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Ethiopia's Cyber security Month: A step towards digital sovereignty

BY HAILE DEMEKE

The National Cyber Security Month officially commenced on Friday at the Science Museum, running throughout October under

the theme "Critical Infrastructure Security for Digital Sovereignty." This initiative aims to raise awareness among institutions and citizens about the increasing cybersecurity threats, bolstering cyber sovereignty through effective national coordination.

The Information Network Security Administration (INSA) Director General Tigist Hamid, while addressing the forum, highlighting that cyber-attacks have become a global concern. They pose serious national crises, and the Ethiopian government is

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Expert advocates policy overhaul to unlock tourism potential

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA- A senior tourism researcher has called on the Ethiopian government to improve visa policies, streamline immigration processes, and reduce bureaucratic barriers to fully exploit the nation's untapped tourism potential.

The Tourism Training Institute's Senior Tourism Researcher SahleTeklie told *The Ethiopian Herald* that developing tourist

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Taking way out of advancing Africa's common interests

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

In light of shifting regional and global dynamics, African governments are implementing various institutional mechanisms to address challenges exacerbated by international competition. As the scramble for Africa's resources intensifies, these pressures compound to the continent's struggles with instability, market access, and strategic positioning.

The Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA) Executive Director Jafar Bedru emphasized the opportunity to transform Africa into a beacon of peace, stability, and prosperity through collective determination. He pointed out that challenges such as border crises, resource-based conflicts, cross-border crime, violent extremism, and



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Filippo Gavazzeni



Esther Mogusu



Maureen Muketha

Ethiopia's school feeding program receives Int'l acclaim

ADDIS ABABA- (ENA) Addis Ababa city school feeding program is a role model for global replication that can also be exported to other cities across the world, Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Representatives remarked.

The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) is an international agreement among cities from all over the world, committed to develop sustainable food systems that are inclusive, resilient, safe and diverse.

Representatives of the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact from different countries visited school feeding program as well as community feeding centers in Addis Ababa on Friday.

The representatives emphasized the significance of both the school feeding program and community feeding centers, noting that these initiatives provide students and vulnerable community members with

essential nutritious food vital for their mental and physical development.

Head of the MUFPP Secretariat at City of Milan, Filippo Gavazzeni, told ENA that he came to Addis Ababa along with MUFPP representatives of other countries to see how the school feeding and community feeding programs work, stressing the model is praiseworthy that can be also exported to other countries.

“So, this field visit in the school and feeding centers will be very useful. I think that the role of the mayor on school meals can be a guide for other cities in Africa to develop or improve the school feeding program,” the head said.

Moreover, the head appreciated the commitment of Mayor Adanech Abiebie and effort of Addis Ababa City Administration at large for promoting free school meals and community feeding centers in the city.

Nutrition, Wellness and School Feeding

Director at Nairobi City County, Esther Mogusu on her part underlined that the school feeding program helps students to be better in their studies and improve overall performances of their lives.

She praised the government and Mayor of Addis Ababa for initiating the school feeding program, emphasizing food is a very important aspect for children since it provides them nutrition that increases enrollment in school and improves their cognitive performance which lead them to be more productive citizens of the country.

“We know that food is very important for children because it provide nutrition; from a very young age, it increases their enrollment in school; it also prevents absenteeism in school; it helps the children to have better concentration in class; improves cognitive performance; and also to have a more productive population in Ethiopia,” Mogusu stated.

Senior Associate at Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) Kenya Office, Maureen Muketha, said the school feeding initiative of the government of Ethiopia is an investment on future generation of the country.

The program delivers comprehensive nutritious meals to young children, who are crucial to the future and progress of modern Ethiopia, she noted.

She underscored that “these young children are able to get comprehensive nutritious meal. It is really good to see that the government of Ethiopia is looking at investing in the future; because, these are future doctors, lawyers, prime ministers of Ethiopia. So, keep it up Ethiopian government!”

Launched as a pilot project in 2019, Addis Ababa school feeding initiative has evolved into a standard practice, benefiting students across public elementary schools in the city.

St. Paul's Hospital graduates 410 medical professionals

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA- St. Paul's Hospital Millennium Medical College celebrated the graduation of 410 medical professionals from various health fields at Ghion Hotel yesterday, including 115 women.

During the ceremony, College Provost Sisay Sirgu (MD) highlighted that this marks the 11th graduating class, with graduates trained across 43 programs. These new professionals have actively participated in a nationwide health campaign, providing essential services to communities in rural areas and gaining valuable practical experience.

Dr. Sisay noted the college's expansion in training opportunities, now offering 73 regular and postgraduate programs. Graduates specialized in fields including sub-specialties, public health, maternal health, oncology, medical microbiology, and nursing. This graduation is particularly significant as it aligns with the Ministry of Health's national specialty and sub-specialty service roadmap, promoting a multidisciplinary approach to modernize medical services and enhance quality health care across the nation.

The college is also pursuing international accreditation for its school of medicine,



currently in the final stages of a self-assessment process. Dr. Sisay announced that construction of advanced treatment centers for cardiology, gastroenterology, cancer, and orthopedics is nearing completion, aiming to attract skilled professionals and elevate treatment standards.

He urged graduates to uphold their responsibilities with discipline as they embark on their careers in health care.

Founded in 2013, the college has become a cornerstone of medical education in Ethiopia, addressing the growing demand for skilled healthcare professionals in a country facing numerous health challenges.

Berhanena Selam College graduates 51 students in printing and graphic arts

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA-BerhanenaSelam Printing Enterprise College graduated 51 students in printing and graphic arts yesterday, marking its third graduation ceremony.

At the event, CEO Shitahun Wale emphasized the college's vital role in producing skilled professionals for the industry. He highlighted the institution's commitment to addressing gaps in Ethiopia's printing sector through both short- and long-term training programs.

The college also offers free training courses to various institutions to help bridge the country's printing technology gaps. Despite these initiatives, a significant shortage of trained professionals persists. In response, the college is continually enhancing and modernizing its training systems while introducing new programs, he stated.

Dean Mesfin Kassa noted the college's critical contribution to resolving the shortage of skilled workers in the printing technology sector. He shared that the college has developed training programs ranging from Level I to Level III, organizing

workshops and resources to ensure high-quality instruction.

To date, the college has successfully trained thousands in areas such as printing technology, graphic design, silk screen printing, and more through its short-term programs. Additionally, comprehensive training in printing and graphic arts is offered from Levels I to III.

In its eight-year journey, the college has graduated approximately 6,619 trainees across both short-term and comprehensive training programs. Currently, it is preparing to launch new courses in video editing and animation.

As part of its corporate social responsibility, the college also provides free training services for professionals from various institutions and those in need within the fields of printing technology and graphic design, he underscored.

Berhanena Selam Printing Enterprise College, established to address the growing demand for skilled professionals in Ethiopia's printing and graphic arts sector, has been at the forefront of education and training for eight years.

Editorial

China's investment in Ethiopia snowballing

Resilient Ethiopia boasts bountiful natural resources that beg for further harnessing for common benefits. As has been witnessed in the tourism sector, Ethiopia has been the center of attention for foreign investors across the globe. Besides, Ethiopia is situated in a special global corner conducive to trade and investment. Moreover, it teems with less expensive manpower—or easily trainable on top of the skilled ones.

In cognizance of the aforementioned facts, investors across the globe who do not attach a political string to their ventures come to Ethiopia in droves to enjoy perks and assist their partners in advancing in the avenue of development.

The Ethiopia-China relationship is longstanding. The socioeconomic and political relationship between the two countries is as strong as the one between good neighbors. This cohesion is attributable to Ethiopia's being a gateway to China's investment in Africa. Inking several agreements Ethiopia and China have grounded their relationship on a firm foundation.

In light of the Ethio-China Chemistry ever putting down roots, come rain or shine as seen during the Covid-19 pandemic, China's investment in Ethiopia is snowballing. China's investment has served as a springboard to Ethiopia's economy allowing it to catapult to new heights. Since such a genuine partnership has a significant role in turning around a developing country like Ethiopia such a bond must be allowed to pick steam down the road. Ethiopia also deserves appreciation for creating a conducive environment for China's investment. When it comes to infrastructural development industrial parks are built in different parts of the country. After the full completion of infrastructural facilities, the number of Chinese companies that joined the investment sector is significant.

Curbing unemployment such investment ventures offer job opportunities for a multitude of youths. They as well play quite a role in knowledge transfer letting go or sharing an asset garnered the hardest way.

Ethiopia is also striving to realize import substitution. At this juncture, it is due to underline the paramount role China's investors played in the birth of industrial parks and their operation. Currently, the presence of a multitude of companies of China in Ethiopia showcases that such a bond is helping Ethiopia curtail the voluminous outflow of hard-won hard currency. Also, Ethiopian entrepreneurs engaged in import-export trade are doing a commendable job by troubleshooting the shortage of some commodities closely working with their Chinese counterparts. This also talks loud the clicking between the two countries.

The salient reason ascribable to the consolidation of trade is the inflow of Chinese investors that outlay a huge wealth on the investment sector.

When it comes to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), the country is entertaining China's investment stands out from the crowd.

To quantify things so far Chinese investors outlaying 8.5 billion USD in 3,300 projects have helped buttress Ethiopia's economic activities. As a token of gratitude and encouragement, higher government officials, and stakeholder organizations in the sector have paid homage to some of the Chinese companies around the peripheries of Addis such as Dukem. About 93 percent of the 153 development opportunities made possible in the private Eastern Industrial Park zone, the mammoth one in the country, are utilized by Chinese investors. Close to 325 thousand citizens have got job opportunities thanks to China's investment.



