



The Ethiopian Herald

Vol LXXX No 290 14 August 2024 - Nehasse 8, 2016

Wednesday

Price Birr 10.00

UN Chief urges UNSC to expedite Africa's permanent representation

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA –United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres has urged the UNSC to conduct reform and provide Africa with permanent seat so that the continent which is home to over a billion people would have representatives.

During a high-level debate titled: “Addressing the historical injustice and enhancing Africa’s effective representation in the UN Security Council,” the UN Chief said that it is not acceptable that there is non-permanent member representing Africa - a continent of well over a billion people.

African voices, insights and participation must be brought to bear across the UNSC’s deliberations and actions, he stated.

According to the Secretary General, the Security Council was designed by the victors of World War II and the world has changed but the

See UN Chief urges ...page 3



Ethiopia’s Olympic heroes return home

• *Marathon gold, silver stars honored with command titles*

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- The Ethiopian Olympic team, fresh from their triumphs at the 33rd

Olympic Games in Paris, arrived in Addis Ababa yesterday to a hero’s welcome.

The delegation, comprising 39 athletes, was greeted warmly at Bole International Airport by Culture and Sports Minister

Shewit Shanka alongside other government officials.

Minister Shewit congratulated the athletes for their dedication and stellar performances that brought
See Ethiopia’s Olympic...page 3

Economists hail FX bureaus measure to rein parallel markets

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA - Aside from dismantling parallel market chains, the establishment of independent foreign exchange bureaus would have a paramount importance to transforming the country’s financial ecosystem, economists remarked.

Approached by the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Addis Ababa University Economic Lecturer Atlaw Alemu (PhD) said that the National Bank of Ethiopia has taken bold steps to equipping illegal actors with legal licenses in the parallel market to freely evolve in the transaction system.

He has also indicated that it opens venues for any potential business entities and banks to freely access and flow foreign exchange thereby boosting the government’s economic earnings from the sector.

Mentioning the negative impacts in
See Economists hail FX ...page 3

LAPSSET Corridor: Fast-tracking with new legal framework

BY YESUF ENDRIS

Following the LAPSSET Corridor Development Authority’s call for a regulatory framework to guide the trans-boundary infrastructure program, representatives from Ethiopia, Kenya, and South Sudan convened under their Joint Technical Committee (JTC) to assess progress and strategize the way forward. The Nairobi meeting culminated in the validation of the Regional Coordination Mechanism, a pivotal step to streamline financial issues and advance the project’s implementation.

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News



Aba Mohammed Damota

Participants optimistic on ENDC's vital move toward Nat'l consensus

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

DIRE DAWA-Participants in the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) agenda-gathering consultation phase in Harari State and Dire Dawa City Administration are optimistic that the process would expedite nationwide consensus-building.

Participants, representing various political parties, government bodies, and civil society organizations (CSOs), are expected to bring forward issues raised by their constituents and engage in discussions to formulate a comprehensive agenda for submission to the ENDC.

Aba Mohammed Damota, representing the elderly, emphasized the importance of bringing together all stakeholders in the National Dialogue. He stressed that the dialogue is crucial not only at the city level but also nationally, providing an opportunity to prioritize ideas over power struggles.

He urged that dialogue offers a peaceful alternative where everyone can have an equal voice, unlike war, which serves no purpose.

The elderly representatives further highlighted their efforts to ensure the inclusion of all actors in the National Dialogue and called on all citizens to actively participate in its successful realization.

Chala Furi, Deputy President of the Employers Federation, noted that peace is essential for development and economic growth, emphasizing that development can only occur in a peaceful environment. He stressed the dialogue's potential to resolve longstanding and complex challenges through discussion, fostering a culture of resolving differences around the table.

Yeshitela Mamo, Chairperson and Focal Person of Coordinators, added that the dialogue is key to addressing the concerns of citizens. Its inclusive nature will provide a platform for various segments of society and institutions to voice their ideas, ultimately helping to solve Ethiopia's challenges.

He urged participants, including citizens, to engage actively in discussions that are critical for the success of the dialogue.

The success of this National Dialogue is expected to contribute significantly to reaching a national consensus on vital issues, paving the way for a more united and peaceful Ethiopia.

Addis Ababa, Unity Universities to pioneering financial journalism training

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA—Addis Ababa University (AAU) and Unity University have joined forces with Bloomberg Africa to launch a groundbreaking program aimed at training Ethiopian students in financial journalism.

The Bloomberg Media Initiative Africa (BMIA) Financial Journalism Training Program (FJT) - Ethiopia, which was inaugurated yesterday, seeks to produce professional journalists in the financial sector, addressing the information gap by involving key stakeholders.

During the opening ceremony, Wondwosen Mulugeta (PhD), Vice President for Institutional Development at AAU, emphasized the program's goal of promoting the role of financial journalism in delivering accurate information to the public. He highlighted that this partnership aligns with AAU's strategic plan and will help cultivate proficient journalists in financial reporting through a six-month training program.

Wondwosen stressed the need for capable professionals in Ethiopia's media and journalism sector to achieve positive outcomes across various fields. Accurate information, he noted, is crucial for public and business decision-making, particularly in the context of emerging financial markets and securities exchanges.



Wondwosen Mulugeta (PhD)

"As AAU has been nurturing many journalists for over 25 years, our agreement with Bloomberg would enshrine regional and international competitiveness," the VP remarked.

Unity University President Arega Yirdaw (PhD) echoed these sentiments, describing financial reporting as an art that requires precision to effectively inform the public. He expressed confidence that the collaboration with Bloomberg will address Ethiopia's shortage of skilled financial journalists.

Bloomberg's Senior Program Manager, Aguil Deng, expressed pride in partnering with Ethiopian institutions to bridge the information gap and enhance the quality of financial journalism across the African continent.

The BMIA FJT program covers a comprehensive range of topics, including media landscape, financial journalism, data analysis and interpretation, financial markets, economics, accounting, finance, public policy, and environmental issues.

Lawyer initiates 58 bln USD compensation for air crash victims' families

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA - US law firm Ribbeck pushed Boeing to pay about 58 billion USD compensations to Ethiopian Airlines crash victims' families.

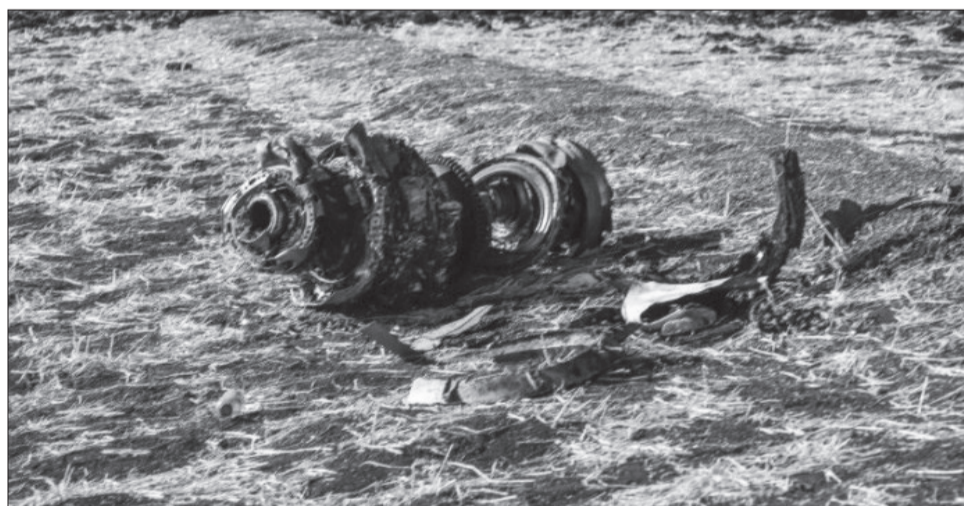
In a press release sent to *The Ethiopian Herald*, Ribbeck Law Chartered stated that it is seeking up to 58 billion USD compensations for families of victims who died from Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 737 Max crash in 2019.

