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Ethio telecom's Innovation: Defying predictions, thriving in market

BY YESUF ENDRIS

Ethio telecom, once the sole player in Ethiopia's telecommunications sector, has defied expectations of decline following the industry's liberalization. Despite the entrance of Safaricom PLC in October 2022, which

marked the end of Ethio telecom's monopoly, the state-owned enterprise has not only held its ground but also strengthened its position by embracing competition.

For over 130 years, Ethio telecom operated without significant rivals, making Safaricom's arrival a critical turning point. Analysts had

predicted a sharp decline in its revenue and market share, but Ethio telecom has proven resilient. CEO Frehiwot Tamiru highlighted that rather than shrinking, the company adapted by modernizing its infrastructure, diversifying services, and contributing to

See Ethio telecom's ... page 3

Diaspora festival to enhance bonds with homeland

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA – The three-day long festival dubbed as "Back to Your Origin Summer Fest" is believed to create the opportunity for the participants of second generation Diaspora to strengthen their bonds and to know their country of origin better, Ethiopian Diaspora Service(EDS) said.

This was disclosed on Sunday while commencing the festival organized for the Second-Generation Ethiopians Homecoming at Adwa Victory Memorial Museum in Addis Ababa .

The festival will serve as a vibrant platform for showcasing Ethiopian

See Diaspora festival ... page 3



Ethiopia voices full-throated concern on dwindling refugee aids

• Repeated pleas go unheard

BY DESTA GEBREHIWOT

ADDIS ABABA –Ethiopia lamented dwindling international support to meet the burgeoning humanitarian aid to refugees seeking haven in the country.

The country also rebukes growing anti-immigrant and refugee sentiments in the most developed parts of the world.

Currently, Ethiopia hosts over 1. 1 million refugees and asylum seekers and continues to struggle with the influx of refugees fleeing recurrent conflicts and natural disasters in neighbouring countries.

See Ethiopia voices ... page 3

Diversity drives Ethiopia's pursuit of prosperity :Gov't

• Nation celebrates "Diversity Day"

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) expressed that Ethiopia is pushing towards prosperity with the strong efforts of its diverse but united people.

The country has celebrated "Diversity Day" yesterday under the theme: "Our Diversity for Our Peace" aimed at encouraging diversity, promoting and utilizing resources, and sustaining diversity and culture.

In his message regarding the Day, the premier posted on his X platform that Ethiopia is a country of many nationalities, languages, cultures, beliefs, civilizations and heroes.



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News

Youth urged to lead Ethiopia towards prosperous future

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA- Youth play an essential role in national development and resilience, according to institutional leaders, who called on them to lead Ethiopia towards prosperity.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Ethiopian Youth Council Coordination Division Head and Addis Ababa Youth Association Secretary General Yihune Mohammed emphasized that the youth are the future of the nation and have a crucial role in building a stronger Ethiopia.

Yihune also noted that while predecessors laid the foundation, and children symbolize hope, today's youth hold the power to drive Ethiopia forward in its socioeconomic, political, and cultural journey. He encouraged the younger generation to stay informed on national matters, face challenges head-on, and turn obstacles into opportunities to ensure a prosperous country for posterity.

Highlighting the sacrifices made by



Yihune Mohammed

past generations regardless of ethnicity or religion, Yihune urged the youth to preserve the unity and strength that Ethiopia was built upon. He also called on young people to be productive, skillful, and actively contribute to promoting the nation's image.

Belay Nigussie, Founder and Chief Executive of the Askal Charity Association, added that the youth are the bridge between generations, entrusted



Belay Nigussie

with carrying Ethiopia's sovereignty forward.

"It's the right time to invest in the youth, nurturing them to make wise and impactful decisions for Ethiopia's bright future," Belay said, encouraging young people to enhance their critical thinking, problem-solving, and innovative skills to protect the nation's interests and reputation.

Ethiopia witnesses rising innovation: MoLS

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA –The country has seen a dramatic increase in the number of innovators that would support the national ambition to realize digital transformation, according to the Ministry of Labor and Skills (MoLS).

The Bruh-Ethiopia 2024 Innovative Business Idea Competition hosted by Labor and Skills Ministry for two weeks finalized by awarding over 125 participants.

On the occasion, MoLS Minister Mufariat Kamil mentioned that the competition unveils the potential of youths that could come up with innovations that curb societal problems and bring about advanced technology that moves the nation forward.

She said apart from addressing public challenges, the innovations are said to have meaningful impact in improving nation's economy.

The passion that contestants showed to sustain their country would not be reserved by minor challenges. To this end, she stressed that the Ministry would offer unwavering follow up and support.

Participants have gathered valuable knowledge from the competition, Mufariat said, adding that the innovations would play essential role in resolving challenges at national as well as international level.

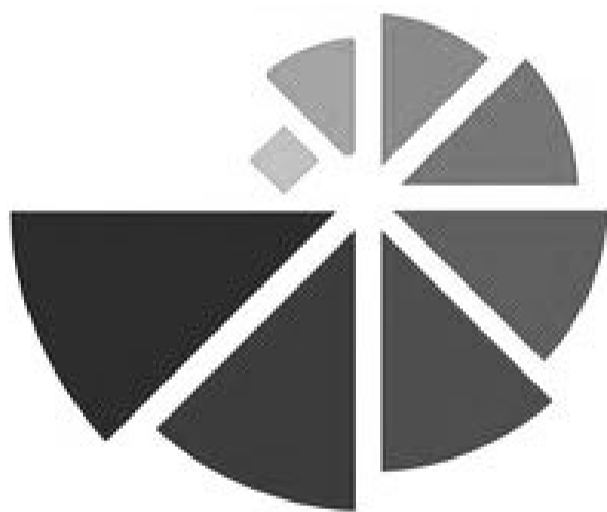
Moreover, she expressed that the Ministry will further collaborate with other relevant institutions to strengthen such competitions. Hence, participants need to be more prepared to compete and register better results.

MoLS State Minister Solomon Soka on his part highlighted that the Business idea competition showcased potential talents that the country have in the innovation sector.

He added it reveals the capability of young population in creating innovations that would help nation move forward.

Out of 142 competitors, the Ministry has awarded prize worth of 2,000USD for around 125 participants. As to Solomon, the contestants have taken skills and other trainings.

He further stressed the need to understand the limited support the government provides so that the innovators need to be committed to stand on their own and flourish their businesses.



Ethio Engineering Group

EEG rebounds from bankruptcy, eyes profitable future

BY TSEGAYETILAHUN

ADDISABABA – The Ethio Engineering Group (EEG) announced it has turned a profit after overcoming bankruptcy over the past two years.

During the weekend, the EEG inaugurated its newly renovated main office building in the presence of Board Chairperson Abraham Belay (PhD), senior government officials, and the EEG leadership.

Speaking at the event, EEG Chief Executive Officer Suleiman Dedefo (Ambassador) highlighted the group's commitment to its mission and alignment with the government's vision for the manufacturing sector. He noted that significant efforts during the reform period helped reverse the group's

financial crisis, putting it back on a path to success.

"The efforts to reverse bankruptcy are starting to pay off, but we must continue to work collectively to ensure long-term success," Suleiman said. He attributed the group's challenges primarily to foreign exchange shortages, but expressed optimism that recent macroeconomic reforms, particularly the foreign exchange flotation, would help overcome these obstacles.

Suleiman also emphasized that the EEG would continue to capitalize on available opportunities to strengthen its profitability.

Irrigation and Lowlands Minister and EEG Board Chairperson Abraham Belay (PhD) praised the national reforms,

which have driven promising institutional changes within the manufacturing sector. He pointed out that the EEG's mission includes addressing gaps in the manufacturing sector, creating national brands, and introducing new technologies.

The Minister encouraged the EEG to fully leverage the advantages created by recent macroeconomic reforms to enhance its competitiveness and effectiveness.

Tigistu Amsalu, a representative from the Public Enterprises Holding and Administration (PEHA), added that the 10 enterprises under PEHA collectively mobilize around 1.7 trillion Birr in capital and contribute over two billion Birr in taxes annually, playing a crucial role in the nation's economy.

