



Religious fathers send messages of unity, peace in New Year

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA - Religious leaders have urged citizens to further strengthen unity and peaceful coexistence in this Ethiopian New Year.

The spiritual leaders have conveyed New Year messages and expressed best wishes while urging the faithful to share meals and support the needy, and promote peace while celebrating the holiday.

“In the name of almighty God, we convey

our message to the believers to resolve conflict via reconciliation and build social values to renew our stand in the New Year,” said his holiness Abune Mathias, Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church Patriarch.

The origin of everything either evil or

kindness is in the human mind, thus, the faithful ought to use the New Year as new opportunity to renew thinking, hope to transfer the country into the right path to peace and development, he stated.

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Premier extends Ethiopian New Year's best wishes

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA - Prime Minister Ahmed (PhD) extended Ethiopian New Year best wishes to Ethiopians at home and abroad. Ethiopia welcomes its 2017 New Year today.

In his message, the Prime Minister wished best Ethiopian New Year for all Ethiopians at home and abroad.

The Premier is also optimistic about the 2017 Ethiopian New Year as he expects

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Ethiopian 2016 in review: Major milestones, challenges

BY YESUF ENDRIS

As the Ethiopian New Year approaches, it is time to reflect on key moments that captured national and global attention. From political developments to economic strides, the outgoing year has seen significant progress alongside challenges. In this year-end recap, *The Ethiopian Herald* revisits the major events that made headlines and their implications for Ethiopia's future.

In January, Ethiopia and Somaliland signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), granting Ethiopia access to the Gulf of Aden coastline. While the MoU was expected to lead to further agreements, details remain limited. Three days later, the Government Communication Service (GCS) clarified

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Ambassadors' aim expanding, deepening relations in 2017

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA- Heads of foreign missions based in Addis Ababa expressed their best wishes to all Ethiopians on the New Year while vowing to expand and deepen respective countries' ties with Ethiopia.

Ambassadors and diplomats who published articles in *The Ethiopian Herald* New Year's Edition mentioned as Ethiopia's ties with their respective countries obtained great momentum in the bygone year. The ties will gather further impetus in the 2017 Ethiopian New Year.

They hailed the unprecedented opportunity in marking yet another New Year, and the joy and feeling of being seven years younger is tremendous.

(Please see the articles in the Diplomats' New Year's Wish pages.)

News



Ashebir Balcha (Eng.)

Abbay dam pivotal in ensuring Ethiopia's economic sovereignty: EEP CEO

ADDIS ABABA (FBC) – The Abbay Dam has made a significant contribution in ushering in a paradigm shift to ensure the country's economic sovereignty, remarked Engineer Ashebir Balcha, Chief Executive Officer of Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP).

September 8, 2024 (Pagumen 3, 2016, in the Ethiopian Calendar), designated as the Day of Sovereignty, was marked across the country under the theme: 'Harmony in Ensuring All-Round Sovereignty'.

In his message to the people of Ethiopia on social media platform X, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said that the name Ethiopia has always been associated, from time immemorial to date, with honor, glory, and freedom.

Mentioning that territorial sovereignty is not sufficient by itself, he stressed the need to ensure a new form of patriotism which encompasses strengthening all-round economic and technological sovereignty.

The Abbay Dam is a project in which national patriotism of the highest caliber has been vividly demonstrated.

Engineer Ashebir Balcha, CEO of Ethiopian Electric Power, said that Abbay dam is a vivid demonstration of Ethiopia's economic sovereignty and a pillar of its unity.

He recalled that four of the turbines built on the dam started generating electric power at the end of August, adding that when all 13 turbines begin operating, they will generate a total of 5,150 MW of hydroelectric power.

This will double the entire hydroelectric power that has been produced in the country over the last 70 years, demonstrating that Abbay dam has become a major catalyst in promoting the country's economic development by ensuring economic sovereignty.

Ashebir stressed that Ethiopian Electric Power is effectively discharging its responsibility of delivering electric power services to consumers by generating power from other projects besides Abbay dam, including Koysa, Gibe 3, and other power generating sources, with efficiency and quality service delivery.

The CEO added that apart from generating foreign exchange for the country, his office has managed to ensure the national interest in the sector.

He further stated that producing and transmitting hydroelectric power to end users requires ensuring the safety and security of power transmission and distribution units constructed across the country, as reported by ENA.

Ashebir emphasized the importance of safeguarding electric power infrastructure in the country and called upon all citizens to contribute their part in protecting power structures and facilities from theft and misuse.

Ethiopia records successful diplomacy: MoFA

BY MESERERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – The country has registered fruitful diplomatic outcomes and ensured national interests in the just ended Ethiopian fiscal year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said.

Ethiopia has registered remarkable diplomatic outcomes and ensured its national interest in the just ended fiscal year, the ministry stated in its annual report mentioning 12 agreements the country has signed with the neighboring countries in various sectors such as education, tourism, economy and infrastructure.

In general, over 140 agreements were signed on national interest issues, bilateral and multilateral relationships in that year, it said.

Several joint meetings, including leaders' summits, ministerial forums, and high-level meetings, were held in Ethiopia. About 29 African leaders and high officials visited Ethiopia for bilateral purposes, the report mentioned.

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

Under the frameworks of the African Union and the United Nations, Ethiopia's diplomatic journey was also successful. The report elaborated that the Pretoria peace agreement received acclamations from international organizations and Ethiopia has gained 1,000,000 USD for the disarmament in the north part of the country based on Pretoria Agreement.

The number of visits that have been paid to the country have increased the bilateral



and multilateral relationships in the aforementioned period. Some 44 high level meetings were carried out in the just ended period. For instance, a delegation led by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed was traveled to China, Tanzania, German, Russia, and the likes whilst discussed with various issues in the past year, according to MoFA.

Furthermore, Ethiopia has marked a series of significant diplomatic achievements over the past fiscal year in which key areas of progress include neighborhood diplomacy, BRICS membership, setting agenda on the sea access, migrant repatriation, multilateral and bilateral diplomacy, and foreign direct investment, the report indicated.

It also motioned that international funders have been supporting Ethiopia's developmental and humanitarian missions. For example, the European Union donated 35 million euros for green energy development while a debt relief was succeeded following the strong diplomatic effort.

The governments of the United States and the Netherlands have also shown their

support for demobilization, disarmament, rehabilitation, and agricultural programs, respectively. The international community believed on the legitimacy of accessing sea port because of strong diplomatic works, the ministry stated.

