



Amb. Nebiyat Getachew

Ethiopia reaffirms commitment to regional stability

• Eyes UNGA-79 for promoting African peace

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA - Despite certain foreign forces' attempts to exacerbate disputes in the region, Ethiopia reiterates its unwavering commitment to regional peace and stability, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) stated.

In a press briefing held yesterday, newly appointed MoFA Spokesperson Ambassador Nebiyat Getachew highlighted that Ethiopia's foreign policy continues to prioritize neighboring countries and refrains from engaging in destabilizing actions.

See Ethiopia reaffirms ... page 3

UNECA to inaugurate renovated historical Africa Hall soon

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa announced that the renovation of the historical Africa Hall, where the founders of Organization for African Unity-OAU were held their first assembly, will be inaugurated 21st October after years of delay.

Having organized a press tour to show the renovation progress, UNECA's Africa Hall Division of Administration Project Manager Antonio Baio yesterday said that the iconic Africa Hall has undergone renovations to meet state-of-art conference hall standards while preserving historical significances.

The renovation is being carried out with special attention. Qualified contractors from various countries

See UNECA to ... page 3



Photo: Berihun Tadele

Ethiopia bids farewell to late Prof. Beyene Petros

ADDIS ABABA (ENA) - A farewell ceremony was held for the late Ethiopian respected politician and celebrated academician, Professor Beyene Petros in Addis Ababa at the Millennium Hall in the presence of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) yesterday.

Following the farewell ceremony, the prominent scholar and politician Prof. Beyene's coffin was laid to rest at the St. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Addis Ababa in the presence of high level government officials, friends and members of his families.

Prof. Beyene Petros, a revered figure in Ethiopian academia and politics, passed away on September 17, 2024, leaving behind a profound legacy of academics, politics, and public service.

See Ethiopia bids ... page 3

IGAD unveils 10-year plan to unite, boost regional tourism

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA- The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has launched a 10-year Sustainable Tourism Master Plan (2024-2034) aimed at unifying the fragmented tourism efforts of its member countries.

The plan, endorsed by IGAD Tourism Ministers and Ethiopia's Ministry of Tourism (MoT), is expected to play a significant role in the collective development of the tourism sector across the region.

During the launch, MoT Minister Nasise Chali highlighted the plan as a crucial stepping-stone for IGAD member states, emphasizing that integration and cooperation are essential for developing nations, and tourism is no exception. She stated, "Tourism not only strengthens regional integration but also benefits from effective policy coordination. This master



Photo: Hadush Abreha

plan provides a framework to harmonize our policies and unify our efforts to sustainably develop tourism and position the region as globally competitive."

Ethiopia has committed to championing the plan's implementation, seeing it as

a vital tool to unlock the region's vast tourism potential through a comprehensive and inclusive policy framework. IGAD's roadmaps are expected to enhance tourism competitiveness, diversify tourism products,

See IGAD unveils ... page 3

Embracing double means for real agricultural progress

Page 6

The impact of privileging the English language

Page 7

Fayda Digital ID: Key enabler for social inclusion, economic development

Page 8

Ethio-telecom plans to amass 163.7bln Birr in this FY

• To boost forex earnings by 42 pct reaching 198.02 mln USD

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA – Ethio-telecom has planned to secure 163.7 billion Birr during 2024/25 Ethiopian fiscal year, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) disclosed.

Presenting 2024/25 annual plan Ethio-telecom CEO Frehiwot Tamiru said that the state-owned operator plans to reap 163.7bln Birr in this fiscal year.

The CEO revealed an ambitious revenue target to reach 163.7 billion Birr by 2024/25, which was 93.7 billion Birr in 2023/24, Ethiopian fiscal year hitting 74.7% increment.

By implementing the detailed plans outlined in 2024/25, the company aims to grow the subscriber base by 6% reaching 83 million customers in this fiscal year. The company allocates one billion USD for telecom and digital infrastructures expansion and boost foreign currency earnings by 42%, targeting an additional 84.8 million USD reaching USD198.02 million.

The company also plans to enhance the accessibility of telebirr service, which is significantly contributing to advancing digital



Frehiwot Tamiru

financial inclusion, she noted.

Ethio-telecom plans to increase the number of telebirr agents by 28%, reaching 275,000. Additionally, the number of merchants making telebirr transactions will grow by 102% reaching 367,000, and the number of telebirr customers will rise by 15.7% to reach a total of 55 million customers, she said.

The plan also includes adding and launching new offers in mobile money services and introducing new business streams and digital solutions. In the 2017 fiscal year, the company committed to build 331 rural connectivity solutions and 165 mobile network sites, totaling 496 sites, to extend network coverage to 1,000 rural kebeles.

The strategy is designed to satisfy the ever-changing customer demand, raise telecom density, ensure digital and financial inclusion, build a digital economy, enhance productivity, and shift revenue from basic connectivity services to value-added and content-driven services. This will be achieved by expanding telecom infrastructure and focusing on cloud, infrastructure, and enterprise solutions.

Ethio telecom has been providing telecom services in the country for the past 130 years, playing a key role in driving the nation's socio-economic development. The company has launched and implemented a three-year LEAD growth strategy, positioning itself as a leading digital solutions provider in the country. The company is aggressively working so as to accelerate Ethiopia's digital transformation, she said.



Jemal Aliye

Call for pastoralists to safeguard livestock with drought-protecting insurance

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) has urged citizens, particularly pastoralists and semi-pastoralists to purchase Index-Based Livestock Insurance (IBLI) to protect their livestock from the growing threat of drought.

Speaking at a media briefing yesterday, the De-Risking, Inclusion, and Value Enhancement of Pastoral Economies in the Horn of Africa Project (DRIVE), Program Manager Jemal Aliye highlighted that 90% of Ethiopia's livestock export earnings come from pastoralist and semi-pastoralist regions. These areas are critical to the country's economy but are increasingly vulnerable to recurring droughts and other challenges.

Jemal called on pastoralists to take advantage of the insurance, which provides financial support during times of scarcity by covering the cost of feed, medicine, and other necessities for livestock, including cattle, goats, sheep, and camels.

Ethiopia has 187 pastoralist and semi-pastoralist districts, with livestock insurance currently available in 70 districts identified as drought-prone. Over the past 12 years, 20,000 livestock insurance policies have been purchased, though Jemal noted the average annual uptake has been only 500 to 600 policies. He stressed that expanding insurance participation is crucial for protecting livestock, promoting savings, and ensuring the stability of the livestock market.

"If drought hits at 100% severity, an insured household could receive up to 70,000 Birr in compensation," Jemal explained. Livestock insurance is also available in four other Horn of Africa countries, with the current purchasing period open until September 30.

The government, in partnership with other stakeholders, continues to subsidize insurance premiums to protect households and farmers from the economic impacts of drought.

'Africa Celebrates' ideal platform to promoting African thriving future

• Ethiopia to host 'Africa Celebrates' 2024 Pan-African event

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA – 'Africa Celebrates' event is a crucial platform to advancing African's holistic integration and prosperity, according to the organizers.

The event organized by the Legendary Gold Limited and its Ethiopian event partner, Mayalz Events in collaboration with the African Union Commission, UNECA, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is scheduled for five consecutive days from November 6 on the premises of the UNECA and the AU.

This prestigious event, which set to bring 38 African countries and 11 countries outside Africa and to be held under the theme: "Educating an African fit for the 21st century" aims to building resilient awareness systems through African arts, culture, heritage, technology, and business for the integration and prosperity of Africans.

In the press conference yesterday, Legendary Gold Limited CEO/President Lexy Mojo-Eyes stated that this premier Pan-African event would be an ideal solution to celebrate Africa's unity in diversity and promote continental economic prosperity via arts, culture, heritage, technology, and business.

He further remarked that it would be an ideal platform to create continental interactions and promote the countries culture, products, cuisines and reshape our common narratives among many other heritages.

Lexy said, "It is not just an event, but it continues to strengthen the integration among African brothers and sisters all time around. Besides, the



responsibility relies on us, not on others."

He reiterated that this event also opens doors for Africans to know each other's culture and brings the opportunity to reshape the African future.

Aside from its huge contribution to the economy, Lexy emphasized that it brings a lot of value to sectoral and institutional transformation and promotion.