Lawyers representing families of victims of the 2019 plane crash are pushing for more compensation as they dispute a new agreement between the U.S. Department of Justice and Boeing.

On July 24, 2024, the American Plane maker finalized an agreement to plead guilty to a criminal fraud conspiracy charge and to pay fines ranging between 243.6 million and 487 million USD.

The fines are a fraction of 24.8 billion in compensation that families of the crash victims had initially requested, however, the U.S. law firm has disputed that the agreement to pay the compensation amount is too little.

The law firm is pushing for a much higher compensation amounting 47 to 58 billion USD they say is more in line with previous criminal fraud cases involving corporate firms and where larger fines amounting to billions of dollars were charged-even when



they did not involve deaths.

Founding Partner at Ribbeck Law Chartered, Manuel von Ribbeck said that the proposed fine is grossly inadequate and fails to meet the standards set by prior precedents in penalizing corporations for similar egregious conduct.

The proposed fine for Boeing is a mere fraction of these amounts, failing to reflect the catastrophic consequences of their actions and undermining public trust in the justice system, Ribbeck added.

An Ethiopian Airlines jet headed to Nairobi from Addis Ababa's Bole International Airport in Ethiopia crashed shortly after take-off, killing all 149 on board including 9 Ethiopians amongst 35 other nationalities. The victims need additional compensation of billions of USD from Boeing.

Another plane of the same model was involved in a crash less than five months earlier, when a Lion Air flight crashed into the sea near Indonesia with 189 people on board.

Ribbeck argued that the DOJ's recommendation does not align with the scale of the wrongdoing and sets a dangerous precedent that large corporations can evade appropriate punishment for criminal activities that jeopardize public safety and trust.

He added that Boeing's actions were not just regulatory mistakes, but they were deliberate and deceitful measures to prioritize profit over human lives. Such conduct demands the highest levels of accountability and a penalty that truly reflects the magnitude of the crime.

News

Economists hail FX...

which the parallel market posed in the entire economic growth, the economist emphasized that this move promotes FDI, technology transfer, infrastructure development and job creation there by contributing to the overall economic development of the country.

According to him, this directive is also being implemented in Kenya, Djibouti and other countries in Africa. Indeed, the measure would minimize drug dealer's engagement and other border crossing crimes.

Welcoming the directive and underlining the possible down sides if not managed well, he stressed that it is ideal to explore lucrative sources of exchange earnings more than ever.

Another rationale, Wachamo University Economist Dawit Hayeso (PhD) noted that the existence of market-based forex rate allowed conducting such transactions



on the legal basis to freely negotiated exchange rates with their customers. Similarly, it would have a great significance on enhancing free market competitiveness and balancing the mismatch between the parallel markets with banks.

Apart from curbing illegal market chains,

he said, adding that it bridges the gaps witnessed in the exchange rates in the two markets.

More importantly, it will create ample opportunity for the local manufacturers to sell out their products at reasonable prices and boost export trades, he added.

It was learnt that the National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) has recently announced the directive that allows business entities owned by an Ethiopian national, non-resident Ethiopian, or foreign citizen of Ethiopian origin to operate in the independent FX bureaus.

Following the announcement, NBE Governor Mamo Mihretu highlighted that, "With the licensing of Independent FX Bureaus, we are marking yet another important milestone in opening up Ethiopia's financial sector, and also bringing it in line with global norms and best practices."

The Governor added that the launch of FX Bureaus reflects NBE's on-going implementation of its Strategy Plan commitments to meaningfully transform the size, shape, and scope of Ethiopia's financial sector in the coming years.

UN Chief urges...

composition of the Council has not kept pace.

"We cannot accept that the world's preeminent peace and security body lacks a permanent voice for a continent of well over a billion people, nor can we accept that Africa's views are undervalued on questions of peace and security, both on the continent and around the world," he said.

Likewise, UN General Assembly President Dennis Francis said, the fact that Africa continues to be manifestly under represented on the UNSC is simply wrong offending as it does both principles of equity and inclusion.

He went on saying, it runs counter to the principles of sovereign equality of states and calls for the urgency to reform this institution to reflect the world as it is now rather than what it was nearly 80 years ago.

"Today, I addressed the UN Security Council on the urgent need for UNSC reform, emphasizing the historical injustice of Africa's under representation. We must reflect the world as it is, not as it was 80 years ago. The credibility of the UN depends on meaningful change. I commend Sierra Leone for prioritizing this crucial issue" Francis posted on X.

During the meeting, participants from the UK and US have supported the urgency of reforming the UNSC to provide Africa with permanent seats.

In his statement by Lord Collins of High bury, Minister for Africa and the UN, at the meeting expressed the United Kingdom's belief that multilateral institutions remain indispensable though they are struggling under the strain of

new global challenges.

For these institutions to represent the world of today, Collins said that they must be as effective as they can be.

"So, we will work tirelessly with our allies and partners to strengthen them. For this Council, that means expanding our membership in both categories, to include permanent African representation as a matter of urgency."

Recognizing the obstacles the UNSC encounter to reform are significant, he noted that the United Kingdom is determined to overcome them.

On her part, US Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said that the United States supports permanent representation on the

Council for countries from Africa, as well as Latin America, and the Caribbean.

"For our part, the United States is advocating for language in the Pact for the Future that supports increasing both permanent and non-permanent seats on the Security Council. And we will push to ensure that the Summit of the Future is a platform for meaningful progress, one that creates a pathway for urgent action on Security Council reform. At the Summit and beyond, we will keep working to achieve Council reform," she said.

She mentioned that reforming and strengthening the UNSC Council does not just for the good of African nations, but to further international peace and security. "Because we all benefit when African leaders are at the table."

Ethiopia's Olympic...

global recognition to Ethiopia. The team secured a total of four medals in Paris-one gold and three silver-solidifying Ethiopia's reputation on the world stage.

"The government always prioritizes our athletes. Ethiopia's dignity has been upheld on several global podiums thanks to their efforts. We are immensely proud of the success our athletes achieved during the Paris Olympics," Shewit added.

Gold medalist and marathon runner Tamrat Tola shared his journey to victory, acknowledging the support of legendary athlete Haile Gebreselassie during his training. Initially a reserve, Tamrat stepped in after Sisay Lema withdrew due to illness. "I would like to thank Sisay for his decision, which allowed me this opportunity," Tamrat expressed.

In recognition of their achievements, the Oromia Police Commission Sport Club has awarded titles to its star athletes: Tamrat Tola has been honored as Commander, and silver medalist Tigist Assefa as Deputy Commander. Ethiopia ranked 9th in athletics and 47th overall in the Olympic Games.

A special recognition and award ceremony for the Olympic delegation was held yesterday afternoon at the National Palace.

LAPSSET Corridor...

Recent advancements in the LAPSSET Corridor mark significant progress in Ethiopia's ambitious regional infrastructure expansion. The committee highlighted the notable developments since the last Joint Ministerial Meeting in Juba in 2023. Technical experts stressed the importance of establishing a regional coordination framework and financing system, a priority that Ethiopia has championed since the program's inception. This framework is expected to be crucial for the successful execution of corridor projects, enhancing regional integration and connectivity.

