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Ethiopia warns against external forces 'ammunitions supply to Somalia

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopian Foreign Affairs Minister Taye Astke Selassie has expressed his concern that supply of ammunitions by external forces would further exacerbate the fragile security and would end up in the hands of terrorists in Somalia.

Foreign Minister Taye and Rosemary Decarlo, Under Secretary General for Peace building and Political Affairs of the United Nations met on Monday in New York on the margins of the 79th session of the UNGA to discuss issues of common concern.

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UN Security Council: Africa deserves full veto power

BY HAILE DEMEKE

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) the most potent body in charge of ensuring global peace and security has recently made big announcement to include two African countries to have permanent seat.

The UNSC which currently consists of five permanent members with veto powers and 10

non-permanent members representative of the diverse regions of the world is being criticized because of lack of credibility.

Apart from those five countries the latter group does not possess veto powers. The council having the highest power including passing binding resolutions on member states, ability to impose sanction, authorize use of force against countries and others lack credibility.

Since its establishment the council is being criticized because of lack of inclusivity and the credibility of the Security Council has been steadily eroding.

Recently, the U.S. declared major announcement through its Ambassador to the United Nations (UN), Linda Thomas-Greenfield.

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China praises Ethiopia's key role in regional, African affairs

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA - Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi commended the key role Ethiopia plays in regional as well as African affairs.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, Taye Atske Selassie held talks with his Chinese Foreign Affairs Minister Wang Yi, on the margins of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on 23 September 2024.

See China praises...page 3

Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia tightening ties

• Mark 94th Saudi Nat'l Day

BY BILAL DERSO

ADDIS ABABA -Ethiopia and Saudi Arabia have expressed their desire to further strengthen the deep-rooted diplomatic and economic ties, which have flourished for over 70 years.

Recognizing Saudi Arabia's pivotal role as a major trading partner and a key source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Ethiopia reaffirmed its commitment to enhancing this partnership during the celebration of the 94th National Day of the Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Monday.

Speaking at the event, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Middle East, Asian, and Pacific Affairs Director General Ambassador Negus Kebede highlighted the historical bond between the two

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News

Australian Embassy boosts support for vulnerable communities

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA- The Australian Embassy has reaffirmed its commitment to enhancing inclusive economic development and sustainable growth for vulnerable communities in Ethiopia.

Second Secretary Evan J Clifford made the statement during a half-day visit organized by KYEEMA Foundation, focused on improving the livelihoods of women and people with disabilities through family poultry initiatives.

In his speech, Clifford emphasized that Australia will continue supporting small grant livelihood projects aimed at helping marginalized groups improve their future. He stressed the importance of community-led solutions in driving significant benefits for low-income populations in Ethiopia.

KYEEMA Foundation's Country Director, Tadiwos Habte (PhD), revealed that the Australian Development Aid Program (Dap Project) had allocated 25,000 USD (1.2 million Birr) to support poultry-based livelihoods, aligning with the Ethiopian government's *Yelemat Terufat* initiative. The program enhances poultry technologies, including chicken breeds, feed, and health management, to



improve the income of vulnerable groups.

Currently, 17 households are benefiting from this initiative, with support from the Australian Embassy and KYEEMA. Despite the success, Tadiwos mentioned challenges such as a lack of community awareness and rising chicken feed costs, which hinder progress.

Beneficiaries have received training in poultry management, health practices, bookkeeping, and market strategies, empowering them to improve their livelihoods. The beneficiaries

acknowledged the positive impact of the program and called for further support to expand their work for a brighter future.

Australia has been a long-standing development partner of Ethiopia, providing support in various sectors, including education, health, agriculture, and economic development. The Australian Development Aid Program (ADAP) has implemented numerous projects aimed at improving the livelihoods of vulnerable communities in Ethiopia.

Livestock exporters optimistic as Ethiopia launches railway cargo

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA- The launch of Ethiopia's first livestock export cargo transportation service by railway has sparked optimism among the country's legal livestock exporters, according to the Livestock Exporters Association.

The Association Deputy Chairperson Dina Gezahegn highlighted that the government's recent macroeconomic reforms have weakened illegal traders, allowing legal exporters to resume normal operations. The new railway cargo service, Dina said, presents a "double opportunity" for the sector.

In recent years, illegal trading had severely undermined the livestock export industry, with many exporters losing hope. However, Dina noted that the ongoing policy reforms, especially in the currency regime, are gradually helping to revive the sector. The narrowing gap between parallel market and official foreign exchange rates is making it harder for contraband traders to dominate,

while legal exporters are beginning to see improvements in their performance.

Although progress is slow, Dina remains hopeful that further reforms will boost legal livestock trading. He also pointed out that livestock exports have not traditionally been a significant part of Ethiopia's export portfolio, largely due to a lack of coordination between exporters and the government. However, the government's efforts to diversify export income sources suggest that the livestock sector will receive more attention moving forward.

The association is actively supporting its members, advocating for financial support from government institutions and banks. Dina emphasized the need for banks to prioritize livestock exporters as they do for coffee exporters, arguing that the livestock sector can be equally profitable and reliable.

The combination of macroeconomic reforms and the new cargo service marks a turning point for the livestock export sector, providing hope after a decade of dominance by illegal traders.



PPP underpins metropolis' housing dev't efforts

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA - The Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) arrangements has been contributing to fill housing demand and supply gaps in Addis Ababa City.

The Addis Ababa City Administration made several attempts to organize house seekers into cooperatives and allocate land for them. An agreement was reached with real estate developers, whereby developers were granted land in exchange for directly providing 30 percent of the housing units they constructed to the city administration.

In addition to this, several housing developers have been constructing and transferring houses. The government has been creating an enabling environment for private sectors to undertake sustainable and inclusive housing development.

Recently, the Ministry of Urban and Infrastructure (MoUI) Housing Development Lead Executive Officer, Tsegaye Moshie said that the organization revised housing development strategy to shift from government to private oriented in order to benefit the middle and small income community. The government has given serious attention to approaching houses designed for rent, which is alternative to reduce housing challenges.

Various housing companies have been constructing and transferring houses to house seekers. Among them, Hill Bottom properties (Real Estate) has recently transferred finished luxury houses or apartments to owners that constructed around Ayat square.

Speaking at the occasion, the Hill Bottom Real Estate CEO Dagmawi Tadesse said that these apartments or luxury houses contain Gym, swimming pool, parking, tennis field and other facilities.

It has finalized preparations to commence the construction of unique luxury apartments in the heart of Kazanchis, he added.

Furthermore, the special participation of private sectors in building houses would contribute in reducing government's cost and promotes sharing knowledge, experience, and technology in the housing sector in the future, he noted.

News

Public holidays raise Ethiopia's global image

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA- Public holidays celebrated in September are contributing to promoting Ethiopia's image to the world, according to Ayalew Sisay, a Senior Tourism Expert.

Approached by the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Sisay noted that holidays like Meskel, Irreechaa, and various ethnic New Year celebrations showcase the

country's rich cultural diversity. These gatherings serve to strengthen bonds among Ethiopians and promote their unique traditions.

Since Meskel was inscribed on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List, it has attracted numerous tourists annually. The expert emphasized the need to further promote other public holidays to achieve global recognition, which can contribute to job creation, foreign exchange earnings, and the promotion of

natural and man-made heritages.

He urged tourist service delivery institutions to prepare themselves to offer high-quality services to both local and international visitors. Additionally, collaborating with concerned bodies is essential to celebrate these holidays in a manner that glorifies their religious and traditional values.

To strengthen the tourism sector and increase its economic benefits, Sisay stressed the importance of individual responsibility. By promoting these holidays

and ensuring a positive experience for visitors, everyone can contribute to Ethiopia's global image and economic growth.

