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## Great homecoming initiatives inject 21 bln Birr to economy

- 'Back to Origins' Summer Fest to boost, economy, cultural ties

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDIS ABABA** - The Ethiopian Diaspora Service (EDS) has announced that the "Back to Origins" initiative's second-generation phases have injected approximately 21 billion Birr to date. As part of the third phase of the second-generation homecoming, EDS will host the summer camp program, 'Back to Origins: Your Summer Fest,' from September 8th to 9th, 2024, at the Adwa Victory Museum.

At a press briefing yesterday, EDS's Diaspora Community Development Director, Nebiyu Solomon, highlighted that the Great Homecoming I initiatives have significantly benefited the nation in various ways. He noted that over 100,000 members of the

See Great homecoming ... Page 3

## Premier, Xi talk on deepening Ethio-China cooperation

- Meets Sudanese Al Burhan in Beijing

BY STAFF REPORTER

**ADDIS ABABA**- Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) met with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing, China. Both leaders

exchanged views on strengthening cooperation, particularly in investment, green growth, digitalization, and new energy.

The Prime Minister together with First Lady

Zinash Tayachew arrived yesterday morning in China to attend the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), Office of the Prime Minister posted on X.

See Premier, Xi ... Page 3



## Social media's double-edged sword: Responsible use to curb misinformation

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

While social media has been vital for uniting the public for common causes and enabling genuine reflections on government activities, it has also sparked conflict and unrest by spreading fake news and hate speech. Communication experts are now calling for measures to reduce the negative impact of social media misuse.

See Social media's ... Page 3

## African cities transformation engine to continental dev't: Mayor

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

**ADDIS ABABA** - The transformation of African cities would serve as an engine of the continent's economic development and beyond, Addis Ababa Mayor Adanech Abebie told attendees of the Africa Urban Forum yesterday.

Speaking at the three-day Africa Urban Forum, which is being taken place in Addis Ababa with a theme "Sustainable Urbanization for Africa's Transformation: Agenda 2063", Adanech said that making African cities livable, green and safe is the basis of transformation in the continent.

In this regard, she expressed that leadership plays an irreplaceable role in harnessing the potentials of cities in which mayors are at the heart of this role.

Given their limited terms in office, Adanech noted that the determination to leave lasting legacy is always be remembered.

See African cities ... Page 3



Adanech Abebie



Girma Amente (PhD)

## Ministry boosts fertilizer supply with new procurement system

- Aims for greater agricultural productivity

BY MISGANAWASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA** - The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) announced that Ethiopia has procured and distributed about 20 million quintals of soil fertilizer for the 2023/2024 crop season to support farming activities.

During a recognition ceremony for stakeholders yesterday, Agriculture Minister Girma Amente (PhD) revealed that the 20 million quintals of soil fertilizer were purchased at a cost of 930 million USD. "Proper use of soil fertilizer is key to increasing agricultural productivity," he emphasized.

Girma indicated that delays in fertilizer distribution in previous years were due to inefficiencies in the procurement system and a lack of robust transportation. However, with the implementation of a new procurement system, about 18 million quintals of fertilizer have already been distributed to all states, reaching 87% of the farming community. The remaining supply is expected to be delivered shortly. This year's supply exceeded last year's performance by six million quintals.

The new procurement system allows contracts with suppliers to be extended for up to three years, significantly reducing the time required for agricultural inputs. This early procurement and efficient transportation saved the government 24 billion Birr.

Looking ahead, the ministry plans to purchase 25 million quintals of fertilizer for the 2024/2025 season and aims to ensure timely delivery to all farming communities. "Our goal is to supply fertilizer effectively to increase crop productivity and ensure food security," the minister emphasized.

However, the distribution faced challenges due to security issues in the Amhara and Oromia states and international security concerns.

Ethiopian Shipping and Logistics Service Enterprise (ESLSE) Deputy CEO *Siraj Abdullahi* reported that 20 million quintals of fertilizer were managed in 2023/24, with an average anchor time of 15 days. Train transported about 15% of the fertilizer, while the remaining 85% was moved by truck.

## Ethiopia to celebrate Pagumen's five days with themed Nat'l events

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA** - The Government Communication Service (GCS) has unveiled the themes for each of the five days of the month of Pagumen, marking Ethiopia's socio-political and economic journey over the past six years.

GCS State Minister Kebede Desisa announced the themes at a press briefing: Day of Transforming, Reform Day, Sovereignty Day, Diversity Day, and Tomorrow's Day.

### Day 1: Transforming Day

The first day will celebrate national achievements amid recent hardships, including the Tigray War and external pressures. "Despite these challenges, Ethiopia emerged resilient," Kebede stated.

### Day 2: Reform Day

The second day will honor the wide-ranging reforms implemented since the reformist government came into power. These include



Photo: Hadush Abreha

Kebede Desisa

economic, political, and institutional changes, such as macroeconomic reforms, civil service improvements, and security enhancements.

### Day 3: Sovereignty Day

The third day, "Sovereignty Day," will

highlight achievements in safeguarding Ethiopia's political and food sovereignty, including transformative successes in wheat production through agricultural development.

### Day 4: Diversity Day

The fourth day will focus on celebrating Ethiopia's diverse social identity. Citizens will participate in joint sports activities across the country, reinforcing unity and shared identity.

### Day 5: Tomorrow's Day

The final day, "Tomorrow's Day," themed "Today's hard work for tomorrow's legacy," will focus on nation-building efforts with future generations in mind. Activities like revitalizing Addis Ababa, advancing in science, developing tourist destinations, and ensuring food security will be highlighted.

At midday on Sovereignty Day, a nationwide event will see citizens raising the Ethiopian flag and singing the national anthem, symbolizing unity and national pride.

## EEU expanding electric power accessibility

- Introduces new power tariff

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA** - Ethiopian Electric Utility (EEU) briefed activities being undertaken to expand electric power accessibility as it introduced a four-year electricity tariff adjustment plan.

The Utility is working in collaboration with concerned bodies to expand access to electricity as 44% of country's population is still living in darkness, EEU CEO Eng. Shiferaw Telila told journalists yesterday in a presser on last year work performance and the New Year budget plan.

Therefore, he said that EEU has planned to benefit 600,000 new customers, 200 new rural villages and town to utilize electric power, and the likes.

According to the CEO, EEU has worked on maximizing the number of customers, extending electric power accessibility, increasing revenue, installing modern technology, and improving electric power infrastructure, and ensuring good governance in the just ended budget year.

"EEU has also launched a new electric tax improvement to facilitate the power accesses across the country. The new electricity service tariff will be implementing in the coming four years, with due consideration given to the low income households. For instance, customers who are consuming from 0 to 200 megawatt per hour have gained 75 % subsidy from the government," Shiferaw noted.

As to him, the new electricity service tariff is designed to strengthen efforts



Eng. Shiferaw Telila

of providing sustainable and adequate electric power, construct infrastructures and reconstructing the destructed ones, and creating competitiveness.

Accordingly, households that use less than 50 kilowatt hours (kWh) at 0.27 Birr will pay 1.56 Birr tariffs in the next 4

years, Shiferaw expressed.

On the other hand, the utility has planned to generate 58.3 billion Birr of which 43.04 billion Birr revenue from energy sell and 15.224 billion Birr revenue from new linkage and others next budget year, according to the CEO.

## Premier, Xi talk on deepening ...

On the sidelines of the forum, the premier held talks with the Chairman of Sudan's Transitional Sovereign Council General Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan.

"Following up on our meeting in July, I had another opportunity to meet with General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan on the sidelines of the FOCAC. Our discussions focused on a range of bilateral and regional issues of mutual concern," PM Abiy also posted on Facebook

The Foreign Affairs Minister, Ambassador TayeAtske-Selassie, has also been

participating in the Ninth Ministerial Conference of FOCAC. By the same token, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) reported that it reviewed and successfully completed all preparatory work for the leaders' summit, adopting the draft agenda and outcome documents.

"The conference emphasized FOCAC's role as a highly effective platform for South-South Cooperation, contributing to substantial development and shared prosperity...[] The event saw the participation of foreign ministers and economic ministers from 53

African countries, as well as representatives from the African Union and other regional and international organizations," MoFA stated.

In related news, Ethiopian and Libyan Foreign Ministers discussed bilateral relations on the sidelines of the FOCAC ministerial conference. FM Ambassador Taye and Libyan Acting FM Al-Taher Salem Al-Baour, engaged in productive discussions focused on strengthening the longstanding ties between Ethiopia and Libya, according to MoFA.

## African cities ...

According to her, ensuring habitability, safety and resilience must be a top priority since cities are home to the current and future generation.

Mentioning that Addis Ababa has started the journey of city development, Adanech went on saying that her administration has proven that it can transform cities and harness their potential.

Guided by a people-centered approach that ensures suitable, fair and inclusive transformation, the Mayor said that her administration is "striving to transform the city, benefits of citizens and ensure no one left behind."

The city administration is committed to facilitate the utmost benefit to the vulnerable. Among all, student and community feeding, early child development program, establishment of women rehabilitation and empowerment center, and job creation have prioritized disadvantaged groups, he noted.

Addis Ababa is rapidly changing towards global competitiveness, she said, adding that the recent corridor development project is yielding remarkable results in renewing, upgrading and revitalizing the capital.

"We are expanding our roads so as to facilitate seamless infrastructure for pedestrians as well as vehicle users." These interventions coupled with efforts to improve access to public services and green spaces, she added.

For her, developing new public spaces with playground, sports field, parks and fountains do not only increase the beauty of the city, but also enhance equity for all residents.

These efforts are aligned with creating hundreds of thousands of jobs to individuals and revived businesses. According to Adanech, these achievements are occurring amid climate changes, rapid population growth and pressure of modern urban life.

"Our experiences and achievements of the past few months have told us the applicability and the reality of African cities to transform."

She also called on the participants of the African urban forum to convert and strategize the fate of African cities. "We need to learn from each other and leverage the advantages of being latecomer. Together, we will build our cities and Africa," she said.

## Great homecoming initiatives inject ...

Diaspora community participated in the initial Great Homecoming and Eid to Eid initiatives, contributing around 21.2 billion Birr to the economy in 2022 and 2023.