News

Safaricom Ethiopia expands network in Hararghe

• *Boosts community support with major donations*

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA- Safaricom Ethiopia has launched its network expansion in the Chiro cluster, extending coverage to 32 cities and 114 sites across Western and Eastern Hararghe. This initiative aims to enhance telecommunications in the region, bolstering local economies and improving connectivity for residents.

During the launch events in Kulubi, Chelenko, Karamille, Hirna, and Chiro, Safaricom Ethiopia CEO WimVanhelleputte highlighted the company's commitment: "We have established shops in Chiro and other key towns, making our products and services more accessible while creating jobs."

In celebration of the upcoming Ethiopian New Year, Safaricom integrated its network expansion with a robust community engagement initiative. On September 2, 2024, the company donated 10 laptops, 2 routers, 1,200 exercise books, and 150 pens to Chercher High School in Western Hararghe, along with six months of free Wi-Fi for the school's computer lab. The donation, valued at 1.1



million Birr, benefits 100 low-income students.

In a second engagement, Safaricom donated 50 laptops, 10 Wi-Fi routers, 6,000 exercise books, and 750 pens to 5 schools in Harar, providing six months of free internet. The donation, worth over 5 million Birr, was raised by the Harari State Council Deputy Speaker Amina Abdulkerim, for helping reduce dropout rates and supporting online learning.

Safaricom Ethiopia remains committed to fostering economic growth and driving positive change in the communities it serves, according to a press release the operator sent to *The Ethiopian Herald*.

Ethio telecom's...

Ethiopia's digitalization goals.

Rather than retreating, Ethio telecom has come up with ambitious plans to diversify its services, modernize the infrastructure, and support the country's broader digitalization goals. The company has also leveraged its extensive network infrastructure, accumulated over one and a quarter century, to maintain a strong foothold in the market. According to Frehiwot, the privatization of the telecom sector has forced the operator to embrace innovation and explore new opportunities. This shift is evident in the company's financial performance, which paints a much brighter picture than initially predicted.

One of its most notable successes has been the expansion of financial services through Telebirr, a mobile money platform aimed at boosting financial inclusion. As of the 2023/24 fiscal year, Telebirr had attracted over 47.55 million users and facilitated transactions worth more than 2.55 trillion Birr, a significant achievement in a country with low digital and financial inclusion rates.

Ethio telecom's overall financial performance reflects its strength, generating 93.7 billion Birr in revenue for the 2023/24 fiscal year, with a 23.3% profit margin—an impressive 47% increase from the previous year. This success is attributed to the company's strategic planning and diverse offerings, allowing it to maintain profitability despite increased

competition.

Frehiwot emphasized that Ethio telecom is a key player in Ethiopia's digital transformation, offering over 270 products and services, many of which focus on digital solutions. As the government pushes for greater digitalization, Ethio telecom is aligning its services to meet national development goals, offering mobile payment solutions, digital services, and financial services like microcredit through Telebirr.

According to her, Ethio telecom is not just a service provider but also a key enabler of the country's digital economy. By offering mobile-based financial services, the company is addressing some of the systemic challenges that have long hampered Ethiopia's economic progress in particular in rural areas. Ethio telecom's annual report indicated that it has extended credit to over 2.92 million microcredit service users thereby boosting the financial inclusion aspiration.

Looking ahead, the CEO revealed ambitious plans for further expanding financial services and supporting startups, with the introduction of credit services for entrepreneurs without requiring collateral, a move aimed at fostering innovation and economic growth.



Diaspora festival...

art, Sport, and culinary traditions, while fostering traditions within the Ethiopian Diaspora, according to EDS.

The summer fest is part of the third round of the second generation Ethiopians homecoming which has been underway from the onset of the ongoing Ethiopian rainy season.

EDS Deputy Director General Belayneh Aknaw said the festival will pave ways to encourage the Diaspora to engage in the transfer of knowledge, skills and technology as well as to enable them actively participate in tourism, trade and investment sectors.

The event includes fashion show, sporting event, expo, and entertainment which will create an opportunity for participants to know their root better and will help them to

promote the country's rich history, tradition and cultural assets, among others.

Organized by the EDS in collaboration with Coach Carlos Summer Camp, Back to Your Origin Summer Fest is offering an enriching experience that celebrates the essence of Ethiopian creativity and tradition, it was learned.

The second generation Ethiopians homecoming aims at strengthening the bond between Ethiopians living abroad to their country of origin.

Belayneh said the festival will pave ways to encourage the Diaspora to engage in the transfer of knowledge, skills and technology as well as to enable them actively participate in tourism, trade and investment sectors.

Diversity drives...

"The country is diverse. All these diversities are ours and are given for us from us. We respect everyone of them. We are proud of them all," he stated.

The prime minister added that "Our diversity is our feature, and our unity is our sovereignty. These social graces are found in one country, Ethiopia. Our goal is nation's prosperity and that is our synergy."

"We are not disunited communities; we are not the same type of oppressed, rather we are Ethiopians with a common national unity," he wrote.

By the same token, the Government Communication Service (GCS) expressed that Ethiopians should celebrate Diversity Day all year round since their diversity is numerous.

According to GCS, Ethiopians live together tolerating their numerous differences including ethnics, languages, attitudes, geographical locations, food systems,

dressing and life styles. That is why Ethiopians' diversity is wide. This diversity is beauty, wealth, and a source of pleasure and solidarity.

GCS also noted that the dressing, dancing, and other cultures of the highland community is a source of pleasure and lessons for the lowlands and vice versa. It is a blessing to live in Ethiopia, where unity is natural, while sharing the heritage of diversity.

"Though Ethiopia is home to diversity, it has a people with rich culture and tradition who live in harmony," GCS stressed.

The GCS further stated that the national system that accommodates diversity is built on deep foundations. Ethiopians are discussing on overcoming challenges and striving for closing gaps peacefully. In the New Year, "we use the diversity for peace building, succeeding the development plan, utilizing holistic prosperity, and the likes."

Ethiopia voices ...

Ethiopia is now providing shelters to refugees in 27 centres. In contradiction the country is receiving support which is far from the required one, said Teyeba Hassen, Director General, refugee and Returnee service.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, the Director General said that the international community's support for refugees sheltering in the country is declining year to year despite repeated calls and pleas from the country.

"The country has been bearing the heaviest responsibility and the international community has left the country into the corner."

There is a big decline in international support and the situation has not improved

despite Ethiopia's engagement with donors

The host country and the internal community have equal responsibilities to give better services to refugees.

Teyeba also rebukes the rising sentiment of anti-immigrants and refugees in some parts of the world. "Ethiopia strongly condemns these acts as they run in contradiction to international conventions and human rights,"

Ethiopia has been receiving refugees since the 7th century and continues to be the safest destination for migrants.

"Although the funding gap hurts refugees' response operations, we will continue to provide the necessary assistance to refugees coming into the country," Teyeba added.

Editorial

Building tomorrow today

Whatever we do today would definitely leave a glamorous legacy for tomorrow and the generation to come would be in a state of free will to undertake whatever they would love in their country. Yes, the deeds carried out by the Ethiopian government these days centering science and technology, innovation, investment and economic growth have predominantly targeted at lifting the nation out of poverty via coming up with real difference in all aspects.

Everyone needs to be duty bound to build a nation since such a sacred move requires the combined effort of all and the task itself could never be left only to some segments of citizens of the nation like the government and some employees of concerned ministries. True, making citizens well informed about their contribution to the development and progress of the nation and their respective role to play is of paramount importance in inculcating sense of belongings into their mind towards making tomorrow today for the nation.

If, for instance, organizations, companies and any entity can give employment to fellow citizens, or if one sets up business with esteemed honesty to pay taxes to this beloved nation, or if one can attract foreign investment to it and/or if every citizen has developed commitment to effectively deal with whatever responsibility they are given, enhancing the economic, social and political progress via making a new, affluent and stable nation would confidently be at citizens reach and on their concrete palm. This is really a bold move to well ensure the principle of today's diligence for tomorrow's bounties.