MoFA also highlighted the registration of three Ethiopian intangible heritages by UNESCO as a great diplomatic success in tourism.

Ethiopia's membership in BRICS is another notable achievement. Amid regional challenges and global geopolitical shifts, Ethiopia's diplomatic mission has successfully navigated complex negotiations, secured critical partnerships, and advanced national interests on the global stage, it added.

In terms of investment, over 395 investors have accessed the necessary support and supervision last year. Similarly, 69 tourism promotions were carried out aimed at alluring international attention through diplomatic attempts, according to the ministry.

ENDC calls on Diaspora community, actors to engage in dialogue

• Commission extends New Year best wishes

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) has called on Ethiopian Diaspora Community as well as all actors that are not yet taken part to engage in the National Dialogue as of this Ethiopian New Year.

Extending Commission's best wishes on the Ethiopian New Year celebration, ENDC, Chief Commissioner Prof. Mesfin Araya urged all actors that constrained themselves from joining the National Dialogue due to various reason to participate in the dialogue.

"By acknowledging dialogue as best instrument to resolve differences, everyone needs to involve in the

National Dialogue," he emphasized.

He went on saying: ENDC wishes that this New Year would bring all actors together to seat around a table and discuss on difference being more reasonable in a bid to reach consensus.

Thus, he recalled everyone to accept the call and be active participant of the historic National Dialogue so as to make better out of the commission.

The Chief Commissioner further mentioned that ENDC has been engaged in participant identification, and agenda gathering in various states and two city administrations.

So far, different states and Dire Dawa and Addis Ababa city administrations have gathered and presented their agenda to the commission, as to him.



Prof. Mesfin Araya

News



Ethiopian 2016...

that the MoU posed no harm to any party, stating it was based on mutual benefits. However, Somalia opposed the deal, arguing that Somaliland lacked legitimacy to sign such agreements. An in-depth assessment on the MoU's implementation is anticipated in the coming year.

March marked the inauguration of the Wonchi tourist attraction development project, part of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's "Dine for the Nation" initiative. Located in Oromia State, the project has boosted tourism and improved local livelihoods. Prime Minister Abiy revealed that Ethiopians, both domestically and abroad, contributed 4.2 billion Birr for the development of Gorgora, Wenchi, and Koysa in Amhara, Oromia, and South Ethiopia State respectively.

Also in March, the Addis Ababa Corridor Development Project was launched. With an estimated budget of 33 billion Birr, the first phase of the project is nearing completion, upgrading key routes and improving connectivity. Reviewed by the Prime Minister, the project's progress was monitored by the city's Mayor and Deputy Mayors. The second phase is expected to be completed within months.

Premier Abiy addressed concerns regarding the corridor project's impact, acknowledging that it may affect properties owned by various sectors. However, he emphasized that the long-term benefits will outweigh

the challenges for all stakeholders. In recent years, Addis Ababa has been undergoing some big changes. The latest corridor development project is a continuation of reform plans to transform Addis into a smart and modern city by reviving neglected urban districts.

In June, the much-anticipated National Dialogue began its agenda-gathering process in Addis Ababa, continuing across other states and cities in the following months, as announced by the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission.

In July, PM Abiy announced Ethiopia's full implementation of a macroeconomic reform policy aimed at addressing structural challenges such as debt, inflation, unemployment, and low productivity. "This comprehensive reform agenda will enable us to achieve high and stable economic growth, maintain single-digit inflation, and build a globally competitive economic system," he said.

In August, the year concluded with the activation of the 3rd and 4th turbines of the Abbay Dam. In a televised announcement, Abiy confirmed that the dam's full operation is expected within the first quarter of the new Ethiopian year.

These key moments define the year 2016, setting the stage for Ethiopia's path ahead as it continues to navigate progress and challenges.

"If we move against this, the problem, the trouble we are facing will continue further way. So stop all things here and reconcile together," he told the faithful.

Ethiopian Islamic Affairs Supreme Council, Fatwa and Research Sector Head Sheikh Endris Ali on his part stressed the need to promote peace in the New Year.

In the New Year, everyone's plans and actions should be linked with peace of the country so as to move towards development, he said.

Ethiopian Catholic Church Archbishop Cardinal Berhaneyesus Demerew said celebrating New Year requires renewing commitment to stand for the justice, truth, love, compassion and dignity of human beings.

"New Year is like a spring board to do good things to our mutual benefit and support the needy including through sharing our meals," he remarked.

The beginning of the New Year brings new blessing and rejuvenates the life of the faithful

Tourists fascinated by Ethiopia's unique calendar

ADDIS ABABA /ENA/ -Tourists who are currently paying a visit in Ethiopia expressed their excitement on Ethiopia's unique calendar and extended best wishes to Ethiopians on their New Year celebration.

In fact, Ethiopians do not celebrate their New Year on January 1 like many part of the world. The Ethiopian New Year falls on September 11 or 12 during a leap year.

The country has its own unique calendar in the world with 13 months. Each of the 12 months has 30 days. The 13th month, Pagumen, has 5 days or 6 during each leap year.

Accordingly, the 2017 Ethiopian New Year is to be celebrated today on September 11, 2024.

Tourists, who are in Ethiopia for a visit, approached by ENA expressed their excitement about the uniqueness of Ethiopia's calendar and the New Year.

Expressing their joy for participating in the celebration of Ethiopian New Year tomorrow, the tourists have extended New Year best wishes to all Ethiopians.

Marcoj corvini, a Brazilian tourist, said Addis Ababa is his first city to visit in Africa, expressing his pleasure to be in Ethiopia on the occasion of the New Year.

Stating that he was not aware of Ethiopia's New Year, which is very different from



the rest of the world, corvini expressed his excitement about country's uniqueness in this regard.

"It is very important for us to be here to celebrate Ethiopian New Year with the people of Ethiopia," he underscored.

Another tourist, Vikram Sriam, from India, also impressed by Ethiopian New Year celebration which is new for him.

The Indian tourist also extended happy New Year wish to all Ethiopians.

Indicating that it is his first time to visit Ethiopia, he lauded Ethiopians for their warm hospitality, which is very different from other parts of the world.

Together with his fellow Indian friend, Sriam visited tourist attraction sites in the northern part of Ethiopia, particularly Tigray.

Premier extends...

the full implementation of plans, grand projects' completion, resolution of historic divides via National Dialogue and Transitional Justice (TJ).

