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## Premier attending BRICS Summit in Russia's Kazan City

BY STAFF REPORTER

**ADDIS ABABA-** The 16<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit started in Kazan, Russia, yesterday.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) and First Lady Zinash Tayachew accompanied by a ministerial delegation arrived in Kazan, Russia ahead of the BRICS Summit.

Representatives from 36 countries will spend three days discussing cooperation in the areas of politics and security, economics

and finance, and cultural and humanitarian exchanges, according to TV BRICS.

The XVI BRICS Summit opened yesterday in Kazan. Representatives from 36 countries will spend three days discussing cooperation in the areas of politics and security, economics and finance, and cultural and humanitarian exchanges.

Today, meetings will be held in both narrow and expanded formats, after which summit participants will attend a formal reception.

Tomorrow, delegates will participate in two plenary sessions in the BRICS format, after which the Kazan Declaration will be adopted. The results of the high-level meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024 will be announced by Russian President Vladimir Putin during a press conference.

In the capital of Tatarstan, leaders of BRICS countries, heads of government, and other political figures are gathering.

*See Premier attending ... page 3*

## Austrian businesses eyeing prospects in Ethiopia's economic reforms

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA** – Ethiopia's recent economic reforms are drawing substantial foreign direct investment (FDI) despite ongoing challenges, according to Finance State Minister Semereta Sewasew.

Speaking at a bilateral business forum hosted by the Austrian Embassy yesterday, Semereta outlined the reforms initiated in 2019, which aim to stabilize the

*See Austrian businesses ... page 3*

## Addis Ababa: Climbing ladder of becoming top conference capital

BY HAILE DEMEKE

Addis Ababa, founded in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, has long struggled with dense population settlements and inadequate infrastructure. To address these challenges, the city administration launched the Corridor Development Project a transformative initiative aimed at turning the capital into a well-planned, modern city with improved

*See Addis Ababa: ... page 3*



## Premier, UNSG reiterate call for securing Africa permanent seat at UNSC

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

**ADDIS ABABA** - Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) and UN Secretary General, António Guterres have reiterated call for reforming United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and securing Africa permanent seat at UNSC.

The remark came when PM Abiy, António

Guterres and Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahmat inaugurated the renovated Africa Hall in Addis Ababa.

On the occasion, PM Abiy stated that Africa Hall is more than just a physical space as the decisions made at the hall have initiated

*See Premier, UNSG ... page 3*

# News



## States' specializing in agricultural production for food self-sufficiency

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA** – The specialization of agricultural production is being carried out in Tigray and Central Ethiopia States to improve productivity thereby realizing food security, the agriculture bureaus of the states announced.

Tigray State Agriculture Bureau Head, Eyasu Abirha (PhD) told The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that his bureau is specializing on the production of sorghum, wheat, teff, maize, and sesame crops.

Particularly, sorghum, which is common to the state, is being cultivated on more than 300,000 hectares of land. However, the state has a total potential of cultivating over 500,000 hectares in sorghum only, Eyasu indicated.

As to him, various activities have been carrying out to improve the agricultural production and ensure food self-sufficiency through expanding mechanized farming.

To this end, the state agriculture bureau is giving adequate attention for market oriented cereals and improving the capacity of executives.

With the rank of Deputy Administrator, Central Ethiopia State Agriculture and Rural Development Cluster Coordinator, Osman Surur on his part said that over 570,000 hectares of land have been cultivated with various crops in which more than 50 million quintals of product is expected.

Osman added that treating acidic soils, working on soil and water resource management, adapting cluster farming are among the serious activities in the state to boost production and productivity at present.

According to him, the State has also planned to conduct a campaign to mobilize over 800,000 citizens in various agricultural activities aimed at maximizing production.

“Using technology in the post harvesting process is among the priority agendas of the state to increase quality production thereby reducing product wastage,” he added.

He further stated that the state has planned to produce 35,000,000 quintals of products by cultivating 146,000 hectares of land in Bega irrigation mechanism. Of this, 141,000 of hectares will be covered by vegetables while the rest is prepared to produce wheat.

## Commission exerting efforts to ensure inclusiveness

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDIS ABABA** - Agendas that pave ways for fair and equal beneficiary of marginalized communities in Somali State have been gathered, so said Representatives, who attended agenda gathering consultation of the National Dialogue.

The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) is currently conducting consultations in Somali State to collect agenda as part of the National Dialogue process.

Representing marginalized segments at the consultation phase, Abdulaziz Yusuf told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that persons with disability and few minority tribes have faced marginalization while there are tribes that have marginalized themselves.

Such issues need to be addressed through National Dialogue, he said, adding that a country is expected to treat each segment of the community equally.

The representative further expressed his hope to see a nation that embrace all Ethiopians and ensures equal and fair beneficiaries of its citizens through the dialogue.

Moreover, he expressed optimism that agendas that are currently being gathered in different part of the nation would bring about the desired outcome to move the nation forward.

Ikram Ibisa, another representative of marginalized group of the community emphasized that minority tribes in some part of Somali State have been experiencing marginalization.