Unequivocally, Ethiopia lacks nothing, and capable of making differences in all aspect; what matters here is transforming the working culture, forging unity and fraternity, ensuring transparency and accountability in due course of running activities in all institutions, be they are public or private.

Apart from properly exploiting all what does Ethiopia have at hand, working together at all levels and establishing harmonious way of living/instituting sorority help the generation make a new nation, indeed. It is this time that we can say making tomorrow today is pushed into fruition. Obviously, national unity is the strength that binds and inspires citizens. In reality, country's protection, peace, independence and sovereignty are directly dependant on and relative to a nation's pride, patriotism, and social cohesion, unity in clear term.

In the dynamic landscape of all sources of growth and development in Ethiopia, the pursuit of a sustainable and dependable future is not just a dream, aspiration or mere will, it is rather an ideal move. Definitely, activities and undertakings dealt with today have paved a rosy path for tomorrow and help citizens make change at ease. Hence, building tomorrow today and cementing a sustainable future now have to be the thematic areas on which all citizens of the nation embark. Since transforming Ethiopia and making tomorrow today for it fosters its being powerhouse of sustainability, innovation, resilience, it has to give prime focus for these thematic strides.

Making Ethiopia's dream real highly lies on its citizens' commitment to well revolutionize the way they work for development, growth and change. Cognizant of the fact that Ethiopia can optimize resource utilization and boost production through hard work, the government has been leveraging advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, modern technological advancements. Through these innovations, the nation strives to set new transformation standards that not only improve efficiency but also have great impact on the effort geared towards renovating the country.

Economic progress coupled with national unity is a reliable capacity to make a difference in all aspects today which has a remarkable repercussion for tomorrow bedecked with social, economic and even political fruits. Fundamentally, nation building means creating a sense of unity, belonging and national identity amongst all citizens as it about transforming the country from its previous state of deprivation into a complete transformation. This has thus to be done today, now, and it requires a formulation of a shared values agreed upon internally, and even externally.



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The Ethiopian Herald

Opinion

Working hard today for a better future

BY ZEKARIAS WOLDEMARIAM

One ancient Greek proverb goes "A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they shall never sit." What we do today should not be limited to our own immediate and selfish benefit. We should remember that we are living better today than our ancestors mainly because of the tireless efforts they exerted in the past.

Africans especially remember that one of the worst setbacks we faced in history was the merciless exploitation their ancestors faced since the times of the slave trade. The slave trade has caused hundreds of thousands of young and productive workforces on the continent. On top of that the continent was made easily prey to the other historical aggression, colonialism.

This has fettered fellow Africans of the generation from building their continent in terms of their age's old political, social and religious traditions. The consequences were so severe that Africa was exposed to decades of civil war, unrest, corruption and other complications that kept on dragging it back instead of progressing forward.

Yet it is important to recall and attribute the sacrifices paid by African forefathers who fought tooth and nail against the slave trade, colonialism and other post-colonial pressures against the continent. For instance, several politicians, revolutionaries and elites have worked hard to awaken their people, organize them fight against the colonial rulers and liberate their people and nation. Most of them have lost their lives while others spent a larger portion of their life in prison because of their noble causes. However, their struggle bore fruit and were able to see a continent that was free from colonialism and other pressures.

Ethiopia is one of the ancient or oldest nation-states of the world. It is a long time history of civilization that is handed down from the generation. All these historical civilizations have been facing a lot of challenges and tended to fall and rise time and again. However, it is undeniable that the legacy left by the former generation has been an ingredient for the motivation and strength of the current generation.

Therefore, while doing the current jobs, especially the time-crossing mega projects, the present generation should also think about leaving a legacy that can serve even the future generation.

Currently, Ethiopia is faced with opportunities and challenges. On one side it is facing historical level of political challenges both at home and abroad. The government is working strenuously to address the domestic political problems through the ongoing process of national dialogue

and transitional justice. Furthermore, various reforms are also taking place to put in place lasting solutions to the issues that have been problems of the country for decades.

Out of home, Ethiopia is also at the forefront of the regional political twists and turns. Among them is the long-time issue of defending its right to utilize its natural resources for its development as per applicable international laws. A case in point is the controversy that downstream riparians of the Nile are raising in connection with Ethiopia's endeavour of harnessing the Nile (Abbay) River for hydroelectric power production.

Though Ethiopia repeatedly made its stance clear to all the lower riparians are still insisting on mentioning Ethiopia's hydroelectric power dam as a source of problem to their security or water share.

Furthermore, Ethiopia is working strenuously to reclaim its historical right to access the sea. It is to be recalled that Ethiopia has been an influential actor along the Red Sea for centuries before the loss of its access to the sea in 1991.

Since then the issue of accessing the Red Sea used to be considered a taboo which left many Ethiopians hopeless on reclaiming their historical rights. But as one of the most populous countries in the continent with one of the rapidly growing economies raising the issue of securing its access to the sea deserves due weight and attention. It is not a matter of boasting the sea access but that of survival to the nation, security and stability of the region as well as safe future of the surrounding areas that is of vital economic and political significance to the entire world.

On the other hand, the country is also undergoing a historically significant level of economic and political maneuvering. One such mega-level activity is the implementation of the macroeconomic reform which brought about unprecedented types of policies that are rather believed to transform the ever ailing economy of the country.

It is well known that Ethiopia has been suffering decades-old poverty and backwardness that caused the loss of its national image as well as the precious life of its people. The economic development policies and models that the country has been implementing for a long time are among the factors that many experts in the field blame for the consequences.

For instance, the Derg Military regime introduced a socialist or command economy that kept the country impoverished. The subsequent government led by EPRDF also adhered to a free market economy where the

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

Opinion

Making tomorrow today: *A responsibility of all*

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Either the existing or the next generation in Ethiopia is duty bound to build a prosperous, livable and stable Ethiopia. Recognizing the fact that the seed we sow today will be the basis for tomorrow and the time to come, all Ethiopians from corner to corner are relentlessly working hard to create new Ethiopia, an affluent and appealing country.

Here, the issue of cooperation has to be placed first as a single handed effort bears no fruit. Yes, cooperation is essential towards achieving success, in all aspects of life. It enables people to work together to meet a common goal, build a great nation of which every citizen is confidently proud. Unequivocally, all Ethiopians can achieve much more than they ever could on their own by embracing assemblage effort and cooperation.

Of course, cooperation can be fostered and well cemented through carrying out open and effective communication, approaching shared goal setting, fostering recognition and appreciation, embracing diversity, promoting collective learning, among others.

True, in the modern era, nation-building is referred to the efforts of newly independent nations, to establish trusted institutions of national government, education, military defense, elections, import customs, foreign trade, foreign diplomacy, banking, finance, taxation, company registration, police, law, among others.

Citizens have to put into practice different means with a view to creating the place/ nation they live in inhabitable such as volunteer their time, donate to charity, practice gratitude, reduce their environmental harm, being kind to others, respect and learn about others' cultures.

It is well comprehended that great nations had been, have been, are being and will be built by respective citizens, and Ethiopia is the cherished nation all its citizens have had since its formation and all citizens must make it great by themselves using their own big efforts and relentless endeavors.

True, Ethiopia won't build itself great. Grand Ethiopia can be built by thinking great thoughts, making great policies, and implementing those policies with patriotic zeal, and it is this time citizens can make tomorrow today. This east African star has the potential of becoming one of the most advanced and progressive countries of the African continent and beyond.

All citizens regardless of sex, the language they speak, the origin from where they are, what social status they have, what color they are given, basically Ethiopians are all the same black of course, have to come together and develop absolute fraternity and amicable style as no one can come and act accordingly to build great Ethiopia. In clear terms, the assignment of making the country

great and a much more stable one should not be left only to the government; some citizens who do have a relatively greater intensity of patriotic gesture or others, but it demands the combined effort of all.

Undeniably, the most dynamic factor in a country is the human resource and citizens' capacity to properly carry out all activities targeting at fostering the development of the country to make its future yummy. If Ethiopia is to achieve all its developmental goals, the human resource must be highly efficient and creative, responsible, accountable and with real patriotic gesture.

