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4th Floor, Dabi Building, Bole road Addis Ababa Ethiopia

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Deputy Head of Mission Mustafa Kemal Basa

Turkiye, Ethiopia working on exploring new opportunities

- Turkish company urges community to shun imitation products

Page 2

Premier's state visit to Malaysia elevates bilateral ties

BY STAFF REPORTER

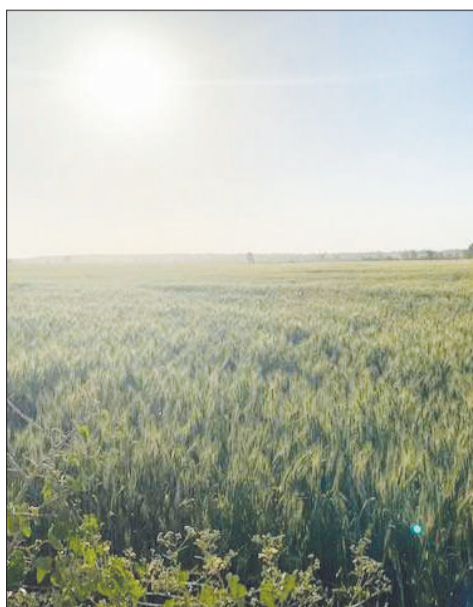
ADDIS ABABA - Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) has paid two-day first state visit to Malaysia aimed at further advancing

the efforts to enhance Malaysia-Ethiopia relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) announced.

In a statement posted on X, MoFA stated that Prime Minister Abiy, accompanied by

his delegation including First Lady Zinash Tayachew and Foreign Minister Gedion Timotiwoes, arrived yesterday in Malaysia-Kuala Lumpur.

See Premier's state ... Page 3



Agri sector burgeoning due to new policy

Page 3

Ethiopia continues nurturing peace, stability in HoA: President

- ENDF commemorates 117th anniversary

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA – President Taye Atske-Selassie said that Ethiopia is committed to continuing its indispensable and long stand in role in ensuring peace and stability in the Horn of Africa (HoA) and beyond.

President Taye made the above remark while celebrating the 117th anniversary of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) yesterday. The event marks the 117th anniversary of the establishment of modern Ethiopian army and honoring the sacrifices of Ethiopian military forces to safeguard the sovereignty of the nation.

He stated that the heroic defense forces are



Photo: Dagne Abera

See Ethiopia continues ... Page 3

News

Turkiye, Ethiopia working on exploring new opportunities

- Turkish company urges community to shun imitation products

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopia and Turkiye are working on enhancing trade ties and exploring new opportunities to deepen bilateral relations, Turkiye Embassy Deputy Head of Mission said.

Briefing media yesterday, Turkish-based Vita food industry PLC called on stakeholders, particularly community to ban or refrain from using imitation products or counterfeits that recently flooded in the market. They lack the safety, quality, and certification that consumers expect, posing potential health risks.

Speaking at the occasion, Turkish Embassy First Consular, Deputy Head of Mission Mustafa Kemal Basa said that the two countries are working to further enhance trade ties and explore new opportunities to strengthen bilateral ties. Both countries established strong relations especially in trade and economic revolutions many years ago. Ethiopia is an important destination for Turkish investments.

He indicated that Turkiye is one of the big investing countries in the country. The conditions for foreign investors, especially



Deputy Head of Mission Mustafa Kemal Basa

for Turkish investors are much better after macroeconomic reform. Ethiopia has a great future.

The trained labor force, finance sector reform and others make this country better for foreign investors. The potential existing

investors should be protected to facilitate economic development of the country. It also needs to treat and protect legal, copyrights and others, he added.

For his part, Vita food industry PLC Deputy General-Manager Berker Incekara said that the company has been producing candies and lollipops adhering to all Ethiopian crafted using only high-quality, clean ingredients, ensuring every product is as safe as it is delicious.

He mentioned that it reported counterfeit products to Addis Ababa Health Bureau, Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority, to remove and banned the illegal products. As a result, the Vita team remains committed to delivering premium confectionery with rigorous attention to quality and safety.

The Vita Food Industry PLC is dedicated to offering Ethiopia's consumers high-quality, authentic confectionery. Its candies and lollipops are produced in a certified facility, providing peace of mind to shop owners, parents, and sweet lovers. Amidst a market filled with counterfeit products, Vita guarantees that its sweets meet the highest standards for quality and safety, it was learnt.

Addis aims for uplifting over 780,000 through volunteerism

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – The Addis Ababa City Administration Community Participation and Voluntarism Coordination Commission announced yesterday a plan to uplift 780,824 residents by mobilizing one million volunteers over the next seven months.

In its presentation, the Commission reviewed last year's volunteer-driven achievements and outlined new goals to tackle pressing social and economic issues facing vulnerable communities.

Deputy Commissioner Dereje Kassa revealed that the Commission will deploy 12 major and 13 targeted volunteer programs, aiming to generate 6.5 billion Birr in value through expanded volunteer support this year. Last fiscal year, volunteer efforts contributed services worth over 12 billion Birr to the city's residents.

“As the African capital and a city of diverse communities, Addis Ababa faces complex social and economic challenges,” Dereje noted. “To address these, we're expanding volunteer initiatives to foster resilience and community well-being.”

Since May, volunteer work valued at more than 5.4 billion Birr has benefited communities facing economic and social hardships.

Commission Director Dawit Mulugeta highlighted the impact of volunteerism in strengthening community bonds and reaching underserved areas. “Volunteers have made vital contributions across the city, with over two million involved in the Green Legacy Initiative, planting 26 million trees. We also engaged more than 92,000 citizens in awareness campaigns and mobilized 400,000 for citywide clean-up efforts,” Dawit explained.

Key programs also include 27,000 volunteers supporting urban farming, 716,000 participating in sports activities, 230,000 contributing to peacekeeping, and 321,000 aiding cross-border initiatives. Together, these efforts have provided benefits to 764,000 individuals, including 89,000 who received free healthcare and many others who received housing and food support.

Commissioner Yimer Kebede, a guest speaker, emphasized the critical role of volunteerism in bridging economic and social divides. “Volunteerism plays a vital role in reaching those the government may not be able to support directly,” Yimer said. “Despite Ethiopia's natural resources, many citizens still face food insecurity. Identifying the root causes of these challenges is key to sustainable solutions.”

To tackle poverty and promote sustainable community growth, the Commissioner announced plans to work alongside artists, stakeholders, the private sector, and other organizations, fostering a resilient and inclusive Addis Ababa.

Center boosts cotton yields, calls for industry revival

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopia holds immense potential for cotton productivity, according to the Werer Agricultural Research Center Director, who called on key institutions to focus on fully harnessing the sector.

Shimelis Alemayehu, Director of the Werer Agricultural Research Center under the Ethiopian Agricultural Research Institute, told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the center has employed technology-driven interventions to enhance cotton productivity since its inception in the 1960s.

Aligning its core mission with natural resource management and research activities, the center has successfully transitioned from research-based productivity to quality cotton production.