The initiative boosted the economy through spending on plane tickets, visas, hotels, reservations, and investments, including transportation services. Beyond economic contributions, the Diaspora played a critical role in countering diplomatic pressures with campaigns like 'No More' and 'It's My Dam.' Their influence on the tourism sector was also noteworthy, as they actively engaged in promoting Ethiopia's cultural and historical sites.

EDS's Communication Director Wondwossen Girma shared that the three-day festival would feature various programs, including a vibrant display of Ethiopian fashion-both contemporary and traditional-by local designers. He emphasized the Diaspora's involvement in environmental initiatives, voluntary services, and visiting tourist attractions, which allowed them to better understand their homeland.

"Ethiopia has been diligently working on Diaspora engagement for the past two decades," Wondwossen stated, underscoring the government's commitment to leveraging the diaspora for national development since the reform government took power. The Diaspora's



contributions in knowledge transfer, skill development, technology, investment, and resource mobilization have been immense, enhancing Ethiopia's image globally.

Ballers Game Center Manager Coach Carlos Torenten mentioned that the festival would serve as a dynamic platform to showcase Ethiopian art, fashion, sports, and culinary traditions while strengthening bonds within the Ethiopian Diaspora. The event will also feature expos on real estate, photography, food, and motor cars, highlighting the nation's latest innovations and cultural offerings.

In addition, the festival will include a "Dream Team" basketball game featuring

Diaspora youth, promoting unity and excellence in sports. A mix of cultural performances and modern entertainment, including music and dance, will provide a complete cultural immersion experience for attendees.

According to Coach Torenten, the summer camp comprised around 5,600 students, of which 120 Diaspora children spending time on football and basketball games and other extracurricular activities. The children had also engaged in different activities including plantation of seedlings that allowed them to give back to their environment, he remarked.

## Social media's double-edged sword: ...

The Ethiopian government has encouraged users and online influencers to promote ethical conduct and avoid inciting conflicts among different groups. Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Injibara University Journalism and Communication Lecturer Melkamu Mekonnen (PhD) emphasized the importance of educating the public on responsible social media use to mitigate harm. He noted that short-term training initiatives are a good start, but sustained efforts are needed.

"Youth should use social media to foster personal and national growth, minimizing its risks," Melkamu said, warning that misuse is eroding cultural values and unity. He urged mainstream media to focus on constructive content instead of amplifying divisive agendas from social media.

"While social media provides a platform for free expression, this freedom should not come at the expense of national and societal interests," he underscored. "Irresponsible use affects not just individual users but also causes broader societal harm, so mindful use is essential."

Despite the misuse, platforms like Facebook have positively influenced Ethiopia's political landscape by facilitating interactions among different social groups and influencing policy decisions. Bloggers and social media influencers have used these platforms productively, promoting ideas that have shaped policymaker decisions positively.

The expert also called for social media users to focus on content that improves living standards, health, and the economy. He

stressed the importance of accountability for those who violate regulations on hate speech and disinformation and urged responsible use of the platform. Public media and other organizations must also work harder to debunk false information spread on social media to minimize its impact on society.

Similarly, Jimma University Media and Communication Lecturer Getachew Tilahun (PhD) noted that social media allows users to share information and express their thoughts freely, regardless of location. He urged activists to use social media to address critical issues, such as national, economic, social, cultural, and political matters that promote unity and peace. The expert advocates for more education on using these platforms responsibly to prevent misinformation and conflict.

While social media has enabled the government to gauge public interests and foster public discourse, it has been misused by some for personal gain, often fueling division and tension. Communication experts stress the need for accountability and greater public awareness to mitigate these issues.

Those experts also caution that social media posts designed to provoke emotional reactions or controversy often gain significant public engagement, with some opinion leaders and bloggers using this strategy to build personal followings or push biased viewpoints. These actions have contributed to a politically charged atmosphere in Ethiopia, with misinformation and biased reporting on ethnic, religious, and political issues further inflaming tensions.

# Opinion

## The portrayals of Somalia, Egypt's emerging alliance in HoA

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

In the wake of the ongoing development between Somalia and Egypt in the Horn of Africa, people from all sections of the population have been tossing around their standpoints in a number of respects. In the current circumstances, the situation is turning to be a predominant agenda and predominant subject coming in and out of everyone's mind.

It is envisioned that the present developments of the two nations would move the Horn of Africa region into uncharted waters if they keep on going down the wrong pipe and off the right route.

It is important to keep in mind the fact that Somalia in the immediate present has been going to the ends of the earth to back the Horn of Africa into a corner under the guise of a number of lame reasons that do not reflect the existing reality on the ground. Quite the opposite, Ethiopia still has continued making peace happen in various parts of the continent of Africa regardless of encounters making the most of a diverse range of practical strategies.

Since the earliest time, the country pulled out all the stops to restore peace and tranquility in conflict ridden areas in the Horn of Africa by deploying thousands of well-trained troops to various peacekeeping missions. According to the grapevine, Ethiopia's peacekeepers missions possess years of experience.

For as long as one can remember Ethiopia has been playing a huge role in enhancing regional cooperation and strengthening institutions that promote peace and stability. It goes without saying that the country has played a significant role in brokering peace in the Horn of Africa.

It is common knowledge that Ethiopia has paid invaluable sacrifice in restoring peace and stability in the region by deploying well-trained troops providing humanitarian assistance and expediting cross boarder mediation.

Whenever problems happen in the Horn of Africa and beyond, the country does not bat an eye to become involved and deal with the matters in an atmosphere of calm, restore peace and tranquility in the region at earliest possible time.

Foreign Affairs Minister Ambassador Taye Atsekeselassie called upon governments of Horn of African (HoA) countries to work together to resolve differences peacefully and reclaim lost opportunities for shared growth.

In press briefing he issued recently, the Foreign Minister stressed that Ethiopia highly values the shared history and traditions with its neighboring countries.

To everyone's dismay, giving the cold shoulder to the unvarnished truth unfolding in the Horn of Africa, Somalia has been bending over backwards to twist Ethiopia's arm and pose a threat to its people. By any means whatsoever, Somalia cannot make its dream become a reality.

As of the Foreign Minister, certain forces are exacerbating the political and diplomatic differences of Ethiopia and Somalia which he stated that collusion with these "forces hostile to peace in this region is also short-sighted and counterproductive".



*Somalia has the right to enter into bilateral agreements with any country; Ethiopia will not compromise if its national security is threatened*

"It is consistent with this conviction that we accepted the facilitation of discussions with the Federal Republic of Somalia, firstly in Nairobi, and as a continuation of that effort, in Ankara. These efforts have made progress and are promising to yield results. These efforts must not be undermined by provocative statements," he stated.

Somalia should distance itself from this kind of immoral act that can throw a wet blanket on the positive achievements surfacing in the Horn of Africa.

Ethiopia is concerned that the transition from the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) to a new peace support mission is fraught with dangers to the region. While the African Union and the United Nations are preparing for this transition, the region is entering into uncharted waters, Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nebiyu Tedla, stated.

It went on to say repeated calls by Ethiopia and other Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) have not been taken seriously. Ethiopia is being expected to ignore hostile statements, and the continued attempt to undermine the sacrifices of Ethiopian defense forces. Ethiopia cannot stand idle while other actors are taking measures to destabilize the region. Ethiopia is vigilantly monitoring developments in the region that could threaten its national security.

Ethiopia has worked tirelessly for the peace and security of Somalia and the region, for shared growth, and has nurtured the close bonds between the peoples of the region. Ethiopia has also been engaged in facilitated discussions to resolve differences with the Government of Somalia. Tangible progress has been made in these talks. Instead of pursuing these efforts for peace, the Government of Somalia is colluding with external actors aiming to destabilize the region, the statement noted.

All those responsible for preparing and authorizing a new peace support mission must take into account the legitimate concerns of countries of the region and the TCCs. Forces trying to inflame tension for their short-term and futile objectives must shoulder the grave ramifications. Ethiopia cannot tolerate these actions that endanger the gains made against regional and international terrorist groups.

Ethiopia remains committed to the peaceful resolution of differences and to working with

the people of Somalia and the international community to avert dangers to the peace and stability of the region, the statement emphasized.

There is no doubt that the Horn of Africa for the most part Somalia for years has been enjoying peace owing to the fact that Ethiopia's troops have been persistently defending the region from Al-Shabaab.

As the unholy marriage of Egypt and Somalia pose a big threat to Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa region as a whole, the two nations should dissociate themselves from this kind of evil act. It is generally recognized that, Ethiopia more than ever before has paid a huge sacrifice for Somalia to restore peace and tranquility.

Ethiopia at different points in time has sent its troops to Somalia for bunch of years with the intention of ensuring peace by shielding people residing in the region from Al-Shabaab attacks.

Some groups that have been working to venture the Horn of Africa into unknown territory should distance themselves from this kind of evil act and leave no stone unturned to address the ongoing predicaments in an atmosphere of calm.

It should be recalled that on the subject of the issue the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) Chief of General Staff Field Marshal Birhanu Jula in the recent past stated that, the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) made unparalleled sacrifices to bring peace to the people of Somalia.

Field Marshal Birhanu added that, the battalion was well-harmonized to the people of Somalia and won their acclaim for its bravery throughout the peacekeeping mission, according to information obtained from local media.

He welcomed a battalion of ENDF which successfully completed its peacekeeping mission under the umbrella of the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) in Ferfer Woreda of Shebele Zone, Somali State.

Upon receiving the battalion, he emphasized that Ethiopia sent its army to Somalia for several years prior to and following the resolutions passed by the African Union, and paid incalculable price to protect the Somali people from al-Shabaab attacks.

As Egypt's move will not benefit the Horn of

Africa except adding fuel to the flames and plunging into unknown depths, both nations should take into consideration its repercussions before the situation end up going from the deep end to the shallow end and go further and further down the rabbit hole.

Ethiopia come hell or high water does not want to interfere in the internal affairs of Somalia on the ground that the country has full right to enter into a wide spectrum of agreements with any nations worldwide. However, the country will not tolerate if their pacts cause a problem to the security of the country.

