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Participants thumbs up Addis's corridor dev't enlightenment

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA - The corridor development and the unfolding mega projects in the capital remain a practical example for the rest of African cities transformation, African cities forum participants commented.

In an exclusive interview with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), South African Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Deputy Minister Dickson Masemola (PhD) said that the government of Ethiopia has made exemplary achievements on corridor redevelopment, cultural and historical preservation activities.

Cherishing big thumbs up to the leadership for the successful executions of massive projects in the metropolis, he emphasized that the historic Adwa Victory Memorial Museum is well built onto emboldening all the sacrifices paid not only to the

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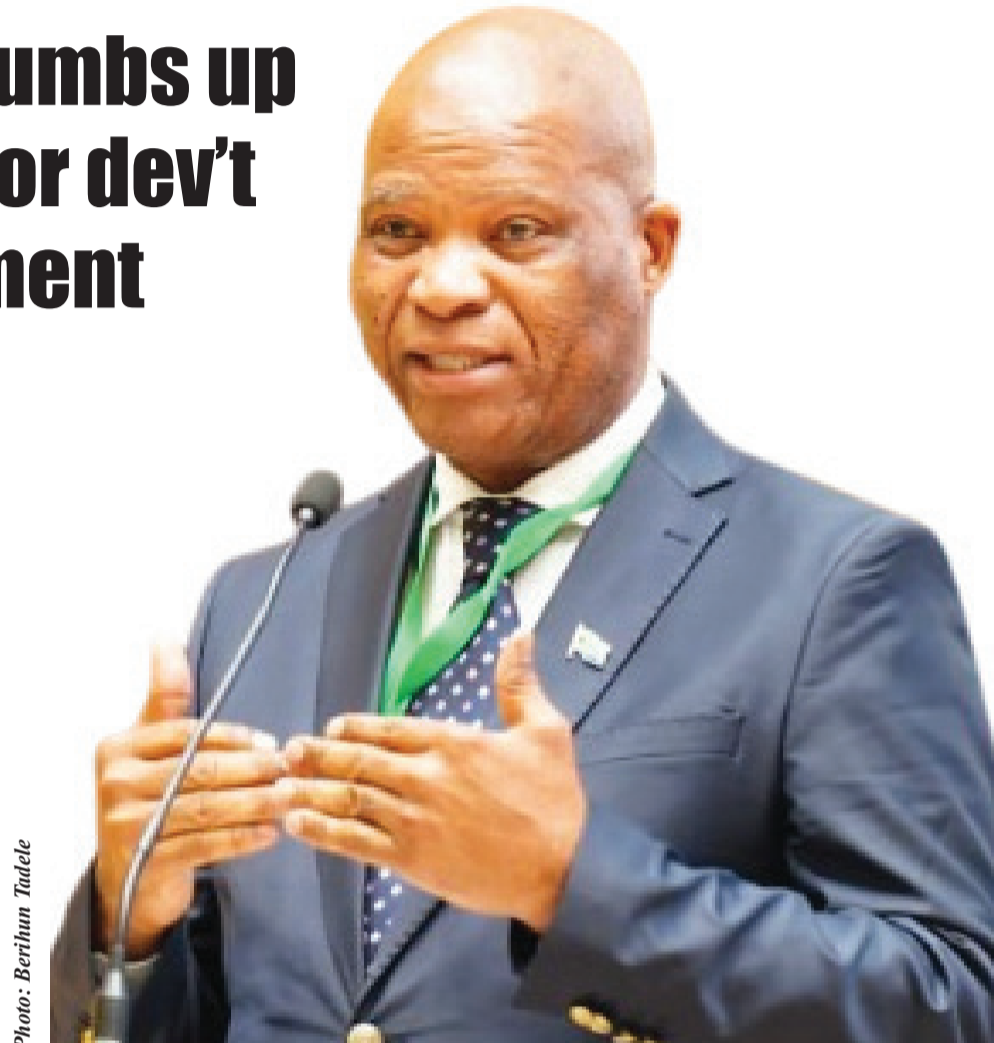


Photo: Berihun Tadele

Dickson Masemola (PhD)

Ethiopia's arduous journey to prosperity

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

Despite having immense development potentials, Ethiopia had gone through hard times. However, exploiting the benefits in the disguise, the country has been carrying out activities intended to eradicate poverty and ensure inclusive growth.

It is a recent phenomenon that Ethiopia is excessively performing various development works aiming to improve the lives of its people. But, do the ongoing activities enable the nation to abolish poverty and lead towards prosperity?

Political Analyst, Mulugeta Debebe (PhD), told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the future of a nation relies on the gains of the past along with tangible efforts exerted today. Thus, the nation is undertaking extensive activities to

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Shiferaw Teklemariam (PhD)

EDRMC prioritizes humanity, self-reliance in 2017

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

ADDIS ABABA -The Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission (EDRMC) has called for 2017 to be a year focused on prioritizing humanity, peace, sustainable development, and environmental conservation. The commission emphasized the importance of enhancing the country's potential by eliminating reliance and dependency.

Approached by *The Ethiopian Herald*, Commissioner Shiferaw Teklemariam (PhD) reflected on 2016 as a year of mixed

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Modern inputs, fertilizer supply propel Ethiopia's agricultural transformation

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

The use of high-yielding seeds, fertilizers, and other inputs is crucial for driving agricultural transformation. The increased adoption of these production-enhancing tools has been largely supported by local agri-businesses, including independent seed companies, fertilizer importers, distributors, and village-based agro-dealers who now see Africa's smallholder farmers as valuable customers.

Achieving full agricultural transformation requires significant investment in growing supply chains that deliver improved seeds and appropriate fertilizers to smallholder farmers. Ethiopia has prioritized enhancing agricultural productivity to ensure food security with modern technologies. The government has been supplying fertilizer, improved seeds, and farm machinery such as tractors and combines on a wide scale.

Agriculture Minister Girma Amentie (PhD) said that ongoing efforts to modernize the agriculture sector, backed by the latest technology and increased access to inputs, would contribute to macroeconomic growth. According to Girma, significant progress has been made in recent years, with many challenges related to the supply, distribution, and usage of agricultural



inputs now addressed.

Fertilizer, a key driver of agricultural productivity, has seen growing demand from farmers. However, Girma acknowledged that the Russo-Ukrainian War, tensions in the Middle East and local conflicts have posed challenges to fertilizer

imports and timely distribution. Despite these difficulties, the availability of inputs has remained resilient, with the country purchasing 18 million quintals of fertilizer in 2021. To meet the growing demand, the government has purchased 20

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Babekir Halifa

Benishangul cultivates 1.2 mln hectares

•Targets 45 mln quintal harvest

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA – The Benishangul Gumuz Agriculture Bureau has announced that 1.2 million hectares of land are being cultivated with maize, soybean, sorghum, and other crops this farming season.

The state initially planned to cultivate 1.3 million hectares and is nearing that goal, with 1.2 million hectares already covered with various crops, according to the Bureau.

Bureau Head Babekir Halifa told *The Ethiopian Herald* that the state aims to harvest 45 million quintals of crops during this season, primarily from maize, sorghum, wheat, rice, soybean, and sesame—one of the state's key export commodities. Of the total yield, maize alone is expected to contribute 20 million quintals.

Babekir stated that 161,000 tons of agricultural fertilizers and improved seeds have been distributed to farmers. In addition to synthetic fertilizers, farmers are also utilizing compost and bio slurry to enhance soil fertility.

Agricultural experts are closely monitoring the farming activities across various zones and districts to ensure productivity, the head added. He also mentioned that peace has largely been restored in the state, allowing for more stable agricultural practices.

While around 1,000 investors have been allocated 400,000 hectares of land, only a small portion is being properly utilized. “Last year, 69 investors cultivated 13,000 hectares, and this year 80 investors are engaged in agricultural activities,” Babekir stated.

The state has also ramped up its irrigation efforts, developing 37,000 hectares last year, with plans to expand to 53,000 hectares this year.

Asossa University is conducting research to improve crop yields, particularly in wheat, teff, rice, and maize, while also working with local farmers on natural resource protection and sustainable agricultural practices.

Abbay Dam testament to Ethiopian resolve, Nat'l unity amidst challenges

ADDIS ABABA - The Abbay Dam is a symbolic project where Ethiopians have demonstrated strength by building their future under several pressures, General Manager of the construction of the dam, Engineer Kifle Horo remarked.

The corner stone for the construction of the dam was laid down on April 2, 2011 under the scorching sun of Guba Mountain cruising through complex challenges and is now on the threshold for completion.

Ethiopians have demonstrated their dedication for the realization of the Abbay dam which is the beacon of their unity.

The dam has sustained every challenge that ranged from hurdles created by wrong political decisions to an escalation of proxy wars.

General Manager of the construction of Abbay Dam, Eng. Kifle Horo told ENA the flagship dam is a shared project of all Ethiopians built with their flesh and blood.

He said the dam is now 99.5 percent complete while the saddle dam has been 100 percent completed.



The overall construction of this flagship project, which is a showcase for the unity of the people of Ethiopia, is now 96.8 per cent completed, Kifle said.

The General Manager stressed that the dam has not been constructed by a combination of cement and concrete slabs but also the result of the relentless sacrifices paid by Ethiopians in their flesh and blood.

He added that the reformist government had faced a lot of challenges and pressures after the construction was continued in a more efficient manner.