The second most important thing is the optimal utilization and management of resources, be they are natural or manmade ones. The optimal utilization of the best of resources by the best of professionals results in creating something great. Ethiopia needs this blend, and when the right person is assigned at the right place along this line helps the nation make tomorrow today by coming up with remarkable and real differences.

Unquestionably, there are many challenges in building great Ethiopia. Challenges such as population, environmental degradation, poverty of rural people, corruption, conflicts, backwardness, etc; but these challenges are opportunities too, as they help citizens stand together with great grudge of lagging behind. All citizens can contribute to this change for the betterment by giving their best and working from dawn to dusk remembering the great saying of John of Kennedy phrased as "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."

Each one of us must do our job and responsibilities flawlessly. All the challenges can easily be overcome provided that the entire manpower and resources are utilized and used optimally under the right guidance of dedicated and farsighted leaders. Ethiopia can do wonders by making tomorrow today, indeed! Besides, all this will happen only when all citizens set their hearts to make the nation the land of stability, opportunities, growth, and prosperity with their words, deeds, and acts.

The relationship between society and individuals is closely connected, and what we do as individuals can have an impact on society as a whole. This means that the choices we make, both for ourselves and for others, can make a real difference across the nation and beyond. However, many people who want to make a positive impact on the environment and society don't know where to begin.

All the sacred deeds all Ethiopians have been undertaking explain how acts of kindness can make us all feel happier, and they offer practical ways that people can make a positive change in the nation. Taking time to appreciate the good things in our life can help cultivate a positive mindset and increase happiness. Besides, taking steps

to reduce societal gaps can help to create a healthier nation, continent and planet for future generations. Furthermore, proactive behavior for protecting the nation can improve peoples' happiness since it helps engage in meaningful undertakings.

Yes, one of the most enjoyable ways of making a meaningful difference is to learn more about respecting one another, forging unity, developing sense of patriotism and fraternity. The majority of citizens have no idea how much of an impact their actions, or life skills, have on their mood as well as social fabrics. Besides, expanding citizens' understanding of different cultures and perspectives can help foster empathy, harmony and reduce prejudice.

Unambiguously, cooperation fosters unity, economic prosperity by promoting trade, investment as well as economic stability. As it is the exchange of knowledge, resources and expertise has enabled the citizens to leverage shared experiences and address common challenges, Ethiopians have to well appreciate it. When we think of it taking a narrower spectrum, for instance, a husband and wife working together to raise happy and healthy children, players on a baseball team working together to score a run and a construction worker, electrician, and plumber working together to build a home, can come up with real change in all circumstances. This holds true for the nation as a wider scope.

One of the most effective ways of using resources and minimizing their use at work when possible is by adopting a systematic approach. This can be achieved by setting a baseline, using previous performance as a base for improvement will help pave the path for productivity of next posterity. Apart from genuine cooperation, wise use of resources is also another means to make a difference via reducing, reusing, and recycling, cutting down on what people throw away, expanding volunteerism, strengthening unity and developing good working culture as well as conserving water and other natural resources. Strengthened public-private partnerships and multilateral cooperation are also needed to advance inclusive, resilient, and sustainable industrial development in Ethiopia and beyond.

A new financial architecture with greater access to finance and lower cost of capital is key unlocking investments at scale. Here, Ethiopia must work collectively to boost entrepreneurship, harness the potential of new technologies, expand opportunities for youth, women and girls, build climate resilient economy, and foster competitiveness and trade. This is part and parcel of the deed to make tomorrow today, too.

Hence, the prerequisite for achieving remarkable social, economic and even political outcomes has been the consistent focus on, and dedication to, domestic

productivity—in itself, a necessary precondition for rising wages and increasing living standards.

Considerable attention has also been paid to process and transparency, accountability and productivity as these are decisively important elements. The amalgamation of the private and public sectors has consistently foregone current consumption with a view to securing high rates of savings and investments.

It is well recognized that nation-building is a complex process involving many factors, including political stability, economic development, security, social cohesion, and cultural identity. This entails recognizing and valuing diversity as a strength that enriches society rather than a source of conflict and confrontation. It involves acknowledging the historical, social, and political factors that shape citizens' identities and experiences and using this knowledge to create inclusive policies and practices that promote social justice and equality.

As nation-building referred to the efforts of newly independent nations, to establish trusted institutions of national government, education, military defense, elections, land registry, import customs, foreign trade, foreign diplomacy, banking, finance, taxation, company registration, police, law, among others in the modern era, Ethiopia has been painstakingly working towards adjusting all the gaps recorded regarding these thematic areas at national level.

Since building a new, transformed, affluent and stable nation can only be done from within, Ethiopians are not supposed to wait for outsiders and should stand in unison to make a prosperous and stable nation themselves. They have to make tomorrow today now!

Frankly speaking, nation-building goes further and far beyond imagined and involves a shared sense of national identity, built on elements that tie people together — such as shared culture, language, and history — that cannot be imposed from outside but locally sowed and nurtured.

In a nutshell, all citizens devoid of any disparity can contribute to the making of great Ethiopia by being excellent in their respective spheres of actions. Apart from being perfect in their particular appointments, Ethiopians must be ideal citizens. They must pay taxes honestly; they must not do anything that might affect Ethiopia's prosperity and development. They, I shall say we, must dedicate ourselves to the progress and development of our country, only then something substantial will happen and we can make tomorrow today.

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

In the Sphere of Diplomacy

Another landmark in Ethio-China relations

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

As the Ethiopian New Year approaches we can conclude that the multiple diplomatic developments vis-à-vis many countries and other actors of the international community such as the UN and its agencies have made good progress in terms of benefiting the interests of Ethiopia in its efforts to fight poverty and pull out millions to a better place in life. The Ethiopian government has been very active in implementing its foreign policy objectives throughout the year also focusing on citizen-oriented moves, protecting the rights of Ethiopian nationals abroad. The various meetings and discussions the Ethiopian government high officials including Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) have conducted with various countries' leaders and statesmen has produced positive results for the country.

In this context, it is worth noting that the relations between Ethiopia and China, one of the staunchest allies and friends of Ethiopia, a key power that has treated Ethiopia in special relations have now reached new and unprecedented heights thanks mainly to the growing and close relations between Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping.

In this respect, the role of the ninth Forum for China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) that was held beginning 4th September 2024 in Beijing with the theme "Joining Hands to Advance Modernization and Build a High-Level China-Africa Community and a Shared Value" could be cited as a major stimulant in terms of not only the bilateral relations between Ethiopia and China but also the relations between China and the entire continent as whole.

In fact, at the Forum we noted that a huge policy statement was revealed by the President of the People's Republic of China regarding the immediate and long-term effects of China in its relations with Africa. The relations between Ethiopia and China have been catching momentum for years now and more so now after the holding of the FOCAC.

In this regard, the Charge d'Affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Addis Ababa had said that the ninth Forum for China-Africa Cooperation was evidence of this close cooperation between the two countries.

The diplomat had said that it would result in shaping the future direction of the bilateral relations between Ethiopia and China. The Forum was also the moment and place where new significant plans for China for its relations with Ethiopia in particular and Africa, in general, were revealed and announced in official terms by President Xi during his keynote address at the opening of the forum.

Undoubtedly, the relations between China and Ethiopia have been continuously growing from time to time reaching now the highest possible level between the two countries. It has been described as All-Weather Strategic Relations. The cooperation between Ethiopia and China has also been spanning over a host of sectors such as investment, agriculture, manufacturing industry, tourism, telecommunication and paper and pulp industry.

At the sidelines of the FOCAC, President Xi and Prime Minister Abiy met and sat down to discuss matters of mutual interest for both countries as well as other continental issues. On the occasion, the premier said Ethiopia prioritizes FOCAC as a force multiplier for the advancement of Africa's modernization efforts strengthening Africa-China conceptual and policy alignment. He talked about the elevation of Africa's position in world affairs and increased Africa-China coordination for reformed and representative global governance institutions. The premier also expressed Ethiopia's readiness for the speedy implementation of China's three proposals for Africa's industrialization, agricultural modernization and talent development initiated in August 2023 within the framework of FOCAC.