Ethiopia, a country known for its diverse landscapes, ancient history, and unique culture, has been increasingly focusing on promoting tourism as a key economic sector. The country boasts numerous UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including Lalibela's rock-cut churches, Axum's ancient city, and the Omo Valley's diverse ethnic groups.

UN Security Council:...

Accordingly, the U.S. proposed two African countries to have permanent seat at the UNSC without veto power.

Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA) Researcher Shimellis Hailu told *The Ethiopian Herald* that for the past many years Africans have been demanding permanent seats in the Security Council, the most powerful body in the UN; however the effort to reform the council has been fruitless.

"The primary objective of the organization is to ensure collective security involving all countries across the world."

The recent proposal to include two African countries to have permanent seat at the UNSC is commendable. But the proposal by the U.S. still lacks granting Africa countries to have veto power which is making the Security Council unfair, he stated.

He further stated that the proposal is commendable and Africa needs to have full right just like the other five permanent members. The two African countries must have veto power. "Abandoning veto power means they decide on African issues without African voice which is blatant disrespect and diplomatic failure. Accordingly it's unfair to decide on African issues on behalf of Africans.

Therefore, The AU needs to have clear stance on the issue and push for Africans to have veto power at the council. It is unfair for Africans have permanent seat at the Security Council without veto power which lacks fairness and further erodes credibility of the council, he noted.

Shimellis further stated that being a permanent member of the

UNSC without veto power is just being observer in your own issue without having a say.

Commending the proposal by the U.S., he said that the Security Council needs to grant Africa a veto power unless it's worthless for Africans making Africa an observer in African issue. The UN needs to live up to its name and needs to be common platforms so as to ensure global inclusiveness.

Speaking at the recent UN Summit held in New York, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia Ambassador Taye Atske Selassie called on the UN Security Council to carry out its functions and preserve its authority and to respond to the quest for representation by Africa. Africa is the only regional group with no permanent seat in the UNSC. This is the missing puzzle piece of multilateralism and collective security. The reform of UNSC should address years of dashed hopes and aspirations for equality, he stated.

Commenting on the U.S. Proposal Former African Union Ambassador to the U.S. Arikana Chihombori said that it is a step in the right direction but if Africa is going to become a permanent member of the UNSC they must have full right just like the other five permanent members which means they must have veto power. "Inviting Africa to the table and then asking them to remain mute is an insult to African leaders and peoples."

The U.S. must push for Africans to take the issue to the finish line. Africa must have two permanent seats at the UNSC with full veto power, nothing less is acceptable. The UN is not only about five countries and it's so unfair, she stressed.

China...

During their bilateral talks, Foreign Minister Taye, mentioning the fact that Ethiopia and China enjoy longstanding diplomatic relations founded on strong historical ties stated the recent signing of key agreements during the 4th FOCAC Summit in Beijing help to immensely bolster the multifaceted ties. Noting FOCAC Summit as a resounding success, Taye said, the Summit is pivotal in further enhancing not only China-Africa ties but also the strategic partnership between Ethiopia and China.

On his part, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi commended the key role Ethiopia plays in regional as well as African affairs and stressed the continued significance of the "All Weather Strategic Partnership" agreement between the two countries to anchor cooperation in several fields.

He informed Ethiopian Foreign Minister Taye of his country's firm commitment to implementing the economic cooperation projects and the tax-exempt market opportunities as a result of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's visit to China during the 4th FOCAC Summit.

In addition to bilateral matters, Taye also briefed Foreign Minister Yi on regional peace and security in the Horn of Africa (HoA). They also exchanged views on ways of enhancing cooperation in BRICS and various international fora between Ethiopia and China.

Ethiopia...

Ambassador Taye appreciated the strong working relations that Ethiopia enjoys with the various UN agencies working in Ethiopia and noted the importance of having regular consultation on local and regional issues.

The Minister briefed the USG on Sudan, particularly underlining on the need for coordinated efforts to bring about peace to the country. He further noted that Ethiopia has been advocating for political solution to the ongoing crisis in Sudan.

On Somalia, the Minister, highlighted Ethiopia's continued efforts in fighting terrorism and stressed that any post ATMIS arrangement should be decided after taking the necessary time to deliberate on all aspects of the mission, including its mandate, size, financing and coordination.

Taye also expressed his concern that supply of ammunitions by external forces would further exacerbate the fragile security and would end up in the hands of terrorists, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Rosemary Decarlo, Undersecretary General for Peace building and Political Affairs, on her part reaffirmed the UN'S continued commitment to work with Ethiopia on peace building issues of the region and beyond.

Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia tightening...

nations. He recalled Ethiopia's welcoming of the early followers of Prophet Muhammad, a gesture that cemented the brotherly relationship symbolized by the Nejashi Mosque. This connection, he noted, continues to thrive through mutual respect, shared values, and a common vision for prosperity.

Ambassador Negus mentioned the growing economic relationship between the two countries, noting that Saudi investments have been instrumental in advancing Ethiopia's manufacturing, agriculture, and real estate sectors, creating jobs and fostering economic growth. Ethiopia remains a key exporter of livestock, food, coffee, and flowers to Saudi Arabia, while Saudi petroleum products continue to fuel Ethiopian industries.

He underscored the importance of collaboration on food security and environmental sustainability, with both nations championing green initiatives. Saudi Arabia's Middle East Green Initiative

and Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative were cited as critical components of this partnership. The ambassador also referenced the Saudi-Africa Summit held in November 2023, which marked a new chapter in Saudi-Africa relations.

Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Ethiopia, Fahd O. Alhumaydani (PhD), echoed these sentiments, praising the significant progress in Saudi-Ethiopian ties. He pointed to the success of the Sixth Session of the Saudi-Ethiopian Joint Ministerial Commission in May 2024 and the June visit of a high-ranking Saudi business delegation to Ethiopia, which included over 75 representatives from major Saudi companies. The ambassador expressed optimism about the future of Saudi-Ethiopian economic cooperation, which is poised for expansion across multiple sectors.

"A key indicator of this strengthening relationship has been the increase in direct flights between the two countries. Ethiopian Airlines, Saudi Airlines, and Flynas now operate 50 direct flights per week between

cities in Ethiopia and Saudi Arabia, with plans to further increase this number in the near future," he elaborated.

Ambassador Alhumaydani also commended Ethiopia's economic reforms, urban development projects, and the corridor development project in Addis Ababa, which have significantly improved the quality of life in the capital. He highlighted Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, which has propelled the Kingdom forward in tourism, sports, investment, and culture, surpassing its 2030 tourism target by welcoming 109 million visitors in 2023.

The ambassador also noted Saudi Arabia's selection to host Expo 2030 and its bid for the FIFA World Cup in 2034 as evidence of its growing global prominence. The celebration underscored the shared vision of both nations for continued collaboration and development, with Ethiopia standing to benefit from increased Saudi investments as part of the Kingdom's broader engagement with Africa.

Opinion

The urgent need for Africa's permanent seat at UN Security Council

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

It is intolerable that the continent of Africa feels the want of a permanent representation in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in the face of repeated calls from various African leaders and scholars at different points in time.

Notwithstanding the fact that Africans have been moving heaven and earth to persuade the UN to give Africa a permanent seat, the council still has remained giving the cold shoulder to the unvarnished truth and paying no heed to the existing reality on the ground.

It is a well-known fact that since its establishment, the Security Council on many occasions has been turning a blind eye to the circumstances on the ground and concrete realities under the pretext of a diverse range of unforeseen reasons that go behind closed curtains.

As Africa lacks a permanent representation in the UNSC, the continent at different points of time has been going through tough times and facing great difficulties.