Ethiopians from all corners of the country and at overseas have paid for the construction of the dam not only with their finance but have also sacrificed their lives to ensure the construction of the dam to come to fruition, Kifle added.

Ethiopians and foreign citizens of Ethiopian origin in the Diaspora have also voiced to the rest of the world about the legitimacy of the project, its fairness and a matter of survival for the people of Ethiopia on all international forums, he noted.

The General Manager further explained that the people of Ethiopia, the government and security forces have managed to effectively repulse the international campaigns to deter the country from constructing the dam and have emerged victorious through coordinated efforts they made.

Four turbines of the dam have already started generating hydroelectric power while the entire construction of the project is expected to be completed in a year's time.

State to harvest 31mln. quintals of rice

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA- Some 31 million quintals of rice product is expected to be harvested in Somali State this crop season, State's Agriculture Bureau announced.

Bureau Deputy Head Ahmednur Abdi told Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the region is expanding rice agriculture through time and about 31 million quintals of product is expected to be harvested this agricultural season.

The state has planned to harvest the product from 3000 hectares of farmland that would be cultivated this season, which has been

forecasted to remain rainy until October, he said.

According to Abdi, researches to improve rice seed are also underway while several crop species, including maize, sorghum and wheat are being familiarized to the region.

The Bureau has distributed improved seeds amounted in quintal 20 thousand maize and sorghum, and 10 thousand wheat to farmers. There would be no fertilizer demand as the soil is too fertile to rainy season cultivation. As to the Head, the number of farmers developing cultivation skills in both rainy and dry seasons as well as through irrigation mechanisms is growing.

The rice production in Somali state is



part of the national initiative to achieve food sovereignty and to substitute crop import marking new shift for economic transformation in Ethiopia, the Head expressed.

Ethiopia expresses unwavering commitment for climate related actions initiatives

ADDIS ABABA (ENA) - Ethiopia has reaffirmed its unwavering commitment for climate and environment policy and actions across sectors.

Planning and Development State Minister Seyoum Mekonen met Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP and Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary of UNFCCC in the sideline of the 10th Special Session of AMCEN which is being held in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire from 5th to 6th September 2024.

The State Minister explained that the innovative action where the Government of Ethiopia has been strategically addressing the issue of climate change and environment by restructuring these issues under the Ministry of Planning and Development

According to him, the restructuring works are imperative for a robust mainstreaming of these matters into the National Development Planning process.

Seyoum proudly explained the practical climate actions where the Government and people of Ethiopia undertaking to address the pressing challenges of climate change through Green Legacy where the initiative managed to plant about 32.5 billion seedlings that have both ecological as well as food and fodder trees and grasses.

The initiative entertained an incredible achievement

of increasing the forest cover of Ethiopia from 17.2 percent in 2017 to 23.6 percent in 2023, it was indicated.

The initiative has also improved the food system transformation in Ethiopia through the 'Bounty of Basket' (*Ye Lemat Tirufat*) that focused on promoting food sovereignty as package of the Green Legacy Initiative.

“The UNEP office deserved to be strengthened considering Addis Ababa is the seat for the Africa Union and all other diplomatic missions and requested Inger for her leadership in this regard” Seyoum stressed the importance of the UN agencies for the delivery of the national environmental and climate policies and strategies.

On her part, Executive Director of UNEP, Inger Andersen praised Ethiopia's remarkable leadership in environmental and climate initiatives, particularly highlighting the renowned Green Legacy program.

She expressed her interest in aligning this initiative with the recently announced UN Decade of Ecological Restoration, led by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

Inspired by Ethiopia's multifaceted leadership in environmental issues, she expressed a desire to collaborate with Ethiopia to enhance UNEP's

effectiveness.

“COP29 must establish ambitious, quantifiable climate finance goals that are accessible to countries with limited capacity, including those in Africa and least developed countries like Ethiopia,” Seyoum stated, highlighting Ethiopia's priorities for COP29 to the UNFCCC Executive Secretary.

He further noted: “As the chair of AMCEN, Ethiopia aims to unify the region's voice, ensuring it is heard.”

Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary of UNFCCC appreciated Ethiopia's ambitious Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) while commending the Government of Ethiopia's plan to submit the 3rd generation NDC (NDC3.0).

He further expressed his commitment for mobilizing the financial resources to Ethiopia for achieving the development and submission of Ethiopia's NDC having the whole of society being applied.

Simon shared his commitment for having a New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Change (NCQG) with his hope that the divergences on the sources of finance and the quality of it.

The two parties agreed to continue their bilateral consultation towards a shared interest in the time to come.

Modern inputs,...

million quintals for 2024 and plans to buy 25 million quintals for 2025.

The minister also noted that Ethiopia saved over 24 billion Birr on soil fertilizer purchases during this agricultural season alone. The country's efforts to make essential inputs more

affordable have been instrumental in boosting production and productivity.

Agriculture State Minister Sofia Kassa emphasized that ensuring sufficient supplies of fertilizers and other inputs is central to the government's strategy for food security. By identifying demand

and ensuring timely distribution across states, Ethiopia has seen notable success in increasing agricultural production. The rising capacity to supply fertilizers has allowed farmers, pastoralists, and semi-pastoralists to produce higher-quality products, further supporting the country's rapid economic growth.

EDRMC prioritizes...

experiences but urged Ethiopians to embrace new dreams and aspirations in 2017.

"It is my wish that the New Year brings peace, success, solidarity, humanity, and the resolution of Ethiopia's challenges," Shiferaw said. He stressed that achieving these goals will require more effort than ambition alone, and called on the government and the public to make peace, sustainable development, humanity, and environmental preservation top priorities.

The commissioner highlighted Ethiopia's long-standing reputation for humanity and hospitality, urging the nation to elevate these values through mutual support and cooperation in the coming year. He also encouraged people to work together to overcome dependency, a persistent challenge for the country.

Shiferaw noted that 2017 is the ideal time for Ethiopia to organize its assets, expertise, and ideas to eradicate reliance. He further called for international support in Ethiopia's efforts to overcome poverty, achieve food self-sufficiency, and reduce dependency.

Participants...

country but also for the entire black people.

Dickson (PhD) said, adding that the capital embracing skyline buildings, parks, historic monuments among many other projects would have a paramount importance for improving the people's lifestyle and country's development at large.

Advocating for continued efforts, he stated that the ongoing massive construction in the capital offered valuable lessons for other countries in the continent to make proper decisions for the interests of their people in their respective countries.

He said, "We all came from various countries to look for better life, services, education, health and other related social services and witnessed that the

government is far ahead to improve full-fledged services and the lifestyles of not only its people but also all the African families and other international countries."

Witnessing the people's hospitality and the diverse cultures during his short stay, he emphasized the need to leverage these blessings for promoting cultural tourism.

Urging for consistent regional collaboration, he has also underscored that the Adwa site should be a magnetic hub for investments, exchange of ideas to promote the benefits of Africans' shared future through Pan-Africanism spirit.

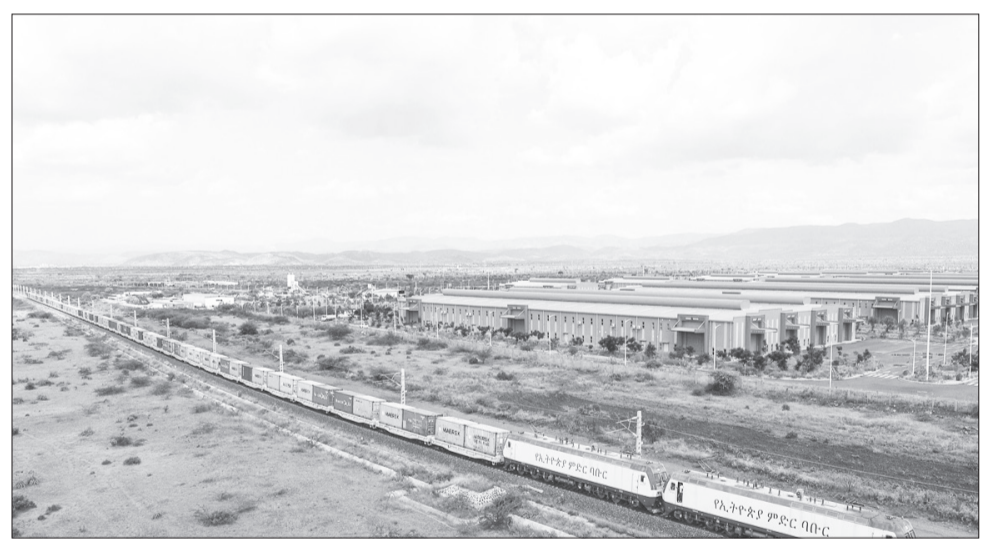
Appreciating the commitments of the leadership, he noted that this noble deed should be expanded to other parts of smart cities to create decent jobs, investment

among others.

For his part, Ugandan National currently working in Nairobi at Regional Center for Resource Management Director Paul Idude said that Ethiopia has made notable milestones in redevelopment activities that would be a good lesson for other African capitals.

Witnessing the integrated infrastructural facilities which includes roads, walkways, bicycle lanes, public service delivery, and infrastructure connectivity in Addis, Paul said that this effort requires firm political commitment, chunk of money and the people's will.

He said, "The capital is extremely changed to the extent I feel like I'm in Europe. I am committed to learning from this initiative and implementing it in my city."