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Opinion

Ethiopia should replicate success in coffee export revenue on quality and value adding

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

Ethiopia, the birthplace of Arabica coffee, is a cornerstone of the economy, known for its exceptional quality and intricate flavor profiles. The country's coffee industry is evolving, focusing on sustainability, traceability, and direct trade practices, making Ethiopian coffee a symbol of excellence and national pride.

Renowned for its quality, unique flavors, and cultural heritage, Ethiopian coffee is gaining global recognition due to its emphasis on sustainability, traceability, and direct trade practices. The industry is thriving, promoting sustainability, traceability, and direct trade practices, ensuring excellence and national pride in the nation's coffee.

The country's coffee industry is experiencing remarkable growth and prosperity. Apart from fulfilling domestic consumption, the country has produced an impressive transformation from 500,000 to 1 million tons of coffee within the last five years. The country has experienced a remarkable increase in revenue from coffee exports, reaching over 1.4 billion USD in the last fiscal year. This outstanding achievement showcases an annual increase in foreign exchange profits, establishing a thriving industry.

The top buyers for the fiscal year include Saudi Arabia, Germany, the United States, Korea, Belgium, Japan, and the United Arab Emirates. In the face of the global coffee market's slowdown and price decrease last year, Ethiopia's coffee industry managed to bridge the gap by offering exceptional-quality coffee, thus affirming its position as a leading player in the international market.

This significant milestone was highlighted during a national coffee exhibition and awareness forum held today at the Ethiopian Science Museum. This growth (from 500,000 to 1 million tons) is attributed to ongoing improvements in the macroeconomic environment and the coffee trade sector.

Though the result is promising, we are far from countries that are producing and supplying a huge amount of coffee to the international market. For instance, over the past five years, Brazil has been producing 3.7 million tons of coffee annually, while Vietnam produced 1.7 million tons per year. Ethiopia, on the other hand, was producing less than 500,000 tons of coffee annually.

However, following the Green Legacy Initiative, Brazil's production has increased to 4 million tons, Vietnam to 2 million tons, and Ethiopia has been able to double its production to 1 million tons. This implies that we remain much to do more to avoid possible challenges.

Ethiopia's coffee industry faces challenges due to limited infrastructure, particularly in remote regions, affecting transportation, distribution, and market access. Empowering small-scale farmers is crucial for sustainable development, but they face financial, training, and farming technique challenges.

The Ethiopian government is highly committed to enhancing coffee quality,

production, and addressing the challenges the sub-sector faces. In order to achieve effective results, collaboration with stakeholders, including farmers, cooperatives, and regional communities, is imperative to promote awareness and implement best practices in coffee cultivation.

Technological advancements have also revolutionized the industry, particularly in combating illegal coffee trade practices. The government has implemented enhanced software and network systems to track coffee from its source to its destination, ensuring strict control and preventing illegal disputes.

Moreover, to guarantee the highest quality coffee production, close collaboration with research centers and academic institutions is paramount. Joint efforts focus on understanding the variables that impact coffee quality, providing farmers with improved coffee varieties, and addressing marketing challenges.

Expanding market access and adding value to Ethiopian coffee products are crucial for the industry's growth and economic development. While Ethiopia is known for its high-quality coffee beans, there is an opportunity to further diversify and capture more value through processing, branding, and marketing initiatives.

On the other hand, the coffee industry plays a vital role in safeguarding forest resources and mitigating the effects of climate change. In this sense, Ethiopia is making significant strides towards environmental conservation. Ethiopia's Green Legacy program is promoting the growth of agroforestry and ecological stability.

Sustainability lies at the heart of Ethiopia's coffee development. Protecting the environment, preserving biodiversity, and promoting fair trade practices are essential elements for the industry's long-term viability.

In order to solve market-related problems, Africa has now made coffee a strategic commodity produced in more than 25 African countries. Apart from being a cause for economic integration, coffee-producing African countries have a chance to exchange best practices and enhance quality production.

As it comes into effect, the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) would play a crucial role in enhancing the coffee market within the continent and throughout the world.

Embracing sustainable farming methods, investing in infrastructure, and fostering partnerships between stakeholders, Ethiopia can achieve inclusive growth that benefits coffee farmers, protects natural resources, and ensures the sustainability of its coffee industry.

By addressing these challenges, empowering farmers, promoting sustainability, and enhancing market opportunities, Ethiopia can continue to solidify its position as a global leader in the coffee industry while preserving its remarkable coffee heritage for generations to come. In this regard, the government can secure about 2 billion USD during this Ethiopian fiscal year.

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

News

Gov't drives growth in private sector automotive industry

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA – The Ethiopian government, through the Ministry of Transport and Logistics (MoTL), has taken significant steps to foster the growth of the private automotive industry.

A strategic partnership has been established between local automotive firm O'clock Motors and the Chinese company Global U-Car Technology, involving a 250 million USD agreement designed to enhance the sector.

During the announcement on Thursday, Kedel Magest, advisor to the Transport and Logistics Minister, emphasized the ministry's commitment to implementing effective policies that foster collaboration

with the private sector. He noted that this partnership is expected to significantly impact the transport and logistics landscape in the country.

Both companies are dedicated to complying with government policies and supporting the ministry's initiatives. O'clock Motors' General Manager, TameneKasahun, noted that the partnership will enable five years of joint operations, with a target of supplying 4,000 vehicles annually to Ethiopian customers.

Currently, O'clock Motors operates with a capital of one billion Birr, focusing on the production of various vehicle types, including small cars and heavy-duty trucks. The company aims to increase its production capacity to deliver over 600 vehicles per year.

In addition to its business objectives, O'clock Motors is committed to fulfilling its social responsibilities by engaging in community projects. In Tigray State, the company has donated over 460 quintals of flour and provided financial support for various social initiatives. Furthermore, it plans to assist disadvantaged individuals near its factories during holiday seasons.

O'clock Motors intends to import over 16 different vehicle models while establishing assembly plants within Ethiopia. Meanwhile, Global U-Car Technology will contribute more than 40 vehicle models for distribution across various states. This partnership not only represents a significant advancement for the automotive sector but also showcases the government's role in facilitating private sector growth, it was stated.

Expert advocates...

destination infrastructure alone is insufficient. It is vital to identify and address hindering factors such as visa and immigration policies to attract a broader range of visitors and boost revenue.

Sahle also stressed the need for the tourism sector to be led by trained professionals with specialized education in tourism and hospitality, rather than appointing leaders from unrelated fields. "The sector should recruit skilled graduates from hotel and tourism programs, as tourism faces numerous challenges," he stated.

He further noted that merely constructing tourist facilities will not yield quick results. The government must also work to remove certain restrictions, promote awareness of the country's rich tourism resources, and provide support for the sector. "These measures are prerequisites for the tourism

industry to flourish," he added.

Additionally, Sahle highlighted the role of tourism in fostering social reconciliation and diplomacy, which can help build strong international relationships. "Tourism can transform communities by creating jobs, promoting inclusion, and strengthening local economies," he explained. The researcher urged citizens to maintain peace and avoid conflict, stressing that the government's commitment to these principles is essential for enhancing tourism and ensuring national stability.

While acknowledging that the tourism sector has historically received limited attention, Sahle recognized recent government efforts to improve the industry and urged continued support for its further development.

Ethiopia's tourism sector has significant



Sahle Teklie

potential, driven by its rich cultural heritage, diverse landscapes, and historical sites, including Lalibela, the Simien Mountains, and other attractions. With ongoing efforts to improve infrastructure and address bureaucratic barriers, the sector could play a key role in economic growth and community development.

Ethiopia's Cyber...

committed to mitigating these threats as part of the Digital Ethiopia 2025 Strategy. Notably, efforts to combat cyber threats have intensified, successfully thwarting approximately 8,854 attempted breaches during the 2023/24 fiscal year.

Cyber-attacks are increasingly targeting critical sectors such as healthcare, finance, energy, and transportation. INSA emphasizes the importance of awareness and enhancing human resources focused on innovation and technology. Tigist stressed that cyber security is vital for protecting digital resources and ensuring citizen safety.

National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) Governor Mamo Mihertu echoed these concerns, stating that the world is undergoing a digital transformation, making cybersecurity a pressing global issue. Ethiopia faces significant challenges, particularly with cyber-attacks targeting key infrastructures that affect the nation's sovereignty. He urged for intensified government efforts to safeguard national interests, asserting that cybersecurity is crucial for protecting digital

resources and ensuring citizens' safety.

As Ethiopia advances its digital journey, Governor Mamo highlighted the need for innovation and technology to combat rising cyber threats. He noted the increasing global trend of cyber-attacks on critical infrastructure, which is essential for economic stability and geopolitical influence.

Referencing the 2021 Colonial Pipeline attack in the U.S., which caused fuel shortages, he underscored the disruptive impact of cyber-attacks on essential services. INSA aims to counter these threats by harnessing government resources and strengthening human capital in cybersecurity.

Recently, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) launched the Public Key Infrastructure (PKI), emphasizing its importance for Ethiopia's modernization and sovereignty. The PKI will facilitate secure digital data exchanges and is crucial for information network security management. The launch

reflects Ethiopia's rapid digital evolution and the need for robust cybersecurity systems to support this development.

The Prime Minister also praised the Summer Camp trainees from the Ethiopian Artificial Intelligence Institute, showcasing the nation's commitment to addressing its challenges and advancing the Digital Ethiopia strategy. As cyber-attacks threaten national sovereignty, implementing PKI and initiatives like training five million Ethiopian coders and establishing a national digital identity will further propel Ethiopia's digital journey.