He, moreover, wished that the country would strive for self-sufficiency and make sure reform measures' effectiveness.

He emphasized on efforts to use time (present opportunity) since the Creator granted it to all people equally. The progress arises from hard working culture and diligence rather than idleness. Time moves forward without pause. Leveraging it has an importance to one's advantage.

"The creator offered time for all of us equally. The difference is achieving and not achieving in a given time. We, Ethiopians have proud historic chapters. There are also good times in our lifetimes. These chapters and times are not other things; they are time opportunities that we effectively utilized."

According to him, time presents or brings vast opportunities to all people. "A New Year will be a year of transformation and achievements, rather than a year that changes us."

He urged citizens to effectively utilize opportunities that granted to the country. "Time will continue to change, regardless of our preferences."

The Premier reflected on past achievements since the last Ethiopian New Year and posed questions to all about what preparations have been made so far for 2017. The answers to these questions is to transform the country and embark on a new era.

"Let us exert efforts together to make a 2017 a landmark year in Ethiopian history by healing past wounds and laying a strong foundation to embrace a better future," he underscored.

Religious fathers send messages...

so that it should be spend wisely, Ethiopian Evangelical Churches Fellowship, President Pastor Tsadiku Abdo said while addressing citizens who celebrate the 2017 Ethiopian New Year.

He stressed that peace starts inside individuals, then develops at community level, so the public should develop respect, forgiveness, and maintain nation's peace in the New Year.

Likewise, Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus President, Rev. Yonas Yigezu

(PhD) called on the warring groups in some parts of the country to lay down their guns fore peaceful negotiation ready to end war in this Ethiopian New Year.

"Many of our fellow Ethiopians have suffered from natural and man-made disasters so we need to support our people who are in trouble to achieve our goals in the New Year," he said. Ethiopian New Year, known as *Enkutatash* in Amharic, falls on September 11th (or September 12th in leap years) according to the Gregorian calendar.

New Year's Edition

Diplomats' New Year's Wish

Age-long ties thrive more in New Year

BY EVGENIY E. TEREKHIN

(Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Ethiopia)

Please accept my warmest and most sincere greetings for the upcoming Ethiopian New Year 2017!

Russia and Ethiopia are linked by close historical ties. There are not many other examples of such interstate relations in the world, which over the centuries have been invariably marked by friendship, mutual trust and help. Our strong relations are based on common values and interests that are developing and continue to bind us, on mutual trust and assistance, solidarity, friendship and respect.

Ethiopia, without exaggeration, is one of Russia's key partners in Africa, with whom we have accumulated solid experience of interaction on a number of issues on the bilateral and



international agenda. This is largely due to the coincidence and proximity of our approaches to solving global and regional problems. We share the common view that international relations should have uniform rules of the game for all, recognize the leading role of the UN, and jointly advocate for expanding the representation of developing countries in global governance institutions.

It is gratifying that today Russian-Ethiopian relations are acquiring even

greater dynamics. The outgoing year was marked by Ethiopia's accession to BRICS. I am confident that this will give a powerful impetus to the further development of our cooperation around the world and in a variety of areas. There is no doubt that Ethiopia's interested participation in BRICS can give the association's work an additional incentive, will significantly expand its interaction with the countries of the Global South and East, and will promote the dissemination of BRICS ideas and practices at the pan-African and regional levels.

Inter-parliamentary ties and cooperation between the ruling parties are actively developing. There are good prospects for expanding interregional ties. In close contact with the Ethiopian side, we are consistently improving the legal framework of our relations. We especially value the achieved trusting nature of the bilateral political dialogue with Addis Ababa at the highest level.

Regular meetings of our leaders – the President of the Russian Federation V.V.Putin and the Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Dr. Abiy Ahmed – are fundamental in this regard. Contacts between the foreign ministries of the two countries play an important role.

The potential of Russian-Ethiopian relations is enormous, and we will continue to make every effort to fully reveal it, bring trade, economic and investment cooperation between our countries to the proper level and further strengthen cooperation between the two countries.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my most sincere wishes to the people of Ethiopia. May 2017 be filled with fruitful events, brilliant achievements, success in all endeavors and bring peace, harmony and prosperity!

A year of expanding cooperation

BY JANDYR FERREIRA DOS SANTOS

(Ambassador of Brazil to Ethiopia)

As we usher in a new year, the Embassy of Brazil in Addis Ababa extends its warmest greetings to the Ethiopian people. Reflecting on the past year, we have numerous reasons to celebrate the deepening friendship between Brazil and Ethiopia and our significant strides towards shared prosperity.

A notable highlight was President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's state visit to Ethiopia last February. This visit symbolized the strengthening ties between our nations and underscored Brazil's recognition of Ethiopia's strategic importance on the global stage. President Lula's visit not only reinforced our bilateral relations but also highlighted Brazil's dedication to fostering closer



For many years, Brazil and Ethiopia have collaborated across various fields, including trade, investment, and development cooperation. A particularly promising area of future collaboration is in agriculture, in which we are set to expand our already existing engagement through technical cooperation projects aimed at boosting agricultural productivity and ensuring food security for our nations.

As we celebrate the Ethiopian new year, let it remind us of the opportunities and challenges ahead, and at the same time inspire us to continue working together, building bridges of friendship between our countries. May this New Year bring peace, happiness, and continued progress to Ethiopia and its people!

[Happy New Year. I wish the new year to be a year of peace, success, and prosperity.]

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cooperation and mutual support.

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We also take this opportunity to celebrate Ethiopia's recent accession to the BRICS and its commitment to contributing actively as a new member of this important international forum. This achievement is a shared victory for the government and people of Ethiopia, showcasing the country's growing influence and presenting substantial opportunities of collaboration between the members of the group.

Editorial

Let's embrace New Year with renewed commitment to making positive difference

Today, Ethiopians are celebrating the first day of their New Year, *Enkutatash*, warmly and colorfully.

They are celebrating *Enkutatash* with a positive vibe hoping that every New Year comes with new hope; and aspiring for the New Year, 2017 E.C, to be a new chapter their ambitions be realized,

In fact, despite some challenges, the concluded year was a time filled with several impressive achievements. Following the Home Grown Economic Reform program, significant achievements were witnessed across major economic areas, such as the agricultural, manufacturing, mining, and tourism sectors among others.