It was learnt that this year's event encompasses various components such as women's forum, diaspora Africa forum, African traditional leaders forum, peace walk, made in Africa exhibition and business summit, cultural night, Afro film alliance, wellness and beauty expo Africa among many other side events.

Mayalz Events and Marketing CEO Eyael Tamrat for her part underscored that Ethiopia has not been taking advantage of the event due to various reasons.

She has also advocated Ethiopians in all walks of life to wisely leverage this launching pad potential to showcase the country's immense potential and build the overall image.

Praising the government's unwavering support, she recommended further strengthening this ideal platform.

United States Mission to the African Union Deputy Chief Mikael Cleverley also reiterated that this is not just an event, it is a powerful platform for promoting African unity and diversity by showcasing the continent's heritage richness notably the people.

The celebration of African creativity also highlights the importance of African tourism, people-to-people interactions, empowers women, youth, and wealth creation as key drivers of African future growth.

Expressing commitments to support the grand event which aligns with priorities of the UN mission to the AU and the U.S..Africa strategy, the Deputy Chief said that this initiative promotes not only economic growth but also strengthens trade and investment across that continent.

It is to be recalled that about 38 African countries and 11 countries across the globe created business interconnections and remarkable networking for participants.

News

Zone prepares *Meskel* Festival to propel tourism, economic growth

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA-The Gurage Zone Culture and Tourism Department has organized the *Meskel* Festival aimed at stimulating the tourism sector and driving economic growth.

The Department's Head Meseret Ameregatold the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the festival aims to attract both foreign and domestic tourists. This year's celebration is themed "Our *Meskel* Festival for Our Tourism Resources."

According to Meseret, the festival's arrangements highlight *Meskel* as a major economic driver for tourism, displaying the zone's rich cultural and culinary heritage. The festivities began yesterday and will continue through tomorrow, with various cultural events designed to captivate tourists.

"This year's *Meskel* Festival is being held in Garad Kebele, Anor District, about



Meseret Amerega

50 kilometers from Gunchire town. The celebration takes place in Jefore, a cultural

village that showcases the zone's tourism resources," she added.

The festival includes traditional events such as cabbage *kiffo* preparation, the *Demera* (bonfire lighting), livestock slaughter ceremonies, and other cultural activities. Elders inaugurate the festival, which strengthens social bonds among participants, regardless of religion or ethnicity.

Meseret emphasized that *Meskel* is a core identity of the Gurage people and serves as an opportunity to promote the area's untapped tourism potential to the world. The zone also plans to improve local infrastructure and attract Diaspora participation and investment in projects such as schools, roads, and other development initiatives.

Meskel is an Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church holiday that commemorates the discovery of the True Cross by Roman Empress Saint Helena in the fourth century.

UNECA...

are engaging in the work. One of major principles behind the design of the building was to respect the African history so the renovation is also with respect to the history and the memory of Africa in UN, he highlighted.

"We respect most of historical characterizing parts of the building, like the facade, floors and the compound. The principle that was behind the conception of the building was conceived to be a state of the art conference for ceiling; the technology in the building was the first in Africa. It was the first building in the continent with this kind of technology allowing for instant interpretation for voting and broadcasting," he said.

The objective of the renovation project is also to bring it back. The building is to be a real estate of [the then African leaders'] legacy. Now, the most advanced technology is installed, Antonio noted.

The UNECA is trying to balance among the respect of the architecture, the culture and historical value. The overall renovation will be inaugurated next month and expected to be great in making similarity with UN offices in Geneva and New York. "It was conceived to be one big building...[] It was like the office building like the glass building in New York. We have tried to recreate the same condition, same technology there".

The building is integrated into the global conference engineering of the United Nations. The rest of the compound, UNECA has another big conference hall in same compound adjacent to Africa Hall. Renovations in other halls are also planned, he indicated.

Speaking about the inauguration of the Africa Hall induration, Antonio said that most of the construction projects are almost completed though late three years from the plan. It was supposed to finish the renovation by 2021 with 57 million USD budget.

IGAD unveils ...

and boost intra-regional tourist exchanges.

IGAD Secretary General, Workneh Gebeyehu (PhD), emphasized that tourism is vital for the region's economy, contributing significantly to GDP, employment, and foreign exchange earnings. He noted that in 2023, IGAD member states welcomed over 10 million international tourists, reflecting the global interest in the region's rich heritage, culture, and natural beauty.

Despite this, challenges such as inconsistent regulations, restrictive visa policies, infrastructure deficits, and climate change continue to hinder the full potential of the tourism sector. However, the master plan aims to address these issues by improving connectivity, enhancing marketing efforts, and building human and institutional capacities across IGAD countries.

Ethiopia bids farewell to late...

Appointed by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed as the 5th Director General of Ethiopia's Policy Studies Institute on January 6, 2022, Prof. Beyene dedicated his life to advancing education, health, and governance in Ethiopia.

Born in 1950 in the Hadiya Zone of Southern Ethiopia, Prof. Beyene earned his BSc degree from the former Haile Selassie I University in 1973.

He furthered his education with an MSc degree from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA, in 1977, and completed his PhD in Tropical Diseases and Public Health at Tulane University in 1986, conducting his dissertation research at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

in Atlanta.

A prominent researcher and educator at Addis Ababa University, Prof. Beyene trained and mentored hundreds of undergraduate students, along with numerous Master's and doctoral candidates, advising several PhD students till the time of his passing.

His contributions extended beyond the university; he was instrumental in various public institutions and played a vital role in numerous academic societies and professional associations.

Beyond his academic contributions, Prof. Beyene was a prominent political figure, advocating for equality, equity, unity, fraternity, freedom, peace, good governance, and democracy in Ethiopia since 1992.

He served as the Deputy Minister of Education in the Ethiopian Transitional Government from 1991 to 1993 and was a member of the House of Representatives during two terms, from 1991 to 1993 and from 2000 to 2010.

Professor Beyene was also a devoted father of four children, and his legacy continues through his many grandchildren who made him very happy.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed described Prof. Beyene Petros as a man who embodied the spirit of peaceful political struggle, playing a pivotal role in fostering a culture of non-violence and constructive political dialogue in Ethiopia.

Ethiopia reaffirms commitment...

In the evolving geopolitical landscape of the Horn of Africa (HoA), Ethiopia maintains its role as a key player in the region's peace, stability, and development, Ambassador Nebiyat said, adding that the country will not stand idle in the face of attempts to undermine regional stability or hinder its own development.

Ethiopia's approach to peaceful relations with its neighbors remains consistent, even in challenging times. The national interests [of Ethiopia] are directly tied to the stability of its neighbors. "Our national interests cannot be safeguarded if the region is destabilized. This is why we are

committed to fostering economic integration and promoting people-to-people diplomacy," he noted.

Speaking on Ethiopia's involvement in the upcoming 79th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA-79), the Spokesperson said that Ethiopia will advocate for both its national interests and broader African concerns on peace and development that Ethiopia has been calling for UN reforms, stressing the importance of inclusive global governance.

The Ethiopian delegation has completed preparations to participate actively in UNGA-79, which will be

held under the theme: "Leaving No One Behind: Acting Together for the Advancement of Peace, Sustainable Development, and Human Dignity for Present and Future Generations," it was stated.

Regarding the plight of Ethiopian migrants in Asia, Ambassador Nebiyat addressed the growing issue of human trafficking, particularly in Myanmar, where Ethiopian nationals have fallen victim to online trafficking schemes. The government, in coordination with the Ethiopian Embassy in Japan, is working to provide assistance to those affected.

Opinion

ENDC ticking all the boxes

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

It is important to mention that the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) has been playing an extremely important role in smoothing the path of national dialogue which is going to be held around the corner with the intention of getting to the bottom of stockpiles of quandaries. The commission at different points in time has tossed around ideas on the subject of national dialogue in a way that can bring about fruitful results and favorable outcomes.

Up to this juncture, the commission has held discussions with varying segments of the population at large with flying colors. For the sake of truth, the federal government in different time periods has avowed its pledge to the national dialogue by ticking all the boxes. As the population in general works towards the full implementation of the national dialogue in unison with the Commission, the national dialogue is stepping in the right direction.