As always, Ethiopia will sustain making extraordinary efforts to make peace happen thorough round table discussion for its people and the Horn of Africa.

The African Union and the United Nations must ensure careful deployment of the post- ATMIS forces in Somalia to prevent unnecessary and unexpected regional tensions, taking relevant Security Council resolutions into account, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said.

MoFA has also expressed concern over the upcoming deployment of peacekeeping forces in Somalia. As a neighboring country and a key contributor to regional security and stability, Ethiopia is closely monitoring the situation.

During his biweekly briefing, MoFA Spokesperson emphasized that the countries currently contributing to the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) are important stakeholders and should be consulted on future missions.

Regarding Egypt's interest in deploying its army to Somalia, Ambassador Nebiyu stated that while Somalia, as a sovereign nation, has the right to enter into bilateral agreements with any country, Ethiopia will not compromise if its national security is threatened.

The spokesperson also reiterated Ethiopia's commitment to resolving all diplomatic disputes with the Somalia government peacefully.

Ethiopia's role in restoring peace and tranquility in the Horn of Africa and beyond has been winning the hearts and minds of the wider international community under the auspicious of the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS).

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Ambassador Konjit SineGiorgis in the recent past stated that Ethiopia has been putting unwavering effort along with IGAD and AU to safeguard peace and security in the region.

Besides striving to create economic cooperation in the continent, Ethiopia has remained the largest troop contributor to AU and UN peacekeeping missions in Rwanda, Burundi, Liberia, Sudan and Somalia, she said.

Ethiopia's contribution to the continent is not limited to its symbolism of freedom, Konjit said, adding that the country also takes the lion's share in the coming in to force of former OAU now African Union that aimed to rid the continent of colonization and apartheid.

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

# Editorial

## Sustainable urbanization: An all-round solution

**A**frican policy makers have gathered at the Adwa Victory Memorial Museum here in Addis Ababa to discuss policy and financing issues for the sustainable urban development in the continent. The fact that rapid and sustainable development of the continents cities is pivotal in the overall economic, social and political advancement of Africa makes the forum a timely event.

Urban areas are more advanced economically and socially because there are a lot of facilities invested on them. In this regard Africa could be taken as having remained backwards as it is economically challenged. Yet many evidences show that urbanizations in Africa are rapid.

According to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) Africa is the epicenter of global urbanization along with Asia. It states that the continent's level of urbanization rose from 35 per cent in 2000 to 43.5 per cent in 2020, and is expected to reach about 50 per cent by 2035.

UN Habitat on its part stipulates that the continent's rate of urbanization soared from 15 percent in 1960 to 40 percent in 2010, and is projected to reach 60 percent in 2050. It further explains that the continents urban population will triple in the next 50 years. UN Habitat further underscores the fact that it is impossible to deal with Africa's growth and poverty challenges without managing urbanization or ensuring its sustainability.

The unplanned process of urbanization in Africa in the past can be held accountable to the shocking increase of slum areas, poverty and inequality that characterized many of the urban areas in the continent. This calls for a well-studied, planned and sustainable process of urbanization to make sure that the continents cities can become factors of social and economic development.

Regardless of their challenges African cities already drive economic growth generating the bulk of the region's GDP which, according to other sources it accounts for up to 60%. Revenues from African cities are critical in financing development although they remain largely untapped. The productive jobs, which Africa urgently needs, are also mainly concentrated in cities.

Urbanization is also believed to spur trade and economic integration, driving consumption and production of goods. Urban areas are also more suitable to provide better access to healthcare, education, telecom, transportation ... etc.

The economic and social impact of urban areas can also spill over to the rural areas. They can rural areas and agriculture positively through improved access to markets, services and inputs, raising overall productivity and living standards.

It is strongly believed that good quality urbanization is the foundation for inclusive economic growth that leads to the eradication of extreme poverty and inequality. For this end it is important to ensure that the process of urbanization is sustainable.

Making urban areas sustainable is mandatory to see that people have adequate and safe facilities for life. If so they will be healthy and productive.

Peace, stability, security and justice are the burning needs of people across the globe, but so especially to Africans who are in dire need of them. Urban areas contribute immensely in ensuring peace stability and good governance that are vital steps towards successful life of people.

African governments need to adopt and implement policies that ensure sustainable growth of urban areas so as to address the numerous challenges posed on the population. Participants of the ongoing African Urban Forum here in Addis Ababa should take this opportune moment to chart the future rapid and sustainable growth of the continents cities that are likely to be all round solutions to the needs of the people.

# Opinion

## FOCAC: a platform to invigorate strong China-Africa ties

BY ZEKARIAS WOLDEMARIAM

"In 2013, after Xi Jinping became Chinese President, he visited Africa for his first foreign visit and announced the principles of sincerity, real results, amity and good faith as China's Africa policy" said Ambassador of China to AU Hu Changchun.

In a recent media and think tanks briefing that preceded the ongoing Forum on China Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) he noted that China is always Africa's good friend, good partner and good brother.

"Together with our African friends, we have pressed ahead on the path of solidarity and cooperation and looked out for each other in face of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have enhanced China-Africa relations to the new stage of jointly building a high-level community with a shared future"

Currently FOCAC is one of the highly anticipated bilateral events as it encompasses diverse topics and vital decisions. Several African Heads of State and Government are attending the FOCAC 2024 Summit underway in Beijing.

Among them Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) has also met and held talks with Chinese President on sidelines of the event. CGTN reported that Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Wednesday that China-Ethiopia relations are an example of friendly cooperation between China and Africa during a meeting with Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali, who is in Beijing for the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

For a long time, China and Ethiopia have firmly supported each other in safeguarding their respective core interests and opposing external interference, forging an unbreakable iron-clad friendship, Xi said.

China and Africa need to step up their cooperation in various fields as Africa, which is facing a lot of challenges in terms of economy, has a lot to learn from and work with China. First and foremost due to the priority and due attention given to promoting research and development, China is able to boost its knowledge and technological capacity to properly lead its overall economic and social development throughout the decades.

Being the most populous nation of the world, China has successfully built an economy that has lifted hundreds of millions of its citizens from the quagmire of poverty and become more self-reliant in food security, education, healthcare, urban development ... etc. On top of that the country has now stood in the world as the second largest economy despite being categorized as a developing country in global scale.

China has successfully built one of the most efficient manufacturing industries that has assisted in creating as much jobs to its large population as well as facilitated its growing trade with the entire world. Furthermore, it is able to transform its manufacturing sector to be high tech and state of the art which is a vital

step in enhancing its quality and productivity keeping momentum to the dynamic and ever growing global market.

Furthermore, China has advanced its sectors of transportation and telecommunication infrastructure with its well-trained human resources and advancing technology. It is now one of the most competent contractors in the global market of infrastructure, urban development and other mega project constructions which is adding to its trade and economic ties with the world.

Needless to mention, China's success in other sectors like agriculture, urbanization, ICT, health care and Technical Vocational training, among others are exemplary to Africa. For a continent that is struggling to enhance its food security, healthcare, education, transport and communication, as well as other sectors, the FOCAC platform plays mandatory role in paving the way for facilitating further and strong collaboration.

Through the unrelenting trade and economic relations with China Africa has shown a lot of progress as compared to the situation to held for decades since the times of liberation from colonialism. One of the best examples that should be mentioned in this regard is the growth observed in infrastructure construction like road, railway, hydroelectric power dams ... etc.

Chinese Foreign Direct Investment in Africa is a game changer in the latter's trade and economic development. For instance in Ethiopia alone, Chinese companies have been effective in both large scale industrial parks as well as other standalone investment firms.

Though Ethiopia and the entire African continent still have to work more to transform the fledgling economy, the level of infrastructure and manufacturing industries development, especially in some exemplary countries is so unprecedented that it can set the pace for future cooperation.

In a media and think tanks briefing that preceded the forum, Chinese Ambassador to AU Hu Changchun noted that the 2024 Summit of the FOCAC will be an event to celebrate China-Africa friendship, explore cooperation and chart the course for the future under the theme of "Joining Hands to Advance Modernization and Build a High-Level China-Africa Community with a Shared Future."

The upcoming Beijing Summit will be another friendly gathering of the big China-Africa family. Mutual respect, treating each other as equals and joint consultation are important features of FOCAC, Ambassador Changchun stipulated.

"The two sides are having intensive communication and consultation on the preparation of the Summit and other activities with the aim of carrying forward the spirit of China-Africa friendship and cooperation and making this Summit yet another symbol of our friendship and solidarity. With the joint effort, the Summit will be a great success, and write a new chapter of building a China-Africa community with a shared future"

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The Ethiopian Herald

# Business & Economy

## Augmenting bilateral cooperation to fuel economic progress

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Ethiopia, a country with a population of about 120 million, has possessed untapped abundant natural resources including surface and underground water, arable land, livestock, mines and forests.

However, the resources of all sorts in the nation have not been well exploited as per the economic demand of the nation due to lack of sufficient technical knowhow, finance and technology. Since long back, as of the imperial era, of course, the country has been striving for advancing the national economic growth through exploiting the resources. To that end the country has allocated huge amount of money generated from local sources and from abroad by securing loan and grant from partners and multinational financial institutions.

To support their development endeavors and in order to modernize the transportation system, the successive regimes constructed roads railways and air ports. They imported latest vehicles, cutting edge aircrafts which played pivotal role in transporting passengers and import and export commodities. To enhance modern energy sectors, they constructed hydropower dams, wind farms and have been exploring geothermal resources, expanded internet and telephone services, constructed industrial parks and to date, local and international investors have been installing their factories and became operational.

They also rendered special attention to the agriculture sector particularly to the small scale ones and provided agricultural inputs to farmers such as fertilizer, pest and herbicides in subsidized prices. They also provided extension services.

The current regime has exerted maximum effort to accelerate the economic progress focusing on various sectors. Among these is the ongoing dry season irrigated wheat farming. The practice enabled the nation to substitute the importation of wheat. Side by side with this, it is running its development endeavor by allocating budget derived from local sources and financial, technical and human resource support obtained through cooperation with partners. Recently, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Ethiopia Office has affirmed its commitment to continue supporting Ethiopia's efforts to achieve sustainable development across various sectors.