Ethiopia views the LAPSSET Corridor as a key route to alternative seaports and improved international trade access, aiming to connect the country with Kenya's Port of Lamu and South Sudan. Beyond the tripartite cooperation, Ethiopia is formalizing its commitment through bilateral agreements, including a financial arrangement with South Sudan to fund a 220-kilometer road linking the two nations.

Ethiopian Ambassador to South Sudan, Nebil Mahdi, emphasized that improved connectivity with neighboring countries

reflects the government's foreign policy focus on regional relationships. Despite challenges such as inadequate roads, security concerns, and immigration services between Ethiopia and South Sudan, advancing such projects remains critically important. "Ethiopia may lack surplus financial resources, but regional integration demands such commitments," Ambassador Nebil stressed.

The LAPSSET Corridor presents Ethiopia with a vital opportunity for sustainable access to multiple seaports, supporting the nation's growing economy and population. The recent successful bulk cargo shipment through the Port of Lamu underscores the corridor's potential, according to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

Stephen Karingi, Director of the Regional Integration and Trade Division at UNECA, reiterated the corridor's importance in boosting regional connectivity and trade. He emphasized its role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union's Agenda 2063, while commending the progress in integrating corridor projects into national development plans. UNECA remains committed to

supporting collaboration among the three member states.

Kenya's Stephen Ikua, Director General of the LAPSSET Corridor Development Authority, highlighted the necessity of unified commitment for the corridor's success. He underscored the benefits of a regional coordination framework and streamlined financing for the project's cross-border components.

Echoing these sentiments, LadoTombe, Director General of the Road and Safety Authority of South Sudan, declared the LAPSSET Corridor Program a top priority for South Sudan. He announced that the World Bank had agreed to fund the engineering design and construction of the road connecting Nadapal and Juba, marking significant progress for the project.

The Joint Technical Committee will establish a legal framework to expedite the LAPSSET Corridor Program's implementation, enhancing coordination among the participating countries and further unlocking the corridor's potential to transform regional connectivity and economic development, as reported by UNECA.

Opinion

The urgent need for Ethiopia to secure maritime access

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

Never escape from the truth; to call a spade a spade, Egypt must have been bowing down to the blessings generated by Ethiopia. However, such blessings were considered exclusive property by a unilateral project denying the right to prosper and the and the sovereign right to utilize the natural resources of Ethiopia.

Here is an article on the merits and advantages of a sea port for Ethiopia, and how Ethiopia has been denied access despite its status as a major economic power in Sub-Saharan Africa:

As the second most populous country in Africa and one of the fastest-growing economies on the continent, Ethiopia stands tall as a regional powerhouse. However, this economic giant has been deliberately denied a crucial asset - direct access to the sea. This landlocked status, imposed upon Ethiopia through the vagaries of history and geopolitics, has long shackled the country's full economic potential, hindering its ability to truly thrive and fulfill its destiny as a continental leader.

The merits of granting Ethiopia a sea port are manifold and undeniable. Currently, Ethiopia relies on neighboring countries, such as Djibouti and Sudan, to facilitate its maritime trade and access to global markets. This dependence on external actors not only incurs significant logistical and financial costs but also leaves the country vulnerable to the whims and political machinations of its neighbors. A direct sea port would grant Ethiopia the autonomy and control it needs to chart its own course, unleashing a wave of economic prosperity that could ripple throughout the region.

The advantages of an Ethiopian sea port extend far beyond mere economic considerations. Such a strategic asset would bolster the country's geopolitical standing, empowering it to assert its influence and defend its interests in the Horn of Africa and beyond. This, in turn, would strengthen regional stability and foster greater cooperation among the nations of the Horn, reducing the risk of conflict and fostering a more secure environment for all.

Moreover, a sea port would serve as a hub for both regional and international trade, transforming Ethiopia into a veritable economic powerhouse. Goods and services would flow through this maritime gateway, fueling job creation, infrastructure development, and the growth of ancillary industries. The increased economic activity would not only benefit Ethiopia but also its neighbors, forging a tighter web of economic interdependence and shared prosperity.

Yet, despite these overwhelming merits, Ethiopia's quest for maritime access has been repeatedly thwarted by external forces. Regional rivals, driven by their own strategic ambitions, have sought to maintain Ethiopia's landlocked status, denying it the economic autonomy and geopolitical influence that a sea port would confer. This deliberate obstruction has stifled Ethiopia's



The Historical MoU signed by Ethiopia and Somaliland to Secure Access to Sea

growth, constraining its ability to realize its full potential as a continental leader and a beacon of prosperity in the region.

Again it is very crystal clear that the Egyptians are observed to poke nose on the Horn particularly pose a threat between Ethiopia and Somaliland for the purpose of rapacious plan which technically perpetuate to cripple Ethiopia.

To secure access to the sea and processing port while adhering to international diplomatic relations, it is viable for the Ethiopian government if it considers the following issues:

Negotiation on maritime access agreements is of paramount importance at the very beginning. In this regard, Ethiopia should engage in diplomatic negotiations with neighboring countries that have coastal access, such as Djibouti, to establish formal agreements that guarantee Ethiopia's right to utilize ports and maritime transportation routes. These agreements should outline the terms, fees, and operational procedures to ensure Ethiopia's seamless access to the sea.

Developing multimodal transportation corridors is also of great value to facilitate port related activities for Ethiopia and the other nation so that Ethiopia should focus on developing integrated multimodal transportation systems that connect its inland regions to the coastal ports. This could involve constructing railways, highways, and logistics hubs that facilitate the efficient movement of goods and people to and from the sea.

Strengthening regional economic integration should be among the factors to use ports safely based on mutual benefit. Ethiopia's active participation in regional economic communities, such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), to foster greater economic cooperation and integration with its neighbors is essential. This can help secure regional support for Ethiopia's maritime access needs.

For the fact that infrastructure is a bloodline for economic growth, investing in Port infrastructure should be seen seriously. To this end, Ethiopia needs to work with its coastal partner countries to invest in the development and modernization of port facilities, including cargo handling

equipment, storage capacity, and digital infrastructure. This can enhance the efficiency and competitiveness of the ports used by Ethiopia.

Establishing joint management arrangements of ports should also be given genuine space. Ethiopia may consider negotiating joint management or ownership arrangements with its coastal partners for specific port facilities or logistics operations. This can help ensure Ethiopia's long-term access and influence over the decision-making processes at the ports.

Most importantly, adherence to international laws and regulations is indispensable for the effective use of ports. Thus, Ethiopia should ensure that its maritime access arrangements and activities comply with relevant international laws, such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), as well as regional and bilateral agreements. This can help maintain good diplomatic relations and mitigate potential disputes.

Unequivocally, fostering transparency and cooperation has to be well treated. Ethiopia should thus prioritize transparency in its negotiations and agreements with coastal countries, and actively seek to foster a spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding. This can help build trust and goodwill, which are essential for sustainable maritime access.

By pursuing these strategies, the Ethiopian government can work to secure reliable and stable access to the sea and processing ports, while also maintaining strong international diplomatic relations.

The Horn of Africa, a region long plagued by geopolitical tensions and conflicting interests, has once again become the stage for Egypt's intrusive antics. In a brazen display of its regional hegemonic aspirations, the Egyptian government has reportedly interfered in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ethiopia and Somaliland, casting a dark shadow over the delicate diplomatic dynamics in the Horn.

The MoU, which was signed on 1 January 2024, outlined a strategic partnership between Ethiopia and Somaliland, covering a range of areas including economic cooperation, infrastructure development, and security. This agreement was seen as a

pivotal step towards strengthening regional integration and bolstering Ethiopia's access to the sea, a critical factor for the landlocked nation's economic growth and prosperity.