For the love of encroaching on the territorial sovereignty of the continent of Africa and twisting its arm, some world powers have sustained bending over backwards to make their verdict in the internal affairs of Africa making use of their general assembly in the resolution in the absence of Africa.

Most of the decisions made by the UNSC unaccompanied by Africa on the subject of the continent have been discriminatory, unjustifiable and unendurable.

United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres said that Africa's request for permanent seat at the UN Security Council is appropriate and fair, according to information obtained from local media.

It should be borne in mind that the Secretary-General, who was in Addis Ababa to participate at the 36th African Union summit held talks with President Sahle-Work Zewde.

During the occasion, Gutérres hailed the peace process in Ethiopia pledging UN's continued support to strengthen peace in Ethiopia and the region.

Africans are not represented at the UNSC which was formed following the end of the Second World War and has five permanent members with veto power.

The council has been criticized by many for it doesn't provide opportunity for Africa's voice to be heard at the international forums. Hence, the African Union and its member states have been repeatedly requesting for a permanent seat at the council.

Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) in a speech he delivered at the 36th AU summit requested for Africa to be represented at the UN Security Council with at least one permanent seat and double non-permanent seats.

The United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in the recent past that it is entirely fair that the representation of Africa at the UNSC with a permanent



Africa deserves permanent seat at the Security Council

member would be granted.

"It is true that ...the African countries did not yet exist with the exception of Ethiopia when the UNSC was formed. And it is entirely fair that the representation of Africa in the Security Council with a permanent member would be granted. Of course it doesn't depend on me; it depends on the member states. But it is very understandable and just aspiration," the secretary general elaborated.

It is common knowledge that in spite of the fact that the UNSC is composed of assorted member states, most of the decision-making process is undertaken by some nations that have the veto power with the intention of putting unjustified foreign pressure.

In a similar vein, although African nations have been encouraging the agenda of securing permanent seats at various moments in the UNSC, yielding a return in the near future turned out to be like attempting to discover a needle in a haystack.

Lack of equal representation of Africa in the UNSC for a long time has been critiqued by every Tom, Dick, and Harry worldwide despite the envisioned goal failed to bear fruits.

The call by African nations to have a permanent seat at UNSC without a shred of a doubt is mandatory. Everyone should follow in the footsteps of African leaders. Unless Africa makes its dream become a reality on the subject of the issue, attaining the desired goal will turn out to be an unattainable dream.

To tackle such matters and long-lasting complaints by Africans and other developing nations, the Security Council should take the case seriously and spare no effort to give an answer to Africa's question without batting an eyelid.

The European Union backs Africa's quest for 'a proportional and permanent representation' in United Nations Security Council (UNSC) said the EU Delegation to the African Union.

EU is in favor of AU's bid for a proper representation not only in UNSC but also in all multilateral forums, Ambassador Javier Nino Perez in the recent past told *The Ethiopian Herald* exclusively.

The Ambassador recalled that the European bloc has strongly supported AU's accession to the G20. It was even engaged in the dialogue with non-European G20 members supporting the African bid. Later, the continent was admitted to the club of 20.

This is an example to follow to reform other multilateral institutions like the UNSC. "We are extremely pleased that AU will sit together with its sister organizations. This reflects the logic of having Africa more meaningfully represented in the international forum," the Ambassador said.

Accordingly, UNSC, as to the Ambassador, is to be reformed and necessitates the consent of the five permanent members, three of whom are not European nations. "What Africa needs to do is to engage in a dialogue with those five permanent states and with the rest of international communities to reform the security bloc," he added.

Similarly, the Ambassador stated that the majority of EU countries see migration as a positive development; adding, "Europe is a continent that is aging that necessitates young people, and Africa is the youngest continent."

The two blocs are working through a process that builds on integration, protection, settlement and development. "We work on not just migrants coming to Europe; we are trying to work on the root causes that lead many Africans leave their countries. We want to create conditions that will enable the majority of Africans to stay in their countries. That is what we all want," the Ambassador elaborated.

"There are statistics that clearly signal that there is no link between high levels of migrants with insecurity; rather figures show positive impact of migrants coming to Europe."

If the council continues deliberately ignoring the urgent demand of the continent, Africa will continue to be a victim in the international stage. It is true that African nations in the present circumstances have been insisting on permanent seats on the UNSC for the reason that it plays a huge role in smoothing the path of engaging in decision-making with regard to their own issues.

As decisions regarding African nations have

been made by a few power blocs treating the continent lopsidedly and unjustifiably, Africa time and time again has been encountering a difficult circumstance. In relation to the biased representation of Africa in the UNSC, most African frontrunners have been articulating their disappointment.

In an exclusive interview with ENA, Director of Institute for Peace and Security Studies and commissioner of the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC), Yonas Adaye in the recent past said, "Issues concerning Africa have been most of the time decided in the absence of Africa. That is absolutely unfair, unjust and unacceptable."

So, if Africa needs its independence, it should be represented permanently in the United Nations Security Council. Its issues must be discussed and deliberated in the presence of African representatives, he added. In this regard, the African Union has the highest stake in making the request of African leaders for permanent seats at the UNSC a reality.

"The African Union should immediately float the agenda and at the same time get engaged, have robust discussions, engage intellectuals and leaders, and promote the idea."

According to Yonas, the African Union should promote this agenda by preventing the challenges of division within and making all leaders stand together for this noble cause together.

This requires the political commitment of each and every country leader of Africa, the scholar noted, adding that Africans should prepare themselves to pay any sacrifice so as to obtain the demanded seats.

All countries in Africa should definitely unite in this case, and people in the diaspora as well have to unanimously voice against neo-colonialism on the continent.

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

Editorial

Africa's presence in UN Security Council promotes multilateralism

These days, the call for Africa to have permanent seats at the UN Security Council's (UNSC) table is gaining momentum and receiving a renewed urgency.

In fact, the push for Africa to have equitable representation at the UNSC is not a new matter. It has been raised for a long time as it holds a broader significance and far-reaching benefits not only for the people of Africa but also for the wider global community.

The quest bridges the principle of multilateralism, which is the missing link and an essential element to ensure a more inclusive global order, address complex global challenges, and sustain worldwide peace and security. However, Africa's potential for such global efforts has always been undermined and regarded as a thing of little worth.

Sadly enough, the continent while underrepresented in voice, it is always overrepresented in challenges associated with conflicts, civil war, emergencies, and geopolitical crises.

As it is widely known, Africa has deep-rooted historic problems. From the slavery time to the colonial and postcolonial eras and even today, the continent has been; and it is still facing numerous challenges. Many of the conflicts originate in Africa. Some parts of the region are still havens for terrorists' incubation. The region is the most vulnerable area impacted negatively by climate and climate change-related challenges. This, coupled with its geopolitical location and its vast natural resources, the continent has remained a ground where proxy wars are raging.

In reality, the Security Council was also established to address and resolve such global threats. However, Africa does not have a single seat that enables its voice to be heard. Rather, all the problems that the continent encountered always entertained in the absence of it, and decisions that directly affect its development and stability are passed- without adequate African input, and lacking contextual awareness of Africans' unique historical, social, and political contexts.

In this rapidly changing geopolitical landscape, Africa, which is home to 54 nations and the second largest continent in terms of size and population, as many as close to 1.6 billion, plus substantial geopolitical importance, is seen as a peripheral part of the world, instead of considered as an important partner as any other regions.

It should not be considered a bystander that simply shoulders all of the decisions passed by global actors against its own internal affairs and own interests. It should be seen as a significant partner at global platforms and sit at a similar table to speak for itself and voice on global matters that affect its own interest and its people. In this regard, having seats at the UNSC's table provides Africa a unique opportunity to voice for itself and speak up on the common global challenges.