Ethiopia's arduous...

bring about socio-economic change.

The aspiration towards holistic growth coupled with the relentless effort that is being put on the development work to create a prosperous country indicates that the country is on the right path, he stressed. Nonetheless, the Analyst underlined that ensuring peace need to be given priority to realize nation's goal of creating all inclusive prosperity for the nation.

Ethiopia has set a clear vision of achieving 'all inclusive prosperity' and has been carrying out different activities, according to Policy and Public Administration Expert Gemechu Ararsa (PhD). Using the achievements made in the previous regimes as a bench mark, efforts have

been geared towards addressing the gaps through formulating policies and strategies.

One of such strategies was the homegrown economic reform that brought about significant change in various areas, he said.

Moreover, the agriculture-based economy failed to bring the desired outcome let alone economic transformation. However, the fact that the nation put in place multidimensional economic direction played major role in increasing productivity, as well as stimulating tourism and mining sectors. Besides allowing the nation to substitute imports, the transformation has improved the quantity and quality of export items,

Gemechu believed.

The fact that the current economic direction include both small and medium enterprises as well as foreign investors, in return, allowed fair distribution of wealth among citizens, he said, stressing that the achievements registered in various sectors are clear indication of the outcome that followed the economic reforms.

Similarly, the new macro-economic reform is expected to curb challenge with shortage of foreign currency. Likewise, the ongoing activities in various sectors are bearing fruits to realize all-inclusive prosperity though the role of public participation is crucial. Thus, it is vital to consider the culture of time management,

as well as conscious use of knowledge while focusing on development as a community.

Furthermore, the Expert emphasized that the national dialogue which is currently in different implementation phase in various parts of the country is promising to address age-long social, economic, and political challenges and bring about better country.

Expressing optimism towards the journey, Gemechu stressed that the country is on the right track to achieve prosperity. "The nation needs to make national dialogue - the major option for resolving differences so that developmental activities would be fruitful, while prosperous Ethiopia would be a reality," he remarked.

Opinion

Ethiopia's remarkable accomplishments, successful progress registered in the just departed year

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

At the just concluded year, Ethiopia had witnessed a diverse range of successes which has been giving an impetus to the country's economic growth in the face of challenges.

On the heels of the commitment and determination of the federal government, Ethiopia on numerous occasions has been gaining the respect of the wider international community. In the present circumstances, the country has sustained making progress in the right direction putting a broad assortment of effective strategies into action.

Ethiopia's diplomatic success, Green Legacy Initiative, joining the BRICS, seaport access deal, remarkable step in GERD construction and other things of a similar kind can be just a case in point. Let's enumerate them case by case.

Diplomatic accomplishments

In the just wrapped up year, Ethiopia has experienced an extensive range of changes that enable the country to oil the wheels of its relations with the world community at the earliest possible time. Following its accomplishments, the country has been winning international acclaim pouring cold water on the efforts of some groups that have been pulling out all the stops to drag Ethiopia's positive developments surfacing on a national scale through the mire.

Some groups that feel an extreme animosity towards cast aspersions on positive strides have been engaged in smear campaign against the federal government. No matter what worrywarts say in connection with the positive developments, Ethiopia has sustained moving in the right direction more than ever before giving the cold shoulder to barefaced lies.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) recently announced that the 2023/24 fiscal year (2016 E.C.) was a strong year for Ethiopia's diplomatic affairs. Several diplomatic successes related to national economic and political interests have been registered.

Briefing journalists in the recent past, MoFA Spokesperson Ambassador Nebiyu Tedla stated that these successes were achieved amid regional and international challenges. Ethiopia has marked a series of significant diplomatic achievements over the past fiscal year. Key areas of progress include neighborhood diplomacy, BRICS membership, setting agenda on the sea access, migrant repatriation, multilateral and bilateral diplomacy, and foreign direct investment, according to the spokesperson.

In strengthening its international presence, Ethiopia participated in 501 international discussions and bilateral events. About 195 international diplomatic decisions, compliant with Ethiopia's stance, were passed, he noted.

Several joint meetings, including leaders' summits, ministerial forums, and high-level meetings, were held in Ethiopia. Twelve agreements in education, tourism, economy, and infrastructure were signed between Ethiopia and neighboring countries, he added.

High-level conferences held during the year contributed to the development of conference tourism. About 29 African leaders and high officials visited Ethiopia for bilateral purposes,



Green legacy is among the successes Ethiopia registered last year

he added.

In total, 71 bilateral agreements were signed; 19 of these were with African countries, while the rest were with countries outside Africa, he said.

Green Legacy Initiative

In the present climate, Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative has been turning out to be the talk of the larger international community. Many nations in the Horn of Africa and beyond have been following in Ethiopia's footsteps. In the current climate, the initiative has been receiving diplomatic solidarity from various organizations worldwide.

For the sake of truth, over the recent years, Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative has been moving forward in the right direction signifying its capacity as an approach to encounter the climatic catastrophe in every part of the world.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed announced that 615.7 million seedlings have been planted from the dawn to dusk planting campaign held recently across Ethiopia, according to information obtained from local media.

All Ethiopians set out to plant 600 million saplings from sunrise to sunset, Prime Minister Abiy said, adding "Refusing to let the sun set without achieving our goal, we surpassed it, planting an astounding 615.7 million saplings by the end of the day."

He added that "children have planted their hope. Young people have demonstrated their resilience. The elderly have left a legacy."

From one corner of the country to another, Ethiopians stepped out and made their mark, the PM remarked.

"With our unwavering spirit and perseverance, we accomplished overnight what has never been done anywhere else in the world. Today, we stand for climate balance, line up against soil degradation, and commit to ensuring food security," the premier pointed out.

Ethiopia has worked relentlessly to restore the prosperity of the country, he said adding "With the Creator's help, we achieved what we set out to do by today's sunset."

In total, 29.1 million citizens planted saplings across 318.4 hectares of geospatially mapped locations, he said and added that the planting efforts outside the registered database will continue to be reported.

The Prime Minister noted that this is a testament to the incredible solidarity and perseverance of

Ethiopians, extending gratitude to all who have participated in the process.

In a biweekly press briefing held recently, MoFA Spokesperson Nebiyu Tedla (Ambassador) stated that the Green Legacy Initiative (GLI) is receiving diplomatic support from regional and international environmental organizations. Due to the unpredictability of weather, he suggested that the initiative needs to be implemented globally.

Over the past five years, the initiative has been promoted across the continent, demonstrating its potential as a model to combat the environmental crisis faced by both Africa and the world. The spokesperson emphasized that the global climate crisis requires practical solutions, and Ethiopia's initiative shows that tangible actions, beyond conferences, can significantly mitigate the impact.

Seaport Access Deal

In the aftermath of Ethiopia's seaport access deal with Somaliland through round table discussion, some groups have been beating the drums of war under the guise of scores of lame reasons that do not reflect the existing reality on the ground.

It is worth mentioning that seaport access deal plays a huge role in expediting economic growth and safeguarding peace and security in the Horn of Africa and beyond. In the same way, the agreement will pave the way for tackling security related matters in the region.

Though Ethiopia's arch-enemies know the fact that they cannot make their dreams become a reality by any means whatsoever, they have been trying all possible means to step the country into unexplored waters turning their back on Ethiopia's heroism.

The recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ethiopia and Somaliland becomes involved in broadening the horizons of ports and oiling the wheels of import and export businesses.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), a Political Science Scholar Prof. Biruk Hailu in the recent past stated that Ethiopia's acquisition of a sea gate in the strategic, yet volatile region is of great significance to the area's maritime security and repulsing criminal activities.

As to him, the security of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden will be more guaranteed if Ethiopia has direct access to a seaport and can participate well in maritime issues. Besides, the seaport plays a critical role in intensifying its

commercial activities and deploying the naval forces. Therefore, Ethiopia's aspiration to direct access to port is justifiable and reasonable on legal, moral and other grounds.

Prof. Biruk lamented, "Taking its large population and economic prowess into account, Ethiopia has been suffering a lot in the past 30 and plus years due to the absences of direct access to seaport and the loss has also had a lasting impact on its security and the public wellbeing."

Joining BRICS

There is no denying the fact that joining BRICS is a noteworthy achievement that gives emphasis to Ethiopia's position as a principal actor in foreign economic affairs, diplomacy, international relations and more of the same. It is anticipated that joining the BRICS without a shadow of a doubt will play a huge role in strengthening Ethiopia's emerging economics to the benefits of its people.

BRICS has also proven that developing countries have a lot of common agenda to work on. It is also showing that the IMF and World Bank are not the sole sources of funds. BRICS Development Bank can be an optional source of finance for big projects in the Global South. There is no arm-twisting like that of the IMF and World Bank that requests structural adjustments and other attached strings so as to provide finance, according to an article.

BRICS will strengthen a multipolar world that can counterbalance the unnecessary pressure from hegemonic powers. A multipolar world is more advantageous to developing countries than developed countries that have the leverage to use unilateral decisions on other weak countries. BRICS is not to challenge the global north but to complement the gaps and interests of developing countries. It can work with the Global North on common issues including global peace and security, climate change, human rights, sustainable development and democracy.

GERD Successes

The past year heralded the success of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) that nears its completion. More good news is its 3rd and 4th turbines began to generate power that upgrades Ethiopia's power supply. As repeatedly said from the side of Ethiopia, the Dam benefits not only the owner, but also the neighboring countries via power interconnection and especially the lower riparian countries by supplying managed water.