To reinforce these efforts, the government plans to collaborate with international partners and cybersecurity experts to build a comprehensive framework for incident response and threat intelligence sharing. This collaboration aims to enhance Ethiopia's capacity to respond to cyber threats swiftly and effectively, ensuring a resilient digital environment that supports national growth and security.

Taking way out...

insurgencies continue to fuel both internal and external insecurities, posing significant threats to national and regional security.

These crises have not only weakened institutions but have also contributed to a broader state of fragility, hindering effective development across the continent. With Africa's population expected to grow from 1.5 billion to 2.5 billion in the next 25 years, the region's rich cultural, political, and natural resource diversity presents both significant opportunities and daunting challenges.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' International Law Affairs Director General Ambassador Reta Alemu noted that Africa's political commitment, along with its institutional frameworks and legal systems, are crucial for navigating the continent's responsibilities on the global stage. He remarked, "Africa, once called the 'dark continent,' has emerged as a rising force over the past few decades, with many nations focusing on building infrastructure and making substantial progress."

Ambassador Reta urged African states to strengthen regional collaboration and assert ownership of their economic development. He emphasized that diplomats and scholars widely agree that Africa represents a new frontier in the global economic order, ripe with potential. As Africa's young and progressive societies embrace modernization while maintaining traditional values, the region must also focus on closing the digital divide and better utilizing its abundant resources.

IGAD's Peace and Security Division Commander AbebeMuluneh warned that fragile states, characterized by deficits in institutional capacity, remain especially vulnerable to instability, conflict, and external shocks. He pointed out that external interventions by global powers and Middle Eastern nations have significantly shaped Africa's peace and security landscape, often leading to unintended negative consequences for the continent.

Abebe reiterated the urgent need for African leaders to address ongoing conflicts, manage trans-boundary resources effectively, resolve longstanding border disputes, and respond adequately to the humanitarian needs of refugees and internally displaced persons. He asserted that African unity and cooperation with favorable partners, including Gulf nations, will be key to resisting external manipulation and securing a more peaceful and prosperous future for the continent. In this pivotal moment, the path forward hinges on collaboration, resilience, and a shared vision for a thriving Africa.

Opinion

Control of human trafficking: A viable means to minimize crimes against humanity

BY GETACHEW MINAS

Controlling human trafficking is a difficult task in countries where job opportunities are low and unemployment is on the rise. These countries are mainly developing ones where investment opportunities are difficult to attract due to social unrest. The governments of these countries have been trying to design economic policies that attract both domestic and external investors to generate employment. But they could not succeed in implementing these policies, and unemployed citizens remained dependent on families and relatives.

Reports have revealed that countries of the Horn of Africa, including Ethiopia, do not fully meet the minimum requirements for the elimination of trafficking in search of jobs abroad. However, these countries are making efforts to eliminate trafficking through job creation in the different sectors of the economy. The government of Ethiopia has been increasing efforts to combat unemployment and minimize human trafficking.

Experts have pointed out that the efforts made by the government included studying the potential trafficking issues in Ethiopia. Some of the issues are potential causes of crimes, including officials that are allegedly complicit in the process. The study also included identifying and analyzing the reason for being victimized by traffickers. The authorities are also making increasing efforts to check the private employment agencies for preventing labor abuses.

There is also an increasing concern for coordinating anti-trafficking efforts at the urban and regional levels. In line with this, the government has established the Labor Market Information System, for monitoring selection and recruitment of job seekers to improve access to labor markets abroad. The concerned authority has regularly looked for information from survivors of trafficking in its efforts to reduce the problem. The authority has also encouraged these survivors to be involved in awareness raising activities for those people intending to migrate.

Experts have pointed out that the authority for controlling human trafficking could not fully achieve its intent of protecting migrant workers. To protect migrant workers that utilize the legal process, the authority should designate dedicated labor attachés at Ethiopian diplomatic missions. The absence of these attaches may hinder the objective of protecting migrant workers from illegal traffickers. The authority has to take the necessary action to control local crimes related to trafficking, including domestic servitude and child trafficking. Without such control, it is difficult to minimize the overall social impact of trafficking.

Of course, authorities have routinely checked potential human trafficking cases. This is done where there is evidence of domestic servitude, and physical or sexual abuses. The cases of “domestic servitude”

have often been forwarded to the criminal courts as offenses of lesser degree than human trafficking. Domestic servitude is related to work without remuneration, providing workers only with food and shelter. There are reports of pervasive domestic corruption, including accepting bribes and producing fake documents for facilitating trafficking.

To reduce and control human trafficking, it is useful to train concerned authorities at all levels. They have to be knowledgeable about techniques for identification of victims and referring them to centers of appropriate care. They should be skilled in victim investigation techniques, including the differences between human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

Similarly, there is a need to raise awareness at the community level about formal recruitment processes for migrant work abroad. This effort has to be accompanied by protection for Ethiopian victims of trafficking. There is a need to inform workers in advance about types and levels of exploitation abroad. Awareness creation program has to be provided in pre-departure training to all migrant workers. Moreover, the assigning of dedicated labor attachés to Ethiopian embassies to monitor migrants' working conditions abroad is crucial. Also, training of embassy staff to identify and assist victims abroad is very important.

Experts have proposed the establishment, revision, and implementation of bilateral labor agreements with destination countries. These agreements have to include articles of protection for workers abroad. The experts also suggested ensuring proper police investigation of all cases of domestic servitude. The outcome of these investigations may be incorporated in the training program for civil society and community members on trafficking. In this program, it may be necessary to identify victims of trafficking, including Ethiopian migrant workers returning from overseas. These victims may be domestic workers, commercial sex workers, and unaccompanied children.

All of these victims of trafficking, however, deserve appropriate essential services, including shelter, health, education, and training. The concerned authorities need the support and collaboration of NGOs and international organizations to provide for shelter, housing, and other services for all victims of trafficking.

Apart from provision of basic services to victims of trafficking, there should be an investigation for prosecuting alleged traffickers. These may include those responsible for domestic and transnational trafficking crimes. The prosecution should seek adequate and severe penalties for those conducting human trafficking. Those responsible authorities may consistently enforce regulations and seek the right to supervise private labor recruitment agencies.

These authorities may have the right to eliminate recruitment fees migrant workers

are charged by private employment agencies. They may also inspect and charge the agencies that practice deceptive labor recruitment. The authorities have to train labor inspectors on how to report violations of laws and regulation to the appropriate officials. The authorities responsible for controlling human trafficking need to develop and implement a comprehensive and centralized database. This helps to accurately report anti-trafficking statistics disaggregated by data on crimes committed by those engaged in human trafficking.

The Ethiopian government has increased its anti-trafficking law enforcement efforts. It has issued proclamations to provide for the prevention of trafficking and smuggling of people. It has also made legal provisions for penalizing labor traffickers and adult and child sex traffickers. The penalties have been severe and stringent with regards to sex trafficking, similar with those imposed for other crimes, such as rape.

The concerned authority has reported on the investigation and prosecution of several criminal cases based on anti-trafficking proclamation. It is reported that courts have ordered imprisonment and fines on traffickers. Depending on the legality of issues presented, the courts have also endorsed, overturned, or acquitted defendants. It is, however, reported that authorities have, in earlier years, the propensity to combine human trafficking and migrant smuggling. Smuggling involved individuals seeking to cross borders through irregular migration but not involving exploitation through trafficking.

The authorities have taken steps at different levels to address internal trafficking crimes. These include child sex trafficking and domestic servitude. But the law enforcement authorities have made efforts to focus on transnational trafficking crimes. But the authorities have not allocated sufficient resources or attention to trafficking crimes “within the borders.”

However, courts have convicted perpetrators using the criminal code for sexual assault or child abuse, rather than for human trafficking, which resulted in lesser penalties. Also, it is reported that authorities frequently applied labor proclamation to address labor trafficking cases. But, this proclamation has “not included” domestic service or the informal sector. Thus, the cases of domestic service have been forwarded to the criminal court as labor violations instead of human trafficking.

Studies reveal that corruption in human trafficking crimes has remained a major concern, precluding and inhibiting legal actions. Reports of corruption, bribes and production of false documentation to facilitate trafficking among immigration workers have remained pervasive.

As mentioned earlier, authorities investigated and charged several immigration workers for facilitating human trafficking and migrant smuggling crimes. This is done, according to reports, by providing falsified approval letters for citizens to work abroad.

This investigation has continued for a long period. The authorities have continued investigating employees for potential human trafficking and migrant smuggling. They are committed to investigate and prosecute human trafficking crimes, especially those involving cross-border exploitation in Ethiopia. They have delegated regional law enforcement units to investigate internal trafficking cases within their local jurisdictions.

The government has taken practical measures to minimize and control trafficking. In collaboration with an international organization and foreign donors, the Federal Police Commission (FPC) has established a specialized investigation unit. This unit has the authority to investigate human trafficking crimes.

Also the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has maintained specialized prosecuting unit that focuses on human trafficking and migrant smuggling crimes. These specialized investigators and prosecutors have been coordinated on trafficking cases. They have engaged in training programs that included victim-focused investigations, child-friendly investigation methods, and data, information and evidence gathering. These government authorities in collaboration with NGOs have also provided training to federal and regional functionaries. These included police, prosecutors, judges, and immigration officers, on the distinction between human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

The training of staff engaged in controlling or minimizing human trafficking has continued in different parts of the country. The training items included anti-trafficking laws, trafficking and digital investigations, victim identification, and international cooperation on investigations.