For instance, as Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed stated at the 28th regular session of the House of People's Representatives (HPR), held a month ago, the country has seen promising progress in various sectors. It has experienced a 14% increase in service exports; a 4.8% increase in remittance and a 10.5% increase in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) earnings. Likewise, the gap between exports and imports narrowed at the concluded year.

During the fiscal year, it was possible to register remarkable economic progress over a 7.9% economic growth in the concluded fiscal year.

Equally important, last year was a time that decisive steps were taken in the country. To mention a few, the scheme devised to increase wheat production through irrigation has yielded tangible returns. These days many of the barren lands that never produced wheat in their history, such as Semera, have started growing wheat supported by irrigation. This intervention, by lessening the challenges of the wheat deficit, has elevated the country's agriculture system to a higher level - to produce surplus products, substitute imports, and generate jobs.

The rice cultivation started by drawing lessons from the success story of wheat production, "YeLemat Tirufat" an initiative launched to ensure food sufficiency at the household level is also demonstrating encouraging progress.

2016 was also a historic year the 3rd and 4th turbines of the Abbay Hydroelectric Dams went operational and started power generation.

Most importantly, the Addis Ababa Corridor Development Project launched to change the face-lift of the capital Addis Ababa, and make it a livable and energetic city by upgrading its outdated drainage systems, and utility networks is compelling the city's dwellers and visitors raise eyebrows.

The most surprising thing is that the implementation of some of the projects such as the Piassa and Arat Kilo routes is being completed within the set timeframe, have shown how the government is committed to accomplishing projects with efficiency and how the working culture of the people changed for the better.

Irrefutably, the projects have transformed the city's planning, created a healthier and livable environment, enhanced its beauty, and laid the foundation for future prosperity.

However, the achievements were not gained without challenges; but with lots of drawbacks. Obstacles such as a shortage of foreign currency and conflicts in some parts of the country have restrained our efforts and challenged us not to work to our full potential and realize our goals.

Hopefully, the effective implementation of the National Dialogue and the Transitional Justice policy coupled with the recently launched comprehensive macroeconomic reform policy would resolve those challenges and brighten the future of Ethiopia.

And as we step into the New Year, we, Ethiopians, should renew our commitment, and hold the greatest promise to resolve our differences peacefully, sustain the ongoing development activities, and make this year both productive and fulfilling.

Diplomats' New Year's Wish



Message from Embassy of Israel in Honor of the Ethiopian New Year

BY TOMER BAR-LAVI

(Deputy Ambassador of the State of Israel to Ethiopia)

Ethiopia and Israel share a past, a present and a future. As two ancient civilizations that are now looking forward, our brotherly nations build off of a rich heritage and a strong identity, while constantly exploring new ways to continue developing and advancing.

Earlier this year, I was moved when at the official exhibition on Ethiopian diplomacy at the Ethiopian Science Museum, the two opening panels of the exhibition portrayed the first ever diplomatic delegation carried out by an Ethiopian leader to another country – the visit of the Queen of Sheba to King Solomon's court in Jerusalem.

The story of Solomon and Makeda represents just the beginning of an ongoing, deep and unbreakable connection between our two nations, which indeed continues to be fostered in our modern days.

The modern relationship between our two countries has grown and developed with time. Today, we have bilateral relations on the political, economic and cultural level. Israel and Ethiopia cooperate in fields spanning agriculture, healthcare, innovation, aviation, and more.

Recent years have seen a significant Israeli footprint on the agricultural sector in Ethiopia, whether through governmental cooperation or through NGO and private initiatives that implement advanced seed

technologies and propagation techniques, drip irrigation, and other innovative methods tailored to the Ethiopian environment.

The growing Ethiopian startup and innovation ecosystem is also a product of cooperation with Israel, as our experts work together in making Ethiopia another successful "Start-Up Nation".

In medicine, Israeli doctors and NGOs are working with their Ethiopian counterparts in joint training and treatment development for specialties as diverse as infectious disease prevention, cardiac surgery, ophthalmology, gastroenterology, trauma support, and neonatal treatment, among others.

Such initiatives between Israelis and Ethiopians in a wide variety of fields are leaving their positive mark on this country, while Ethiopian products such as sesame and coffee are flowing into Israel and enriching our lives.

Of course, we also have a true human and cultural bond through the more than 170-thousand-strong community of Beta Israel Ethiopian-Israelis who are an integral part of Israeli society. This community represents a modern bridge through which Israel can better understand and connect to today's Ethiopia, and vice versa.

As Ethiopian year 2016 ends and 2017 begins, Israel sends its best wishes to our friends in Ethiopia.

In the coming year, we pray for peace, prosperity, development, and for the continued strengthening of the bond between us.



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The Ethiopian Herald

New Year's Edition

Diplomats' New Year's Wish

A year to elevate economic, commercial ties

BY BERK BARAN

(Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union)

As the Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye here in Ethiopia, a beautiful country in East Africa, I'm excited to celebrate yet another new year. Our 128 years-long diplomatic relations and people-to-people relations dating further back approximately five centuries are concrete proofs of the strength of our friendship. It gives me great pleasure to enjoy the warm welcoming gestures of the Ethiopian people on the streets once they learn that I am the Turkish Ambassador. I have even met people who started practicing Turkish language, thanks to the Turkish TV series widely watched by the Ethiopians.

The year 2016 witnessed the further development of our countries' solid relations and cooperation in many areas. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of both Türkiye and Ethiopia have exchanged visits throughout the year only to further strengthen our existing cooperation. We

believe that these and consecutive high-level contacts in 2017 will provide us new bilateral horizons, within which we will be able to develop concrete projects to the benefit of two countries.

In this framework, we are ready to work on economic and commercial areas, where the current relations seem to be well below the potential. In addition, we would like to focus on culture and education. Concrete cooperation on these areas will help our peoples' get to know each other much closer. We happily see that every year, there is growing interest among the Ethiopian youths towards the Turkish Government's scholarship programs. Also, it gives us pride when we see that the graduates are becoming prominent figures in the Ethiopian society. We believe that, the establishment of a Turkish cultural center in Addis Ababa would crown our existing people-to-people relations.

Internally, we have watched how the Government of Ethiopia continued to successfully address the national and regional challenges. We have also observed how Addis Ababa, the "New



Flower" has been beautified in a very quick span of time.

With this understanding, we wish 2017 brings the much-deserved peace, stability

and welfare to the brotherly people of Ethiopia.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! MELKAM ADDIS AMET!