Currently, the Dam releases 2,800 cubic meters of water per second, providing more water than usual to the downstream nations. "Ethiopia is sharing its resources with other nations for mutual development. If the lower riparian countries manage these resources wisely, it could significantly enhance their development," Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) remarked. He assured that as further construction progresses, the Dam would provide an even better water supply.

Ethiopia, when receiving the new calendar, benchmarks its remarkable accomplishments and successful progresses registered in the just departed year for the journey it is undergoing to prosperity. With full participation of citizens from all walks of life, the intended prosperity undoubtedly will be a success story.

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

Editorial

A more welcoming New Year!

The New Year is when Ethiopians mark both the change of the calendar and the transition from the difficult summer rains to a more hospital-friendly spring season. That is why the weeks before and after New Year's Day, Enkutatash are full of celebrations, happy vibes ... etc across sections of the society.

After the weeks of celebration, it is normal for everyone to return to business as usual. However, this New Year can be considered special in some ways as Ethiopians and the government have started new projects that are like resolutions to make the New Year a more hospitable and welcoming time.

Among the issues that make the New Year so special is the successful accomplishment of some large-scale feats such as the Green Legacy Initiative and the inauguration of state-of-the-art eco-tourism sites, the corridor development activities in urban areas including the metropolis, the launching of the macro-economic reform program.

The Green Legacy initiative and the ecotourism development projects are historical and unique development projects that not only protect the country from the globally imminent threat of environmental degradation and climate change but also empower the country to benefit from its rich potential in building a green economy which is the order of the day throughout the world.

As it is known to everyone our world is extremely bothered about the impacts of climate change and its harmful consequences like drought, flooding, land degradation, landslides, ... etc. This is causing even more dangerous outcomes against developing countries including Ethiopia. Therefore, fending off this imminent threat against the existence of life on earth is a much-appreciated achievement locally or globally.

The other accomplishment that goes hand in hand with the Green Legacy initiative is the development of ecotourism sites in South Western Ethiopia and the Amhara states. The Chebera Churchura and The Elephant Paw sites in South Western Ethiopia and The Gorgora in Amhara State were built and inaugurated in the year ended adding to the number of similar ecotourism sites in the country. It is recalled that the government has initiated and built tourist attraction sites in Addis Ababa, Entoto Park, Unity Park, Friendship Square, etc., as well as the Wonchi Resort in Oromia in the past few years.

These sites are serving as impetus to the growing tourism industry in the country. This smokeless industry is vital in the economic development of the nation as it generates a considerable amount of foreign currency and creates jobs without causing harm to the climate of the country. Furthermore, they can increase the hospitality service delivery and transform the image of the nation duly.

The corridor development activities that were accomplished in the past year have also brought about not only a transformed feature of urban areas but also new attitudes and impressions of residents. The newly designed and implemented corridors have changed the old, ramshackle neighborhoods that were inconvenient for residents to lead decent living, for others to easily move here and there, as well as cause discomfort for visitors. Buy now cities like Addis Ababa where the corridor development activities have progressed smoothly are enjoying better and more relaxed urban features. These features are likely to improve the traffic flow, and the suitable working and living conditions in cities making them more welcoming and hospitable. It is also likely to make cities capable of hosting better economic and social activities that further contribute to the overall development activities in the country.

The macroeconomic reform program which the government declared towards the end of the just-ended Ethiopian calendar year is an audacious measure which can be taken as a game changer in the economic, social and political development of the country. It has come up with new policies that break the age-old shackles against the country's development.

All these put together along with other progress are tangible actions that have the potential to make the New Year more welcoming and hospitable and usher in a happy and prosperous time ahead.

Opinion

Garden cress as a therapeutic, holiday snack of the New Year day

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

The New Year day is celebrated by everyone across the nation, without difference in religion or socio economy. It is a feast accompanied by serving food and drinks.

What makes the New Year day is it is launched with the eating of crest flavored snack. On 1 September morning, which is the first of the year many families start the day by eating a small amount from this snack. Eating Fetto is an Ethiopian New Year Morning tradition. Garden cress (Feto) is consumed by everyone in the home on an empty stomach. It is combined with some ingredients like Lemon/lime juice, water and optionally some pieces of salt and garlic.

Along with the health advantages, eating garden cress on an empty stomach symbolizes two things. The first one, regardless of place, ethnicity, educational status, religion, and so on, garden cress is recognized as an indigenous, herbal medicine. It is widely experienced in Ethiopia and plays an imperative role in the healthcare systems of the country. In many instances, people have acknowledged the value of Fetto and have taken various measures to integrate it into their healthcare systems.

More importantly, after the ghetto meal is prepared, the family members abstain from any other food for a few hours. Eating feto helps get rid of the waste and unnecessary things that are accumulated in the abdominal organ. It is believed that eating feto on the first day of the New Year helps to avoid and recover from diseases throughout the year.

Therefore, Fetto/ garden cress is accepted as an herbal or indigenous medicine and it is widely used as an essential healthcare infrastructure. Furthermore, Fetto/garden cress has various health benefits. As a result, it is a plant that is frequently grown in Ethiopia. Because of its high nutritional value, it is frequently eaten as a leafy vegetable or as a spice in many cuisines. Garden cress is a well-liked option for promoting health because it is high in vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants. Besides, it is frequently used to increase the flavor and nutritional value of salads, soups, stews, and sauces. Since they have a milder flavor than mature leaves, the plant's leaves are normally collected when they are young and fragile.

The other representation of eating Fetto/ garden cress is to put on the spirit of hard work, forgiveness, and service to avoid things that disturb the peace of mind. As

anyone who eats Fetto/ garden cress, cleans his or her body especially, its stomach from parasites, she or he should also clean his/ or her mind from evil or negative thoughts. Hence, it is believed that the garden cress helps the person to banish negative energy and welcome the New Year with positive energy.

It is also culturally significant to eat garden cress on New Year's Day in Ethiopia. Garden cress consumption around this period is thought to bring luck and wealth for the upcoming year. The idea of celebrating the start of a new year is in line with the idea that garden cress represents fresh starts and rejuvenation. Garden cress is also loaded with nutrients, so eating it could be a good way to start the year off well.

Garden cress is currently grown on a limited scale in many nations, particularly in India, Pakistan, Europe, and the majority of African nations due to its tolerance of various temperate zones. Garden cress can, however, be grown all year long in many climates and elevations, but damp loam soil is best for its high yield. Garden cress has many uses, and the leaves, seeds, and roots are just a few examples. The plant's roots are used as a condiment, the raw leaves are used to make a salad and can be cooked with other vegetables, and the dried leaves are used to treat a variety of illnesses and disorders including inflammation, bronchitis, rheumatism, and muscle discomfort, and they are also used as a diuretic.

Hence, garden cress is prized for its therapeutic benefits in addition to its culinary applications. It is thought to provide several health advantages, such as enhancing immunity, stimulating hair growth, and enhancing digestion. Garden cress is frequently prescribed in conventional medicine as an herbal treatment for conditions like coughs, colds, and stomach issues. Overall, garden cress is very important to Ethiopian culture and diet. Its cultivation and use aid in the preservation of conventional medical procedures as well as food security and nutritional diversity.

Therefore, eating Fetto/garden cress is an Ethiopian New Year Morning tradition that symbolizes the cleansing of both the mind and the body. It is believed that eating feto at the beginning of the New Year helps to avoid and recover from diseases throughout the year. Besides, in the New Year, it is necessary not only to maintain the health of the stomach but also to put on the spirit of hard work, forgiveness, and service to avoid things that disturb the peace of mind.

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



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Business & Economy

Addressing bone trauma, reducing medical cost: A pathway to economic prosperity in Ethiopia

BY LAKCHEW ATINAFU

Ethiopia's healthcare system faces significant challenges, particularly in the realm of orthopedic and trauma care. The high prevalence of bone-related injuries, often due to road accidents, workplace hazards, and sports-related incidents, has led to a growing demand for specialized medical services. This, in turn, has fueled the rise of medical tourism, as many Ethiopians seek treatment abroad, incurring substantial foreign currency expenditures.

Tackling this issue can have profound economic implications for Ethiopia, both in terms of reducing the outflow of foreign currency and stimulating domestic economic growth. By addressing the problem of bone trauma and strengthening the country's healthcare infrastructure, Ethiopia can position itself as a hub for affordable and high-quality orthopedic care, potentially attracting medical tourists from neighboring countries and beyond.

Empirics shows that strengthening healthcare infrastructure along with investing in the construction and upgrade of healthcare facilities equipped with modern diagnostic and surgical equipment can not only improve patient outcomes but also create economic opportunities. These investments will generate employment in the construction, medical equipment, and healthcare sectors, while also improving the overall quality of life for the population.

Enhancing medical education and training is also of paramount importance to expand the capacity of medical schools and specialized training programs will not only increase the supply of qualified healthcare professionals but also contribute to the development of a robust knowledge. This can lead to the creation of high-skilled jobs, fostering innovation and positioning Ethiopia as a regional leader in medical education and research.

Besides, promoting medical tourism is the other focal point by establishing regulations and guidelines to ensure the quality and safety of medical services provided to foreign patients, Ethiopia can position itself as a preferred destination for affordable and reliable orthopedic care. This can attract a steady influx of medical tourists, generating revenue from medical fees, accommodation, and other related services, ultimately contributing to the country's economic growth.