Today, the world is evolving into a new era and a new world order. The world continues to grapple with complex issues. In such cases, strengthening multilateral efforts and entertaining diverse perspectives and insights is critical to addressing global challenges such as climate change, conflict and security threats, and economic inequality.

In this regard, ensuring that African nations have seats at the UNSC table is vital to ensure the principle of multilateralism, and promote effective global governance. The international community should also recognize the value of African representation in the UNSC to create a more equitable and fair world order.



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

Advertisement and Dist.
Department

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

Editor-in-Chief: Worku Belachew
email- workubelachew@press.et
Address- Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-city
Woreda - 05, House No----
Tel- +251 111 26 41 98

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

Deputy Editors-in-Chief:
Alem Hailu
Elizabeth Mengistu
Zekarias Woldemariam
Desta Geberehiwot
Daniel Beyene

Website: www.press.et
email: ethiopianherald@press.et
Fb/ [Ethiopian Press Agency/](https://www.facebook.com/EthiopianPressAgency/)
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Opinion

No one should abuse peace keeping mission as cover up

BY SOLOMOND DIBABA

War and conflict have been the most common and ages old incidents in the history of mankind. While changing features, extents ... etc groups and countries went to war and conflict against each other. When some countries engage in war, it is normal others can intervene and help reconcile or strike peace deal.

Peacekeeping is also a noble undertaking by countries and regional or global organizations that are part and parcel of the political and legal system in the world. Despite risks of losing life and property contingents are deployed to help realize peace in troubled areas.

This is order of the day in our present world. Especially under the umbrella and framework of the United Nations, African Union and other collaborating regional bloc countries have been contributing their armies or defense forces to participate in peacekeeping activities.

As such Ethiopia has been one of the best examples of countries for their exemplary contributions in peacekeeping since the 1950s. It has also been a vibrant participant in initiatives of reinstating government and peace in Somalia which was left with no central government since the 1990s.

Its contribution in peace in Somalia has been acknowledged by Somalia's, Africans and the global community. It still maintains active contribution in ensuring peace and stability in Somalia as part of the African Union Mission in the country.

However, due to the political misunderstandings that unfolded between the two countries, Somalia has all of a sudden requested that it doesn't accept Ethiopian army deployment as part of the peace keeping mission. On the contrary Egypt has requested to participate in the mission replacing Ethiopia which is accepted by Somalia and is causing suspicion as to the real aim of Egypt's unprecedented quest to be part of the mission.

Hegemony on the Horn of Africa as practiced by those who have always attempted to weaken Ethiopia is performed by a triangulation of military and political forces that are under the pay of political forces. The politics and diplomacy in peace keeping has now become congruent with the interests of some western powers who wish to use puppet regimes in peace keeping to once again asserting their political diktat by all means including military encirclement. Somalia has now become a melting point of terrorism further complicating the efforts of hegemonic powers who pose as peace keepers while in fact their actions are vividly leading to a total war which could destroy the statehood of country.

The quest for peace keeping on the Horn as expressed by Egypt is only a sugar coated manifestation of hegemony in the region. This will certainly have further implications not only for Ethiopia but for Egypt as well because Egyptian political forces that have lost ground due to the usurpation of state power by former military leaders will not sit on the fence but also try to exploit the situation for their own purpose. On the other hand, The Egyptian economy cannot buttress the

hegemonic desires of the government and this is forcing the expansionists to opt for a second degree proxy war on Ethiopia by mobilizing and arming groups who wish to take power by force in Ethiopia.

It must be noted that hegemonic intervention by Egypt in countries like Libya and to a certain degree in Sudan, Mali and Niger has resulted in the destabilization in the entire Sahel region making the area a breeding ground of terrorist forces.

The political and diplomatic situation in the Horn of Africa is rapidly changing by days with interesting twists and turns. The hegemonic activities on the Horn of Africa are a new form of neo-colonialism which is openly being finance by global big pockets that wish to keep the region in their own sphere of influence.

Ethiopia's face of with Somalia cannot be punctuated only in terms of the issue of securing ports. Ethiopia is trying to establish an economic community of the countries of the Horn of Africa which has not been palatable to western powers who wish to keep the area in poverty by using food aid as an ivy treatment for crisis ridden economies in the region. They do not tolerate economic integration and mutual support among countries of the Horn of Africa and that is why they are ready to destabilize the region through their "trusted partner."

The neo-colonial mentality induced Egyptian desire for hegemony not only targets Ethiopia's efforts to use her natural resources but also fragmenting the country by supporting armed groups who are being used as a Trojan Horse for the destabilization of the country.

The current emotion ridden stance by the Somali Government is putting it at loggerheads with the states that make up the federal government and a total crisis seems to be in the making.

What could the federal government do at this point in time? The author thinks that the Ethiopian government could handle the case in deeper patience and diplomatic ingenuity.

On the other hand, the government needs to debrief the public on what exactly is going on save the national security information that may not be disclosed for practical purposes.

Moreover, in a world with seems to be guided by the credo of might is right, Ethiopia needs to further develop her military power to deter any attempt to trample with the national interest of the country. Citizens and overseas particularly the youth need to support government efforts to settle internal disputes with dialogue and refrain from bad language and misinformation on the social media.

At this point in time, the government needs to ensure that all development programs in the country are being conducted based on the national plan. The people of Ethiopia need to effectively support the ENDF in all aspects because the army is shouldering greater responsibilities in striving to ensure the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. The symbiotic alliance between terrorism and hegemonism in the Horn of Africa will collapse over time.

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

Business & Economy

Economic impact of smokeless industry in Ethiopia, IGAD countries

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

Tourism plays a crucial role in the economic development of many countries around the world. In the Horn of Africa, Ethiopia and the IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development) countries—comprising Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda—have significant potential for tourism growth.

Ethiopia is often referred to as the “Cradle of Humanity” due to its rich archaeological history and cultural heritage. The country boasts for inscribing numerous tangible and intangible heritages at UNESCO including Aksum Known for its ancient obelisks and ruins of the Aksumite Empire; Fasil Palace; this property included in the list of UNESCO World tangible Heritage Sites in Ethiopia consists of eight component sites; Lalibela famous for its rock-hewn churches, often called the “Eighth Wonder of the World; Semien Mountains National Park: home to stunning landscapes and unique wildlife, including the Gelada baboon.

Among the intangible heritages are *Meskel*; the commemoration feast of the finding of the True Holy Cross of Christ; *Irreechaa*; thanks giving ceremony of the Gada System, which is the social, political and cultural reflection of the traditional Oromo people; the third UNESCO registered intangible heritage *Fichee-Chambalaalla* is a New Year festival celebrated among the Sidama people; and *Timket*; the festival of Epiphany to commemorate the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River among others.

In recent years, Ethiopia’s government has made efforts to promote tourism as one of the key sectors for economic development. It is one of the five Ethiopia’s economic pillars that include agriculture, manufacturing, minerals, and service sectors. The Ethiopian Tourism Organization (ETO) has launched initiatives to improve infrastructure, enhance marketing strategies, and develop community-based tourism.

Despite the challenges posed by political instability and the COVID-19 pandemic, Ethiopia’s tourism sector has shown resilience. The country recorded a significant increase in tourist arrivals in 2022, signaling a potential recovery.

In addition to the existing tourist attractions, Ethiopia has built new destinations under the initiative; ‘Dine for Sheger’, ‘Dine for Nation’ and ‘Dine for Generation’. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) receives recognition for these initiative. The destinations built under this initiative include Unity Park, Friendship Square, and Entoto Park, Koyscha, Wonchi Dandi and Gorgora Ecotourism Projects.

