African Position on the UNSC Reform as well as the Ezulwini Consensus, which seek to remove the historical injustice that is imposed on the African continent, ahead of the ministerial meeting holding in Algiers next month.

The African Position on the UNSC Reform led to the establishment of a Committee of ten (10) Heads of State and Government (known as the C-10), which is coordinated by the Republic of Sierra Leone. The C-10 has been in the forefront championing for the implementation of the African Common

Position.

AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security stated that the African Union (AU) has been a fundamental actor in the enforcement of peace and security on the continent. However, the challenges posed by the Africa's limited representation in the UNSC restrict the AU's ability to deliver effective and concrete conflict resolution. He also added that the quest for the UN Security Council Reform is a legitimate demand as we make effort to support conflict resolution in Africa, it is impossible to disassociate it from peace operations, largely concentrated on the continent and implemented by the UN Security Council. During recent decades, Africa has been the main topic dealt with by the UNSC. Interaction between Africa and the UN's main decision-making forum is currently vital for addressing and resolving conflicts on the continent.

Ambassador Bankole also highlighted latest developments relating to the implementation of the African Position as well as the implementation of the Oyella Roadmap, which was adopted in November 2023 in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea. The outcome of the Consultation will feed into the forthcoming 11th Ministerial Meeting of the C-10 on the UNSC Reform, which will be held on 09-10 June 2024 in Algiers, Algeria.

Participants in the Consultation thanked Commissioner Bankole for organizing this importation engagement and pledged to popularize and support the African Position on the UNSC Reform and requested the African Union Commission to continue organizing such processes with the wider African civil society organizations.

In conclusion, the representation of Africa in the United Nations and other international organizations is not only a matter of equity and justice but also a strategic imperative for building a more inclusive, sustainable, and peaceful world. By championing African voices, perspectives, and priorities on the global stage, international organizations can harness the continent's potential, promote diversity and equity, and create a more just and prosperous future for all nations.



Africa can work towards redressing historical injustices and creating a more equitable and inclusive global order through advocating for increased African representation in the UN Security Council, the World Bank

Our goal is to reverse the damage done to our identity by promoting unity and celebrating our heritage

Lexy Mojo

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

Today's guest is Lexy Mojo, the CEO of Legendary Gold Limited, the leading cultural and creative industry promotion and production company in Africa. With

headquarters in Lagos, Nigeria, its operations spread across the world. He and his group are working to promote Africa's rich cultural heritage worldwide.

During his brief stay with The Ethiopian Herald, Lexy Mojo raised a number of issues related to Pan-Africanism, efforts to return Africa's stolen heritage, economic and cultural colonization, and more. Enjoy the read.

Could you tell us about the concept of Africa Celebrates?

Africa Celebrates is a pan-African event aimed at promoting pan-Africanism. It celebrates Africans and Africa, both on the continent and around the world. This includes Africans from different regions such as the Caribbean, Latin America, Asia, and North America. The goal is to unite black people globally in celebration of our shared heritage. Despite facing numerous challenges, Africa and Africans have shown strength and resilience, which is why it is important to come together and find reasons to celebrate and be happy.

If other continents had experienced even a fraction of what Africa has endured, they might not have survived. This resilience demonstrates our ability to overcome obstacles and achieve success. Throughout history, we have been divided in various ways, with our culture, language, and resources taken from us. Despite this, we have persisted and continue to thrive.

Africa Celebrates aims to remind us that despite artificial boundaries, we are all one people. Whether in Ethiopia, Zambia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, or Cote d'Ivoire, the unity among black people is evident. It is important to have a common ground that brings us together, and that is the essence of Africa Celebrates.

What inspired you and your group to establish this Africa Celebrates event?

I am a Pan-Africanist and believe in Pan-Africanism. Recently, one of the African ambassadors reached out to me. I believe it was the ambassador of Cote d'Ivoire or possibly Morocco. They referred to me as an ambassador, not just for one country, but for the entire continent of Africa. This resonated with me deeply. I never considered myself in that light, but they made it clear that I am seen as a representative for all of Africa. They expressed a desire to join forces and support my passion for Africa.