Exploring Alternative Financing Options: Implementing or expanding health insurance schemes and exploring innovative financing mechanisms, such as public-private partnerships, can help mobilize resources for



Orthopedic care: An aspiration to make Ethiopia a medical tourism hub – photo google

healthcare infrastructure development and patient support. This can reduce the financial burden on the government and individuals, making orthopedic care more accessible and affordable for the population.

What is more strengthening the referral system coupled with establishing an efficient referral system that connects primary healthcare facilities with specialized orthopedic centers can lead to better patient outcomes and improved resource utilization? This can enhance the overall efficiency of the healthcare system, reducing the financial strain on the government and individuals.

By addressing the challenges of bone trauma and medical tourism, Ethiopia can unlock significant economic opportunities. Improved healthcare infrastructure, enhanced medical education and training, and the development of a vibrant medical tourism industry can contribute to job creation, attract foreign investment, and generate revenue, ultimately driving economic prosperity and improving the well-being of the Ethiopian population.

Here is the voice of professionals about the Ethiopian society of Orthopedics. Ephrem Gebrehana, Sub specialist chairing the presidency in the society conveyed across his message about the sector. The society is a very disciplined with high class professionals drawn from senior citizens having walked distant in chronology. Of course, the society began to register glittering success decade ago thwarting the need for foreign currency earnings and having treatment. Now we do have more than 600 professionals in the orthopedics center he said. The society has striving to equip about 275 sub specialists in 11 institutions.

According to him the society will undergo social and clinical diagnosis to

achieve its ambitious plan in the sector interims of securing foreign currency and by their recue people victim of bone fragment and related cases. Furthermore the society has been undergoing studies in selected areas particularly in Sidama region along with the collaboration of Hawasa University comprehensive Specialized Hospital and other Grand hospitals across the country. The finding of the study aimed at the impact of traditional bone fixer and bone trauma. Meanwhile, 783 victims were issue of concern at eight hospitals for a year which is considered to be as high data set. As a result, Gambia, Tanzania and Ghana began to scale up best practice of Ethiopia in the orthopedics.

There had been efforts to train people about the lifelong impact of disability to the people with low economic dwell, elders' teachers about primary care, he said.

In an event for media personnel on 26 August, 2024 it was revealed that BOSAD Project is a nick name for a research work called "Bone Setting Associated Disability" which is mainly focused on the type of Musculoskeletal (MSK) injury which patronized Traditional Bone Setting (TBS) as a first part of treatment and presented to health facility due to presence of complications seeking further management at health facility.

It approaches the problem via mixed study design including qualitative and quantitative studies. The quantitative study also used both facility-based (for pediatric and adult patients) and community-based approach to address the issues from different perspectives.

The data was collected from more than 1830 patients at health facility and more than 860 patients from community-based study. The qualitative study

collect data from traditional bone setters, health professionals (orthopedic surgeons, nurses, researchers, leaders in the health arena, policy makers), different associations, patient treated with TBS and believed as they are doing fine, patient treated with TBS and believed as they have some kind of complications and other stakeholders. A total of more than 3,000 stakeholders' information was utilized to reach into stakeholder analysis and preparation of implementation packages.

According to media briefing for members of the press on 26 August, 2024 the Ethiopian pediatric society put forward that BOSAD Project there are three major reasons which drive the birth of BOSAD Project in Ethiopia. one is paradoxical relationship between availability of modern orthopedic care and complications from TBS If we see the history of Ethiopian orthopedics, 10 years back (until 2014 G.C), there was only one residency center (Tikur Anbessa Specialized Hospital) where orthopedic specialty training was given and the total number of orthopedic surgeons including residents and those missionaries was less than 70. But now in 2024, we have 627 Orthopedics working force (352 seniors and 275 residents in training) and orthopedic residency program is being given at 10 different institutions from different region. Similarly, the orthopedic service was concentrated in Addis, but now the service is being given in most of the regions throughout the country with various levels of health facilities. Besides, these all improvements within the last 10 years, the complications from TBS are significantly increasing with time which was expected to be decreased due to the widely available modern musculoskeletal service throughout the country. This is what we call paradoxical relationship between availability of modern orthopedic service and complications from TBS, it was learned.

Art & Culture

The Yellow adey abeba hue on the dining table

BY KALKIDAN NEGASH

The city is ablaze with yellow adey abeba, a sign that a new season is approaching. Every shop, restaurant, and boutique has a flower on its wall. Nobody seems to be less excited to celebrate 2017 than when the New Year arrives.

Discover the enchanting world of vivid blossoms throughout the breathtaking Enqutatash season. The Ethiopian new year is locally known as Enqutatash. The term “enqutatash” refers to the return of the diamond gift. According to legend, during the Queen of Sheba’s well-known visit to Jerusalem, King Solomon of Jerusalem presented her diamonds.

On Enqutatash Day, a deeply traditional day. In addition to a great deal of unusual spices and jewelry, she had given Solomon riches. The Queen was greeted by her chiefs upon her return to Ethiopia with presents of “Enku,” or diamonds. The name Enqutatash originated from the fact that her return to Ethiopia fell on the September New Year’s festival.

Days before the end of the year, the city is filled with markets and bazaars, with the Addis Ababa Exhibition Center being a major hub for the festivities. Here is the marketplace where all of the seller and buyer met together. Additionally you have the numerous options for local and foreign products.

In the eve of new year is really lit. The marketplace is becoming more bustling, the smile of food is amazing and also everyone burn “chibo” which translates as “a bundle of wood tied together,” signified the arrival of the bright, sunny days after the foggy season. Having a blast while dancing amid blazing and shimmering lights with the loved one of Adey Ababa. People keep Adey Abeba in pots full of water on New Year.

Adey abeba, a new year, hope, prosperity, and other words that are often associated together. Adey abeba is a seasonal flower that only blooms in Ethiopia during the Ethiopian New Year, according to study. Local places, particularly those outside of the city, offer breathtaking view Year’s season, believing it to be a symbol of hope and prosperity. It is a spectacular golden land surrounded by a magnificent environment. It is mysterious how close 13 months is to Adey Abeba. Adey abeba, the New Year is like a hand glove, you can’t spend it apart. Marking the end of the summer and the start of the spring.

Additionally, there is a song performed by girls that is about the new year called abebayhosh. The lyrics sing of the sign of hope, dwell of New Year prosperity,

and best wishes. Since the new year is celebrated as a festival in their town, the girls dancing the street and singing “Abebayhosh” with a grin on their faces was a dance into their hearts. These young people were actively influencing the present of their community via deeds of compassion, solidarity, and a common vision for a better tomorrow with holding adey abeba in their hand, while others were saying goodbye to the past and welcoming resolutions for the future.

Young boys also have an assignment to complete; they must paint portraits for the New Year and submerge flowers to give to loved ones and their own homes. Many well-known Ethiopian artists found their talent at an early age, and you can detect some inventiveness in their paintings. The morning before the vacation, lads go to their houses and give their

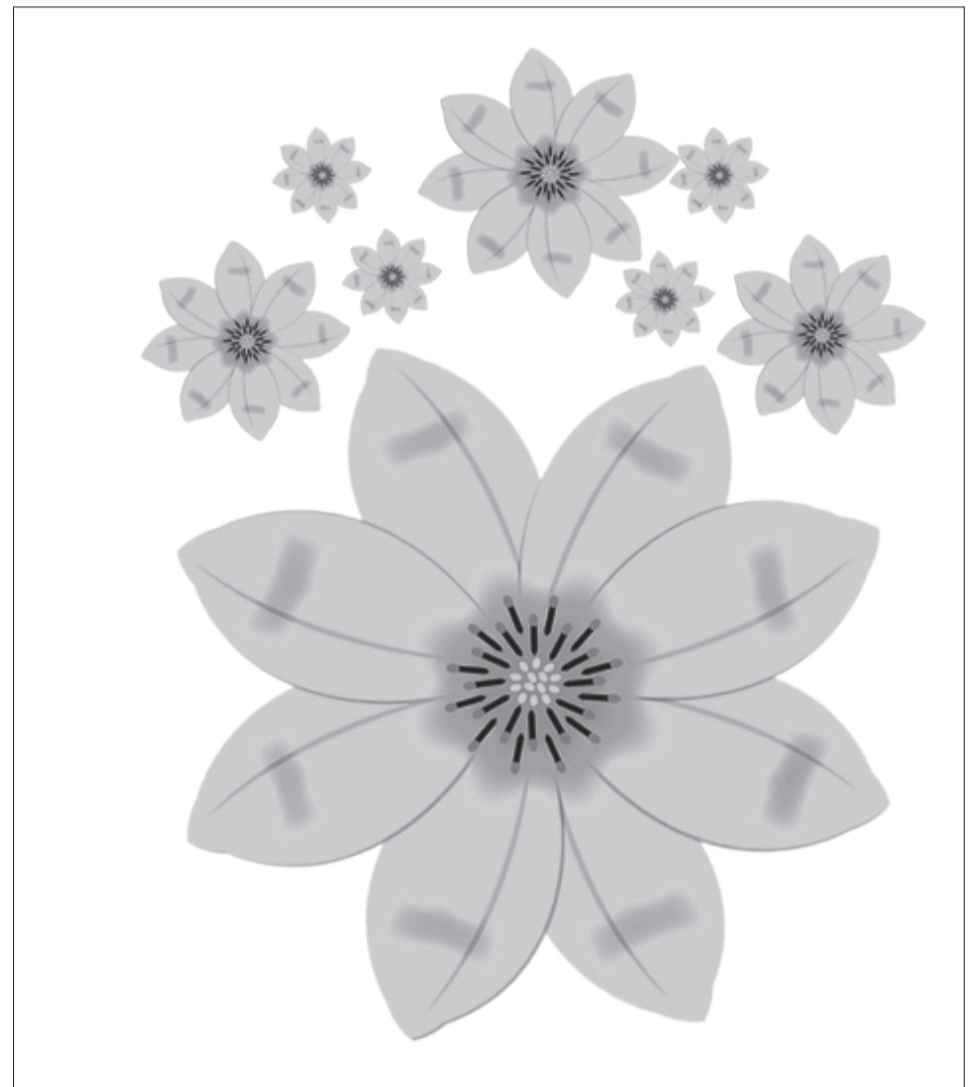
New Year’s festivities bring joy to all, particularly to young boys. Additionally, they have a mission to complete: they drown Adeyaba to present to everyone and to make a house for themselves. Their paintings also display some ingenuity; many prominent Ethiopian painters discovered their artistic abilities while painting the New Year.