In an interview with the local media, KOICA Country Director, Cho Han Deog, said that the agency's mission is to assist partner countries like Ethiopia in achieving sustainable development, reducing poverty, and supporting inclusive growth while fostering strong Korea-Ethiopia relations. Recently, KOICA has approximately 20-30 ongoing projects, categorized as either small or large scales with a total investment of about 150 million USD, the country director said.

He added that, the agency is also engaged in several priority areas such as capacity



KOICA vows continued support to Ethiopia's health sector through SHaPE2 Project

building for the manufacturing sector, health care development, and climate resilience.

Among the climate response projects supported by KOICA, Deog stated that it is investing 12 million USD in climate-resilient afforestation, forest rehabilitation, and landscape management in collaboration with the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI). "These are excellent projects, and I hope they achieve great success as they are crucial for environmental sustainability."

Additionally, he said that they are working with the Ethiopian government to introduce climate-smart agriculture practices aimed at mitigating climate impacts and enhancing resilience. In connection with this, the country director said, "I would like to acknowledge the Ethiopian government's climate response initiatives, particularly its efforts in forest development, reforestation, and combating deforestation."

For the last three decades, especially during the last five reform years, the governments of Ethiopia have been exerting their relentless efforts to afforestation and water-shade management so that to recover deforested and degraded farm lands, reduce erosion, replenish underground water and to make forests as shelter to wild animals.

According to the *Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission* (EFCCC) in Ethiopia annually 1200 hectares of forest lands are deforested for various purposes and changed in to the barren land. Wet lands also changed in to grazing lands due to the excessive number of livestock which further degraded lands and aggravated erosion.

In order to curb the trend, various measures have been taken by the government, civil society organizations and private sector including providing energy saving stoves

to each household which enabled them to reduce their rate of cutting trees for household energy consumption, supplying solar panels for electrification and establishing associations engaged on the protection of forests from destruction and encouraging results have been registered in this regard.

The clearance of forest dried up water points and aggravated shortage of water and desertification and the recurrent droughts again critically affects the sedentary farm and livestock which is the very means of living for the rural population.

As mentioned above deforestation has a multi-dimensional effects. The shortage of clean water due to drought forced women to spend 8 hours for fetching water and collecting woods and transporting it to their home. In addition, carrying the water pot on their back and going for long journey impacted their health. Hence, replenishing water points through afforestation and installing solar panel on the rural residents save their times that would have been used for fetching water and collecting fuel wood.

The country director also said that, KOICA's support by noting that many Ethiopians rely on milk and dairy production for their livelihood. However, Deog pointed out that the development of milk products has not kept pace with the capacities of Ethiopian farmers and milk producers.

To address the challenges, the agency plans to strengthen the value chain of milk production from farmers to the final product. "Our goal is to support and enhance and modernize the Ethiopian milk production."

He stressed that in all of the projects, it has been carrying out in Ethiopia, and KOICA considers the capacity building of Ethiopian

stakeholders, and share Koreans' experience, and knowledge with the pertinent officials.

It is proved that, Ethiopia has the largest livestock in Africa but its contribution to the economy because of various reasons is insignificant. The cattle rearing system both in the highland and lowland parts of the country is very traditional. In the low land parts, pastoral communities practice unsettled way of living and whenever they face shortage of water and forage, they leave their place for searching forage and water. In time of extreme weather conditions due to drought, their cattle would meet their death in the wilderness.

The absence of veterinary service also affects their animal s' health and made them less productive of milk or meat. The location of the cattle rearing community which is in the remotest areas of the country made the resources in accessible to the market. As a result, their milk products are not supplied to the market sufficiently rather consumed by themselves and this again coerces them to stay in poverty.

Cattle rearing practice in the highland parts also characterized by subsistence. The absence of sufficient forage due to the change of grazing lands in to farm lands critically affects the cattle owner community. Oxen are usually used for plowing and play pivotal role for farming production and contributes a great deal for the nation's economy because behind the agriculture growth there is the oxen labor. But the cow's milk provision capacity is very less because of the traditional rearing system and their genetic makeup. According to the Ethiopian Nutrition Professional association, the milk and meat per capita consumption in Ethiopia as compared to the Sub-Saharan African countries is the lowest. Hence, to alleviate the problem modernizing the sector through cooperation with partners is essential.

According to the country director, each year, some projects are concluded and new ones are initiated. And currently, the agency is focusing on a major project that would enhance services.

"We are in discussions with various stakeholders, including Ethiopian and Korean partners, to advance this project. Ethiopian stakeholders include the Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority, the Federal Police, Customs Service, Bole International Airport authorities, and others."

KOICA plans to invite experts from Incheon International Airport to collaborate. The goal is to connect Incheon International Airport with Bole International Airport through provision of flight services, assess the current performance of Bole Airport, and identify ways to enhance the performance for passengers.

The country director finally applauded the ongoing corridor development in Addis Ababa as it positively impacts perceptions of the Ethiopian capital. "I hope such initiatives will elevate Ethiopia's status on the global stage and within Africa," he said.

# Art & Culture

## Detonating patriarchy in Zimbabwean novel 'Nervous Conditions' (Part Seven)

BY MEKDES TAYE (PhD)

The efficacy of women characters in strategically detonating the given patriarchy in the novel called *Nervous Conditions* has been examined since the previous week. Here is the remaining interpretation. Enjoy the examination.

As stated in the previous section, Tambu was not happy to get involved in the wedding ceremony. Thus, she expresses her feeling to Babamukuru. Since he was the most respected person, no one was able to disagree with his decisions. It was unexpected and the most crucial attempt of defying his authority from Babamukuru's point of view. How dare she did say that since he was the only one who provides her good food, clothing, education and other amenities? What was expected of her was to praise him and obey his command. That was why he shouted at her. Let us consider the following extract:

"I am telling you! If you do not go to the wedding, you are saying you no longer want to live here. I am the head of this house. Anyone who defies my authority is an evil thing in this house bent on destroying what I have made" (Dangarembga, 1988, p. 167).

As stated above, Babamukuru did not even try to understand Tambu. He was only imposing what he wanted to be done and acted accordingly. Even if she attended the wedding without her interest accepting his fatherly authority, he punished her because he believed that Tambu was trying to defy his authority. More than words he even abused her physically by beating her since that was a very serious breach of conduct. She mentioned his reaction as follows: "I received fifteen lashes, having turned fifteenth in April. Because of the seriousness of my crime, Anna was given two weeks' leave and I took over her duties" (Dangarembga, 1988, p. 169).

Instead of confronting him, she was re-examining the situation inside herself. But, when he hit Nyasha, the situation was not the same. Nyasha didn't show any tolerance. Instead of acting what the society expected in such a situation, Nyasha asked her father to stop hitting her. That was the way of telling her father that he was doing the wrong measure on the happening. She confronted her father saying: "Don't hit me, Daddy," she said backing away from him. "I wasn't doing anything wrong. Don't hit me" (Dangarembga, 1988, p. 114).

Unlike Nyasha, Tambu did her best to bring the situation to normal by obeying Babamukuru. She silently received his lashes. She knew it was a wrong way of giving recognition to his charity. She said: "...I accept that I had forfeited my right to Babamukuru's charity. Taking my suitcases from the top of the cupboard, I began to pack my things" (Dangarembga, 1988, p. 167).

In this way, she mitigated the situation and maintained peace with her uncle. It was only

Babamukuru who was talking and shouting, but Tambu kept quiet. The family was not disturbed when it was compared with the clash between Nyasha and Babamukuru.

Tambu and Nyasha both were successful in detonating the patriarchal ideology of their brother in different situations. As it was discussed under negotiation section, Tambu crossed the patriarchal division of labor which was given to Nhamo and her. She strategically persuaded her brother to cut the chicken which was not the job of males. Here, she succeeded in changing his mind. This can help the family to start reconsidering gender roles in the house. This attempt can also alert the rest of the society about gender-based treatment in the community.

As it was mentioned in the previous paragraphs, Nyasha was in confrontation with her father because of her late arrival from party and mainly because of her style of dressing. It was her mother who bought that cloth for her since she was working hard in her exam. When Nyasha was showing the clothes to the family, Chido was warning her not to wear it; otherwise she could face problems from boys. Instead of brooding, Nyasha was fascinated by the style of the dress. This made Chido nervous. Tambu explained the incident as follows:

"In the end she was gracious and joined in the laughter, which made Chido turn serious and tell her that Babamukuru was right-she should make the most of the little decency she had. ... Poor Chido! I do believe he felt obliged to carry on the tradition in the normal, analytic male fashion, because when we refuse to be subdued and laughed at him instead, he reverted to his usual lovable self" (Dangarembga, 1988, p. 109).

As the extract shows, the girls were successful in detonating patriarchy in the interaction with their brother. Since they were strategic in identifying the influential approach, they changed Chido's attitude. As they were strategic in changing the patriarchal attempt of Chido, no one was a loser and by that they labeled themselves equally important as him. Throughout the novel, Chido was not seen challenging the girls again.

Nyasha came to realize that the reason that left her confused was the knowledge that she acquired from books and especially those history books. Because of this knowledge, she could not negotiate with the patriarchal system in her family and the society as a whole. She believed that she can't accept her subordination in her life. Therefore, she was in dilemma. She became mentally ill before accomplishing her life goal. Tambu narrated this situation as:

"Nyasha was beside herself with fury. She rampaged, shredding her history book between her teeth ('Their history. \*\*\*\*ing liars. Their bloody lies.'). breaking mirrors, her clay pots, anything she could lay her hands on and jabbing the fragments viciously into her flesh, stripping the



bedclothes, tearing her clothes from the wardrobe and trampling them underfoot. 'They have trapped us. They have trapped us. But I will not be trapped.' Then as suddenly as it came, the rage passed. 'I don't hate you, Dadd,' she said softly. 'They want me to, but I won't. 'She lay down on her bed. 'I'm very tired,' she said in a voice that was recognizably hers" (Dangarembga, 1988, p. 202).