My dedication to Africa stems from various aspects of my life, from the clothes I wear to the food I eat, and the words I speak. I see Africa as a united entity, not just a collection of different countries. Despite attempts to divide us through language and cultural influences, I believe in the unity of Africa. Many Africans struggle with their identity, torn between Western influences and their African heritage. This confusion inspired me to reorient Africans and remind them of their true roots.

The deliberate efforts to divide and weaken

Africa have been evident throughout history. It is crucial for us to counteract these actions intentionally. We have devoted our lives to this cause, striving to bring Africans together as one cohesive unit. While we may have diverse cultures, there is a common thread that unites us all. Our goal is to reverse the damage done to our identity by promoting unity and celebrating our heritage through soft diplomacy.

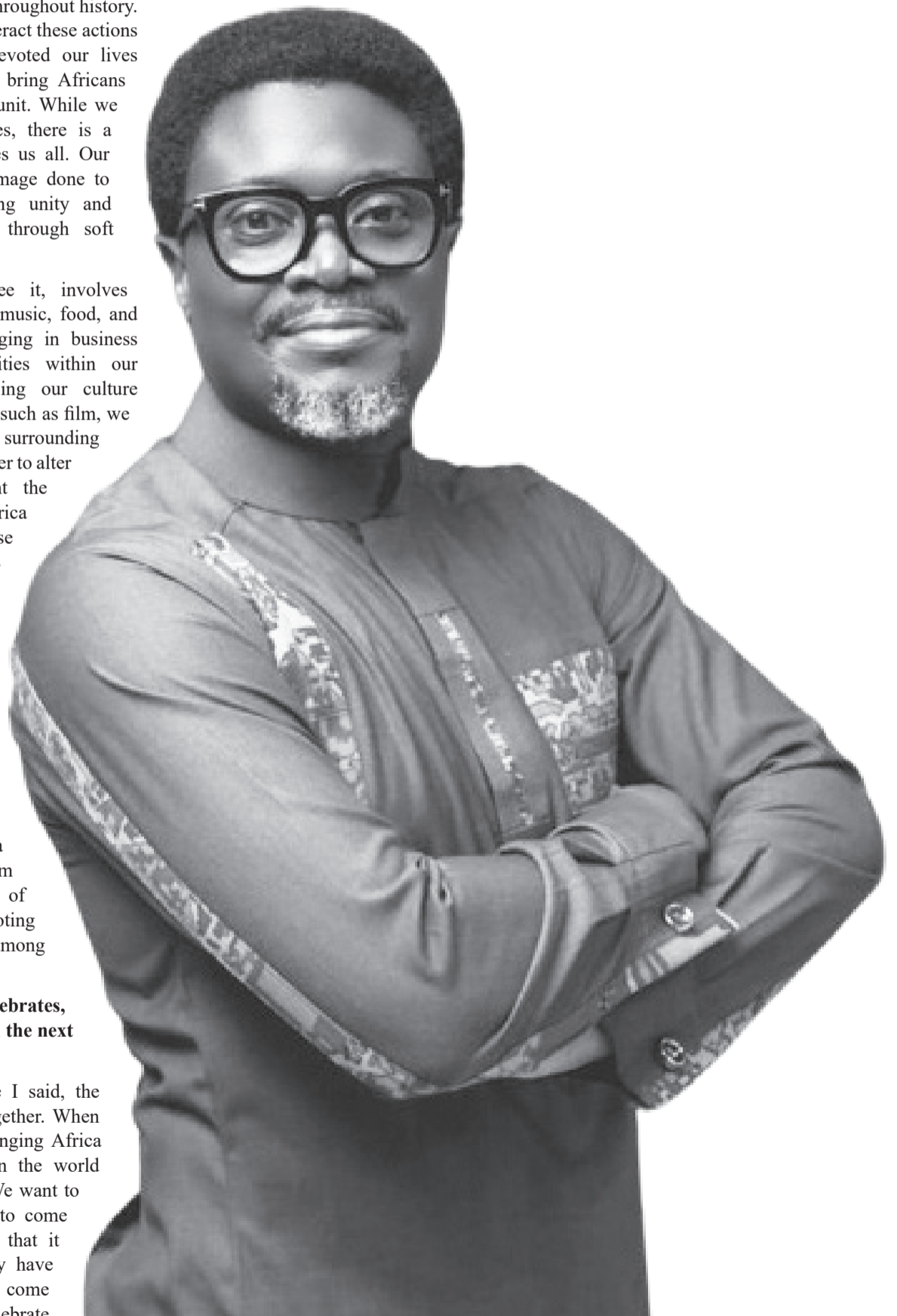
Soft diplomacy, as I see it, involves embracing our traditions, music, food, and clothing while also engaging in business and empowerment activities within our community. By showcasing our culture through various mediums, such as film, we can change the narrative surrounding Africa. Films have the power to alter perceptions and highlight the beauty of our continent. Africa Celebrates aims to showcase the diversity and richness of Africa through various art forms and events.