Established in the late 1990s, the center's cotton research program has been working on industrial crop research, focusing on cotton genetics to address development challenges like bollworm infestations and other pests that affect yields and quality.

In addition, the center has provided farmers with effective pesticides and introduced 43 improved cotton species across the country in areas suitable for cotton cultivation. Over the past three years, it has also delivered four high-yield cotton varieties, the director elaborated.



Research indicates that cotton production, once at just 18 quintals per hectare, has now surged to 54.3 quintals per hectare. The adoption of BP cotton genes has further reduced the need for chemical insecticides, cutting unnecessary expenses and improving productivity.

“Despite the progress, there is still much to be done,” Shimelis remarked, urging local industries to prioritize domestic cotton, which would directly promote the sector's

growth.

The center, in collaboration with stakeholders, is actively working to bridge gaps in manufacturing capacity and information to unlock the country's vast cotton potential. The director also stressed the need for the government and relevant ministries to work together, not only to support the textile industry but also to promote cotton as a significant export product.

News

Agri sector burgeoning due to new policy

BY MESERET BEHAILU

As a backbone of the Ethiopian economy, agriculture is the major livelihood of many citizens. Despite recent developments in the sector, a significant number of people are yet facing food insecurity due to the mismatch between demand and supply. However, the agricultural and rural development policy that was lately introduced by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), is believed to address constraints in the sector thereby improving productivity.

Officials expressed that the new policy takes into account of the current situation of the country and facilitates Ethiopia's journey toward food self-sufficiency as well as increasing export earnings.

For Agriculture Minister, Girma Amente (PhD), the new policy is promising to farmers and pastoralists to boost and retain benefits and keeping the country on track in ensuring improved production and productivity, realizing agricultural commercialization, protecting natural resources, and expanding infrastructure in rural areas.

Similarly, rural land, forest and other natural resources administration, technology and finance provision, proper utilization of water, rural development structural transformation, investment, and inclusiveness are also among the objectives of the new policy, Girma stated.

The new policy also promotes providing

adequate finance to the agriculture sector and other rural livelihoods. In relation to this, activities are being done with finance institutions to attract private sectors to boost agricultural production and productivity with high focus on quality.

The Minister believed that the policy will bring agricultural and rural development shift, which is a springboard to realize food security. To this end, Girma's organization provides support for the expansion of improved seeds in cereals, livestock's, and the likes. It is also preparing to launch various regulations vital to manage land resource.

Tigray State Agriculture and Natural Resource Bureau Head Eyasu Abriha (PhD) told *The Ethiopian Herald* that the new policy would assist to maximize production and productivity, improving execution performance, advancing market oriented agriculture, and ensuring environmental sustainability and inclusiveness.

Eyasu added that agricultural transformation requires constructive policy and private sector involvement. Previously, the agriculture policy was merely depending on energy, land, and finance. However, Tigray State is giving due emphasis to water resource management alongside with the aforementioned three resources.

Agriculture requires energies of various renewable sources including electric, wind, solar, and the likes. "If you want to produce

more in a small area, the agriculture must be supported by technology and mechanization or semi-commercialized, semi-mechanized methods," he noted.

The new policy will address financial challenges in agriculture and rural development to provide adequate loan to run businesses. This is crucial to practice intensified irrigation projects in the country. Therefore, the new policy is the exact solution in addressing agricultural challenges thereby boosting production and productivity, according to Eyasu.

The Head believed that the policy maximizes the productivity of sorghum, wheat, teff, maize, sesame, and the likes for creating an enabling environment in promoting the use of improved seeds and modern production approaches.

Dire Dawa City Administration, Agriculture, Water, Mining and Energy Bureau Head, Nuredin Abdela on his part said that the new policy would help to feed the growing market demand for agricultural products. The policy is a crucial step to a rapid agricultural transformation for stipulating technological advancement, market access, and stakeholders' integration, among others.

Nuredin stated that Dire Dawa has been working on various developmental activities such as fruit production and productivity, green legacy initiative, and the likes to ensure food sovereignty and the new policy is supportive to do so.



Ethiopia continues nurturing ...

the manifestation of patriotism and nationalism, sacrificing their invaluable life to safeguard the sovereignty of Ethiopia and the wellbeing of the people. Ethiopia continues to uphold its peace and stability for the sacrifice made by the heroic defense force in protecting the nation from enemies.

Taye added that since the reform process, the army is built in a professional manner, having modern technologies and infrastructural facilities thereby overcoming difficulties easily. Accordingly ENDF is in a position that allows it to cope with any attempts from enemies and well positioned in terms of human power and weapons.

Ethiopia had not have a history of intimidating the sovereignty and freedom of any neighboring countries and beyond. Ethiopia is known for cooperation and contributing to regional peace and beyond. Therefore, Ethiopia continues contributing to regional peace and stability. The nation works to ensure collective peace and development with its neighboring countries and committed to revolve disagreements peacefully, he noted.

Delivering an opening remark at the event, Defense Minister Aisha Mohamed said that ENDF is living up to its name in safeguarding the sovereignty of the nation and also maintaining peace and stability. Ethiopia is known for cooperation, and significantly contributing to regional peace and stability and continues playing this role.

ENDF's Chief of General Staff, Field



Marshal Birhanu Jula, said that apart from defending and protecting Ethiopia's sovereignty, the defense forces have significantly contributed to maintaining peace and stability in the region and beyond deployed under the AU/UN missions.

Accordingly the defense forces have demonstrated heroism during the peacekeeping missions in Korea, Congo, Liberia, Rwanda, Burundi, Sudan, and South Sudan, playing a significant role in combating terrorism and maintaining stability in the Horn of Africa region. The Ethiopian army is not only equipped with modern weaponry, but is also trained and

regularly prepared to carry out any duty efficiently.

Lieutenant General Alemishet Degife said that the HoA is attracting the interest of big and emerging world powers from near and far as the region is key positioned in geostrategic areas of Africa. Therefore, Ethiopia needs to act accordingly and the country's role in the region needs to be high as the region is attracting the attention of regional and global actors.

He emphasized the critical role of Ethiopia's army in fostering regional peace and stability to strengthen cooperation among countries in the region.

Premier's state ...

Followed by a bilateral meeting, the Premier and his delegation was welcomed by Malaysia Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, according to Malaysia Foreign Affairs statement.

The discussion between the two leaders will focus on strengthening bilateral relations, particularly cooperation in trade and investment, agriculture and commodities, halal industry, sustainable development, health, tourism, and education, as reported by Malaysian daily-Bernma.

"Both leaders are expected to discuss regional and international issues of mutual concern. The official visit will further add to the ongoing efforts in enhancing relations between Malaysia and Ethiopia," Malaysia Foreign Affairs said.

Ethiopia ranked as Malaysia's 26th largest trading partner in the African continent in 2023. The value of bilateral trade between Malaysia and Ethiopia stood at 446.8 million Malaysian currency-RM, with exports favoring Malaysia with a 24.6 percent increase from the previous year.

Ethiopia imports electrical and electronic products from Malaysia, palm oil and palm oil-related agricultural products, textiles, apparels and footwear, it was stated.