In view of the fact that the commission is committed to implementing the national dialogue in an effective way, it is hoped that Ethiopia through the passage of time will resolve its lingering challenges beyond a shadow of a doubt.

As long as extensive efforts have been assumed to make sure the comprehensiveness of the national dialogue, all and sundry have been standing by the side of the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission.

In the contemporary context, Ethiopia has been bracing for an all-inclusive national dialogue to resolve disarrays surfacing all over the country on account of divisive rhetoric as well as other historical and political problems. In times gone by, as certain groups sowed the seeds of hatred and discord among Ethiopians along ethnic and religious lines among the various Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples of Ethiopia putting in place a wide spectrum of cock and bull stories, the social fabric of the people have been getting off track.

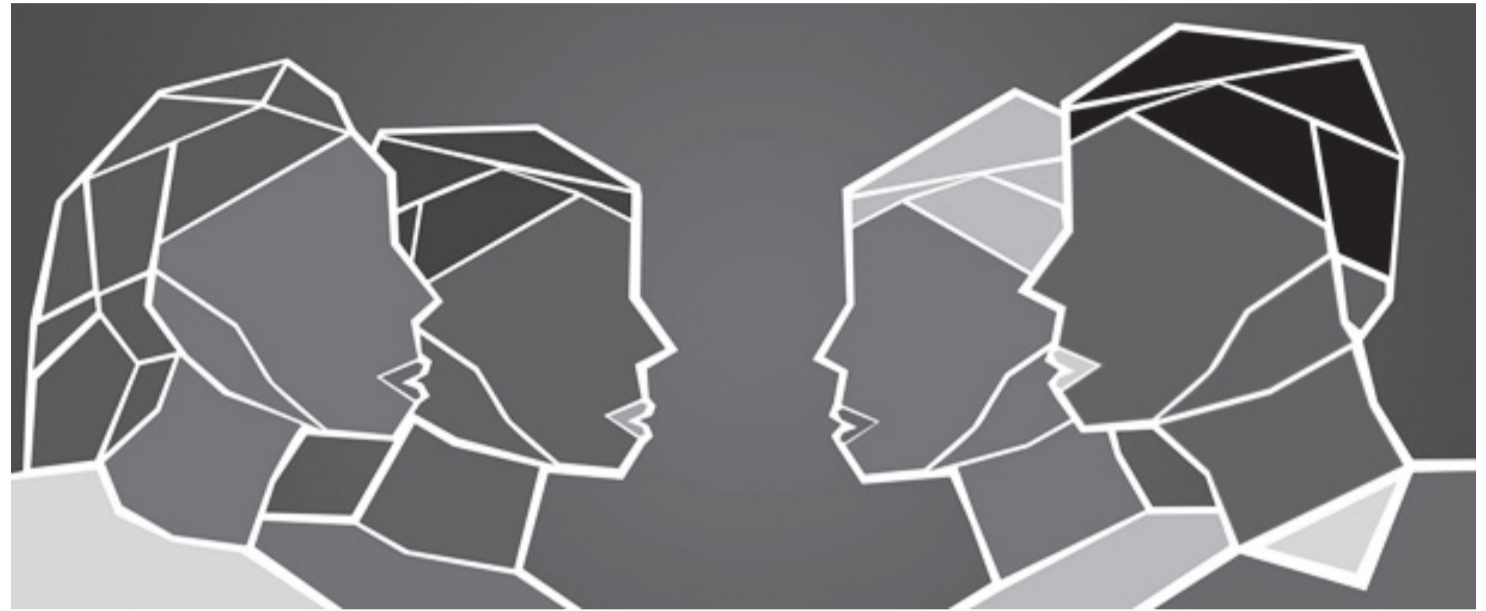
There is no gainsaying the fact that national dialogue plays a paramount role in acting as a peacemaker, burying the hatchet, and more of the same, everyone should work with one accord.

The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission is set to embark on a crucial agenda-gathering process in the Central Ethiopia Region, marking a significant step towards fostering national unity and addressing long-standing issues, according to information obtained from local media.

In a press briefing held recently in Hossaena town, the Commission announced its readiness to commence this vital phase of its mission. This initiative underscores the government's commitment to inclusive governance and participatory problem-solving.

Commissioner Yonas Adaye (PhD) elaborated on the Commission's progress, stating, "The National Dialogue Commission, established to enable citizens to resolve their challenges through dialogue, has been diligently working on various fronts. Having completed several essential preparatory tasks, we are now transitioning to the agenda-gathering phase, which has already begun in other regions."

The Commissioner revealed that the



Commission has finalized preparations to conduct agenda-gathering activities in the Central Ethiopia Region for six consecutive days, beginning August 31, 2024. This comprehensive process would involve over 1,500 participants representing diverse societal groups from seven zones and three special districts within the region.

"As a nation, it is incumbent upon us to address and heal our long-standing issues through dialogue, seeking sustainable solutions," Commissioner Yonas emphasized. He added that this approach is crucial for ensuring the effectiveness of the dialogue process.

The agenda-gathering phase will encompass a wide range of stakeholders, including political parties, religious institutions, civic societies, influential individuals, and various organizations within the region. The Commission stressed the importance of participants' contributions, urging them to uphold principles of inclusivity, transparency, engagement, and credibility to ensure the success of the dialogue.

Commissioner Yonas concluded with a powerful call to action, stating, "This historic process holds immense potential for liberating our country from various challenges and sustaining its bright future. Every citizen must strengthen their contribution to ensure this pivotal initiative reaches its goal."

The National Dialogue Commission's efforts in Central Ethiopia represent a critical juncture in the nation's journey towards reconciliation and progress. As the process unfolds, it is expected to play a pivotal role in shaping Ethiopia's path to a more unified and prosperous future.

As active participation of the wider population plays an indispensable role in conducting effective national dialogue to bring about the targeted expectation, accomplishing sustainable peace in every corner of the country is immense and promising.

In the present circumstances, the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission has continued invigorating its efforts to ensure inclusivity in the preliminary period with the purpose of making the dialogue effective.

In view of the fact that conducting national dialogue plays a very important role in taking the country to new heights by cross-pollinating expanded ideas and attaining the national dialogue, everyone from all walks of

life should stand by the side of the commission devoid of batting an eye.

The commission has been playing a great role in taking the national dialogue to the next level of achievement working hand in glove with concerned bodies. As an independent institution, the commission has been playing a huge role in getting to the bottom of the country's predicaments at the earliest possible time regardless of challenges.

As agenda gathering gives rise to restore peace in every corner of the country, people from all backgrounds should go to great lengths for the realization of the national dialogue.

The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission has initiated the agenda gathering process in Gambella region, engaging with representatives from various segments of the society. Over 1,300 participants, comprising representatives from all zones, districts, and the Gambella City Administration have actively participated in the process, according to information obtained from Ethiopian News Agency.

Chief Commissioner of the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission, Prof. Mesfin Araya emphasized the Commission's extensive past work and its ongoing efforts to engage with representatives from across the country. He underscored the commission's independence as an institution of the Ethiopian people. The seven-day agenda gathering process in Gambella marked the Commission's commitment to a comprehensive and inclusive consultation.

By prioritizing the voices of the people and exploring potential solutions, the commission aims to contribute to lasting peace and a prosperous future for Ethiopia. The process will involve active participation from political parties, religious institutions, civil society organizations, government bodies, and influential individuals, who will collectively discuss, develop, and present their agenda ideas.

This agenda gathering process is a crucial step towards securing lasting peace and shaping the country's future so that active participation from all stakeholders is essential.

As stockpiles of predicaments were not taken care of, the whole lot in the course of time ended up creating a sense of suspicion and criticisms. It cannot be denied that on the heels of some groups' divisive rhetoric, Ethiopia has

passed through many ups and downs.

Though many endeavors have been made by some individuals to resolve the existing challenges for good and all through round table discussion, the intended target fail to bear fruits in the shortest possible time. As conducting the national dialogue is the right moment, all Ethiopians should pull out all the stops for its realization.

In addition to playing a part in the national dialogue, every Tom, Dick, and Harry should bankroll the Commission. The agenda gathering procedure of the National Dialogue process is being finalized in various parts of the country, the Commission announced.