However, it appears that Egypt, long wary of any shifts in the regional balance of power, has sought to undermine this agreement, allegedly pressuring Somaliland to renege on its commitments to Ethiopia. This brazen interference, cloaked in the guise of "protecting regional stability," is nothing more than a cynical attempt to assert Cairo's influence and maintain its stranglehold over the Horn of Africa's strategic waterways.

Egypt's motives are clear: by disrupting the Ethiopia-Somaliland partnership, Cairo hopes to weaken Ethiopia's position and limit its access to the sea, thereby strengthening its own regional dominance. This shortsighted and self-serving approach disregards the legitimate aspirations of the Ethiopian and Somaliland peoples, who seek to forge their own path towards economic and political cooperation.

The international community must stand firm in condemning Egypt's meddling and affirming the sovereign right of nations to determine their own diplomatic and economic alliances. Undermining the MoU between Ethiopia and Somaliland not only undermines regional stability, but also sets a dangerous precedent of larger powers dictating the affairs of smaller nations.

It is time for the nations of the Horn of Africa to unite, to resist the malicious machinations of external actors, and to forge a future of shared prosperity and mutual understanding. Only then can the region truly flourish, free from the shackles of external interference and the relentless pursuit of hegemonic ambitions.

The time has come for the international community to recognize the urgency of this issue and throw its weight behind Ethiopia's legitimate aspirations. By facilitating Ethiopia's access to the sea, the global community can unlock a new era of economic dynamism, regional cooperation, and geopolitical stability in the Horn of Africa. It is a matter of justice, fairness, and the recognition of Ethiopia's rightful place as a major player on the African stage.

The doors to Ethiopia's maritime future must be opened, and the shackles of landlocked isolation must be cast aside. Only then can this economic giant truly soar, setting an example for the rest of Africa and cementing its status as a continental powerhouse. The time for action is now, lest Ethiopia's potential be forever constrained by the shortsightedness of those who seek to deny its rightful place in the global economic order.

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

Editorial

A consolidated peace resolves disputes, smoothens way to prosperity

The government has been making every effort and has gone the extra mile to address differences and resolve disputes through peaceful dialogues. The Pretoria Agreement signed between the government and the TPLF has created a new culture in Ethiopia for resolving deep-seated disputes through round table discussions.

Following the accord, both parties have demonstrated adherence and taken bold measures to fulfill the terms of the pact specified in the agreement. Consequently, the implementation of the peace deal has been in full swing; and the pacts entered into by the two parties, have been translated into action successively.

It was made possible to resume basic services, facilitate the provision of unhindered access to humanitarian assistance, restore law and order, and return the State to normalcy.

Establishing the Tigray Interim Administration was also another important step taken by the government to maintain the rule of law and consolidate peace in the State.

The government has also put an end to all military operations and the hostile rhetoric against the TPLF, including delisting the TPLF from a list of 'terrorist' groups by the parliament. Likewise, it passed a decision for the party to regain political legitimacy and re-register with the National Election Board of Ethiopia (NEBE).

Lately, concerning the current affairs of the country, the Government Communication Service (GCS) issued a statement asserting that the central principle of the Pretoria Agreement is adherent to the constitution and constitutional institutions. According to the statement, in all respects, the Pretoria Peace Agreement revolves around adherence to the country's constitution and respecting its institutions.

"The National Election Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) has recently issued registration of certificate to TPLF as a political party under the amended election proclamations number 1332/2016 article 2 (1). The government also accepts and commends decisions made by constitutional institutions based on legal and institutional freedom as it is the fruits of the ongoing reform," as to the statement.

Recalling that TPLF lost its legal status due to the decision made by NEBE in accordance with the Proclamation of Political Parties' Registration and Code of Conduct, for the party's involvement in violent activities, the statement highlighted the need for TPLF to work abiding by the country's political parties registration law and the mandate of the Election Board.

Underscoring the need to respect the constitution, laws, federal institutions, and other constitutional institutions as outlined in the agreement's article 7 (1), the statement has stressed the need for TPLF to operate by complying with the country's political party registration laws and NEBE's mandate.

The GCS in its statement also called for cooperation and to prioritize peace, reconstruction, and development and for a shift from contentious debates to constructive efforts that benefit the people.

True, unproductive debates and being extremely stubborn benefit no one as it yields any good. We also fully understood the undesirable consequences of dissension and discord.

The government has shown its firm stance on peace by implementing the terms of the Pretoria Agreement, even though some aspects need to be fast-tracked by both parties. Thus, putting aside the narration that gets no one anywhere, all parties have to work in the best interests of the people at all times.



The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays
By The Ethiopian Press Agency

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The Ethiopian Herald

Opinion

Buhe - the Ethiopian Traditional Festival marks by the end of rainy season

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

Before delving into today's topic, the author of this article wishes to express his deepest condolences for the families and individuals who lost their lives due to landslides in Gofa Zone, Wolayita, Kelem Wollega Zone, and parts of the Amhara Region.

In less than two weeks, faithful Ethiopians of the Ethiopian Tewahedo Church will celebrate *Buhe*. *Buhe*, also known as the Festival of Debre Tabor or the Festival of Transfiguration, is one of the nine outdoor religious and cultural celebrations observed between August and September in Ethiopia. This festival symbolizes the transfiguration of Jesus Christ on Mount Tabor in Israel, as recounted in the Bible.

This year's *Buhe* celebration (2016 EC) takes place amidst heavy torrential rains induced by La Niña, resulting in sporadic floods across various zones and regions in the country, leading to loss of life and property.

Chroniclers in the Ethiopian Tewahedo Orthodox Church note that the transfiguration was accompanied by a thunderous voice from heaven, proclaiming Jesus as the Son of God, a celebration that has been observed in Ethiopia for over 1600 years.

Historical and religious accounts of the church indicate that shepherds tending their sheep under Mount Tabor were late in returning home. Parents, concerned for their children, prepared small loaves of bread called *mulmul daboo*, which the children distributed among the poor in their communities.

Buhe is also a festival for children, who carry whips made of shrubs, locally known as *Jirraf*, and move in groups singing at each house they pass, reminiscent of the sound of thunder heard by the shepherds at Mount Debre Tabor. Traditionally, children are given loaves of bread known as *mulmul daboo*, which they collect and distribute among the poor at local churches.

The chorus of the *Buhe* song, "Hoya-Hoye," is sung by children in groups, thanking those who provided them with gifts. The songs may be occasionally incoherent, as children insert names and titles they wish for the head of the family listening to their songs, as tradition dictates.

Buhe is a memorable event for children and is considered one of the most important childhood celebrations, particularly in rural Ethiopia.

This festival effectively combines religious beliefs with cultural traditions, showcasing the culture of sharing

prevalent among the people of Ethiopia, known for their generosity towards the needy.

Ethiopia has an excellent opportunity to make the *Buhe* festival a center of tourist attraction and register it as one of the intangible cultural heritages of mankind. It is crucial to conduct feasibility research on the possibility of registering *Buhe* at UNESCO.

The festival is sometimes mistakenly assumed to be celebrated only in the Amhara Regional State. This is incorrect, as the celebration is observed by the faithful of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church across various nations and nationalities in Ethiopia.

Buhe also marks the end of the *Filseta* fasting season dedicated to the glory of the Virgin Mary. Despite the cultural significance of *Buhe*, nowadays, money is being used as a replacement for the traditional gifts of *mulmul daboo*.

Buhe is one of the most ancient religious celebrations in Ethiopia, symbolizing hope and aspiration for the upcoming spring, with farmers hoping for a bountiful harvest.