Opinion

BRICS' advent: Global imbalance correcting coalition

BY MENGESHA AMARE

In the contemporary world where the earth is coming to a small village and entertaining harmony, the new impetus for changing the world order is badly needed. Besides, as the global economy continues to face challenges such as growing inequality, rising prices and unemployment, the need for collaboration, the issue of collaboration should not be a concern to be procrastinated even for a fraction of seconds.

Born to an innate diverging interest among founding members, Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, a newly emerged bloc, (BRICS) has long aspired for bridging the vividly observed world purchasing, development, growth and fairness gap via producing organization-wide consensus on substantive matters, coming up with collective thoughts, amalgamating energies and fairly tapping resources through either investment or any other lucrative means that can pronounce a win-win approach. Since the BRICS has come to the forefront, congratulations members states, indeed!

The association of nations accounting for 45% of the world's population, over 40% of oil production and about a quarter of the world's exports of goods would definitely make a difference in all aspects in the near future by balancing the world to weigh at an equilibrium point, dramatically narrowing the gap if the former is impossible in case.

Undeniably, BRICS seeks to establish a united front of emerging economy perspectives in multilateral institutions. Furthermore, the group aims both to push for reform of existing institutions, such as expanding the UN Security Council, and to form negotiating blocs within those institutions.

True, it is quite essential for the BRICS business community to firmly cement ties and join forces to develop strategies that can mitigate the spillover effect of the global discrepancy. It is well remembered that on 1 January, 2024, Ethiopia joined the BRICS which previously comprised Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa along with other countries. Following this historic juncture, the 16th BRICS Summit closed plenary session was held under theme "Strengthening multilateralism for just global development and security."

This is really a very important and timely move as the world over is suffering from a range of scenarios aggravating instability and terrorism. The member countries are thus expected to walk the talk to make a real difference in all aspects. One even can confidently speak that Ethiopia is a very good asset for the bloc as its government highly encourages investors from the BRICS nations to seize the enormous investment opportunities available across the nation.

Besides, the BRICS is well positioned to make a considerable inclusive economic growth and sustainable development. To fully realize this potential, all member states of the BRICS must actively work to ensure that global governance structures are more representative, inclusive and responsive to the needs of the population of member nations in particular and that of the rest of the world in general.

Yes, Russia took over the BRICS presidency and chaired the session, which aims at leading the bloc toward a new model of world order targeting balancing the whole world for prosperity, growth and stability. The very intention of the summit is to push the member states to a new model of world order discussing initiatives in the fields of science, food security, infrastructure and medicine within the BRICS framework and prosperity agenda.

Interestingly, the bloc provides a platform within which countries in the Global South can interact, as not only is the BRICS focusing on economic cooperation but it is also targeting at changing the world arrangement. As the bloc has hoped that BRICS expansion will continue, African countries need to move more coherently to have a free trade bloc and to have more economies of scale as a trade bloc. Hence, almost all nations of the world had better entertain the bloc and support the move for it is working to make the planet a fair play ground for all, instead of acting as it is given to some sects unjustly.

The government of Ethiopia has expressed readiness to play a constructive role in promoting peace and prosperity as a new member of the BRICS family in collaboration with all its members. Guided by its long-held principles and rich history of multilateralism, Ethiopia remains committed and ready to play a constructive role in promoting peace and prosperity as a new member of the BRICS family in collaboration with all its members, be they founding members or the newly born sisterly countries.

In addition to this, Ethiopia has been working from dawn to dusk with a view to boosting collaboration with other BRICS countries to exchange knowledge and best practices in sustainable forestry and reforestation as an influential bloc member.

Through partnerships with BRICS members, Ethiopia also seeks to augment its capacity to implement climate-resilient and low-carbon development strategies in alignment with the goals of the AU Agenda 2063. Such a firm collaboration can facilitate access to renewable energy technologies, financial resources, and technical proficiency among BRICS countries in a bid to further support their energy shift.

Another major concern that has to be well comprehended in this regard is that

Ethiopia's commitment to demonstrate to fight deforestation and forest degradation through the Green Legacy Initiative (GLI) has all the time been mentioned as an exemplary move towards making the earth an earthly heaven—by expanding greenery of areas as a national agenda. This momentous step taken by Ethiopia has to be well replicated by member states in particular for the purpose of bolstering the voices of BRICS countries on climate change actions and facilitating knowledge sharing and strengthening the BRICS think tank network.

The BRICS has definitely a potential to change the world apart from making member states affluent, suitable to live and work, being hub of climate resilient economic sovereignty and influential part of the globe at the bloc comprises great nations population, resource and strategic nature wise.

As stated earlier, this east African icon—Ethiopia—has all the time encouraged investors from the bloc to seize the opportunities available across its corners and it is open to all regardless of location, to mean that Ethiopia almost all the time enjoys color blind diplomacy, making economic, social and even political reforms would be as easy as possible. That is why at a plenary session of the forum in Moscow, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) called on those investors from BRICS countries to engage in Ethiopia particularly, in sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture, renewable energy, mining, ICT and tourism as these sectors and many other industries have held enormous potential for growth and innovation, growth and change.

Frankly speaking, Ethiopia lacks nothing despite some limitations that need to be addressed well and within the shortest time possible.

Without a shadow of doubt, Ethiopia is firmly committed to the implementation of the 2025 strategy for BRICS economic partnership, which seeks to promote sustainable development across its economic, social and environmental dimensions in an integrated and balanced manner. The 2025 strategy for BRICS economic partnership has indeed aligned with Ethiopia's own development goals towards industrialization, food security and environmental resilience. It is attention-grabbing news these days that together, BRICS member states can achieve remarkable progress and build a future market by shared prosperity, sustainable development and economic resilience for our people.

Unequivocally, the advent of BRICS has come up with cooperation in the field of information security and the development of a code of ethics for the application of artificial intelligence, in the fight against corruption and capital flight, taxation and customs, for sustainable development;

pursuit of an energy transition concept, from fossil to green energy, for instance, prioritizing national economic interests over climate goals, among others.

If truth be told, Ethiopia's entry into the BRICS is great evidence of the growing role of the country on the international arena, and its membership to the BRICS serves as a great inspiration and it can be regarded as grand move for the nation to bring about real change and its untapped and lucrative resources used for intensifying investment, heightening production and productivity, expanding employment opportunities and even promoting democratic steps as the theme of democracy does have a direct bearing to the economic advancement. Such a remarkable move helps the nation swell its role on the global showground.

Unambiguously, Ethiopia is among the few countries who managed to be the founding member of the main international organizations including the League of Nations, United Nations and African Union among others. Ethiopia's being a prime members of the BRICS now, next to the founding ones, itself has been conversing much about the growing role of Ethiopia at an international stage.

Yes, since Ethiopia has numerous natural and human resources, myriads of tangible and intangible heritages, economical human power, suitable landscape receiving whatever it is given for production and development, the role the country is playing, has played, will play in reinvigorating the South-South cooperation would be quite untold. The most important thing that needs to be taken into account in this regard is the tie/relationship among/between the member states needs to be based on mutual respect and mutual trust as such a harmonious move would all the time help come up with a difference and bear yummy fruits at the end of the day.