A year to nurture budding ties

BY ATIF SHARIF MIAN

(Pakistani Ambassador to Ethiopia)

Let me first wish a happy and prosperous Ethiopian New Year to all the readership of the esteemed *The Ethiopian Herald* readers.

Pakistan and Ethiopia enjoy cordial and friendly relations based on mutual respect, cultural similarities, growing economic ties, and cooperation at international fora.

My country attaches high importance to its relations with Ethiopia in recognition of Ethiopia's geo-economic importance and its role as a gateway to Africa in line with Pakistan's Engage Africa Policy. The Ethiopian leadership also espouses closer relations with Pakistan in diverse fields for mutual benefit as evidenced by opening of Ethiopian Embassy in Islamabad in 2022 amidst an austerity drive.

The launching of the Ethiopian Airlines flight from Addis Ababa to Karachi in May 2023 was another important initiative to inject vitality into bilateral relations of the two sides. Ethiopian Airlines is vying to expand its flight operations and add new



destinations such as Lahore.

Pakistan established its diplomatic mission in Ethiopia in 1973 following the official visit of then-President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. The Mission was closed in 1979 but has been functional since 2008. The leaders of both countries have been meeting on the sidelines of international conferences.

During the last two years, several Ministerial delegations from Ethiopia visited Pakistan to promote political and trade relations. Both countries are working on establishing institutional mechanisms

of cooperation, particularly Bilateral Political Consultations.

Both countries cooperate at multilateral fora to address common challenges as well as support each other's candidatures. Ethiopia supported Pakistan at recent elections for non-permanent seat of UN Security Council while Pakistan supported Ethiopia for election of DG UNIDO in 2022 and at Human Rights Council in 2021.

Efforts are being made on both sides to cultivate closer defense ties to promote cooperation in training, knowledge sharing, counterterrorism, and defense production.

Trade and investment cooperation are the lifeblood and most important plank of Pakistan-Ethiopia cooperation. In 2023, Ethiopia's exports to Pakistan, mainly soyabean, jumped by 116% to USD 36 million while Pakistan's exports to Ethiopia rose 46 % to USD 47 million.

Both countries hold immense potential for trade in agro-machinery, food processing, pharma/surgical, construction materials, textile, machinery, chemicals and services sectors including tourism, aviation,

education, healthcare, and information technology.

Pakistan and Ethiopia signed a Bilateral Trade Agreement in Feb 2023 to augment bilateral trade. A Joint Trade Committee, under BTA, would hold inaugural round soon.

A flurry of two-way visits by business people is being witnessed which alludes to the business communities' growing interest in respective markets. 80 Pakistani investors/traders visited Ethiopia in May 2024 while 50 Ethiopian business people attended a Business Forum in Pakistan in May 2023 coinciding with the maiden flight from Addis to Karachi. Ethiopian traders regularly participate in the major annual exhibitions held in Pakistan. Pakistani investors have invested in textiles, halal meat, and SMEs in Ethiopia.

While the Pakistan-Ethiopia relationship is in a budding stage, the verdant saplings of cooperation harbinger a bright future. However, to fully nurture the relationship to its true potential, sustained efforts and leadership support are required on both sides.

*New Year's Edition***Diplomats' New Year's Wish****A year to expand, deepen long-existing ties**

BY SHIBATA HIRONORI

(Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia)

On Ethiopian New Year's Day, I would like to send my best wishes for a peaceful and prosperous *Addis Amet* for all the people in Ethiopia, on behalf of the Government and people of Japan.

As the Ambassador of Japan to Ethiopia, I always keep in mind my two primary missions. One is to further expand and deepen the longtime cordial relationship, in a wide range of areas such as political, economic, cultural and people to people exchanges etc., between our two countries. The other is to support the peace and prosperity of Ethiopia. I have done some works since the presentation of my credentials to H.E. Sahle-Work Zewde, President of Ethiopia, in March, and I will intensify my efforts in this New Year to address these missions. I would like to work closely together, for a brighter and more prosperous future, with the Government, private companies and people of Ethiopia, as well as with the international community.

Regarding the enhancement of our bilateral relations let me underline two crucial elements here: high level officials' exchanges and private business, in particular Japan's investment in this country. I hope that we can see much progress and more achievements in this



New Year.

First, the exchange of visits by high-ranking officials is extremely important for widening and deepening our bilateral ties and understanding. From the Japanese side, in August of last year, former Foreign Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa visited Addis Ababa, had a working lunch with Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and held a meeting with former Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen. In July of this year, two groups of Japanese Members of Parliament visited Ethiopia and had discussions regarding our cooperation in the fields of education and health.

From the Ethiopian side, Ambassador Mesganu Arga, State Minister of Foreign Affairs, has already visited Japan twice this year. Ambassador Mesganu held

policy dialogues with our State Minister Tsuji Kiyoto to widen and deepen our relations, in addition to having significant discussions with several private Japanese companies in April. He also took part in the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) Ministerial Meeting this August. Also, in April, Prof. Birhanu Nega, the Ethiopian Minister of Education, visited Japan, and exchanged views with top-level universities' officials, as well as Japanese Government and JICA representatives, in the educational cooperation field.

I hope that these meaningful exchanges will evolve into many more higher level mutual visits among ministers, which will then eventually lead to summit-level visits, in particular towards the TICAD9 summit meeting, which Japan will host in August 2025.

Secondly, concerning investment, many private Japanese companies are strongly interested in making new investments in this country. Ethiopia has huge potential with a population of 120 million, the largest economic scale in East Africa, constant economic growth, etc. I would like to encourage Japanese companies to invest in Ethiopia, believing that Japanese investment is beneficial to both Japan and Ethiopia. At the same time, I would like to point out that cooperation by both the Ethiopian government and private sector are also necessary in order to achieve this goal. It is important that ongoing existing large-

scale investments by some large Japanese companies are appropriately and properly treated. Many other Japanese companies are carefully observing the experiences and treatment of these companies. This is also the case with Japanese SMEs and start-ups.

In addition, I strongly expect that the new Macroeconomic Reforms by the Ethiopian Government will lead to a further drastic improvement of the business environment for foreign companies in this country, and hope the reform programs move forward smoothly in the New Year.

With regard to our support for the peace and prosperity of Ethiopia, Japan has been helping to address humanitarian and development challenges throughout the country over the past decades. Japan will continue and enhance its support for the peace and prosperity of Ethiopia.