From this extract, one can understand that since Nyasha has been reading history books, the books that are about white people and their successful stories, she wondered about the strategies that these whites use for dominating and subordinating the indigenous blacks. These books that she was reading might be about how to become effective in booming whites' interest by systematically and indirectly exploiting the people through the indigenous blacks like her father had been doing in her family and in the society as a whole. It is understood that, it was after realizing this that she associates the books with white domination. Furthermore, what frustrated her was that European education did not equip her with skills necessary to the reality that are necessary to live with her family and the African people. She understood that her father was a tool in the hands of white people. She becomes nervous. Then, she becomes abnormal, and she exhibited her frustration by ramping those books. It means that she finds better to forget about the books than losing her father. Her father whom these facts are talking about; her father whom these books might show the strategies he should use like those colonizers. That is why she hated him. Nyasha says the books she brought from England deceived her. In this regard, Nneameka underlined that "Western education didn't serve any practical purpose in Africa" (2004, p. 82).

Here, the implication is that Nyasha was represented as an African girl who faced alienation. She also was represented the victim of colonial influence. Besides, she did not know how to cope with patriarchal culture. She did not have the confidence to interact with others strategically. The final outcome was her mental disorder.

From this situation, it can be said that a woman needs to be very active and confident

so that she can formulate the best strategic approach in detonating the patriarchal system. As a result things might start changing and gender equality might happen accordingly. Otherwise, the situation might not change but instead might get so complex and victimize women like Nyasha.

There is only one incident that reveals Maiguru's protest to patriarchy. This was seen when Tambu resisted her uncle's command to join her parent's wedding. As it was discussed in the above paragraphs, Babamukuru had forced her to go to the wedding. However, after the ceremony, he punished her with lashes and forced her to take over Anna's (the house maid's) duties. Maiguru had intervened as a wife and a relative of Tambu to react against his punishment. But, Babamukuru warned her not be bothered even not to try to come in between his family business. This shocked Maiguru, and she expressed her suppressed anger to his rule as quoted below:

"Yes, she is your brother's child... But when it comes to taking my money so that you can feed her and her father and your whole family and waste it on ridiculous weddings that are when they are my relatives, too. ... I am tired of being nothing in a home I am working myself sick to support. I have had enough" (Dangarembga, 1988, p. 172).

After Maiguru expressed her anger as stated above, she left the house. Thus, Nyasha was happy with Maiguru's detonation of her father's patriarchy. This means that Nyasha knew and was disappointed by Babamukuru treatment of her mother. She was appealed of her father's behavior; she referred to miss her mother than seeing her suffering in the house. But, Maiguru didn't persevere with her decision. She came back to her house. This shows that this character was not strong enough and confident in detonating Babamukuru's patriarchy. Since she came back without any promise of Babamukuru that could sound his sympathy, the researcher interpreted the situation as she still accepted male domination and submission of Babamukuru. In addition to that the researcher believed from the characterization of Maiguru that her husband was abusing and dominating her since he had realized her poor potential and confident on such issues.

# Indepth

## HORN OF AFRICA

### The Horn: A lot in common, little to dispute, shun third party

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

The recent tension between Ethiopia and Somalia becomes the focal point in the most volatile and dynamic region in the world. Colluding with the regional countries, other forces have been pushing harder and fueling the dispute upping the ante.

#### What is behind the current tension of the Horn?

After around three decades long wait, Ethiopia has started to call for mutual approach with its neighbors for accessing the sea. The long awaited wish to access the sea genuinely has come to fruition when Somaliland accepted Addis Ababa's call for mutual benefit. Since the accord inked between the two sides, Somalia has boldly refused to accept Ethiopia's move and tensions became tighter than before.

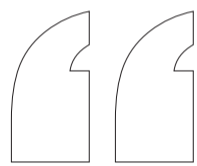
As one of the major players in the continental issues, Ethiopia has also been leading the region as well. The Horn of Africa is well known for its unrest and volatile features, and many actors are involved in the process. However, no country or actor did anything compared to Ethiopia's commitment towards the region.

Ethiopia has been sacrificing its sons and daughters for the well-being of the region. Again, it has been the frontrunner regarding any issues of the region. The best example could be nation's move to fight terrorism and support nations to stand on their feet as sovereign nations.

Accordingly, Professor Brook Hailu, a Political Science and International Relations expert, admitted Ethiopia's commitment to the region. He noted that Ethiopia's contributions to Somalia's peace are often overlooked. Ethiopian troops have been on the front lines against Al-Shabaab and have built essential infrastructure in Somalia.

After fighting and warding one of the terrorist groups in the Horn off, Ethiopia was the first nation that contributes and sends thousands of its Soldiers for Peace keeping Mission in Somalia under African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

Prof. Brook also elaborated that Ethiopian forces were active in Somalia even before AMISOM took over. Once AMISOM



**Ethiopia and Somalia have many in common to resolve their disputes by devoid third parties. Therefore, the two counterparts should work on finding the missing link. Somalia knows what Ethiopia sacrificed and this must not be replaced by any other party with hidden interest**

was deployed, Ethiopia took on the most challenging roles, fighting Al-Shabaab effectively. Ethiopian troops have also supported local communities by building schools, roads, and health facilities, going beyond their military duties. These contributions are documented in United Nations reports.

#### The burning issue now

After the accord between Ethiopia and Somaliland, the move that Somalia took made thing even harder when the later started to allow other powers, even some are arch enemies of Ethiopia, in to the stepping into the regional scenario. Keeping adding more actors who have their own hoarded agendas in the dispute is one of the alarming moves that exacerbate

the whole fume.

Ethiopian Foreign Minister, Ambassador Taye Atskeselassie, voiced concerns about a possible "collusion" between the Somali government and external forces, which could threaten regional stability. Despite Ethiopia's significant efforts to stabilize Somalia, recent moves by the Somali government to align more closely with foreign actors have increased tensions. Ethiopia feels sidelined and fears these developments could reverse its achievements in the region.

Ethiopia's concerns are tied to Somalia's fragile security situation, where renewed militant activity could undo years of progress against terrorism.

However, Somalia's recent actions, including its closer tie with Egypt—a country with a contentious history with Ethiopia—pose a significant threat to Ethiopia's national interests. Prof. Brook suggests that the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and other regional bodies should mediate this dispute, and Ethiopia remains open to dialogue.

Further, the Republic of Somalia has decided to replace Ethiopian Soldiers with other forces without acknowledging the whole favor those military forces did to them. The upcoming Post-ATMIS mission that will be effective in 2025, the Somalia government deliberately excludes the participation of Ethiopian troops in the mission. Besides, Mogadishu asked Ethiopian soldiers, who have been there due to various bilateral agreements with Ethiopia, to evacuate the country as soon as possible.

The Somali government, Brook elucidated, must reconsider its security strategy. Without collaboration with neighboring countries like Ethiopia, it risks losing control over many regions. "How could the Cairo government manage Somalia's peace? I see no likelihood of this," questioned the scholar.

Having paid a heavy price for Somalia's peace, Ethiopia, as to Brook, argues it should not be excluded from post-ATMIS peacekeeping efforts. The country expects support from the African Union and the United Nations Security Council in this regard.

#### Other factors playing into the existing situation

Ethiopia anger came after the Somalia's deliberate action taken to include external force to its dispute knowing what some foes mean to Ethiopia. Ethiopia and Egypt have been on fire due to Ethiopia's mega dam project on Blue Nile (Abbay River). With such grudge the two country experience for years, having Egypt in Ethiopia's backyard could make things even harder to resolve. The only thing Ethiopia can do is defending its national interest and territorial sovereignty with all cost.

Zahid Zedan, An analyst specializing in Nile River affairs and Ethio-Egypt relations, observed the two nations' issue in two perspectives, Egypt inclusion in Somalia's issue and the Abbay Dam. Zahid noted that while Somalia has the right to enter bilateral military agreements, including with Egypt, such agreements could pose a threat to Ethiopia. He stressed that Ethiopia must closely monitor these developments and be prepared to protect its interests.

"The relative stability in Somalia is due to Ethiopia's efforts. Ethiopian troops have protected Somali government institutions and offices. Egypt cannot replicate that role; their objectives differ," Zahid explained. Egypt's dissatisfaction with Ethiopia's ambitions, such as access to the sea and its stance on Nile River politics, could lead to a partnership between Egypt and Somalia that undermines Ethiopia and the region rather than ensuring Somalia's peace.

Ethiopia views this shift in alliances as a direct threat to its national interests and a potential destabilizing factor that could reignite terrorism in the HoA. The situation remains volatile, with the potential to escalate into a broader regional crisis if not carefully managed, Zahid emphasizing the urgent need for diplomatic engagement and conflict prevention.

All in all, no matter the issue could be, Ethiopia and Somalia have many in common to resolve their disputes by devoid third parties. Therefore, the two counterparts should work on finding the missing link. Somalia knows what Ethiopia sacrificed and this must not be replaced by any other party with hidden interest.



# Law & Politics

## From donation to cooperation: Redefining ties with Africa

BY STAFF REPORTER

**D**ue to its significant potential for growth on both sides, the continent has gained increased attention from the global community. In particular, the need for robust bilateral interaction between the youth continent and the rest of the world has grown over time.

In addition to having a population that is about 70% younger than average and abundant in undeveloped natural resources, the continent has established itself as a crucial player in world affairs. Additionally, African nations are battling for increased representation of the continent's population in international bodies, such as the UN Security Council. In contrast to long-held misconceptions, African nations are promoting equality in the global sphere. Africa currently has the fastest-growing economy in the world. Despite the odds, nations like Ethiopia have been seeing consistent years of fast economic growth.

Strong economies and wealthy blocs have been developing various socioeconomic initiatives to strengthen collaboration with a continent that has so much to offer, as the African economy is predicted to continue on its upward trend. Only last year did the G20 grant the African Union permanent membership, and the BRICS countries welcomed Ethiopia and Egypt as new members. These changes are reliable markers of the continent's growing involvement in bilateral and multilateral affairs.