That is why it is recurrently said that the BRICS members enjoy open and trusted relations based on the principle of sovereign equality, respect for each other's choice of a development and progress path, and they are firmly expected to walk the talk.

In a nutshell, BRICS members have to develop a special culture of dialogue between the countries that represent different civilizations, religions and regions thereby knowing one another well and prettily foster growth and change in all aspects. BRICS members, keep up! Walk the talk, work hard and set up firm harmony thereby correcting global imbalance in terms of a range of aspects.

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

Editorial

Age long friendship

Ethiopia's evolving international relation has made its foundation on principles of ensuring mutual benefit that lifts up protecting national interest. With its ancient history, trade and strategic location, Ethiopia has played a pivotal role in Africa and the world political and diplomatic affairs. Benchmarking on its diplomatic legacy, the country has gone long distance being the voice of Africa in general and the East Africa in particular.

Ethiopia's diplomatic journey has paid off the nation and it could sustain the age long relations like that is with the Russian federation. Ethiopia and Russia relation is one of the oldest diplomatic relations. President of Russia, Vladimir Putin, On July 26, 2023 said, "For Russia, Ethiopia was the first country on the African continent with which Russia established diplomatic relations. This happened 125 years ago. We marked this anniversary recently."

True, Ethiopia also values the long lasted relation with Russia as the two countries are close each other in many ways such as culture, religion and diplomacy among others. During their long diplomatic relations, they have passed through lots of ups and downs together.

The two countries had worked hand in glove during the battle against the shackle of colonialism. At the mountains of Adwa, for instance, where Ethiopia became victorious in the fight against colonial aggression, the support it gained from Russia was remarkable that takes place in the heart of all Ethiopians. Since then, Russia has become a friend in need for Ethiopia. To mention a few, during the sovereignty wars in the east in 1970s, Russia stretched its supportive hands; at the UNSC, when Ethiopia was repeatedly accused for constructing hydropower generation dam on Abbay River, the issue unusually taken as security threat, Russia stood firm with Ethiopia upholding the truth that the latter has the right to use its natural resource.

In their longstanding relations, the two countries have strengthened ties in terms of economic attachment and cultural exchanges. Russia's trade mission in Addis Ababa is working to facilitate the development of the trade and economic links.

Besides, the two friendly countries are working jointly in communication technologies; a nuclear energy cooperation road map and cooperation between customs services. In terms of training more than 20,000 Ethiopian citizens have completed study programs in Russia and the quota has increased. These all have consolidated their diplomatic relations.

Ethiopia's membership in the BRICS bloc has opened new chapter that further strengthens the bilateral and multilateral relations Ethiopia has undertaken. Ethiopia almost all the time enjoys color blind diplomacy and striving to have friendly relations with the countries across the globe applying the principle of securing its national interest.

However, its membership in BRICS comes up with benefits not only for itself, but to contribute its share in making the world fair, just and equitable. For instance, Ethiopia is echoing loudly on behalf of Africa to get permanent seat with veto power at the UNSC. Commendably, Russia is among the nations that support this movement.

Ethiopia plays constructive role in promoting peace and prosperity correcting the global imbalance as a new member of the BRICS family in collaboration with all its members.

Diplomatic journey of the two countries that has gone through fire and water due to foreign policy shifts following regime and political ideology changes is getting fertile from time to time. There is, of course, a long way ahead that both are duty bound to accomplish in terms of political, economic and social spheres. The track record the two countries have registered in diplomatic relation so far testifies that they are capable to achieve even more successes in the future ensuring mutual benefits of their respective peoples.

Opinion

The need to adopt ideologies that bolster national cohesion

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

In Ethiopia, there is a clear tension between civic nationalism and ethnocentrism, two competing ideologies that shape the country's political and social landscape. While civil nationalism was the predominant ideology in the country, from late 1960s and 1970s, with the advent of the student movement which brought up the issue of self-determination of nations and nationalities along with the slogan of land to the tiller, ethnocentrism took root in the country with the proliferation of ethnic based liberation movements like the EPLF, TPLF, OLF, ONLF and other liberation movements.

The declaration of the Tigray Manifesto in 1975 clearly indicated the irredentist nature of some of the liberation movements attempting to replace civil nationalism based on Ethiopian citizenship into ethnic based configuration which was later codified in the TPLF sponsored current constitution of the country.

Civic nationalism emphasizes a shared identity based on citizenship, common political values, and a collective sense of national unity through the promotion of common narratives which are crucial for national development, peace and stability. It promotes the idea that all citizens, regardless of ethnic background, belong to the same nation and contribute to its development. In Ethiopia, this ideology seeks to build a unified state by promoting equal rights, national unity, and inclusive governance that transcends ethnic divisions. Disparities between regional constitutions and the federal constitution as well as visible irregularities between the legal and political relations between regional and federal governments explain deeper conceptual and legal contradictions that have caused ethnic conflicts and unrests in the country for almost four decades.

However, previous regimes that were ruling the country tried to present the social-cultural and legal values of the dominant ethnic group as it represents the entire population generating grievances and cultural inequalities among the ethnic groups in the country. The promulgation of a state religion (1935 constitution) and official discriminatory measures brought up dissensions among a number of ethnic groups in the country.

On the other hand, ethnocentrism in Ethiopia is closely linked to the country's ethnic federalism—a system of governance where power is largely devolved to ethnically defined regions. Ethnocentrism prioritizes the interests and identity of a particular ethnic group above others, often resulting in regional and ethnic divisions. This approach has at times led to tensions, competition for resources, and a sense of exclusion among different ethnic groups, undermining national unity.

Since the institutionalization and legal introduction of ethnic based decentralized state structure in 1992 and its effective formation of the federal system in 1995, the Ethiopian federal order has been rocked with inter-ethnic

tensions and conflicts that continued unabated. The author of this article is not trying to argue whether ethnic federalism is good or bad but takes it as a viable alternative for resolving age old dissatisfactions and challenges that the people of Ethiopia have continued to face.

Some armed groups that have posed in the name of struggling for democracy, human and economic rights are currently engaged in armed battles with the ENDF in view of "fighting for survival" with no mandate from the ethnic group they claim to represent but are in reality working against the interest of their own people in blocking transportation systems and closing down schools. This has been the reality in the war that broke out in the northern part of the country two years ago and has now continued to prevail in Amhara and Oromia regions with relative stability in Tigray. The point is, has this, ethno-territorial federalism helped to resolve the basic political problems in the country or did it exacerbate the already existing problems. Suffice it to mention issues related to the Ethiopian tricolor, the question of identity and issues of internal boundaries. Issues of minority rights are not clearly recognized by the regional constitutions while they provide economic and socio-cultural and legal rights of the ethnic majority in the respective regional states. The federal constitution treats this issue in a more general way referring to the rights of the nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia with no specific reference to ethnic minorities.

Civic nationalism advocates for a national identity that includes all Ethiopians, regardless of their ethnicity, while ethnocentrism fosters an exclusive identity based on ethnic affiliation. This can lead to contradictions in political discourse, as ethnocentrism often drives demands for autonomy and self-determination, whereas civic nationalism emphasizes collective national sovereignty with emphasis on a united multi-ethnic state.