While all religious festivals in the country promote peace and harmony among the people of Ethiopia, there have been instances of individuals posing as religious zealots attempting to incite conflicts during such occasions. Recent events in some regions of the country demonstrate how religion has been exploited for political purposes, inciting hatred among communities that have historically coexisted with respect, harmony, and peace.

Religious and cultural festivals like *Buhe* are well-documented, which is crucial for future generations to understand the original meanings of these celebrations. The country needs a catalog of documented cultural and religious festivals for promotion, marketing, and as educational tools for sociologists and anthropologists.

This year, *Buhe* is also celebrated alongside nationwide volunteer activities in Addis Ababa and regional cities, fostering cross-cultural exchanges and networks among the youth, promoting lasting friendships.

Buhe is a festival of peace and friendship, and the youth in Ethiopia have a significant responsibility to utilize the occasion as a platform to advocate for peace and work towards achieving it nationwide.

Additionally, *Buhe* is celebrated as Ethiopian youth prepare for the upcoming academic year, anticipating quality education.

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

Business & Economy

Appraising economic diversification through horticulture

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Horticulture exports from Ethiopia are growing very rapidly and are considered to be an important element in the country's efforts to diversify exports, thereby directly contributing to poverty reduction and economic growth. Joint efforts on a wide range of issues are being implemented by the Ethiopian government, the private sector, and developmental partners. They are working hard to secure further well-balanced growth of the sector and increase societal benefits in terms of employment and foreign exchange earnings, as well as minimize the possible negative impact on the natural resource base.

Taking this fact into account, *The Ethiopian Herald* had a stay with the Ethiopian Horticulture Producer Exporters Association (EHPEA), Executive Director Tewodros Zewdie, and other companies' officials working in the area.

He said, "The Ethiopian Horticulture Development Agency (EHDA) aims at making Ethiopia a leading African country in export-led horticulture or the cultivation of Ethiopian flowers, vegetables, fruits, and herbs to be sold overseas. Export horticulture is booming and the country is now the very good supplier and exporter of highest quality flowers."

The revised strategy would play a significant role in addressing agro logistical challenges, improving good agricultural practice and creating more skilled manpower, he said.

"Apart from expanding the opportunity to become competitive at international level, it would provide agro-processing input, enhance economic contribution and improve financial and input provision. With regard to cold chain logistic, the association has undertaken serious talks with different stakeholders to address the problem in no time. The horticulture sector is generating more than five hundred million USD annually, which could be doubled with more land provision. Tewodros noted that discussion is being held with concerned bodies to return the companies in conflict areas to business."

As to him, the revised national horticulture strategy is expected to solve the major challenges in the horticulture. The 2024/25-2034/35 strategy, which is prepared with the contribution of all essential actors, will be carried out with the budget of 24 billion USD gained from government, partners and private sector.

He further stated that the revised strategy would play a significant role in addressing agro logistical challenges, improving good agricultural practice and creating more skilled manpower as well as transferring knowledge.

Ethiopia offers plenty of opportunities to cultivate a range of horticultural crops due to its diversified soil and climate, which includes numerous agro-ecological areas. Ethiopia has considerable altitudinal fluctuations, making it suited for the cultivation of economically significant vegetable crops, he said.

He said, "The Ethiopian government has committed itself to contribute to strengthening the enabling environment of the horticulture sector through the support to the Ethiopian Horticulture Producers Exporters Association, increasing the food



security and safety of Horticulture producing smallholder farmers and consumers and promote sustainable and inclusive production. To improve the productivity in the sphere, the government and stakeholders have revised the previous national horticulture strategy that was not successful for lacking timeliness, failed to engage private sector and ensure technological advancement."

Currently, the flower, fruit, vegetable, and herb farms occupy a hard currency generation; the horticulture sector has been gaining momentum.

Favorable climate, availability of land and the incentive packages provided by the government have all contributed to the phenomenal and successful growth of the floriculture sector. Ethiopia has now a number of active flower farms and is becoming the second East African largest flower producer and exporter next to Kenya.

Apart from the abundant natural resource endowments with vast agro-ecological areas suitable for range of floricultural crops, Ethiopia's horticulture sector not yet yielding the required result due to poor infrastructure, shortage of skilled manpower, finance, and security challenges, he said.

As far as fruit production in Ethiopia is concerned, although Ethiopia has a long tradition of producing fruits; like banana, pineapple, mango for home consumption and neighboring countries export, it is only recently that the investment has been made in large scale production and the production of less traditional fruits including strawberries, table grapes, and passion fruits.

Investors engaged in the horticulture sector have also expressed their major concerns in the sector. FRI-EL Ethiopia Farming and Processing Plc for instance grows cotton, vegetables, fruits, spices as well as oil seeds on 3000 hectares of land and exports to Somaliland, Djibouti and Saudi Arabia countries.

Abebayew Gebreselassie, from Abyssinia Horti Company, which started operation since 2019, exports flower for countries in Europe, US, Japan and far east. Nonetheless, it has stopped operating due to instability in the Amhara State.

As to her, the company has been operating without power for two years and much hasn't been changed despite the request to concerned institutions. One of its sister company located in Oromia State has operated more than 14 years exporting to various countries across the globe despite insecurity in the area.

"Similarly, efforts would be exerted to develop fruits and vegetable crops hugely.

With the increasing of the world population, the demand for fruits and vegetables would likely to increase. Thus, as a country with rich potential for fruits and vegetables production, Ethiopia has huge potential," he said.

The revised national horticultural strategy, which will be operational soon, is said to pinpoint strategic areas that is hindering the nation from gaining the right amount of benefit. It would also identify potential corridor for fruit and vegetable production, build horticulture parks, and expander-commercialization and cluster, among others.

The availability of fertile land, labor, and readily available water together with cold chain facilities at three airports and a rapidly improving road and rail transport network all make Ethiopia the right place to invest in vegetables.

Ethiopia's climate is very well and suitable for the production of herbs, and many investors are keen to exploit the potential. Currently, there are four herb producing farms in Ethiopia.

According to Tewodros, investors eyeing on revised national horticulture strategy as it would be instrumental in bolstering the sector in all aspects. Apart from the abundant natural resource endowments with vast agro-ecological areas suitable for range of floricultural crops, Ethiopia's horticulture sector not yet yielding the required result due to poor infrastructure, shortage of skilled manpower, finance, and security challenges.

He said, "To improve the productivity in the sphere, the government and stakeholders have revised the previous national horticulture strategy that was not successful for lacking timeliness, failed to engage private sector and ensure technological advancement."

It is obvious that EHPEA is a non-profit organization established in 2002 to promote the growth and development of the Ethiopian horticulture industry. EHPEA is committed to improving the quality of horticultural products and ensuring they meet international standards while protecting the environment, promoting social responsibility, and enhancing the well-being of workers.

EHPEA currently has over 120 members, including horticulture producers, exporters, and other stakeholders in the industry. Its members account for over 85% of Ethiopia's horticulture exports, making the association a significant player in the industry. EHPEA is committed to sustainable horticulture and operates under the principle of "growing better together."

To achieve this, the association provides technical assistance and capacity building

to its members to promote sustainable production, quality control, and product diversification. The association requires its members to comply with labor laws and promote safe and healthy working conditions. Members must also respect the rights of workers and communities surrounding horticulture production areas.

By adhering to the Code of standards and guidelines, EHPEA members can produce high-quality horticultural products while promoting sustainable production and social responsibility. Association's commitment to these principles has helped to position Ethiopia as a leading exporter of horticultural products globally.

The effective implementation of the strategy would allow the nation to ensure food security, enhance export capacity, substitute import and create more jobs, he added.