ENDC's Public Relation Head and Spokesperson, Tibebe Solomon in the recent past told The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the process of collecting agendas for the national consultation is under final stage in various states of the country except Amhara and Tigray. Meanwhile, efforts are being put to conduct the agenda collection in the aforementioned two states when peace maintained over time, he indicated.

The ENDC is striving to ensure an inclusive and participatory dialogue so that all parties should be part of the process standing for common goals, Tibebe stressed.

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

"The agenda gathering process has also been done in Dire Dawa City Administration and Harari States. The commission also works with stakeholders to ensure inclusive and participatory National Dialogue across the country," he noted.

Tibebe also said that the preliminary and the preparation works are done properly so that agenda identification would be done when the places took the selection of participants.

In a similar manner, the commission is working in close collaboration with the stakeholders to operate parallel activities in Amhara and Tigray states where participants of the process not yet identified, according to him.

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

Editorial

Opinion

Glorious culture, festivities awaits visitors in September

Ethiopia, renowned for its rich history, vibrant culture, and stunning landscapes, is a prime destination for travelers worldwide. In September, the country truly comes alive with a series of dynamic celebrations that highlight its unique heritage. This month marks the arrival of significant holidays that reflect the spirit of the Ethiopian people. For those seeking a meaningful experience, September offers a unique chance to partake in some of the world's most colorful festivals.

Ethiopia in September presents a distinctive combination of cultural depth and natural splendor, positioning it as an ideal destination for tourists. This month signals the conclusion of the rainy season, rejuvenating the landscape into a vibrant green expanse that is perfect for outdoor activities. The cooler temperatures and flourishing flora offer an idyllic backdrop for exploring the country's diverse regions, from the historic wonders of *Lalibela* to the breathtaking *Simien* Mountains. Additionally, September holds cultural significance as it aligns with the Ethiopian New Year, known as *Enkutatash*, a period filled with colorful festivities, traditional music, and exquisite local cuisine, allowing visitors to engage deeply with Ethiopian culture.

Furthermore, a visit to Ethiopia in September facilitates meaningful interactions with the local community. The renowned hospitality of the Ethiopian people shines brightly during this celebratory time, as families come together to honor their traditions. Tourists are invited to partake in various cultural events and witness the lively rituals associated with the New Year. The favorable climate in September is also conducive to trekking, wildlife observation, and discovering the country's rich biodiversity. For travelers in search of authentic experiences, Ethiopia in September emerges as a destination where natural beauty and cultural heritage converge, promising memorable encounters and a profound appreciation of this extraordinary nation.

Among the most celebrated events in September is *Meskel*, which honors the finding of the True Cross. The festivities peak in September with a grand bonfire in Addis Ababa's *Meskel* Square, where thousands gather to sing, dance, and celebrate. The lighting of the bonfire symbolizes the joy of the discovery, uniting communities in a display of faith and togetherness. Experiencing *Meskel* is more than merely witnessing a cultural event; it's about engaging in a shared celebration that connects generations, creating a profoundly moving experience.

Another significant celebration is *Irreechaa*, the Oromo Thanksgiving festival, which also takes place in September. This event, deeply rooted in Oromo culture, emphasizes gratitude for nature and its blessings. Thousands participate in traditional songs, dances, and rituals that honor the nature. The vibrant clothing, rhythmic drumming, and harmonious chants foster an atmosphere of joy and unity. Attending *Irreechaa* offers tourists valuable insights into the deep connection the Oromo people have with their land and traditions.

These celebrations extend beyond mere festivities; they offer opportunities for cultural exchange and understanding. International tourists visiting Ethiopia during this time can interact with local communities, learn about their customs, and partake in time-honored traditions. This level of engagement deepens one's appreciation of Ethiopia's rich history and cultural diversity.

The natural beauty of Ethiopia also enhances these celebrations. From the majestic Simien Mountains to the lush Great Rift Valley, the country's varied landscapes provide a stunning backdrop. Visitors can explore ancient rock-hewn churches, UNESCO World Heritage sites, and lively local markets, making their journey both spiritually rewarding and visually breathtaking.

Moreover, September signals the end of the rainy season, bringing pleasant weather and lush scenery, perfect for travel. Tourists can enjoy not only the festivities but also the stunning vistas, making it an ideal time for trekking, wildlife viewing, and exploring Ethiopia's archaeological treasures.

In summary, September is an extraordinary month for tourism in Ethiopia, featuring a wealth of vibrant holidays that highlight the country's unique cultural identity. *Meskel*, *Irreechaa* and the like promise unforgettable experiences for those eager to immerse themselves in Ethiopian traditions. We encourage international travelers to visit Ethiopia this September, to participate in these celebrations, and to explore a nation rich in history and cultural significance. Experience the joy, vibrancy, and hospitality of Ethiopia-where every celebration reflects the resilience and spirit of its people.

Employing old, futile tactic to disrupt an accomplished project

BY STAFF REPORTER

Following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ethiopia and Somaliland for the lease of maritime access, the tension between Ethiopia and Somalia has been increasing. As the tension escalated Somalia requested the evacuation of Ethiopian peacekeeping contingents that are part of the AU Peace Keeping Mission in Somalia and the possible replacement of other countries. Egypt's quest to be part of the contingent that would replace the Ethiopian contingents and the alleged already proliferation of military equipment in Mogadishu is believed to be part of not only the tension between Ethiopia and Somalia but also a continuation of the tactics to frustrate Ethiopia from its hydropower dam on Abbay River.

The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) has now reached a level that cannot be reversed as it has accomplished every step of construction despite all the challenges the government and people of Ethiopia faced. On the other side of the basin, there is an endeavour that never goes desperate from frustrating the construction of the dam on the river.

The intimidation efforts started in colonization when the lower riparian countries signed an unfair treaty for the utilization of the water that never included Ethiopia to allow it to use its fair share. This continued through different mechanisms until Ethiopia boldly coordinated efforts to mobilize resources and knowledge for the construction of the dam that occupies an irreplaceable place in the heart and mind of every Ethiopian.

Since the announcement of the launch of construction, several activities have been underway to mobilize efforts to interrupt it. Among them was lobbying financiers not to provide money for Ethiopia, persuading companies and countries where the construction companies hail from as well as threatening through various indirect and clandestine political pressures.

But all these attempts have not worked and as the saying goes "the dog bark, but the camel keeps walking", the Dam has reached its close to the final stage as it has already stored water in its reservoir for the fifth round and has also started generating power with some of its turbines. Still, at this stage, the efforts of countries to disrupt the smooth operation of the dam have almost reached its fullest stage of construction.

What Ethiopia can do at this stage is resume its usual cooperation to put in place a framework for the fair utilization

of the river among all riparians. It has been always ready for the creation of such frame work even before the launching of the GERD project, while the construction was progressing and still.

Now that the dam is almost operational, what can the lower riparian countries request from Ethiopia other than reaching an agreement on the fair utilization of the river water which the countries agreed on Declaration of Principles (DoP)?

Despite this Egypt has been always resistant in every step of the dialogues carried out regarding water utilization. After the failure of all these dialogues Egypt has continued to employ various tactics of threatening or intimidating Ethiopia and interrupting the progress of the GERD which has now attained a point of no return.

But everyone with a sane mind can easily comprehend that the people and government of Ethiopia have already brought the project to an irreversible stage and nothing can stop the GERD from reaching the final stage which Ethiopians have been dreaming of for decades. Even the domestic conflicts or external wars used to hamper the country from harnessing its natural resources including Abbay.

For many years it was possible to destabilize Ethiopia from inside by arming and hosting rebel groups that cherished different political causes. These groups fought for the very political cause they thought were rational and their rights. However, it would be sane to think that these groups would go to war to serve the evil causes of external forces including those who want to harm the interest of their country and people. If any individual or group who fights for a certain political cause tend to side any external force that goes against the interest and sovereignty of the country will not succeed as they will be cast by the general public. The war history of the country has left a good lesson that despite having differences with the government anyone who sided with foreign and occupational forces would pay a heavy price and become a miserable loser ultimately.

Expecting to twist the hands of the country through the employment of rebel groups or disgruntled political forces is impossible. Such an attempt not only proves futile but also ends up uniting Ethiopians against enemy forces; standing up with much more strength and sublimation. This is not the time for proxy war and supporting disgruntled political forces and armed groups to pursue one's interest. Rather there is still ample opportunity for peaceful and diplomatic means to address differences and reach win-win solutions.

