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Adem Farah

## Gov't says Ethiopia devotes to ensuring peace in HoA

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia is always ready to cooperate with Somalia and other neighboring countries to ensure peace and stability in the Horn of Africa (HoA), Government said.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, the Democracy System Building Coordination Centre Head with the rank of Deputy Prime Minister and Vice President of the ruling party Adem Farah expressed his government's firm commitment to join hands with neighboring countries in order to maintain the

See Gov't says ... Page 3

# Greening Ethiopia in spotlight to smash world record

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

Ethiopia is gearing up to plant approximately 600 million tree saplings in a single day on August 23, 2024, as part of the Green Legacy Initiative.

The necessary preparations have been also finalized to attempt to break an official Guinness World Record (GWR) planting over 150 million seedlings in 12 hours during the same day through using a geo-reference system.

The current world record of trees planted in a day is held by India after more than 800,000 people planted 50 million trees in 2016 in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh.

Green Legacy Initiative Technical Committee  
See Greening Ethiopia ... Page 3



Girma Amnte (PhD)

## Ethiopia to roll 2016 planting 7.5 bln seedlings

- Ready for massive one-day plantation

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopia has set a target to conclude the year 2016 by planting over

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# Ethiopia's Economy: Seeking advanced, integrated operation

BY MESERET BEHAILU

Reports are showing that the number of unemployment rate has reached over 42% in Ethiopia where millions of students are graduating each year. As a result, country's unemployment rate is tremendously increasing contrary to limited hiring companies and weak economy unable to facilitate opportunities for high number of job seekers.

The reformist government is launching and implementing various activities to reduce unemployment rate and providing skilled and international competitive citizens in the

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The reflection of Compromise in the Zimbabwean novel 'Nervous Conditions'

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Peaceful path to access the sea: Ethiopia's modus operandi

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Research-driven solution to elevating education quality

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## EEP secures 20 bln Birr in last fiscal year

• Reports 140 mln USD worth electricity exports

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

**ADDIS ABABA** - The Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP) disclosed that it has earned 20 billion Birr during the last Ethiopian fiscal year.

In his briefing to journalists yesterday, EEP Chief Executive Officer Ashebir Balcha (Eng.) stated that having planned to obtain 19 billion Birr, the corporate has managed to secure about 20 billion Birr from bulk power sale, substation construction and consultancy services during the reported period.

He pointed out that 140 million USD (77%) of the total plan was also obtained from electricity export to neighboring countries registering 16% increment compared to 2022/2023 year.



Ashebir Balcha (Eng.)

It was learnt that the corporate has planned to double the current total electricity export earning to 263 million USD during the current fiscal year.

According to the CEO, Kenya remains

the leading export destination countries followed by Sudan and Djibouti.

He said: "Out of the total power generation which accounts for 84% is utilized for local consumption and 9% for export."

Furthermore, out of the total 7,242 MW which is currently under construction, he underscored that some projects have started generating power.

Stating the ever increasing trend of electricity consumption from year to year, Ashebir (Eng.) indicated that the corporate has amassed about 709 billion Birr asset.

Expressing preparations to extend the domestic consumptions, he retreated that security issues, infrastructural theft and damages are the seriously challenging in its outreaching.



Tomer Bar-Lavi

## Medical teams, major investments on horizon in Ethio-Israel ties

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA** - In a bid to strengthen bilateral relations, the Israeli Embassy in Ethiopia is not only fostering diplomatic ties but also facilitating the arrival of medical teams to provide essential eye care and other medical treatments.

Speaking to The Ethiopian Herald, Israeli Chargé d'affaires to Ethiopia Tomer Bar-Lavi emphasized the embassy's dual focus on deepening ties and enhancing healthcare in Ethiopia. "One of the key initiatives is 'Operation Ethiopia,' which delivers vital eye care services in hospitals nationwide," Bar-Lavi stated. Additionally, Israeli medical experts are sharing their knowledge with Ethiopian doctors in various fields.

Bar-Lavi indicated that Israeli surgeons, particularly those involved in the 'Save a Child's Heart' initiative, are performing surgeries and training Ethiopian doctors both in Ethiopia and in Israel. He also noted upcoming visits by Israeli trauma doctors and experts in neonatal resuscitation, scheduled for September.

Beyond healthcare, Israel's economic footprint in Ethiopia is expanding. Major Israeli companies are investing in Ethiopia's agriculture, healthcare, and innovation sectors. "Israel is significantly involved in building Ethiopia's innovation ecosystem, supporting startups, and contributing to economic reforms," the Chargé d'affaires elaborated.

The agricultural sector, particularly in areas like intensive fish farming and civil aviation, is another focal point of Israel's investment in Ethiopia. "When Israeli investors consider Africa, Ethiopia is their first choice due to the strong ties between our nations," Bar-Lavi remarked.

He expressed optimism that ongoing economic reforms and initiatives would lead to a surge in Israeli investments and economic activities in Ethiopia in the near future. "Our Embassy is promoting Ethiopia's wider investment opportunities among Israeli companies that would help to enhance the two countries commercial ties."



## Dire Dawa FTZ shows promise as investment magnet: Deputy Premier

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA**-Deputy Prime Minister Temesgen Tiruneh has announced that the Dire Dawa Free Trade Zone (FTZ) is showing great promise and is expected to bring numerous advantages once it operates at full capacity.

Speaking to local media, the Deputy Premier stated that the Dire Dawa FTZ has made significant progress since its inception. The government strategically chose Dire Dawa for the Free Trade Zone due to its ideal location for import and export activities, free from bureaucratic

obstacles. This has made the area attractive to both domestic and foreign investors.

Temesgen also pointed out that recent macro-economic reforms have created a favorable environment for investment, particularly in hospitality, where the FTZ's infrastructure supports hotel businesses.

Dire Dawa City Mayor Kedir Juhar emphasized that the FTZ is unique in the country, helping to resolve foreign exchange issues and eliminate demurrage costs that traders previously faced when transporting goods from Dire Dawa to

Djiboutiby cargo.As a result, the zone is expected to attract more foreign direct investment (FDI) and facilitate smoother import and export operations.

The mayor added that currently, up to 1,500 vehicles are transporting goods from Djibouti to Dire Dawa per day, supported by a dry port in the area. This underscores the significant role the FTZ plays in enhancing trade activities. However, Kedir acknowledged that further work is needed to expand the city's infrastructure to meet the increasing demands of transportation and trade flows.

## Greening Ethiopia...

Deputy Chairperson Getachew Gizaw informed local media that the preparations are in place to achieve this ambitious goal. Last year, Ethiopia planted around 566 million tree saplings in a single day, surpassing its target of 500 million. This year's experience and planning indicate the capacity to plant 600 million saplings in a day. The identification of approximately 7,700 plantation sites and the selection of sapling types have been completed, with experts assigned to report the task from various administrative levels.

The use of technology will play a critical role in overcoming limitations such as inaccurate reporting. A geo-referencing system has been set up to manage and verify reports from each site, ensuring precision. Efforts are being made to match tree species with the local ecology, and sector experts are supporting the process from preparation

to planting.

Over 28 million citizens are expected to participate in this massive plantation effort on the upcoming Friday. Various strategies are in place to surpass the previous record, and the use of technology is expected to provide global credibility to the effort.

The Green Legacy Initiative National Technical Committee Secretary Fanose Mekonnen reiterated that the country has finalized its preparations to plant 600 million seedlings in a single day, aiming to contribute to the world record.

The geo-referencing system will significantly showcase Ethiopia's greenery potential and ensure accurate reporting, which is vital to the country's goal of building a green and climate-resilient economy.

A priority has been given to planting eco-

friendly and climate-resistant seedlings to enhance forestry development. Additionally, beautification saplings have been prepared for metropolitan areas, with a special focus on indigenous species that help conserve soil and water resources.

Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative also aligns with global efforts to restore 15 million hectares of degraded forests and landscapes by 2030. The 46th meeting of the Least Developed Countries Export Group (LEG) recognized Ethiopia's contribution to global climate change efforts, particularly through the Green Legacy Initiative. The meeting emphasized integrating gender perspectives into the initiatives and operations of the LEG, with discussions involving representatives from various global organizations aimed at enhancing support for least developed countries (LDCs).

## Ethiopia ...

7.5 billion seedlings, with a significant portion of the plantation already completed, according to the Government Communication Service (GCS).

During a media briefing yesterday, Agriculture Minister Girma Amnte (PhD) announced that around 600 million saplings are scheduled to be planted on August 23, 2024. He noted that approximately two million hectares of land have been prepared for this plantation effort, with half of the land identified using geo-referencing technology. Farmers and associations will utilize the remaining one million hectares across the nation.

Minister Girma indicated of the 7.5 billion seedlings planned, 56% would be multipurpose saplings, while the rest will focus on forest coverage and beautification. He further detailed that 8,452 areas have been designated for the plantation across the country, with 317,521 hectares specifically allocated for the 600 million seedlings to be planted on August 23.

The advance identification of these areas will ensure that the seedlings are planted in agro-ecological zones best suited for their growth. Over the past five years, approximately 32.5 billion saplings have been planted in Ethiopia, and the nation is set to reach 40 billion seedlings with this year's target.

