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NRBC set to address unfair use of Abay River: Analyst

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA - The newly established Nile River Basin Commission (NRBC) is expected to resolve the contentious issue of ensuring equitable utilization of Abay River, Horn of Africa (HoA) Security Analyst commented.

In his article published on the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) on Tuesday, HoA Security Analyst Moses Chrispus Okello, highlighted that the newly established NRBC is mandated to resolve the contentious issue of ensuring equitable use of the Nile River.

The Agreement on the Nile River Basin Cooperative Framework (CFA) came into force, triggering the transition from the Nile Basin Initiative to the new cooperative framework. Under this agreement, the NRBC must resolve a dispute about the use of Nile water resources within six months, Moses stated.

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Ethiopia, Alibaba form alliance for digital future

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia has made significant strides toward creating a thriving digital business environment through infrastructure development and policy reforms, according to the Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MinT).

In a major milestone, the Alibaba Global Initiative (AGI), in partnership with the Digital Transformation Ethiopia Association (DTEA), inaugurated a global training center yesterday to equip Ethiopian entrepreneurs and business leaders with essential digital skills.

At the inauguration summit, Innovation and Technology State Minister Yisherun

Alemayehu (PhD) stated that the launch of the AGI training center represents a new era for Africa's digital innovation, entrepreneurial growth, and technological progress.

"The country is laying the groundwork for digital transformation, aligned with national goals and the aspirations of our people.

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Nation launches STI Policy to accelerate middle-income transition

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT



Belete Molla (PhD)

ADDISABABA - The Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) Policy will serve as a key pillar in Ethiopia's national strategy to join middle-income economies, according to the Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MinT).

Speaking at the launch of the STI Policy Implementation Strategy workshop, organized by MinT in collaboration with the UN International Trade Center (UNITC), MinT Minister Belete Molla (PhD) emphasized the nation's commitment to harnessing science and technology for economic growth, enhanced living standards, and global competitiveness.

"This workshop not only validates the policy

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Leveraging agricultural reforms for Ethiopia's food sovereignty

BY HAILE DEMEKE

Ethiopia is experiencing steady economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa, with agriculture at the forefront of a broad reform agenda. The government projects an economic growth rate of 8.5% for the

coming year, crediting its reform efforts with driving inclusive and sustainable progress.

During a recent macroeconomic review, the Council of Ministers concluded that

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News



Corridor dev't enriches tourism, fosters growth: Bureau

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA – The corridor development underway in the capital, Addis Ababa is significantly enriching tourism and fostering inclusive growth as it is creating vibrant space that captures the spirit of city, the city administration said.

Addis Ababa City Government Culture, Arts and Tourism Bureau disclosed that the city is becoming a tourist hub and vowed to promote Ethiopia's fabulous tourism destinations. Since the launching of the project, the city's image has changed dramatically, embracing a more modern, appealing profile.

Alongside this transformation, according to the Bureau, the new tourist attractions such as Unity, Entoto and Friendship Parks, and the Adwa Museum are drawing the attention of both local and international visitors. The development projects have not only reshaped the capital, but also contributed to boosting the nation's economy by promoting tourism.

Bureau Head Hirut Kasa (PhD) said that Addis Ababa has undergone remarkable transformation and is living up to its name. The corridor development project being implemented by the government represents the government's commitment to sustainable tourism development reflecting its dedication in creating environmentally friendly city.

She stated that Ethiopia stands proudly in support of this vision of embracing tourism as a tool to bring people together and strengthening mutual understanding and respect across borders. In the capita, visitors will find a dynamic blend of tradition and modernity that the city has undergone

remarkable transformation in the past years with innovative development that has enhanced its appeal to tourists from around the world.

She added that Addis Ababa is witnessing modern urban development, in which, the corridor development is significantly changing the image of the city. The corridor development is not only enriching the tourism, but also fostering inclusive growth creating vibrant space that captures the spirits of the capital. The city has historical and cultural land marks and city's diverse heritage is celebrated and preserved, connecting the past with the promising future, she added.

Addis Ababa City Mayor Adanech Abiebie said that the project has enhanced the city's appeal, making Addis Ababa one of the top destinations for tourists. "The initiative ensures that the city lives up to its name by addressing the needs of every resident," noting that the redevelopment efforts have made the city more inclusive, attractive, and livable for all.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, Minister-Counselor at Ghana Embassy Elikem Ahadzi said that the corridor development in the capital is appealing, significantly changing the image of the city. "I was here for the past couple of years witnessing transformation of the city."

Ambassadors and representatives of various departments have visited several projects including the corridor development projects in Addis Ababa around Bole Rwanda, Addis Ababa museum, newly inaugurated Adwa Museum, and others designed to modernizing the city.

Nat'l dialogue sparks hope for lasting stability in Ethiopia

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia must seize the National Dialogue as a golden opportunity to address the country's pressing challenges and achieve lasting peace, stressed representatives from the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC).

Religious leader Kesis Bedlu Fekede, representing Gersu district in Gamo Zone, South Ethiopia State, told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the National Dialogue is essential for building national consensus and reinforcing societal values.

"We are here for a greater purpose. Dialogue fosters harmony, not just among individuals but across the nation. Peace is the foundation of everything, including religion; nothing can function without peace," he emphasized.

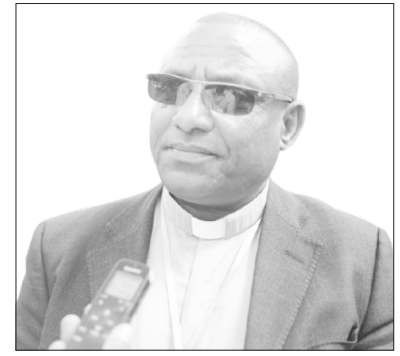
Kesis Bedlu urged every Ethiopian to actively engage in the dialogue, highlighting that even those seeking solutions through other means should embrace this peaceful process. "Dialogue is the best path to ending the suffering of civilians across the country. It is high time we give dialogue a chance to resolve our differences," he noted.

"I see my nation as a mother, and I aspire to see her prosper. I wish to see the people of Ethiopia overcome poverty, which can only be achieved through ensuring peace by conducting peaceful, inclusive, and credible National Dialogue," he underscored.

Expressing her belief in the dialogue's potential, Genet Adegne, a representative of Women Farmers, explained that she set aside her responsibilities to join the consultation phase. "Without peace, farmers cannot carry out their daily work, let alone sell their products. This dialogue is vital for resolving our conflicts at the table," she said.

Genet added that women, as one of the most vulnerable groups during instability, prioritize peace and are determined to see conflicts resolved through peaceful means.

At the consultation phase held in WolaitaSodo, Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) Commissioner YonasAdaye (PhD) acknowledged that, despite Ethiopia's rich cultural heritage, peaceful resolution of ideological differences remains a challenge.



Kesis Bedlu Fekede



Genet Adegne



Yonas Adaye(PhD)

The commissioner explained that the consultation process has involved gathering input and identifying participants from seven states and two city administrations. In South Ethiopia, the agenda gathering consultations will run for six days, selecting representatives to join the main National Dialogue Commission.

Participants in the consultations include representatives from political parties, religious institutions, civic society organizations, public figures, community representatives, and influencers drawn from 96 districts across 12 zones.

Commissioner Yonas encouraged participants to engage actively in the consultation phase to identify key differences and work toward national consensus.

and providing financial services, he stated.

Dashen is collaborating with WeVenture, a newly established local venture capital-backed incubator, aiming at empowering Ethiopian entrepreneurs by providing them with training and mentorship to showcase their business ideas.

The trainees praised the training content and engaged in discussions with the trainers from the Dashen Kefita Entrepreneurship Contest, focusing on various relevant topics. Apart from Addis Ababa, the Bank has provided Kefeta pre-competition training in Bahir Dar, Mekelle, and Adama, Dire Dawa, Wolaita, and Jimma cities, it was stated.