They paint adey abeba, the angle picture and many others works that bring hopeful and new year thought. Boys go home to home to give flower in the morning of holiday to their family member, neighbor and saying “enquan aderesachu” happy new year.

This is a memorable experience for many Ethiopian men who were gather money, difo dabo, and bread on New Year’s Eve to mark exceptional occasions and experience in their childhood times genuine delight.

Ethiopian calendar is back to The Gregorian calendar is eight years. Additionally, it contains 13 months with pagume; a month has five or six days. The perfect time to visit and take in the 13-month and 3000-year-old nation that blends aesthetics is during the new year.

Additionally, an animal swerved. During this holiday, “Doro wot”—chicken stew—is also prepared. Doro wot is made with a lot of spice, tastes delicious, and is prepared with extreme cleanliness. Due to the fact that it cooks largely on low heat, it at least takes half a day. It will be served at meals with other ethnic dishes like kitfo and tibus with enjera. In that holiday every family and neighbor dines together with the feeling love and integration. Ethiopian also has their cultural drinks so like tella and



Adey abeba, a new year, hope, prosperity, and other words that are often associated together. Adey abeba is a seasonal flower that only blooms in Ethiopia during the Ethiopian New Year

tej that makes with honey and cultural ingredient

There is also another culture doing in New Year, In new year Wearing habesha libis is enviable. habesha kemis a cloth that is made in local trades, that’s recognizably wearing Ethiopian cultural cloth in holidays and special days. In addition to changing their wardrobes for the New Year, the majority of women wear items of clothing with the phrase “adey abeba” in the final section (tibebe). This is how they greet the year ahead.

Adey Abeba is the national flower of Ethiopia, same as chamomile is the national flower of Russia. A sense of serenity is created by the adey abeba. A red rose is a symbol of love, while Adey abeba is a symbol of tenants’ hope, resilience in the face of adversity, purity, and elegance in beauty. Due to

Adey Abeba, the color yellow is deeply visible everywhere in the New Year.

Spending the New Year watching holiday TV shows with your cousins, talking politics with your uncle while eating popcorn and drinking Ethiopian coffee decorated by incense is a priceless memory.

From dust to the way the new year is celebrated, everything is deeply ingrained with culture. the exquisite drawings done by boys for the new year, the song by the young Abebayhosh, the elegant chiffon, and the habesha kemis worn by the women who wore their hair in braids. This is attested to by the adey abeba that is seated at the dining table. Nobody can recreate the festive atmosphere of New Year’s Day in the heart of the house like Adey Abeba.

Indepth

Climate action greatest economic opportunity of this century, says UN climate chief

With fewer than 100 days to go to COP29, the highest decision-making body on climate issues under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the need for creative and innovative solutions to protect lives and livelihoods is now extremely urgent.

The State of the Climate in Africa 2023 report shows all six African sub-regions have experienced an increase in the temperature trends over the past six decades. In Africa, 2023 was one of the three warmest years in 124 years, leading to unprecedented climatic carnage. The consequences are such that there is not enough food, deepening poverty, damage, displacement and loss of life.

But where many see challenges, there are also opportunities.

Speaking to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, today, Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary of UN Climate Change, said "climate action is the single greatest economic opportunity of this century. It can and should be the single greatest opportunity for Africa to lift up people, communities, and economies after centuries of exploitation and neglect."

"The opportunity is immense. But so too are the costs for African nations of unchecked global heating. The continent has been warming at a faster rate than the global average. From Algeria to Zambia, climate-driven disasters are getting worse, inflicting the most suffering on those who did least to cause them."

Jointly launched by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the African Union Commission on September 2, 2024, at the 12th Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA12) Conference, the climate report shows Africa is disproportionately affected by the climate crises as the continent is warming at a rate that is slightly faster than the global average.

The year 2023 was the warmest on record in many countries, including Mali, Morocco, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Uganda. The warming has been most rapid in North Africa, with Morocco experiencing the highest temperature anomaly.

The report indicates that parts of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Nigeria, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Zambia, Angola, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo experienced severe drought in 2023. Following severe droughts in the Greater Horn of Africa, three countries, including Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia, experienced extensive and severe flooding, with at least 352 deaths and 2.4 million displaced people reported.

Amidst the far-reaching devastating



loss and damage, the UN Climate Chief emphasised that in Africa, as in all regions, the climate crisis is an economic sinkhole, sucking the momentum out of economic growth and that in fact, many African nations are losing up to 5 percent of GDP as a result of climate impacts. It is African nations and people who pay the heaviest price.

Placing additional burden on poverty alleviation efforts, which could in turn significantly hamper growth, the report shows many countries are diverting "up to 9 percent of their budgets into unplanned expenditures to respond to extreme weather events. By 2030, it is estimated that up to 118 million extremely poor people—or those living on less than USD 1.90 per day—will be exposed to drought, floods and extreme heat in Africa if adequate response measures are not put in place."

Putting it into perspective, Stiell said, "Consider food production being hit hard, contributing to the re-emergence of famine, while also pushing up global prices, and with them inflation and the cost of living. Desertification and habitat destruction are driving forced movements of people. Supply chains are already being hit hard by spiralling climate impacts," he said.

Further cautioning that "it would be entirely incorrect for any world leader—especially in the G20—to think: although incredibly sad, ultimately it is not my problem. The economic and political reality—in an interdependent world—is we are all in this crisis together. We rise together, or we fall together. But if the climate and economic crises are globally interlinked. So too are the solutions."

In sub-Saharan Africa alone, it is estimated that climate adaptation will cost USD 30 billion to USD 50 billion, which translates to two to three percent of the regional GDP per year over the next decade. With COP28 having concluded the first-ever stocktake



of global climate action—a mid-term review of progress towards the 2015 Paris Agreement—COP29 has been dubbed the "finance COP"—an opportunity to align climate finance contributions with estimated global needs.

COP29 will also be an opportunity to build on previous success, especially in the heels of a most successful COP28, whose ambitious commitments include: to transition away from all fossil fuels quickly but fairly; to triple renewable energy and double energy efficiency; and to go from responding to climate impacts to truly transformative adaptation.

While recognizing these big commitments, Stiell said delivering on them will unlock a goldmine of human and economic benefits that includes cleaner, more reliable and affordable energy across Africa. More jobs, stronger local economies, underpinning more stability and opportunity, especially for women. That electrification and lighting at night in the home means children can do homework, boosting education outcomes, with major flow-on productivity gains driving stronger economic growth.

"Cooking with traditional fuels emits greenhouse gases roughly equivalent to global aviation or shipping. It also contributes to 3 million premature deaths per year. It would cost 4 billion US dollars annually to fix this in Africa—

an outstanding investment on any accounting," he said.

Further stressing the need to link nature-based climate solutions with biodiversity protection and land restoration, as this will drive progress right across the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Yet, he reiterated, African nations' vast potential to drive forward climate solutions is being thwarted by an epidemic of underinvestment.

"Of the more than USD400 billion spent on clean energy last year, only USD2.6 billion went to African nations. Renewable energy investment in Africa needs to grow at least fivefold by 2030. COP29 in Baku must signal that the climate crisis is core business for every government, with finance solutions to match," Stiell emphasized.

"It is time to flip the script. From potential climate tipping points to exponential changes in business, investment, and growth. Changes that will further strengthen African nations' climate leadership and vital role in global climate solutions, on all fronts. Your role at COP29—and your voices in the lead-up—are more important than ever, to help guide our process to the highest-ambition outcomes the whole world needs."

(SOURCE: INTER PRESS SERVICE)

Law & Politics



Beefing up the might of Ethiopian security

BY EYUEL KIFLU

Since taking office six years ago, the leadership of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has been implemented a series of comprehensive reforms that have significantly impacted various sectors in Ethiopia. These reforms have led to notable progress in the country's economy, security, and social affairs, marking a transformative period for the nation.