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



The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays
By The Ethiopian Press Agency

Office of the CEO

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

Advertisement and Dist. Department

email: etpresspromotion@gmail.com
Tel. 011-156-98-73/011-811-13-15
Telegram :- 0976084707 - press

Editor-in-Chief: Worku Belachew

email- workubelachew@press.et
Address- Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-city

Woreda - 05, House No----
Tel- +251 111 26 41 98

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

Deputy Editors-in-Chief:

Alem Hailu
Elizabeth Mengistu
Zekarias Woldemariam
Desta Geberehiwot
Daniel Beyene

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

Business & Economy

Embracing doable means for real agricultural progress

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Agriculture, a cornerstone of Ethiopia's economy, has long been a vital force across diverse cultures and traditions throughout history. In the vast expanse of the nation's almost all parts, farming has assumed a paramount significance, both in meeting the population's sustenance needs and as a pivotal source of income for its inhabitants. The path towards optimizing productivity and securing a competitive edge in this demanding market is not without its challenges despite the remarkable strides made in agricultural technology.

Cognizant of this fact, *The Ethiopian Herald* had a stay with Demissie Hika, an economist graduated from Hawassa University specializing in Agricultural economics, to have a sound opinion regarding the issue under discussion.

He said, "By prioritizing sustainability, people especially the farming community can contribute to the preservation and health of the soil on which they rely for a better production and productivity. This reduces the reliance on harmful fertilizers and conserves precious water resources. As a result, it would be possible to not only mitigate environmental impact, but also lay the foundation for long-term economic advantages. Sustainable farming practices, such as irrigation automation, play a crucial role in minimizing water waste. By optimizing irrigation systems and employing water-saving techniques, water efficiency can be maximized without compromising crop health."

Yes, he added the advantages of sustainable farming extend beyond environmental considerations. By adopting well-planned and well-managed sustainable farming practices, the farming community or investors engaged in the sector can achieve lower production costs, enhance product quality, and increase overall crop yield. Not only does this holistic approach ensure the long-term prosperity of the farm but it also contributes to a more sustainable future for the farming sector in Ethiopia.

One of the potential culprits behind a lack of crop yield on the farmlands in the country could be compromised soil health and fertility. The good thing is there are effective methods farmers can employ to rejuvenate the soil. These approaches not only combat soil infections but also enhance overall soil structure, leading to improved productivity, he added.

As to him, practicing the right crop rotation is one advisable soil-recovery strategy. This technique safeguards the land against soil-borne diseases by preventing the build-up of pathogens and provides an apt environment for healthy root development and nutrient absorption. Implementing a well-designed crop rotation plan tailored to the farms' texture and its needs can significantly enhance soil health and fertility.

Another effective method to consider is incorporating cover crops like legumes, winter wheat, and other related cereals as they are excellent choices used to nourish the soil and serve as protective barriers against erosion. These crops play a vital role in stabilizing nitrogen levels and increasing



Transforming agriculture in Ethiopia is a path to middle-income status in the near future

organic matter content. By integrating all these crops into the farming practices, it is possible to enhance soil fertility and structure, setting the stage for robust crop growth, he underscored.

He said, "Incorporating organic matter and introducing essential nutrients are key steps, too. By stimulating soil microbial activity, it is possible to enhance nutrient availability and reduce the reliance on chemical inputs. This sustainable approach would help improve soil health and promotes long-term ecological balance.

Responding to the question about the important factors for improving crop efficiencies towards a better production, Demissie said while these steps have proven themselves to be robust solutions, it is important to acknowledge the unique characteristics of each individual farm. Recognizing the distinct nature of the farms is the first step towards making improvements in production and productivity. By assessing and identifying potential obstacles within the farming operation, farmers or any concerned body can begin to strategically address and overcome them, paving the way for enhanced farming outcomes.

As to him, leveraging cutting-edge tools such as satellites and sensors can revolutionize farming practices, empowering farmers with accurate and real-time data. By harnessing these and other important technologies, farmers can closely monitor crop performance, assess soil conditions, and make informed decisions critical to their farm's success. In so doing, it would be definitely possible to embrace sustainable farming practices with a view to recording long-lasting growth and prosperity.

According to Demissie, the integration of modern farm technologies brings numerous benefits. Firstly, it enables farmers to gain a comprehensive understanding of their crops' growth patterns, allowing for precise interventions and targeted adjustments. Real-time data on soil moisture levels, nutrient content, and temperature variations can guide farmers towards optimized irrigation and fertilization strategies, thereby ensuring efficient resource utilization and reducing waste.

"By seamlessly integrating with precision agriculture technology, these systems can precisely determine the exact amount of water required by specific crops, delivering

it at the optimal time. This level of precision helps prevent over or under-watering, minimizing water usage while maximizing crop health as well as harvest production and productivity," Demissie said.

He further stated that in addition to harnessing state-of-the-art technologies, the significance of sustainability in modern farming cannot be overstated. Sustainable farming practices offer a myriad of benefits, not only for the farm but also for the environment at large. With increasing awareness of the positive impact it can have, adopting sustainable methods has become a priority for forward-thinking farmers. Moreover, the Ethiopian government tries to help address financial burden associated with implementing sustainable farming practices, making it even more accessible and beneficial.

He said, "The modern farming ecosystem needs to be well expanded and well utilized at any cost as it has transformed the traditional approach via introducing a series of sophisticated steps in the lifecycle of a crop. This journey from seed to harvest encompasses various stages that are integral to successful crop production."

For a better production and productivity, before a seed is even planted, extensive research and development has to be taken place. This involves selecting crop varieties best suited to specific climates and soil types, as well as developing sustainable farming methods, he opined.

Unequivocally, soil preparation is crucial in the modern farming system. This involves testing the soil for nutrient content and pH levels and then amending it as needed. Techniques like cultivating or tilling are employed to prepare the land for sowing. The choice of sowing method (manual or mechanical) largely depends on the crop type and scale of the farm. Precision agriculture techniques are increasingly used to ensure optimal spacing and depth for the seeds, enhancing growth prospects, he underscored.

As to Demissie, efficient irrigation systems are also vital in the modern farming, especially in regional states with unpredictable rainfall. Alongside, appropriate fertilization ensures that crops receive essential nutrients for growth.

He further elucidated that integrated pest

management strategies, including the use of bio-control agents and crop rotation, help manage pests and diseases with minimal ecological impact so as to boost production and productivity. This step is vital to safeguard crop yields and quality, too.

The timing of the harvest, as to Demissie, is critical and is often determined by monitoring crop maturity. Modern machinery facilitates efficient harvesting, especially for large-scale farms. Besides, post harvest handling is decisive. This includes cleaning, sorting, packaging, and storing the produce. Post-harvest handling is crucial for maintaining the quality of the crop until it reaches the consumer.

Each step is crucial and interdependent, forming a comprehensive approach to modern agriculture. From the initial research to the final harvest, every stage combines traditional knowledge with modern technology, ensuring that crops are grown efficiently and sustainably. Since there is no "one-size-fits-all" solution to the complex problems of the farming community's diverse circumstances, a demand-driven approach needs to be well entertained.

He said, "As we move forward, understanding and appreciating the intricate process of crop production in the modern system is vital. It reminds us of the continuous evolution in agricultural practices and the importance of embracing innovative methods for a sustainable future in farming."

He said seed varieties have to be carefully selected based on their adaptability and success in the producing states like Amhara, Oromia, and some others. Besides, meticulous attention to water usage is paramount for ensuring flourishing agricultural operations. Failure to implement effective water management strategies can lead to either insufficient or excessive irrigation, impeding the growth and yield of crops.

As to him, the journey to improve farming productivity doesn't end with a successful crop yield and following the right procedure towards crop harvest. To fully capitalize on agricultural efforts, it is crucial to prioritize post-harvest infrastructure and ensure seamless access to valuable information. Post-harvest infrastructure holds immense importance in preserving the quality of your yield and minimizing losses.