Bank launches 3rd round entrepreneurship training

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA - Dashen Bank has launched third round of its Dashen Kefita entrepreneurship pre-competition training in Addis Ababa, as part of its commitment of boosting entrepreneurship skills and empowering local entrepreneurs.

Speaking on behalf of the Bank's Chief Strategy Officer, Woldemariam Derese, said that the bank is discharging its corporate social responsibility thereby creating job opportunities and facilitating training skills for citizens as part of the government's effort to create job opportunities.

Accordingly, the Bank has been providing training across the country, emphasizing its dedication to enhancing this project, aiming to make a significant contribution to job creation nationwide, he noted.

Entrepreneurs from across the country have submitted their entrepreneurship proposals to qualify for the competition. The Bank has already successfully completed two seasons of the Dashen Kefita Entrepreneurship Contest, awarding financial prizes and supporting winners to pursue their goals.

Dashen bank's involvement in providing skills and financing entrepreneur is significantly contributing to address

problems at the grass roots level, thereby enhancing job opportunities. The third round training will cover ten cities across the nation including Addis Ababa, Woldemariam expressed.

Smart City Capacity Building and Training Director at Addis Ababa Innovation and Technology Development Bureau, Amaha Sisay said that the Bank is significantly contributing to job creation and boosting skills of entrepreneurs.

The Bank is exerting efforts and playing bold roles in fostering job creation and developing entrepreneurial skills that enable the entrepreneurs to figure out their potential

News

Court eyeing on technology to deliver quality service

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA - Technological advancement in judicial system is mandatory to deliver quality and efficient service that makes the system credible to customers, so stressed Federal First Instance Court.

During the performance evaluation report of last budget year of the Federal First Instance Court, Fuad Kiyar, Court President and Member of Judicial Council, indicated that technological advancement in judicial system is mandatory to deliver quality and efficient service that makes the system credible to customers.

“Making the system accessible, effective and successful would be ensured through applying latest technology in the court service,” Fuad said.

Presenting a paper entitled ‘Digital

Intelligence and Digital Justice,’ Court Vice President Tesfaye Mamo mentioned that Natural Language Processing (NLP) is currently being applicable in different courts and assisting in drafting judgments.

Mentioning the technology service that is on a pilot level, he noted that online court and virtual hearing and trials are said to ensure timely access to justice and reduce logistical challenges as well as dispute resolution.

Similarly, data analytics technology would play a significant role for judicial decisions thereby improving transparency, Tesfaye said, adding that using technology, paperless service is necessary in federal courts.

On the other hand, he emphasized that courts should consider making fact and law based decisions rather than data when applying the technology. He also urged that courts need to ensure promoting judicial

values while making clear objectives when using technology.

More importantly, bringing courts, correctional facilities, and police stations and justice bodies on board is crucial to ensure effective use of technology. Highlighting the efforts that are geared towards delivering tech-supported justice in Federal Courts, Tesfaye stressed that commitment of judges and professionals is highly needed to advance digital justice.

Different countries like Estonia, Brazil and China, among others have years of experience in applying technology in delivering service, which in return, contributed to minimizing judges burden, delivering timely service as well as enhanced their verdict ability.

As to the report, the court has viewed over 155,000 cases of which, about 135,233 cases were given verdict while adjourning 20,000 cases to this budget year.

Ethiopia,...

Through partnerships like the AGI program, we are empowering entrepreneurs with the necessary tools, skills, and resources to bring this vision to life,” Yisherun said.

Minister-Counselor for Economic and Commercial Affairs at the Chinese Embassy in Ethiopia Yang Yihang emphasized that the collaboration between the two countries in the digital economy will unlock significant opportunities in the near future.

Senior Advisor at Alibaba and Co-Founder of Alibaba Global Initiatives, Dan Liu, highlighted the challenges small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) face in global trade. These include complex trade routes, high logistics costs, and cross-border payment issues. “Through the Electronic World Trade Platform (eWTP), we are collaborating with various countries to empower SMEs via e-commerce, technology, logistics, and training initiatives,” Liu noted.

DTEA President Fikir Andargachew stressed that the summit signifies a powerful commitment to digitalizing not only Ethiopia but also Africa. “This agreement offers a remarkable opportunity for 60 Ethiopian entrepreneurs who have undergone training with Alibaba’s team. They return with enhanced skills and renewed inspiration to play a leading role in shaping Ethiopia’s digital landscape,” she said.

The new training center is expected to serve as a hub for digital transformation, benefiting not just Ethiopia but the entire African continent.

Alibaba Group is a Chinese multinational conglomerate specializing in e-commerce, retail, internet, and technology. Founded by Jack Ma and his team in 1999, Alibaba has grown into one of the largest online marketplaces globally.

NRBC set to address fair use of...

Egypt, which experiences severe water stress and sees the Nile as crucial for its survival and, Ethiopia, which considers the dam essential for its development, have engaged in intense rhetoric and sporadic negotiations. Both countries have regularly sought diplomatic support from other Nile Basin countries, he mentioned.

He indicated that the full completion of Ethiopia’s Abbay Dam is inevitable in the near future and the CFA’s enforcement gives the NRBC the responsibility to address this issue while legally distributing Nile water control among all Basin countries.

As to him, multiple attempts at resolution have been undertaken, including a 2015 principles declaration, tripartite committees for intelligence, irrigation

and foreign affairs, and the creation of cooperation frameworks.

A three-nation summit has been held along with World Bank-facilitated discussions, technical analyses, talks within the Abay Basin Initiative, and even the United States’ involvement during Trump’s presidency. However, all these efforts suffered mediation shortcomings, notably partiality, the Analyst wrote.

Nation launches STI Policy to...

implementation strategy but also officially launches it as a practical framework for action,” Belete stated. He described the policy as a call to action that outlines shared responsibilities and paves pathways toward achieving national development goals.

The minister highlighted how technology has already begun transforming various sectors, such as agriculture, healthcare, education, and manufacturing, improving efficiency and creating new opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship.

“The success of this policy depends on

collective efforts and collaboration among all stakeholders,” Belete underscored, urging development partners to continue offering technical assistance, capacity building, and funding initiatives that foster sustainable innovation.

UNITC National Program Coordinator Samuel Fekade reiterated the importance of the STI policy in building robust ecosystems for economic and social development. “This strategy aligns with Ethiopia’s broader development plans by fostering a knowledge-led economy centered on learning, technological

capabilities, and innovation,” he explained.

The STI policy implementation strategy aims to overcome challenges and maximize opportunities within Ethiopia’s science and technology landscape. With support from development organizations and private sector partnerships, the strategy promises to nurture an ecosystem that drives long-term growth and innovation, positioning Ethiopia as a leader in the region’s digital and economic transformation.

At the event, it was announced that the implementation phase of the strategy will begin on January 1, 2025.

Leveraging agricultural reforms for...

the country is on the right path to achieving food security. The 100-day performance assessment for the first quarter of 2024/25 fiscal year highlighted remarkable progress across multiple sectors, with agriculture emerging as a key focus.

The government has intensified efforts in agricultural development, particularly in wheat cultivation, which has expanded nationwide with notable results. “Agriculture plays a vital role in our economic growth and ensuring food sovereignty,” government officials stated, emphasizing that food sovereignty is both a matter of national security and an expression of national identity.

The Agricultural Transformation Institute Director-General Mandefro Nigusie stressed the importance of food sovereignty, equating it with self-determination and independence. “A nation dependent on food aid cannot fully exercise independence. Achieving food sovereignty affirms the capacity for self-determination,” he said.

The government’s multi-faceted agricultural reforms, initiated in recent years, have begun to yield tangible results, laying the foundation for sustainable food security. “We have created favorable conditions in the agricultural sector, but productivity must increase in a sustainable way to fully achieve food sovereignty,” Mandefro added.

Head of the Democratic System Building Coordination Bureau at the Office of the Prime Minister, Bikila Hurisa (PhD), echoed the importance of these reforms. “Ethiopia’s practical steps toward food sovereignty are bearing fruit, proving that the country is capable of achieving sustainable food security,” Bikila stated. He noted that the efforts focus on enhancing productivity at both the family and individual levels, ensuring lasting impact.