In recent years, we have also engaged in supporting DDR, National Dialogue, and Transitional Justice and the recovery and rehabilitation of the northern part of the country. Japan has provided approximately USD 17 million for DDR, National Dialogue and related humanitarian assistance.

In closing, I hope again that our two countries relations become deeper and tighter in this New Year. As well, let me take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the people of Ethiopia for kindly welcoming the Japanese community in Ethiopia. *Melkam Addis Amet.*

New Year's Edition

Engicha, baptism: yearly Puagumen bounties

BY MEKDES TAYE (PhD)

Ethiopia is a unique country that has its own calendar in the world. As per its astronomical dating system, it had 13 months which could entail 5 days and or 6 days within four years variation. This thirteen month is considered the most unique month when people engage in lots of cultural and religious activities. In the northwestern and eastern parts of the country, this month conjures in mind various deeds and circumstances. For evidenced information, Herald was having a precise interview with Mintamir Lingerrh who is a lecturer and researcher at Debre Markos University. She had been conducting various researches on the cultural and religious practices of the people around the mentioned area for the last five years. Here are the basic incidents that have been annually done at Puagumen, the thirteenth month's terminology.

The cultural activities in this month mainly emanate from the story of Noah which is mentioned in Holy Bible and Holy Quran. Since the universe was characterized by sin and violence, God was planning to show His grievance by destroying the earth with flood. "I will destroy from the earth the people I have created. And with them, the animals, birds, and creeping things" (Genesis 6:5-7). The same warning of God is also found in Holy Quran. "Warn your people before there comes upon them a grievous penalty." (Holy Quran, 71:1).

As the two Holy books affirmed God found Noah as the only righteous person from other people. Then he gave him a message. Noah was ordered to make an ark. The Holy Bible reads as follows, "I will establish My covenant with you; you will go into the ark with your wife, your sons, and their wives." (Genesis 6:8-10, 18). Holy Quran also said God's command as, "Construct the ark within our sight and under our guidance. Then when comes our command, and the fountains of the earth gush forth, take on board pairs of every specious, male and female and your people." (Holy Quran 23:27). Then Noah builds an ark.

God ordered Noah the following, "Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and his mate, and a pair of animals ...seven pair of birds male and female to keep their offspring alive on the face of all the earth." (Genesis 7: 2-3, ESV). Then Noah took his family and representative animals with their mate from every species into the ark since the earth was covered by flood.

The water flooded the earth for one hundred and fifty days. Then God remembered Noah and the animals on the ark. The water moves away and the ark came to rest on the mountain of Ararat. Then Noah sent a dove to check the earth. But the dove was not finding a place for rest. This means the flood was still there. After seven days Noah



sent the dove again. At this time, it came back with a dry leaf. He sees that the earth is dry.

In Puagumen, which is the bridge from the rainy season to the brighter dry season, the practices are logically interrelated with this gist. As Mintamir said it, since the first day of Puagumen till the New Year, girls who are not more than 15 years of age start to collect the type grass called wheat grass locally known as 'Engicha'. This grass is different from other types since it didn't bloom. It is cut before flowering. As the scholar said, this is a symbol that signifies the virginity of the girls. Again, this grass is the symbol that recalls the dry leaf of the dove that was brought to Noah to indicate the end of the flood and the arrival of the brightest future. The summer season, the cloudy and darkest times are going to end and the dry season, the lighter age, hopeful times are going to happen. It echoes the seasonal change and human beings' good fortunes.

As Mintamir said it based on her study on the issue, the girls are symbols of the dove. The dove is naturally peaceful, soft, attractive, and blessed. Thus likewise virgin girls resemble the nature of the bird. Thus the symbol recalls the story of Noah.

Girls collect this grass for five or six days, and they tie them together and put flowers on each tie. Then in the early morning of the New Year, they distribute it to everybody saying that "Happy New Year, Enkutatash." The cultural reward that is expected from the receivers of this tided grass is heartfelt gratitude by elders. But these things are changed to money.

On the other hand boys draw pictures that show the happiest future and give it to the nearby people saying, "Happy New Year." This was done by every religious follower since the story is commonly told in the Holy books. Ato Hamid who is a lecturer at Addis Ababa University Building Campus confirmed that these practices have been done with every boy and girl though there seems a bit variation in the magnitude.

In other areas like Addis Ababa, it is young boys who draw a pleasing picture and send welcoming wishes to people. The usual returns from receivers are money. Girls in this city form a group which could be made by their interrelationship. Then they took a drum with them and run to people by singing and dancing melodies songs that are about the New Year. The gift for them is also money. The usual song is called "Ababa Ayeosh...Lemlem."

The other basic practice that characterizes the month is baptism. Mintamir said that, in the culture and religion of the people in the area, it is believed that during Puagumen, the seven skies are going to be open for dropping blessed water that could avoid the body dirt and the soul dirt that is the sin of human beings. Thus, two very common things are done in the days of the month.

The first thing is everyone should wash all the clothes even the clean ones. This is done because the water in these days of the month is believed as a holy water. Thus, for becoming clean from dirt that did also mean any type of disease, mental disorder, or any spiritual unrest is going to cure after washing all the clothes. Thus, girls are going to rivers

and wash clothes massively.

The second dominant event which is well celebrated in almost all parts of the country is baptism. Since the first day of the month all members of the family are expected to get baptized in the early morning. The implication is primarily to find the forgiveness of God since the water is a blessed one. It is also believed that the sins of human beings are going to be canceled with this baptism. As it is mentioned above, the reason of Gods penalty is the wrong deeds of the people. Thus for representing these people and to show a regret on those sins, people head to the streams for finding the mercy of God.

The second thing is the practice is believed to free the people from all the worsening tragedies faced in the passing year and to get a fresh body and mind for the coming New Year.

Thirdly, it is the moment for the people to pray for God to bless the coming year and to get washed of all the bad things of the last year. Thus, it is a transitional time from bad to good time. The hopes and all the good wells are promised in front of God with this baptism.

The thirteen months of Ethiopia are culturally and religiously perceived as the month of a bridge that transcends to a better life and good destiny. Thus, this culture and belief is very relevant and is an opportunity to build necessary values and perceptions to be equally charming for human beings across the country, the continent and the universe too. Ethiopia has deep and unique cultural practices that others can learn from.

Happy New Year.