However, she emphasized the need to make citizens feel that the nation belongs to each Ethiopians while addressing differences through the National Dialogue.

“Not only the right and fair beneficiaries of marginalized groups, but the agendas is also expected to ensure the rights of all Ethiopians residing in the State,” she underscored.

Agendas that are said to play vital role to address nation’s major challenges would be capitalized, discussed and implemented so as to build a nation that suits for its citizens, she added.

Agreeing with both the above speakers, Bari



Abdulaziz Yusuf



Ikram Ibisa,



Bari Qoreni

Qoreni, another Representative of marginalized groups mentioned the need to treat such groups equally with the rest of the community.

Despite the existence of such marginalized groups in the Somali State, the representative said that the issue of marginalizing individuals, groups or tribes needs to be part of discussion at the national dialogue thereby raising the perception of the community.

Similarly, the country could only create better environment for its people through settling differences through dialogue. To this end, he stressed that the National Dialogue would bring better opportunity for the people especially for marginalized segment of the society.

## Green Gursha campaign sparks movement for healthier eating

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDIS ABABA** –Behavioral change is essential to combat malnutrition, stunting, and chronic under-nutrition, which severely affect children, women, and adolescents across Ethiopia, according to the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA).

In partnership with Unilever, Knorr launched its innovative #GreenGursha campaign, culminating in a vibrant Green Carpet PR event at Kana Warehouse yesterday. The campaign aims to inspire Ethiopians to embrace greens as a key part of their diet, highlighting the cultural practice of *gursha* – sharing food as an act of love and community – with a nutritious twist.

Despite Ethiopia’s potential in growing nutritious plants and fruits, the country faces significant malnutrition challenges, said the

Ministry of Health Food and Nutrition Office Head Almetsehay Zergawi. She emphasized the need for behavioral change to address the issue, as 39% of children under five experience stunting due to chronic under-nutrition.

Almetsehay explained that the government has prioritized nutrition, implementing food-based dietary guidelines and introducing a comprehensive food system document in collaboration with 15 public institutions. She stressed the importance of meals containing at least four food groups per meal and six food groups per day as part of the Green Gursha movement.

“Food is medicine, and agriculture plays a vital role in improving nutrition outcomes,” she said. The Ministry of Agriculture is committed to working closely with Unilever to promote healthier eating habits as part of

its focus on nutrition.

The Ministry of Health Nutrition Desk Head Kidist Woldeesenbet reiterated the government’s efforts to implement the National Food and Nutrition Policy, supported by a 10-year strategic plan. The goal is to create a productive, healthy society with a longer life span. She emphasized that partnerships with the private sector, such as Unilever’s involvement in the Green Gursha campaign, are crucial in achieving the policy’s goals.

“We are thrilled with the enthusiastic response to the Green Gursha campaign,” said Unilever Africa Nutrition Platform Director Selamerchristos Belay. “This initiative highlights our commitment to promoting green vegetables in Ethiopian cuisine, encouraging healthier eating habits, and celebrating the richness of Ethiopian

culinary traditions.”

As part of the campaign, Knorr enlisted Eshetu Melese, a popular Ethiopian comedian and TV personality, to champion the cause. With humor that resonates across generations, Eshetu inspired attendees to see greens as essential and delicious, encouraging them to “Gursha with Greens.”

The campaign’s Green Carpet event featured influential personalities, celebrities, and key figures who participated in a special Gursha moment photography session to show their support for making greens the pride of Ethiopian plates.

The #GreenGursha movement aims to spark impactful change in communities by promoting the importance of greens in everyday meals and celebrating the joy of sharing food through Ethiopia’s cherished tradition of *gursha*.

# News

## KOICA reaffirms commitment to boost Ethiopia's dev't, climate goals

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA** – The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Ethiopia's sustainable development efforts.

During the KOICA Host Organization Representative Workshop held yesterday, KOICA Ethiopia emphasized its continued partnership with key sectors to help Ethiopia achieve its long-term development objectives.

KOICA Ethiopia Country Director Cho Han Deog noted the agency's close collaboration with government bodies, businesses, civil society, academia, and international organizations. These partnerships focus on strengthening manufacturing capacity, improving healthcare services, addressing climate change, and promoting inclusive social integration.

KOICA's programs align with Ethiopia's 10-Year Development Plan, Home-Grown Economic Reform (HGER), and Climate-



Cho Han Deog

Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) Strategy to ensure sustainable progress. "We remain committed to advancing the aspirations of the Korean government and people to reduce poverty, improve quality of life, and support sustainable development worldwide," Cho stated, underscoring KOICA's long-standing partnership with Ethiopia on its journey

toward economic prosperity.

KOICA plays a vital role in supporting Ethiopia's industrial and economic growth strategies, particularly in manufacturing and agriculture-led industrialization, which are key drivers of job creation and economic advancement toward middle-income status.

In addition to economic development, the agency has been actively engaged in enhancing Ethiopia's healthcare system. While significant progress has been made in recent decades, challenges remain. KOICA is working to strengthen healthcare governance, financing, workforce development, and access to medical technologies, ensuring better service delivery and improved public health outcomes.