Furthermore, Prime Minister Abiy applauded China's consistency in maintaining its policy of standing by the side of Ethiopia demonstrating equality, mutual respect and benefit. President Xi Jinping on his part remarked that Ethio-China relations are exemplary of friendly cooperation between China and Africa adding that for a long time, the two countries have supported each other in safeguarding their respective core interests and forging an unbreakable iron-clad partnership.

The president reassured of China's readiness to expand pragmatic cooperation between the two countries and support Ethiopia in leveraging its strength as a regional transport hub to establish a rail-sea intermodal transport network in East Africa and build a demonstration area for quality Belt and Road Cooperation between China and Africa.

President Xi Jinping added that China is willing to enhance communication and collaboration with Ethiopia at the regional level as well as within the framework of the United Nations and BRICS to jointly uphold international fairness and justice. The bilateral discussion of the two countries' top leadership emphasized synergizing and enhancing joint efforts to yield more results within the spirit of the All-Weather Strategic Partnership that was established between the two countries.

The fact that the two leaders met for the

role in further elevating the bilateral relationship between Ethiopia and China. The meeting between the leaders of the two countries would contribute to making the two countries closer and more decisive especially for Ethiopia because it is trying to overcome all the development challenges it is facing today not least economically and China's contribution to it is substantial and could be decisive. There is the understanding that this collaboration could lead to even more active participation of China in Ethiopia's development ventures.

There are lots of things that Ethiopia can learn from how China managed to be a world power from what was considered by many as an underdeveloped country with more than a billion people to take care of some decades ago. Today China is considered one of the fastest-growing economic powerhouses that has shown how it is a huge influence on the international scene capable of determining which way the economy of the world could be directed.

Definitely, its role in the growth and development of the African continent can easily be depicted by looking at what pace the investment and economic relations with the African continent have been growing. The various projects in which the Chinese government and multiple Chinese companies are taking place, especially in the infrastructure expansion are evident for everyone to see. If we take only the Belt and Road Project that shows how ambitious the Chinese leadership is in terms of exerting influence in the world and in particular in Africa. This project has also benefited countries such as Ethiopia.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and his high-level governmental delegation have been to the Forum for China-Africa Cooperation and during the meeting he held with President Xi Jinping expressed his appreciation for China's continued and multifaceted support for Ethiopia's social and economic development. Besides that, the premier also had fruitful discussions with Chinese Prime Minister Li Qiang where they explored concrete ways to deepen the partnership between Ethiopia and China.

Premier Abiy also presided over the signing of 17 memoranda of understanding between the two countries in multiple sectors. Abiy underscored that the signing of the MoUs is a significant testament to the All-Weather Strategic Cooperation partnership between Ethiopia and China. On the same occasion, the premier expressed his desire to strengthen agricultural cooperation between the two countries, particularly in modernizing practices to enhance productivity. The two leaders also explored support for Ethiopia's industrialization and digitalization efforts as well.

The relations between China and Ethiopia have been continuously growing from time to time reaching now the highest possible level between the two countries. It has been described as All-Weather Strategic Relations

third time since August 2023 reflects the deepening partnership based on mutual benefit and respect. They reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening cooperation, particularly in investment, green growth, digitalization and new energy.

Talking about the participation of Ethiopia at the FOCAC, the Charge d'Affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Addis Ababa said it has played a pivotal

Law & Politics

2017 E.C: The new dawn to a better tomorrow

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

As Ethiopia prepares to receive the new Ethiopian year, 2017, there are plenty of issues that Ethiopians and the government wish to see accomplished amidst the bold challenges. Having many fruitful and promising activities and projects in the pipeline, Ethiopia expects much more from the upcoming New Year. Adversely, there are still several hiccups in the process.

As the Government of Ethiopia has embarked on some big projects throughout the nation in the past few years, Ethiopians are expecting their advance and completion in the upcoming year.

In the political aspects of the country, Ethiopia is trying to achieve the best outcomes from its current ongoing activities like the national dialogue, transitional justice, the Pretoria Accord, and many more. From its inception, the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission has been working on various agenda-gathering and similar issues to overcome problems that have pulled back the nation. The commission has already put its efforts into Addis Ababa and Harar Regional State to gather the necessary agendas. The process is being continuously taken to the rest of the country.

The country is also taking bold moves regarding the implementation of transitional justice across the country to secure the peace and unity of the nation.

In addition, the country is also stepping up its leading position in the Horn to secure its national interest by accessing the sea. Recently, Ethiopia and Somaliland have entered a breakthrough sea access deal. This grand deal sent a new dawn of cooperation in the Horn of Africa. Ethiopia's signing of a memorandum of understanding with Somaliland—which is in line with the former's legitimate quest for access to the sea, also came as a vital event opening the door for regional cooperation.

However, since the signing, there has been a collusion of internal and external forces to disrupt the cooperation although the signatories remained resilient and resolute to implement the deal. Despite the ongoing efforts to derail the path, Ethiopia is navigating the region towards economic integration. The nation is always ready to resolve any dispute in peaceful ways.

On top of that, Ethiopia's well-known stand in the world arena, the non-aligned policy is still being implemented. The country's balanced diplomatic approach to establish peaceful partnership with the west and east has fruited results. Ethiopia has established well-preserved diplomatic relations with both the east and west countries with non-aligned positions. Being the anchor state in the Horn, Ethiopia continues to maintain a balanced and neutral position in its relations with the global community. The country has been admitted to the BRICS bloc and also has been taking center stage



The coming New Year is a year of national progress and finishing what has been started. Tomorrow is brighter for Ethiopia!

in global frontiers.

In terms of the economy, the year has been marked by the vigorous implementation of “the Home Grown Economic Reform,” and sweeping economic reform which aims to address the nation's economic problems with the active support of international financial institutions like the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund.

On 29 July, the National Bank of Ethiopia bank introduced a floating exchange rate regime. The same day, the IMF Board approved an Extended Credit Facility (ECF) arrangement of about USD 3.4 billion, with a USD 1 billion immediate disbursement. The World Bank followed the IMF announcement with the pledge of USD 10.7 billion of funding over the next three years, including a USD 1 billion IDA grant and a USD 500 million concessional loan.

These institutions attest to the country's correct economic direction, even though the adjustment made to foreign exchange rates has resulted in an immediate inflationary tendency. To lessen inflation, lower foreign debt, and promote self-reliance, the government has been promoting increased production and the replacement of imported commodities.

In the same year, Addis Ababa had the most extensive reconstruction and renovations ever, transforming the city into a contemporary, clean, and ecologically pleasant place to live. The corridor project has been completed one after the other giving the city a fine look. The government has also planned to expand the corridor project to various parts of the country such as Gondar. These all achievements did not come without problems.

Furthermore, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's Dine for Ethiopia initiative has been a means to endorse the country with standard and luxurious tourist attraction sites across the country. Halala Kela, Wenchi, Gorgora, and others are evidence of Ethiopia's commitment to expanding its tourism sector.

Besides, Ethiopia's yet Africa's biggest dam,

the Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) has kept registering results and pushing towards the finishing line. The recent news which was the completion of the 3rd and 4th turbines and the commencement of power generation herald a new energy revolution for the country.

To enter this stage, the construction of the colossal dam has been through various odds. The project has been a target of constant barrages of misinformation and smear campaigns. However, the reliance of the Ethiopian people here and abroad coupled with the unwavering resolve of the incumbent has made it possible to put the dam into the final lap. Now the project will connect millions to the grid.

On the other hand, the country is working on promoting the manufacturing sector by introducing intimations such as Let Ethiopia Produce which enables manufacturers to advert and sell their products to the local market. The initiative if implemented effectively would help the country realize its vision of industrialization.

Although various promising projects are done in the country, Ethiopia should also step up to overcome some of its prominent challenges. The question of inflation has made life hard for most Ethiopians as life expenses are skyrocketing. The government and responsible stakeholders must find a sustainable solution for those challenges.