Further cementing its commitment to global food security, Ethiopia will host the World Without Hunger Conference from November 5-7, 2024, in Addis Ababa. The three-day event will feature technical

sessions, an investment forum, and a high-level political forum aimed at finding solutions to food insecurity.

Officials remain optimistic that Ethiopia’s agricultural reforms will not only support its growing economy but also ensure the nation’s ability to achieve sustainable food sovereignty-demonstrating its capacity to lead the region toward a more secure and self-reliant future.

Ethiopia’s high soil fertility, the amenability of its climate towards the cultivation of diverse range of crops, and the comparative abundance of its water supply make the country the right place to commercial farming.

Opinion

BRICS: An alternative, strategic coalition for better partnerships in shifting world order

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

In light of the current situation, Ethiopia's membership in BRICS has set in motion bearing fruits and moving forward in the right direction. More to the point, it is envisioned that BRICS just around the corner will take the country to new heights and new frontiers on the grounds that it assists the progress of growth and development at the earliest possible time.

On the heels of Ethiopia's embracement by BRICS, the global community has been patting the country on the back. It is anticipated that the clicking between the two will catapult Ethiopia to a higher level of development in the timeliest manner possible.

In fact, some groups that feel an extreme animosity towards Ethiopia's growth and development have jumpstarted putting their best foot forward with a focus on tarnishing the country's move in their own interpretation. As the adage goes, the camel marches while the dog keeps on barking, Ethiopia is busy doing its level best to keep working hand in glove with members of the BRICS and grow and prosper together.

It is highly likely that no matter what worrywarts say Ethiopia will embark on reaping the fruits of accomplishment at some time in the future. As a lot is expected from all members of the BRICS, they should do everything they can to take the affiliates of the bloc to come up with various means that can propel them to new horizons and new standards.

As long as BRICS beyond a shadow of a doubt plays a crucial role in taking Ethiopia to the next level of accomplishment, all stakeholders without batting an eye should contribute their share. They should go to the ends of the earth to do everything they can.

In actual fact, Ethiopia turned out to be one of the members of the BRICS through diplomacy. It is the fruit of its diplomatic victory. For the sake of truth, the voyage was not as easy as falling off a log. It was not a low-hanging fruit.

Following the positive achievements of the BRICS members, several nations worldwide have been sparing no effort to join the bloc. This reality on the ground unquestionably demonstrates the fruitful journey of the bloc.

In his remarks at the recently completed 16th BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) underscored that as the newest member of the BRICS family, Ethiopia is prepared to engage constructively in fostering multilateralism that serves



both developed and developing nations, anchored in the principle of equity.

He said, "Our world is rapidly evolving with the multitude of crises that demands wisdom and thoughtful approach. It is crucial to acknowledge that economic growth in developing countries is often challenged by unfair global financial systems.

"The imbalances in our global economic framework are driving rising inequality, inflation, and unemployment, making collective efforts more urgent than ever. The calls for climate action and climate finance continue to be ignored even as the crisis deepens.

"In the middle of these challenges, however, I see a tremendous opportunity in BRICS, with its collective voice representing nearly half of the global population. And over a third of global GDP, BRICS has the potential to be a transformative force for a more equitable world order."

Ethiopia's joining of the membership in the BRICS is a significant breakthrough for the country and its people. It is certain that the participation of the country in BRICS for sure will smooth the path of global marketing and renovate the multinational systems.

It becomes clear that Ethiopia's BRICS membership in black and white signals a new epoch filled with prosperity owing to the fact that it leads the bloc toward a new model of international order by offering a platform within the bounds of nations in various parts of the world to act together.

Ethiopia more often than not has been enunciating its enthusiasm to become part of promoting peace and prosperity as a new member of the BRICS family in combination with all its members.

Similarly, the country as usual has sustained playing a huge role in promoting peace and prosperity as a new member of the BRICS family in collaboration with all pertinent bodies.

The population of Ethiopia is estimated to be more than one hundred twenty million. The population is growing at an annual rate of 2.6%. This puts Ethiopia in the second place in Africa. Population means a big market for the products of other countries to sell their goods and services. Thus, products from BRICS members can find a market in Ethiopia and improve their trade ties, according to an article.

The article went on to say more than one hundred countries have opened their embassies in Addis Ababa. There are also many international organizations working in Ethiopia. This makes Ethiopia the third-largest diplomatic center in the world. Since the African Union is also a member of the G21, it can be assumed that when the Union organizes the group's summit, it will be in Addis Ababa.

The majority of the people of Ethiopia are young. More youth population means a greater human capital that can provide enough labor force for member countries' projects and investments in Ethiopia. This is a good opportunity to BRICS countries to expand their trade and investment in Ethiopia and Africa at large. Being the most populous and influential country in East Africa, its security and safety role may be important for international trade relations in the Indian Ocean.

As the membership will have a lot of influence in terms of international trade and the main agenda is to transform the multi-lateral system into some kind of an equitable system where nations will deal with each other on a sovereign basis, Ethiopia will be one of the beneficiaries.

It is true that Ethiopia, every so often, has been bending over backwards to take its active role in the BRICS bloc in compliance with its national development milestones. In the same way, members of the bloc have been expressing their interest to work together with Ethiopia in a wide spectrum of areas.

In the BRICS Summit of Heads of State which was held in Kazan, Russia, a wide

spectrum of feelings, ideas and thoughts had been tossed around. The summit was a success.

Institute of Foreign Affairs, Training Director General Melaku Muluaem recently told *The Ethiopian Herald* that the country should have foreign currency options as well as using its own currency for any international exchange since joining BRICS, a bloc which predominately targets ensuring members' national interest.

On 1st January, 2024, Ethiopia secured full membership in the BRICS group. Diplomatically it is a great success. It has also political and economic benefits. Some Western journalists explain this situation as if Ethiopia joined the de-dollarization group. This way of explanation is far from the truth. Joining the group is to fulfill the national interests of Ethiopia, not to affect the national interests of other countries. BRICS has a lot programs to be executed. Using national currency among member states is one of the tasks included, but it is not the main objective of the group.

This will help to diversify the number of currencies to be used for external trade in the world. It will also increase the importance of our local currencies for other BRICS member states. In trading with China, both governments can use RMB and Birr than USD or EURO. It is the trade between the two countries without passing through third countries' currencies. This decision can be said "better late than never". The owner of the hard currencies should also respect the local currencies of other countries of the world.

Using local currencies among BRICS members is economic and national survival to Ethiopia and the group members at large. This will help to mitigate the shortage of hard currencies in the international trade. Of course in such process, he said, the dominance of hard currencies will be dwindled through time. This can be explained as a "side effect of a medicine."

The current world order, using hard currency, is fundamental to external trade relationships. This has given a lot of benefits to the owner of the currency. On the other side, it has created shortages and damaged economy of the non-hard currency user country.

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

Editorial

Creating a fairer, balanced world

The 16th BRICS Summit was held in Kazan, Russia with the participation of new member countries, including Ethiopia. This summit has created a platform for the country to reflect its stand on various national and international matters.

It was also an important venue for the country to hold bilateral and multilateral discussions with leaders of BRICS member countries and other nations on wide ranges of issues.

At the Summit, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed reflected his opinion; focusing on the importance of strengthening economic cooperation, reforming the global financial system, as well as promoting multilateralism to create a more inclusive and fairer international order.

He also underscored the need for Africa to have a permanent seat at the UN Security Council and the inevitability for a collective global action for stepped up climate agenda.

“Our world is rapidly evolving with the multitude of crises that demand wisdom and thoughtful approach. It is crucial to acknowledge that economic growth in developing countries is often challenged by unfair global financial systems.”

According to the Premier, imbalances in the global economic framework are driving rising inequality, inflation, and unemployment, making collective efforts more urgent than ever. The calls for climate action and climate finance continue to be ignored even as the crisis deepens.