KOICA is also committed to helping Ethiopia build a resilient green economy by supporting climate adaptation efforts and promoting social integration initiatives that address the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged communities.

During the workshop, the Ministry of Finance Bilateral Cooperation Director Dereje Girmaurged host organizations to create an enabling environment for volunteerism. He also highlighted recent economic reforms in Ethiopia, such as telecom sector liberalization, financial market reforms, and subsidy adjustments, aimed at tackling structural challenges.

KOICA's volunteer programs continue to play a crucial role in sharing Korean expertise and strengthening the bond between the two countries. "The knowledge transfer facilitated through these programs reflects the deep historical ties between Korea and Ethiopia," Dereje said, praising KOICA's invaluable contribution to Ethiopia's development efforts.

KOICA reaffirmed its long-term commitment to supporting Ethiopia's sustainable development, economic growth, and climate resilience, emphasizing that its collaborative approach will drive meaningful progress toward the country's future goals.

### Premier...

Among those already in Kazan are Vladimir Putin, Prime Ministers of Ethiopia and India Abiy Ahmed and Narendra Modi and, Brazil's Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira, President of the BRICS New Development Bank Dilma Rousseff, Sri Lanka's Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Aruni Wijewardane, and Venezuela's Vice President Delcy Rodriguez.

Additionally, yesterday's morning, Chinese President Xi Jinping flew to the city.

Representatives of six international organizations are also expected at the summit, including UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

The summit in Kazan, held from 22 to 24 October, is a key event during Russia's BRICS chairmanship, which is taking place under the Theme: "Strengthening Multilateralism for Equitable Global Development and Security." This will be the central theme of the discussions among the BRICS states.

### Austrian businesses...

economy and open key sectors to private investment. "The agricultural, manufacturing, pharmaceutical, and construction sectors are brimming with opportunities for both foreign and local investors," she stated, encouraging Austrian businesses to tap into Ethiopia's rapidly expanding market.

She further noted that Ethiopia's macroeconomic restructuring, including the shift to a market-based foreign exchange regime, has fuelled sustained growth and enhanced investor confidence, even amid global economic challenges.

Austria's Ambassador to Ethiopia, Simone Knapp, commended the long-standing relationship between the two nations and urged Austrian companies to deepen their engagement with Ethiopia's evolving economy. "Ethiopia's reforms

present significant opportunities not only for Austrian firms but for businesses worldwide," Knapp remarked.

The forum, which brought together representatives from seven Austrian companies and numerous Ethiopian firms, witnessed the increasing interest in Ethiopia's economic potential. As Ethiopia positions itself as a regional hub, the partnership between the two countries is expected to unlock new avenues for collaboration, particularly in sectors such as renewable energy, construction, and digital infrastructure.

Austrian companies expressed optimism about Ethiopia's growing market, with several representatives exploring potential partnerships aimed at boosting the country's manufacturing capacity and contributing to job creation in critical industries.

### Premier, UNSG ...

African influences, policies and defined Africa's position on the global stage.

"Africa Hall stands as a symbol of African voice," the premier remarked.

Calling Africans to continue advocating for the collective interest of Africa in the rapidly changing world, PM Abiy reiterated Ethiopia's firm belief in the need to reform the UNSC.

He underlined the critical importance of securing Africa a permanent seat at UNSC in line with Africa's interests and stances.

For his part, UN Chief António Guterres noted that the renewed Africa Hall symbolizes the renewed hope and unity of Africa. The Hall is a bridge between Africa's past and future, Guterres said.

Despite the hopes, the Chief noted that Africa continues facing challenges deeply rooted in history, due to colonialism and these difficulties are aggravated by climate change, conflict and persistent poverty.

According to Guterres, these issues require resolute actions and renewed cooperation.

Commending the renewal of the historic Africa Hall, UN Chief has called for the reform of global institutions built where most of African nations were under colonial rule.

"Our global institutions were built at a time when most of Africa was under colonial rule," Guterres stated adding these institutions are unable to respond to the aspirations and drives of the African people.

Due to lack of reforms, Africa still has no permanent seat at the Security Council, Guterres underlined with a hope to see Africa at UNSC, saying, "let so it would be corrected soon."

Africa Hall, originally built and donated by the Government of Ethiopia in 1961, has hosted the meeting of the formation of African continental organization, the Organization of African Unity/OAU, the current African Union by 32 leaders in 1963, it was learnt.

### Addis Ababa: Climbing ladder..

roads, pedestrian spaces, and up-to-date infrastructure.

Since the project's launch, the city's image has changed dramatically, embracing a more modern, appealing profile. Alongside this transformation, new tourist attractions such as Unity Park, Entoto Park, Friendship Park, and the Adwa Museum have opened, drawing the attention of both local and international visitors. The development project has not only reshaped the capital but also contributed to boosting the nation's economy by promoting tourism.

Mayor Adanech Abiebie emphasized that the project has enhanced the city's appeal, making Addis Ababa one of the top destinations for tourists. "The initiative ensures the city lives up to its name by addressing the needs of every resident," she said, noting that the redevelopment efforts have made the city more inclusive, attractive, and livable for all-not just the wealthy.