The newly developed Dine for Nation tourism projects that have been developed in various parts of the country would



IGAD Unveiled Transformative Sustainable Tourism Master Plan (STMP) 2024-2034

accommodate thousands of visitors at a time. With its conducive weather and accessibility to both water and road transportation, Gorgora, one of the destinations, is the best and beautiful area for tourists. Similarly, Koyscha and Wonchi are nature wonders. These will contribute for the development of the sector by creating more jobs as well.

According to ENA, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has launched on 19 September, 2024 Sustainable Tourism Master Plan for the next 10 years. The IGAD Sustainable Tourism Master Plan 2024-2034 aims at promoting regional integration and sustainable development in the tourism sector across IGAD member states.

It also aspires to develop a unified tourism space, strengthen cross-border collaboration, drive investment in infrastructure and innovation, and promote sustainable and inclusive growth.

Speaking at the event, representing Claver Gatete, Executive Secretary and United Nations under Secretary General, Andrew Mall, emphasized the importance of tourism as a key driver of social-economic change and job creation.

He noted that the IGAD region, with its diverse natural and cultural resources, offers immense potential for sustainable tourism development. By implementing the Master Plan, the IGAD region can benefit from increased economic growth, job creation, and improved livelihoods for local communities, he said. It can also enhance the region’s reputation as a desirable tourism destination, attracting more visitors and investment, he added.

Gatete further called on IGAD Member States to reaffirm their commitment to the tourism sector and work together to implement the Master Plan effectively.

IGAD Executive Secretary, Workneh

Gebeyehu (PhD), emphasized the importance of the plan in addressing the region’s fragmented tourism efforts and promoting sustainable development. He called upon all stakeholders, including governments, the private sector, civil society, and development partners, to collaborate effectively for its successful implementation.

The master plan is expected to contribute significantly to the region’s economic growth, job creation, and cultural exchange, Workneh said.

By focusing on sustainability and working together, IGAD member states aim to increase the benefits of tourism for all while protecting their natural and cultural resources for future generations, he added.

Speaking on behalf of herself, Ethiopia’s Minister of Tourism, Ambassador Nasise Chali, emphasized the critical role tourism plays in fostering economic growth and cultural exchange.

She highlighted Ethiopia’s commitment to regional collaboration, citing the country’s recent tourism reforms and infrastructural developments under the leadership of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

“The IGAD region is a haven for diverse and enigmatic tourism resources, and this Master Plan provides a common framework to sustainably harness the vast potential of our countries,” Ambassador Nasise stated.

She also underscored Ethiopia’s determination to champion the implementation of the Master Plan, positioning the IGAD region as a globally competitive tourism destination.

The Sustainable Tourism Master Plan focuses on enhancing connectivity, promoting joint marketing strategies, and developing integrated tourism products.

The initiative is expected to catalyze cross-cultural pollination, increase intra-regional tourist exchanges, and contribute to the

inclusive economic growth of the region. The launching ceremony, held in Addis Ababa, was attended by tourism ministers from IGAD member states.

Africa is well known for its tourism destination and it is important to unveil the potential in the Horn. In this regard, it might be imperative to trace some countries.

Djibouti is known for its unique geological features, such as Lake Assal, the lowest point in Africa, and the stunning Gulf of Aden. The government is investing in eco-tourism and infrastructure improvements to attract more visitors.

With its rich Italian architecture and beautiful Red Sea coast, Eritrea offers a blend of cultural and beach tourism. The government is working to promote its historical sites and natural beauty, although political challenges remain a barrier.

Kenya is renowned for its wildlife and national parks, such as the Masai Mara and Amboseli. The country has a well-established tourism sector, known for safari experiences and beach resorts along the Indian Ocean. Continuous investments in conservation and eco-tourism are vital for sustainable growth.

Somalia has immense potential for tourism, with its pristine beaches and rich cultural heritage. However, ongoing security concerns have hindered development. Efforts to stabilize the region could open doors for tourism growth.

South Sudan is gradually emerging as a destination with its unique cultures and natural resources. The government is exploring ways to develop eco-tourism and cultural tourism to boost the economy.

Sudan has a wealth of archaeological sites, including the pyramids of Nubia. The tourism sector is slowly gaining traction, with initiatives aimed at promoting historical tourism and improving infrastructure.

Uganda is famous for its biodiversity, including gorilla trekking in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. The country has seen a steady increase in tourist arrivals, thanks to investments in infrastructure and marketing.

The IGAD countries share common challenges and opportunities in tourism development. Collaborative efforts can enhance regional tourism initiatives.

In a nutshell, tourism development in Ethiopia and the IGAD countries presents a significant opportunity for economic growth and cultural exchange. By addressing challenges and leveraging their unique assets, these nations can create a vibrant tourism sector that benefits local communities and enhances regional cooperation. With continued investment and strategic planning, the Horn of Africa will emerge as a premier tourism destination in the coming years, it was learned.

Art & Culture

Ethiopian Fashion: A vibrant fusion of tradition, modernity

BY EYUEL KIFLU AND FIKADU BELAY

Ethiopia's cultural attire is a vibrant testament to the nation's rich heritage, and its significance is undeniable, especially during holidays and special occasions. However, a new trend emerges as Ethiopian fashion designers adapt handmade cultural attire for everyday wear.

By utilizing traditional weaving techniques, these designers infuse creativity into Ethiopia's cultural clothing, making it suitable for daily activities. The burgeoning fashion industry is showcasing passionate and talented designers who are eager to penetrate the international market, promoting Ethiopia's cultural garments to a global audience.

Participation in international fashion shows serves as a platform to highlight the country's diverse are also offering innovative designs that resonate with local customers, providing a sense of elegance and pride.

As Ethiopia's New Year approaches, the demand for cultural clothing surges, leading to a series of fashion shows, particularly in Addis Ababa. The recent "Elel Yale Habesha" fashion show, combined with an Ethiopian cultural food event, showcased the work of various designers while allowing participants to savor traditional dishes. Such events aim to create a vibrant atmosphere for designers to present their remarkable creations to the public.

One of the event participants Natanem Wondwossen, founder and creative director of Natanem Couture, mentioned that their brand is on its third after officially launched. Specializing in Habesha clothing, the label combines traditional weaving techniques with local materials to create modern, versatile garments for everyday wear and special occasions.

"We focus on using local inputs to produce both men's and women's collections," she explained. "While we serve the local market, we're also exporting to Europe and America, and we're now exploring opportunities in Asia, albeit on a smaller scale."

Natanem emphasizes the unique design and patterns in their collections, aiming to demonstrate that Habesha clothing can be stylish and contemporary. "The fashion industry in Ethiopia is evolving, and there is growing awareness among the public. Previous industry pioneers have paved the way, but we still face challenges in promotion," she noted.

The recent "Elel Yale Habesha" event provided a valuable platform for showcasing their products to the community, highlighting how local weaving techniques contribute to a designer's identity.

Regarding affordability, Natanem remarked, "Our products are reasonably priced considering the creativity and time involved



in their production. Many people believe that stylish, culturally inspired clothing is expensive, but that's a misconception."

However, she pointed out significant challenges within the industry, particularly the lack of exposure and financial support for designers. "To address these issues, we need to engage in discussions with both the government and the private sector," she stated.

Natanem is optimistic about the future, believing that overcoming these obstacles could attract new talent to the industry. "There's untapped potential among aspiring designers. If given the chance, we could see a wave of sophisticated, elegant fashion in

their traditional attire for holidays and special occasions. However, Beza emphasizes that her light and modern designs are ideal for weekends and every day wear. "I said, 'I'm Habesha,'" she remarked, highlighting her pride in Ethiopian heritage through her work.

To increase brand visibility and attract a wider audience, Beza is actively engaging in workshops and events like "Elel Yale Habesha" that showcase her unique designs, aiming to elevate the acceptance of Ethiopian culture in contemporary fashion.