Civic nationalism seeks to unify the diverse population under a common political framework, promoting national cohesion. Ethnocentrism, however, can lead to fragmentation along ethnic lines, causing conflicts and weakening the national fabric. Ethiopia has witnessed this in the form of ethnic-based clashes and competing claims for political dominance.

Ethnic federalism in Ethiopia is meant to empower ethnic groups, but it has sometimes deepened divisions and caused tensions around issues like land, language, and political representation. Civic nationalism, on the other hand, aims for a broader form of representation that includes all ethnicities without focusing solely on ethnic identity.

The rise of ethnocentric ideologies has contributed to increased ethnic-based conflicts. Ethnic groups, driven by a desire for greater autonomy or resources, often clash with the ideals of national unity promoted by civic nationalism. The ongoing challenge is how to balance these competing interests without leading to further instability.

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



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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/
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Females should come to the front line so as to be good models for the coming generation

- Etaferahu Hailu (PhD)

BY MEKDES TAYE (PhD)

Once there was a female student at Jijiga University who spent five years of her life struggling to make it in her education and lead a decent life. As she scored very low in her courses she failed repeatedly and was readmitted five times, but to no avail. When she was dismissed for good she went to her last resort, one of the female instructors in the University.

The woman who came to her rescue to examine her problem from inside out and give her final solution was Dr. Etaferahu. Thanks to her expert treatment that repeatedly failing student has finally graduated with good grade and is now an employee in a government office. Though other staff of the University had a good role as scholars, it was a woman who went deeper and more specific to address the underlying problem of this student in trouble.

The bottom line issue here is that gender inclusion can assist tremendously in addressing a huge volume of problem at national level. But as reports and research justifications clearly revealed women inclusion and equal participation in Africa is far below the forecasted agenda of African Union and other institutions who have been working on the issue of gender. Since the patriarchal issues related deficiencies are still prevailing in the continent, females are away from various spaces as their male counterparts. One could raise the educational values as a basic criterion of competition. That is healthier point. But those who win over lots challenges and succeeded in education are also ignored from inclusion still by seeking another criterion.

Today's Herald Guest is Etaferahu Hailu. She had a time with Herald regarding her educational and personal background.

Etaferahu was born to a family of merchants in Addis Ababa. As the second child in a family of 8 children she took on more household chores alongside her education. After completing her secondary school education despite all these challenges she joined a Diploma program the Language Department at Kotebe College of Teachers Education. I studied Amharic Language and Literature. But after graduating with a Diploma, she joined Addis Ababa University for a Degree Program and graduated with a cumulative GPA of 3.82, standing the first top scorer in the department.

During her brief interview with The Ethiopian Herald she has explained about some of her life circumstances that she passed through with courage and struggle, how she helped other female students in University to succeed in their career as well as how interventions like affirmative actions, gender inclusion and mainstreaming can help women cope with challenges that hold them back and become effective in their education and career. Have a nice read!

You look beautiful and you are top in your education. So how do you challenge the difficulties that may face you as female in campus?

The reason for living in this world for me is education. There is nothing that interests me than studying and attending classes. There were many challenges, but I never exposed my weakest side to others. I was very careful on that. If you keep your weak side unknown to others no one can try to challenge you. Thus the key is in your hand. For this strength and personality, my mother takes the dominant share. She is an incredible woman I ever know. She is the source of my strength and commitment.

Thus I reserve myself from people who could take me to a different direction. I prefer to be alone than to be with students who had some other goal.

How did you manage the overall circumstances that you encounter after employment?

My instructors were eagerly waiting for my employment as an assistant lecturer at the university. But at that time the Ministry of Education announced that the mandates of universities to employ teachers were overtaken by the ministry. Thus, the Ministry assumed the task of assigning teachers to Universities. The head of my department at Addis Ababa University advised me



Photo: Gebabo Gebrie

to confront the ministry. But since such things need some guidance to navigate the process, I can't continue. Consequently, the ministry assigned me to a job post at Jijiga University.

When I shared this news to my family, they warned me against it. They [tried to persuade me to stay here] and promised me to cover all the expenses for my Master's Degree study and to look for a job. But I needed independence and wanted to stand on my own. Even though it was my first time to be away from family and Addis Ababa, I strongly decided to go. At that time, i.e around 2008 the road to Jijiga was very risky. It was impossible to reach the city in a day. I was forced to spend the night in Harrar. I was feeling scared and never slept the whole night.

When I arrived there, everything was new to me. The weather was too hard to adapt. It is too hot. Even the water is salty. The next day I got into the university. It was new. Its construction was not complete. The department that I assigned was not open at that time. Things were pushing me to lose my hope. But I should be strong. I faced everything and started to adapt step by step.

After some time, the department became functional. Then I was selected to be a

director of the Gender Office. There was no one except me. Everything like writing, planning, implementing and even circulating papers lies on my shoulder. There were lots of cases coming to the office. I was the caretaker of female students' issues, and that responsibility brought me immense happiness.

What unforgettable incidents could you mention while you were in that directorate?

I received many appalling stories from female students about harassment, abuses, and inaccessibility of necessary sanitation materials which were my day-to-day stories sourced from the girls. The most dominant challenge of the girls was the scarcity of sanitation materials. Thus I planned something to address this problem. I asked each instructor to contribute 20 birr. I raised this money by going to each teacher face to face. I then screened the girls who couldn't afford sanitation materials and began providing 50 birr each month to those selected. This initiative benefited many girls. In the book entitled Successful Women, I read about a student who graduated from Physics department. She was the top scorer with grade point average (GPA) of 3.9. She

Continued to page 7

Females should come to the front line ...

Continued from page 6

gave a lofted credit to the gender office since the support she got from the office was very basic in covering her costs. She stated that without that financial assistance, she wouldn't have been able to succeed. I felt proud knowing that I played a role in the girls' achievements which is my superiority in life.

Another challenge I encountered was about readmitted students who were sent home for months. I noticed that many girls who left often never returned, some being forced into marriage or relegated to household duties. I raised this issue with the academic president, suggesting it would be better to allow these girls to stay on campus and attend makeup classes. Although the president initially expressed some concerns related to budget and accommodation, he consulted with various offices and ultimately allowed the female students to remain and take courses. Many of them achieved even better grades than before.

As the gender office director, I was invited to a meeting in Addis Ababa organized by the Ministry of Women and Children. I raised the issues faced by female students at my university, and after hearing about these challenges, the ministry promised to allocate 400 birr for each needy female student.

Let me add one more story. There was a mentally disordered student. She was scoring low grades and she spent five years in the campus through readmission. Finally she scored a dismissal result. When she came to me, I asked her story and treated her with compassion. She told me that she was sexually assaulted by her uncle. She didn't share this story to anyone it was her painful experience in life. Then I took the case to the academic vice president. I said we took 5 years from this girl, and now we are dismissing her. She had this problem. So is that fair for this young female? Then he worried and ordered the department to arrange a makeup class for her. Then she graduated with good grade. Now she is good and working in a governmental office. In this regard, I would like to acknowledge JJU University's higher officials for their commitment to addressing gender issues.