The association is working hard in collaboration with development partners thereby contributing a lot to the economic advancement via properly addressing a range of challenges from which the sector has been suffering.

Besides, expanding the opportunity to become competitive at international level, it would provide agro-processing input, enhance economic contribution and improve financial and input provision.

With regard to cold chain logistic, the association has undertaken serious talks with different stakeholders to address the problem in no time. Similarly, in relation to importing electrical cold truck, it is performing activities to come up with better solution.

Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Horticulture focuses on horticultural crops, primarily fruits and vegetables. Common definitions for horticultural crops also include herbs, spices and ornamental flowers. As far as the significance of horticulture is concerned, the sector enriches especially with specifically, growing fruits and vegetables — provides critical nutrients for a balanced diet. Diets low in fruits and vegetables contribute significantly to some of the world's most widespread and debilitating nutrient-related disorders.

He said, "It is well underscored that horticulture has been increasing incomes and economic growth. For instance, farmers growing high-value crops, such as fruits, vegetables, flowers or herbs, consistently earn more than those growing other commodities. Horticulture can be an engine for agricultural and economic diversification."

In a nutshell, diversifying the sources of economic development such as horticulture, which can be guided by an in-depth and collaborative global trend, would help identify challenges of the horticulture development. Given the complexity of horticulture, innovative leapfrog technologies can reduce constraints and promote the ability of smallholder farmers to achieve maximum profitability.

Besides, commercial success in horticulture depends on locally adapted research on tools such as improved cultivars, management tools, market knowledge and effective postharvest practices. Sustained horticultural growth requires access to reliable information, a well trained workforce and local capacity to conduct both original and adaptive research.

Art & Culture



Aspiration of Olympic in Paris 2024

BY KALKIDAN NEGASH

There is an old saying that “we see dreams because they can happen,” a proverb that offers us hope. The aspirations that you can capture are mind-blowing and soul-stirring.

The Olympic Games, which originated in Greece and are held every four years, are not only a sporting event. They are also symbols of the nation’s closeness. Every time the Olympic season arrives, our spirits are filled with morality and strong senses, especially a drive to excel in sports. Not only can watching the Olympics with loved ones foster unity, but the games themselves are a genuine source of inspiration and enjoyment. It gives us priceless life lessons that can increase the value of our existence.

Olympic sports in Paris in 2024 included skateboarding, sport climbing, surfing, and breaking, which are newly developed Olympic sports. Along with new objects, it is also full of new occurrences. It was running from July 27 to August 11, as athletes and teams won medals across 32 sports and 10,174 athletes from 216 countries.

The Olympic Opening Ceremony of 2024 was met with harsh criticism. But it was also filled with excitement: Letsile Tebogo won the 200-meter sprint gold medal for Africa, marking the nation’s first Olympic gold medal. Imane Khalif caused controversy during the Olympics after her boxing first-round performance. The dramatic collapse of 3000 men’s record holder Lamecha Girma at the Olympics in Paris was a hot topic.

Many records were also shattered by the 2024 Paris Olympics. In the men’s 10,000-meter run, Joshua Cheptegei of Uganda broke the Olympic records with a 26:13:14 set by Kenenisa Bekele.

One of the main events in the Olympics is the dramatic failure of the Ethiopian Olympic Committee and the Ethiopian



athletes not being able to receive medals in the predicted 5000 and 10,000 meters in both genders. Long-run is used to take one segment of culture.

Beyond all of that, some athletes brighten the faces of Ethiopians, which makes them cry happy tears and prevents pride and psychological collapse.

Noticeable With a winning mentality, Tamirat Tolla brought Ethiopia its first and only gold medal. With an incredible time of 2:06:26, Tamirat also breaks the Olympic record for the marathon. In addition, he is the first Ethiopian to win an Olympic marathon since 2000. His amazing running style left many in awe as he ran like the wind.

Not only had this, to everyone’s amazement, Tigist Assefa won the second silver medal for her nation in the Olympics in Paris. In an extraordinary and astounding performance.

Upon witnessing their strength, you see the peak of the creation of sport, confidence, poise, and discipline; we couldn’t help but

wonder, “How can someone who possesses such greatness also be so humble?” But what if I was present? How long was this trained for? How does the nation feel about its victories? When we ask ourselves this, we think, “Wow, they’re amazing.”

I saw in the movie that “once you do the hardest stuff, it becomes not that hard. “It seems impossible to be good at something we desire. But the things we strive for and suffer for are not that hard if we have the confidence to pursue them. Yes, the Olympics also exhibit this.

Long-term teamwork is another attribute that has made Ethiopian athletes very renowned in recent years. Kenenisa Bekele, Haile Gebreselassie, and Sileshi Sihem also leave an indelible mark on history with their dedication, compassion, and teamwork.

Let’s observe how something truly incredible happens when a marathoner completes 42 kilometers in less than two hours. Their effort is unwavering. They also practiced in the frigid, early morning

hours at the top of the Great Rift Valley.

Just like Olympic athletes, we all need determination, perseverance, and courage to turn our dreams into reality. That’s hard to imagine being like them. The truth is, they are not special; they weren’t born that way. They took a year to get what they wanted, which also included a year of failure, so you will have to pay the price in discomfort; nothing is free.

Also, when you see outstanding techniques like pole vaulting and jumping over and over high by using a pole, that’s a stunning view. They trained for years to achieve their dreams. Jumping through above from a crowd close to the sky.

According to Usain Bolt, “the work is behind the scenes, computation is the easy part, and everything is done to get one race you want to run”. Dreams don’t happen overnight. Push beyond limits. There is no better moment than now to put in hard work and achieve your goals. Persistence with hard work will take you so far.

Gymnastics is also an eye-catching discipline with powerful flips and turns, as well as bodily strength and coordination. Genes or innate qualities may be helpful, but you can’t get there without commitment.

Olympic athletes excel in perseverance, hard work, and fighting to the very end. You can also observe exceptionally swift swimmers. It seems unbelievable; you don’t become a swimmer by watching other people swim. Instead, by planning your stroke technique beforehand and then diving in and learning it, you start whatever it is you’re doing and either fail or succeed as you go.

Without a doubt, the fear of failure takes you back from your pathway; it’s just a starting desire, and the fear of failure holds it. Failure is the stepping stone to success. As Peter Dinklage once said, “Ever try, ever fail, no matter try again, fail better, fail again, the world is yours. “Don’t worry, there is plenty of time to make things turn around Keep that at you are doing.”

Global Affairs

UN's Summit of the Future

Preparations are ongoing for the upcoming Summit of the Future, probably the most consequential initiative of UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres so far.

The gathering, to be seen as a serious attempt at fixing some of the most intricate and enduring issues of our times, could help cement the Secretary General's legacy as an idealistic architect of a stronger and more cohesive multilateral system.

To be held September 22-23, the summit will indeed provide a platform for the international community to discuss ways to strengthen and enhance global governance.

Building on the proposals of Our Common Agenda, the comprehensive blueprint that Guterres presented in 2021, the gathering will see member states trying to broker an agreement on how to enhance some of the key pillars of multilateralism, fitter for the purpose.

The list of propositions is in-depth and exhaustive, covering several policy areas, namely Sustainable Development and Financing for Development; International Peace and Security; Science, Technology and Innovation and Digital Cooperation; Youth and Future Generations; Transforming Global Governance.

Each of these domains contains proposals, from restructuring the way multilateral financing system operates, including ensuring resources for the realization of the SDGs to enabling a stronger global governance centered on stronger mechanisms to prevent conflicts.