The rapid population growth of the city has increased demand for better infrastructure, and the project aims to meet these needs. Beyond transforming the capital's appearance, the project aligns with Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative, further expanding the city's green coverage and ensuring a cleaner, healthier environment.

Mayor Adanech also highlighted the importance of communicating the project's impact with various stakeholders, including city administrators, residents, and religious institutions, to ensure sustainable progress.

Tourism State Minister Sileshi Girma added that the government is committed to advancing Ethiopia's vision of becoming a digital economy by 2025. In line with this, the ministry has accredited 159 hotels and reclassified 96 others to maintain high standards in the tourism sector and create a more conducive environment for visitors.

Ethiopia, known for its UNESCO World Heritage sites and rich cultural heritage, has experienced significant growth in tourism over the years. By capitalizing on its unique heritage and modern infrastructure, Addis Ababa is poised to become a leading destination, blending historical charm with a vibrant, modern future.

Looking ahead, the city administration has already launched the second phase of the Corridor Development Project, ensuring continued progress toward making Addis Ababa a hub of diplomacy, tourism, and sustainable urban living.

Addis Ababa, often referred to as the political and cultural capital of Africa, serves as the headquarters for the African Union and various international organizations. This vibrant city is a melting pot of cultures, reflecting Ethiopia's rich history and diverse population. With its unique blend of modern skyscrapers and traditional architecture, Addis Ababa offers a dynamic urban experience.

# Opinion

## Cooperative support essential to safeguard migrants, returnees from abuse

BY GETACHEW MINAS

Migrant workers seek jobs in the external labor markets to earn income and reduce their dependency on families or relatives. They feel that they are additional burden to their families or relatives. In this situation, they look for jobs that reduce their dependency on generous individuals. However, most migrant workers may not meet the requirements of the external labor markets.

Studies reveal that some of them do not have the required skills when seeking jobs abroad. These studies indicate that the attainment levels of education have huge disparity between urban and remote rural areas. Most of the migrant workers that originated from rural areas of Ethiopia have attained only primary level education. A large number of them do not have the right skills before migration. Only a small number of them have some technical and vocational training before they leave their country. Those who have achieved technical and vocational training want to migrate with the hope of earning higher pay.

Most migrants are not able to use their technical skills to secure decent jobs abroad. They are engaged in daily labor in the countries of destination. They are engaged in jobs that have been completely unrelated to the skills they acquired in Ethiopia. During their stay abroad, most men are engaged in daily labor while almost all women are involved in domestic work.

The Ethiopian men have been working in the construction, agriculture, and manufacturing sector as daily laborers. Very few of the migrants have been engaged in driving and teaching activities. Upon their return, some of them receive informal technical education and financial support from families. This illustrates that among the vast numbers of returned migrant workers to Ethiopia, only a small number are able to access technical training opportunities. Women migrants who access training programs in the country largely focus on skills related to food preparation and hairdressing.

Researchers who map the skill setting of Ethiopian migrant workers note their preferences. They want to be engaged in activities that do not require special skills. They prefer to engage in small shops, animal husbandry, and agricultural activities that generate income for covering their cost of living. They wish to access basic business skills that facilitate their reintegration into the Ethiopian society. Training of skills for men covers producing construction materials, engaging in wood and metal works as well as driving vehicles.

The duration of skills-based training ranged from weeks to months. Entrepreneurial and life skills training are provided for a few days before delivering vocational skills training. Before such training, most migrants are unemployed or underemployed. Consequently, they could not meet their

basic financial needs. However, those who have educational training before migrating for employment abroad, are able to access financial reintegration assistance.

The migrants used to have some savings from income they earned in the country of migration. However, most are unable to maintain themselves because of loss of income and savings. They lose their earned income or saving because of violence and abuse they encounter during their transit and deportation processes. Consequently, they lack access to material resources for engaging in entrepreneurial activities.

Studies reveal that they could not access productive work because of their lack of employable skills. The migrants have faced shortage of financial resources for facilitating their social integration. The support program provided does not equip them with adequate skills to join the labor market. The training program does not necessarily increase their employability.

Researchers have identified that the training provided lacked the required resources to produce employable labor force. As a result, some who received vocational skills training were forced to engage in other areas to earn income for survival. Despite having the skills required for their profession, they are unable to engage in productive work. Studies reveal that the skills provided through the training centers are not based on the market demand for labor. This resulted in the unemployment or underemployment of those migrants, through reintegration packages; a few of them were provided financial support only for activities in small business establishments. Since sources of financial support are limited, raising the skills of migrants through training could not enhance their employability. Only practical and realistic measures ensure the sustainability of skills.

A few migrants, however, took the skills' training for lack of other options. Also, those who failed to apply their newly acquired skills resorted to other means of generating income such as driving taxi or serve in bars and restaurants, particularly for women. These examples show the need to look for alternative options to earn income.

Experts observed that lack of skills of migrant workers is a serious challenge. This prevents them from accessing jobs that guarantee them sustainable livelihoods. Informal and on the job acquired skills have helped returnees to engage themselves in self-employment. But, these skills do not enhance long-term employability abroad.