However, the Premier never concealed his confidence in the BRICS group to be a transformative force in altering the world order and creating a more equitable and fairer world order, saying “In the middle of these challenges, I see a tremendous opportunity in BRICS, with its collective voice representing nearly half of the global population.”

The Premier also reaffirmed Ethiopia’s unwavering commitment to engage constructively in fostering multilateralism that serves both developed and developing nations anchored in the principle of equity.

It is true that in the ever changing and challenging global landscape, and unfair world order, developing countries; including Ethiopia always suffer from various natural and manmade problems, such as climate change-related natural catastrophes, poverty, and unfair treatment at global stage.

However, the emergence of BRICS as new economic and political bloc is poised to play a crucial role in shaping and creating a more balanced world by amplifying its unified voice on every global platform.

The alliance can present specific opportunities for developing nations to realize their development aspirations through addressing their immediate challenges and concerns.

By enhancing economic cooperation and partnership, expanding infrastructure and facilitating improved public services, as well as promoting improved cross-border business operations and strengthening regional cooperation, among others, the bloc can help create a more equitable and inclusive multilateral world.

As it has been stated repeatedly, the number of member countries is expected to increase as more countries are keen to join the alliance. Following this expansion, the BRICS Group is anticipated to have greater influence both in membership and global power in the coming few years.

Most importantly, the establishment of new financial institutions and services can bring exceptional opportunities for developing countries, which are always trapped with financial constraints to achieve their development aspirations, by reducing dependency on some biased institutions.

However, to make this a reality, the group has to design new strategies and programs that take into consideration developing countries and emerging economies to create a fairer and more balanced global order.

In a similar manner, those countries should do their assignments in advance to seize the opportunities and realize their development aspirations.

Opinion

Strong defense forces to foster peaceful relations

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

In this modern age where bilateral and multilateral affairs are dealt with through diplomatic means and on give and take basis, it is difficult to rely on military might to secure ones interest. Yet, in case regional and global threats are flaring up it is good to preempt them before they pose threat.

The Ethiopian National Defense Forces are also formed and managed with such stance and mentality. At this political juncture in which some neighboring countries have joined hands in conducting proxy war on the country to prevent Ethiopia’s legitimate access to ports and the Red Sea, the ENDF has proved to be a pillar of ensuring the national interest of the country and its pathway to sustainable development.

As stated above, the ENDF adheres to safeguarding the constitution of the country and promoting collective security in the Horn of Africa and defending the rule of law at the national level.

The ENDF is effectively discharging its professional and constitutional responsibilities and citizens here and overseas are expected to render the necessary respect for the valorous and democratic army whose members are paying for the peace and unity of the country by shedding their blood and flesh and their lives for the peaceful development of the country.

It is shameful and regrettable to observe that some media houses, particularly social media outlets are busy trying to defame the most respected and globally recognized army that has continued to be a pace setter in global peace keeping missions and ensuring the rule of law in the country. By insulting the ENDF which is a multi-ethnic army, these media houses are indirectly expressing their disrespect for the entire people of Ethiopia in the name of democracy and freedom of speech.

The Ethiopian defense forces are a productive army that is engaged in almost all sectors of the socio-economic development of the country and in all sector development programs including education, technology, infrastructure development, health services, agriculture and food security, creative arts of all kinds, sports competitions, disaster risk management, scientific research programs, gender and development and a host of other activities that clearly depict its societal base.

In areas where the ENDF is deployed local people always felt a sense of security and stability they enjoyed due to the presence of the army.

Enforcing the rule of law in cooperation with other security forces in the country is a major sphere of activity in which the ENDF is engaged. This is important because without sustained internal and external peace, development and integrated international cooperation is unthinkable.

Speaking on the occasion of a Conference of African Defense Ministers recently held in Addis Ababa, the Minister of Defense of Ethiopia, Ahysa Ahmed noted that the ENDF is spearheading in promoting the cooperation between the defense forces of Africa and noted that “As we convene today, we are acutely aware of the many security challenges that confront our continent, from the threat of terrorism and insurgencies to the rise of organized crime and human trafficking, from the growing threat of cyber-attacks to the enduring impact of political instability and economic hardship.”

Africa’s security environment has become more complex than ever before she said, adding “but in this complexity lies our opportunity to strengthen our cooperation, to share knowledge and to build the resilience of our nations.”

The objective of any kind of African defense cooperation needs to focus on defending the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country but also safeguarding regional peace and stability from any kind of foreign or mercenary aggression.

The entire history of the ENDF shows that it has never been engaged in any kind of aggression or violation of the sovereignty of any state across the world but every historian in the world knows that due to her strategic location, Ethiopia was time and again subjected to foreign aggression.

The Egyptian propaganda and desperate policy of containment on Ethiopia is not happening for the first time in the history of the Horn of Africa as Egypt has always attempted to weaken Ethiopia through unwarranted aggressions which were always repulsed by the Ethiopian defense forces.

Some social media money bags are loafing and giggling that the ENDF is composed of a single ethnic group trying to drum up on an old misconception which is aimed at spreading false information on the ethnic mix of the organization. The ENDF is a perfect representation of the needs, interests’ values and historical tradition of the people of Ethiopia which nobody can deny.

The ENDF has been supporting national reintegration efforts of internally displaced persons and those who were forced to leave their original domiciles due to natural calamities. The future is bright for the Ethiopian defense forces.

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

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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

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The Ethiopian Herald

Business & Economy

Manufacturing sector for fueling economic progress

BY MENGESHA AMARE

The role of the manufacturing sector in promoting economic growth is really immense, as it has contributed a lot to production and productivity, import substitution, and export promotion as well. There is a two-way causal relationship between the manufacturing sector and economic growth, indeed! Moreover, the growth of the manufacturing sector leads to economic growth, and this works vice versa, as economic growth leads to the growth of the manufacturing sector.

Taking this fact into account, *The Ethiopian Herald* conducted an exclusive interview with Worku Bekele, agricultural economist working for an agro-economics firm in Addis Ababa.

He said, "The growth of the manufacturing sector leads to the growth of the services sector. The practical actions show that the growth of the manufacturing sector output achieves its positive impact on economic growth in two ways: a direct impact and an indirect effect on the services sector, which are sources of the output of goods and services of the manufacturing subdivision."

The augmentation of the manufacturing sector in Ethiopia helps the economic sector grow and the most productive manufacturing industries in the country would potentially contribute to raising the productivity of other sectors in a way that contributes to economic plans and policies. Hence, adopting economic policies that stimulate investment in the manufacturing sector contributes to increasing exports to diversify sources of income to achieve nation's vision of being prosperous.

Yes, the manufacturing sector has been implementing different modes of innovation in different regional states and has established a model to predict the likelihood that the enterprises that would follow the innovation mode dominated by the government. Governmental regulation of innovation and spurring enterprises to initiate creativity have indeed been important tools for development of the manufacturing sub-sector in Ethiopia, but regional differences in economic development required different coupling strategies of invention, he added.

Driven by the policy of expanding innovations, the government and the manufacturing industries in Ethiopia have regarded the service industry and the manufacturing industry as two economic engines. True, he added, innovation in manufacturing has become the national policy for achieving efficient transformation and upgrading and augmenting many countermeasures so far proposed.

The government recently pointed out that high-quality development of the manufacturing needed to touch continuous innovation, the importance of accelerating innovation in the manufacturing as it is of paramount importance in boosting the economic sector in the country. Innovation is an important aspect for achieving steadily development of manufacturing in the country, he opined.

He further elucidated that the positive role of technological diversification would greatly increase national innovation capability and accelerating innovation since it has long been common in building and leveraging dynamic capabilities in the country. As economic development in Ethiopia has exhibited



Ethiopia envisions and working on economic transformation in which industry overtakes agriculture

substantial differences and innovation should be a feasible method for touching efficient transformation and upgrading of national economy, due attention needs to be given to the healthy ties between the manufacturing industry and the agriculture sector.