How did you manage to pursue your career to the level of PhD?

I worked there for two years before returning to Addis Ababa University to pursue my MA. I graduated as the top scorer in my department with a CGPA of 3.94. Shortly after, I got married and welcomed a baby boy into my life. Despite the new responsibilities, I continued my work with great passion. Two years later, I returned to Addis Ababa University to pursue my PhD in Linguistics. I balanced family responsibilities while managing my studies, research, and meetings. During this time, I had the opportunity to travel to Norway and Finland. These trips, supported by Norad, helped me finalize my PhD during my stay and deepen my knowledge in my field.



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The equal inclusion of women with men in every space is not done for the benefit of the women but rather for the inclusive harmonious destiny of males too

After earning my PhD in linguistics, I published articles on international journals and local journals. Currently, I am a researcher at the Institute of Ethiopian Language and Culture at Addis Ababa University, where I am involved in various research projects.

What are you doing as a female researcher regarding female students?

In the current status of Ethiopia, I have found out that the project on females' boarding school is very important. Females can have time for study; they are away from any form of sexual harassment which can even be made on the streets. But at the same time, these girls need life skill training. Thus I have researched on the relevance of this training to the girls and submitted my proposal to the concerned body. Thus if it is influential the measure could start to be taken.

Do you think female students are still treated unfairly or considered unequal?

Definitely! Female students are still pushed back from school, positions, and opportunities. Policies are simply there for the paper. The truth is far from the promise. But I can say that things are progressively changing. A good number of women are taking some influential spaces.

What do you think would be the solution then?

We need a sustainable effort and committed work on that. Females should come to the front line so as to be good models for the coming generation. This will not be solved by the only effort of women. Men should also say no to the discrimination and biases of females. Together we can gradually change the gap and assure gender equality for equal access and success.

Do you think gender inclusion in different spaces is relevant for the nation?

Sure. Women are more committed, disciplined, hard workers, and loyal comparatively. I am not saying males are not. But women are very committed. Thus involving them in a position means having these traits in that position. This is very important for building the nation.

The issues of gender in Ethiopia and Africa are not the ones that could be achieved through extremism. The culture, the economy, and the social background we have did demand the effort of the males in the issues of females. The equal inclusion of women with men in every space is not done for the benefit of the women but rather for the inclusive harmonious destiny of males too. Thus, this point should be the assignment of males too. That way we can bring a nation that is built with equal effort and satisfaction.

Thank you very much for your time!

Thank you!

Law & Politics

BRICS: A rising force in global balance of power

BY ELIAS GETNET

BRICS has emerged as a significant alternative force in the global balance of power. Initially formed in 2006 by Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, the alliance was created to address the global power imbalance and provide economic alternatives, especially for developing nations. BRICS was founded on the idea of promoting more equitable global governance and offering alternative solutions that would reduce the dependency of developing countries on Western-dominated systems.

In January 2024, BRICS expanded its membership to include Ethiopia, Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), growing from five to ten member states. This expansion signifies the group's increasing influence and relevance in world politics and the global economy.

The BRICS alliance is proving to be a formidable player in both economic and political spheres. Collectively, BRICS nations have a population of 3.5 billion people, accounting for 45% of the world's population. Economically, the group wields considerable power, with a combined GDP exceeding \$28.5 trillion, representing 28% of the world's total economic output. Additionally, BRICS countries control 47% of the world's oil reserves, further solidifying their strategic importance in the global energy market.

This economic and political clout has made BRICS an attractive alternative for countries looking to reduce their dependency on Western-led financial institutions and trade systems. The group's establishment of the New Development Bank (NDB) in 2014 was a pivotal moment, as it offers financial support to member countries and other developing nations, challenging the dominance of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which have traditionally been influenced by Western interests.

The ability of BRICS to offer non-Western solutions to global economic issues has resonated with many developing countries, providing them with a platform to pursue their own financial models and trade strategies without relying solely on Western-led frameworks.

The 16th BRICS Summit is currently taking place in Kazan, Russia. This is a significant moment for the alliance as it includes Ethiopia, Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE as new members for the first time in the annual meeting. This expansion showcases the

increasing influence of the alliance.

In addition to the member states, over 20 nations have been invited to the Kazan summit, reflecting the increasing interest in BRICS as a global platform. Remarkably, more than 30 countries have submitted requests to join BRICS, recognizing its potential as an alternative force in global governance. Nations from East Asia, Africa, and Latin America have expressed interest, understanding that BRICS offers not only economic benefits but also a political voice for developing countries in a world dominated by Western powers.

Among these candidates are Indonesia, home to the world's largest Muslim population; Turkey, a NATO member; and Nigeria, Africa's most populous country. These nations are eager to align themselves with BRICS, seeking greater economic independence and alternative political partnerships.

The benefits of joining the expanded BRICS+ group are becoming increasingly clear, particularly for developing countries. In a global order largely shaped by U.S. and Western influence, BRICS offers an alternative economic and political framework. Countries that join BRICS gain the ability to trade in their own currencies, reducing reliance on the U.S. dollar and avoiding the conditions often imposed by Western financial institutions.

Trade between BRICS members has grown over time, allowing them to create their own credit and aid structures. This shift enables countries to bypass traditional aid models dependent on the approval of institutions like the World Bank and IMF. Additionally, BRICS countries are now playing a pivotal role in surpassing the economic influence of the Group of Seven (G7), offering more inclusive and flexible trade practices for developing economies.

BRICS also presents an attractive alternative by allowing countries to circumvent the sanctions that Western nations often impose to enforce their political objectives. By trading in local currencies, BRICS members can reduce their exposure to external economic pressures and trade more freely.

This growing flexibility and independence are driving many developing countries, particularly in Africa and Asia, to express strong interest in joining BRICS. The alliance's ability to challenge the one-sided dominance of the U.S. and the West has been a key factor in attracting new members.

The rise of BRICS is already having a noticeable impact on global power dynamics. The group's challenge to

the Western-dominated world order is reshaping international relations, particularly as it seeks to create a more multipolar world. Since the end of the Cold War, global power has been largely concentrated in the hands of the U.S., but BRICS is providing a counterweight, creating a world where multiple actors influence global peace, economic policies, and governance.

The emergence of BRICS is helping to foster cooperation among its member states and could herald the arrival of a new world order, one characterized by a more balanced distribution of power. This shift opens up opportunities for more inclusive global governance, which is better suited to the diverse realities of the 21st century.

BRICS countries are also playing an important role in strengthening trade and economic exchange across continents. China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), for example, has been instrumental in connecting Africa, Asia, and Latin America through infrastructure development, facilitating trade routes and economic cooperation.

Moreover, BRICS is advocating for reform in global institutions such as the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), the IMF, and the World Bank. These reforms are intended to ensure that the voices of developing countries are heard and that global governance reflects the interests of the broader international community, rather than being dominated by Western powers.