Opportunity to keep steady economic progress

BY MENGESHA AMARE

With over 120 million populations, Ethiopia is the second most populous nation in the African continent next to Nigeria, and one of the fastest-growing economies in the region. However, it has also remained one of the least developed nations of the world, and it has now advancing towards growth and prosperity thereby being middle-income nation within the shortest time possible.

The country's strong growth rate is built on a longer-term record of growth over the past 15 years where the country's economy grew at an average of nearly 10% a year, one of the highest rates in the world.

The government launched a 10-Year Development Plan, based on its 2019 Home-Grown Economic Reform Agenda, which runs from 2020/21 to 2029/30. The plan aims at sustaining the high growth achieved under the Growth and Transformation Plans of the previous decade while facilitating the shift towards a more private-sector-driven economy.

The plan would foster efficiency and introduce competition in key growth-enabling sectors like energy, logistics, and telecom, improve the business climate, and address macroeconomic imbalances. The government of Ethiopia is taking proactive measures to ensure millions of Ethiopians secure employment opportunities both locally and overseas via bolstering the economic progress. The government has also facilitated job placements for too many citizens, including workers who found employment abroad. Following the right national strategy, the nation could harness all its resources and societal progress to meet employment goals and stimulate economic growth.

According to the Ministry of Planning and Development, Ethiopia's economy is expected to grow by 8.3 percent in the new 2024/5 Ethiopian fiscal year set to begin as of July 8, 2024 (Hamle 1, 2016). It is well known that Ethiopia has been ranked the 5th among African countries with largest economies in 2024.

The Ethiopian government has announced that the country's economy is on track to achieve a projected 7.9% growth rate for the Ethiopian 2023/2024 fiscal year. Well, Ethiopia's strong growth rate builds on a longer-term record of growth over the past 15 years where the country's economy grew at an average of nearly 10% a year, one of the highest rates in the world. Among other factors, growth was led by capital accumulation, in particular through public infrastructure investments.

The consistently high economic growth over the last decade resulted in positive trends in poverty reduction in both urban and rural areas. It also aims to foster efficiency and introduce competition in key growth-enabling sectors such as energy, logistics, and telecom, improve the business climate, and address macroeconomic imbalances. As learnt from the government, the country has vast untapped potential to generate jobs through outsourcing but stressed the need for a strategic approach to fully realize all its potential.

New Year, New Hope

Ethiopia seeks to chart a development path that is sustainable and inclusive in order to accelerate poverty reduction and boost shared



prosperity. Significant progress in job creation, as well as improved governance, will be needed to ensure that growth is equitable across society. Achieving these objectives will require addressing key challenges which includes addressing macroeconomic distortions that constrain private sector development, structural transformation, and generation of jobs.

Addressing food insecurity, which is growing due to adverse weather events, conflict, and global conditions leading to high inflation of food prices has been the big assignment of the government to be gradually deal with as frequent severe weather events alongside long-term impacts of climate change undermine agriculture and pastoral livelihoods as well as food security.

As the rapid growth of population and economy leads to a further increase in demand for water resources, the country needs to combine efforts here and there. The contradiction between supply and demand of water resources has become the main bottleneck restricting sustainable development of a regional social economy.

The green economy is a way of realizing that development at the national, regional and global level and that is relevant to all economies, be they are state or more market-led.

Similarly, through resource substitution and efficiency, production can be maintained with a decrease in resource use. While water is often a renewable resource except in the case of fossil stores not replenished under present climate regimes, diversion of water from the environment above certain levels leads to negative environmental impacts in terms of both reduced volumes and quality.

Similarly social and economic costs that would normally be unacceptable will be implemented under these conditions of balancing social, economic and environmental priorities. As such, this 'politically optimal' balance is made up of individually sub-optimal elements.

These technologies and approaches have traditionally been used to maintain social and economic outcomes and growth facilitate growth under the circumstances of withdrawing blue water from production under a peak scenario. Due to conjunctive use of blue and green water, and utilization of efficiency developments, there is no reason why potential economic or social gains should be sacrificed when compared to the blue water pathway traditionally perused. Rather, there should be an environmental gain compared to the peak development pathway, due to blue water diversions being lower and consequently less environmental degradation.

The shift towards green economy through the sustainable intensification of agricultural production progresses through three main avenues. True, increasing water use efficiency in both rain-fed and irrigated agriculture through integrated land and water management, water harvesting, and conjunctive development of green economy.

Besides, the promotion of institutional reforms that enable the adaptation and operation of green economy instruments. It is important to emphasize that there is no one-size-fits-all solution to promote greener economies. The adoption and mix of strategies must be tailored and targeted to specific political, social, economic and environmental circumstances.

In recognition of the difficulties in shifting

towards full cost recovery, the concept of 'sustainable cost recovery' has been put forward. Creating a green economy for water is visualized as a shift from mobilizing inputs as a means to maximizing outputs, towards optimizing appropriate multiple inputs and instruments (blue and green water, soil and crop management) to maximize outputs. This transition can be economically incentivized through accounting for the multiple value streams of the natural resources to boost economic growth.

Institutional reform should be regarded as a key component in creating a green economy. However, such reform is politically mediated, and needs to be conducted with the same attention to optimality and sustainability inherent in other areas of the sustainable economy.

Alemayehu Kumera, an economist said, "Since water resource is also a kind of comprehensive natural resources, which has a variety of use values and can supply with the water needs for many sections, which involves economy, resource, science and technology, ecosystem and environment, it has to be given due emphasis for economic progress."

As to him, sustainable utilization is a better form for the water resources would be of paramount importance in boosting economic, social and ecological benefit and may improve the economic, social and ecological environment so that the limited water resources can maximize its function.

"Ethiopia's Economy has registered better performance in key growth sectors over the years despite internal and external predicaments those need to be addressed well. Yes, as to the information gained from the government, Ethiopia's successive economic growth is showing better performance when compared with several other countries," he added.

The Ethiopian government has announced its ambitious plan to create a number of jobs, both domestically and abroad. Such a bold move is part of a broader strategy aimed at tackling unemployment, which remains a significant challenge in the country.

These are especially visible in agriculture where, with the support of reforms, Ethiopia can potentially shift from being a net importer of agricultural commodities to generating sizable surpluses of as much apart from quenching its populations' thirst, he underlined.

In sum, Ethiopia seeks to chart a development path that is sustainable and inclusive in order to accelerate poverty reduction and boost shared prosperity. Significant progress in job creation, as well as improved governance, will be needed to ensure that growth is equitable across society.