In terms of redressing global woes, the continent remains a key partner. And, it is behooving the rest of the world to join forces with the continent to tackle global challenges like climate change. More nations and blocs are showing keenness to boost economic cooperation and political alliance with the continent. And, the boom in the number of global actors and the rapid transition to a more multipolar world are offering the continent with



multitude of cooperation alternatives. The fact is Africa is no longer a junior partner and it has now become vivid that no international goals can be met or no predicament can be tackled by leaving the largest continent behind. From the U.S Africa Summit to Russia Africa forum, nations with different economic status and political view are exploring ways to bolster ties with the abundant continent

The continent continues to be a vital ally in the effort to address world problems. In order to address global issues like climate change, it is also in the interests of the rest of the globe to collaborate with the continent. An increasing number of countries and groups are shown a desire to strengthen their political and economic ties with the continent. Furthermore, the rapid shift towards a more multipolar world and the explosion of global actors present the continent with a plethora of options for cooperation. Africa is no longer a junior partner, and it is clearly evident that no international objective can be achieved or problem solved by ignoring the greatest continent. From the Russia-Africa forum to the U.S.-Africa summit, countries with diverse interests are trying to cement bond with the continent

Despite the growing enthusiasm, Africa is asking for an equal treatment in its

partnership with other sides.

Over the years the calls have got louder and clearer. Trade rather than aid is what Africa prioritizes.

The continent's young population, vast natural resources, rich history and culture place it in equal footing in the world stage. Sure, Africa needs the proper technology and knowledge to unlock its potential.

With right policies and strategies, the continent can achieve miraculous economic growth and may significantly contribute to global causes. To do so, there should be savvy commitment from other sides.

Africa is demanding equitable treatment in its partnerships with other parties, despite the growing enthusiasm. The calls have become clearer and louder with time. Africa is more interested in trade than in charity. The continent is on an equal footing in the global arena because of its youthful population, abundance of natural resources, and rich cultural heritage.

Yes, in order to realize its full potential, Africa requires the right technology and information. By implementing appropriate policies and techniques, the continent can attain remarkable economic growth and potentially make a substantial contribution to global issues.

Africa is now demanding an equal treatment in world stage and pushing for equal representation in the United Nations and its wings. Over the years, some countries have been coming up with various initiatives giving more platforms for cooperation. China and Russia have been taking bold measures to redefine their ties with growing continent introducing largely economic platforms that would step up the latter's engagement. This year's FOCAC will be an opportunity where Africa can echo a more fair treatment in multilateral forums. It is to be recalled that Africa during the Italy Africa Summit that the continent of 1.4 billion people needs cooperation not donation. This sentiment will be reverberated again in FOCAC as well.

Meanwhile, Ethiopia Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed arrived in Beijing, China official state. The Premier discussed with President Xi Jinping of China. The premier is in Beijing for an official working visit and to attend Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) summit scheduled to take place from September 4-6, 2024, ENA reported.

"Thank you, President Xi Jinping, for the warm welcome and our valuable discussions today," Abiy said on social media post this morning.

The Prime Minister said that Ethiopia greatly appreciates China's continued and multifaceted support.

"Despite facing various challenges, we are making significant strides in agriculture, manufacturing, industry, tourism, telecommunications, and other sectors," he added.

Chinese investments have played a key role in this progress, and there is substantial potential for growth in areas like tourism and the paper and pulp industry, Abiy explained expressing Ethiopia's strong commitment to further strengthen the partnership of the two countries.

## Our historical and cultural heritages ...

**The Konso Cultural Landscape:** it is a terraced agricultural region inhabited by the Konso people. It is recognized for its stone-walled terraces and wooden statues (waka) representing deceased Konso leaders. It is also registered as a world heritage by UNESCO.

**The Church of Axum Tsion:** Believed by Ethiopian Orthodox Christians to house the Ark of the Covenant, this church is one of Ethiopia's most revered religious sites.

The following are some of the intangible heritages

**The Meskel Festival,** celebrated in September, commemorates the finding of the True Cross on which Jesus was crucified by Queen Elleni. It is inscribed

as an intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO.

**The Gada system** is an indigenous democratic socio-political system practiced by the Oromo people. It regulates political, economic, social, and religious activities in Oromo society; and was also registered by UNESCO.

**Timket** is the Ethiopian Orthodox celebration of Epiphany, marked by colorful processions and the reenactment of the Baptism of Jesus Christ in the Jordan River.

**Fitche Chambalala:** This is a celebration of a New Year festival among the Sidama people registered at UNESCO.

**Shewal Eid Festival:** This is a UNESCO-

registered festival marked every year among the Harari People to mark the end of the six days of fasting.

**Axum Archeological Sites:** The site is known for its ancient ruins, including obelisks, royal tombs, and the ruins of ancient palaces. It is linked to the Aksumite Kingdom, which was one of the greatest civilizations of the ancient world.

These heritages are just a glimpse of Ethiopia's rich cultural and historical legacy and are certainly not exhaustive, making the country a significant destination for cultural tourism and historical research works.

Despite the current ethnic-based exclusive social consciousness among some sectors of our society, Ethiopians still cherish

traditional cultural heritages of promoting justice, peace, and reconciliation and traditional methods of conflict resolution that have come down to us from generation to generation. The current generation of Ethiopia needs to recognize, document, and use them to resolve some conflicts that continue to prevail in the country.

The current generation should also develop its heritage sites that could be transferred to the next generation of Ethiopians. The eco-resort projects of Gorgora, Wonchi, Halala Kela, Koyisha, Entoto Park, and several other projects that are under construction including Gerealta Resort will certainly make up a catalog of human heritages that the current and next generation could enjoy.

# Women in Focus

## The impact of African women's socialization on their self-realization



BY MEKDES TAYE (PHD)

When I was in Arba Minch University, I had been living with my younger sister, brother, and my baby girl. Since my husband used to live in Addis Ababa, it was me who was taking care of my daughter along with my family members. As my younger sister spent most of her time at home, her attachment to my baby was very strong and affectionate. Thus, it is possible to say that my baby was mainly under the guidance of my sister. For the purpose of this article, let me raise one coincidence. My baby was a very free, funny, communicable and smart girl in the compound where we, lecturers, used to live. She had lots of friends of the same age. One day, I was so tired; and I was lying on the bench. My baby was playing outside. My sister though was busy with kitchen chores; she was checking the baby at a certain time interval; of course, without the knowledge of the baby.

Suddenly we heard the scream of my baby. We got out nervously. My sister arrived first and asked the babies what had happened. Then my baby replied that her friend called Babush who was of her age beat her. My baby was sure that my sister could beat Babush back. But my sister didn't do that. She even had forbidden me not to accuse that baby. She turned her face to my baby and said "If he beats you, you need to beat him back. I will help you if more than one baby beats you. But in this case, you should take care of yourself. Go and defend yourself."

I was too sympathetic to my daughter, but I understood that this should be the right way to build my girl's confidence. Then after, my baby never came back with any form of accuse. She confronts her friends. My sister continuously examined her while the baby was playing. If someone stood against her, she faced him or her in the same way. Now, my daughter is a 12-year-old girl. I realized this trait of hers last year. When she took her grade- six Ministry Final Exam, students from different schools were planning to fight with the students of her school. Then she told me, "Mam, today I will confront students who want to face our school students." I said stay away from such things. Just leave them. But she said "No". We didn't do anything bad to them. We never reached at them. They simply wanted to influence us. Thus, I have to show them my effort." I was very disturbed. But her father said, "This is my strong girl. Go ahead and show them

yourself. Don't allow anyone to go over you. Just face them." That day I was calling her teachers and I was almost on my way to that exam center.

Finally, the school director gave me a call. I picked that phone up with a shivering hand. I was sure that he would tell me how hurtled my baby in the confrontation. But the story was different. "Your daughter had admired us and the school is proud on what she has done." I said, "What do you mean?" He said the following with a tone accompanied by a chuckle: "She was very strong and confident enough that she invited everyone to face her if they wanted any trouble. Then, everybody was surprised and no one was able to face her. You raised her in a very disciplined, responsible, and honest way. We thank you very much." I wished these words to be meant to my sister. She was the one who sowed this seed in my girl's mind.

When I compare myself to the age of my daughter, I get admired. Even these days, I am too shy to express myself. If I go with her anywhere, she immediately gets involved with the people around her and takes what she wants with simple communication. But such things are very tough for me. The way she grew up is contrary to mine. I grew up with rigid and submissive values and norms that the community had imposed upon females. Females are good females if they keep themselves away from any show-ups. It is forbidden for the girls to appear from the kitchen and see who came to their house. They should stay hidden from any exposure.

Even while we were high school students, we, females, were expected to make our roads through shrubs and trees, because pavements were endorsed only for males under socially constructed norms and values. This has impacted me till today from equally participating in various ceremonies and even positions.

Once, the Nobel Peace Prize winner, Leymah Gbowee, Liberian, was on stage narrating her story as a woman for the females in the universe to teach a lesson. She was very simple and friendly when presenting her terrible life. She said that for her current self-being and strength, it was her grandmother who shaped her past from the very beginning. From her narration, I have picked three important things that she drew from her grandmother, mother, and the community.

Since her mother was too young and was giving birth frequently, Leynah was supposed to go to her grandmother who was very rich, economically capable, and had time to take care of her and her other sisters. She recalled that her mother sent her and her sisters three dollars for their birthday. She confessed that she was not good at managing that dollar. After some time, her mother asked them what they did with that dollar. Her sisters might say that they worked on the money and multiplied it with three more. Then she took a lesson on what to do next time. But her mother had a say on that "If your husband brings rice, you should be able to find a charcoal for cooking it. If you can't do that then this place could be taken by an outsider." This was the greatest lesson on how to be economically empowered and to keep the space under her control. Then she started to cope with the challenges that are related to money.

In this context, I need to raise the personal strengths of the Ethiopian actress and businesswoman Yetnayet Tamirat. While she was conducting an interview with Maraki Wog, Yetnayet said that she learned to be an independent woman who never looks for the hands of anyone. She was exercising to be an independent woman from an early age. It was her mother who paved the way to stand on her own. She is a very successful and confidential woman.

Leynah also shared her childhood experience on the stage. She said that when she was in a clash with boys and came to her grandmother to accuse, her grandma said: "Do you have a brother, no you don't have any. Again it is you who face that challenge, so, it should be you who have to fight for yourself. Go and fight back." This expression did empower her to solve problems on her own. She stopped looking for someone to help. She exercised to account for herself only. That is why she mobilized more than 2000 women for the peace-building process without anyone's help.