Regional governments might promote different modes of innovation that were coincided to different stages of national economic development, which might affect innovation decisions made by the manufacturing in various regional states, he added.

True, making promotion of the manufacturing under governmental intervention has targeted at pushing the industrial sector forward via coupling development between the manufacturing and differentiated innovation policy dominated by the government as a prime driver.

"In fact, the well-developed regional states in Ethiopia have shown strong momentum for innovation-driven development; for example, large-scale machine replacement has advanced gradually. For example, the large-scale implementation and development of intelligent manufacturing had already appeared simultaneously in some places with better industrial foundations and better policy support, as they could drive the manufacturing to be upgraded. In addition, entrepreneurship-driven innovation and innovation-nurturing entrepreneurship are lucrative approaches to make a difference, in fact. Here, the role of industrial parks is crucial, though a lot remains to be done," he underscored.

As a result, emerging regions have achieved a great deal of industrial transfer from the already advanced regional states, which could be regarded as the hinterland of the former, he added.

Since competitiveness of the manufacturing sector in Ethiopia has shown sluggish pace, which has led to comparatively lower profits, the government has to be duty bound to push the sector forward. This has required the government to implement lucrative fiscal policy for supporting innovation development, because the manufacturing profit has been insufficient to undertake incremental innovation so far though promising activities are being undertaken. From the viewpoint of the production trajectory, he said the predominantly involved bodies in the manufacturing or the strategic emerging industry; they have to pay more attention to the manufacturing sector.

Innovation could be considered as an

important factor influencing the output of the manufacturing enterprise of course; therefore, the county might use production function to detect its impact, and the impact of innovation on the manufacturing could be indicated by technology spillover effect.

It is prettily assumed that the local government and the manufacturing enterprises undertook the same treatment, which implied that the manufacturing enterprise would fully follow the innovation mode encouraged by the government; otherwise, it would completely refuse to innovate. In addition, the nation would assume that the probability of promoting an innovation strategy made by the manufacturing enterprise would be highly profitable.

Furthermore, the government generally demonstrated positive attitude toward innovation, a manufacturing enterprise needs to care about innovation, and chose the profit as its basic criterion for exploring relevant activity is quite vital. As the manufacturing enterprises following the mode of innovation guided by the government, operators need to take great care into account to make real difference regarding the sector, Worku added.

He said the effect of the manufacturing sector on economic growth is obvious. The relationship between industrial production and economic growth has shown progress from time to time, too. The effects of the manufacturing sector on macroeconomic facets, such as gross fixed capital formation, services sector, savings, and economic growth in Ethiopia have had real impact.

Yes, he said policies should be geared towards creating a more conducive environment to attract business, invest in capital formation, and create more jobs for the long-term relationship between the performance of the manufacturing sector and economic growth in the nation has been meaningful.

The effects of manufacturing on productivity levels explain the relationship between industrial growth and GDP growth, given the transfer of labor from low productivity sectors to the industrial sector and the existence of static and dynamic economies of scale in manufacturing in Ethiopia, for instance.

The relationship between the industrial sector growth and economic growth has been very important in pushing the economic growth forward, and gets it rise. As manufacturing is regarded as an engine of development, Ethiopia has to give due emphasis to it and a strong positive correlation between the

degree of industrialization and levels of per capita income needs to grow, too; economies of scale and technological progress, and more opportunities for capital accumulation have also to show change.

The manufacturing sector has many characteristics like making it a key determinant of economic growth. It is also the fastest-growing sector, as compared to other economic sectors. Its productivity is higher than the agricultural and service sectors, definitely. The possibility of specialization is greater in the manufacturing sector. Last but not least, given industrial products tradable and access to international markets, the manufacturing sector has better opportunities for increasing demand and attracting foreign currency, as to Worku.

The economic development plans of the nation have focused on the industrial sector to achieve economic and social development by diversifying the production base and eliminating the effects of dependence on oil as the sole source of national income.

The efforts of the state in supporting industrial development included several basic axes, like the provision of the necessary infrastructure, the establishment of the industrial cities, among others. The establishment of industrial parks in various parts of the nation has resulted in the development of the manufacturing sector, and the growth rate of the industrial sector has shown an upward trend so far despite challenges that need to be addressed.

According to him, Ethiopia's manufacturing sector has faced many challenges, such as a low level of developing the competitiveness of national products, keeping pace with developments in global markets, technology transfer and localization, the industrial environment and sustainable development framework, capacity development of the Ethiopian workforce, development of industrial management, implementation and development of the concept of integration, and increased availability of resources and investments in the industrial sector.

Generally, since the manufacturing sector is the main engine of the economic growth process, the extent of the contribution and importance of the role of the industrial sector in promoting GDP growth should be made high. The industry should also follow a high-road development path based on innovation in products, processes, and business practices, and exploitation of export markets in Ethiopia to make real difference.

Art & Culture

From Piazza to Arat Kilo- Impressions from a short trip along memory lane

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

The Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa is being "deconstructed and reconstructed," to use a terminology from philosophy or literary criticism. Yes, a city, like a narrative in literature, can be deconstructed and reconstructed. In the case of philosophy or literary criticism, deconstruction refers to the process by which something is broken down into its separate parts in order to understand its meaning, especially when this is different from how it was previously understood. Reconstruction, on the other hand, refers to the act of reassembling or the state of being reconstructed.

Yes, Addis Ababa is being deconstructed and reconstructed. It is being broken down into its essential parts in order not to understand its nature or meaning but to see what can be removed and what can be preserved from its old structures, neighborhoods, streets and settlements. The reconstruction phase might be conceived as a process through which the city is assuming new features by discarding old remnants from its past that do not serve its ambition for renewal or modernization.

The deconstruction and reconstruction processes may not be implemented in a way that satisfies all interests, basically the interests of all parties in a fair and balanced way. The interests of the residents are basically to preserve their homes and sanctuaries from demolishing, particularly if they have not a replacement or an alternative to the demolished places of residence. That was also the uproar that followed the demolishing process particularly in the Piazza Arada areas down to Arat Kilo neighborhoods.

The demolishing process was not only implemented hastily but also without the necessary preparations for compensation payments. The city administration and the government in general were eager to modernize the capital but it did not have the funds or compensation payments for compensation to the people who have lost their homes to the demolishing process. The city administration may face a dilemma. It has the ambition and the readiness to redevelop some parts of the capital but it has not the necessary funds at its disposal to pay compensation for the demolished houses.

Moreover, the law on the administration of rural or urban land says that all land belongs to the state without mentioning anything about compensation for losing the houses. The administration is therefore free to claim any land in the city over which it has juridical rights to be reclaimed for any purpose while the residents have no legal right to claim compensations. The redevelopment of Addis Ababa has always been conducted by auctioning the evacuated plots of land and reinvesting the money therefore for redevelopment through joint ventures or by private developers.



The demolishing and occupation of the evacuated plots of land have been conducted relatively peacefully. It seemed that there was some kind of silent consensus between evacuated residents and the city administration, as both parties apparently welcomed the development of the capital as a common ideal. It may be necessary at this point to set aside these issues and focus on the new face of a portion of the neighborhoods that stretch from Piazza or Arada to Arat Kilo along the main street that joins one section to the other.

It was a Saturday afternoon and I was travelling from Bishoftu to Addis Ababa and the transportation problem in the southern part of the capital from Kaliti sub-city to Piazza was simply nerve racking to say the least. If the streets are so clogged on a Saturday, one can easily imagine that it must be crazy to travel along the same road junction on working days.

The first impression this columnist had on arrival at Piazza was a kind of eerie silence with few pedestrians walking along the streets, most of them silent and squinting the area with their eyes as if they were first time visitors. The silence or the feeling of peacefulness was enveloped some parts of the old Piazza was intimidating; except for the Adwa building that was relatively more crowded with mostly youngsters, as well as singles and couples, who were there for a photo opportunity. This writer felt he was a stranger in a city where he grew up going to the movie houses, legendary pastries and cafes, traditional and modern hotels and recreational facilities that are now become history. The old quarters around Doro Manekia with their dilapidated meat shops, drink and kaht joints, with narrow alleys filled with sewerage and garbage and emitting bad smells of discarded and decomposing rubbish and open-air toilets... have all disappeared leaving behind mounds of freshly excavated red soil...well that was but a welcome development and one of the positive aspects of taking place in Piazza.