Another standout product presented at the event was high-quality leather bags made by local artisans and Ethiopian designers.

Abenezer Tadese is the creative director of Sabawiyen Leather, has been making waves in the leather goods market for the past six years. The company specializes in crafting bags and various leather products using materials sourced from local leather factories.

With a focus on simple yet striking designs, Sabawiyen Leather caters primarily to domestic consumers while also exporting to several African countries, the United States, and parts of Europe. Their e-commerce platform allows customers to easily place orders from anywhere.

Abenezer notes that while some equipment for leather production is imported from China, the company prides itself on its local roots. Despite the competition among bag manufacturers, Sabawiyen Leather stands out by blending artistry with Ethiopian cultural elements, enabling them to maintain a strong presence in a crowded market.

Historically, domestic products faced challenges in quality; however, recent government initiatives, such as taxes on imported goods, have encouraged consumers to choose local options. Abenezer asserts that local producers are now delivering higher-quality products than many imports, strengthening their connection with the market.

He advocates for further governmental support, calling for workshops, credit facilities, and dedicated workspaces for manufacturers. By prioritizing local craftsmanship, Ethiopia can bolster its economy and promote its rich cultural heritage. "Moreover," he adds, "this shift can help us replace imported products, ultimately reducing foreign exchange costs."

Abenezer also praises initiatives like "Elel Yale Habesha," believing it could significantly enhance local production capabilities and foster market integration within the community.

Nowadays, Ethiopian fashion is evolving, bridging the gap between traditional and contemporary styles, and capturing the attention of both local and international audiences.

Ethiopia within five years," she concluded. Despite the challenges, the current vibrancy of the Ethiopian fashion scene is proving enticing for newcomers.

Meanwhile, Beza Yohannes, the visionary behind Beza Traditional Clothes, is transforming the landscape of women's traditional attire by blending modern designs with classic Ethiopian styles. Her mission is to create garments that not only celebrate national beauty but also offer a contemporary twist.

Operating for two years, Beza's brand is committed to using 100 percent cotton, a readily available raw material in Ethiopia.

Traditionally, Ethiopian women reserved

Global Affairs

Violence, displacement, hunger plague Somalia

Somalia is currently in the midst of a dire humanitarian crisis that threatens to destabilize the nation's security. This crisis is a result of the Somali Civil War, which began in 1991. Altercations between clan-based operations have caused a host of issues over the years, including over 596 civilian casualties, according to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM). Tensions have greatly intensified in 2024, with levels of internal displacement and food insecurity increasing rapidly.

“Our humanitarian colleagues tell us that since the beginning of the year, an estimated 150,000 people have been displaced by renewed clan conflict and ongoing military operations. This has intensified existing vulnerabilities and further worsened humanitarian needs”, stated Stéphane Dujarric, Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, at a press briefing at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters.

Levels of generalized violence in Somalia have seen a considerable uptick in recent years. The UN reports an increase in gender-based violence from 2022 onward, with cases of domestic violence and rape soaring among girls in displacement shelters. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates that 45 percent of girls are married off before reaching the age of 18.

Additionally, violence targeting Somali children remains high, with killings, recruitment, and sexual violence becoming more common, according to the Human Rights Watch (HRW). Children have been detained by Somali authorities due to suspicion that they are affiliated with the Al-Shabab armed group. Furthermore, attacks on schools have significantly exacerbated the ongoing education crisis in the country. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) estimates that 85 percent of Somali children are not enrolled in school.

Widespread food insecurity and famine have been issues that have plagued Somalia for decades. From 2020 to 2023, Somalia had experienced its longest drought on record, with the resulting hunger crisis pushing communities to the brink of collapse. Heavy rainfall and flooding in the first quarter of 2024 have left over 4 million people severely food insecure, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC).

Armed conflict over the past three decades has significantly impeded the growth of Somalia's agricultural sector, exacerbating the hunger crisis. The International Rescue Committee (IRC) states that violent altercations have damaged Somalia's “systems and infrastructure that would



A wide view of the Security Council meeting on the situation in Somalia

have provided a guardrail against climate and economic disaster”. There have also been reports of food and essential resources being burned by warring parties in recent years.

Somalia currently relies heavily on imports to prevent nationwide hunger. The World Bank states, “The economy remained heavily import-dependent as conflict has destroyed the economy's productive capacity”. It is estimated that over 55 percent of the population lives in extreme poverty, with GDP growth remaining relatively stagnant.

The displacement crisis in Somalia is ranked as one of the most severe in the world. As of now, there are approximately 4 million people internally displaced, which is about 21 percent of the nation's population.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimates that 247,000 have been displaced from their homes due to heavy flooding. About 53,600 displaced peoples have been affected by the floods, with critical shelters being destroyed.

The World Bank adds that there are over 38,000 refugees in Somalia from bordering countries such as Ethiopia and Kenya, as well as Yemen. This influx of refugees has overwhelmed Somali displacement shelters, leading to overcrowding, poor hygiene, security concerns, limited access to essential resources, and an increased risk of gender-based violence.

Armed conflict has greatly worsened living conditions and access to critical resources for displaced peoples. A report

by the HRW states that attacks by the Al-Shabab armed group have led to blockages in Baidoa town, impeding the arrival of humanitarian aid.

“In July, Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders, MSF) announced they were withdrawing from Las Anod due to increased levels of violence, recurrent attacks on medical facilities, and injuries among medical staff”, added HRW. In addition, flooding has significantly impeded humanitarian aid, with many areas being entirely inaccessible.

Additionally, studies by the World Health Organization (WHO) state that Somalia has the distinction of having the most prevalent mental health crisis in the world, as a result of prolonged exposure to violence. Approximately one third of the population is plagued with some kind of psychological disorder, which is greatly exacerbated by the lack of mental health facilities in the nation. WHO has only officially recognized five mental hospitals in the country.

Currently, humanitarian initiatives by the UN are underway in an effort to mitigate the ongoing crisis. UNSOM is dedicated to supporting peacekeeping missions, supported by the federal government. OCHA is in the process of assisting flood-affected communities. The 2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan for Somalia asks for 1.6 billion dollars to effectively soothe tensions and support over 5.2 million people. The UN greatly encourages donor contributions as only 37 percent of that goal has been reached.

The displacement crisis in Somalia is ranked as one of the most severe in the world. As of now, there are approximately 4 million people internally displaced, which is about 21 percent of the nation's population

Law & Politics

Why is Cairo interested in the Horn of Africa?

BY ELIAS GETNET

Egypt's ambitions in the Horn of Africa are shaped by various strategic and geopolitical objectives. The Horn of Africa, a region that includes Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Sudan, South Sudan, and Somalia, has been a focal point of international interest due to its location along one of the world's most important maritime trade routes.

The Bab el-Mandeb Strait, which connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden, is a critical passage through which approximately 15% of global trade ships transit. The significance of the Red Sea lies in its role as a conduit for the transfer of goods from the Middle East, Africa, and Asia to Europe and America.

For many years, powerful nations have sought to extend their influence and control over the region by forging alliances with countries in the Horn of Africa. Some nations have established military bases and stationed troops in the area, with the United States, France, Russia, China, and the United Arab Emirates, for instance, having a military presence in Djibouti. These military installations, which include naval ports, air force bases, and training centers, underscore the strategic value of the Horn of Africa.

However, despite its strategic importance, the region has been plagued by wars, drought, and famine, challenges that are rooted in the legacy of colonialism and compounded by internal problems. Among the Horn countries, Ethiopia stands out as relatively peaceful and prosperous. It has played an active role in regional peace and security, sending troops to neighboring nations and making significant sacrifices to promote peace and stability in the region.