Improving the quality of skills' training programs may provide options in terms of long-term employment and income. Also, linking trainees with future employers may increase both economic participation and sustainable integration of workers abroad.

As mentioned earlier, those migrants have faced several challenges in accessing jobs abroad. Researchers pointed out that because of their absence from the educational system

for a long time the migrants do not have the skills required by the employing enterprises abroad. Also, they experience challenges in foreign countries that pose great problems of survival. They also face shortage of time and financial crises to escape the alien countries that denied them their wages and salaries.

It was reported that those Ethiopian employees could not challenge their foreign employers for refusing to pay their hard earned wages. These workers have been subjected to harsh treatment by employers who have exploited their labor for low or minimum pay. These exploited Ethiopian workers have no rights to appeal to the legal enforcement institutions of the employing alien country. The reason for that has been the absence of legally binding agreement between the foreign employers and migrant workers abroad.

One may observe modern slavery in countries where migrant workers' rights are not protected by law. Foreign works' appeal to the legal enforcement agencies of the employing country could only fall on deaf ears. There seems to be very close interest between these agencies and employers in the same country. The benefits that accrued to employers from engaging skilled foreign workers at low pay may be shared by all.

What is worse is that when these workers want to return to their mother country, they face various obstacles. One of these obstacles has been putting the workers in jail for any fake crime. They are also deprived of their legal documents, passports and visas. These make their lives horrendous, though enjoyed by the perpetrators or police officers. These crimes against Ethiopians working abroad have been committed secretly to avoid any legal actions by the Ethiopian embassies.

A few Ethiopian workers could return to their country miraculously. They told their stories publicly and yet, more Ethiopian jobseekers want to experience the same hardships. They cover their own roundtrip expenses to the so-called countries of plenty of employment and income. These jobseekers have been provided with information on employment and high income in the employing countries by middlemen. These dealers enjoy immensely every time a discouraged jobseeker approach them for employment abroad.

They claim a huge amount of service charge before the jobseeker leave his country for employment abroad. They arrange for meeting the legal and technical requirement, including passport, before leaving for the county of employment. Once the jobseeker is guaranteed and assured of flying to the country of employment, relatives celebrate the departure of the person in a closed circle. They very well know that the jobseeker is flying to hell in search of better job and high income.

After a short period of work abroad, the former jobseeker would return to his country with records of hardships, maltreatment and

exploitation by harsh employers abroad. In Ethiopia, there is a practice of raising the employability of workers returning from abroad. There is also a reintegration strategy which has been essential for laying the basis for enhancing access to technical training for returnees.

The employment strategy covers vulnerable groups, school leavers, drop-outs, and people without formal education. This has been accompanied by a system of enabling illiterate persons, low paid employees and peasants and their families. The employment strategy also covers people from marginalized ethnic, tribal and clan groups, among others.

Additionally, the technical training strategy encourages cooperatives to engage in training programs based on their needs. Studies show that cooperative training is arranged in partnership with training centers and private and public enterprises. In some cases, donor organizations give support based on the request of these enterprises. These donors focus on possible balancing of the supply of and demand for skilled labor. The training institutions have the autonomy to develop partnerships between them and the employers.

There is an opportunity for training centers to develop relevant program for enhancing skills demanded abroad. Also training programs may be developed with interventions by stakeholders that help identify gaps and avoid duplication. This endeavor would increase coordination among donors, agencies and entrepreneurs in developing the right skills. They also give advice on how to increase participation of jobseekers in the labor market of Ethiopia.

The stakeholders have made suggestions on how to invest in demand-based cooperative training. Moreover, there are favorable legal and policy frameworks that support cooperative and occupation-based training, which are crucial to meet labor market demand. To achieve this, donors and stakeholders should cooperate with training centers. These centers may inject marketable skills among jobseekers and reduce the imbalance between supply of and demand for trained labor force and returned migrant workers. After having taken these supportive measures, the migrant workers may look for better employment opportunities abroad.

Aid agencies and international organizations are requested cooperate in assisting these workers. These workers will then be in a position to help their relatives by sending money legally thorough the Ethiopian banks. This will also enhance the foreign exchange earning opportunities for the country.

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

# Editorial

## Ethiopia's call for UN reform

Ethiopia's call for reforming the United Nations (UN) Security Council, highlighted by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed during the inauguration of the renovated Africa Hall, is both timely and crucial. His remarks reflect a growing sentiment across Africa that the continent deserves permanent representation in global decision-making processes, especially in shaping international security. Ethiopia's stance is aligned with the broader African push for equitable representation in global governance, addressing a long-standing imbalance in the international system.

The symbolic significance of Africa Hall as the setting for this message is profound. Originally constructed by Ethiopia and now restored, the hall stands as a symbol of Pan-African unity and the continent's aspirations for independence and self-reliance. As Prime Minister Abiy noted, Africa Hall represents more than just a historical monument; it embodies Africa's quest for sovereignty, development, peace, and security. Its reopening signals Africa's resilience and readiness to take on a more significant role on the global stage, reinforcing the call for reform of international institutions like the UN.