One of the most prominent areas of reform has been the security sector, which has seen the introduction of state-of-the-art security equipment. The Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) has undergone a substantial transformation, enhancing both its ground and air capabilities. This evolution not only strengthens the country's defense but also positions Ethiopia as a beacon of stability and strength in the region.

The reestablishment of the navy is another crucial development that bolsters Ethiopia's security architecture. With a renewed focus on maritime defense, the country is increasing its ability to safeguard its interests and enhance its overall security posture. Additionally, advancements in the national air defense system, equipped with modern technology, further fortify the country's defenses against potential threats.

On his previous interview with The Ethiopian Herald Colonel Meseret Getachew, Deputy Chief of Aviation Heavy Maintenance at the Ethiopian Air Force (ETAf) outlined the significant strides made in enhancing the air force's capabilities. He emphasized that the ETAf is committed to protecting the nation's airspace from potential adversaries through continuous advancements in operational methods and training.

Colonel Getachew highlighted that the ETAf's approach is aligned with the rapidly changing landscape of technology, ensuring that the force remains prepared to face emerging threats. Utilizing sophisticated technology and meticulous analysis, the ETAf has developed the capacity to predict and analyze potential threats before they escalate into attacks. This proactive stance is essential in an age where the nature of warfare is increasingly characterized by cyber threats and technological challenges.

Amid the growing prevalence of cyber warfare, Ethiopia is actively working to shield its citizens from the impacts of technological conflicts. The government's efforts to modernize and enhance the security sector are pivotal not only for national defense but also for regional stability. By strengthening its capabilities, Ethiopia is positioning itself as a resilient nation capable of contributing to the security and stability of the wider region.

In his Reform Day address on Pagumen 2, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed acknowledged the outstanding contributions of Ethiopia's security forces to the nation's sovereignty. He remarked that the reforms initiated over recent years have been crucial in maintaining the country's security and stability, as reported by the Ethiopia News Agency.

This year, the 116th National Army Day, also known as ENDF Day, was celebrated on October 25 under the theme: "A Victorious Army That Stands Firm in Every Challenge." On this significant occasion, the Prime Minister expressed his admiration for the army's unwavering dedication to peace, development, and unity. He recognized the selfless sacrifices made by the National Army in peacekeeping efforts both at home and abroad.

The Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) has made considerable progress, positioning Ethiopia as a beacon of peace in Africa, noted for its innovative conflict resolution strategies in both domestic and international contexts. By reorganizing the defense forces into distinct branches air force, land force, navy, and cyber security Ethiopia has adopted a comprehensive and forward-looking approach to national defense, equipping itself to tackle current and future challenges.

The reforms in recent years have not only transformed the military's structure but have also proven their effectiveness in practice, leading to the creation of a highly capable fighting force. Field Marshal Birhanu Jula, Chief of General Staff of the ENDF, highlighted the army's enduring legacy, rooted in centuries of institutional development that enables it to protect the nation.

Field Marshal Birhanu attributed Ethiopia's achievements to its rich history of heroism and patriotism, qualities that have fortified the defense forces over time. During the 88th anniversary of the Air Force, he emphasized the significant advancements made in modernizing Ethiopia's military. The foundation for a contemporary army was set 116 years ago, and it continues to lead in technological progress.

Ethiopia is committed to building a modern military capable of addressing regional challenges. Recent reforms have enhanced the army's organizational structure, psychological resilience, and overall effectiveness.

Lieutenant General Yilma Merdasa, Commander of the Ethiopian Air Force, reflected on the historic moment when Ethiopia acquired its first airplane in August 1929. He highlighted the Air Force's 88-year legacy of service and sacrifice, noting its critical role in

defending the nation's sovereignty.

Since the national reform, the Ethiopian Air Force has experienced comprehensive modernization in terms of personnel, weaponry, and infrastructure, showcasing Ethiopia's growing capabilities and aspirations.

Tigist Hamid, Director General of the Information Network Security Administration (INSA), underscored that the reforms represent a pivotal moment in transforming peace and security institutions. Through these institutional changes, Ethiopia has developed a robust information network security management system to combat cyber threats and protect national security and citizen welfare.

The reform measures have enabled the country to establish its own official key infrastructure software, complete with a certificate database and design system. This strategic development significantly enhances Ethiopia's cyber security capabilities, playing a vital role in safeguarding key institutions and supporting the overall mission of information network security management.

So, this reforms doesn't beneficial only for Ethiopia, as the region is the hub of Al-shabab terrorist group and other rebellions, this may help to pacify the region. In similar vein, regarding Ethiopia has some adversaries who want destabilize the region and implement their evil hidden agenda the state-of-the-art security equipment and experts a signal for those adversaries to abstain their evil work. The Ethiopian troops' bravery on peacekeeping of different countries is the testimony for how its force is robust and now with capacitating advanced technology it is a proud for horn Africa and beyond and has ability to deter any threats that comes to the region.

Women in Focus

New Year: A holiday of gender parity, shared jubilation

BY MEKDES TAYE (PHD)

Among the deep-seated social, cultural, and religious values that Ethiopians have been practicing and cherishing for centuries, the value of eating and drinking together; and sharing what one has with the other is the one. It is common for Ethiopians to eat and drink not only with family members and neighbors but also with visitors and guests. This incomparable culture beyond signifying the strong bonds between and among Ethiopians, it symbolizes the welcoming, hospitable, respectful, and considerate nature of Ethiopians.

Holidays are one platform that shows the cultural depth and wealth of Ethiopians. During holidays, it is a normal thing for Ethiopians to prepare food and drinks for a larger number of people- for those who are going to be invited on holidays as well as those well-wishers who may come by luck to extend their best wishes. On such days, the houses and the compounds are required to be neater and aesthetically appealing than before; and make it more attractive and comfortable to the invitees.

Since society is still patriarchal, the activities mentioned above are supposed to be done by the female members of the family. I remember that when I was a very little girl, holidays especially Ethiopian New Year had been arriving with assignments for me and the girls of my age. Collecting firewood for cooking and baking bread or 'Diffo' was our responsibility. Since a large quantity of food with a wide variety is needed for this day, we, females, were expected to transport the heaviest kilograms of cereal foods to the grinding house. The necessary inputs for the festival were planned and collected by elder females and we little ones were there for carrying and frequently moving to shops and markets.

On the festival day, it is also females who are expected to serve the food and drink. The males simply watch and enjoy the incident with the guests. Females are used to be kept away from the views of the people. Merely, young girls can watch the ceremony when elders need them for help. This is the dominant story of Ethiopian girls especially those in the Northern part of the country though; over time the magnitude is becoming a bit lower.

To find further experience on the issue, I invited Dagmawit Abebe (PhD), the name was purposely changed as per the interest of the woman, who is an Assistant Researcher at Addis Ababa University. We talked about her role as an office worker and a married woman especially during holidays. She is a very strong woman who accomplished her educational achievement and managed her marriage at a time. Here under are her experiences. Encrypt!

Dagmawit was born in the southwest part of the country. Like many Ethiopian girls, she had been experiencing backbreaking household chores. The females in her family were the most busiest and burdened sections during holidays. After completing her first degree, she was a bit free and was able to celebrate festivals as her counterparts, males. Since she was away from her family for work, on holidays she went to visit them as a guest. The housework jobs were covered by the other family members. Thus, her stay with her family was a bit relaxed and enjoyable. After some years, Dagmawit got married. Now, it is she, as the socialized structure, expected to take over household routines.

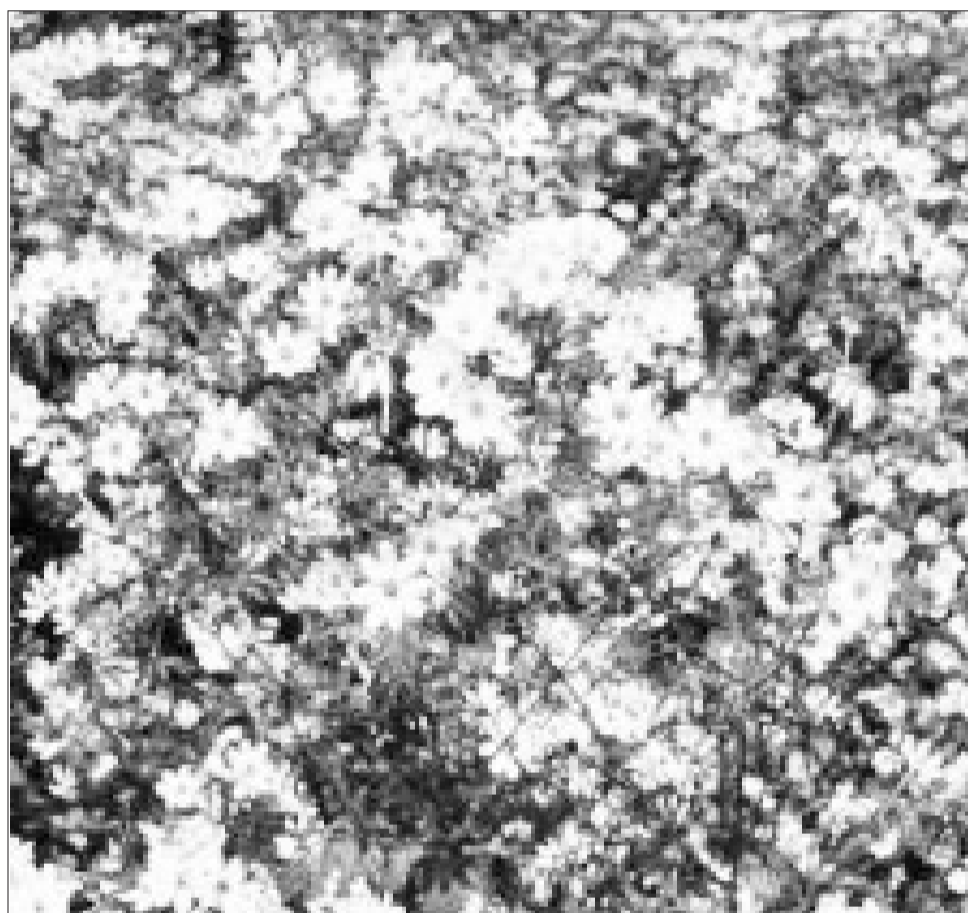
In her office, Dagmawit is the best and most respected director. She managed her office work as per the guidelines of the office. She is strong in mobilizing the employees under her section. She published research papers effectively. Since she was very committed, she prioritized her work over her comfort. She had no one who could take care of the household jobs and her two babies. Therefore, she did her best to finish her work assignments in her office so as to free herself from the house necessities.