The Minister also noted that deforestation rates have significantly decreased in recent years, and there is a plan to increase forest coverage by 30% by 2030. Additionally, the goal is to plant 50 billion saplings by 2026.

The Green Legacy Initiative, which drives these efforts, plays a crucial role in ensuring food self-sufficiency. This year, over 600 million fruit seedlings will be planted, with Ethiopia also engaging in the export market through the initiative.

Ethiopians from different segments of life are expected to take part in the August 23, 2024 tree-planting campaign.

## Gov't says Ethiopia...

peace and stability of the region.

Adem said that recent statements made by Somali officials deny the reality on the ground and go against the spirit of good neighborliness.

Mentioning that Ethiopia and Somalia share a border of nearly 1,700 km and have a common culture, language and religion, Adem said, "Our country believes that this is an unchangeable truth, not subject to reinterpretation by historical narratives."

According to him, Ethiopia has put

maximum efforts to stand in solidarity with Somalia, embracing the idea of growing together - recognizing that Somalia's peace and stability are crucial for its development and prosperity.

Despite this fact, Adem said the recent statements made by Somalia's officials are far from the reality, do not reflect the history of the ties between the two peoples, deny the reality on the ground, and go against good neighborliness and the common interests of the people of the two countries.

Adem further stated that speeches of responsible politicians should always be fair, enduring, and beneficial to the people of the region, strengthening bonds of brotherhood and sisterhood and supporting the peace and stability of the Horn of Africa, where the Somali people play a central role.

He also urged Somali counterparts to do their part in ending actions and rhetoric that go against the long-term interests of the region's people and the relations between the two countries.

## Ethiopia's Economy:...

years to come. Of this, creating conducive environment for private sectors involvement in the national development agenda, launching the recent 5 Million Coders program and the likes are listed out.

Accordingly, various associations and government officials accorded that working together is the best approach so as to reducing unemployment rate, increasing revenue, and tackling hard currency crunch sustainably.

Representative of Ethiopian Outsourcing Association (EOA), Melaku Beshah believed that outsourcing would help Ethiopia curb unemployment as his association is working hard to enable the country become exemplary in outsourcing through bridging the skills and knowledge gaps.

He told The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that activities such as developing software, finance, marketing, and recording can be done by outsourcing practices. EOA works on talent

development, training provision, supporting the government development activities and reducing unemployment.

"We are also engaging in ICT Parks to realize the expected result in knowledge and experience sharing, expanding job opportunities, and developing related activities. Similarly, the association works with the Ministry of Labor and Skills, and Ministry of Innovation and Technology," he said.

EOA is generating 50 million USD annual revenue and this number is estimated to increase to over 12 billion USD by 2030 as the country is accelerating efforts to establish suitable environment, especially in establishing adequate special economic zones (SEZ), according to Melaku.

China, India, Kenya, and other countries are benefiting from SEZs. For instance, China is processing 60 % export through SEZ which helped the country to secure 45% foreign exchange and 22 % it's GDP. Meanwhile, India has generated 33 billion USD and created 2.8 million jobs

in its 200 plus SEZs. Kenya on the other way strives to secure 10 billion USD from similar facilities in a year, he mentioned.

Furthermore, from the three outsourcing practices such as onshore, out shore, and offshore, the world was generated 730 billion USD, of which 350 billion USD is from business process outsourcing (BPO).

IT Park Corporation CEO Henok Ahmed on his part said that activities are being carried out to fulfill the required materials and infrastructure in the parks to expand outsourcing. Of the total IT parks in the country, 25% of them are ready to BPO while efforts are underway to reach 30 % this Ethiopian budget year.

The country is working towards capacitating the parks to become innovation and job creation hubs. Meanwhile, extensive endeavors are essentials to achieve the expected goals and to be competitive at the international level. He stressed that providing proficient human resources and bridging

the language skill gaps require the joint effort amongst concerned bodies.

Innovation and Technology (MiNT), State Minister Yeshurun Alemayehu (PhD) said that the country has been working to reduce the level of poverty and unemployment since the last five years by taking homegrown economic reform and establishing a 10-year development plan.

In this regard, the MiNT strives to create conducive environment for job creation, unemployment reduction and good governance. "We are in close with the MoLS due to focus on creating suitable environment for job creation through increasing the capability of citizens in digital skills, innovation, startups and the likes," he said.

According to the state minister, providing skilled manpower, ensuring digital transformation, and realizing digital economy are among the focus areas the country is exerting ultimate efforts to achieve economic success and improve citizens' lives.

# Opinion

## Abbay Dam assisting the progress of Ethiopia, Horn of Africa

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

It is important to highlight that at the time when Ethiopia laid the cornerstone for the construction of the Abbay Dam, the population as a whole could not believe their eyes and ears. Above and beyond, people residing under Ethiopia's skies set going feeling on top of the moon and expressing their opinions at the earliest possible moment.

When Ethiopians set in motion working around the clock with the intention of making poverty history, some groups that hate to death Ethiopia's development embarked on hurling criticisms almost immediately. Notwithstanding the fact that they know like the back of their hand the fact that the Nile River flows from Ethiopia through Sudan to Egypt, not from Egypt through Sudan to Ethiopia, they are not in the position to lend their ears.

In a similar manner, following the construction of the dam, the federal government ended up putting a simile on the face of Ethiopians and friends of Ethiopia. They have jumpstarted bursting into laughter forgetting the past. Since the announcement of the filling of the Dam, the population as a whole has been crying tears of joy time and again. In this day and age, the country has sustained making history.

In actual fact, the people of Ethiopia, for decades, expressed their remorse in view of the fact that the Nile River did not benefit their motherland except flowing to other nations to no avail. Notwithstanding the fact that tremendous efforts have been made to exploit the Nile River, transform the lives of the population as a whole and address electricity problems at the earliest possible moment, bringing about the anticipated goal was persistently turning out to be a wild goose chase and futile pursuit.

At that specific point in time, albeit the idea of constructing the Dam came in and out of everybody's mind, making the most of the Nile River was not easy to deal with. However, through the passage of time Ethiopia turned out to be triumphant over bottlenecks that had been throwing a wet blanket on constructing the Dam and taking the country to a new horizon.

In light of the current situation, the gear shifter project is on the way to see the light of day and harvest the fruits of achievement. In the recent past, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) reiterated Ethiopia's readiness to negotiate on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), according to information obtained from local media.

The premier responded queries from the House of People's Representatives at its 14th regular session. In his response regarding the trilateral negotiation on GERD, he said Ethiopia is ready to listen to the demands of the brotherly people



of Egypt and address them to the best of Ethiopia's ability.

The premier has also stressed the need for readiness by the Egypt side too to address Ethiopia's demands. The information claiming that Ethiopia's filling of the GERD will cause the Aswan Dam's water volume to decrease has also been practically disproved. The GERD has demonstrated the fact that there will be no damage to the lower riparian countries, it was indicated.

The premier stated, "The filling of GERD will not be a question anymore. Ethiopia's intention is to develop together with discussion and cooperation. However, the idea of promoting merely owns interests won't take us any further."

In the present climate, the flagship project at various points in time has been making progress in the right direction in the face of a considerable amount of challenges posed from Ethiopia's adversaries. As the saying goes; "The dogs barks but the caravan moves on", though a lot has been said since the inception of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, Ethiopia has sustained making the impossible possible and the unthinkable thinkable.

It is a well-known fact that people from all segments of the society have been contributing the whole kit and caboodle they possess for the construction of the gear shifter project owing to the fact that it will change the lives of general population and take the country to new perspectives and opportunities in the not-too-distant future.

To everyone's dismay, some groups that feel an extreme animosity towards Ethiopia's development have been bending over backwards to pour cold water on the efforts of the government.

From the early days of the laying of the cornerstone for the flagship project, Ethiopia has been working in close collaboration with downstream nations to resolve disputes and establish mutual trust among them. No matter how far Ethiopia voyaged to resolve predicaments revolving around the construction of the Dam, attaining the anticipated target is not

a simple task.

On the topic of the construction of the Abbay Dam, pundits have expressed their feelings, ideas and thoughts in a number of ways. A case in point, GERD Negotiating Team Member Gideon Asfaw recently said the completion of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam should be big news for the continent, especially for the east African nations.

In an exclusive interview with ENA, Gideon said the execution of the Dam through the knowledge and resource of Ethiopians is indeed gratifying. The launching of the Dam about which a lot has been written had influence on nations. In this respect, the completion of the Dam should be "great news" for Africa, especially for neighboring nations, the negotiator believes. According to him, the Dam plays a leading role in strengthening regional ties as the benefits of the GERD are not limited to Ethiopia.

It will rather bring a number of benefits, including prevention of flooding and evaporation as well as provision of regional power interconnection. He further stated that Ethiopia should continue working on similar projects to support its economic growth and its journey to get out of poverty by using natural resources.

As a nation that has strong commitment to resolving issues through dialogue, Ethiopia has made great efforts to resolve the unresolved issues around the Dam in negotiations.