In a nutshell, taking advantage of precision agriculture technologies, implementing sustainable farming contributes a lot to improving farming productivity in the country. By adopting precision agriculture technologies, implementing sustainable farming practices, enhancing soil health and fertility, investing in high-quality seed varieties, elevating water management strategies, and strengthening farm infrastructure, farmers pave the way for a thriving and prosperous agricultural venture. Embracing these strategies, tailor them to farm's unique needs, and seize the opportunity to excel in the ever-evolving realm of farming. Agricultural training and extension programs appear to be having a positive impact on the value of crop production in fact.

Art & Culture

The impact of privileging the English language

BY MEKDES TAYE (PHD)

I have been a studious English student since my junior year. I remember when I was in grade 6; I was at Dilchibo Junior Elementary School in Bahir Dar. Our English teacher's name was Wolika Kitila. Gash Wolika was the smartest teacher I had ever known. Since he understood the problem of each student, which was speaking, he was very creative with the students for speaking. Since I was short and mostly late arriver, I usually took a front seat. I had some housework chores to tackle. He was so happy to see me smiling when he introduced a new way of a game that pushed us to speak out on the stage. I and my best friend Shega Yusuf Kindie were mostly picked up for an ice break. It was that precious time which paved the way for my further study in English Language and Literature.

One day Gash Wolika gave us a dialogue to be orally studied and presented without any reference. This assignment was given for the next day. I remember, I was so fast to take the words in my mind and asked him to allow me to present it within the same day. He was surprised. He gave me the stage with an adoring smile. The class was quieted to see the happening. Without any faulting, I coherently presented the dialogue even by varying my voice to represent the two speakers in the script. I did it. Gash Wolika pulled me up and took my hand up and appreciated me, predicted all best for my future. The class joined him with admiring noises and claps.

From that moment Gash Wolika, my friend Shega, and I were walking together to home. We were talking in English. But other students were watching us surprised. They took us for the most modern, civilized, and even pompous individuals in the town. I realized that seriously. My friends started neglecting me and my friend Shaga. 'You tassel girls get away from us.' They never allowed us to join their group. Then we started backpedaling. We agreed to speak with Gash Wolika only. We asked for excuses and started to behave in the way they do.

This experience was also repeated while I was in preparatory school. While I was in grade 11 my friends were planning to study together with subjects that any of us liked. Thus, I took English subject to mention some basics to the group. Others also took their favorite. But my female friends were not happy. They warned me to stop talking in English. Then from that incident onwards, I started realizing the attitudes given to the language.

After my study in the university, I became an instructor there. My students even my colleagues' preferred not to speak English. Mistakes that happened in this language are believed to be signs of foolishness and lack of knowledgeableness. But when a person, tries to acquire another language and make a mistake, that time the mistake is detected as the person's beauty and recalls the sympathy of the speaker of that language.

Thus, the question is what is the problem in the English language?

Experts in language studies argue that a given language is able to communicate a given society and is proficient in its vocabulary in signifying a give aspect, it is equally a language. But the over pride-ness of English language, I believe, did affect the learners to acquire it in a way it should be as another language.

It is obvious that the world's champions in technology and economy are those who speak English language as their mother tongue. It is also logical that new inventories, scientific investigations, and technologies are primarily found in their signifying term from this language. This had a greater impact on recalling these speakers as the top and creators of that new thing and advancement as their identity. Thus, this could be very challenging for other languages to get translated as it is. That is why in Amharic language English jargons are sometimes used as they are. This, I think, had an impact on the psychological makeup of the language learner.

The second factor that affected learners is the speakers of the language are economically leaders of the globe. This did mean a lot. Primarily this status enabled the people to influence the way they wear, the way they speak, the way they act, and the way they live. Again this way of living is primarily exhibited using language. And trying to learn this language for someone from another background did recall many interpretations. The comparison and the critics are something beyond the matter of language. It is about the overall societal issue. For instance, this person who is trying to speak the language could be perceived as the one who no more loved his own identity and culture. He is trying to know; that this developed people over his own are the judgment of the masses.

Thirdly, English speakers are sources of modernization and a new way of life. Thus, their language which is their instrument did remark on this aspect. Therefore, when the one attempted to acquire the language, the interpretation is he preferred that modernization and life to his own. This is sourced from the over-magnification of the language.

The other factor is the speakers themselves. Let me take you back to the history of colonialism in Africa. The dominant countries of the region were taken up by British colonizers. Thus, the colonies were forced to acquire English language than their own language, but these colonies were not expected to learn the style, pronunciation and cohesive flow of the language. The colonizers designed a separate language-learning policy. As the policy dictated English language was carefully designed in a way that didn't miss the intellectual intelligence of the language. This means that the colonies pronounce English in a different way but the content or the meaning is still understood by the



colonizers. The way colonies pronounce the language is purposely changed by the white master which is the result of the indirect policy of the British.

This strategy, I believe, did play a greater role in abusing the psychological minds of the colonies. The reason is the intention behind this is to tell them that they are not equally humans as they are. To be white requires pronouncing English as the deed. But in order to remind the colonies that they are inferior, the colonizers forced them to learn the language in a different style. That is why the former colonies of British are still pronouncing the language differently. I feel this shows a rooted hatred of the colonizers. Since the style is dominating the people, it prevails these days. Children are acquiring the language with this deficiency. This draws the line between the natives and the Africans, as they primarily planned it so. They stay at the top in their fluent pronunciation.

Here it is clear that there could be a dialectic difference across the geographical locations of the people. But I mentioned the deliberate move of the colonizers on the English language. Though the style is quite different, these colonies are free of using the language dominantly. Although I strongly hated colonialism, the experience is highly assisting the colonies to come together, speak together, reclaim their identities together, and plan their future together. They are shining over the globe on various issues these days.

Second language learning is effective if there is the goodwill of the learner and the sympathy of the native speaker. English language natives, I feel, prefer to make fun than appreciate the learner for further trials. They mostly exhibit show-ups and overact. This is very irritating for the learner.

English language is a language as any other language. Thus, the way to learn it is also the same with other local languages in the country. As experts in the field advised, language could be developed when it is practiced regularly. Mistakes are detected when the learner speaks it out. But otherwise, s/he might take it as the right way before making it out. Thus, as any language, English should be practiced and corrected from the errors.

The teaching medium of Ethiopia especially in high schools and higher institutions is English. But even those who completed their degrees are not willing to speak in English. This is I believe lack of confidence that emanated from the fear of making mistakes. In Ethiopia people are smart in writing than speaking which is stereotyped as being pompons or the one that needed show up. But the logic requires the revers. Language is developed through showing up.

The conclusion is primarily the mentioned stereotypes should be considered and enacted by the concerned bodies that function in language acquisition. There is British Council which is the most organized and acclaimed one on working on culture and language. Thus, experts should be active in addressing the issue as per the cultural background of the people. Active and practical modules, seminars, public training, consecutive follow-ups, and recognitions should be addressed. Since teachers are the most influential elements in the learning and teaching process, a greater concern should be given to enriching them.

In the country, there are various NGOs and institutions. These institutions are mostly run by whites' usually English speakers. Therefore, they can work on alerting the community around them on various occasions. They can create English training sessions, and competitions, and serve them with resources.

Teachers in schools had better focus on the speaking section of English teaching courses than the greater attention on grammar. I am not saying grammar is not necessary. But language is better learned through practice. When students speak, they can see their mistakes in style, word, form and grammar. Thus, appreciating learners to speak did mean a lot for acquiring the language.

The native speakers themselves need to be empathetic. They should adore the learner since he is going to learn not only the language but also the culture, style, and content of that society. The other point that I needed to use as a closing remark is English is a language as any language as Guragegna, Tigregna or any other ones. Thus, go use it and make mistakes in the process to learn the correct one.

Science & Technology

Fayda Digital ID: Key enabler for social inclusion, economic development

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

Global identity day (ID day) was celebrated on 16 September 2024 worldwide with the theme “Celebrating the right to be visible”. The day was mainly celebrated to develop awareness about role of Digital ID in the digital era. Countries across the world are implementing Digital ID following the development of digitalization. Accordingly, by the end of 2024, around five billion people are expected to own digital ID across the world. The development of Digital ID is easing service delivery and providing secured services for citizens. Digital ID also facilitates digitalization, E-services and also digital transactions. For example, countries like Estonia, which reached around 99% of their citizens with Digital ID, citizens can get up to 600 services using their E-ID.