All the shops, businesses and residential buildings on both sides of the main street

that is dissecting Piazza into two and leading to Art Kilo, are now gone. Their place is taken over by vacant plots that are awaiting reconstruction by developers. One of the striking features of that area is its newly acquired sense of cleanliness. Cleanliness and quietness. The traffic jams are gone together with the overcrowding, the pushing and shoving of pedestrians that were moving in all direction with frenzy.

The "deconstruction" of Piazza has also exposed its soft belly. The narrow and dirty alleys, drinks joints and brothels that were hidden behind tall buildings that were giving the area the semblance of elegance, are now gone. This may not be something to celebrate, given the high costs in terms of human livelihood but it has certainly given way for a reconstruction process that would take both the interests of the developers and the future residents into consideration.

There are also a few structures that have survived the juggernaut of the demolishing process. One of them is the building nearby Ras Mekonen Bridge. The building used to serve, among other things, as the office of the Ethiopian Journalists Association that has long ceased to operate. The narrow alleys and streets leading to Saint George church are now clean, although uninhabited and awaiting potential developers.

As you pass over the bridge, your attention is bound to turn to the river below and the dense and dilapidated residential houses that populated its banks. From the distance, that place now looks like a farming area and not as a once populated river bank. All the houses are gone and the river can be seen flowing silently to the southern quarters of the city. Where have all those old houses and their residents gone now? No one knows but they are not there for the moment. When you look down at the river, and at the escarpments on both banks, the impression you get is that the area has now become open to curious eyes. In the old days, the old structures above the river used to hide the vision beyond them. Now you have a clear view of Piazza from the distance. you also realize that the river banks are now ready for development the way

many river banks in Addis have already been developed. This part of the city will soon be covered with greenery and may be turned into a big park with roads and other facilities, a place bustling with people particularly on weekends and holidays.

The Armenian Orthodox Church along the main street leading to Arat Kilo is an old and medieval looking grey building built almost a century ago on a small plot of land. It has witnessed the passage of time, many historical events and is one of the landmarks in the area. It was a wise decision to preserve it. One day, it may become a tourist attraction for visitors who will come from faraway places and would like to see the inside of that church that may be containing some old religious relics from Eastern orthodoxy.

By the way, it is commendable that the bars and restaurant in front of the church right across the main street are now gone and left their place for new construction to take place. Fortunately, the few buildings around that area have escaped the demolishing work and the bulldozers that do the job.

One of the more remarkable aspects of the renewal process that is taking place on both sides of the street leading from Piazza to Arat Kilo, is that there is enough space available for pedestrians to rest and take a breath, particularly on hot days. There are many seats built along the way where people are sitting alone, or with their friends simply to catch a breath or enjoy conversations. This is of course a sign that the planners have taken into consideration the needs or comforts of pedestrians. The wooden seats are similar in size and color to those built on both sides of Churchill Road and contribute to the harmony of a city where chaos and contrast was the rule rather than the exception until recently.

It may be time to reach Arat Kilo proper. Almost all the old buildings are now renovated and give you the impression that they are newly built structures. There are also new ones that give the entire area an air of freshness and add sparkle. The main street rather looks broader and pedestrians are given ample space for walking freely. Upon reaching that particular spot, you may miss the hassle and bustle around Jolly bar that is now gone or continues to survive in your memories. You may also imagine the newspaper vendors and readers who shared the space right below Jolly Bar and the pedestrian alleys above it. The buildings around that place are renovated while new structures are added in order to give the area the order and serenity it badly needed.

The impressions you may gather from your short trip may include amazement, surprise, strangeness or shock depending on your moods. However, the undeniable fact is that Addis Ababa in general and that part of the city stretching from Piazza to Arat Kilo is changing in a unique and amazing way as the deconstruction and reconstruction of the capital is continuing with unprecedented zeal.

Global Affairs

IMF isn't doing enough to support Africa: Billions could be made available through special drawing rights

At the 2021 UN Climate Summit, Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley called for more and better use of special drawing rights (SDRs), the International Monetary Fund's reserve asset.

The special drawing right is an international reserve asset created by the IMF. It is not a currency—its value is based on a basket of five currencies, the biggest chunk of which is the US dollar, followed by the euro. It is a potential claim on the freely usable currencies of IMF members. Special drawing rights can provide a country with liquidity.

Countries can use their special drawing rights to pay back IMF loans, or they can exchange them for foreign currencies.

As Mottley is the newest president of the Climate Vulnerable Forum and Vulnerable Group of 20 (V20) finance ministers, which represents 68 climate-vulnerable countries that are among those with the most dire liquidity needs, including 32 African countries, her call would be directly beneficial to African countries.

In August 2021, as the shock from the COVID-19 pandemic battered their economies, African countries received a lifeline of US\$33 billion from special drawing rights. This amounts to more than all the climate finance Africa receives each year and more than half of all annual official development assistance to Africa.

This US\$33 billion did not add to African countries' debt burden, it did not come with any conditions, and it did not cost donors a single cent to provide.

IMF members can vote to create new issuances of special drawing rights. They are then distributed to countries in proportion to their quotas in the IMF. Quotas are denominated in special drawing rights, the IMF's unit of account.

Quotas are the building blocks of the IMF's financial and governance structure. An individual member country's quota broadly reflects its relative position in the world economy. Thus, by design, the poorest and most vulnerable countries receive the least when it comes to quotas and voting shares.

Special drawing rights cannot solve all of Africa's economic challenges. And their highly technical nature means they are not always well understood. But at a time when African countries are facing chronic liquidity challenges—most countries in the region are spending more on debt service payments than they are on health, education, or climate change—our new research shows that special drawing rights can play an important role in establishing financial stability and enabling investments for development.

Financial stability includes macroeconomic stability (such as low inflation, healthy balance of payments, and sufficient foreign reserves), a strong financial system and resilience to shocks.

African leaders are approaching a critical year-long opportunity: in November, the



Better drawing rights from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) could assist with the just transition

first Group of 20 (G20) summit will convene (with the African Union in attendance as a member for the first time). Then in December, South Africa assumes the G20 presidency.

As African leaders advocate for reforms to the international financial architecture, maximising the potential of special drawing rights should be a central component of their agenda.

The problem

African countries' finances are facing tough times. External debt in sub-Saharan Africa has tripled since 2008. The average government is now spending 12% of its revenue on external debt service. The COVID-19 war in and rises in interest rates and the prices of commodities, like food and fertiliser, have all contributed to this trend.

Debt restructuring mechanisms have also proved inadequate. Countries like Zambia and Ghana got stuck in lengthy restructurings. Weak institutional capacity and poor governance also impede efficient use of public resources.

At the same time, African economies need to increase investment to advance development, support a young and growing population, develop climate resilience and take advantage of the opportunity presented by the energy transition.

To meet the resources for a just energy transition and the attainment of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, investment in climate and development will have to increase from around 24% of GDP (the average for Africa in 2022) to 37%.

Special drawing rights have proved to be an important tool in addressing these challenges. Research by the IMF and others shows that African countries significantly

benefited from the special drawing rights they received in 2021 to stabilise their economies. And this happened without worsening debt burdens or costing advanced economies any money, particularly as they cut development aid.

However, advanced economies exercise significant control over the availability of special drawing rights. The IMF's quota system determines both voting power and their distribution. Advanced economies control most of the IMF's quotas.

The advanced economies made the right decision in 2021 and in 2009 to issue new special drawing rights and the time has come again.

The solution

African and other global south leaders need to make a strong case for another issuance of special drawing rights at the IMF and World Bank meetings in Washington.