They are now under intense negotiations and the final decisions will be contained in the Pact for the Future that is to be approved during the Summit. Yet while the aims and overarching goals of the Summit are nothing but praiseworthy, we should wonder if the proposals being discussed are truly transformational.

Moreover, linked to the above, is the international community engaged and invested enough in the discussions? What about the overall level of involvement and participation of the general public?

For sure, global civil society, from the South and the North, have been proposing a wide ranging of ideas that, if implemented, would represent a radical change.

While there is no doubt that Guterres is really trying to achieve something ambitious, at the same time none of the proposals up to discussion at the Summit for the Future represent truly game changers.

Rather they should be seen for what they are: important steps, potentially even incremental steppingstones towards much more radical and indispensable changes that the international community still unfortunately resists.

For example, the New Agenda For

The United Nations, in partnerships with civil society organizations in the South and North of the world, should have planned and carried out a much more robust exercise in terms of consulting and engaging young people

Peace, that is part of the package, should be considered as an entry point to start a conversation on how to tame future conflicts by promoting "whole-of-society prevention" strategies, doing a better job at protecting civilians during conflicts.

But also in this case, the Pact resembles more a list of principles, like the commitment, one of many, of "advancing with urgency discussions on lethal autonomous weapons systems" rather than truly actionable proposals.

It also focuses on strengthening mechanisms to manage disputes and improve trust, something that never can be discounted. Yet, it is harder imagining how to advance consensus on this contentious area in a time where geopolitical tensions and rivalries are rising.

But there is one priority domain for which Guterres deserves praise: putting youths first and at the center of his plans. What is noticeable is an attempt at re-thinking and re-booting the whole decision-making system by involving and engaging youths.

But, at the same time, also in this case, it is difficult to envisage any real changes beyond the semi-tokenistic proposals of Guterres like reinforcing the UN agencies 'current modalities of working with youths. The Declaration on Future Generations, a sort of charter of rights for youths, is, unquestionably and symbolically significant but is still far from being a truly bold and transformative and lack enforcement.

Instead, what the global civil society that, to the credit of Guterres, has been fully involved and engaged in the negotiations of the Summit of the Future, is proposing is not only inspiring but also what the world is desperately in need of.

Indeed the People's Pact for the Future, brought together by a wide ranging coalition of civil society organizations, The Coalition for the UN We need, is rich of daring ideas. It is exciting to read about establishing not only a UN Parliamentary Assembly but also other audacious solutions like creating mechanisms to involve citizens in the decisions making related to the UN, including a UN World Citizens' Initiative.

In comparison, the propositions being discussed by the member states in the Pact for the Future are substantially too timid and, in no way, are transformative nor radical as they should be. But to me the most problematic aspect is not the inevitable lack of ambition of Guterres's project.

After all, it was unavoidable that many details in implementing his vision, would have been constrained and limited by the complexities of international relations. What instead is disappointing is the fact that that any global meeting of such importance

for the future of humanity, should have also been radical in involving the citizens of the world.

The truth is, instead, grim: despite the good intentions and a real effort at involving the civil society, there is a widespread unawareness about the whole initiative among the people. In plain terms, amidst the public, there is total lack of knowledge and information about the Summit and its agenda.

The vast majority of youths who should be leading the discussions, have not been involved as they should have been. Most of them do still ignore the Summit of the Future and the negotiations around it. I do not doubt that, all over the world, the UN Country Offices might have tried to engage and consult some of them in some discussions.

But the magnitude of the initiative and the topics to be discussed, no matter how, at the end of the day, are dealt with weakened and flawed propositions, should have deserved much a stronger participation of youths.

The United Nations, in partnerships with civil society organizations in the South and North of the world, should have planned and carried out a much more robust exercise in terms of consulting and engaging young people.

Imagine how transformative would have been to organize consultations at school levels where students could have discussed their priorities and come up with their own solutions. With the proper political will and preparation, such exercises could have represented a new benchmark in terms of innovative ways of consulting and engaging with youths.

The hope is that the efforts being put to organize the Summit of the Future and the energies being spent to negotiate the Pact for the Future, will at least open a new chapter not only at nudging nations to deal with complex issues but at doing so through a completely novel bottom-up approach.

Indeed, the Summit of the Future might be remembered not for what will have achieved. Instead, the whole process that had started with Our Common Agenda, could be remembered for heralding an era where tough issues are tackled differently and more inclusively.

Engaging and involving those who, at the moment, are excluded from the decision making, the people and among them, especially the youths, should become the moral imperative to overcome the biggest challenges faced by humanity.

This is what the immense and far-ranging agenda being pushed by Guterres should be probably remembered for.

SOURCE: INTER PRESS SERVICE

Law & Politics

Towards merit-based diplomats

BY EYUEL KIFLU

In the current international relations arena, countries traditionally assign professional diplomats to protect their interests on the global stage. However, in the 21st century, the actors involved in international affairs have expanded beyond just career diplomats. Increasingly, celebrities, business leaders, public figures, and other influential individuals are playing an indispensable role in diplomacy and foreign policy.

Countries are now going beyond the traditional use of professional diplomats and are employing a wider array of representatives to engage in international affairs. This new form of diplomacy, often referred to as “public diplomacy” or “celebrity diplomacy,” leverages the reach and influence of prominent non-state actors to advance national interests.

Regarding professional diplomats nominating the right diplomats to represent a country in international affairs remains crucial. These diplomats must be skilled, knowledgeable, and able to navigate the complexities of the current global system. They are tasked with protecting the interests of their country and its citizens on the world stage.

In this regard, Ethiopia has recently nominated 24 ambassadors who serve in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA). These individuals have served in the MoFA for over a decade, bringing a wealth of experience and expertise to their roles.

As a country located in the strategically important Horn of Africa region, Ethiopia requires skilled, career diplomats who can effectively defend the country’s interests. The country faces a number of pressing issues, including the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), access to seaports, and other regional challenges.

To address these critical matters, Ethiopia has carefully selected its diplomatic corps. Of the 24 newly appointed ambassadors, 10 have been designated as Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassadors, while the remaining 14 have been appointed with the title of Ambassador. This nomination process is in accordance with Article 71, sub-article 3 of the Ethiopian Constitution.

The selection of these experienced and capable diplomats underscores Ethiopia’s commitment to strengthening its international representation and advancing its national interests on the global stage. As the country navigates complex regional and global dynamics, having a skilled diplomatic corps will be crucial in defending Ethiopia’s position and finding solutions to the pressing issues it faces.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, Dareskedar Taye



(PhD), a senior foreign relations expert at the Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA) emphasized that the newly appointed diplomats are career diplomats with extensive experience, having worked their way up from the lower ranks of the MoFA. “This will help them to master the basic skills that diplomacy requires,” he explained.

He noted that the appointees have actively participated in various international forums in which the MoFA participates, gaining valuable experiences about global politics. “In previous appointments, diplomats and ambassadors who lacked knowledge in diplomacy and had not served in politics were often appointed,” Dareskedar said. “Formerly, diplomat ship or ambassadorship was considered a vacation and a break from politics.”

He believes the current diplomats will be more effective, as “diplomacy, by its very nature, wants to understand the complex situation of the world and to do things that benefit the country in this situation.” He added, “Those appointed now have served in MoFA for fifteen to thirty years, so they understand the current global landscape.”

Dareskedar acknowledged that ambassadors appointed through a political process in the past have also made significant contributions. However, he stressed that the preference now is for career diplomats, as they are better equipped to navigate the complex dynamics of their assigned regions.

He further explained that the role of an ambassador is inherently political, requiring a deep understanding of national and political issues. “So I think the ambassadors appointed now will understand this,” he stated.