Similarly, the country has been facing security problems in Amhara, Oromia, and other parts of the country. Inflation continues to pose economic hardships and the Horn region heading to increased uncertainty. These internal and external woes pose tremendous challenges to the country. Yet again, the above success stories also showcase that with hard work and commitment; the country can bypass challenges and meet its priorities.

The coming New Year is a year of national progress and finishing what has been started. Tomorrow is brighter for Ethiopia!

Business & Economy

Macroeconomic reform in unlocking opportunities, greasing the wheels of tomorrow's Ethiopia

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

It is noteworthy that the newly instigated macroeconomic reform policy plays a very important part in bolstering the economic growth of the nation and fashioning the self-confidence of financiers and smoothing the path of tomorrow's Ethiopia and attracting investors from various parts of the world. On top of that the new reform plays a big part in creating a better macroeconomic environment and fostering self-confidence of investors in all regions of the country at the earliest possible moment.

On the heels of the implementation of the macroeconomic reform policy in all areas of the country, people from all backgrounds have been enunciating their ideas, feelings and thoughts in a number of respects and in widely different manners. As a matter of fact, apart from attracting investors from various parts of the world, the reform policy through the passage of time will embark on attracting overseas investors and alleviating shortage of foreign currencies in the course of time.

In a similar vein, the reform policy is turning out to be a great advocate for foreign direct investment flows. Aside from that, the enthusiasm and pledge of the federal government of Ethiopia to promote and have a very friendly investment setting for investors and the country is out of this world.

Apart from oiling the wheels of all-inclusive and progressive economy, the new policy reform beyond a shadow of a doubt will take the country to new heights setting up an internationally competitive economic system. In more concert terms, it is envisioned that if the whole thing continues heading in the same path taking the country to new frontiers and unprecedented heights will be as easy as falling off a log and shooting fish in a barrel.

It is highly likely that the reform policy takes a role in curtailing foreign currencies shortage, financial instability, and making stable economy certain in every region of the country. Though a lot has been said by doomsayers with respect to the macroeconomic reform policy implementation, the country has kicked off harvesting the fruits of accomplishment and moving progress in the right direction.

Ethiopia's latest comprehensive macroeconomic reform tailored to build vibrant and effective free economy, said the Ministry of Planning and Development (MoPD). The MoPD Development Planning and Government Investment Administration Lead Executive Officer, Bereket Fisehatsion told recently The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that, the comprehensive macroeconomic reform would have a range of contributions such as increasing productivity, substituting imports, overcoming debt burden, improving foreign exchange earnings and so on.



Over the past years, the country has been undertaking various short and long term economic reforms, which include the ten-year development plan, homegrown economic reform and macroeconomic reform agendas. The floating foreign exchange rate system is one of the macroeconomic reform agenda that the country lately introduced to overcome economic challenges, he said.

This system would address the country's structural economic problems contributing to allocate resources in effective sectors, overcoming macroeconomic distortions, ensuring sustainable economic growth and its competitiveness, minimizing debt, ensuring fair and effective distribution of foreign exchange in successful sectors, encouraging production and productivity, correcting foreign exchange rate and others, Bereket added.

Furthermore, it has a huge contribution to attracting FDI, substituting import, balancing trade deficit and debt structuring among others. In the long run, the new system would reduce debt to GDP ratio and it leads to increase export and revenue, he noted.

The fundamentals of this reform is getting the price right. If there is a right price in the country, the lenders would release extra finance to mobilize development finance. As a result, the country's debt servicing would be significantly improved.

The current macroeconomic reform is directly related with the previous economic reforms and one of the reform measures that planned in the second homegrown economic reform agenda. There would be community sectors that might be impacted following the reform so that the government is working on safety net, subsidization and others legal measures to tackle these challenges.

As bringing to bear the new policy reform will make a huge contribution to the country's economy, everyone should stand with one accord for the successful implementation of the macroeconomic policy. Following the positive moves of the reform, people from all segments of society have sustained expressing their boundless joy.

It must be recognized that as the policy change in the sector awakens the system with modern macroeconomic outline, enhance the investment and trade atmosphere, upgrade productive capacity, and other things of a similar kind, the public at large has been articulating their positive views.

In point of fact, the full implementation of macroeconomic reform policy has set in motion on account of the determination and hard work of the federal government with the objective of taking the county to a higher level and higher standard.

Ethiopia's full implementation of economic reform policy measures would expedite the country's effort for accession of World Trade Organization (WTO), Trade and Regional Integration Minister Kassahun Gofe underscored, according to information obtained from local media.

The Minister made the remark recently at a panel discussion held between pertinent government entities and the private sectors to discuss on challenges of domestic investors in Ethiopia.

The participants exchanged views on challenges and opportunities that arise with the opening up of the market following the economic reform measures being undertaken by the government of Ethiopia.

The minister emphasized most importantly that Ethiopia's immense economic potential will enable the private sector to be more innovative, productive and competitive in the international market.

Moreover, the economic reform measures will play pivotal role to further advance Ethiopia's WTO accession efforts which would bring more opportunities for the private sectors to access international markets, the Minister emphasized.

Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectorial Associations (ECCSA) Vice President, Aynalem Abayneh, on his part reiterated that the private sectors are engines of the economy that contribute the lion's share in the overall economic development of the country.

Hence, beyond production, the vice president urged the private sectors to

actively engage in innovation by enhancing their technological capabilities to cope up with the challenges that may arise with the coming up of the reform measures.

Zemedeneh Nigatu, an economist, on his part said that the economic reform being undertaken in Ethiopia is an encouraging measure to bring about a vibrant economy by transforming the private sectors in the long run.

"Over the past years, there have been significant development cooperation and financing efforts and negotiations for the implementation of our Home-Grown Economic Reform program. These negotiations have been conducted with adequate knowledge and wisdom for outcomes that protect Ethiopia's national interests and improve the lives and livelihoods of our citizens," Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) said.

As long as the new macroeconomic policy plays a huge role in taking the country to tomorrow's further stage and higher standard, everyone from all sections of the population should go to the ends of the earth by giving the cold shoulder to worryguts that every so often come up with fake news stories. The new macroeconomic reform would boom the leather industry as it coincided with the rise in global leather market, Ethiopian Leather Industry and Research Development Center indicated.

Center's Managing Director, Mohammed Hussien told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that, the macroeconomic reform coupled with the spur in the international leather market could contribute hugely for the success of the leather industry.

He said absence of adequate foreign currency remained a challenge in most sectors including leather industry which constrained the nation to benefit as per to its abundant resources. Thus, the reform would put positive impact on addressing the challenge.

The leather industry had not only affected by internal factors, however the external issues such as COVID-19 pandemic and other global crisis have hugely contributed to the failure, he stressed.

"The fact that due emphasis has been given to alleviating the obstacles would help the nation to address major constraints of the sector eventually," Mohammed said.

Similarly, the international market is showing promising progress and business has started to get to normal. Thus, the nation aspires to seize the opportunity and perform better through integrated approach, the Manager indicated.

As a result, the center has planned to amass about 68 million USD from the leather sector in the coming year. Last year, it was able to gain around 27.7 million USD, which is 60% of the plan.

Society

Today's dedication, a foundation for a better tomorrow

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

Ethiopia, a nation rich in history and cultural diversity, has made substantial strides in the past few years in driving change in all areas and transforming the country. This is especially true in the last six years when the reformation brought about remarkable changes across the nation.

The commitment to create a better Ethiopia under the principle of "Synergy"-which denotes togetherness and solidarity -is being realized through collaborative efforts between the government and the public.

The principle has yielded significant achievements across various sectors showcasing the potential of collective action in fostering solidarity and cementing social cohesion; thereby accelerating the country's growth in various sectors.

One of the most tangible indicators of Ethiopia's advancement is its economic progress which witnessed a positive change within the past six years. Even though the nation had been through challenges, it was able to register remarkable economic progress that laid a strong foundation for the country's future.

The schemes devised to increase the production of wheat; not only in the rainy season but also in the dry season through irrigation, and the initiative dubbed "YeLemat Tirufat" have solidified the pathways to ensure food sufficiency at the household and the country level.