When attending an Africa Celebrates event, individuals have the opportunity to connect with like-minded partners, discover new opportunities, and engage with a supportive community. Africa Celebrates is a platform for celebrating all aspects of African culture and promoting unity and collaboration among its people.

So, through Africa Celebrates, what do you plan to do in the next years?

We started in 2021. Like I said, the idea is to bring Africa together. When we have succeeded in bringing Africa together successfully, then the world will come to us as well. We want to bring the world together to come and enjoy Africa, to see that it is not the perception they have about Africa. They will come and see the way we celebrate ourselves, the way we are happy, the way we enjoy life, not the way they enjoy life. The way we enjoy life is how we want them to be like us.

So, what we want to achieve in the future is to bring all 54 African countries together to celebrate. Then bring Africans from all over the world to join us in the celebration.



When they come and join us, they will have opportunities to invest in Africa, to return back home, to their homeland. Being in Europe, being in America, that's not home. When you are abroad, you will see that people are not united like we are in Africa. We are brothers and sisters here. We want

the world to come and see our hospitality in Africa. We want Africans to come back, invest here, and build the different nations in Africa. Those are some of the things we want to achieve.

continued to page 9

Our goal is to reverse the damage done to our...

continued from page 8

The first year, we had 18 African countries. The second year, we had 32 countries. Last year, we had 38 countries. This year, we have 38 countries and 11 countries from outside Africa. This year, we are going to have even more. We are growing.

At some point, it will be every country, and eventually, the rest of the world. During that period, everybody will want to come to Addis Ababa, to enjoy for one week, visit the beautiful city, spend money on hotels, food, and empower the local communities here. That is what we are looking forward to.

What is the main reason for holding the event in Ethiopia?

The reason we chose Ethiopia initially was because of the African Union, our partners. Our goal is to unite the entire continent and bring people from around the world together at the African Union headquarters.

Despite not asking for financial support, we are disappointed by the lack of moral support from Ethiopian government officials. For example, we have invited ministers from various countries, but Ethiopian ministers do not see the importance of attending.

This lack of seriousness is disheartening. Our main challenge is the lack of support from the Ethiopian government, despite the benefits the event brings to the country. We have never requested money from any ministries. We have only asked for moral support, which we have not received. Our event benefits Ethiopia, and we hope to see a change in the government's response.

We have received offers from other African countries to host the event, and we are considering them. The lack of support from Ethiopia is our main challenge, but we remain committed to our vision of a Pan-African event. We are financially capable of hosting the event ourselves, as we have done in the past. This year, we have new partners coming on board to support us. Our goal is to create a successful Pan-African event, and we hope for better responses from the Ethiopian government in the future.

During the time of colonization, Europeans stole a significant amount of African cultural heritage. What is the African perspective on the return of these stolen artifacts?

We are hosting a panel session in collaboration with the Moroccan embassy and the Moroccan ambassador to Ethiopia to address this issue. The goal is to have a conversation involving countries that have taken African artwork and artifacts. This discussion was meant to start last year but was delayed. This year, we hope to begin the conversation and address the negative impact of colonial theft.

Many African countries still have ties to their former colonial rulers, who continue to exploit African resources. We aim to start these conversations during Africa Celebrates this year and work towards finding solutions. It all starts with a conversation and can grow from there.

Do you think Africa is free from economic colonialism, especially?



Many African countries still have ties to their former colonial rulers, who continue to exploit African resources. We aim to start these conversations during Africa Celebrates this year and work towards finding solutions

Of course, we are not free. Why do you think that is so? Just look at what is happening in the DRC, for example. It's the richest country in the world with abundant resources. However, the West has never given them peace. They are still exploiting the country, causing chaos, and ensuring instability.