Ethiopia started the implementation of National Digital ID, known as Fayda. Ethiopia started the process of initiating National ID in 2018 and from 2019 to 2021, Ethiopia developed technical and legal platforms to launch National Digital ID. Following the completion of technical and legal procedures, Ethiopia established the National ID Program Office (NIDP) in 2021. The national digital ID aims to ensure a robust, reliable and forward-looking digital identification platform for residents. Following establishing the National ID Program Office, Ethiopia launched National ID Program, named it Fayda, which is a 12 digit unique identification number.

According to NIDP, the Fayda ID serves as a unique proof of identity for individuals based on “one person, one identity” principle using the bi-ometric identifier technology. Since 2023, the official registration for National ID started implementing through campaign in Ethiopia and so far, according to NIDP, nearly 10 million citizens are registered for Fayda. NIDP also has a plan to provide Fayda ID for 90 million citizens in the coming three years.

Recently, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) stated that Digital ID is a crucial element in today’s digital technology era. As to the Premier, Digital ID is crucial to build digital economy and social capital. “Only full implementation of National ID for citizens would automatically raise Ethiopia’s GDP by 7% as it helps to formalize the informal market,” PM Abiy stated underscored the importance of Digital ID for development. Similarly, implementing Digital ID is a crucial element to control frauds in services, financial sector and areas. Considering the role of the socio-economic role of Digital ID, Ethiopia is working to reach 90 million citizens to provide Digital ID in the coming three years. Despite the campaigns to aware citizens to register for Digital ID and opening registration centers, including in collaboration with various sectors including banks and Ethio-Telecom, lack of awareness about the necessity of the digital ID remains a challenge so far.

In connection with the Global ID Day, the



National ID ብሔራዊ መታወቂያ

Ethiopia targets to provide Fayda number for 90 million citizens within the coming three years

National ID Program Office of Ethiopia organized a High Level Webinar panel entitled “Transforming Governance through Digitalization: A step to Realize Digital Transformation,” last week.

During the webinar, Ethiopia’s National ID Program Office, Executive Director Yodahe Zemichael stated that National ID system becomes a crucial element in Ethiopia’s Digital Government Strategy (E-Go strategy). As to him, Digital ID is a foundational pillar of E-GO strategy as it helps to increase e-service delivery, increase transparency, develop citizen participation, develop digital public infrastructure and to integrate other foundational systems in the digital service. Yodahe stated that National

ID is important to create citizen friendly environment in the digital sector.

For his part, Abiyot Bayou (PhD), Senior Advisor to the Minister of Innovation and Technology of Ethiopia stated that National ID is the central tool in E-governance and providing digital services. According to Abiyot, Ethiopia started the first E-government strategy applied from 2011 to 2015 and the second E-government strategy from 2016 to 2020. Following the two consecutive strategies to develop E-governance in Ethiopia, currently Ethiopia prepares the third E-Government strategy to be implemented from 2025 to 2030, Abiyot said during the panel discussion. As to him, the new E-governance strategy has incorporated various new concepts like implementing the national enterprise architecture, developing Ethio connect as a data platform, having digital public infrastructure concepts as well as develop the goals. The E-government stack, for him, is expected to facilitate interactions among various applications.

According to Abiyot, during the previous E-governance strategies, the approach was focused on institutions to develop their own switch of applications. However, in the new E-governance strategy of the E-GO stake, it aims a user centric design. Hence, as to him in the GO stake, National ID is a central tool. “When the GO stake is in place, we will have the integration of payment system, ID card, the registration and other data exchange systems at the center,” Abiyot noted. Hence, Digital ID will facilitate the interaction among citizens and E-government system, which helps to realize socio-economic developments of the country in addition to its role for individuals to get secure services. The presence of National ID, according to Abiyot, will help a smooth interaction between the government and citizens in the E-governance system.

Having the ID in place as a government stake would also help to streamline data exchanges as well as protecting individuals’ data during e-government development. “So, the presence of Fayda Digital ID, in Ethiopia will expect to solve many

problems,” Abiyot reiterated. As to the advisor, despite government already has started providing e-services online, lack of Digital ID remains a serious challenge to develop the services and as an identification number the services were providing using customers mobile numbers so as to identify the users. Hence, the presence of Fayda digital ID will help to have similes integration among E-government services.

In addition, Abiyot stated that Fayda would facilitate digital innovations and allow citizens to try different types of business models. Abiyot said that the new E-government strategy is on its final stage where the drafting process is already finalized and waiting for approval. For him, when the new E-governance strategy will be applied, Fayda will have a critical number of users and can facilitate an efficient E-governance service in Ethiopia.

Speaking to local media, Senior Advisor to National Digital ID Program Olana Abebe for his part stated that digital ID is a crucial tool to build digital economy. As Ethiopia is striving to build digital economy, implementing National ID is crucial to accelerate the development of digital services and digital transactions. “When we talk about Digital ID, we are talking about identifying one person as one using the bi-ometric systems and this is a vital tool in service citizens and providing inclusive social services in the education, health, justice and other sectors,” Olana said.

Olana said that despite Ethiopia is a late comer in implementing National Digital ID system, by taking experiences from other countries using its late comer as an advantage, Ethiopia is accelerating the implementation of the program. He stated that, with an ambitious plan, Ethiopia targets to provide Fayda number for 90 million citizens within the coming three years.

Considering the socio-economic development of Fayda, citizens are expected to register to secure the National ID. The NIDP is working with different stakeholders to facilitate the registration process and the campaign continues across the country.

Society

Strategic tourism infrastructure dev't: To drive sustainable economic growth,

BY STAFF REPORTER

The Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), had organized an event from September 7-9, 2024 in connection with the World Tourism Day which will be marked every year on September 27.

At the event held at the Adwa Memorial Museum in Addis Ababa, tourism sectors ministers drawn from IGAD member countries, regions, delegates, and tourism actors took part. An exhibition titled "Origins travel market" created a platform for IGAD member countries to showcase their tourism potential was opened".

Ethiopia also launched the first Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) that helps the country to understand the true magnitude of the tourism industry, enables it to make informed decisions, and promote sustainable growth in the tourism sector as well as measure its contribution in generating employment and supporting country's economic development. It will also help to solve the challenges associated with having sufficient and accurate information in the area thereby utilizing the economic potential of the sector.

Speaking at the program, Tourism Minister Nasise Chali said Ethiopia is working diligently focusing on the tourism sector. The country is also committed to working in cooperation with IGAD member countries to boost up tourism activity in the region.

Tourism ministers of IGAD member countries and other tourism actors also visited tourist attractions, the Adwa Victory Memorial Museum, the Science Museum, and Entoto Park, constructed and renovated by the government in the capital Addis Ababa.

Following the visit, the delegates that ENA approached reflected their impression regarding Ethiopia's commitment and effort in developing the country's untapped tourism potential.

Bahinduka Martin Mugarra, State Minister of Tourism, Wildlife, and Antiquities of Uganda, is one of the interviewees ENA approached and commended Ethiopia for its resilience and cultural significance.

"I think all of us in Africa know the Ethiopian history of resistance, and it was a great history of inspiration and African history. It is good to be here; listen, see and feel what had happened in the Ethiopian history," he said further mentioning that Africans can maintain their narrative and cultures in this way in the future.

"I believe this is how we can continue preserving and protecting the African history and culture as we move forward. It is truly great for us."

The State Minister highlighted the impressive infrastructure developments in Ethiopia, particularly in the hospitality



Ethiopia also launched the first Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) that helps the country to understand the true magnitude of the tourism industry, enables it to make informed decisions, and promote sustainable growth in the tourism sector as well as measure its contribution in generating employment and supporting country's economic development

sector.

The roads and the ongoing construction activities in the old city reflect a vibrant transformation, he said, adding that new hotel developments are crucial for tourism growth.

He also emphasized the strategic advantage of Ethiopian Airlines, stating, "It is much easier for Ethiopia to connect with the world, and we are all learning from Ethiopia."

Additionally, he congratulated the Ethiopian government for launching the Tourism Satellite Account (TSA), describing it as a significant milestone for tourism development, economic growth, and job creation.

"This will enable better planning and support for the tourism sector based on well-researched and organized data," he said, adding "It is going to be a game changer for the Ethiopian tourism sector."