The Ethiopian government, in partnership with global organizations, finalized new investigation and prosecution guidelines. These instructions identified appropriate and best practices for prosecutors dealing in human trafficking cases. Prosecutors have been trained on the practical use of these instructions.

Even though there has been an increase in overall specialized training and use of the anti-trafficking law, officials reported challenges related to victim identification. They also noted challenges of the lack of protection services and processing of digital evidence that continued to hinder successful prosecution of trafficking. The Ethiopian authorities cooperated with foreign agencies of various countries on potential trafficking investigations. They also entered into agreements of cooperation on the extradition of illegal operators with several countries.

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

Business & Economy

Augmenting industrialization for economic progress, job creation

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Ethiopia is one of the top countries in Africa for attracting investment in many areas for a variety of reasons. One of these major parts is the development of industrial parks, which are meant to be long-term investments since they are fully equipped with advanced infrastructure and manufacturing equipment to assist investors in getting their businesses up and running.

Intensifying and augmenting industrial parks more is one part of the effort geared towards fostering economic development in Ethiopia. If this is so, the country has to expedite the new model to promote growth and create jobs, thereby ensuring sustainable economic growth, as the expansion of industrial parks has been providing citizens with an opportunity to grow and further develop their businesses.

Taking this fact into account, *The Ethiopian Herald* had a stay with Zelalem Waqqari, an industrial engineer graduated from Addis Ababa University in engineering, to gain professional point of view.

He said, "Industrialization is essential element of growth and has an important role for poverty reduction and sustaining prosperous future. The pursuit for industrialization is regarded as the most feasible option for structural transformation. Likewise, industrial parks are a fundamental industrialization strategy that have a significant contribution to boosting economic output, absorbing scientific and technological progress, creating conducive platform for openness to the foreign world, economic experiment, and demonstration effects, and induce local and global value chain, ecological preservation, and environmental protection."

Basically, he said, an industrial park might include companies that provide manufacturing, transportation, and storage facilities, such as chemical plants, airports, and beverage manufacturers. Industrial parks can be useful in bringing companies together that provide services and features that are complementary to each other.

They are of significantly useful in fostering mutually beneficial partnerships between industrial parks and surrounding communities via creating ample job opportunities. Principally, they are playing a pivotal role in Ethiopia's economic development by substituting imports, diversifying exports, and creating employment opportunities, he added.

According to Zelalem, inclusive and sustainable industrialization that supports poverty eradication is one major pillar recognized by the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. Yet, industrial parks are considered as a catalyst to facilitate industrial development with its overarching objectives. As Asian countries like China, the republic of Korea, Indonesia, and Taiwan industrialization has played key role by promoting growth and decreasing poverty rates though the level of contribution varies across the countries, Ethiopia needs to draw important lessons in this regard.

Yes, still, there is evidence on the socio-economic impact of industry parks to



Industrial parks are increasingly becoming viable means for job creation

Ethiopia's local economy in terms of promoting trade, innovation, employment opportunities, export, knowledge, and technology transfer, he added.

To attract more investment in industrial parks, the government of Ethiopia can undertake several measures. It should enhance its efforts to promote industrial parks and highlight the advantages and opportunities they offer to potential investors. This can be achieved through targeted marketing campaigns, participation in international trade fairs and investment forums, and engagement with potential investors through road shows and investment missions, as to Zellalem.

To this end, he said continued investment in infrastructure development is crucial to attract more investment. Hence, the government has to focus on improving transportation networks, expanding power generation capacity, ensuring reliable water supply, and enhancing ICT connectivity within and around industrial parks. Upgrading infrastructure will also increase the attractiveness of the parks and provide apt environment for businesses to operate.

As to Zelalem, streamlining administrative procedures and reducing bureaucratic hurdles is also essential to attract more investment. The government can further simplify licensing and permit processes, establish a dedicated one-stop-shop service for investors, and introduce online platforms for faster and more efficient business registration and approvals. By prioritizing ease of doing business, Ethiopia can create a favorable investment climate, indeed!

In Ethiopia, industry parks have to be a success story mainly attributed to multiple factors such as commitment of government leadership, focused legal and regulatory framework, favorable location advantage, duty-free raw material imports, updated and modern technologies, export tax exemptions, tax breaks, strong local manufacturing firms' absorptive capacity, skilled labor, strong public-private partnership, political goodwill, and heavy infrastructure investment. Yes, he said they have also played a key role in attracting investment, transferring technology, promoting export-led growth, economic diversification, industrial development, and structural transformation.

Since factors such as weak governance, weak implementation capacity, inadequate infrastructure, poor institutional and regulatory framework, lack of effective strategic planning and others are severely hindering the progress of industry in general and industrial parks in particular, the sector

has to be given due focus.

Besides, un-affordability of imported raw materials, delay on logistic services, foreign exchange shortage, raw material shortage, government bureaucracies and others are expected to be met for the smooth flow of industrialization in the nation. The country even remains heavily dependent on imports of substantial amounts of semi processed and processed manufacturing food products that could potentially be produced by local SMEs.

Yes, since employee job satisfaction, employee work motivation, ethical leadership and organizational justice have had significant impact on the performance of the employees and the productivity in the industrial park firms, these factors have to receive due attention to make a difference.

Basically, the development of key economic zones in Ethiopia has been one of important economic development policies implemented since recently. The government has worked to bring shared development and spreading it to all people in the economy and all geographical area of administration to increase the specialization, increases resources use efficiency that can accelerate the development of regions in the country though results has been quite limited.

Industry Parks in Ethiopia like the Bole Lemi II and Debre Birhan industry parks are relatively the best practices in Ethiopia in terms of value chain as they have factories that connected their respective production with the local economy.

For instance, Zelalem stated Clinton and Bole Lemi-II have provided various sectors with quality industrial infrastructure for augmenting subsectors like garment, textiles, and pharmaceuticals.

The industry sector in Ethiopia is expected to contribute to GDP growth, job creation, and small and medium-sized enterprise (SMEs) development, as the overall goal of the Industrial Development Strategy (IDS) is to accelerate structural transformation via enhanced industrialization and by raising the share of the manufacturing industry in GDP.

Likewise, agro-industry development in the country is expected to realize the potential of agriculture modernization, rural industrialization, and ultimately the structural transformation through the operational advanced industrialization process in the country, he underscored.

The case of Yirgalem Integrated Agro-industry Park established with an aim to

increase export of processed agricultural products and to substitute import can be well cited here. It also aims to induce employment and value chain with the local farmers in the country. This site started production in 2021 and manufacture avocado oil, honey, milk, and coffee capsules. It uses the raw materials from local firms which strengthens the impact of the park on the local economy linkage.

"Obviously, in recent years, Ethiopia has tried to undertake an industrial policy to emerge as a manufacturing hub. The public industrial parks in the country with a major focus on textile and garment have revealed mixed performance in terms of output and employment. The parks have varied occupancy rates depending on management and location, with those closer to bigger cities performing better," he stated.

Economic growth in Ethiopia is progressing at an impressive rate, where industrial parks have piqued the interest of international investors in the country's economy.

Industrial parks play a pivotal role in fostering economic development in both developed and developing nations. These zones serve as hubs for industrial activities, offering a range of benefits to businesses and the local economy.

By housing multiple businesses in close proximity, industrial parks foster a clustering effect. This leads to increased collaboration, knowledge sharing, and synergy among companies, which can drive innovation and competition.

The presence of various industries in industrial parks creates opportunities for skill development and knowledge transfer. Local workers have access to training and experience, improving their employability and income levels.

The Ethiopian government has worked hard to create jobs in the country's industrial sector. Foreign investors have been encouraged through beneficial schemes, but also Ethiopian authorities themselves have put vast sums into a growing industrial sector. Creating jobs to lift people out of poverty has been a hallmark of development interventions to boost capital and encourage entrepreneurship.

In sum, the Ethiopian government identified industrialization as the means to transform the economy, reduce poverty, provide jobs, and achieve the ambitious aim of transitioning the economy to lower-middle-income status within the shortest time possible.

Planet Earth



Ethiopia needs to take concerted actions to mitigate its climate vulnerability

BY FIKADU BELAY

Ethiopia is slotted among the countries that are the most vulnerable to climate change, according to the 2017 ND-GAIN index, which assesses a country's susceptibility to climate-related disruptions and its readiness to improve resilience. Standing 163rd out of 181 countries, Ethiopia is the 23rd most vulnerable and the 30th least prepared nation.

This alarming position highlights an urgent need for concrete actions to reduce vulnerability and bolster resilience against the growing threats of climate change. The impact of climate encouraged various hazards such as droughts, floods, and rising temperatures poses a significant threat to the livelihoods of millions of Ethiopians, particularly the poor.

In the Horn of Africa, particularly Ethiopia faces significant climate challenges, including severe droughts, floods, and land degradation, which threaten food security for over 78% of its population that relies on agriculture, according to some studies.

Accordingly, Dozens of millions are at risk of hunger due to disruptions in the security of food and water caused by rising temperatures, changing patterns of precipitation, and an increase in the frequency of extreme weather events. Arable land is becoming desert, crops are not producing enough, and pure freshwater sources are being poisoned or running out.

Deadly infectious diseases are emerging and spreading more widely as a result of climate change. Additionally, it causes mass displacement brought on by climate disasters, which is already making it more difficult for countries to offer humanitarian relief. It also raises the possibility of armed conflict over scarce resources and heightens geopolitical tensions.

The Policy Research Institute, in collaboration with the Department of Developmental Economics at the University of Copenhagen, has recently completed a comprehensive study on Climate Change Prevention and Green Development in Ethiopia. The research, focused on various regions, including Amhara, Oromia, Somali, Southern parts of the country, Gambella, and the Dire Dawa administration.