With regard to the construction of the Dam, the downstream nations have made quite a lot of efforts to politicize the issue and internationalize the technical matter taking the matter to UN Security Council and Arab League. Even though Ethiopia's adversaries go every so often to the ends of the earth to conspire with other internal and external adversaries to halt the unstoppable project, all their endeavors ended up going for nothing.

For the sake of fairness, politicizing the issue of the Dam is regarded as adding fuel in the flames. Quite a lot of times,

Egypt has spared no effort to hoodwink the wider international community with inflammatory rhetoric and misleading information.

As the federal government has established a good rapport with Ethiopians residing at home and abroad, they have been partaking in the construction of the Dam. This being the case, Ethiopia's dream is going to bear fruits. As a matter of fate, Ethiopian Diasporas have turned out to be the leading guardian of the project countering misinformation. The motto "It's My Dam" has created a great sense of ownership and inspired Ethiopians to provide unwavering support for the construction of Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and bankrolling finance to the construction.

Though Egyptians know the fact that Ethiopia has no intention of harming Egypt and Sudan devoid of water, they were untiringly pouring cold water on the endeavor of the government paying no heed to the unvarnished truth.

The coordination office recently said it is the time to mobilize the business community's involvement to replicate the Adawa Museum and other mega projects' success in the completion of the Abbay Dam.

It should be borne in mind that Office of National Council for the Coordination of the Public Participation on the Construction of the Abbay Dam along with pertinent stakeholders organized recently the "Bond Purchase Program" for investors, financial institutions, development organization, and NGOs under the motto "Together We Can."

Speaking at the occasion, the Office Director General Aregawi Berhie (PhD) stated that the public has been supporting the construction of the Mega Dam financially, professionally and in other ways since its launching.

Accordingly, some 19.4 billion Birr was collected from the public from bond sales and donation, lottery, SMS and other income-generating schemes from the launching of the Dam till May 7/2024. Similarly, 1.2 billion Birr has been collected from the public to the iconic project over the past 10 months of the current fiscal year.

Noting investors' contribution to Abbay Dam is not exceeding from 50%, the chairperson mentioned that insufficient payment alternatives and interest-related issues are contributed to the business community's limited role in the fundraising. "However, nowadays, there are many alternatives to enable the Diaspora community, investors, and every segments of the society to be active participant on the mega project."

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

# Editorial

## A milestone in Transitional Justice

At a time when the country is busy implementing various economic and political reforms, the Ministry of Justice has announced the completion of preparation of road map for the execution of Transitional Justice in the country. This is a vital and decisive milestone in the realization of durable and ideal solution to the backlogs of political problems that dragged the economic and social development of the country.

Transitional Justice, as applied in various countries is a commendable way to address injustice and grave crimes committed in the past that are playing adverse role still in the current affairs of the people. This makes transitional justice an all-time priority agenda that takes a bottom line position in the overall activities of a country. The initiative taken to solve and clear up the problems of the past is mandatory so that the country can fully engage in paving the way forward for the economic and social growth of the people.

In order to succeed in all the economic and social development agenda the country needs to streamline efforts of effectively executing transitional justice and concentrate all its focus, resource ... etc to the other top priority of ensuring development.

Ethiopia is currently implementing a macro economic reform program which liberalizes sectors of the economy and is believed to lift the country out of the cycle of economic crisis and lead it via a market led economic development.

The economic reform is a high level feat likely to take a lot of efforts to realize. The effectiveness of the reform program needs to get due support by the government, the private sector and the people in order to become a reality. For instance, the country must be able to attract an increased level of foreign direct investment to make sure that the economic development becomes sustainable.

The country also has to succeed in its overall, large scale programs of environmental protection and climate change prevention which is targeted at thwarting the global threat of climate change. It is well known that the global issue of climate change unfairly harms developing countries especially Africa as they lack the financial and technological capacity to fend it off. If the countries do not work strongly and conquer the effects of climate change they are likely to lose their economic and social development gains. As can be seen in many parts of the continent, climate change is posing imminent threats like drought, flooding, landslides ... etc. Therefore countries like Ethiopia need to take pioneering actions that significantly address the impacts of climate change in the continent.

Furthermore, Ethiopia is responsible to contribute duly to the peace and stability of the region as it lies strategically in the epicenter of the region as well as owns majority of the population as well as the economic activities. Therefore, finding lasting solution to its internal issues of peace and justice can serve as integral factor to the overall peace and stability of the region.

Hence, it would be no exaggeration to consider the transitional justice process as a fundamental step in putting the country's socio-economic development on a firm and solid foundation. It is also of paramount importance to the regions peace, justice and economic development.

Considering all these facts, all stakeholders at home and abroad need to further extend their collaboration with the government to successfully implement the upcoming phases of the transitional justice process in the country.

# Opinion

## New Year feasts in Ethiopia unite people of diverse backgrounds

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

The Ethiopian New Year is a source of inspiration for all Ethiopians. Farmers in the rural areas tend their farms expecting a bumper harvest in the next season for food stuff. School children are getting ready for the new academic year while university students throughout the country are preparing themselves for yet another year in college.

Despite some challenges that it faced in different places the country is now enjoying good rainy season and there is a relative stability in most of the areas in the country. Ethiopia conducted a promising level of diplomatic activities in terms of climate, diplomacy and successfully conducted the first part of the second phase of National Green Legacy Initiative by planting more than 30 billion trees to date since 2019. After painstaking and rigorous negotiations, the nation was able to secure more than 27 billion USD in foreign loan and grants which set the cornerstone for the implementation of Ethiopia's Macroeconomic Policy.

Rehabilitation of the war devastated areas in northern Ethiopia is going on along with attempts being made to distribute relief food to the needy. Despite huge economic challenges, the country has been able to register economic growth exceeding 7%.

Ethiopia has now ceased to import wheat and is also looking forward to be self-sufficient in rice and other food items through the Basket Bounty Program. The country expects more FDI for the years 2017 propelling more progress in better performance at Ten Years Perspective Plan and Digital Ethiopia by 2025.

Accordingly, more focus is to be made on improving the entire education system in the country through the participation of major stakeholders and the public at large.

Traditionally *Enkutatash* is an annual celebration of peace and tranquility among all the people of Ethiopia and is also a season of optimism and hope for better life.

The author hopes that the year 2017 could be a year of peace given the following conditions.

Any political organization or group that has outstanding issues should be ready to resolve them only and only in a round table situation and not through war in which there would be no winner. War always results in loss of humans and property that the country and its population have earned through hard work over time.

There must be a total respect for the rule of law, order and ENDF which is protecting the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity and which is already contributing its part in the national development program of the country. Attempting to tarnish the image of the defense forces is no less than a

total betrayal on the country.

Second, the nauseating false propaganda based on ethnic empty glorification needs to stop and the people of Ethiopia must make a direct participation in the promotion of peace in the country through effective participation in the National Dialogue and Options for the implementation of Transitional Justice instead of waiting only on the government. This is important because peace is of critical importance for the nation.

The new sub-culture of hatred and multiplication of historical biases must be stopped through meaningful and purposeful national dialogue.

Third, all armed persons must give in their weapons and only the security forces should be allowed to carry firearms. The peace and stability of Ethiopia is always threatened by gun tottering groups and individuals who are not being controlled by the laws of the country. It is not enough to promulgate laws on guns but strict strategies must be put in place for their implementation.

For a country like Ethiopia that has been plagued by internal and external wars. The quest for peace is not a matter of priority only for governments that come and go, the public needs peace more than anything else but is not doing enough to secure it in a more effective way by cooperating with the government.

September is a month in which the Ethiopian academic year starts and schools and higher institutes of learning must ensure that school and university campuses are used only for academic purposes and for promoting peaceful and quality education and not centers for ethnocentric politicking.

The New Year celebration is a historically handed down cultural bond that kept together the diverse people of the country. Moreover, the New Year is expected to be a year of tolerance, peaceful coexistence and respect for each other. This is necessary because the people of Ethiopia have suffered a lot from hate politics and groundless hypocrisies.

To date, *Enkutatash* has not been properly advertised and promoted with the purpose of luring tourists into the country who could stay in Ethiopia right up to the *Meskel* Festival that is celebrate two weeks after the Ethiopian New Year. All line ministries and private tour operators must work in unison to maximize the benefits that the country can receive from tourism.

*Enkutatash* is an excellent occasion for promoting and marketing traditional cuisines in Culinary Tourism or Food Tourism which is composed of activities that provide experiences of consumption and appreciation of food and beverages, presented in such a way that values the history, the culture, and the environment of a particular region.

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



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# Business & Economy

## Ethiopian Airlines received a life time achievement award

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

The Ethiopian airline recently received a life time achievement award from the United States Government for its more than 7 decades service all over the world. Beginning in a good faith Ethiopian airlines turns 78 years of successful journey. Ethiopian started its flight from Addis to Cairo through Asmara and continued to introduce modern age technology and system. As a leading innovator, the airline was predecessor usurping new aviation technology.

Founded on December 21, 1945, and commenced operations on April 8, 1946, initially with former military Douglas C-47 transports, the Airlines over the years, it has grown to become Africa's largest airline. Currently, the Airline has a fleet of more than 146 modern aircrafts with an average fleet age of less than seven years. It has also more than 100 ultramodern air crafts on order.