At the heart of Ethiopia's demand is the recognition of a glaring inequity in the current global order. Despite being a major contributor to UN peacekeeping efforts and facing numerous security challenges, Africa lacks permanent representation on the Security Council. This exclusion diminishes Africa's voice in decisions that directly impact its future. The structure of the Security Council, shaped in the aftermath of World War II, no longer reflects today's geopolitical realities. Emerging powers in Africa, Asia, and Latin America have gained substantial economic and political influence, yet their roles in global governance remain limited. Ethiopia's call for reform is part of a broader movement to update these institutions to reflect the current distribution of power.

Ethiopia's emphasis on the need for a permanent African seat on the Security Council is not just a matter of fairness; it is a necessity. Africa's growing importance in global affairs makes its exclusion from key decision-making bodies untenable. A permanent seat would ensure that African perspectives are not only included but also given the weight they deserve in critical security discussions. This would also enhance the legitimacy and effectiveness of the Security Council, making it more inclusive and responsive to global needs.

Moreover, Ethiopia's call for UN reform aligns with a broader global imperative for inclusivity, fairness, and accountability. Prime Minister Abiy underscored the principle of "African solutions for African challenges," which has gained traction in recent years. Africa's unique security and developmental challenges require approaches rooted in its own traditions of dialogue, consensus, and indigenous knowledge. By prioritizing homegrown solutions, Africa can better address its problems and offer valuable insights to the global community.

Ethiopia's leadership in regional peace processes exemplifies this principle. As a country that has hosted peace negotiations and contributed significantly to peacekeeping missions, Ethiopia has long been committed to fostering stability across Africa. However, without a permanent seat at the Security Council, Africa's efforts are often hampered by decisions made externally, which may not always align with its interests or priorities.

As the world confronts increasingly complex challenges—ranging from climate change to security threats—Africa's continued exclusion from the highest levels of decision-making is not only unjust but unsustainable. Reforming the UN Security Council to include a permanent African seat would not only address historical injustices but also strengthen global governance by making it more representative and better equipped to respond to the needs of all regions.

In sum, Ethiopia's stance on UN reform reflects the broader African demand for inclusion and respect on the global stage. It is time for the international community to acknowledge Africa's pivotal role in global peace and security and ensure that its voice is heard where it matters most. The future of effective global governance depends on it.

# Opinion

## Activists, politicians need to act responsibly in local political matters

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

Political fragmentation sponsored by some Ethiopians overseas who are encouraging bloodshed in remote control are calling for total war in the country unless they lead the political order for their interest ruling out the interest of more than 100 million citizens in the country and at foreign lands.

While armed groups in the country are shedding the blood of innocent children in the name of democracy and self-determination, Ethiopians in academia here and abroad have chosen to remain indifferent and disinterested. That is why the author believes that indifference is no less than being part of the problem.

We have thousands of agitators, activists and "well-known" politicians who have no solution for the plights of their country except heaping blame on the government and its officials.

The author recalls from his personal readings that during the reign of Emperor Tewodros, local warlords conspired against him and served as couriers for the invading British forces at Mekdela. Some of what is going on today resembles the same situation the Emperor had to face.

It is clear that we do not have a perfect and blameless government in this country, we may not even have one in the future but the Ethiopian intelligentsia and those politicians who are lamenting from near and afar have a constitutional and historical obligation to enter into dialogue and work with the elected government if they are concerned for their country.

For more than three decades, opposition political parties have been calling for a transitional government even when an elected government is operating in the country. Some even tried to form a transition government abroad and tried to import it back to Ethiopia. None of this materialized because some of the opposition parties had antagonistic interests with parties with whom they claimed to for a transition government.

Some political parties and armed groups want to come to power by asking for power sharing on a clean plate with no need for elections. The whole thing boils down to the fact that some politicians or political groups have no respect for the people of Ethiopia and they want to entangle citizens into elitist politics by calling for dialogue among the political parties and not with the public representatives. This shows their utter disregard for the sovereign rights of the people of Ethiopia.

Look! Our education system is grappling with all kinds of problems including quality education. Now millions of our

children in various regions of the country are out of school due to forced evictions and threatening acts by armed groups to close down schools and marketplaces. This is what they understand by democracy and socio-economic development. They are not interested in dialogue because they do not have a concrete agenda to present to the people of Ethiopia.

Over the last half a century, it has become fashionable to establish "liberation" movements some of which were at odds with each other. Every party needed liberation without clearly defining from what and where they wanted to liberate themselves. Everything was shrouded with the gun from which liberation flows like crude oil. This is incredible and idiosyncratic, to say the least.

Some media outlets have already come up with views that show Ethiopia is taken as a second level while ethnic identity should prevail at a higher level completely defying the history of Ethiopia. Some have even dared to deny that they are Ethiopian while carrying Ethiopian passports in their pockets. Some have even failed to acknowledge the importance of the Ethiopian tri-color which depicts unity in diversity among the people of Ethiopia.