Ethiopia, one of Africa's largest economies, is participating in the BRICS Summit. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, along with his delegation, is attending the summit in Kazan, underscoring Ethiopia's growing diplomatic engagement with BRICS.

In his visit, Prime Minister Abiy engaged in important discussions with UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, highlighting Ethiopia's active role within the BRICS alliance so far.

Ethiopia's inclusion as one of the first new members of BRICS chosen from over 30 applicants demonstrates the effectiveness of the Ethiopian government's diplomatic efforts. By joining BRICS, Ethiopia aimed to strengthen its influence in global governance and leverage the economic opportunities that come with BRICS membership.

Moving forward, Ethiopia is expected to play a continuous and significant role within BRICS, shaping policies that benefit not only its own development but also that of other developing nations.



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Society



African Hall: A home, icon of Pan-Africanism

BY TEWODROS KASSA

For the past five plus decades, located in the heart of Addis Ababa city, the African Hall has stood as a symbol of unity, pride and resistance. No doubt, this iconic building has no doubt served as a beacon for those seeking a sense of belonging, fostering a community that celebrates the rich diversity of African culture. Today, every African from all walks of life witnesses that the African Hall has become a cornerstone of Pan-Africanism.

According to historical records, the African Hall was founded in the early 20th century by a group of visionary leaders who sought to create a space where the voices and experiences of Africans could be celebrated and uplifted. Originally established as a cultural center, the hall quickly evolved into a hub for political activism, intellectual discourse, and artistic expression.

Through the decades, the African Hall has weathered storms of oppression and colonization, emerging as a steadfast sanctuary for those who seek to honor their heritage and challenge systems of injustice. It has become a place of pilgrimage for Pan-Africanists from around the world, drawn to its walls imbued with the spirit of resilience and solidarity.

Moreover, the African Hall holds a special place in the hearts of many, serving as a reminder of the sacrifices made by those who came before us in the struggle for liberation and equality. It stands as a testament to the power of community and collaboration, offering a space where individuals can come together to celebrate their shared history and envision a brighter future.

More importantly, the African Hall has played a crucial role in shaping the narrative of Pan-Africanism, offering a space where ideas can flourish and alliances can be forged.

Recently, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) and UN Secretary-General António Guterres inaugurated the African Hall.

Originally inaugurated in 1961 by Ethiopia's Emperor Haile Selassie, Africa Hall is the birthplace of the former Organization of African Unity (OAU), now the African Union (AU), and has witnessed numerous pivotal moments in Africa's history.



After years of intensive renovation, Africa Hall, the iconic birthplace of the Organization of African Unity, was inaugurated yesterday. The venue reflects on Africa's past and present; with a focus on a sustainable future.

The renovation amplifies its cultural significance as a heritage with tourism potential for Ethiopia, beyond one of the state-of-the-art conference venues with modern facilities, a visitors' center, a permanent exhibition, and a cinema room for screenings and public events, while respecting the architectural and artistic vision of the '60s.

The new visitors' center will welcome the public to learn about Africa's history, the African Union, and the United Nations.

The renovation offers a 360° upgrade: from updating conferencing equipment to complying with current fire hazard requirements and building codes.

It also includes accessibility for people with disabilities, lighting, waterproofing ceilings, and restoring original furnishing.

Accordingly, the Africa Hall is a prestigious landmark where the continent's history is shaped and returned.

Meanwhile, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) Executive Secretary Claver Gatete said that the renovated Africa Hall is an important investment that positions Ethiopia for greater tourism growth given its Pan-African legacy and rich history.

During the inaugural ceremony, the UNECA

Chief expressed a special gratitude to the Government of Ethiopia for the gift of Africa Hall in 1961, which became the starting point of an African renaissance.

According to him, the Africa Hall is emblematic of Africa's past struggles and triumphs when the OAU Charter was signed right here in 1963 – a signal for a new beginning, he said, adding that “Now, more than ever, it makes a sound economic sense to invest in sectors like tourism that harness our history, culture, and heritage to mobilize resources for national and continental development.”

He mentioned some of the world's iconic landmarks such as China's Great Wall, America's Statue of Liberty, France's Eiffel Tower, and India's Taj Mahal, providing practical examples of how history and culture can draw millions of visitors annually, and also contributing to shared prosperity.

And Africa, too, with over 130 world heritage sites, has its rich history waiting to be shared with the world, he underlined.

For him, given Ethiopia's Pan-African legacy and rich history, a renovated Africa Hall is an important investment that positions the country for greater tourism growth, while celebrating Africa's collective history and future.

Gatete also underlined that it is time for more Africans and visitors from around the world to discover Africa's stories here at Africa Hall.

“Furthermore, through initiatives like the

Africa Continental Free Trade Area and visa relaxation policies, we can honor our founding fathers' vision of an integrated Africa by enhancing intra-African travel and creating a vibrant tourism market,” he said.

Efforts have been made to meticulously preserve the materials from the original 1961 construction, blending the past with the present to create a rejuvenated space that reflects Africa's proud heritage.

The hall now stands as a modernized facility, equipped with state-of-the-art amenities, a visitors' center, and a permanent exhibition space and conference hall to host high-level meetings, while maintaining its architectural and historical significance.

One of the standout features is the open design of its chamber – an intentional homage to Emperor Haile Selassie, who believed that critical discussions should not be held behind closed doors.

“Sixty years ago, visionary leaders gathered in this very hall to lay the foundation for African unity by signing the Charter of the Organization of African Unity, he stated underlining that “When the next generation gathers here in the decades to come, it is only right that they should be inspired by the efforts we make today to advance the cause of Africa's transformation.”

Emphasizing the newly inaugurated iconic African Hall, UN Secretary-General António Guterres stated that the Hall is where Africa came together to give life to the Organization of African Unity (OAU), now the African Union (AU) times were very different.

Guterres added that the Hall is a bridge between Africa's past and future, honoring shared struggles and achievements while embracing common aspirations.

For him, the African Hall has been a symbol of the continent's collective aspirations, a testament to its resilience, and a beacon of hope for entire generations for more than 60 years.

In sum, the African Hall is a place where history is made, voices are amplified, and revolutions are born. Let us continue to cherish and support the African Hall, ensuring that its legacy remains strong for generations to come.

Art & Culture

A bold move that turns around peoples' lifestyles



BY NAOL GIRMA

Ethiopia's developmental cultures have long been known for their exclusive, chaotic, and abandoning nature. Whenever developmental projects were launched somewhere in the Country, doubts, criticisms, and biases would fill the air because the masses were oblivious to the rights of their nation. Even though its long tradition of Indigenous state formation enabled the Country to have a strong structure, the political culture by itself has been exclusive in terms of developmental projects and it always made it dependent on the freewill or generosity of administrations.

Such cases have been creating curiosity in the minds of the people that land needed for development projects is mostly attached to corruption or undue displacement of citizens. The thought has been true because of bad administrations' and bad or abusive political cultures.

In the past few years several reforms and developmental projects were launched by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and the public has been curious as usual and it has taken too much convincing to do for the Premier and his committed officials. The development is still ongoing as it keeps on changing the lifestyles and entrepreneurial cultures of many particularly the youth.