When she comes home, the disordered house and the remaining routines are eagerly looking for her arrival. She then changes herself and faces the usual household chores. This was the way of life that she used to lead till her husband got involved in these duties.

I was very keen to know how she manages the jobs during holidays. And before that reflection, I raised the following question. "Are you strict in respecting those cultural expectations to be done for holidays?" She was too fast in responding to this inquiry. "Yes. I love my culture. I do everything I can to preserve my culture." I said what things are you planning to do for the coming New Year, for example? And how could you do that?

She said she is going to prepare *Kocho*, cultural bread usually accustomed by the people of Gurage and it is eaten with *Kitfo*, (minced meat). For this, she said that she was directly running to Merkato, the largest market, and bought the necessary ingredients two weeks before the holiday. She said that she also organized all the needed steps and inputs for making the cultural bear called *Tela*. She made this preparation in a manner not affecting her office hours and work.

Though the socio-cultural structure did segment the dominant chores and social roles of women, the formal working environment is equally functional for both sexes. Women employees are equally considered as per the calendar. There is no favor that recognizes their role in the house. This year Ethiopian New Year was celebrated on the fasting date according to the Orthodox Christian religion. Thus,



the slaughter of cattle took place on the next day. That day is a working day. Unfortunately, women are expected to avail themselves on the day. They are going to hold every routine work that should be done on that day in their mind. Dagmawit has a message on that.

She believed that though the celebration and enthusiasm that the rest of the family is going to have, rests on the women's shoulders, women need also worry about national responsibility. Women are the ones who abide by the laws and regulations of the nation. They need to be models for generations. It is through the committed and hardworking efforts of the females that the rooted patriarchy and socialization are combated. She said, "We women and girls should show ourselves up and exhibit our efficacy in those competitive spheres."

I was very impressed and asked her how her husband would help her if she was covering everything. I was in doubt that I couldn't see his role. Her reflection on this question is paraphrased as follows.

Dagmawit showed me a sudden smile and responded proudly. "He was very

poor in working at home. But after some time, he decided to help me in some way. Then, I trained him. He is now becoming very good at taking care of the babies and performing some kitchen work." She said that the feminine tasks that are related to the leveling of ingredients for the drink preparation were taken by her. On the actual day of the holiday, it was her husband who took the dominant work share. He helped her by arranging the babies and welcoming guests. Then, he served food and drinks. Then she made coffee while her husband looked after the babies. Thus, she celebrated the holiday equally with him and the people invited into their house.

I learnt that this woman is very strong and patient enough in persuading and coaching her husband to create mutual harmony in the family. Thus, holidays should not be burdens to women rather they should be fascinating moments for women too; as the male members do. This is possible if the responsibilities are fairly shared by male members of the family.

Happy Ethiopian New Year!

Society

Happy *Enkutatash!*

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Enkutatash, the Ethiopian New Year, is a joyous festival celebrated by the people of Ethiopia warmly and colorfully. The festival, as it is celebrated following the end of close to three months of the rainy season and the beginning of the new bright day, beams new hope and a brighter future among everyone

Ethiopia is the only country that has 13 months in the world. While each of the 12 months has 30 days, the short month *Pagumen* (Intercalary) has 5 or 6 days, depending on whether it is a leap year or not. And; the country is the only nation that marks its New Year, *Enkutatash* in September.

When September comes to Ethiopia, the heavy rainfall decreases, the flow of rivers reduces, the sun, which was hidden for months behind the cloud appears to shine brightly, flowers blossom and the season becomes brighter than the summer (heavy rainfall) season. This season brought a wonderful scenario and attracts even more to enjoy nature. The magnificent topography enhances the country to acquire more from the tourism sector during its first New Year month, September.

According to experts, its calendar system makes the country unique, and celebrating its New Year adorned with its unique and endemic flowers gives a special feeling.

Now, it is time to wrap up and cherish all the past 12 months' activities and begin the New Year with greater hope and energy.

An Astronomer Getnet Feleke (PhD) told The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that Ethiopia is the only country with thirteen months of sunshine where its New Year is adorned with various beautiful natural flowers including *Adey Abeba*.

There are also diversified indigenous knowledge and cultural assets that make the country unique, he added.

As to him, it is expected to pass on the country's vast indigenous knowledge and diversified cultural assets to future generations.

Annually, one can witness while the Ethiopian New Year begins- the countryside turns yellow. The fields in rural and urban areas will be covered with green grasses and *Adey Abeba* flowers.

According to historical sources, the celebration of the Ethiopian New Year, *Enkutatash*, meaning the "Gift of Jewels" is believed to have been celebrated since the time of the Queen of Sheba. During her visit to King Solomon of Israel in Jerusalem, the Queen gave gifts to the King with 120 talents of gold (4.5 tons) as well as a large number of unique spices and



Ethiopian New Year gift, Adey Abeba

jewels, as mentioned in the Holy Book.

When the Queen returned to Ethiopia, her chiefs welcomed her with precious jewels (*Enku*) to replenish her treasury. *Enkutatash* has been celebrated since then.

Lighting bonfires on the eve of the New Year is also part of the celebration. Male members of the family light a bonfire made of branches and leaves of trees (*Chibo*) to say goodbye to the dark, rainy, and concluding year and welcome the New Year hoping it will be a bright year and bring peace and prosperity for the family and the country as a whole.

During *Enkutatash*, girls adorned with traditional clothes visit their relatives and neighborhood houses by singing special songs dedicated to this holiday and giving bouquets (*Adey Abeba*) as well as their paintings in memory of best wishes for the New Year. In return, the girls often receive a small gift, usually money. On the eve of the New Year, boys gather in groups singing songs that herald the New Year locally called *Hoya Hoya*. They sing, move from house to house, and receive

gifts usually in the form of money.

Most of the time, children give special attention to *Enkutatash*, the eve of the New Year in Ethiopia. They have a well-arranged program that takes preparation for the summertime. They prepare white papers and coloring materials as well as take the experiences of their friends to design new flowers that will be given to relatives and the neighborhood. Residents of the community welcome children with open arms and offer them different gifts. The gifts include; money, teaching materials, clothing as well as other rewards. Society presents this gift to them believing the happiness of children makes the whole environment the home of bliss and happiness.

Therefore, *Enkutatash* is among the top-awaited Ethiopian holidays among the new generations. This holiday is manifested by numerous attractive sceneries that see off the departing old year and usher in the new one. On the foot of the country's mountainous, boasting of a vast array of endemic flora and fauna, full-year flowing huge rivers afford

memorable trips to most corners of the nation. The piquant traditional, cultural, and well-established hospitality of the citizenry is also heartening.

Enkutatash comes first on the calendar of cultural holidays which the present generation too celebrates. It is a manifestation of the nation's diversified seasonal shows. It also serves as a platform for nations and nationalities to showcase their costumes; they put on this landmark holiday that opens another chapter.

For tourists, parallel to observing greenery and must-see natural events, it could be worthwhile to observe traditional ceremonies that attend this holiday. During this time it is mesmerizing to observe newly growing crops on the farmland, and farmers immersed in activities unconstrained by accidental rainfalls. It is also refreshing tuning to birds singing tunes as if ecstatic in welcoming the sunny season.

The highlands look like green carpets bearing motley flowers. It is interesting to hear young girls accentuate the event with melodious songs while they sing the New Year song, *Enkutatash*.



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HU wishes a happy new year to all Ethiopians

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Haramaya University (HU) wishes all Ethiopians a colorful and happy New Year in 2017.

Haramaya University is one of Ethiopia's first universities. It is also an institution that has successfully fulfilled its obligations in teaching, community services, and research for the past 70 years, creating professionals and various technologies that benefit not only Ethiopia but also the world.

In the new year of 2017 E.C., HU will plan to graduate professionals who have gained

adequate knowledge to serve their nation effectively. It is also the year in which HU will work effectively to alleviate societal and national problems through problem-solving research activities.

More significantly, in the new year 2017 E.C., HU wishes that students will learn and gain knowledge, lecturers, and staff will execute effective jobs, our researchers will conduct effective research, and so on.

HU also extends its best wishes to all Ethiopians seeking to bring about change in their lives and nation.

**Happy New Year! Happy holidays!
Haramaya University!**