In its formative years, except few countries, the Ethiopian played a dominant role in the provision of air transport services in Africa. In fact, in the 1940s and 50s, most of African countries were under the colonial rule and were dependent on the Ethiopian Airlines. While the decolonization process took place, the Ethiopian played pivotal role in providing transport service to the liberation armies' leaders to exert diplomatic efforts through lobbying their supporters.

Nelson Mandela, the ex leader of the African National Congress (ANC) which was then the liberation movement in 1960 came from Zambia to Addis Ababa by the Ethiopian airline and after he completed months' long military training he went back to Zambia by the same airline. Later the airline involved in providing passenger services to the delegates who came from various countries to participate in the foundation of the Organization of African Union (OAU) in Addis Ababa in 1955. During the following years of the establishment of OAU, the Ethiopian Airlines has served the African countries' delegates who came to Addis Ababa to attend the organization's annual and extraordinary meetings by providing air transport services from and to Addis Ababa for more than five decades.

In 1975, after the Portugal colonial forces were defeated by Angolan two liberation armies, UNITA and MPLA, the Ethiopian Airlines brought the two organizations' leaders Jonas Savimbi and Augustino Nato from Zambia to Addis Ababa to facilitate dialogue between the two rival political leaders to resolve their differences and establish new government.

The airline with its various training departments has been providing trainings to students those came from various countries to ground technicians, pilots, aeronautic engineers and management.

Recently, 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 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 the US President Joseph R. Biden, was presented to Ethiopian Airlines during the 8th Annual 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.

"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 Tasew, Group CEO of Ethiopian Airlines said.

"The President's Lifetime Achievement Award is a testament to the hard work and commitment of our employees, partners, and stakeholders". The CEO pointed out that Ethiopian will continue to innovate and expand its customer experience, ensuring that passengers enjoy unparalleled travel experiences. The award recognizes the Airline's outstanding contributions and dedicated service to communities in the United States.

As Ethiopian celebrates this remarkable achievement, it reaffirms its pledge to enhance its services and strengthen its ties with the US community, he said. The Airline has also been actively involved in community outreach programs, including supporting educational initiatives, sports, health care projects, and cultural exchanges. To expand its service provision the Ethiopian Airline received 34 square kilometer of land recently in the place

known as "Abusera" located near Bishoftu town in the Oromia region and allocated 17 billion Birr for compensation to farmers who will be relocated.

According to the Ethiopian Airline Group's CEO, the group obtained 740 hectare of land from the regional government to construct residential houses and other facilities to the farmers. Before the relocation of 2500 Farmers residing in the Abusera area, the residential houses will be constructed, and farmlands also will be availed.

To construct the residential houses and infrastructures restricted tender was announced for local contractors to compete and "Ktoel" company won the tender. As to Mesfin, until December 2024, the construction of the residential houses and other infrastructures will be completed and handed over to the farmers. Right after the dislocation of the farmers, the construction of the airport will begin.

The Ethiopian Airline group also announced tender for preparing design of the new airport and city which is going to be constructed in the place known as "Abusera" and the United Arab Emirates based company (DAR) won the tender. To select the designing company it invited internationally known 46 companies to participate in the tender and later 16 companies expressed their interest to participate and finally "DAR" company won the tender.

The construction of the project has two phases and the first phase will be accomplished in the coming five years. The new airport city has one big terminal and can have the capacity to accommodate 270 airplanes at a time. It also has four runways for takeoff and landing and the new airport also will be connected by express rail way route with the Bole International Airport. In the first phase construction two plane terminals will be finalized and start operation in 2029 and provides services to 60 million passengers annually.

When the construction of the huge airport city is completed it is estimated the cost of the construction would be six billion Dollars. Living its motto of 'The New Spirit of Africa' Ethiopian has created Africa-wide and transcontinental air connectivity networks linking its main hub, Addis Ababa to the rest of the world.

The Airline flies to 136 international passenger and cargo destinations at the moment, including 63 African cities, with daily and multiple flights with a minimum layover in Addis. As a veteran carrier serving a vast intra-African network, Ethiopian flies to more destinations in the continent than any other airline.

The Airline has been a member of the International Air Transport Association since 1959 and of the African Airlines Association (AFRAA) since 1968. In December 2011, it took a giant leap forward in its successful journey by joining Star Alliance, the world's largest airline network. Over the years, the multi-award-winning Airline has received countless coveted accolades and recognitions for its excellence including Skytrax's Four-Star Airline Certification, Best Airline in Africa title for several years in a row, and Overall Excellence for Outstanding Crisis Leadership Award to mention but a few.

Ethiopian Airlines is also among the high revenue earning companies in Ethiopia thereby contributing remarkable amount for the nation's economic advancement. It has announced a 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.

Building on its continuous success, Ethiopian has achieved an average growth rate of 25% in the past decade. Having met its 15-year strategic plan, Vision 2025, ahead of time, Ethiopian has charted out a more ambitious strategic roadmap called Vision 2035 to further bolster its continuous growth.

# Art & Culture

## The reflection of Compromise in the Zimbabwean novel 'Nervous Conditions' (Part Five)

BY MEKDES TAYE (PhD)

Compromise is the theoretical model that dictates a woman to identify the appropriate situation to compromise with characters in the novel or the mentioned situation for peaceful interaction or harmonious destiny. The novel, *Nervous Conditions*, which Tsitsi Dangarembga authored is examined and interpreted to explore the female characters' employment of the principles of compromise with male characters. The incidents that show the characters' use of compromise are presented in the subsequent paragraphs.

When Nhamo came for vacation from school, he left his luggage to be carried by his sisters. But the point is he was delighted to let his elder sister Tambu carry it because his other sister was too small to carry it. Thus, he deliberately pushed it to Tambu to show his superiority. He exhibited male superiority and a lofty personality since he came from learning. Tambu narrates the situation as in: "Knowing he did not need to help that he only wanted to demonstrate to us and himself that he had the power, the authority to make us do things for him. I hated fetching my brother's luggage" (Dangarembga, 1988, p. 12).

To avoid any tension and to preserve peaceful interaction in the family and the surroundings, she compromises with her brother in fetching his luggage as he wants. Even if she knew the intention of Nhamo, she preferred a peaceful resolution of the case by giving up the respect that she should deserve as an elder sister.

The other compromise was seen in the family of Tambu's uncle, Babamukuru. His wife Maiguru had a master's degree as Babamukuru that she got it from England as him. After they came back to Rhodesia, Maiguru was not allowed to work with her degree. She was simply staying at home taking care mainly of her husband and others in the house. Like an un-educated woman, she submitted herself for the authority of her husband. The way she talked to him was supposed to be exalted by regards and praises. As it could be seen in the coming discussions, she called him as "Babawa Chido", instead of Babamukuru. When she wanted to do something, she had to go round him for gaining his approval. Tambu mentioned this as:

"Then Maiguru appeared and innocently asked Babamukuru whether he was proud of his fine-looking daughter. 'I bought her that dress for working so hard at her exams, 'Maiguru beamed and contrived to remain beaming while her husband half-heartedly accused her of compromising his daughter's decency'" (Dangarembga, 1988, p. 109).

Here, the other point that Tambu raised was about ensuring peaceful interaction between Babamukuru and his daughter, Nyasha. Since Nyasha was not like other girls in society, Babamukuru was always in a clash with her. Consequently, her mother was trying to negotiate with him by showing sympathy and respect for him. She tried to alleviate the conflict between Babamukuru and his daughter. In doing this, she demonstrated her negotiation skills. As the extract showed, he was halfhearted; which means he didn't accept his wife's appeal. He was not ready to recognize the approach that Maiguru used even if she has an MA degree like him. He



never considered her as equal to him. In other words, he perpetrated women's subordination in his family and society as well. He didn't compromise with his wife. Because of his unwillingness to compromise in the situation, his daughter Nyasha suffered from mental disorder and confusion at the end of the story.

But contrary to him, his brother Jeremeh was seen compromising with his wife concerning the issue of Tambu twice in the novel. Consequently, Tambu had become a goal oriented, and self-motivated girl compared to Nyasha. This can be interpreted as the indigenous cultural value which was exhibited in Jeremeh and the patriarchal and colonial ideology exhibited in Babamukuru. These had different effects on the family and on society as a whole. Tambu had benefited from the indigenous culture while Nyasha became the victim of Babamukuru, the colonial-minded father. This was mainly because colonialism affected the family and society negatively.

The other character that Dangarembga portrayed in chapter seven was Lucia, the sister of Ma Shingayi. This character, as it will be seen in the coming sections, was very resistant in confronting even the chauvinist Babamukuru. She didn't marry which means that she neglected the cultural stubborn expectations. In that setting the woman like Lucia, was obliged to be in marriage, but otherwise such a woman was going to be ignored and degraded by the people around her. But Lucia was not affected by such perceptions. Instead, she was very proud of her own identity, and she knew how to compromise with people like Babamukuru. This is seen in the following excerpt. "Well, Babamukuru," said Lucia, preparing to leave, "Maybe when you marry a woman, she is obliged to obey you. But some of us aren't

married, so we don't know how to do it" (Dangarembga, 1988, p. 171).