The findings of the study reveal significant challenges posed by climate change, particularly the recurring issues of rising temperatures, irregular rainfall, drought, and flooding. These environmental changes are impacting the livelihoods of communities and the overall development of the country.

The country has a long account of devastating droughts, with notable episodes occurring between 1965 and 2015 that have led to severe humanitarian crises. The most catastrophic drought occurred during 1984-1985, resulting in the worst famine in Ethiopia's history, claiming approximately 300,000 lives, the studies revealed.

According to the studies, between 1991 and 2008, Ethiopia lost a staggering 13% to 40% of its agricultural output due to climate change. More recently, the 2015-2016 El Niño drought was one of the worst in decades, leading to below-average rainfall and resulting in harvest failures affecting over 10.2 million people. Vulnerability to drought is especially pronounced in pastoral areas of the lowlands and densely populated highland regions, where food insecurity is prevalent.

Regions such as Afar, Somalia, Tigray and the lowlands of Oromia are particularly susceptible to climate shocks. These areas suffer from inadequate infrastructure and service provision, which exacerbates the impacts of recurrent droughts and floods. While some global climate models forecast increased precipitation in Ethiopia's dry and wet seasons, regional studies indicate uncertainty in the direction of these changes.

Currently, findings suggest that climate change will lead to recurrent droughts and heavy rainfall, diminishing arable land and decreasing crop productivity. The studies revealed that the economic consequences of climate change are stark. Major droughts have over all reduced Ethiopia's GDP by 1% to 4%, with projections indicating that future climate scenarios could result in an 8% to 10% GDP reduction by 2050.

The potential economic downturn threatens the country's aspirations to achieve middle-income status by 2025 and is likely to hinder poverty reduction efforts. The agricultural sector, which supports the majority of the impoverished population, is particularly vulnerable to climate-related hazards. As agricultural outputs are projected to decline; commodity prices are expected to rise, further straining the livelihoods of those reliant on farming.

In light of these pressing challenges, Ethiopia's government recognizes the urgent need for proactive measures to climate change. Recognizing the severity of the situation, the government is committed to implementing strategies aimed at enhancing resilience and reducing vulnerability. Also, the government has actively working to identify and address climate-related hazards.

In a related discussion, Professor Belay Simane from Addis Ababa University's Environmental Studies department stated that the critical importance of continuing efforts in soil and water conservation and promoting a green legacy initiative.

He highlighted that while the Ethiopian government's initiatives to combat climate change are commendable, there are critical shortcomings that hinder their effectiveness. He noted that the practice of planting saplings often occurs as part of a campaign, yet insufficient post-planting care and maintenance for these seedlings severely limit the success of these efforts.

The professor further stated that the significance of conducting thorough assessments of suitable planting places before initiating reforestation efforts. He also stated that the government's tendency to overlook collaboration with experts in related fields further exacerbates the challenges faced in implementing effective climate change prevention programs. Without strategic planning and expert involvement, the likelihood of achieving the desired outcomes in combating climate change remains low, he said.

In his part, Tadesse Kuma (PhD), the Director of the Agriculture and Rural Development Policy Research Center at the Policy Research Institute, emphasized the escalating impact of climate change, particularly on the agricultural sector, which is facing severe challenges. Countries such as Ethiopia, which are highly dependent on traditional rain-fed agriculture, livestock farming, and livestock products, are the most vulnerable to climate hazards.

Consequently, significant to protect the economy from severe negative climate impacts, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change-induced shocks, especially by building resilient smallholder agriculture through innovative policy measures, he said.

Efforts include investing in climate-smart agriculture, improving water management systems, and enhancing infrastructure in vulnerable regions. By promoting sustainable practices and building resilience, Ethiopia aims to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on its economy and the livelihoods of its people.

Tadesse (PhD), advocated for sustainable strategies to combat drought in Ethiopia, highlighting the need to prioritize mechanization and water-based development initiatives. He also stressed the significance of attracting investors to engage in irrigation development, particularly in lowland regions, and underscored the necessity of enhancing

animal fodder and water resource management.

Peter Fisker (PhD), an expert in the department of developmental economics at the University of Copenhagen, stated that climate change remains a significant global challenge. He commended Ethiopia's agricultural development initiatives and the progress made in promoting a green legacy initiative. He further advocated for the strengthening of irrigation development and the protection of natural resources as vital components in addressing the impacts of climate change.

Moreover, regional and international cooperation is essential. Collaboration efforts with global partners can provide the necessary resources and technical expertise to support Ethiopia's climate resilience initiatives. Addressing climate change is not just an environmental concern; it is a critical component of Ethiopia's development strategy.

Denmark has partnered with Ethiopia on research initiatives aimed at developing effective strategies to mitigate climate change impacts. Ambassador Sune Krogstrup stressed the urgency of the situation, noting that climate change poses significant risks, leading to increased humanitarian needs, job scarcity, and disruptions in food production. Additionally, the country has faced landslides exacerbated by climate conditions, complicating its challenges further.

Danish bilateral cooperation primarily focuses on modernizing the agricultural sector by supporting smallholder farmers. The cooperation aims to enhance food security and resilience, particularly for displaced populations and host communities, while fostering climate resilient livelihoods in forested areas. He further stated that Denmark remains committed to strengthening governance and promoting human rights in Ethiopia, ensuring a holistic approach to development in the face of ongoing climate challenges.

Prof. Belay called for coordinated and organized development efforts, emphasizing that sustained and collaborative action is essential for long-term success. Furthermore, while there are positive steps being taken, a more coordinated and informed approach is essential for Ethiopia to successfully address the pressing issues of climate change and foster sustainable development.

Together, these experts underlined a multifaceted approach that integrates mechanization, irrigation, and sustainable resource management to enhance resilience against the adverse effects of climate change in Ethiopia as well as the globe.

Art & Culture

Nebiy Mekonnen: A legacy of words, resilience

BY AYENEW GUADU

Nebiy Mekonnen, a legendary Ethiopian writer and journalist, departed on July 3, 2024, leaving a vast body of work in both genres. Nebiy was born in 1956 in Adama (Nazret), Ethiopia. His work has been characterized by an unwavering dedication to his craft and the bravery to endure difficult circumstances. Local sources announced his death on Wednesday, July 3, 2024, after he fought a protracted illness that was not publicly known.

Nebiy's experiences during the Derg regime—a turbulent time in Ethiopian history marked by revolutionaries' power struggles that culminated in the notorious "Red Terror"—significantly impacted his literary career. Nebiy was detained at the infamous "Alem Beqagn" prison for almost eight years, from 1977 to 1985, under Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam's leadership. Even in the appalling conditions of his captivity, Nebiy's spirit never wavered. During this period, he started the enormous undertaking of translating 'Gone with the Wind' by Margaret Mitchell into Amharic, a translation

he is renowned for finishing in three thousand pieces of cigarette paper. Nebiy's perseverance and commitment are evident in this translation, *Negem Lela Qen New* ("Tomorrow is Another Day"), which went on to become one of the longest books ever published in Amharic.

Nebiy's contributions to poetry, especially his well-known work *Siwur Sifet*, cemented his standing in Ethiopian literary circles in addition to his translation work. He draws from Ethiopia's rich cultural tapestry and his own experiences to create his poems, some of which have been translated into English and French and offer a profound exploration of the human experience. Nebiy's popular column "Yegna Sew Be-Amerika" ("An Ethiopian in the U.S."), which was published in Addis Admas, a weekly newspaper he co-founded and where he served as Editor-in-Chief, was another example of his sharp wit and humor.

Ethiopian public opinion was greatly influenced by Addis Admas, and its success was greatly aided by Nebiy's leadership as Editor-in-Chief. The newspaper reflected Nebiy's devotion to journalistic integrity and the power of

the written word by providing a forum for critical discourse and cross-cultural exchanges.

The life and work of Nebiy Mekonnen serve as a testament to both the transformative power of literature and the enduring strength of the human spirit. Future generations of Ethiopian and international writers and readers will continue to draw inspiration from his legacy. In addition to celebrating the extensive body of work he leaves behind—a testament to a life lived with passion, conviction, and an unwavering pursuit of truth—the literary community and his admirers lament his passing. Nebiy's three daughters continue his legacy after his passing.

Social media has been ablaze with tributes following his passing, as followers and fans post recollections, pictures, and thoughts on his life and contributions. The literary community has been shaken by the news of his passing, which serves as a moving reminder of the influence he had on both those who knew him and those who were moved by his words.

As the world remembers Nebiy Mekonnen, we remember more than



Nebiy Mekonnen

just a writer and journalist—we remember a man whose life narrative and creative output are imbued with ideas of resiliency, optimism, and the human spirit at its most resilient.



Elegy by a poet

BY ALEM HAILU G/KRISTOS

Cold, close-fisted

Gluttonous grave

Please release

My age-old friend

From gamboling fields

Schools, college

Working place

To blessed bed!

Cold, close-fisted

Gluttonous grave

Please release

My wife and my life

My life and my wife

My love and my dove

My dove and love,

For my heart is her tomb

She leased with love

From her mother's womb!

How to stop negative self-talk

BY SENAIT G/HIWOT

We have to be mindful of the stories we make up about ourselves.

We all do it... self-sabotaging, but that doesn't make it correct. It may come from things like trauma, perfectionism and other insecurities.

The first thing is to recognize that there is a fake story we tell ourselves.

Next is being aware of the things we are certain about to figure out the lies we tell ourselves.

If these lies seem so real and we can't differentiate from the facts it is beneficial to ask a trusted person about it.