Yetnayet is also a very strong woman that she made her own business by herself. When she divorced her husband, she gave everything that belonged to the man. She was too confident that she could do more on her own. She did it. The journalist, who conducted the interview, was much admired for the way she organized her home, work, and family. She was a very prominent woman who could practically show her

efficacy as a female.

Leynah also mentioned the relevance of community in her own self-realization referring to her younger age experience. While she was in her mother's home, her uncle was living next to their home. He was usually abusing his wife. He frequently mistreated her physically and verbally. He insulted her in front of the gatherings. She said that she was crying for this woman. Whenever such things happened, Leynah's mind was leveling the severity of verbal abuse as the most frustrating type of abuse against women. She said her mind did tolerate the physical abuse. But she was very patient and anxious on the verbal one.

She married and gave birth to three children. Her husband was the rudest one and abused her for more than 5 years. She was also three months pregnant with the fourth child. One day, her husband came to her and insulted her in front of the people. She mentioned that incident as it was the end of her abusive marriage. She left that marriage and ran with three children and a three-month fetus. Though lots of trials were made to change her mind, she never got back to that life.

She then started to work on herself. She continued her degree with the four young children who needed great care of her. She was too strong to cope with the environment. Here, I can raise many issues that this woman could face. Disguising the style of the students in her class, and adapting the way of life, the educational system itself could be so challenging. But she completed her education with good results. She then started serving the community in a very valuable way. The skills this woman had, were very influential in mobilizing over 2000 women in Liberia who demanded peace. This effort was recognized and let her win the Nobel Peace Prize.

The above sampled prominent women's lives show that the socialization of women from an early age had a greater effect on the personal self-realization of the woman. This is very impactful for affecting the process of empowering women and combating gender-based treatments in the continent. Thus, the basic job to be done is in the family and community. A bigger effort should be exerted at grassroots level. That is the family needs to guide the female members to face everything as the male members. If that is shaped appropriately, competent and self-asserted women could dominate spaces.

# Society

## Our historical and cultural heritages are sources of our identities

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

As human beings, we need to cherish our common historical and cultural heritage because they tell us who we are, from where we came, and what we have been doing.

The writer of this article is inspired to write a modest contribution to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the discovery of Lucy (Dinknesh), the most prehistoric fossil and historical heritage of mankind ever to be discovered in the world. A fossil skeleton ancestor unearthed in 1974 by paleontologist Donald C. Johanson in Hadar, in Afar State, Ethiopia, stands for the reason that Ethiopia is the Land of Origins

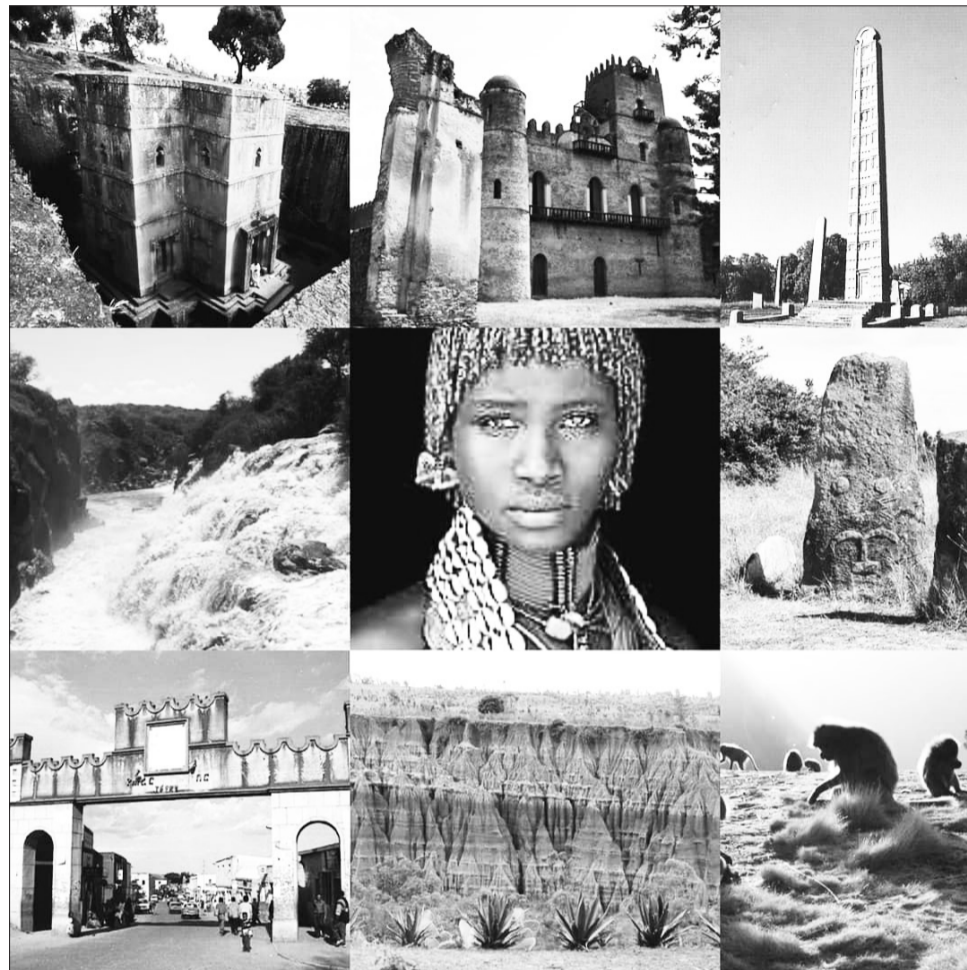
Moreover, the ongoing hairsplitting arguments about the loss of historical and cultural heritages apparently due to corridor development on social media outlets and the appalling ignorance on what historical and cultural heritages are has motivated the author to help those who mess up on the issue. It is a pity that almost all development programs including restoration of our cultural heritages are being politicized by hate-filled parties and individuals who find it hard to identify between issues of nationwide importance and localized squabbling.

One of the most enraging facts about our historical and cultural heritage is that the several undocumented heritages had been looted for a century. Ethiopia fought more than 27 well-documented wars to ascertain the unity and territorial integrity of the country from foreign invasion. Regrettably, these wars did not spare our cultural and historical artifacts and valuable manuscripts that were looted by invaders. Suffice it to mention the lootings conducted by British soldiers at Mekdela and more than 350 manuscripts were stolen from the country over the course of more than 150 years.

To begin with, what do we actually mean when we are talking about historical and cultural heritages?

It is popularly understood that historic and cultural heritages are places of significance to people on account of historical, physical (i.e., technological, archaeological, architectural), and cultural values. Historic heritage is often referred to as cultural and historic heritage or simply 'historic places'. Essentially, all historic heritages have the following common elements: It is a geographical 'place' which may include a variety of types. For example, structure, monument, house, road, property, site, or area. Historical heritage is associated with heritage values and has heritage significance. It is associated with, or connected to, a person, group or community (the connected people).

In simple terms, a heritage place is a place with a 'story' (the heritage values) about the interaction of people with the place. For example, a particular 'rock' may have certain geological values – but what makes the rock of historic heritage value will



depend on how the rock has been associated with people – it may be of value to a people or nation or it may be associated with settlement of the district or a particular historical personality. This article also touches upon some salient features of the intangible heritages of Ethiopia as parts of our cultural heritage.

The major standards for historical and cultural heritage preservation and management are generally established by international organizations such as UNESCO, ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites), and other cultural heritage bodies. These standards aim to protect, preserve, and promote cultural and historical heritage worldwide.

Standards for the preservation and management of cultural and historical heritage are essential to ensure the protection, conservation, and sustainability of these resources for future generations. Some of the key standards include: UNESCO World Heritage Convention which was adopted in 1972. This convention defines the criteria for inscribing cultural and natural sites on the World Heritage List. It emphasizes the need for outstanding universal value and the requirement for protective measures and management plans to ensure the preservation of heritage sites.

ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) Standards provide various charters and guidelines that offer principles for the conservation, restoration, and management of cultural heritage, such as the Venice Charter (1964), which focuses on the conservation and restoration of monuments and sites.

The Burra Charter (1979, updated 2013) by

Australia ICOMOS outlines a process for the care of places of cultural significance, emphasizing the need for understanding, documenting, and managing cultural heritage.

Conservation Principles by the UK's Historic Environment is the other one. These principles include preservation in situ, which refers to preserving the heritage resource in its original location, and minimum intervention, which stresses minimal alterations to the heritage resource to maintain its integrity.

The Nara Document on Authenticity (1994) document also emphasizes the importance of authenticity in conservation practices, considering factors such as form, design, materials, use, and function in understanding and preserving heritage sites.

The other guiding principles are Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention. These guidelines outline the processes for nominating, evaluating, and protecting World Heritage sites. They include criteria for the assessment of the authenticity and integrity of heritage properties.

National and Local Standards -Many countries have their own standards and laws for the protection of cultural and historical heritage. These often involve regulatory frameworks, protective zoning, and heritage impact assessments.

Cultural heritage is linked to several SDGs, particularly Goal 11, which aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. The preservation of cultural heritage is seen as a key element of sustainable development.

The UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003) provides a framework for the preservation of intangible cultural heritages, such as traditions, languages, and practices.

As digital documentation becomes increasingly important, standards such as those from Cultural Heritage Imaging (CHI) and the International Image Interoperability Framework (IIIF) provide guidelines for digitizing and preserving cultural heritage in digital formats.

These standards ensure that cultural and historical heritage is preserved in a manner that respects its significance and integrity while allowing for sustainable management and accessibility

Ethiopia is home to a rich array of cultural and historical heritages, reflecting its long and diverse history. That is why the nation has been named "the country of origins" The author wishes to briefly mention some of these heritages for readers.

**Rock-Hewn Churches of Lalibela:** These 11 medieval monolithic churches were carved out of rock in the 12th century during the reign of King Lalibela. They are considered one of Ethiopia's greatest architectural achievements and are a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**The Obelisks of Axum:** The ancient city of Aksum was the center of the Aksumite Empire, one of the great civilizations of the ancient world. The city is famous for its obelisks (stelae), which are monumental pillars dating back to the 4th century. The tallest surviving stelae are over 24 meters high.