This means she didn't feel that she was inferior to man since she was free. A married woman was under the control of her husband in patriarchal culture. Lucia's confidence is also very unusual for Babamukuru; hence he says this to his wife, not even in front of Lucia, "That one, 'she is a man herself'" (Dangarembga, 1988, p. 171).

Here, patriarchy seems to be confronted by Lucia who is not submissive to man. Babamukuru was compelled to compromise with her. In that specific setting such a personal trait and confidence does belong to a man not to a woman in the society which Babamukuru and Lucia brought up.

Lucia was represented as a woman who didn't fulfill the cultural expectations that would make her eligible for marriage. In one incident, she had lost her child due to a tough pregnancy. Her family pushed her out on the pretext that she would be looking after her sister Ma Shingayi. She started living in her sister's house with her lover, Takesur. This was not approved by the patriarchal figure Babamukuru. He commanded her to go back to her family, who are living in rural areas. When he came for Christmas, he ignored her. This incident pushed her to confront him as recounted in the quotation below:

"Even if you ignore me... It doesn't mean I'm not here. And anyway, Mwaramu be you can tell me plainly: Where do you want me to go? We both know I can't go home. Their sending me here in the first place, it was because there was no food and no work either at that place, isn't it? It is true, you know it. So, where do you want me to go? As for Takesure, ha-a-a! I know it's the way you joke, Babamukuru.

What would I go to do at Takesure's home" (Dangarembga, 1988, p. 125)?

Instead of pondering over the situation as other characters did, she speaks her mind in front of this cruel person. This was very odd and unnatural in the eyes of Babamukuru as he says: "It needs a good strategy to outsmart that woman. She is vicious and unnatural. She is uncontrollable" (Dangarembga, 1988, p. 148).

He thought this because she was the only woman who confronted him face-to-face with confidence. Since her reasons were justifiable, he couldn't find any other approach to persuade her to leave the homestead. This showed that Lucia was smart enough to induce him to compromise with her by bringing sound evidence. Thus, he was obliged to allow her to live there in the family.

As recounted in the story of the novel, Lucia had slept with the husband of her sister, Jeremeh and was pregnant. Since her lover Takesur was also there in the house, no one knew the real father of the fetus. On the other hand, throwing Lucia out becomes even more difficult because Takesure and Jeremeh, who have both slept with her and still want her, are blood relatives of Babamukuru. Moreover, Lucia was the sister of Jeremeh's wife Ma' Shingayi. As a result, in order to save the marriage of her sister, Babamukuru decided to allow her stay in the house. The confrontation between Lucia and Babamukuru can be interpreted as an incident showing the efficacy of Lucia which forced Babamukuru to compromise more than the mentioned reasons.

Babamukuru proposes the re-marriage of Tambu's father and mother which Ma Shingayi didn't even ask for, but she was forced to remarry at that age and socio-cultural setting. Tambu's mother revealed her concern and hatred of Babamukuru to her daughter. But she didn't confront him. This can be interpreted as being too strategical in keeping it inside her relevant rather than saying it out since the consequence of uttering her thoughts could affect the mood of Babamukuru. Thus, MaShingayi tolerates her emotion silently. If otherwise, she faced Babamukuru, then he might stop helping them economically. Hence, she was effective in balancing and controlling her emotions. She was different from her sister Lucia. This helped the family to live peacefully with Babamukuru. Furthermore, people around might refer to them as good family, and this in turn could help them give a good impression to society.

Another compromise was detected in the family of Tambu. Her father Jeremeh was influenced by his wife and agrees to compromise with her on different incidents. But Babamukuru was untouched by his wife Maiguru. Even if they were educationally equivalent, he embodied his authority because of the patriarchy and the colonial influence that he was obsessed with. In this regard, Nego Feminism argued that culture had its way of being used for making compromises. What matters is identifying the appropriate time, place, and situation or mood. Maiguru could look for other ways to approach her husband. But, instead, she preferred to be ignored and muted on certain issues. Nnameka believed that, it is up to the woman or man to identify the context for successful compromise to be made in between.

# Indepth

## Neglected for years, Mpox now a public health emergency of international concern

There is a deadly outbreak of a new and graver variant of mpox in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and at least one case has been confirmed in nearly 12 African countries, including those like Kenya, Burundi, Uganda, and Rwanda that were previously unaffected. Suspected mpox cases across these countries have surpassed 17,000, a significant increase from 7,146 cases in 2022 and 14,957 cases in 2023.

Many of these cases are in the DRC, where, for more than a decade, mpox cases have steadily increased as the disease remained neglected as a rare infection confined to far-flung remote rural areas in tropical Africa. But a recent move by the World Health Organization (WHO) strongly suggests that this is no longer the case, as a deadly mpox variant has recently emerged with alarming potential to spread very fast and far.

According to WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom, the emergence of “a new clade of mpox, its rapid spread in the eastern DRC, and the reporting of cases in several neighboring countries are very worrying. On top of outbreaks of other mpox clades in the DRC and other countries in Africa, it’s clear that a coordinated international response is needed to stop these outbreaks and save lives.”

Dr. Onyango Ouma, a Kenyan-based medical researcher, told IPS there are two endemic types of mpox virus: clade I, which causes more severe illness and deaths. Some clade I outbreaks have killed up to 10% of the infected and are highly endemic in Central Africa, and clade II, which caused the 2022 global Mpox outbreak, is more endemic in West Africa.

More than 99.9% of those with clade II survive the disease. The new variant has been classified as clade Ib and can spread through sexual contact. Recently, on August 15, global health officials confirmed the presence of clade Ib infection in Sweden, signaling that the viral infection had taken on an international dimension.

It is this new and highly contagious clade Ib mpox, more grave than the deadly and endemic clade I, that has spread to other African countries that were previously untouched by the viral infection. Kenya is on high alert and has activated all 26 public health emergency operations centers countrywide, prepared laboratories for mpox testing, and deployed 120 trained personnel to manage any potential outbreak.

More than 250,000 people have already been tested thus far since Kenya intensified mpox screening at the beginning of the month. Two Kenyans, in two different parts of the country are currently undergoing testing for presenting with a skin condition akin to the mpox rash.

Although there is only one confirmed case of clade Ib in Kenya thus far, experts such as Ouma say there are likely to be more cases, especially due to Kenya’s position as a hub for travel within the East African community. The mpox case was of a driver



Kenya has activated all 26 public health emergency operations centers countrywide and prepared laboratories for mpox testing to manage and control an mpox outbreak.

traveling from Uganda to the Kenyan coastal city of Mombasa.

Kenya has 35 points of entry and exit or borders with five countries, including Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and the Indian Ocean international waters. To avert a public health disaster, Kenya is set to receive what has been labelled an Mpox war kitty assembled by donors to the tune of USD 16 million (Kes 2 billion).

Discovered in captive monkeys in 1958, the first case of monkeypox—renamed mpox by WHO in 2022—was identified in 1970 in DRC and in 2022, mpox spread around the world for the first time. Scientists at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say the virus that causes mpox is of the same family as the one that causes smallpox but is not related to chickenpox. As a zoonotic disease, it can spread between animals and people.

Ouma says while mpox is endemic in forested areas in East, Central and West Africa, it is the ongoing unprecedented spread and reach of the deadly clade Ib variant that has heightened concerns and elevated mpox as a global health concern worthy of attention from the global community of scientists and public health actors.

Stressing that “not even the more than 517 people who died from mpox, primarily in the DRC this year, raised the disease profile. African researchers rung the bell way before the 2022-2023 mpox outbreak, calling for increased investments from the global public health community to help increase diagnosis, prevention, management and control of the disease without much success.”

To put it into perspective, Ouma says the WHO declaration that mpox is now a

**The WHO declaration that mpox is now a public health emergency of international concern is raising the profile of the disease to the “highest alert level regarding matters that involve a public health risk to other countries, inviting an internationally coordinated response.”**

public health emergency of international concern is raising the profile of the disease to the “highest alert level regarding matters that involve a public health risk to other countries, inviting an internationally coordinated response.”

WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr.

Matshidiso Moeti, said, “Significant efforts are already underway in close collaboration with communities and governments, with our country teams working on the frontlines to help reinforce measures to curb mpox. With the growing spread of the virus, we’re scaling up further through coordinated international action to support countries bring the outbreaks to an end.”

Committee Chair Professor Dimie Ogoina said, “The current upsurge of mpox in parts of Africa, along with the spread of a new sexually transmissible strain of the monkeypox virus, is an emergency, not only for Africa, but for the entire globe. Mpox, originating in Africa, was neglected there, and later caused a global outbreak in 2022. It is time to act decisively to prevent history from repeating itself.”

Ouma says that while this is a step in the right direction, it is further proof that serious health inequalities and inequities prevail in the prevention and response to disease outbreaks. Since mpox was confined to the African continent and in remote rural areas of the DRC, communities have long been left to grapple with the infectious disease without the much-needed investments in diagnostic, therapeutic and infection prevention.