Then be conscious whenever your mind tells you about these lies and correct it with the facts.

This may seem hard but it's an easy process that will improve your confidence.

Doing it over and over makes the lies dissipate and make your true selves shine.

Some people may think this is unnecessary which is wrong because the



stories we make up about ourselves will define who we are.

If a person thinks negatively that's all he or she going to get in life and vice versa.

Society

A journey of resilience, empowerment through natural products

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

Her name is Amen Yetinayet, a passionate entrepreneur who creates and markets all-natural hair lotions and skin care products from her home. Drawing inspiration from the healing properties of nature, she meticulously prepares a blend of rosemary leaf, pumpkin fruit, and Nana leaf, along with a special preparation from ash. This unique combination aids in nourishing both hair and facial skin, showcasing Amen's dedication to holistic beauty solutions.

Born and raised in Nazareth, a city not far from Addis Ababa, Amen's journey in life has always been intertwined with her ambitions. After moving to Addis Ababa with her family, she nurtured a dream of studying law and becoming a lawyer. She pursued her education in marketing at a higher education institution and successfully landed a job in her field soon after graduation.

However, her early career experience was not as fulfilling as she had envisioned. "I got a job soon after I graduated, and I was happy," Amen recalls. "But I quickly discovered that the working environment was far from ideal." Her excitement turned into distress when she faced sexual harassment at work—not from her immediate boss but from a senior manager. This unfortunate reality reflects a broader issue within workplaces where power dynamics often overshadow ethics and respect.

The variance in people's behaviors, rooted in their upbringing and social interactions, can have profound effects in professional environments. In Amen's case, her immediate supervisor recognized her dedication and hard work. Yet, the persistent sexual harassment from the organization's manager created an uncomfortable atmosphere, undermining her capabilities and confidence. "Initially, my workplace was supportive. My boss and colleagues were great," she shared. "But gradually, I began to receive inappropriate attention from the main manager, leading to uncomfortable encounters that I tried to avoid."

Despite the initial positive environment, the toxicity began to seep into Amen's daily routine. As she chose to focus on her work and ignore the unwelcome advances, the harassment escalated. To protect herself, she rejected the manager's advances, only to find him retaliating by accusing her of poor job performance to her boss.

Her experience reflects a chilling reality for many women in similar situations, where the dynamics of power hinder reporting and resolution processes. "I wanted to speak up, but the head of the organization made it nearly impossible. My immediate boss

Amen's story is one of resilience and empowerment, highlighting the importance of advocacy and self-care



Amen Yetinayet, a passionate entrepreneur

attempted to mediate, but he was caught in a difficult position," Amen explained. "He is not just a colleague but a person with a family to support." Ultimately, the weight of the situation proved unbearable, leading Amen to resign after nearly a year of enduring gender-based harassment.

Leaving her job was not an end but rather a new beginning for Amen. She felt compelled to voice her experience, emphasizing the importance of speaking out against sexual violence and harassment. "No one should remain silent," she urged, especially women who find themselves in similar predicaments.

After her departure, Amen sought to turn her passion for natural hair care into a career. Although she had previously neglected her own hair care, she realized the commercial products available did not cater to her needs. "The various products I had bought caused more harm than good," she lamented. Determined to find a solution, she turned to social media and research on hair care, which led her to create her own hair oil.

Following a short-term training program, Amen collaborated with fellow students to establish an organization dedicated to crafting the hair and skincare products she had developed at home. "We had countless ideas but needed a focused vision," she recounted. "Eventually, we decided to pursue the creation of the natural ointment that had worked for me personally."

Amen's story is one of resilience and empowerment, highlighting the importance of advocacy and self-care. As she continues to innovate and inspire, her journey serves as a reminder that voices can rise from hardship, and that passion can indeed pave

the way for transformation.

Amen, an innovative entrepreneur, began creating her own skin care and hair care ointments at home out of necessity. Struggling to find suitable products for her skin and hair in a crowded market, she discovered a passion for natural remedies. After completing her training, her idea caught the attention of her instructors, who encouraged her to turn her passion into a viable business.

"I started by using the products solely for myself, experimenting for about six months," Amen explains. "I needed to understand the nature and efficacy of the plants I was using." She initially focused on rosemary leaves, also known as "roast leaf," before incorporating pumpkin seed oil, nana leaves, and abash. "These plants are scientifically proven to promote hair growth and restore thinning hair," she adds.

Amen dedicated her to extensive research and experimentation to create effective natural products. Her journey was not without challenges. "When I began, I faced multiple failures," she recalls. "My first attempts broke down several times, but I persisted, adjusting my formulas and learning from studies and workshops." After numerous trials, she tested her oils on her own hair, documenting the improvements. Determined to gain market acceptance, she ultimately refined her creams and launched her brand, "Natural Es-Cape," embodying her desire to help others escape from chemical-laden products.

Working from home alongside her mother, Amen faced obstacles in promoting her products. "It was difficult to convince people of the value of my work, especially when some websites were asking for high fees for advertising," she notes. Over the past year and a half, she has successfully leveraged social media to broaden her reach and find customers. She sources high-quality ingredients from trusted suppliers who handle the preparations and exportation.

Amen's journey into entrepreneurship was catalyzed by personal adversity. After enduring sexual harassment at a job opportunity just a day after graduation, she made the difficult decision to leave her position. Today, she is a successful business owner and has a powerful message for other women facing similar situations. "If you lose your job, it may be tough initially, but we must never let sexual violence go unaddressed. Speak out, inform someone you trust, and don't be afraid to confront the person who has wronged you," she advises.

Looking ahead, Amen aspires to pursue her childhood dream of studying and working in law. Her story is a testament to resilience and the power of turning challenges into opportunities.

Law & Politics

A cherished relation for over a century

BY EYUEL KIFLU

For a considerable amount of time, Ethiopia and the United States have maintained a strategic and involved connection that is influenced by both common and sporadic issues. The two countries' diplomatic ties have seen ups and downs in recent years, especially in light of Ethiopia's domestic problems and the evolving foreign policy goals of the United States. Nonetheless, there appears to be a resurgence of interest as both nations understand how critical it is to fortify their relations in order to gain from each other.

For many years, the United States has been one of Ethiopia's main sources of foreign aid, funding initiatives in the fields of development, health, and education that have positively impacted millions of Ethiopians.

However, amid Ethiopia's recent internal turmoil, relations between the two countries were strained. As a result of tensions brought on by the U.S. government's worries about violations of human rights and humanitarian access, changes in diplomatic and economic cooperation occurred. Notable fallout from these tensions included U.S. sanctions and Ethiopia's exclusion from the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

Despite these obstacles, there is a clear way to restart involvement. Ethiopia's government, led by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, has been attempting to restore hurdles with the United States while highlighting Ethiopia's aspirations for regional peace and stability. The United States now has the opportunity to reengage in a more positive manner because to the recent initiatives to facilitate humanitarian access and resolve internal issues.

One of the main areas Ethiopia and the United States can agree on is economic cooperation. There is room for more US investment in Ethiopia given its sizable market and aspirational development goals, particularly in fields like agriculture, infrastructure, and energy.

Improved commercial connections would be advantageous to both countries, and Ethiopia's re-entry into AGOA may be crucial to increasing exports and employment.

Another pillar of Ethiopia-US relations is security cooperation. Both nations have a stake in stopping terrorism, dealing with the refugee crisis, and maintaining peace in surrounding countries like Somalia and Sudan because Ethiopia is essential

As Ethiopia holds a key position in African diplomacy, particularly through its involvement in the African Union, it remains a critical partner for the U.S. in addressing regional issues

to regional stability, especially in the Horn of Africa.

Ethiopia's relationship with the US will be critical as it attempts to reconstruct and promote growth following years of domestic conflict. Ethiopia continues to be a vital ally of the United States in an area of strategic importance. The two nations are in a good position to deepen their relationship and work together to create a more peaceful and prosperous future with a renewed emphasis on communication and cooperation.

One of the significant areas of potential growth between Ethiopia and the U.S. lies in education within these 120 years of diplomatic relations.

In the recent U.S. Embassy and Addis Ababa University Presidential Seminar on the enduring of legacy and the impact of the U.S. government's Point Four Program in Ethiopia, the U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia, Ervin Massinga, said that the program has played a pivotal role for Ethiopia's development journey, contributing its part in key sectors such as education, public health, and agriculture. It has been providing technical support for various sectors. Involves the United States working with the Ethiopian government to enhance and increase access to education in Ethiopia.

Between 1952 and 1961, the U.S. helped to establish Haramaya and Jimma agricultural colleges, which became universities, and the Gondar Health Institute (University of Gondar). Hence, the longstanding partnership between the two countries, particularly in the education sector, has contributed towards an enrolment rate increase, he said.

Currently, it has been assisting public universities to improve governance and quality of education. In response to the university system transition to autonomy, public diplomacy is helping university leaders adapt policy, practices, and organizational cultures to a more independent governance structure to encourage innovation, academic freedom, and others, the Ambassador added.

"The Americans from various universities are working with equivalent Ethiopians to adapt institutions that train and empower institutions building to contribute to building Ethiopians' capacity and around the world. The Prof. Gebisa Ejeta story is exemplary for Ethiopians."

He added that the U.S. government, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, has been contributing to improve and expand access to education.

Additionally, Ethiopia and the United

States of America have steadily solidified their bilateral relations, according to Foreign Affairs State Minister Ambassador Mesganu Arega.

He said a century-old bilateral tie between the two countries has also evolved through various historical contexts and heights. This is characterized by shared interest and collaborative efforts, the ambassador elaborated.