Mugarra expressed his confidence in Ethiopia's ability to raise its tourist numbers. "The infrastructure development I have seen so far is irrefutably impressive and aligns with your ambitious goals," he added.

South Sudan's Minister of Wildlife, Conservation, and Tourism Rizik Zakaria Hassan on his part; expressed admiration for Ethiopia's advancements in tourism infrastructure.

Speaking about the essential elements of hospitality and recreation, Hassan emphasized the importance of adequate accommodation for tourists.

Highlighting Ethiopia's impressive wildlife parks and natural scenery, he said Ethiopians have parks where they accommodate animals and wild species. "These are a number of areas from which we hope to draw lessons," he opined.

"Overall, I am truly convinced and inspired by the level of development we have witnessed in Ethiopia," he reiterated.

The Minister also added that Addis Ababa has so many inspirational spots, including the historic and natural sceneries, and the impressive infrastructure development. According to him, the tourism attractions, he visited are remarkable development activities for the African capital, Addis Ababa, apart from its earlier heritage.

"I think here, there are so many lessons to draw. And, South Sudan, as the newest country, I think we should be planning to start from where you are," he said.

Djibouti's Minister of Trade and Tourism, Mohamed Warsama also said "We paid a visit at the Adwa Victory Memorial Museum, where we have enjoyed exploring Ethiopia's rich history. The hospitality we have received has been exceptional."

Noting that Djibouti and Ethiopia also

enjoy very good relations in all areas, the Minister said, "Notably in the area of trade and tourism, we are working together to develop integrated tourism between the two countries."

"A significant development has been witnessed and I encourage those engaged in the tourism sector to continue fostering relations between the peoples of the two countries," he added.

Meanwhile, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) launched its ten-year sustainable tourism master plan yesterday in the presence of IGAD Secretary General, Workneh Gebeyehu, Ethiopia's Tourism Minister Nasise Chali, Tourism Ministers of IGAD member countries, and other guests.

The Master Plan, which was launched at the ceremony held at the Adwa Victory Memorial Museum was said to aim to unify fragmented efforts of individual member countries in the area of tourism development.

Speaking on the occasion, IGAD Secretary General Workneh said the Master Plan will be implemented over the coming ten years to bring competent and sustainable tourism development across the region.

The Master Plan will also serve as one of the key instruments to expedite regional integration apart from its contribution to policymakers, he added.

The Secretary-General further urged all stakeholders to enhance their collaboration to successfully implement the master plan by recognizing the contributions of the plan to bring regional peace and stability as well as ensuring the benefit of the people.

World Tourism Day is commemorated every year on 27 September with the aim to foster awareness among the international community regarding the importance of tourism and its social, economic, and cultural impact worldwide. This year's the Day is marked with a theme "Tourism and Peace," to promote the role of tourism in promoting peace, as it encourages cross-cultural.

Ethiopia's first...

modernize the tourism sector in order to increasing foreign exchanges it generates to the national economy.

UNECA Representative, Gefari Magnara (PhD) on his part said that launching TSA is a major milestone for Ethiopia as it helps to unlock tourism potentials for enabling stakeholders to have a current understanding of the sector.

Projections for the next 5 to 10 years suggest that with continued investment, Ethiopia's tourism sector could surpass pre-pandemic levels by the late 2020s. Initiatives focusing on enhancing infrastructure, improving security, and developing new tourism products like ecotourism, will be key drivers of growth, as to him.

It is anticipated that tourism sector could contribute over 5 billion USD annually to GDP by 2030 with international tourist arrivals exceeding 2 million visitors, he indicated.

"We need to optimize tourism contribution to national development goals like the creation of jobs and attraction of investments."

The Representative believed that TSA has also a broader positive effect on other sectors such as agriculture and construction and also promotes inclusive development.

"UNECA will continue supporting Ethiopia and this financial foundation, stronger and more resilience to tourism industry to the benefit of all Ethiopians," he expressed.

"Looking ahead, the future is promising, but

The nation is determined to boost its tourism revenue hoping for achieving a remarkable success from the smokeless industry

it will require sustained effort and strategic planning," he said.

Accordingly, the tourism is an economic sector that is not defined as an industry in national accounts. Rather, it is an amalgam of industries such as travel, accommodation, food and beverage service, transportation, recreation and entertainment. It does this by

contrasting data from the demand-side (the acquisition of goods and services by visitors while on a tourism trip) with data from the supply-side of the economy (the value of goods and services produced).

TSA is an accounting framework adopted by the United Nations and designed to measure goods and services associated with tourism according to international standards, concepts, classifications and definitions. In general, it is an instrument that measures the generation of tourism economic data (such as the direct contribution of Tourism to GDP) that is comparable with other economic statistics.

Briefing journalists regarding TSA, Tourism State Minister Sileshi Girma said that Ethiopia has established its TSA in collaboration with other ministries and pertinent stakeholders.

The establishment of TSA is a strategic initiative aimed at realizing the full economic potential of Ethiopia's tourism sector by providing essential data for evidence-based policy formulation, decision making and strategic planning. Indicating that Ethiopia lacks of robust statistical framework for accurately measuring and analyzing, he said the sector's economic contributions relying mainly on international tourist arrivals and visitor exit surveys.

The gaps as well as the fragmented approach to data collection limits the country's ability to fully capitalize on the benefits of tourism and optimize its economic impact and hinders effective policy development,

implementation, evaluation as well as the efficient operation of businesses within the sector, the state minister emphasized.

Thus, launching TSA will offer insights for the contribution of tourism to GDP, the sector's size relative to other economic sectors, job creation, tourism's contribution to investment, the impact of international tourism on the balance of payments and government revenue generated by tourism activities.

It was in 2023 that Ethiopia began the TSA project in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning and Development and various stakeholders from both public and private sectors.

Tourism Satellite Account is a globally recognized statistical framework developed by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division, the International Monetary Fund and other international bodies.

In sum, nowadays, the nation is determined to boost its tourism revenue hoping for achieving a remarkable success from the smokeless industry. The country is the leading in Africa with inscribing more than 10 incredible world heritages by UNESCO comprised of or being known for its hospitable peoples. Thus, the nation has set to boost its tourism revenue to cover a tangible share to its GDP and utilizing more from its long-standing and huge natural and man-made tourist destinations.

4. Valid VAT Registration Certificate, Supplier's registration certificate and Taxpayer registration.
5. Tax Clearance Certificate stating the bidder is eligible to participate in any public tender and valid at least at the deadline for submission of bids.
6. Bidders should deposit non-refundable One Hundred Birr (100.00 ETB) to the nearby Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) branch referring this tender number SSNT- T488 in Ethiopian Airlines Group Account Number 1000006958277(E-99). Bidders shall email





This is Ethiopia

Ethiopia's first Tourism Satellite Account

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Since the past few years, the tourism sector has received due attention by the Ethiopian government to generate a tangible income and create numerous job opportunities for youths and women. To realize this objective, thus, various initiatives have been devised to advance the sector. Accordingly, massive tourism attractions development activities have been undertaken at national level. In the past few years, the renovation of the existing tourist sites and the development of the new ones have been carried out aggressively to enhance the contribution of the sector to national development.

As part of this effort, and to practically measure the contribution of the tourism sector to nation's GDP and understand its future potential to the economy through organizing tourism-related data across the country, this week, the Ministry of Tourism launched a new Tourism Satellite Account (TSA), on Tuesday September 17, 2024.

During the launching ceremony, Tourism Minister, Ambassador Nasise Chali stated that the TSA, as a scientific tool, provides tourists with organized information to get better services in various destinations.



"It is a testimony to our journey and vital to quantify the tourism and ensure sustainable development and sound strategy that transform Ethiopian tourism toward the future."

TSA can solve the lack of organized information in tourism so that the sector provides smooth services and comprehensive information thereby contributing quantifiable



share to the national economy, she mentioned.

The Minister further elaborated that the satellite account helps to utilize the economic potential of the tourism sector for GDP contribution, job creation and investment attraction by providing crucial data for evidence based policy formulation, decision-making, and strategic planning.

"Ethiopia is rich in historical, natural and cultural resources with several tourism destinations but has not been able to obtain the benefit it deserves for underdeveloped infrastructures and other limitations."

However, these days, according to Nasise, the government is paying great attention to

See Ethiopia's first ... page 19