Stressing that there is a pressing issue around “under-testing and under-reporting as we lack the tools to tackle the disease. Clade I and II are endemic in Africa, but now that the deadly clade Ib strain can be sexually transmitted, suggesting that it could spread all over the world, we have a flurry of activities to combat the infectious disease as others outside the continent are at risk. This response has taken too long and it seems lessons from COVID-19 have unfortunately faded with time.”

(SOURCE INTER PRESS SERVICE)



# Law & Politics



## Peaceful path to access the sea: Ethiopia's modus operandi

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

The most volatile and dynamic region in the world, the Red Sea region has got numerous actors that have been vying to assert their hegemony. Securing a slice or place in this region, to some, is the focal point in nations' foreign policy priorities. However, seating just in stone thrown away distance from the region, it is nearly four decades since Ethiopia has been landlocked. As the country is the most populous country with close proximity to the Red Sea, the quest to have a genuine sea access is a righteous move.

Various actors from near and far have come to the region as it is one of the strategic areas in the world. For some landlocked nations like Ethiopia, having a sea access is in this regard a life and death scenario.

Coastal nations have been using their ports to generate additional income by renting the area to foreign nations who come from other continents. Conversely, some landlocked nations of the region have been bystanders while port owners enjoy their benefits. In this case, Ethiopia is among those who only watch others enjoying the party.

As a bold player in the region, Ethiopia has achieved countable accomplishments regarding the overall socio-economic and political issues of the region, but benefited much less from the opportunities of the area. The country is there when any neighbor needs any help or support. It has also shown its unwavering stand on unity and integrity. However, the region has not returned Ethiopia's favor and create conducive environment that incorporates all the nations.

Throughout the region, Ethiopia has played the role of a protagonist in defending the

wellbeing of the region. For those persistent regional issues such as peace and security, refugees, regional integrations, and the like are well addressed by Ethiopia.

The Government of Ethiopia always stretches its hands to its neighboring nations whatever the issues might be as the country is keen on regional integration and unity. Unfortunately, when it comes to mutual benefits, Ethiopia becomes isolated and unable to share the benefit.

It is the fact that, Ethiopia has never asked for any favor in return for the deeds it performs to its neighboring nations. Again, the country is always ready to work in partnership with any nations through mutual benefit.

History and facts tell that Ethiopia is the only nation that is very close to the sea but cannot access it. Accordingly, the government of Ethiopia has called all its neighboring nations with a sea access to let Ethiopia have its own sea port so that it will develop and administer by its own. Ethiopia proposed any exchange deal with its flagship projects or companies for the genuine sea access.

The saddest part is that, most of the nations with the sea access gave a deaf ears and blind eyes to the call. Even, those nations who own Ethiopia a favor have not accepted the call. On the other hand, Ethiopia persistently pushed hard for mutual benefits and also showed its willingness to negotiate.

Still, the Government of Ethiopia has not asked for any favor; rather, it wanted to have a better negotiation with its counterparts. Fortunately, Ethiopia's call got some attention from the neighboring Somaliland to sit around the table and negotiate. Strengthening their negotiations, Ethiopia and Somaliland signed the historic port deal on 1st of January, 2024.

Following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with Somaliland, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) stated on X (formerly Tweeter) that, the agreement could fulfill Ethiopia's historic quest for sea access, despite Somalia's opposition.

Since the news was heard, those nations who were deaf and blind for the Ethiopia's call have started to refuse the deal, especially Somalia. The Government of Somalia has forgotten Ethiopia's sacrifices for the country and started to partner with some historic enemies of Ethiopia. Besides, entities that have not done anything for the stability and development of the Horn have come to the stage and tarnish Ethiopia's name. Though all these ups and downs, the Government of Ethiopia has observed the situation and ready for any talk.

Though Ethiopia and Somalia have so many things in common and shared hard times together, it took months for the two counterparts to come to the table and discuss on their issues. Addressing the dispute and initiating the discussion, Türkiye took the responsibility to bring them for discussion.

Two round talks initiated by the Türkiye were concluded, and after the second round in Ankara, Ethiopian Foreign Minister Ambassador Taye Atskeselassie expressed optimism for more progress in the upcoming third round of talks with Somalia. He emphasized Ethiopia's legitimate interest and peaceful approach in securing reliable sea access.

During a bi-weekly briefing, Foreign Affairs Spokesperson Ambassador Nebiyu Tedla reiterated Ethiopia's commitment to pursuing sea access while resolving diplomatic disputes with Somalia peacefully. "It was once taboo to discuss this issue, but now almost all countries, including Türkiye and Somalia, recognize the legitimacy of Ethiopia's quest for sea

access," he stated. "This is a significant achievement for Ethiopia, and we will continue our pursuit through non-violent means to preserve regional peace and stability."

Despite progress toward a peaceful resolution, the final outcome remains uncertain. Ethiopia's claim, however, is strongly supported by historical evidence, which scholars consider valid and reasonable.

Historically, Ethiopia had access to the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden until Eritrea became independent. Historian Ahmed Zekeria emphasized that, Ethiopia's ancient civilization was closely linked to maritime activities and that the country's current landlocked status was artificially created to undermine its interests.

The historian further argued that, future stability in the Horn of Africa, with its 6,000 km-long coastline, depends on Ethiopia's access to the sea, advocating for a mutually beneficial mechanism that allows all countries in the region access to the coast.

Diplomacy and Political Science scholar Yisihaq Fikru echoed this view, noting that Ethiopia's lack of sea access has created significant challenges. He noted that, Ethiopia had stable direct access to the sea for more than ten centuries, and the current situation, where the country is landlocked, is deeply concerning for this generation. The scholar also stressed that relying on trade agreements for port access is not sustainable, as it increases the cost of imports and poses risks to national security.

Yisihaq concluded that, Ethiopia's ambitious developmental projects in political, economic, and diplomatic affairs require dependable access to the sea.

# Women in Focus

## Why including African women in economy makes economic sense

BY MEKDES TAYE (PhD)

In the area where I grew up, I remember that most of my grandmother's friends who were mainly mates at church and in social associations were working at small-scale informal businesses. When my grandma sent me to the market, I usually became excited since every woman sitting in the market invited me with some fruits from their sale. Exceedingly, I always got fascinated to see them gathered in the same place. Likewise, among our relatives who were residing in the rural areas, it was women who used to come to the market more often than men.

I was questioning my grandma, who has always been a reliable and brilliant one and whom I have ever known to answer any of my questions in the world.

She answered me, "They work in the market to cover their household costs which are the concerns of the woman rather than the man. He is not expected to worry about inputs needed for the kitchen.

I was too conscious of critically following up on things. I realized that children were mostly asking their mothers for school materials. The basic role of the husband is to buy sheep or goats during holidays. Other routine costs are left to be covered by the woman.

Thus, what did this mean if this woman is going to be enhanced on the level she is already doing this business, is these days crucial point. This idea is becoming the point of discussion at the continent level since the above-mentioned fact is the prevailing truth across countries of Africa.

Therefore, assumptions, research works, and panels have been produced on the topic. The continent and the world are admitting the necessity of women's inclusion in the economic sector for sustainable development. Policies and procedures are frequently drafted and to some extent implemented on the point.

Current statistics show that African women constitute 51% of the population. That means more than half of the people are women. These women are not taking the equivalent seat on critical issues like the economy. As the African Development 2015 report showed, "Women are more active as economic agents in Africa than anyone else in the world."

Here two points are visible. The first one is that women are very active agents in the economy more than their male counterparts. Second, African women are more active than those from other continents. Thus, involving women in the economic sector did mean a lot for the continent is a logical point to be made. Further, convincing facts were raised at the conference which was organized by the Wilson Center. At the conference, representatives of international organizations who work in business were speakers on the stage. Research which was done by BS members on the relevance of empowering African women economically was also presented.

As the moderator of the conference asserted based on unswerving sources, African women perform the majority of activities and in some countries, the figure makes up to 70% of the



workforce across the formal and informal sectors. She added that women play a pivotal role in the well-being of their families.

According to the 2015 African Union report, gender inequality in economic growth has affected the continent's development. Women were denied from participating in the economic growth to their fullest potential. Thus, the underdeveloped and the poorest sections of society are principally women, which mean more than half of the population stays underdeveloped.

At the conference, research work was presented by Widow Chester (Manager at Business for Social Responsibility social responsibility BS).

In the presentation, the meaning of the phrase, 'women empowerment' was defined based on the International Center for Research on Women. According to the definition, women's economic empowerment is, when she can succeed and advance economically and have the power to make an act on economic decisions."

The research finding identified three barriers that African women are facing when they attempt to economic empowerment. The first one is women in Africa are economically active through agriculture and trade pursuits but they tend to be constrained in the formal labor force. This means that though women are effective in performing more jobs, they are kept at the peripheral, and stay away from crucial positions.

They are only assigned to take over labor works that incurred the lowest pay and demanded exhaustive labor efforts. As the research found out, this trend had obliged the continent to miss 95 billion USD to be generated from the economic sector due to gender inequality in Africa.

The second barrier that pushed back African women from economic empowerment is that women are not given the same rights and benefits as men. But they are contributing a significant amount to economic activity. Therefore, much of their potential is lost.