A farsighted approach that can tackle common challenges and advance mutually beneficial agendas is an absolute necessity for the protection of the national security interests of the two countries, the State Minister stressed.

"As we reflect upon our past, it is imperative to recognize the fundamental principles that have guided our partnership at its core. Ethiopia and the US have been characterized by a shared commitment to economic development, prosperity, maintenance of national regional stability, and promotion of democracy and human rights," he noted.

The fight against terrorism and security cooperation is a key area of the bilateral relations between Ethiopia and the US, Ambassador Mesganu indicated.

Mesganu further underscored Ethiopia's commitment to the maintenance of peace and security in the Horn of Africa as indispensable and one of the key spheres to collaborate with the US.

He added: "Fighting terrorism in the Horn of Africa is an important aspect of our relationship, and strengthening it requires a new impetus."

Diplomatically, Ethiopia and the U.S. share common interests in global institutions like the United Nations. As Ethiopia holds a key position in African diplomacy, particularly through its involvement in the African Union, it remains a critical partner for the U.S. in addressing regional issues. This includes peacekeeping missions, counter-terrorism efforts, and humanitarian operations in conflict-prone areas.

Ethiopia's role in regional peace and stability aligns with U.S. interests in ensuring a secure and prosperous Horn of Africa. As diplomatic relations continue to evolve, the mutual respect between Ethiopia and the U.S. will be key to unlocking new opportunities. With shared goals of development, security, and peace, both nations stand to benefit from a stronger, more collaborative partnership in the years to come.

It is well known that this year marks the 120th anniversary of the two nations' diplomatic relations, which they commemorated with various activities.

BY EPHREM ENDALE

Between you & me

How Unsocial can People Get!

Trying to have a nice and solitary walk somewhere around downtown I stumble upon a scene that left me quizzing myself for much of the rest of the day. On the surface it appeared like a sort of David and Goliath showdown; A rather beefy cay with a shiny four wheel drive and the driver of a small car who wasn't physically that imposing. The scene was already heating up after some crash between the two cars. If it was up to us car mechanics-illiterate guys the culprit was the bag guy whose midsection seems a sort of art work began but never finished. (May be the artist decided one part of the body rather challenging to express fully as to create genuine pictures in people's minds.) You know where with some flesh hanging right in front creating all kinds of problems to do justice to the jacket and also where the flesh is hanging sideways while the front looks like the shredded six pack of a body builder.

Anyways, how do they manage to do that to themselves! Whatever the diet experts tell or warn you, and there seem to be a lot of them around these days, about putting all that beef on yourself in only a few months must be a daunting task, if you do it consciously that is. This world isn't only about those who want to lose weight; it's also about those who want to add much more of it!

Anyway, these two guys were out of their cars and squaring up against each other and I tell you, it was some scene comical and bewildering at the same time. Especially seeing the much smaller guy all ready for whatever was to come leaves you asking questions; "Does he really think he could

repel any attack from this big guy?" he was practically looking down on him as if he was staring at something on the ground! That was how visible the difference between the two was! "Could be that angry as to put his physical well-being in danger?" Despite all the tension that was building up he was a very quiet guy trying to show his emotions through his constantly changing facial features. And Goliath!

Well Goliath was on a completely different level; threatening and acting like he was some Tyson-like tough guy who could punch the daylight out of any upright walking creature. Maybe he could do just that! But by doing anything physical to a much smaller and largely skinny guy he could only prove himself as only tons of flesh with the smallest brain matter on this side of the universe. The way he was throwing his hand all around while he was letting out floods after floods of the foulest language you could hear even in the most profanity loaded films! I mean, we're talking about a person the way he dressed makes him appear he was heading to some five-star hotel for that seven course dinner or something.

With no traffic police nearby and big guy spilled his spleen all over the place spitting out all the profanity he could think of while the crowd of onlookers gets larger by the minute. And all this time traffic was partially interrupted and blaring of car horns filled the air.

All this time the smaller guy remains mute

a perfect contrast with all those veins of anger crisscrossing his face. Yes, he was a very enraged person. A couple of younger onlookers tried to intervene trying to tell the big guy there was no need for all the profane language and it was not right insulting the other guy who remained quiet. 'Big Daddy' wasn't having it. Then a lady probably in her mid-forties of somewhere around there boldly says, "You were the one who crushed into him. He was on the right lane and you're the one who was trying to outrun him on the wrong side of the road!" I tell you hell broke loose as the big guy goes ballistic and other onlookers decided on which side they would be. The insults against our tough guy began pouring down to the extent for the first time something like shock made him slow his pace. He moves towards his car throwing the most vulgar insult towards the other guy.

Then the unthinkable happens as the quite guy practically flies through the air towards the guy. It was only at the last seconds multiple hands caught him and pulled him back. David had enough! And you'd wonder as to how a so-controlled person could transform into a practically enraged bear or something! Was he justified to act as such? Well, the fact remains that the fellow was subjected to the most horrible verbal abuse for several minutes while scores were watching! After all most of us have our red lines and his have been crossed in the most outrageous way! Now we're talking about people both of whom were probably on the doorsteps of their fifties if they haven't already crossed over. And those weren't scenes you expected

from them. 'Big Daddy' was about to get into his car when a couple of guys prevented him saying he can't go until the traffic police arrived. It was too much for me and my idea of a quite solitary walk having been shattered.

Once on my way a couple of thoughts really pummeled me. How can a person who for all his outer demeanor appears to be a civilized guy who would settle for nothing except the rational. You know the sort of guy not given to those darker sides of life. And this happens! Now and then I hear of such stories where those who are expected to be on the right side of life acting like, for lack of a better word, backstreet hoodlums! Or to put it in other words people who are supposed to be well-educated, with profound knowledge of the things that could help the wellbeing of the society and who know that it is those small things which if not handled properly could create chaos. That minor crash might have not damaged both that much. But what ensued following that could have resulted in serious problems that would impact even the two guys' families and others around them.

You know something is really wrong with the age we live in when you hear and watch such things from people who should have asked two or three times before throwing themselves into that very pit of unsocial behavior while they should have prevented others from falling into it!

It is tantalizing to think as to how unsocial people from whom you expected civility at its best can get!

Diddy is Out! EPL 'Story' Continues...

That Diddy fellow is really rocking the place even while he's behind bars, isn't he? The level of coverage he's getting not only in his own country but in much of the world is surprising and not surprising at the same time. Surprising in that the word being as it is doesn't the media in most other places have much important and immediate issues to deal with other than so a rapper who seems to allegedly have gone rogue for decades and only now seems to be feeling the heat? Of course just for the sake of curiosity, the things he allegedly was said to have done to all those celebrities leaves you with more than a few blinks. I mean in the alleged list of those who are said to have been part of that wild and surreal sounding world could be your favorite actors, actresses and music personalities. Believe me if you're the kind of guy who's especially fond of watching the silver screen you'd find multiple names which you'd have never expected.

"Are you telling me she too was part of all we are hearing?"

"Well she hasn't been officially mentioned in the indictment but her name pops up all over the place." All the favorite characters she played come to you and that wouldn't be a very nice experience.

Anyway, I wanted to talk about agendas and not about Puff Daddy's alleged activities which at times sound as if taken out of a not so brilliantly written film script. By the way an Ethiopian lady who was said to be a music executive was also mentioned in

more than a couple of places. But that her story, isn't it?

Whenever talking about agendas the media in this country should focus on one sector slated for the most criticism is European soccer, especially the English Premier League. Of course sometimes the arguments go off radar with people accusing such coverage of having taken hostage all the attention of young people. Even people who have better understandings as to the inner workings of the media find themselves giving the thumbs up to such comments.

The problem I think comes in forgetting that private media organizations are nothing but private business enterprises. Businesses should generate income to pay their employees' salaries and government taxes. And then they have to make the best profits they can. After all if they thought it wasn't possible to make profits in they wouldn't have coughed up the startup funds in the first place. It's that simple. To generate income the need adverts, lots of them too. That's where the whole decisive story comes. The advertisers have to be convinced that the organization broadcasts which draws the largest audiences. And sport especially the English Premier League seems to be in the leading pack. Now trying to convince the media organizations to turn their backs on this cash cow would be ignoring the very facts on the ground. I can't give you numbers, percentages or anything like that. But just listen to the

morning programs blaring in the minibuses' radios in town. On weekends just look at the hundreds if not more of places packed to the brim largely with young soccer enthusiasts. Reaching such audiences is something that any business organization wouldn't dare miss. The overall content of the media organization and actual presentations decide the winners and losers and not only the volume of soccer narratives.

When it comes to advertisements there are a few sad facts. Many advertisers would like to know if your program for which you are seeking some avert is 'serious' or 'entertainment' stuff. Now you'd think those people would jump out of their chairs to hug you if you say, "Of course, it is serious!"

"Aha! Finally here are guys who plan a serious program in times when the serious lot is close to extinction!" No, sir; that's not going to happen. You are told in as many words that they want to sponsor or advertise only on entertainment programs and you could see the predicament those people find themselves in. Getting the amount of adverts they need become a swim or sink situation. So believe me European soccer would continue to stay a permanent presence in much of the media even for the simple reason they have to stay financially afloat. Some fellow with enough knowledge of the inside workings of those places one day told me that without the sports programs especially many of the FM studios would have folded tents.