Achieving these objectives will require addressing key challenges including addressing macroeconomic distortions that constrain private sector development; structural transformation, and generation of jobs, reducing the incidence of conflict that has been having a substantial impact on lives, livelihoods, and infrastructure; tackling urban employment levels which have not recovered fully; addressing food insecurity which is growing due to adverse weather events; locust invasion, conflict, and global conditions leading to high inflation of food prices. Besides, generating good jobs as improving current jobs and creating new ones help boost the economic progress of the nation.

New Year's Edition



Transition to a new year with new trends of environmental protection

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Today is Ethiopians transition to a new year, 2017. As they welcome the New Year they do not only start a new number but also move from an old, difficult season to a new favorable weather which is the spring season. This has been the reality for centuries as the calendar keeps on counting the days the seasons appear on their usual sequence. But this year seems to have come with a new trend that enables the people to transition from not only season to season but from the traditional life style that damages the natural environment to a one that nurtures and protects it.

Throughout the rainy summer season, Ethiopians have been busy planting tree seedlings in billions under the Green Legacy Initiative.

For the last 6 years, the people across the nation have transplanted about 40 billion seedlings. This plays a significant role in protecting the environment and the ecosystem there by preventing the impacts of climate change like flooding, drought and other natural disasters.

Ethiopia has traditionally experienced a variety of natural catastrophes, including droughts, floods, and landslides, all of which have a substantial impact on agriculture and livelihoods. Several natural disasters occurred in Ethiopia during 2016. The extent of the floods' impact, including relocation and destruction of public infrastructure and crops, was well observed.

According to the IOM Ethiopia Crisis Response Plan 2024, Ethiopia is still dealing with many humanitarian emergencies caused by climate change, disease outbreaks, and high commodity and food prices as a result of inflation, conflict, and violence in several regions influenced by the neighboring Sudan conflict.

Ethiopia has been observing La Niña-induced droughts for decades and continues to do so. Ethiopia is at risk in terms of hazard and

exposure, susceptibility, and coping capability due to rising temperatures, variable rainfall and unpredictability of seasonal rain, increased drought occurrences, and other severe events. Furthermore, the extended drought has had a significant impact on pastoralist and agropastoralist groups, disrupting their customary seasonal movement patterns.

The most significant issue here is what were the challenges and successes of Ethiopia's 2016 year? What are the projected outcomes of these problems for the upcoming 2017 Ethiopian year?

Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission Commissioner Ambassador Shiferaw Teklemariam told The Ethiopian Herald: "As we begin the new year of 2017, there are so many positive and unpleasant memories from 2016. However, it is time to make the decision to go on with a fresh perspective for the upcoming year. In particular, we should take three key steps to decrease risk and risk-related activities."

First and foremost, the year should be one in which we can build our reputation for humanity, maintain our culture of mutual assistance, and demonstrate our collective support for our residents. This signifies that Ethiopians should maintain their humanity regardless of circumstances. Second, we must establish our peace. Making peace enables more effective development efforts and assistance for people in need. As a result, the development of peace enables more thorough work. The third goal is to ensure sustainable development. Building peace may assure long-term growth while also providing support and assistance to those in need.

He also added that dependency and seeking assistance should be another and most critical thing we should eliminate from our country for the next Ethiopian New Year in 2017. The government considers reliance to be an act that diminishes the country's honor and human dignity. So, in 2017, it is critical to recognize that dependency is a major issue and an evil activity.

As a result, the coming year should be one in which we resolve to stand on our own two feet and stop relying on others. As a result, the year should be one in which everyone strives to be the finest version of himself or herself and an era in which we join with a common goal and vision to improve our country, he noted.

Although man-made issues can be minimized, natural disasters cannot be controlled or avoided entirely. So, when an occurrence affects someone or an area, it is critical to aid one another. Furthermore, the government has directed that each region prepares for and builds the ability to deal with natural catastrophes on its own. Furthermore, it should be a year for Ethiopians both at home and abroad to prepare for understanding and solidarity in the face of natural disasters. It should be a year in which we work to assure food security and aid for drought-prone areas, he explained.

In reality, in the 2016 Ethiopian calendar, Ethiopia had a number of both man-made and natural calamities that had a substantial influence on its people and development. Droughts are common across the country, especially in the east and south. Droughts can cause food and water shortages for millions of people. The extreme drought in 2015-2016, worsened by El Niño, caused a humanitarian disaster.

Landslides were also an issue in 2016. For example, heavy rains cause flooding and landslides in various sections of the country. In Ethiopia, landslides pose a serious geological risk, particularly in steep and hilly locations. They can be caused by a number of events, including high rainfall, deforestation, soil erosion, and seismic activity.

This has an influence on the number of deaths and injuries. Landslides can result in fatalities and injuries, especially in rural regions where villages are located on or near unstable slopes. It also ruins houses and infrastructure, displacing families and towns. The loss of roads, bridges, and agricultural land can have long-term economic consequences, affecting

livelihoods and market access.

Hence, it is important to take mitigation measures in the coming 2017. It is especially important to continue the already reforestation tasks because promoting tree planting and reforestation can help stabilize soil and reduce the risk of landslides. Furthermore, it is important to apply sustainable agricultural practices, such as terracing and contour farming, which can help reduce soil erosion.

Currently, the government is providing up-to-date information to boost early warning systems and reduce natural disasters. As a result, building early warning systems for heavy rainfall can aid communities in preparing for probable landslides.

According to him, however, climate change and environmental-related challenges are the primary causes of natural disasters but in 2016, the country gained experience in environmental care and protection. The Green Legacy initiative program, initiated by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, has produced positive and encouraging outcomes.

In addition to the saplings planted each year, Ethiopia intended to plant 600 million tree seedlings in a single day, planting around 615 million saplings. This shows that if we work together, we can change the mindset and environment of consumerism. Therefore, we should take care of our environment in 2017.

Addressing the challenges posed by both natural and man-made problems in Ethiopia requires a multifaceted approach that includes conflict resolution, sustainable development techniques, and adequate disaster response strategies. As a result, "I wish that everyone learns that the environment is everything and cares for the seedlings planted in 2017, where we improve environmental and soil conservation activities. It is also necessary to improve the outcomes of the green legacy initiative. Besides, stakeholders also should support the government of Ethiopia to make those people who need help for various reasons be independent and self-reliant, not dependent.