In such conditions of instability, they continue to exploit. They could have taken a different approach, partnering with the government and locals to develop infrastructure in various sectors. This would enrich the locals and make the country prosperous. However, countries with funds and technical knowledge to develop these sectors, like in Cote d'Ivoire, would also benefit.

Instead, they bring war, support rebels, and arm groups to fight against each other and the government. This leads to further instability and hinders development, allowing them to exploit resources freely.

Until our leaders unite to say "enough is enough," this cycle will continue. Africa is the wealthiest continent, but the West has made peace unattainable. The only African countries without resources are the ones without conflict, as there is nothing to fight over.

China, whether you believe it or not, has been a blessing to Africa. They have made Africa competitive and brought much-needed infrastructure. Before China, the West took advantage of Africa without investing in its development.

China's presence has forced the West to recognize the potential in Africa. They (the Chinese) have built airports, railways, and infrastructure across the continent. The African Union building, a gift from China,

for their moral support. We appreciate it.

Where I come from, even if my country wants something, they question my intentions. Why am I holding this big event in Ethiopia instead of empowering Nigeria? The reason I chose Ethiopia is because of the African Union, who are our partners. My idea is to bring the whole continent together.

We are bringing people from all over the world to join us. It has to be at the African Union. That is what brought us here. Now that we are here, we are not getting the support we need from your government. That is an issue. We are not asking for money.

The event is not about money for us. We are funding it ourselves. However, we are looking for simple moral support. For example, we are bringing ministers of trade and culture from various countries. Last year, we had ministers from three countries. We also had ministers of culture and tourism from six countries, as well as a minister of women's affairs from two countries. In total, we had over 12 ministers attend.

We even had the former president of Malawi attend last year. We brought many business people from the US and other countries. How can we have ministers from various countries attending, but the ministers of tourism, trade, and women's affairs from Ethiopia don't see the importance of attending?

That lack of seriousness is concerning. One minister even asked me why the ministers of culture and tourism from other countries were present, but not the minister of tourism from Ethiopia.

We expected at least one of them to attend. They are the ones who initiated us to bring the event and said their government would sponsor it. Do you understand? Our main reason is the African Union.

We are bringing people here who will benefit Ethiopia economically. We have never asked your ministries for money. We have only requested moral support. We have sent proposals and letters to your ministers, but we don't even get a response. This is our biggest challenge. The only reason we are still here is because of the African Union.

We have offers from five other African countries, but Ethiopia has been the most challenging. It has not been easy working here. Even though we portray Addis Ababa as the capital of Africa, the city doesn't seem to care. I don't understand it. We have never asked anyone for money, so what is the problem?

Our biggest challenge is the lack of response from the government. We are financially strong enough to fund the event ourselves, as we have done for the past three years. This year, we have more partners willing to support us. The response from the government needs to change for the better, as this is the biggest Pan-African event.

Having the African Union, United Nations, and other big partners on board shows the significance of our event. It's time for the government to recognize that.

Thank you very much.

It is my pleasure.

is a symbol of their investment in Africa's future.

In contrast, the West has only brought loans that further impoverish Africa. China's investments have made Africa the focus of global development. While many may not see the mischief of European and Western countries, it is clear that China's contributions to Africa deserve recognition and gratitude.

This African Celebrity is a brilliant idea. What challenges did you face in promoting this idea? Are there any questions that African countries are raising?

No, they all accept it. Everybody we have met wants it. Not only Africa, but all over the world, when they see African Celebrities, they want to come and be part of it.

But I think the initial challenge, as expected, was that people saw it as a new project. However, once they understand what it is, everybody wants to be involved. I believe our biggest challenge now is Ethiopia.

We are not receiving the type of support we should from this country. We have had offers to bring it to other countries. We have many offers and are considering them.

I want to thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Society

Religious institutions in nurturing positive moral values, principles

BY ELIZABETH MENGISTU

Unarguably, religious institutions have an incalculable role in terms of shaping citizens in the right ethical and moral values that are crucial to living in harmony and fostering a sense of solidarity and belongingness among diverse communities.

Especially, because religious leaders are the most respected and trusted figures and have the power to influence attitudes, opinions, and behaviors, their contribution to nurturing positive values among their faith communities is inimitable. They shape social values in line with faith-based teachings.