Of course when we come to quality it is a completely different story. One thing I 'admire' about the youth of these days they really go into things with blazing guns even though they don't actually know what to do. Most sports programs are managed by young people and they translate almost everything from the wires. That is where the house of sand comes crushing down for anyone giving things a closer look. But who cares? It has been sometime since we have such audiences who like going into the nuts and bolts of things and these days we're more prone to accepting unconditionally whatever we are fed. That unfortunately happens many times than not only with sports but also with other programs too. I've heard snippets of the Puff Daddy debacle on FM radio stations while travelling in minibuses. And outrageous as they were you wonder how many people would have been misinformed about the whole thing. Of course since the guy isn't our worry some would say "So what! It makes no difference if we are told the whole truth or not. The guy is not in our team!" But it is not about the particular issue. It is about the whole trend of really bad translations or failure to grasp what was actually being said in the original presentations!

Ok, Diddy is out for all we care. But, while EPL and the lot are here to stay in all forms, isn't it high time we also really looked into issues we should give closer attention to and yet are ignoring?

In Pictures

Ambassador Taye Atske Selassie becomes Ethiopia's new President

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

On Monday this week, the House of Peoples Representatives (HPR) appointed Ambassador Taye Atske-Selassie as Ethiopia's new president.

Ambassador Taye was Foreign Minister of Ethiopia until he became a president. Ambassador Taye succeeded the outgoing president Sahle-Work Zewde, served as Ethiopia's president during the past six years.

Taye sworn in as new president



Following his appointment by the HPR as the new president of Ethiopia, President Taye Atske-Selassie sworn in front of the parliament to serve his country based on the constitution.

Peaceful power successions to achieve national goals



This picture shows the peaceful and exemplary power transfer from the outgoing president Sahle-Work Zewde and the newly appointed President Taye Atske-Selassie, this week. The outgoing president transferred the position to her successor and expressed her best wishes to the appointed president. This is a true example of peaceful generational succession to achieve national goals.

Following the power transition, Prime Minister Abiy said on his social media that "One purpose of the reforms is to consolidate institutions. Appointed officials would discharge their responsibilities during their terms of office. And others that succeed them will achieve national goals through generational successions. This is how nation state building is carried out."

Outgoing president Sahle-Work saluting out the parliament



President Sahle-Work Zewde served her country as president during the past six years. The House of Peoples Representatives (HPR) appointed her as Ethiopia's president six years ago. And, following serving one term, Sahle-Work was replaced by the newly appointed Ambassador this week at the parliament.

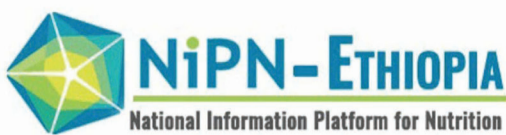
The outgoing president peacefully handed over power to her successor in front of members of the parliament during the 4th year 6th tenure of the house. As in the picture, the outgoing president showed her gratitude to the house and the HPR thanked her for serving her country and promoting social cohesion, economic welfare and national unity.

Outgoing President Sahle-Work transferred power to her successor

The outgoing president of Ethiopia, Sahle-Work Zewde handed over the constitutional power to her successor, the newly appointed president Taye Atske-Selassie at the parliament. The outgoing president Sahle-Work served as Ethiopia's president during the past six years and following the conclusion of her one term, outgoing president Sahle-Work handed over the power peacefully to the new president.

Outgoing president Sahle-Work extended her best wishes to her successor, President Taye. Following the power transition, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) also extended his gratitude to the outgoing President Sahle-Work Zewde for her service.





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Bolstering efforts to boost partners', stakeholders' professional capacity

BY HAILEGEBRIEL ENDESHAW

All professionals who have been engaged in various careers need to upgrade their capacities regularly. This is generally known as professional development. Processes like upgrading, refreshing, training, and familiarizing oneself with new developments are given special emphasis in professional development. Professional development is of paramount importance in continuing one's career growth and stepping up efforts to achieve one's goals.

An individual can develop his/her profession through education, training, workshops, conferences, etc. If the given training or professional development endeavors are needed to be fruitful, many things can be considered as inputs. The most important one is the professional himself or herself, who takes the training or professional development course. Professionals or experts who stay long without regular updates in their fields are like swords that haven't been sharpened.

The National Information Platform for Nutrition (NIPN-Ethiopia) promotes evidence-based decision-making for nutrition and supports the implementation of the National Food and Nutrition Policy in Ethiopia.

NIPN-Ethiopia, hosted by the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI), works under the national nutrition governance system and collaborates with many multi-sectoral nutrition stakeholders and partners of the National Food and Nutrition Policy and the National Food and Nutrition Strategy.

The task taken by NIPN-Ethiopia needs serious effort and diligence. Taking this into consideration, NIPN-Ethiopia has been engaged in the professional development or skill upgrading of partners and stakeholders. That's why it has kept on providing regular training courses on building professional capacities.

Tsehay Kelemework is an instructor at Bahirdar University in the Amhara State. She is one of the professionals who regularly attend the training and other career development programs organized by NIPN-Ethiopia. She said she has taken training courses on Partnership Management, and Data Visualization.

She said that the training she received has helped her a lot in the activities she is carrying out along with her partners noting: "It has capacitated me to work with national and international institutions. For instance, I have become efficient at working with IFPRI (International Food Policy Research Institute)."

She also informed that the training provided by NIPN-Ethiopia has helped her boost her capacity to produce joint proposals with colleagues and win projects. "We have built our capacity to formulate joint grant proposals along with international (European and African) universities," she said, adding that "particularly, the training on Partnership



Abraham Aregai

Management has enabled me to augment my confidence."

Nevertheless, she suggests, as all experts in almost similar fields trained together, it is good if the concerned body creates a platform that enables all to come together regularly for professional upgrading or refreshment.

"This would make our training very fruitful. Let the capacity building and the issue of working together continue in an intensified manner," she said requesting NIPN-Ethiopia to provide additional training on Leadership and Research Management.

Masresha Minuye is also one of the trainees from the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research as the Food Quality and Nutrition Research National Program Coordinator. He is one of the participants who regularly receive training given by NIPN-Ethiopia.

He recalled that he received various training courses like Data Analysis Using STATA, and Data Visualization Using Power BI. He noted that the training he received has helped him a lot in his daily works.

It enabled him to use the collected research data in transparent and meaningful ways, according to him. "I have learned that the data should be delivered in a manner that is transparent to readers and easily applicable by policy makers. I have learned that we should put research data in a website data repository," Masresha said.

Regarding the changes the training has brought to his work, Masresha said that he has developed a better understanding of utilizing data. "The training enabled me to use the research data in a more convenient manner in my daily coordination responsibilities," he said.

He also said that the training courses given regularly by NIPN-Ethiopia are very important and timely. "The topics are very appropriate and timely."

He further said that NIPN-Ethiopia should coordinate national food and nutrition related works in a better way and put the research works in a repository trusting that it would be beneficial



Tsehay Kelemework

if NIPN-Ethiopia planned training on "The Evaluation and Development Program."

Similarly, Abraham Aregai is among the experts who regularly receive training given by NIPN-Ethiopia. He works for the Tigray Health Research Institute. He said that he has taken training on Scientific Reading and Writing, Introduction to Analysis Using STATA, Introduction to GIS, and Power-BI for Visualization.

Speaking of the benefits he received from the various training courses provided by NIPN-Ethiopia, Abraham said that the training helped him to write and analyze data from secondary data sources properly. "The training helped me to see the changes in the environment regarding the same disease. I have also shared with my colleagues the major points I received from the training."

Abraham is of the opinion that if more training courses on different topics are given, it will be much more helpful. He proposed training on the following topics: Grant Writing, STATA, GIS at an advanced level, Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.

He said that it would be good if NIPN-Ethiopia thought of involving more regional institutes during such important training, as it helps to boost their effectiveness and quality.

Coordinator of NIPN-Ethiopia, Aregash Samuel (Dr.), said that different capacity-building training courses have been provided to nutrition researchers, media houses, and partners, including the NIPN and EPHI teams. She said that the training focused on developing skills to increase the capacity of NIPN's team to better serve the needs of nutrition researchers. The training also focuses on using media to communicate health and health-related scientific evidence.

Speaking of the outcome, the NIPN-Ethiopia Coordinator said that following the training given on various occasions, NIPN employees have been able to use the new skills and knowledge gained from the training to make great strides in research, media relations, and



Masresha Minuye

partnership activities. "Our nutrition researchers have acquired new skills to analyze national nutrition data, generate evidence, and use an internationally designed tool called LiST (Lives Saved Tool). Our media team has used their improved communication skills to write newsletters and update the NIPN social media and website on the progress of our research," she said.

Aregash said that in analyzing the existing data and evidence to respond to the policy questions, the capacity of researchers needs to be built. That's why NIPN-Ethiopia has been engaged in providing various capacity building training courses. NIPN 2.0 has planned to provide nine training sessions during the project period. More than six training courses were provided during NIPN 1.0.

NIPN-Ethiopia has provided training on various subjects since 2020 to researchers drawn from different organizations under the theme, "the best ways to provide evidence and interact with policy and decision makers", according to Aregash.

Other training sessions were also given to program officers drawn from sectoral offices in 2021 on Project Planning, implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation. Dr. Aregash said that in October 2021, three training sessions have been given to private and public media and PR officers from multi-sectoral offices including the training on "Access to Health Research Information".

Trainings given in 2023 include, among others, Data Visualization: Introduction to Creating Dashboards using Power BI for EPHI staff; Writing Potentially Fundable Proposals; Partnership Management; Basic STATA training; Systematic review and Meta-analysis; Data Visualization: Introduction to Creating Dashboards using Power BI...

After every training NIPN-Ethiopia has collected feedback from trainees. "In addition, we hear informally that researchers have benefited from the training," Dr. Aregash concluded.