In a society like Africa where patriarchy and underdevelopment are immensely affecting women, the major challenge that damages their psychological and financial set up of them is unfair treatment. Males are already recognized to take positions. When women get into a space with males, the favor always tends toward males. Rights are fair in the

situation of males but obligations are bolded when it comes to females. In Africa, the right to own land and wealth is dominantly forbidden for females. It is the male who is entitled to inherit the land and own it. Thus, women are forced to rely on males for living. Here, the logic that the globe equally verbalizes is that women's economic empowerment is crucial for creating a more inclusive and productive economy that everyone benefits from.

The third one is that African women face greater educational barriers, and carry heavier social burdens than their male counterparts. In the continent, the number of girls in high schools and higher institutions is below half percent. A huge number of females are out of any form of education. This compels them to stay away from any competitive positions. They are forced to take over social responsibilities and confined to household chores only. In addition to that, they don't know how to lead their family in the right way. They can't be models for their children. They are also neglected from any form of innovation and technological platforms.

In the research, the conductors have identified three important building blocks.

1. Safe and equitable employment opportunities should be planted in the continent to empower women economically. In the continent, the dominant women are unemployed, self-employed or they are forced to work informally. This has a greater effect on the health and well-being of the family. Though they had the potential and need to work more and contribute to their family and the continent too, the abusive working environment, gender bias, and gender discrimination did make them dependent on their family. This enlarges to the community level and country-wide. This, in the long run, can drag the continent back.

2. There should be a safe environment that secures social protection and child care. This idea is forwarded based on the research that showed that in Africa, employed women are suffering from insufficient maternity leave. This has its own impact on pushing her to cease her job or it affects the born baby to miss his mam in its early age while it is a period that he needs her more than anything ever. Even daycares are not efficient. There is a problem as inspected in the research. There is a shortage of appropriate accommodation and nursing accessibility. These cumulative challenges prevent the woman from sticking

to her work and being competitive with her male counterpart.

3. Inclusive and accessible education and training should be expanded in the continent. There is a saying that I believe, emanates from the practical reality of the African socialization status. That is 'teaching a woman is teaching a society'. This sounds much more like women are more attached to their children and society than males. Thus, teaching a woman has a greater impact on reducing the intergenerational poverty rate. An educated woman can be able to compete in any sphere with males. She can develop the knowledge, efficiency efficacy, and confidence to pass through challenges she may experience in the track of any leadership position. An educated woman can stay as an inspiring instance for her children and help them succeed in their studies. Thus, accommodating women in education is decisive for effective competition for herself and the community too. An educated woman knows how to achieve success since she can handle things easily and can adapt technologies easily in business.

The research that was appreciated at the conference in bringing the facts of the African women with tangible data was concluded by suggesting recommendations. The presenter had forwarded three recommendations.

The first suggestion was forwarded to those institutions that focus on business. These institutions are recommended to create gender-sensitive workplaces and benefits. African women are still the abused sections of society. Thus to foster gender equality, securing basic workplaces be sensitive to gender is the best measure that can bring a change in gender-based violence. Till gender-based treatments are fully eliminated, special concerns for women, I believe, need to be the primary targets of those institutions that aim at making business.

Since males are socially approved and recognized sections of society, they are taking any benefits in business areas. Thus, women are lagging back financially and psychologically. This needs to be changed. Women need to be equally considered as per their merit. Sex shouldn't be the criteria for any favor made by institutions and organizations.

The second recommendation is training. Training needs to be given on leadership for the advancement of women's empowerment in Africa. African women face cultural and structural barriers when they dream to advancing themselves economically. Thus, women needed to be promoted to take positions in the economic sectors. Supportive mentors should be given to encourage women to join economic spheres. Greater care should also be given in the recruitment process in this sector.

The third one is entrepreneurship and business linkages that focus on women should be fostered. Women have been facing various challenges. Thus, institutions and concerned bodies need to work on enabling women to be effective in creating jobs and linking with others. They need to be directed and situations should be made good for them to create good relations with others.

# Society

## Research-driven solution to elevating education quality

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

The role of quality education in fostering positive change in the socio-economic development of a country is undeniable. Ethiopia, as a nation striving for economic transformation, the government has placed significant emphasis on enhancing educational quality as a fundamental pillar of its development strategy.

As part of this effort, the government has been implementing various mechanisms and strategies that can lay a foundation for improving educational quality at all levels thereby achieving the expected positive results in the area. Similarly, research initiatives that support the government's efforts have been carried out to bring about meaningful changes in the education sector. Accordingly, though several activities remain to be done, promising results are witnessed.

Recently, a forum that aims to discuss ways to alleviate the challenges in the education sector sustainably was held at Worabe Town, in the South-Central Ethiopia State under the theme "Education for Generations".

The forum illustrated the importance of conducting research works focusing on identifying and addressing the specific challenges of the education sector. The discussions emphasized that actionable insights derived from such research works would play a crucial role in devising effective policies and strategies.

Speaking at the forum, Education Minister Prof. Berhanu Nega articulated the government's aggressive stance to ensuring educational quality across the nation. He also revealed that an action plan has already been initiated aimed at transforming the educational landscape. What is more, subsequent research works are being conducted, with the intent to turn the findings into practice within a short timeframe. This proactive approach signals a commitment to not only identify the issues but also to develop and execute practical solutions that can lead to substantial improvements in the sector.

According to Prof. Berhanu, a critical aspect of the government's educational agenda is the cultivation of responsible and rational citizens. Producing well-rounded individuals, who can adapt to new situations and develop the ability for critical thinking and problem-solving skills, should be the primary focus in realizing the progress already underway in the country, he emphasized.

On his part, Region Deputy Head, Endashaw Tasew said that it is important to strengthen the education sector to generate academically and morally responsible citizens. In this regard, all stakeholders and pertinent bodies are required to contribute their utmost effort to achieve tangible results by overcoming the challenges witnessed in the sector. Implementing an education system that includes all sections of society in the State is necessary to produce responsible citizens, he added.



Participants of the forum, at Worabe Town



Regarding those students who are falling behind in education for various reasons, Endashaw said that special attention will be given to bringing them back to class.

Social Cluster Coordinator and Head of the Education Bureau at the rank of Deputy President in the Central Ethiopia State, Ethiopia, Anteneh Fikadu, on his part, said that emphasis is being given to implementing quality and equity-based education system in the State.

He also confirmed to strengthen effort and create a strong educational system in the State, "The State will work aggressively to ensure the production of responsible citizens."

Education is always heralded as the cornerstone of any country. It does not only equip individuals with knowledge and skills but also fuels broader economic growth, social cohesion, and civic engagement to the whole nation. In this respect, quality education is not merely about academic achievement; it also encompasses the development of critical

thinking, civic responsibility, and social awareness. At the heart of a truly effective education system, lie the dual principles of quality and equity. In this respect, as indicated by senior government officials, timely and evidence-based research works have a key role in addressing the gaps witnessed in the educational sector and producing morally responsible citizens. This also demands the commitment of everyone at all levels.

Recognizing that, quality education is an essential element for sustainable economic growth, Ethiopia has initiated several programs to improve educational standards. These initiatives are backed by research works that highlight the need for comprehensive reforms to address the persistent challenges facing the education sector.

Following the reform, Ethiopia has made significant strides in transforming its educational system through various interventions aiming at enhancing access, improving quality, and overall effectiveness. So far, these initiatives, driven by the

government and other stakeholders are bearing fruits in bringing positive results that impacted individuals and communities across the nation. Increased enrolment rates, curriculum development and reform, professional development programs, and integration of technology in education are among others.

Transforming the education sector is undoubtedly a challenging task that necessitates the commitment and collaboration of all stakeholders. This includes government bodies, educational institutions, development partners, teachers, parents, and the community at large. By working together, it is possible to create an environment that fosters educational excellence and, in turn, contributes to the socioeconomic development of the nation.

What is more, for education to be of high quality, it must be aligned with the needs of the students and the demands of the job market. A curriculum that emphasizes critical thinking, creativity, and practical applications prepares students for real-world changes. Incorporating modern technologies, revising teaching methodologies, project-based learning, and digital literacy can enhance students' engagement and outcomes.

In conclusion, the quest for quality education in Ethiopia is a crucial element in achieving socio-economic development. The government's commitment, supported by research and community engagement poses a promising path toward overcoming the challenges faced in the education sector. As Ethiopia continues to invest in its educational framework the potential for creating a more prosperous and responsible citizenry becomes increasingly attainable. The journey may be complex, but with collective efforts and a shared vision, the nation is poised for transformative change.

# International News

## Claver Gatete calls on SADC to scale up its potential and lead Africa in home grown innovative solutions to sustain development

**Harare, Zimbabwe (ECA)**—African countries should leverage on the youth potential in the region for innovation, industrialization, peace and socio-economic growth, according to Heads of state and leaders at the opening session of the 44th Ordinary of Southern African Development Community (SADC) Summit of Heads State and Government in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The Summit is being held under the theme: “Promoting Innovation to unlock opportunities for sustained economic growth and development towards an industrialized SADC.”