Thus, religious institutions and religious leaders are always seen as agents of peace, unity and development.

The case is not different in Ethiopia. Religious institutions have been and are still playing an important role in sustaining peace, fraternity, and unity among their devotees and beyond, adhering to their religious teachings – religious values and principles.

Recently, following this rainy season, Ethiopian religious institutions have reaffirmed their firm commitment to play part in shaping the young people with the right moral values and principles, be



morally educated, and let them strive for peace and solidarity.

In an exclusive interview ENA held with religious leaders of different institutions, the leaders said that they are working to let citizens play their part in the success of the national dialogue effort that Ethiopia has already embarked on.

They said that, during this rainy season, they are teaching young people and children to develop a solid moral character and integrity refraining from undesirable activities.

Religious Father in the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahdo Church, Melake Birhan Mulat Kebebe said that religious institutions are the breeding ground for well-mannered citizens.

Owing to this, the church, through all its structures, is working to educate young people and children so that they can become morally and ethically equipped citizens who value peace, togetherness, and solidarity.

Apart from religious education, during this summer season, youths and children are being taught in both Sunday schools and regular church programs; they are being

taught about solidarity and patriotism, he added.

Islamic teacher Haji Ahmed Harun on his part said that in this rainy season, the work of teaching young people to respect their parents and elders, to become patriotic and well-mannered citizens is being carried out on a large scale.

Father of the Ethiopian Catholic Church, Father Haile Gabriel Melequ (PhD.); on his part said that the youth are the foundation of the country as they comprise the largest number of the Ethiopian population.

In this regard, in these rainy months, a good personality-building religious education is given to the youth and children to create a more disciplined and ethical generation that is keen to actively participate in volunteer work.

“We are working to create a morally educated generation that actively participates in volunteer works,” he reiterated.

On the other hand, the national dialogue effort will create an opportunity for Ethiopians to work together for the peace and security of the country by providing solutions to their problems in a civilized manner, through peaceful discussion.

To this end, religious fathers will play their part in letting citizens play a constructive role in the success of the National Dialogue process, he reaffirmed.

Inclusive Bazaars to revolutionize needs of children, individuals with disability

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

When we think of trade fairs and bazaars, the first thing that comes to our mind is the opportunity to showcase our products, supply goods to consumers, forge business relationships, and create networks with potential producers.

The other way round, from the buyers' side, bazaars and trade fairs are platforms where we can get all types of goods and items in a single room and purchase at reasonable prices as they usually allow us to meet face-to-face with potential producers and suppliers. Entertainment is the other issue that comes to some people's mind, especially the youngest population.

In fact, exhibitions and bazaars organized in Ethiopia are mostly seasonal. As they are staged targeting national or public holidays, they are profit-oriented fairs and give less attention to individuals with some form of disabilities. Due to this, whenever bazaars and trade fairs are opened, we plan what to buy or spend time with peers.

However, these days, going far from this, bazaars and trade fairs are taken as unique opportunities to promote inclusiveness by creating platforms for disadvantaged segments of society, including people with disability and those who require support.

As indicated by Marketing Director of Tamesol Communications, Nathnael Zeryihun, bazaars and exhibitions organized in Ethiopia are business-oriented and targeted platforms to connect producers and consumers. However, it is possible to hold hybrid commercial trade fairs and inclusive exhibitions in a manner that aligns with each other.

By doing so, it is possible to engage diverse segments especially those with impairments or special needs, enhance inclusiveness, and promote their products and services.

What is more, it enables this segment of society to create a relationship with other charitable organizations and associations and work on various social issues. Most of all, it will provide them the opportunity to get any possible support, be it financial, material, or expertise from charity and aid organizations. This, in turn, can foster trust

and belongingness thereby enabling to discharge of social responsibility.

With this in mind, concurrent to the usual bazaar and exhibition, an exhibition in which several charity and relief organizations that work to help people with disabilities and people in need of support, are participating will be staged in the middle of August, Nathnael said.

According to him, the Expo dubbed as ‘Addis Neger BeAddis Amet’ has been organized for the past twenty years. However, this year's Expo which will be held from August 23 to September 10, 2024, at the Addis Ababa Exhibition Centre, will encompass new initiatives that have considerable social impacts, beyond its marketing and entertainment values.