Recent developments, however, have created tensions between Ethiopia and Somalia. Following an agreement between Ethiopia and Somaliland, the Somali government has undertaken actions that conflict with Ethiopia's national interests, further aligning itself with Egypt. This situation has raised concerns for the Ethiopian government, prompting close monitoring of the situation.

Egypt's growing influence in the Horn of Africa, particularly its involvement in Somalia, is driven by several key interests. These include controlling the Red Sea trade routes, expanding its influence over maritime gateways, and building a formidable naval presence.

Additionally, Egypt aims to shape the political landscape of the Horn of Africa in its favor. Beyond these objectives, Egypt's desire to prevent any threats to its control over the Nile River is a significant motivation.

Ethiopia, being the source of the Nile, poses a challenge to Egypt's historical dominance over the river's waters. In pursuit of its colonial-era aspirations, Egypt has been

accused of supporting armed groups to undermine Ethiopia's stability.

At present, Egypt appears to be capitalizing on the agreement between Ethiopia and Somaliland by positioning itself as an ally of Somalia. It has provided various destructive forces with weapons and engaged in propaganda efforts. Egypt's involvement in Somalia, seen as part of its broader strategy to destabilize the Horn and hinder Ethiopia's development, warrants close scrutiny.

The ongoing military cooperation between Somalia and Egypt must be viewed in this light, as the potential for a crisis looms due to external interference. After the signing of a military agreement between Egypt and Somalia, Ethiopia has been closely monitoring the situation, especially in light of the arrival of Egyptian military aircraft in Mogadishu following the Somali president's visit to Cairo in August.

While the details of the agreement signed in Cairo remain unclear, Ethiopian authorities, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the nation's security apparatus, are urged to remain vigilant.

Egypt's willingness to deploy up to 5,000 soldiers as part of a newly formed African Union force by the end of the year signals its desire to assert influence in Somalia. This move, however, is seen as detrimental to regional peace and stability.

Ethiopia, which has been a key partner in combating the Al-Shabaab terror group, linked to al-Qaeda, has contributed significantly to Somalia's fight against extremism. Egypt's limited involvement during Somalia's crisis contrasts sharply with Ethiopia's proactive engagement, raising questions about the motivations of Somali leaders aligning themselves with Egypt.

Ethiopia's peace and national interests are safeguarded through both internal and external efforts. At a time when national unity is more important than ever, Ethiopians must remain vigilant and address internal challenges through dialogue, while focusing on protecting their country's interests. To counter Egypt's potential actions in the Horn of Africa, Ethiopia should explore several strategic responses: Ethiopia must ensure that the Somali central government does not adopt positions that conflict with Ethiopia's national interests. Cooperation between Ethiopia and Somalia should be prioritized to maintain regional stability.

Egypt could potentially arm extremist groups, including al-Shabaab, in an attempt to destabilize the region. This would turn the Horn of Africa into a hotbed for terrorism and criminal activities, with the ultimate goal of disrupting Ethiopia's peace and stability.

In addition to military and proxy efforts, Egypt may also seek to apply economic pressure on Ethiopia. Ethiopia must be prepared to respond to such measures

Egypt's growing influence in the Horn of Africa, particularly its involvement in Somalia, is driven by several key interests. These include controlling the Red Sea trade routes, expanding its influence over maritime gateways, and building a formidable naval presence

by strengthening regional alliances and bolstering its ties with neighboring countries to resolve tensions within the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

The role of IGAD, particularly under the leadership of Secretary-General Workneh Gebeyehu, will be crucial in mediating political tensions between Ethiopia and Somalia. Ethiopia's positive role within IGAD is well-known, and the current political climate presents an opportunity to advance Ethiopia's national interests. Furthermore, Ethiopia should intensify diplomatic efforts to expose Egypt's destabilizing actions and secure positive support from international partners, particularly institutions such as the United States, the European Union, and the African Union.

In summary, Egypt's involvement in the Horn of Africa, particularly in Somalia, is driven by its desire to control strategic trade routes, expand its naval presence, and undermine Ethiopia's influence, particularly regarding the Nile River. Ethiopia must counter these efforts by reinforcing regional alliances, engaging in proactive diplomacy, and working towards peace and stability in the region.

INTERNATIONAL News

United Nations adopts ground-breaking Pact for the Future to transform global governance

NEW YORK – World leaders yesterday (22 September 2024) adopted a Pact for the Future that includes a Global Digital Compact and a Declaration on Future Generations. This Pact is the culmination of an inclusive, years-long process to adapt international cooperation to the realities of today and the challenges of tomorrow. The most wide-ranging international agreement in many years, covering entirely new areas as well as issues on which agreement has not been possible in decades, the Pact aims above all to ensure that international institutions can deliver in the face of a world that has changed dramatically since they were created. As the Secretary-General has said, “we cannot create a future fit for our grandchildren with a system built by our grandparents.”

Overall, the agreement of the Pact is a strong statement of countries’ commitment to the United Nations, the international system and international law. Leaders set out a clear vision of an international system that can deliver on its promises, is more representative of today’s world and draws on the energy and expertise of governments, civil society and other key partners.

“The Pact for the Future, the Global Digital Compact, and the Declaration on Future Generations open the door to new opportunities and untapped possibilities,” said the Secretary-General during his remarks at the opening of the Summit of the Future. The President of the General Assembly noted that the Pact would “lay the foundations for a sustainable, just, and peaceful global order – for all peoples and nations.”

The Pact covers a broad range of issues including peace and security, sustainable development, climate change, digital cooperation, human rights, gender, youth and future generations, and the transformation of global governance.

Source: Un.org

Kenya: Govt improving laws to meet requirements of international investors - Ruto

NEW YORK - The government is improving Kenya's laws and policies to meet the requirements of international investors, President William Ruto has said.

The President noted that an improved business environment, combined with our country's well-educated and trained workforce and abundant renewable energy resources, makes Kenya the ideal destination for trade and investment.

"By actively listening to the private sector, we ensure that our policies remain relevant and effective," he said.

He made the remarks during the US-Kenya Business and Investment Roundtable organised by the Corporate Council on Africa on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Present were Corporate Council on Africa President and CEO Florizelle Liser and Chairman John Olajide, and Kenya Private Sector Alliance Chairman Jas Bedi, among others.

President Ruto urged American investors to take advantage of the conducive business environment to invest in Kenya.

"I invite you to Kenya and assure you of my personal commitment to facilitating your seamless entry into the market," he said.

He pointed out that the government is committed to providing the necessary support to ensure foreign investments are successful.

The President outlined the reforms the government is pursuing to support investors, saying these are aligning the country's data protection framework with international standards.

He explained that this has allowed 100% ownership of ICT companies without the necessity of involving local partners as it was previously. Corporate tax policies have also been harmonised with global standards.

"We are also working to make Kenya's Export Processing Zones and Special Economic Zones the most competitive in Africa," he added.

Additionally, he explained, the government is expanding ICT infrastructure to bridge the digital gap, unlock opportunities in the digital economy and drive innovation.

"Nairobi, home to the globally recognised Silicon Savannah, is the centerpiece of our strategy to make Kenya a leading tech hub, with Konza City as Africa's top destination for investment and innovation," he said.

President Ruto said the government is also investing in agricultural value chains to enhance productivity, efficiency and competitiveness.

"You are welcome to invest in the numerous opportunities available in these value chains and be part of Kenya's industrial and export success," he told the investors.

The President disclosed that the efforts to position Kenya as a leading destination

for foreign direct investment in Africa have yielded commendable results.

"In 2022, Kenya attracted FDI worth \$759 million, representing 20% of the East African Community's total and 2% of Africa's overall FDI," he said.