In his acceptance speech as the incoming SADC chair, Emmerson Mnangagwa, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, emphasized the need for Southern African countries to harness innovation potential to maximize value from their natural resources to accelerate development.

“We must ensure that youth and entrepreneurs including women embrace technology and innovation revolution for development,” said Mr. Mnangagwa.

The Zimbabwe president stressed the importance of developing innovative strategies across sectors to stay ahead of the fourth industrial revolution and build sustainable prosperity.

“Unity and solidarity among Southern African countries as crucial for achieving these goals,” he said adding that countries should implement initiatives under innovation hub programs to transform livelihoods and economies.

Emphasizing the importance of the region’s collective action, he said there is need for adaptive measures to address the impacts of climate change.

Addressing the Summit, Claver Gatete Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) said that SADC can lead Africa in home grown solutions in domestic resource mobilization and innovative financing to fight climate impacts and sustain development.

This, against Africa’s financial and climate challenges, including the sovereign debt in Africa which stands over USD1 trillion, causing severe fiscal stress, with more than 1 in 3 countries in or at high risk of debt distress.

Touching on the immense opportunities in the region, he said that SADC is home to most of the world’s gold, copper, cobalt, lithium, chromium, graphite, platinum and possesses significant livestock and agricultural endowments and if it scaled up regional value chains in energy, agriculture and critical minerals, the region could reap the benefits of sustainable industrialization, achieve food security, increase jobs and skills to reduce poverty and inequalities.

“There is no reason why Africa should import food to the tune of USD 120 billion per year when SADC can be Africa’s breadbasket,” he said.

The region, he said “offers enormous potential to increase the export markets within the beef and leather value chains and in the realm of renewable resources, SADC can

be a continental energy provider with the development of this value chain as it is using only one per cent of its solar and wind energy potential.”

He underscored the centrality of rapid industrialization as “not simply a question of convenience - it is a matter of absolute necessity.” This includes leveraging technology and innovation for sustainable industrialization, underpinned by regional cooperation and partnerships to unlock economic growth opportunities in SADC.

“We have no choice but to look inward for homegrown solutions including domestic resource mobilization and innovative financing for climate to sustain our development.”

“Each SADC country can be a cluster leader of innovation and breakthroughs and ECA stands ready to partner with you on this journey,” said the Executive Secretary.

For his part, João Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, and outgoing SADC Chair Highlighted progress made by the region in various sectors including in energy, transport and water resources and internet coverage.

The SADC region he said, now has 86% mobile network coverage and 54% internet access which means that half of the region’s population has access to information and communication.

“I urge member states to continue investing in energy infrastructure to increase production, transmission and diversification of energy sources and adopt sustainable practices to

promote economic development,” he said.

Additionally, Mr. Lourenço noted the efforts by member states to simplify and facilitate regional movement of people and goods with the introduction of visa exemption by some countries and abolishment of visas by others and creation on one stop border posts in order to simplify and facilitate the movement of people.

He also mentioned the ongoing efforts to maintain peace and security in the region.

As the new President in the region Nangolo Mbumba, Namibia President stressed that peace, security and governance must be prioritized to achieve the innovation and economic growth goals that are crucial for the region.

He acknowledged that the region faces a number of challenges especially in the area of peace and security but stressed the need for countries to continue to work together to build a prosperous future for all the SADC citizens.

For his part, Elias Magosi, SADC Executive Secretary highlighted the low level of intra-regional trade within region, primarily due to non-tariff barriers and emphasized the need to rededicate the collective efforts to reduce these barriers and promote cooperation.

He emphasized the potential of the region’s youth population, highlighting the need to benefit from the demographic dividend through opportunities for economic growth and development found in new technologies and innovation.

Source: UNECA

## Climate change re-modeling coffee value chains globally

Some people’s livelihoods depend on the coffee industry, but climate change is altering weather patterns, introducing or increasing pests and diseases and disrupting where the plants can be grown.

On a July Sunday, I woke up to a shocking CNN news headline: “Melting polar ice is changing the way earth spins, making days longer”. With such precedence, climate change is leading mother earth to global shocks and uncertainties.

Climate change has not spared the East African region with floods in Kenya, the rising level of Lake Victoria, the drought in the Northern region of Uganda and volatile changes of rainy seasons in coffee growing areas.

Oftentimes, the impacts of climate change have been reduced to global warming, but we have criminally underrated how it affects coffee production that supports livelihoods and economies.

As a beneficiary of the coffee value chain system where my father earned money to meet our school fees and domestic welfare, we have been provoked to have a rethink how climate change is reshaping Uganda’s coffee value chain system.

Uganda is the second largest coffee producer in Africa, the fourth largest Robusta producing country, and the 10th largest coffee producing country in the world.

In the financial year 2022-23, coffee contributed to Uganda’s annual export revenue of \$826 million, according to the UCDA.

Two coffee varieties are growing in Uganda, Arabica (*Coffea arabica*) and Robusta (*C. canephora*) comprising 20 per cent and 80 per cent of the total coffee production respectively, the UCDA’s 2019 Handbook noted.

Arabica is grown in the highland areas on the slopes of Mount Elgon in the East, and Mt Rwenzori and Mt Muhabura in the South-western and North-western regions, respectively.

Robusta coffee is grown in Central, Eastern, Mid North, West Nile, Western and South Western Uganda. About 1.7 million households and more than nine million Ugandans benefit from the coffee value chain system.

The livelihoods of farmers are directly tied to the success of their coffee crops. Coffee production relies on smallholder farmers; a population group that has been identified as the most vulnerable to climate change.

The future of Uganda’s coffee sector hangs in the balance because the country is ranked as the 15th most vulnerable to climate change globally, and the 49th least prepared country to combat the effects.”

The runoff and floods are anticipated to increase in coffee growing regions such as

Elgon, Buganda and Kigezi.

These trends can cause changes in pests and diseases, soil erosion and irregular coffee flowering.

Perhaps the areas that will become more suitable for coffee will compete with other crops or national nature reserves. And this may result in land conflicts between coffee producers and nature conservation.

Climate change is affecting the flowering and bean filling stages of coffee while the increased temperatures have accelerated ripening.

Prolonged droughts in the elephant belt and northern Uganda among other areas is causing plants to become weak, wilt and increase flower abortions.

In the Bugishu and Buganda region the increment in evapotranspiration has increased crop water requirements and yet most coffee farmers are mainly rain fed.

Because of changes in weather patterns, the effect of erratic rainfall will cause coffee to flower multiple times, causing farmers to pick coffee multiple times, hence increasing labour costs.

Long rains reduce flowering, affect fruit set and lower photosynthesis because of reduced temperatures.

Climate change affects the spectrum of pests

and disease. For example, the coffee white stem borer (*Monochamus leuconotus*) is a pest of Arabica coffee in low altitudes, but is anticipated to become a major pest at higher altitudes. Coffee leaf rust also is becoming more common at high altitudes.

It is essential that coffee smallholders adopt mitigation strategies to adapt to the effects of climate change. To do this requires a combination of suitable policy measures, technical solutions, research results and best practices.

A coffee agroforestry system, the integration of shade trees in coffee, can contribute to both climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts by sequestering carbon and increasing landscape resiliency.

Uganda’s coffee farmers are proving resilient and innovative. Many are adopting climate-smart agricultural practices to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

This is essential because the reduction in coffee production and quality affects prices in the global market.

My climate action call to East African Coffee actors across the board is to join synergies in ensuring that the coffee value chain system thrives to cater for people’s livelihoods and brings the world that cherished cup of coffee every morning.

Source: [standardmedia.co.ke](http://standardmedia.co.ke)



## Published Weekly in Collaboration with Haramaya University

### US based Ali Birra Foundation, IOHPA, SEWARD PHARMACY donate medical supplies to HU teaching hospital

BY DIRRIBA TESHOME

Charity organizations Ali Birra Foundation, IOHPA, and SEWARD PHARMACY recently provided medical supplies to Haramaya University (HU) Teaching Hospital, Hiwot Fana Comprehensive Specialized Hospital. All the generous donors are based in the United States.

Speaking on the donation handing over ceremony, Hiwot Fana Comprehensive Specialized Hospital Medical Director, Dr. Abdi Amin, said that the donated items include essential body immobilization devices, accessories, thermoplastic masks for radiation therapy, anti-psychotic medications, and lenses. “These critical supplies will significantly enhance the hospital’s ability to care for patients.”

He expressed his sincere gratitude to the Ali Birra Foundation, IOHPA, SEWARD PHARMACY and all the contributors for their invaluable supports. “Their generosity will greatly improve the lives of patients in the underprivileged community.”

And the team led by Dr. Nahomi Abdurhman, Chair of the Ali Birra



Some of the medical supplies

Foundation USA Chapter, delivered the donations alongside representatives from IOHPA and the Ali Birra Foundation. Both organizations have consistently supported the hospital’s psychiatric units and the Ali Birra Memorial Cancer Treatment Center.

The organizations have reaffirmed their commitment to continue their supports including advocacy and partnerships with local and international stakeholders.

*(Translated and Compiled from HU Public and International Relations Directorate report.)*



Dr. Nahomi Abdurhman handing over the donation