**The walled city of Harar at Jegol:** Harar is a walled city considered the fourth holiest city of Islam, with 82 mosques, three of which date from the 10th century, and 102 shrines. It is also known for its unique Harari architecture registered at UNESCO.

**Semien Mountain National Park:** This UNESCO World Heritage Site, known for its dramatic landscape, is home to several endangered species, including the Ethiopian wolf and the Walia ibex.

**Omo Valley:** Located in the southern Ethiopia State, the Omo Valley is home to diverse ethnic groups, including the Hamar, Mursi, and Karo tribes, who have unique cultures and traditions. The area is also an important site for paleoanthropological discoveries.

**The Castel of Fasil:** is a fortress city in Gondar, founded in the 17th century by Emperor Fasilides. It contains castles, churches, and palaces, showcasing a blend of Nubian, Arab, and Baroque architecture.

**The Stelae of Tiya:** Tiya is an archaeological site containing 36 ancient stelae with inscriptions and carvings. It is one of Ethiopia's UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

See Our historical .... Page 9

# International News

## China-Africa cooperation: a model for mutual development gains

A high-ranking Chinese diplomat responsible for African relations stated on Tuesday that China and Africa will collaborate closely to protect the interests of developing nations against the rising tide of hegemonism and a cold war mindset.

Liu Yuxi, China's special envoy for African affairs, announced at a press conference on Tuesday that the 2024 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) summit will implement an action plan aimed at enhancing collaboration in global governance, security, trade, and investment over the next three years.

**"In the face of the surging hegemonism and cold war mentality, China and Africa will work more closely together in great solidarity to deepen our cooperation. We will give each other stronger support on issues concerning our core interests and major concerns, and work side-by-side to safeguard the legitimate interests of developing countries,"** he said.

Liu stated that China and Africa complement each other well in terms of development strengths.

Africa boasts abundant natural resources and a large population, which is experiencing rapid urbanization.

Meanwhile, China is focused on reforming and modernizing its development model. The country is also creating a new development framework and emphasizing high-quality growth.

China possesses advantages in capital, technology, and developmental experience. The cooperation between China and Africa is both mutually beneficial and complementary.

African leaders have arrived in Beijing for the FOCAC summit, hosted by Chinese President Xi Jinping from today to the 6th of September. China stands as Africa's largest trading partner and a key source of investment, while Africa plays a vital role in Xi's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative.

Liu emphasized that China-Africa cooperation exemplifies multilateralism and is not "exclusive."

The continent's rapidly growing population, abundant natural resources, and significant voting power in the United Nations make it essential to global powers.

As the U.S. shifts its foreign policy to focus more on China, which the Biden administration views as its primary economic and military rival, Liu stated, **"Africa should no longer be a battleground for major powers."**

He urged the international community to consider Africa's perspective and support its peace and development.

Liu highlighted the strong economic complementarity between China and Africa, noting Africa's rich resources and demographic advantages alongside China's strengths in capital, technology, and development experience.

*Source: Africa news*

## 60% of Africa's young people want to emigrate, driven by unchecked corruption

A staggering 60% of African young people are looking to leave their respective countries in the next five years in search of a better life, with unchecked corruption being the "single greatest hurdle" threatening their future on the continent, according to a new poll by the Johannesburg-based Ichikowitz Family Foundation.

One-third of the nearly 420 million of African youth aged 15 to 35 are unemployed, the African Development Bank (ADB) has warned recently. While the more than 5,600 youngsters aged 18 to 24 polled in 16 African countries cited corruption as the biggest obstacle to progress, "most of all, they don't believe their governments are doing enough to address this scourge and, because of it, almost 60% are looking to emigrate in the next five years," says the 2024 African Youth Survey published on Tuesday (3 September). The survey is unparalleled in scope and size, says the Ichikowitz Family Foundation that commissioned the face-to-face interviews between January and February in countries ranging from South Africa to Ethiopia.

The survey also revealed that 55% of those polled think that Africa was headed in the "wrong direction", although there was a modest rise to 37% in "Afro-optimism" from the survey two years ago. "They want tougher sanctions against corrupt politicians, including banning them from standing for office," the foundation said. "They also want a different form of government," the survey has shown, with nearly one in three respondents believing that "Africa-infused" non-democratic systems, from the military to one-party rule, could be preferable under certain circumstances. And if they finally were to emigrate, the survey reveals that North America would be the top pick for emigration for African youth, followed by Western European countries, such as the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Spain.

*Source: North Africa Post*

## Developing countries to be major players in global supply chain: MoFA

Nusa Dua, Bali (ANTARA) - Indonesia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) stated that developing countries, with their profuse natural resources, have huge potential to become major players in the global supply chain.

The statement was made by Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Pahala Mansury during a panel session of the High-Level Forum on Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (HLF-MSP) and the 2nd Indonesia-Africa Forum (IAF) here on Tuesday.

"Oil and gas, biodiversity, maritime resources as well as climate issues' management and critical minerals are among those potential sectors," he stated.

According to Mansury, developing countries have the right to benefit from the management of these natural resources.

However, he advised developing nations with copious natural resources against solely becoming producers and exporting raw materials.

Mansury drew attention to five points that support developing countries to become business actors in the global supply chain.

The first point is developing economic integration and expanding market access to reverse economic fragmentation.

He pointed out that economic fragmentation had triggered a decline in foreign investment in 2023, which is estimated to reach seven percent globally.

"With increasing global fragmentation, developing countries must pursue greater integration, including through economic and trade agreements to facilitate market access," Pahala explained.

Based on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) data, emerging markets, including in Asia and Africa, are projected to grow 6.3 percent in the next five years.

Such growth is supported by human resources, as a large market, which in Africa totals 1.5 billion people, while the population in Southeast Asia reaches 1.7 billion.

Highlighting the second point, Pahala suggested that developing countries should collaborate to ensure the resilience of the supply chain, especially in the food, energy, health, and critical mineral sectors, such as nickel, cobalt, lithium, and copper, which are needed for the development of renewable energy.

He remarked that ensuring resilience could not only be carried out by facilitating trade and movement of commodities but also by

building infrastructure to reduce logistics costs.

The third point is facilitating connectivity between people that supports economic integration, trade, and investment promotion, as well as the exchange of knowledge and expertise.

"That is why during the 2nd IAF, Indonesia organized a special business forum for every (participant) country and facilitated a one-on-one approach with the private sector," Pahala remarked. The fourth point of focus is developing access to technology, while the fifth pertains to funding to ensure business participation in the global supply chain.

The funding gap to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs) remains large, ranging from US\$2.5 trillion-US\$4 trillion per year, he noted.

The World Bank estimates that developing countries need to invest around 4.5 percent of the total gross domestic product to achieve infrastructure development as part of the SDGs.

"(We need to start) mobilizing and increasing other sources of financing, including blended and innovative financing," he remarked.

*Source: Antaranews.com*

## Switzerland Reopens Embassy in Baghdad After 33 Years

Switzerland reopened its embassy in Baghdad on Tuesday, marking a return after more than three decades of closure due to the 1991 Gulf War. The embassy had been shut since the conflict that ousted Iraqi forces from Kuwait. The Swiss Foreign Ministry cited improved

security conditions in Iraq as the primary reason for reopening the diplomatic mission, according to Swiss news outlet SWI swissinfo.ch.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry welcomed the move, emphasizing that it signifies a renewed effort to strengthen ties between the two

nations. "The reopening of the Swiss embassy came within the framework of strengthening bilateral relations between Iraq and Switzerland and reflects the desire of the two countries to consolidate cooperation in various fields," the ministry said in a statement.

Iraq expressed optimism about enhancing partnerships with Switzerland, particularly in political and economic arenas, and is working to create favorable conditions for cooperation.

*Source: Zawya.com*



## Published Weekly in Collaboration with Haramaya University

### HU's national agricultural ecology research guide draft document

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Agricultural ecology is an interdisciplinary field that studies the interactions between agricultural activities and natural systems. It promotes sustainable agricultural practices by integrating ideas from ecology, agronomy, environmental science and social sciences.

Agro-ecosystem services, soil health, and management, weed and pest control, climate change adaptation, land use and landscape ecology, socio-ecological systems, technology in agriculture, food security and nutrition, and ecological restoration in agriculture are among the other topics it covers.

In light of this, the Haramaya University (HU) College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences held a workshop to discuss a document it created to assist graduate research projects concentrating on agro-ecology.

Haramaya University Administration and Development Affairs Vice President, Abdi Muhammad (PhD) said that agro-ecology research is extensive in scope and covers a variety of topics of study. As a result, when this study is applied, it will have a significant impact on our society and country because it is based on nature, agriculture, and people.

He also stated that the university will give the necessary assistance for the completion of studies and research in the field of agricultural



Abdi Muhammad (PhD)

ecology.

Likewise, Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture Representative Lire Abio emphasized during his remarks at the workshop that agro-ecological research efforts contribute considerably to the country's joint endeavor to establish a sustainable and resilient agricultural system.

This research contributes to agriculture's long-term growth and helps to secure national food security by enhancing understanding of agricultural ecology. As a result, the Ministry of Agriculture will offer all necessary help to ensure the program's success, he stated.

He added that Haramaya University deserves



Workshop participants

recognition and thanks for its great contribution to the country by providing sufficiently trained manpower in the field of agriculture.

HU School of Natural Resource Management and Environmental Science Head Tamrat Kassa said that the graduate program in agro-ecology has already been approved by the college and is currently waiting for students to enroll. Therefore, the purpose of this workshop is to draft, refine, add more imputes, approve, and publicize the document that specifies the topic of study for the postgraduate program's research activities.

He added that the agricultural ecology document was prepared to conduct research by

combining nature, society, and the environment while incorporating concepts from other professional sectors. As a result, the document will be evaluated and developed by instructors, researchers, and others with relevant expertise in the topic.

In general, HU's agricultural ecology research attempts to create comprehensive methodologies that strike a compromise between production and ecological integrity. Understanding the intricate interconnections within agro-ecosystems may help governments, researchers, stakeholders, and others contribute to better sustainable food systems that benefit both humans and the environment.