Charitable organizations and associations that work to help the disabled and other sections of society will be allowed to take over their villages for free to raise revenue and promote themselves and their products to visitors.

To this effect, the expo will be divided into villages to create favorable conditions for people to easily find the exhibits of the aid

organizations they need. Social content such as health, education, knowledge, children, sports, entertainment, and others will be included in these villages.

According to the Marketing Director, at the expo close to 50 villages will be prepared for organizations and associations under the name ‘Charity Village’ engaged in charity work.”

The fact that the expo is being divided into villages enables people to purchase items from the regular bazaar spaces and at the same time visit these special villages and learn about their health status, to get information and buy educational materials for their children, entertain and to do light physical exercises.

He also said that these charity organizations and associations that enter the village are expected to raise money for those who lost their families in Gofa Geze district due to landslides; aside from the fund raising for the support of disabled and other members of the society who need support. The benefit of such kind of expo is wide-ranging as it addresses the socioeconomic burden of the society, he remarked.

Verbatim and Caption

Ethiopia starts dispatching skilled, professional human resource to Europe

In the past, Ethiopia had agreed with different Middle East countries to export partially trained human resource in a bid to expand overseas job opportunities for Ethiopian youths. Since July 2024, in addition to the Middle East, Ethiopia has started deploying trained and skilled human resources to European countries.

Accordingly, only in July 2024, some 26,195 citizens had been trained and deployed abroad for work. The active participation of all stakeholders in the sector plays crucial role for the success. The Ministry with stakeholders will continue its efforts to benefit more professional Ethiopians to secure overseas jobs.

Muferihat Kamil, Minister, Labor and Skills



NBE starts accepting applications for independent forex bureaus

NBE has begun accepting applications for independent foreign exchange bureaus, in line with the newly appointed Foreign Exchange Directive that became effective in July 29, 2024.

The Independent Forex Bureaus are authorized to engage in the buying and selling of foreign currency cash notes and are allowed to conduct such transactions on the basis of freely negotiated exchange rates with their customers.

Non-resident Ethiopians, or Foreign Citizens of Ethiopian origin are eligible to operate Independent Forex Bureaus.

The requirement for obtaining an independent Forex Bureau License, according to Annex 5 of the Foreign Exchange Directive, is fulfilling the minimum capital requirement of Birr 15 million. S/he must be able to provide a Security Deposit of Birr 30 million to be deposited in a blocked account at any bank.

The National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) announced this Thursday



ENDC on finalizing agenda gathering process of Nat'l Dialogue: Spokesperson

The agenda gathering procedure of the National Dialogue process is being finalized in various parts of the country. The process of collecting agendas for the national consultation is under final stage in various states of the country except Amhara and Tigray.

Meanwhile, efforts are being exerted to conduct the agenda collection in the aforementioned two states when peace is maintained over time. The ENDC is striving to ensure an inclusive and participatory dialogue so that all parties should be part of the process standing for common goals.

He further stated that Addis Ababa, Gambella and Benshangul Gumuz have finalized the agenda gathering process and submitted the document to the commission.

Tibebu Solomon, Public Relation Head and Spokesperson, Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC)

Government to allot 550 billion Birr additional budget to HPR: Ministry of Finance

Following the implementation of the macroeconomic policy reform, the Government of Ethiopia decides to present an additional budget of over 550 billion Birr to be approved by the House of People's Representatives (HPR) for the 2024/25 budget year. From the over 550 billion Birr supplementary budget prepared for approval, 240 billion Birr is reserved for social development, mainly targeting low-income citizens. Government takes due considerations to support low-income citizens amid the full implementation of the macroeconomic policy reform.

As a result, the additional budget is set to providing adequate subsidies for citizens with regular income and those supported by developmental safety net programs.

Eyob Tekalign (PhD), State Minister of Finance



Ethiopia's Macroeconomic Policy guarantees prosperity on firm foundation: Minister

The full implementation of macroeconomic policy in Ethiopia will guarantee national development by creating stable economy. The full implementation of the policy will place the prosperity of the nation on firm foundation.

Preparations have been made during the first and second phases of Homegrown Economic Reform Agenda in order to embark on the full implementation of macroeconomic policy of the country.

The main objective of the policy is to alleviate foreign exchange market fluctuation and paving the way for a stable economy in the short run.

Ahmed Shide, Minister of Finance