In addition to a new issuance of special drawing rights, advanced economies still need to be pressured to re-channel the hundreds of billions of special drawing rights sitting idle on their balance sheets into productive purposes.

The 2021 allocation of special drawing rights amounted to US\$650 billion in total. But only US\$33 billion went to African countries due to the IMF's unequal quota distribution. Meanwhile, advanced economies with powerful currencies and no need for special drawing rights received the lion's share.

The African Development Bank has spearheaded one such proposal alongside the Inter-American Development Bank. Under this plan, countries with unused special drawing rights could re-channel them to the African Development Bank as

hybrid capital, allowing the bank to lend around \$4 for each \$1 of special drawing rights it receives.

The IMF approved the use of special drawing rights as hybrid capital for multilateral development banks in May. But it set an excessively low limit of 15 billion special drawing rights across all multilateral development banks.

Even so, advanced economies have been slow to re-channel special drawing rights. The close to \$100 billion that have been re-channelled—mostly to IMF trust funds—is meaningful.

But it still falls short of what should have been re-channelled.

In the long term, IMF governance reforms are needed to avoid a repeat of the inefficient distribution of special drawing rights.

As African countries rightly push to change shortcomings of the international financial architecture, new special drawing rights issuances should be at the centre of such a strategy. The IMF's 2021 special drawing rights issuance showed the tool's scale and importance. And special drawing rights re-channeling has had positive effects in easing debt burdens and freeing up financing to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

With 2030 approaching and the window shrinking for climate action, global leaders should be using all the tools at their disposal, including special drawing rights, to build a more resilient future.

Kevin P. Gallagher, Professor of Global Development Policy and Director, Global Development Policy Center, Boston University and Abebe Shimeles, Honorary Professor, University of Cape Town.

(The conversation)

Law & Politics

Success for Ethiopia at the 16th BRICS Summit

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

Ethiopia participated at the 16th BRICS annual summit in Kazan, Russia, where several heads of state participated. It is the largest gathering of world leaders in Russia in decades. It is known that BRICS stands for Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa the group started in 2006 and the BRIC summit was convened in 2009 with South Africa having joined the bloc a year later.

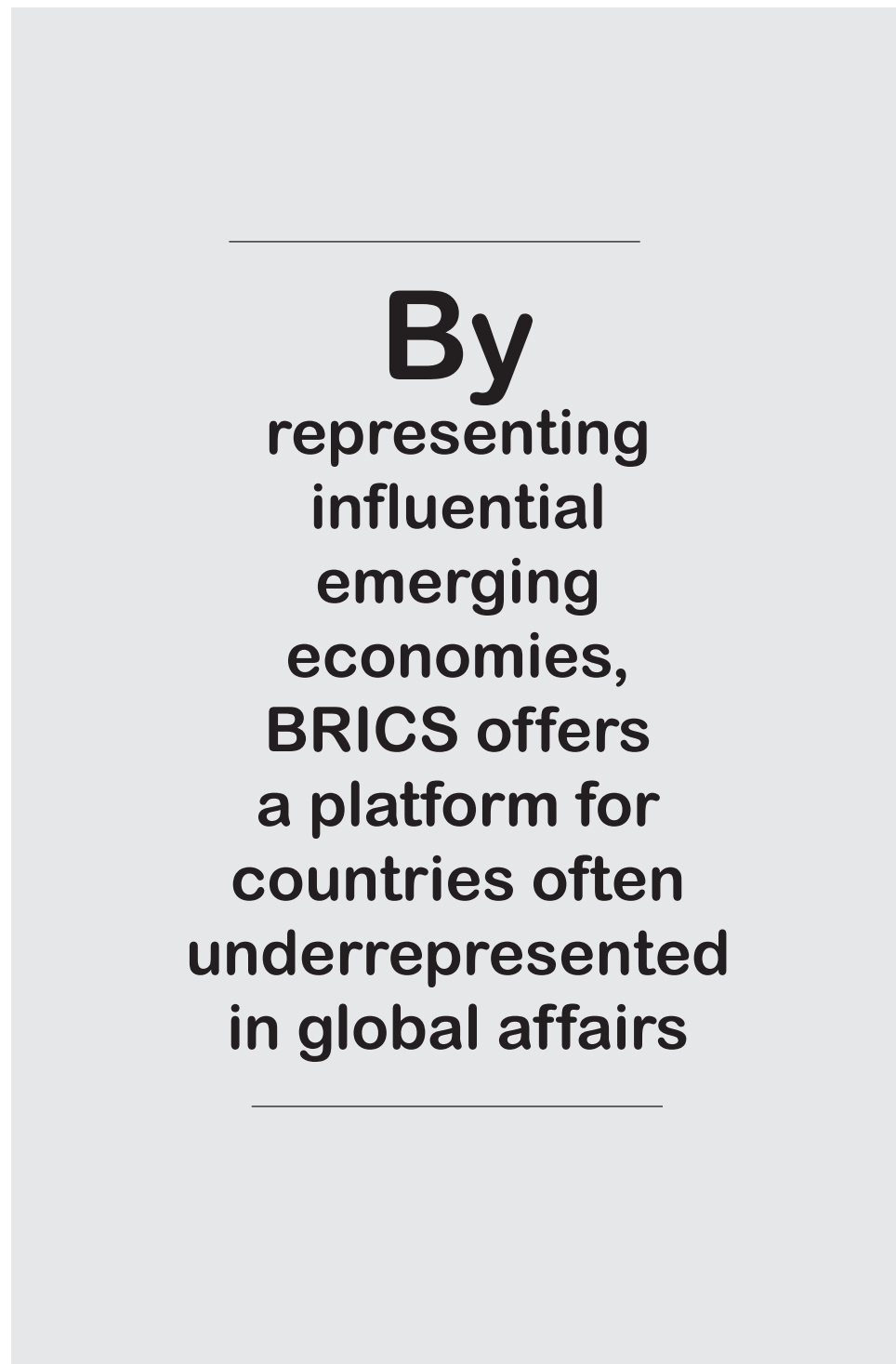
The alliance aims to challenge the economic and political monopoly of the West, the group setting priorities and having discussions once every year during the summit which members take turns hosting. This year's summit was attended by not only the members of the bloc but also by others who are aspiring to join the community, including most notably the leaders of Turkey and Vietnam. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also attended the summit even if Ukraine and some Western countries were not comfortable nor approved of the stance of the head of the UN.

In the end, the summit was considered a success for not only Ethiopia but also for the host nation Russia and the BRICS block as a whole, dismissing the reservations of many Western outlooks on the event. Many Western political analysts stated that it was a huge PR success for President Putin that tried to make his country feel less isolated in the international scene, challenging the West's attempts to sanction him extensively and force him to change his stance on the Ukraine conflict.

It was the first time that Ethiopia participated in such a summit since its joining the BRICS as a full member in January 2024. It was a summit in which Ethiopia made her voice heard by urging that among other things, there should be a reform of the global financial system and that a place should be given to Africa in the Security Council of the United Nations.

BRICS is in fact a group of nations that has been campaigning for a reform in the world financial and economic system as well as promoting the South-South Cooperation among developing nations who feel somewhat marginalized from the richer world and do not have a fair share of the benefits of global economic development and growth due to certain unfair practices that do not embrace the interests of the less developed South.

Ethiopia has joined the BRICS community because it wants to promote its national interest by seeking collaboration and partnership with the huge member nations



of BRICS. The summit that ended a few days ago has concluded with multiple and extensive discussions and agreements on various issues of huge significance to Ethiopia.

The Ethiopian high-level delegation led by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed took part actively in the October 22–24, 2024, discussions that aimed at shaping a more equitable global order. It made sure that the interests of Ethiopia were well represented in the arena by contributing valuable insights to the deliberations. Given that the BRICS block represents a powerful economic group of nations that accounts for a third of the global economy and about half of the world's population, its impact on world affairs cannot be ignored or sidelined, and that is why Ethiopia has been anxious to seek its membership role in the bloc. And if we consider that more than thirty countries have expressed their

interest to join the bloc, it means that BRICS will further impact the world order and contribute solidly to its betterment, seeking more fairness and justice. By representing influential emerging economies, BRICS offers a platform for countries often underrepresented in global affairs.