Distorted understanding of power politics in the country, an archaic political strategy that is based on analysis based on the era of Zemene Mesafint (Era of Princes), living today with obsolete political outlook of the past characterizes some of the views held by our political scholars who are impervious to any political outlook that honors the history and culture of their own country.

It is a pity to see that quite a few of our learned politicians are intoxicated with political xenophobia of the Western neo-liberal outlook that does not effectively synchronize with the objective reality in the country. Moreover, our politicians who are fond of press releases here and abroad are tied down with endless polemics, and dogmatic views that are mostly imported from abroad with no value added that could make it relevant to the objective reality in Ethiopia.

Unless the politicians in this country come together and discuss outstanding issues related to their country, they will certainly be irrelevant in old age and continue to cry out echoing irrelevant views that can bear no solution for this country.

The people of Ethiopia need good food, healthy life and shelter, peace and improved livelihood not a barrage of press releases that would not hold water. We all have a need towards fulfilling these needs instead of wasting time on endless polemics.

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



## The Ethiopian Herald

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The Ethiopian Herald

# Business & Economy

## Rethinking Nile River treaties from colonial legacies to inclusive agreements

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

It is certain that institutionalized framework is critical in ensuring equitable and reasonable utilization of the Nile River. It is worth noting that at various points in time a broad range of principles of equitable and reasonable utilization has been put in place with a focus on enhancing mutual understanding on the Nile River matters.

In actual fact, the Abbay Dam which embarked on producing hydroelectric power is crucial for the successful growth of Ethiopia and paving the way for lower riparian countries as well as neighboring nations.

In all sincerity, it is possible to ensure all-encompassing understanding of the principle of ensuring equitable and reasonable utilization of the Nile River with the purpose of bringing about mutual agreement and negotiating interests through the passage of time.

It is not secret that Ethiopia unceasingly reaffirmed its persistent ambition to ensure equitable and rational usage of water resources for a diverse range of undertakings that can take the region to new frontiers and new opportunities.

Notwithstanding the fact that Ethiopia has no motivation to do harm to any country except bending over backwards to utilize its water resources equitably to make certain actual development, worrywarts has continued pull out all the stops to drag the positive moves of the federal government but in vain.

All things considered, the countless deliberations and diverse conversations that took place at various points in time brought an opportunity to toss around ideas, feelings and thoughts in the context of the recent developments on the Nile River.

In point of fact, riparian states should go to the ends of the earth with the purpose of fast-tracking the coming into force of the CFA.

In a similar manner, they should do everything they can to tackle encounters and make incremental progress to preserve the shared resource while making an effort to defend impartiality in its exploitation. It is generally acknowledged that for years, Ethiopia has been ensuring fair and equitable use of shared resources.

It is an indisputable fact that regional cooperation plays a paramount role in cementing ties making use of shared resources and taking the region to whole new level. As Egypt possesses wonderful opportunities to return to peaceful conduct of its relations with the Nile River riparian states, it does not have to rub its eyes for a fraction of a second.

In the present circumstances, following its positive strides, Ethiopia's commitment to the principles of equitable and reasonable utilization of the Nile's waters has been winning the hearts and minds of the wider international community and receiving a pat on the back.

The principles enshrined in the Agreement for the Nile River Basin Cooperative Framework (CFA) fix historic wrongs, ascertain equitable



use and foster mutual understanding and shared responsibility, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) of Ethiopia underscored, according to information obtained from ENA.

The MoFA congratulated the People of the Nile Basin States on the official entry into force of CFA on 13 October 2024, noting that it is a remarkable achievement that has been in the making for over a decade.

The dedication, perseverance, and collaborative spirit displayed by state parties throughout this process would, no doubt, enhance cooperation and provide the impetus to realize the equitable and reasonable management and utilization of the shared water resource, the Ministry stated in statement posted on social media.

The Ministry also underlined that Ethiopia is confident that the entry into force of this agreement will yield significant benefits for the basin states and contribute to a more prosperous and sustainable future.

CFA stipulates that each Nile Basin State has the right to use, within its territory, the waters of the Nile River System in a manner that is consistent with the other basic principles.

For as long as one can remember, downstream nations have been making an effort to distance themselves from CFA and continue their upper echelon on the Nile River despite the fact that Ethiopia and other upstream nations have been antagonistic to the grandiloquence.

It is common knowledge that Egypt more often than not has been demanding the 1929 and 1959 pacts, which were signed under the aegis of the colonial powers. To everyone's dismay, the pacts give domination of the Nile River to the downstream nations to make use of the Nile River as they wish. Under the backing of the colonial era treaties, the two nations had been solely utilizing the Nile River. It was really heartbreaking.

This past grievances and archaic injustice came to a halt some months back as the world's recently recognized state brought the CFA into effect on the heels of its endorsement.

As a matter of fact, over the course of the year, Ethiopia's undaunted and adventurous guidance has been smoothing the path of economic regional integration and launch the guideline for fair utilization of resources.

The Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE) has called on Sudan and Egypt to join the Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA), following its recent entry into force.

In a press briefing, Minister Habtamu Itefa (PhD-Eng.) highlighted the significance of the CFA, stating, "The ratified CFA is becoming our [riparian's] rules and regulations." He extended a direct invitation to Sudan and Egypt, reiterating Ethiopia's commitment to cooperation.