Dawit Jemaneh a young entrepreneur who owns a shop at the heart of Addis Ababa says "The idea of an improved livelihood and life status has been ignored for several years for our traditions were limited by aged social norms and ways of life. This has already affected not only our economy but also our interests in macro-level entrepreneurial visions. I think the developments we have witnessed in the past few years are the sprinting boards to wake up and look for quality life status and broader visions of big city life".

The overall City development projects are expected to renovate, decorate, and make Addis Ababa a better city for living. The first-round corridor development has gained international recognition as the City Mayor received the Smart City Leadership Award at Seoul, South Korea. The mayor in her statement released on her social platform page said the Smart City Leadership Award was the result of the combined effort of government and the people. "The public is the gear for every developmental activity and we the leaders are humbly grateful for the cooperative



spirit of our people."

While the corridor development initiatives are spreading to other cities and towns around the Country, it was announced that a second round of corridor development will be launched in Addis Ababa. According to Adanech the corridors studied for second round development are eight. She said, "The corridor developments are meant to be inclusive, transparent, and most of all they will be developments that do not leave anyone behind".

The mayor also indicated that the new phase would cover over 2817 hectares of land. The development will comprise roads, taxi and bus terminals, green areas, bicycle lanes, vehicle parking, security facilities, etc. noted Adanech. In line with building their facilities Ethio-Telecom, artificial intelligence, Electric Utilities, and Federal Housing Corporation are among the major

institutions expected to exert maximum effort in the process to make Addis Ababa a beautiful and smart city.

If the City has to transform itself and the lives of its residents going boldly towards the vision is expected to be mandatory. Many agree that to harvest the fruits of development several countries have gone through unimaginable sacrifices. That is what Addis Ababa is going through even if many see the reality with curiosity. To avoid such doubts among the public, Adanech stressed that the government is ready to provide everything necessary for the people who would be replaced and whose properties would be affected.

"Preparations are completed to quickly execute the second round of corridor development. Houses are prepared for those who were leading unpleasant lives in the shanty old homes, workshops or

shades are ready to be transferred. Different infrastructures including schools are also ready for our residents who transfer to their new and comfortable houses. Over 500 shops are built. Compensations and substitute lands are also prepared", she said.

In this case, the curious traditions brought by the Nation's entrenched bad political cultures would slowly diminish and the people would develop reliance on its government and politicians. A new lifestyle and status is expected to change the socioeconomic and political well-being of the mass public. Not only new places but also some new experiences could be confusing at first. But gradually the new places and new life experiences would be crucial in seeing the positive aspects of being part of such a bold move towards smart city developments. It makes the people major actors of their own development and ownership come with the sacrifices made.

People would also embrace the development and come up with entrepreneurial ideas that would allow them to entertain their sociocultural values and expand their businesses in a creative way. After all the entire world is changing in many dynamics and a modern society is always expected to come up with changes and learn to open up to new socioeconomic, cultural, or political solutions.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's administration which has pulled off several developmental initiatives over the past six years is making it clear if this Country does not go boldly on such huge missions, it will be hard to say the old political cultures have changed, and new promises are fulfilled. While addressing the parliament in the case of the first corridor development project, the Premier said "There would be confusion, too much noise and criticism. But we have to go boldly if we have to fulfill the promises that we made to our people. Making Addis Ababa a flower as depicted by its name, was the promise we made and that is what we are trying to achieve."

In this case, Mayor Adanech Abiyebie has repeatedly stated that a cooperative culture between the public and government officials was growing with a trustworthy commitment during the execution of the first phase corridor development project. She also repeatedly noted that the public is always the one to acknowledge all the achievements in changing the image of the City.

Verbatim and Caption



Ethiopia has strong desire to host the 2029 AFCON: PM Abiy

Ethiopia, which is the founder of the Confederation of African Football (CAF), is strongly desirous to host the 2029 African Cup of Nations (AFCON). Ethiopia has strong desire to host the 2029 continental soccer tournament.

Ethiopia is one of the founding nations of African football and remains committed to the development of the sport. Ethiopia is dedicated to fostering growth in the sector and working to ensure the sport continues to thrive on a solid foundation. The country is investing on expanding sport facilities and infrastructure, including building FIFA standard stadiums.

Ethiopia proudly stands as a symbol of African unity, which is why I am asking for the 37th Africa Cup of Nations to be held in Ethiopia in 2029.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) speaking to CAF delegation in Addis Ababa



I request CAF to endorse Ethiopia's bid to AFCON 2029: President Taye

Ethiopia is the second most populous nation in Africa with 70 percent of its population under the age of 30 years. In addition, Ethiopia gives special focus for the development of sport making it a significant part of national plan for harnessing its demographic dividend.

Ethiopia is massively investing for the development of sport infrastructure. We are investing heavily in sports education and in construction of infrastructure, including new stadiums and renovation of the existing ones.

Carrying out preparatory activities at home, Ethiopia has submitted its application to host the 2029 AFCON tournament. Hence, I request the Confederation of African Football (CAF) to endorse Ethiopia's submission of a bid to host the 2029 Africa Cup of Nations tournament.

Taye Atske Selassie, FDRE President told CAF 46th Ordinary General Assembly held in Addis Ababa this week.

I appreciate Ethiopia's proposal to host AFCON 2029: CAF President

I appreciate the government and people of Ethiopia for the warm and companionate hospitality to the CAF guests during the 46th ordinary assembly organized in Addis Ababa.

Ethiopia has a proud football history. It is a great honor hosting the 46th CAF Ordinary General Assembly in Addis Ababa, one of the most beautiful countries and cities- in the world.

We are very excited about the intention of Ethiopia to submit proposal to host the AFCON 2029. The future of Ethiopian football looks bright. I wish all the best for Ethiopia's bid to host AFCON 2029. The government and Football Federation of Ethiopia should work closely to make timely decisions regarding Ethiopia's proposal submission.

Patrice Tlhopane Motsepe, Confederation of African Football (CAF) president



Africa should promote homegrown ideas to address African challenges: Premier

Peace and security are fundamental for Africa's development and prosperity. While our continent made significant progress towards achieving peace, ongoing conflicts continue to challenge the continent's stability.

To address these challenges, Africa should draw lessons from Africa's rich heritages of dialogue. We must place homegrown ideas and initiatives at the forefront for the well-being of our people. It is vital that African Solution continue to make precedence in addressing African challenges guided by the wisdom of our forefathers.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said while inaugurating the renovated Africa Hall on Monday

Global institutions need urgent reform: UN Secretary General

The existing global institutions, like United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and global financial institutions need urgent reform as they are unable to respond to the aspirations and rights of the developing world, mainly Africa.

Our global institutions were built at a time when most of Africa was under colonial rule. But, many of these global institutions are stuck in those times. Africa still has no permanent seat at the UNSC. Let's hope it will be corrected soon.

Similarly, international financial institutions often cannot provide African countries with the response they need where it is protection from struggling debt and from climate catastrophe they did not cause. We can only move forward if we renew and update global institutions by making them more effective, fair and inclusive

António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General said while inaugurating Africa Hall in Addis Ababa on Monday