Likewise, the various infrastructural developments expanded throughout the country over the past few years are also other indications of how the government and the people have been actively engaged in establishing a base for future development. The Abbay Hydroelectric Dam and several industrial parks and tourist destinations that have already been completed and are still under construction are the other wonders that have immense potential not only to realize growth but also to brighten the country's future.

In the realm of social services, the government has also made impressive strides in enhancing access to healthcare and education. Just to mention, expanding healthcare insurance, improvement in service delivery, promoting the rate of maternal and child health overcomes, vaccination programs, and the establishment of healthcare facilities in remote areas are good indicators.

As part of its commitment to ensure access to education, the government is working closely with local communities to create inclusive and relevant curricula that reflect the diverse cultures within the nation. As community engagement has been crucial to ensure quality education, parents, educators,



and local leaders are collaborating to ensure that education not only meets national standards but also respects and values local traditions and languages. Besides, building several education centers and schools, the government is also endeavoring to ensure quality education through integrating digital technology in the education system, mainly digitalizing higher education.

As recently indicated by Academic Affairs Lead CEO of the Ministry of Education, Eba Mijena (PhD) several changes have been witnessed within the past five years in areas of education. This change resulted from the reform programs the government undertook in the education sector. According to him, exam provisions and curriculum changes are among others. The reform has brought a positive change in the area of curriculum which in turn ensures remarkable changes in the education sector.

On his part, Ethiopian Teachers Association President Yohannes Benti (PhD) said that the reform has brought a policy change in the country. Measures taken including teachers' development, school improvement, input provision, and school feeding programs among others have their own great contribution to education quality.

In a related development, the Head of the Democracy System Building Coordination Center with the rank of Deputy Prime Minister, Adam Farah said that the past years have witnessed the effectiveness of the reform.

According to him, the reform has enabled the nation to build a sustainable economic system. The past six years were times

that the economic, justice, science and technology, education, and civil service sectors have reformed. All sectorial changes witnessed over the years are the outcomes of the reform. The reform has enabled it to address major bottlenecks and attain positive changes.

In the economic sector, the reform has brought about a positive change in areas of food security, increased export earnings, and stabilized the market. He also said that the financial and tax policies have improved the government's revenue.

Indeed, over the past six years, Ethiopia has undergone a remarkable transformation fueled by a series of reforms initiated by the government in 2018. These reforms have touched upon various sectors, including political governance, economic development, and social cohesion, significantly altering the country's trajectory.

In areas of economic change, Ethiopia has enjoyed robust economic development over the past few years, despite challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, internal conflicts, and global economic pressures. The reform has spurred foreign investment in various sectors, including manufacturing, services, and agribusiness, with several multinational corporations drawing into Ethiopia. Initiatives such as the Homegrown Economic Reform Agenda aim to diversify the economy and reduce reliance on traditional sectors.

Additionally, the government has prioritized infrastructure development, resulting in significant advancements in transportation, energy, and telecommunications. The

construction of projects such as the Abbay Hydroelectric Dam not only symbolizes a vision for energy independence but also a hope for regional cooperation in resource utilization.

Although some challenges remain unresolved, Ethiopia has seen a notable shift in the areas of social policies to promote gender equality and empower women in leadership roles. The government has set ambitious targets for women's representation in various sectors, including politics, where women now hold significant number on parliamentary seats, a groundbreaking achievement compared to the global average.

Ethiopia's reform agenda has not only aimed at fostering internal stability but also enhancing regional cooperation. Ethiopia has played an active role in regional organizations, advocating for peace and stability within the Horn of Africa. The integration of regional economies and collaborative security initiatives reflect Ethiopia's ambition to serve as a vanguard for peace in the most volatile region.

The past six years have been a period of significant upheaval and transformation in Ethiopia. While challenges persist, the positive changes stemming from the reforms initiated by the government signal the country's journey toward a promising future- to economic resilience accelerated social progress, and a prosperous Ethiopia. And by building on the gains made thus far, and its continued commitment to ensure sustainable development, Ethiopia stands at the center, with the potential to emerge as a beacon of hope and stability in the Horn of Africa and beyond.

International News



African Development Bank Celebrates 60 Years of Transformative Impact on Africa's Development

The African Development Bank will mark its 60th anniversary from September 9 to 10 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire's economic capital under the theme "60 Years of Making a Difference."

The diamond jubilee celebration will showcase the Bank's journey since its establishment on 10 September 1964, its transformative role in Africa's development, and its vision for the continent's future.

The African Development Bank's 60th anniversary celebrations will begin on Monday 9 September with a staff event. It will feature traditional music and cultural performances; discussions on the Bank's institutional footprint; an exhibition; a seminar with community stakeholders (including students, young innovators and entrepreneurs, and civil

society); and a Staff Council Symposium.

The president of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB), Akinwumi Adesina, speaking at Chatham House, London, June 2024. To ensure food security in Africa, the Bank has provided close to \$10 billion in support of agriculture in the last eight years of Adesina's tenure as the president of AfDB. Also the Bank's flagship initiative, Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT), has delivered climate-smart agricultural technologies to 13 million farmers.

The celebrations on the second day, 10 September, will include several events reflecting on the Bank's key milestones and its impact on Africa's economic development since its inception.

Other notable speakers on this day

include Chairperson of the Board of Governors of the African Development Bank Group Ms Nialé Kaba, who will deliver a welcome statement, and a keynote address by president of the African Development Bank Group, Dr Akinwumi A. Adesina.

The day will also feature traditional performances and goodwill messages from the Bank's partners and recognition of the AfDB 60 logo design winner, designed by a member of the Bank's staff, following an internal competition.

The African Development Bank Group will also launch a Youth Community of Practice (Y-CoP) and an Intergenerational Dialogue on Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development in Africa. The Y-COP is a new knowledge hub platform for African and global youth to engage

in critical thinking and peer-to-peer learning while identifying evidence-based youth solutions to build resilient and sustainable growth in Africa.

For six decades, the African Development Bank has been at the forefront of Africa's development.

In the last decade alone, the African Development Bank Group's High 5 operational priorities have helped 400 million Africans gain access to electricity, clean water, and adequate sanitation. The High 5s: Feed Africa; Light up and Power Africa; Industrialise Africa; Integrate Africa; and Improve the lives of the people of Africa are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

Source: African Development Bank (AfDB).

Working hard...

government intervened in some key areas of the economy. Accordingly, the regime refused to fully liberalize the economic activities of the country which eventually left the country in a lot of crisis.

Therefore the country is found at a crossroads where it must take action and think out of the box to liberalize its economy, open up some sectors

that are likely to boost foreign direct investment, promote export, create more jobs and enhance foreign currency earnings among others. In this regard, the government has decided to take bold actions towards reforming the economy, achieve the goals mentioned above and transform the economy.

Many criticize the adoption of

macroeconomic reform as having potential risks. Yet it is a must to navigate away from business-as-usual methods, apply changes in a careful and calculated way and lift the country out of the decades-old vicious cycle once and for all.

Furthermore, the country is executing a large-scale seedling plantation program called Green Legacy

Initiatives. The initiative aims not merely to plant trees and raise the forest coverage of the nation, but also to promote the transition to a green and clean economy which is the order of the day globally.

All these feats require all members of the present generation to pay due sacrifice so that the future generation can enjoy a better world.

Ethiopians to welcome...

total energy supply. This implies that when Ethiopia generates energy for electricity from renewable sources, it meets its energy needs without polluting the air or harming the environment.

This renewable energy benefits not just Ethiopia, but also neighboring nations. Sudan, Kenya, and Djibouti are among the countries that benefit from Ethiopia's renewable power supply. Ethiopia also produces non-carbon emissions. As a result, Ethiopia is decarbonizing the atmosphere not just for its own benefit, but also for that of the region and the entire globe, he noted.

He claims that Ethiopia has consistently maintained its strong stance that the nation must take action to combat climate change and air pollution. Through its Green Legacy Initiative program, the nation plants billions of tree seedlings annually to maintain its status. Apart from the yearly planting of tree seedlings

program, the nation accomplished the achievement of planting over 615 million saplings in a single day. In the upcoming year, this has to be strengthened and maintained.