Furthermore, he emphasized the role of the Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA) in providing continuous training

and coordination to empower MoFA employees. The IFA, he said, identifies training needs, coordinates the delivery of programs, and presents recommendations for promotions based on the assessments of the trainees.

This shift towards experienced career diplomats, according to Dareskedar, is expected to enhance the effectiveness of the country’s diplomatic efforts and better serve the national interests.

In an exclusive interview Ambassador Lelisa Berhanu, one of the newly appointed diplomats, on his part shared his insights on the process of becoming an ambassador in Ethiopia.

Ambassador Lelisa told to *The Ethiopian Herald* that the nomination of an individual as an ambassador can occur in two ways. The first is through a meritocratic process within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), where diplomats climb the professional ladder from the bottom to the ambassador level. This pathway is based on their performance, professional expertise, and dedication to serving the country and its government.

The second mode of appointment is a political nomination, a practice observed in various countries. In this case, the government may appoint ministers or other officials as ambassadors, irrespective of their previous affiliation with MoFA.

Regarding the constitutional framework, Ambassador Lelisa explained that the president of Ethiopia has the authority to make two types of nominations: for high-ranking military officers in the national defense forces, and for ambassadors or diplomats. He emphasized that these kinds of nominations are not based on party affiliation, race, or other considerations, but rather aimed at serving all Ethiopians equally.

As an ambassador, the primary

responsibilities include protecting the country’s interests in social, political, and economic affairs in the host country, attracting investment, building the country’s image, and collaborating with the diaspora community to safeguard the nation’s interests.

Reflecting on the past decade, Ambassador Lelisa noted a shift in the trend of diplomatic appointments. Previously, the nomination of ambassadors often favored individuals nearing retirement age or those with limited experience within MoFA. However, the recent reforms have led to a significant change, with nearly 98 to 100 percent of ambassadors being selected from those who have served within MoFA and possess the necessary skills and expertise.

The current nominations, according to Ambassador Lelisa, are based on a focus on skills and expertise, providing hope for younger diplomats aspiring to reach the ambassador’s rank. He emphasized that the selected ambassadors possess the necessary capabilities to navigate the complexities of the modern world, working in line with the country’s foreign policy objectives.

The ambassador also highlighted the comprehensive training and professional development opportunities available for diplomats. New recruits undergo a two-year program at the Institute of Foreign Affairs before joining MoFA, and experienced diplomats receive periodic training every two or three years to adapt to the evolving global landscape.

Importantly, Ambassador Lelisa stressed that the role of diplomacy extends beyond traditional diplomats, encompassing the contributions of celebrities, athletes, and the wider public. He emphasized that all Ethiopians should consider themselves ambassadors, actively promoting the country’s interests on the global stage.

Planet Earth

Addis Ababa transforms waste into blessing

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

There is no single definition that applies to all waste and by-product terminology. Although it is distinct in its setting, it still has an impact on people's lives and the planet. As a result, byproduct reuse is becoming more popular worldwide as businesses aim to increase resource efficiency, reduce waste, and promote sustainability.

The status of byproducts can vary widely among different geographies and sectors depending on legislative frameworks, market demand, and environmental concerns. The sustainable use of byproducts involves policies and activities aimed at reducing waste, increasing resource efficiency, and promoting environmental responsibility.

Governments worldwide adopt various techniques to effectively reduce by-products. They recycle and reuse by-products to create new goods and resources. For example, recycled paper is used in packaging, and glass bottles are melted down to make new containers. This is crucial for reducing the demand for new materials, conserving energy, and minimizing landfill waste.

Another option for reducing byproducts is up-cycling, where companies turn byproducts into higher-value goods. Some cultures recycle discarded fabrics into fashion or home design, while wood waste from furniture manufacturers is used to create handmade items. This increases the economic value of waste items and promotes innovation.

According to Haramaya University (HU) College of Agriculture and Environment, School of Natural Resource and Environmental Science Lecture and Researcher Teferi Tadesse said that decomposing organic byproducts to form nutrient-rich soil is critical to restoring soil fertilizers. For example, composting food scraps and yard trash for use in agriculture or landscaping decreases landfill methane emissions while also improving soil health. Furthermore, by-products or waste materials present in the city, such as onions, vegetables, fruit peels, meals, and other leftovers, provide excellent ingredients for natural fertilizer manufacturing. As a result, using trash to create natural/organic fertilizers is critical for conserving the environment and creating jobs.

He also emphasized that using byproducts is critical for global sustainable agriculture practices since byproducts are essential inputs in agricultural systems. More significantly, using waste or byproducts improves soil health, decreases chemical inputs, and strengthens local food systems.

Byproducts or wastes can indeed be used to generate energy. Many nations, particularly developing countries, create biogas from waste to generate power. Waste-to-energy plants turn municipal solid waste into heat or power. It also generates renewable



energy while minimizing landfill volume. In Ethiopia, reusing by products and wastes become a norm and many cities use them for various purposes for this Addis Ababa can be worth mentioning.

Addis Ababa City Administration Cleansing Management Agency Executive Director Eshetu Lemma (Dr.) said that using or recycling by-products not only preserves the city's beauty but also makes it greener and more comfortable for its citizens. In the previous fiscal year, repurposing trash and byproducts generated more than one point four billion birr. Furthermore, more than 900,000 tons of byproducts were gathered, creating almost 3,000 new jobs regularly.

As a result, by-production has emerged as a new economic pillar, providing work for a large number of residents while also generating foreign currency. He also mentioned that one-fifth of the gathered byproducts had been transformed into electricity.

Artiste Muluneh Zeleke, Addis Ababa City Cleaning Ambassador, emphasized

the importance of waste and by-product management, as well as green legacy efforts, in creating economic opportunities, mitigating climate change, and providing farm inputs and alternative energy. He also stated that the community should fulfill its social responsibilities by prioritizing environmental cleanliness and emphasizing green legacy efforts.

The activities of the Addis Ababa City Administration are encouraging and promising. The gathering of by-products has also become a culture for many individuals. Wealth may be obtained from by-products, thus in each industry, they should be properly separated and put to the intended use, he added.

Rapi Solid Waste Disposal Landfill Management Director Ato Nebiu Tesfaye stated: "If by-products are not adequately handled, they pose a larger threat to people's health than the economic damage they create; hence more work is needed to effectively separate collected garbage and by-products".

Over 5,000 individuals are working to

separate trash materials that can be recycled at the Rapi solid waste disposal site. Rapi's solid waste disposal plant is set to produce more than 50 thousand tons of natural fertilizer every year, and it has already produced more than 60 thousand tons in the previous fiscal year, he explained.

In general, waste products play a major role in the economic sector, but the damage caused if they are not handled properly is high, so they remind society that waste products should be properly handled and disposed of properly.

Indeed, cleaning and beautifying the environment is becoming one of humanity's most fundamental requirements. The management and recycling of waste items collected from residents and industry has become a global issue, especially in recent years.

Waste or byproducts are not curses; they are wealth and blessings. Cleaning up the environment is crucial for health and economic fairness. Waste management has become an industry that provides employment opportunities in Addis Ababa and enhances the agricultural sector while promoting environmental protection and energy generation.

Ethiopia's Green Legacy and Clean Cities Initiatives are vital for sustainable development. To support these initiatives, robust regulatory policies are needed to encourage

Recycling, up-cycling, composting and waste reduction efforts. This can create an environment conducive to innovation and long-term development.

In conclusion, the sustainable use of by-products reduces waste, conserves resources, provides economic benefits, and protects the environment. Strengthening existing methods and promoting cross-sector collaboration are essential steps towards building a more sustainable future.