The summit was also important for Ethiopia's stance in the world as members of BRICS expressed their interest in collaborating with Ethiopia in areas of peace and security by working together. It was a venue where Ethiopia made its point that global conflicts and tensions were having a negative impact on peace and security and a lot of harm is being caused to civilians. The threats of cyber-attacks, misinformation and hate speech are mentioned as affecting the global peace in this highly digitalized era. One of the outcomes of the summit was that

countries have pledged to enhance the capacity of the security institutions and collectively contribute towards global peace. Ethiopia's contribution to the safeguarding of peace and security has been highlighted at the summit. And more willingness has been shown on the part of countries at the summit to cooperate with Ethiopia in this sphere.

Several bilateral meetings and discussions were held on the sidelines of the summit in which Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed engaged in extensive talks with for instance President Vladimir Putin of Russia after which Abiy expressed his appreciation to the president for the in-depth discussions during the meeting. The premier has mentioned the historical ties between Russia and Ethiopia and that the common BRICS platform will allow Ethiopia to engage with broader economic cooperation with Russia.

Abiy also held bilateral talks with the President of the UAE Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and President of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa on issues of mutual interest. So did he with President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Masoud Pezeshkian expressing Ethiopia's support to de-escalate tensions in the Middle East.

During the various discussion platforms, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed emphasized that Ethiopia's quest for sea outlets is based on shared interests and that given the history, geography, population and economic development of the country Ethiopia needs access to the sea. The premier also shared the economic reforms Ethiopia was implementing and the enhancement of its institutional capacity building. The Summit has offered Ethiopia an opportunity to have its interests aligned with the decisions taken and it has benefited Ethiopia in the areas of economy, trade, investment and other areas.

According to the Minister of Foreign Affairs Gedion Timotheos, Ethiopia has successfully promoted its efforts to protect its national interests and global clouts at the BRICS summit. The minister said Ethiopia's voice was heard and amplified on the global stage. The summit led to important decisions on matters such as economic cooperation, regional security and the reform of the United Nations Security Council. Ethiopia has aligned itself with the collective positions of other African countries on these key discussions. Many countries aspiring to be accepted as new members of BRICS sought the support of Ethiopia to achieve that status. Hence it was a huge success for Ethiopia to have attended and contributed to the carrying out of the 16th BRICS Summit.

Planet Earth



Ethiopia's projects contribute to the global efforts to see World without Hunger

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

There is a severe food scarcity problem in many parts of the world, including Africa. The degree of food insecurity varies from continent to continent and country to country. Droughts have been regularly reported in some parts of Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Eritrea, and Djibouti. These causes result in food shortages and severe malnutrition.

Conflicts, desertification, and unpredictable rainfall are some of the other causes of food shortages. Smallholder farmers, who frequently lack access to modern farming methods, improved seeds, and sufficient infrastructure, are a defining feature of developing countries' agriculture. Hence, low agricultural output severely hampered food security.

Furthermore, many African nations struggle to withstand issues like land degradation, deforestation, and soil erosion. These factors reduce the amount of arable land that is available and make it challenging to maintain agricultural techniques. Lack of access to markets, food loss, and waste are other problems that challenge the promotion of food security in Africa.

Despite the aforementioned difficulties, initiatives to address the issue of food security in Africa have been made. Countries have attempted to promote sustainable and contemporary farming techniques, provide access to high-yield seeds, and construct efficient irrigation systems to increase agricultural production in their respective countries.

Taking these and other related challenges into account, Ethiopia has developed some efforts to secure nationwide food security. Green Legacy, Ye limat Tirufat, Summer Wheat Development, and other initiatives are noteworthy.

In 2019, the country's first Ethiopian Green

Legacy Initiatives were launched. The primary goal of the effort is to combat climate change, land degradation, and deforestation by planting billions of trees around the country in order to ensure food security. At the completion of the program in 2022, the nation had more than 25 billion trees, contrary to the program's goal of planting 4 billion trees during the rainy season each year.

The second phase of the Green Legacy Initiative, which began in 2022, builds on the preceding phase's success by intending to boost tree-planting efforts. It focuses on not just planting trees, but also caring for and maintaining them to ensure their survival and long-term impact on the environment.

Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) State Minister Eyasu Elias (Prof.) told The Ethiopian Herald that the green legacy program has paid off for the country by enhancing agricultural productivity and is part of the macroeconomic pie. It enabled the country to plant over 32.5 billion saplings in the last five years, with 60 percent of the seedlings being agroforestry plants grown in farmers' backyards.

Accordingly, "Farmers who planted seedlings in their backyards have begun producing and exporting fruits, establishing Ethiopia as Africa's biggest exporter. Similarly, the effort has enabled Ethiopia to become Africa's second-largest avocado exporter, after Kenya."

According to the state minister, 35 percent of the seedlings have been planted to combat flooding, land degradation, and soil erosion, among other things. This helps the country's agriculture sector produce the necessary results while withstanding climate change. On the other hand, 5 percent of the saplings planted in cities during the last six years were chosen for both ornamental and climate change mitigation goals.

"Yelimat Tirufat" is another significant

program initiated by the government to ensure food security. It is a development effort that aims to solve a variety of socioeconomic concerns, primarily those related to food security and agricultural development.

Ethiopian Minister of Agriculture Dr. Umar Hussain once remarked that the initiative was created to promote nutritional opulence. It began by producing milk, eggs, chicken meat, and honey. Its primary goals are to increase chicken meat production from 90 thousand to 296 thousand tons, milk production from 6.9 billion to 11.7 billion liters, egg production from 3.2 billion to 9.1 billion, and honey production from 147 thousand to 296 thousand tons.

He also added that to implement the "Yelimat Tirufat" program, lessons, and best practices have been taken from the Green Legacy Initiative and avocado development across the country.

Another significant government project is the Summer Wheat Irrigation Development program. In order to strengthen the current efforts to ensure the country's food sufficiency and expand export commodities, Ethiopia has also been executing a summer wheat irrigation development.

Ethiopian Minister of Agriculture State Minister Dr. Melese Mekonnen stated that efforts are being made to increase summer wheat production. It has been widely implemented in areas where there is no prior experience. Hence, it not only boosts output and productivity but also modernizes farming and pastoralist techniques. Furthermore, efforts are underway to modernize agriculture and boost production through sustainable technology transfer.

These initiatives should be promoted and supported by the appropriate bodies. The World without Hunger Conference, which Ethiopia will host from November 5-7 in Addis Ababa, is an excellent chance to highlight the difficulties and successes of

Ethiopian food security policies and efforts. The Conference is anticipated to reflect on the most serious issues of our day. It is a three-day event that includes solution-focused technical seminars, an investment forum, and a high-level political forum.

In addition, over 1,500 high-level stakeholders, including heads of state/government, ministers, UN agencies, the commercial sector, financial institutions, the donor community, DFI/IFI, civil society, non-governmental organizations, academia, and the media, will attend the conference. The conference is co-organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the African Union Commission (AUC), and the Ethiopian government, with technical support from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). This in turn provides a good opportunity to share experiences and disclose the food security efforts of Ethiopia.

Because Ethiopia's efforts to ensure food security through Green Legacy, Ye lemat Trufat, Summer Wheat Development, and other initiatives can demonstrate Ethiopia's continued commitment to mitigating the negative consequences of climate change, with a stronger emphasis on sustainability, community engagement, long-term effects, and ensuring food security.

In general, implementing and replicating these initiatives not only assures national food security of the country by addressing nutrition demands through considerable increases in milk, eggs, poultry, and honey production across the country but also serves as a model for other developing countries to fight climate change while addressing food security. Moreover, presenting Ethiopia's food security efforts has the potential to build a society in which everyone has access to adequate, safe, and nutritious food, effectively moving toward a "World Without Hunger."