Besides, in the next new year, Ethiopians should work on the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD). There are some more tasks that make GERD effective. It is also suitable to complete the dam's remaining water-filling activities. People and government should work together to put additional turbines into service and generate electricity. Aside from GERD, it is critical to boost national energy development initiatives throughout the country.

"As we all know, GERD is a massive project spanning 250 kilometers. Given this, it is appropriate to undertake transportation projects connecting the three regions of Amhara, Benishangul, and Oromia. It is also critical to develop

work opportunities at the GERD in the coming year by increasing fish farming and building large-scale tourism attraction areas," he said.

Ethiopians have inherited many excellent things from their forefathers. It is vital to continue this legacy in the coming year. It is especially appropriate to love the nation and to stand together not just during times of crisis but also for development.

Ethiopia's efforts and endeavors to utilize its water resources for development are increasingly becoming a source of pride for both Ethiopians and other friendly nations. Ethiopia might be developed and elevated to a higher level in the coming year if the nation can effectively use its water resources by combining its time, money, and human labor.

"With the building of GERD and the utilization of its water bodies, Ethiopia

has gained various experiences in the last fiscal year, the 2016 Ethiopian calendar. That was the year that professionals from Ethiopia developed expertise in the design, construction, and management of dams. I hope that in the coming new year, the professionals who constructed the largest dam in Africa (GERD) will share their insights and knowledge to be an inspiration to their fellow Africans."

In general, in the new year, 2017, the world community should acknowledge and comprehend Ethiopia's efforts to mitigate climate change. They should also help to enhance and improve development and climate change mitigation initiatives. This is because, in the new year, there will be development projects in the country that will have a beneficial influence and benefit not just Ethiopia, but also other countries and the world.

Kenya: India Set for Key Trade Talks With Kenya, Tanzania, Focusing On Tariff Barriers

India is gearing up for upcoming Joint Trade Council (JTC) meetings with its key African trading partners, Kenya and Tanzania, set for this month.

The meetings are part of India's broader strategy to double its trade with African nations to \$200 billion by 2030.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in collaboration with industry councils and other governmental departments, is preparing for these discussions, with a focus on addressing current trade barriers and exploring new opportunities, according to Businessline publication.

An inter-ministerial consultation is planned to coordinate efforts across various sectors.

This comes at a time when Kenya and Tanzania have recently added avocado to the list of exports to India as they target the country's huge population.

Whereas Tanzania is exporting at duty free, Kenya's produce is levied 30 percent, making it uncompetitive in the market.

Kenya has restricted access of Indian rice seed to Kenya as the country is keen not to flood the local market with imported rice seed at the detriment of farmers who grow it in Mwea and other schemes in the country.

There are also fears that the new planting material could result in diseases that will affect the local crop, according to Kenya's plants regulator.

In a communication to the industry, the Indian government is reported to have requested detailed information on both tariff and non-tariff barriers, including regulatory challenges and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures.

In the fiscal year 2023/24, India-Tanzania trade reached \$7.9 billion, marking a 22 percent increase from the previous year, thereby making Tanzania India's second-largest trading partner in Africa.

India's exports to Tanzania, valued at \$4.6 billion, include essential goods such as petroleum products, industrial machinery, tractors, and life-saving pharmaceuticals.

Trade between India and Kenya also saw significant activity in 2023/24, with Indian exports valued at \$3.35 billion and imports at \$176.34 million. India's exports to Kenya primarily consist of petroleum products, pharmaceuticals, machinery, cereals, sugars, plastics, vehicles, electrical machinery, organic chemicals, and paper products, similar to its exports to Tanzania.

Source: Business Day Africa.

UN warns of alarming water pollution in Sub-Saharan Africa

Sub-Saharan Africa is rapidly emerging as a hotspot for surface water pollution, posing serious risks to the region's already stressed resources, the United Nations has warned.

Some 90 countries, most in Africa, Central- and Southeast Asia, are experiencing the degradation of one or more freshwater ecosystems.

"As the population in the region grows and economies continue to develop, pressure on water bodies has intensified, leading to widespread degradation of water-related ecosystems, primarily driven by pollution, dams, land conversion, over-abstraction and climate change," states the UN's latest progress report on Clean Water and Sanitation for All.

Many countries in the region are notably off track in meeting Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6.6.1—change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time. Data from the recently released UN 2024 report on the mid-term status of this indicator reveals that over 60 percent of countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, Central Asia,

and Southeastern Asia are currently experiencing degraded freshwater ecosystems.

The trend graphs show a troubling pattern of ecosystem decline in Sub-Saharan Africa since 2000, with 30 per cent more countries in the region now reporting one or more sub-indicators in a state of degradation compared to 20 years ago.

Compounding these threats further, changes in temperatures and rainfall caused by climate change and experienced as droughts, also contribute to the loss of permanent water in regions like Northern, Sub-Saharan, and Southern Africa.

The study shows that in spite of these new water quality hotspots emerging in sub-Saharan Africa, driven by agricultural intensification and population growth, the continent has inadequate monitoring capacity of these risks.

Nevertheless, the construction of reservoirs contributes to a global net-gain in permanent water, mainly in regions like North America, Europe and Asia.

Source: The East African

Planet Earth

Ethiopians to welcome a New Year of boosting green economy

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

It is a frequent custom to hear and listen to sharing New Year messages internationally. Because new year messages are strong and a beautiful method to connect plans, share joy, and attach with visions. People send New Year greetings to friends, family, or coworkers.

Based on the Gregorian calendar, September 11 (or September 12 in a leap year) is the day Ethiopians celebrate the onset of a New Year, also known as “Enkutatash”. The Ethiopian calendar, which starts seven or eight years behind the Gregorian calendar, officially begins on this date.

Ethiopians celebrate the New Year colorfully and in diverse ways. Before, during, and after the festivities, individuals send each other well wishes for a happy new year. Here are a few typical ones, among others:

- “Enkutatash!” - The traditional greeting that means “Happy New Year!”
- “May this new year bring you peace, joy, and prosperity.”
- “Wishing you a year filled with love and happiness.”



- “May your dreams be fulfilled in this new year.”

- “Let us celebrate the blessings of the past year and embrace the opportunities of the new one.”

Enkutatash is embodied in these traditions, which have themes of optimism, rebirth, and communal spirit. The colorful festival of Enkutatash embodies Ethiopia’s distinct cultural identity, customs, and optimism.

Not only do individuals, families, and friends wish and make plans for the upcoming year, but government organizations also organize

and distribute New Year’s greetings encouraging everyone to collaborate to accomplish shared objectives. Therefore, it is essential to inquire about Ethiopia’s accomplishments for the fiscal year that has ended. What is anticipated in terms of using its water resources for national growth in the next new year?

Minister of Water and Energy Dr. Eng. Habtamu Itafa told The Ethiopian Herald that the country has successfully used its water resources for a variety of purposes in this completed year. Because 2016 Ethiopian calendar was a year that demonstrated the country’s ability to develop, expand, and achieve results via the use of its water resources. Besides, Ethiopia has put a good basis for exploiting its water resources for the coming years.

According to him, Ethiopia did not exploit its water resources for millennia. As a result, the country was known for poverty, drought, and related challenges. However, with the political reform of the country in mid-2018, Ethiopia has started using its water resources. Hence, the country is now able to produce and export summer wheat. It went from being unable to exploit the country’s

water resources to being able to do so by constructing GERD on the Nile River.

In addition, the successive water filling of the dam has been successfully finished. Thus far, some turbines have been operational, producing 1400 MW. Of the 74 billion cubic meters of water that are intended to be used to produce energy, GERD now holds 66.5 billion cubic meters. At this time, the country has reached a point where the dam can keep the remaining billion cubic meters of water.

The world’s most serious challenge is climate change. This shift was caused not just by natural problems, but also primarily by man-made issues. One factor that contributes to climate change is the energy source. Pollution is a major issue in both developing and developed countries. As a result, developing countries are paying the price for this.

Ethiopia’s contribution to climate change is almost nonexistent. Because the country generates energy completely from renewable sources. Among others, water accounts for more than 92 percent of the

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