The President told the investors that Kenya provides unrivalled access to the African continent through the world's largest free trade area, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

He invited the American private sector to invest in closing the remaining gap in the country's renewable energy. Kenya's grid is 93 per cent renewable and is expected to be 100% green by 2030.

Later, the President presided over the launch of the Programme for Investment and Financing in Africa's Health in New York.

He said a reformed African Union will be "fit for purpose" and be able to tackle the challenges facing Africa.

He explained that the priority of the African Union is to improve the people's welfare, and said the AU must deliver an attractive investment in social services, including health, by unlocking private sector resources.

"As the African Union Champion for Institutional Reform, I am committed to asking the hard questions on how our continent can attract investment in social sectors like healthcare," he said.

Source: Capital FM.

South Sudan limits cash withdrawals to encourage electronic transactions

South Sudan has restricted cash withdrawals by individuals and public and private sector entities in a push to promote cashless transactions, lower the cost of printing currency.

The limits mean cash withdrawals will be capped at SSP10 million (\$3,730.58) per day per person, according to the South Sudan central bank.

The banking regulator in a circular dated September 16 says cash withdrawal exceeding SSP10 million shall be either deposited through a bank account, transferred within the banking industry or through interbank transactions, including mobile money operators.

The regulator says clients should use alternative authorised channels to conduct their banking transactions thereby fostering digitalisation of financial services.

"The public is encouraged to embrace electronic payment platforms including mobile money, credit and debit cards which incur

low charges on transactions while offering convenience and establishing individual credit history," the regulator says.

"The Bank of South Sudan (BoSS) recognises the vital role that cash plays in the economy and would therefore ensure an inclusive approach as it implements the transition to a more cashless society."

According to BoSS, commercial banks are expected to make account opening process more seamless for all customers especially those traditionally excluded by the banking sector to facilitate the shift to the cashless economy.

The new policy underscores importance of digitalisation and deployment of related financial technology applications in the South Sudan economy.

"The proposed financial instruments and the necessary steps to ensure their effective adoption, will reduce the risks associated with carrying cash.

"It will also ensure convenience and speed while allowing the bank to exercise greater control over the cash in circulation, thereby improving the conduct of monetary policy," the bank says.

Juba is also struggling with a shortage of dollars as a result of declining revenues from oil production, the nation's chief revenue earner, on depleted wells and military conflict in the neighboring Sudan.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) says Juba's risk of debt distress remains high, owing in large part to the high debt service costs, and low levels of foreign exchange reserves and fiscal buffers.

In February 2023, the Bank of South Sudan (BoSS) suspended the use of the US dollar in local transactions, saying the use of foreign currency reduces the demand for domestic currency and places huge pressure on the forex demand, fuel speculations, and inflation.

The regulator also argued that the rapid ex-

pansion in dollar deposits and loans is likely to increase the riskiness of the loan portfolio of the domestic banks.

Most transactions in the country were initially carried out in the US dollar largely due to hyperinflation and the volatility of the local currency.

The South Sudanese authorities are facing multiple challenges including significant spillovers from the conflict in neighboring Sudan, protracted flooding, declining humanitarian assistance, the incorporation of newly constituted security forces into the payroll, and the need to finance elections planned for 2024.

Juba has seen more than five consecutive years of severe food insecurity, which continues going into 2024 with an estimated 7.1 million people facing acute food insecurity, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Source: The East African

Planet Earth



How urban corridors streamline green jobs, livable cities

BY STAFF REPORTER

The massive and well coordinate corridor development initiative underway in Addis Ababa, the capital city of the country and in other major urban areas of the country has come up with many new elements that contribute immensely to the environment, health and socio economy of urban residents. The development favors the healthy, ecofriendly development of cities through widening green job opportunities, clean and safe urban features, among others.

Despite the economic and political challenges they face developing countries are also experiencing rapid rate of urbanization in recent years. If assisted by modern technology, design and elements that upgrade existing facilities like the ongoing corridor development activities here in Ethiopia, they are likely to become more habitable, smart and healthy to their inhabitants.

Many of the urban areas in developing countries started as small rural neighborhoods which later grew up to urban centers with the rapidly growing influx of migrants from near and far neighborhoods. Most of the migrants flock to the near urban areas in search of job opportunities or better living conditions. Yet, since they lack proper economic and skill capacities they often end up leading their lives in slum areas contributing the difficult level of shanty houses and neighborhoods. Such settlements lack master plan, facilities like water, electricity, roads and pedestrian

walkways, drainage systems ... etc. that are vital inputs for healthy and productive urban life.

Therefore the ongoing corridor development in various part of the country is an exemplary initiative that can provide multiples of solutions to these multifaceted pitfalls in urban settlements. One of the major reasons for the corridor development activities to spur more habitable urban environment is that they are predominantly green infrastructure that can create as many green jobs as possible.

Many similar green economic development activities underway in developing countries especially in Africa are also attributed to be factors that are streaming job creation in the continent.

According to a research report by Short List and FSD Africa, green economy is likely to create up to 3.3 million new direct green jobs across the continent by 2030, with the majority in the renewable energy sector, particularly solar. The study, the first in-depth analysis of workforce needs within major green value chains over the next five years, provides detailed forecasts for five focus countries, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa, which together account for more than a fifth (22%) of new jobs, and in key sectors such as renewable energy, e-mobility, agriculture, construction and manufacturing.

The research entitled "Forecasting Green Jobs in Africa" underscores the critical importance of a skilled workforce as an input accelerating African green industries,

emphasizing the need for substantial investment in skills development and workforce mobilization. Moreover, the millions of jobs created in the green revolution will also contribute to the formalization of African economies, and the inclusion of whole populations in stable systems of remuneration, social security and taxation for the first time.

Based on the findings, the report also outlines key strategies required to cultivate Africa's green jobs ecosystem: from targeted investments in high-potential sectors and value chains, the fostering of cross-sector collaboration among governments, private sector, educational institutions and investors, to the development of comprehensive support policies for green sectors. The report also calls for further analysis and granularity to labor demand key value chains to identify Africa's current skilled labor supply and any potential gaps.

While some experts have suggested that up to 100 million green jobs may be created by 2050, this report takes a more near-term, sober, and realistic look at the job creation potential of just 12 specific sub-sectors or value chains and only until 2030. This more conservative analysis is intended to guide near-term investments and policy decisions among universities, workforce development actors, and government as we ensure the mobilization of the right skills and workforce to meet demand.

Significantly it predicts that 60% of the employment generated by the green economy over the coming six years

will be skilled or white collar in nature. Within this, 10% constitute "advanced jobs" (highly skilled, requiring university degrees to fulfill), whilst a further 30% are projected to be "specialized" (requiring certification or vocational training) and 20% will be administrative in emphasis. Crucially, these job types tend to attract higher salaries and will, therefore, play a central role in spurring the growth of the middle class in countries hosting these high-growth sectors. Important also is the stability of the unskilled jobs created – which will offer ladders up the employment scale for candidates, whose employability will be enhanced by access to training and experience.

"There is a cross-sector effort across Africa to spur employment and sustainable development," said Mark Napier, CEO of FSD Africa, "but stakeholders lack a shared, granular understanding of where the green jobs are going to come from. This report offers a methodology for forecasting green jobs which allows us to get practical about where we need to invest to make these jobs happen."

"This is the first public report that takes seriously the notion that human capital and talent is important as both an input to green economic growth, and as a positive outcome - in the form of millions of new, direct jobs." says Paul Breloff, CEO of Shortlist. "Now policymakers, and funders, and workforce developers need to step up to meet this near-term demand with effective training, apprenticeships, and job/skill matching, in hopes of achieving Africa's green promise."