"If you have concerns regarding the CFA, it is all-inclusive. Let us connect to discuss and utilize it together," he said. The Minister emphasized that the CFA promises mutual benefits for all countries in the Nile basin, ensuring no one is excluded.

Habtamu (PhD-Eng.) described the agreement as a remarkable achievement for all riparian nations advocating for justice and equitable access to water resources. He pointed out that previous agreement on the Nile favored downstream countries, leaving upstream nations like Ethiopia without fair utilization rights.

Characterizing the CFA as the "backbone" of equitable water resource management, the Minister noted it marks a significant departure from past practices. "We believe there has been injustice in how the Nile has been utilized, particularly by our brothers and sisters downstream. The Cooperative Framework Agreement poses no threat to anyone; it is an inclusive agreement," he affirmed.

The CFA comprises 15 major principles focused on three key areas: the utilization of the Nile for development, water management practices, and information-sharing mechanisms. The first 15 articles address these principles, while the remaining 30

outline institutional and legal frameworks.

Ethiopia's vital role in the Nile system, noting that the country contributes over 85 percent of the river's water but previously had no influence over its management.

It is a well-known fact that in light of the current situation the inappropriately historic privileges turned out to be history in view of the fact that the Republic of South Sudan approved CFA which ended the pointless and passionate conflict revolving around the Nile River once and for all.

Over the last number of years, the country has been discharging increasingly broad range of tasks with a view to getting hold of the current stages of the pact on the Nile River.

According to information obtained from local media, the Nile River Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) represents the hope of all countries, where each of them will grow and prosper together without violating the rights of others, Ethiopia's Minister of Water and Energy, Habtamu Itefa (PhD-Eng.) remarked.

The Minister announced in a statement that the Nile River Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) has officially entered into force. He, therefore, congratulated the people of Ethiopia, governments and people of Nile Basin countries for this historic and successful achievement.

The implementation of the Nile Cooperation Agreement will enable the establishment of the Nile River Basin Commission which will be responsible for managing and protecting the Nile River for the benefit of all and serving as the cornerstone of the cooperation, he explained.

Habtamu further underscored that CFA is a common legal framework for the riparian countries, a testimony of their common commitment to use the Nile River for the benefit of all, and an agreement that confirms the right to use the water resources equitably and fairly.

# Art & Culture

## Why bad times give birth to great writings- the case of Africa

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

It is said that bad times are good for good literature or that the absence of freedom is sometimes a catalyst behind the birth of literary masterpieces. This may be true to Africa as it is true to other countries. Let us take, for instance, 19<sup>th</sup> century Russia, where autocracy and serfdom had inspired some of the best writing of the time. Turgenev, Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Chekhov, and others were the literary stars who championed the cause of the poor peasants and the lack of freedom faced by the urban literati or intelligentsia. Life in Russia was terrible at that time, but it gave birth to some of the best novels.

This can also be the case in Ethiopia under imperial rule. There was no freedom; feudalism controlled the economy, and peasants were dying in their millions due to famines, while press freedom was virtually non-existent. It was exactly at that time that some of our best writers appeared on the literary stage with their masterpieces and modern novels. They took Amharic literature one step forward and proved that any language can be used to express creativity. The Ethiopian authors who brought about the renaissance of local literature are many, and it may not be necessary to present their names and works because their legacy is still alive.

The same logic applies not only to individual countries but also to Africa as a continent. Bad times produce good literature. They may not be a rule, but this is true, as we have tried to show it in the case of Russia and Ethiopia. This was also true to American literature that blossomed during the Great Depression and during the literary boom of the 1920s, when life in America was very difficult. American literature flourished during this period with the works of writers like F. Scott Fitzgerald and Ernest Hemingway, Dos Passos, Norman Mailer, and others. American literature has not witnessed such a boom in the time of post-war economic boom.

Africa too seems to go through the same process of bad times producing good literature. If we look at the political and economic situations in individual African countries, we may realize that we are indeed going through bad times. Africa is doing better as a continent.

There is no denying that Africa is facing tremendous challenges. It is facing multiple challenges while also encountering opportunities, both real and potential. Its culture, its arts, and its creativity are amazing. There is light in the midst of darkness. The light shines brighter and is more powerful than the darkness, which is progressively overcome.

Africa continues to vibrate with its music, songs, dances, untold tales, and much more creativity. Africa is tapping into its rich literary traditions, both oral and written, to produce amazing works, although she has not yet produced or reproduced something remotely resembling Chinua Achebe's



classic "Things Fall Apart," the Cairo stories of Egyptian Mahfouz, or Ghanaian author Ayi Kwe Armah's "The Beautiful Ones are not yet Born." Classics are not born every year. The good news is that Africans are still producing beautiful culture and writing beautiful books that capture the attention of the global reading public and sell well in European and American bookshops.

African Jazz from Ethiopia is telling Africa's story in sounds and vibrations. Younger musicians from Nigeria are producing albums that sell like hot cakes within and outside the continent. Artists from South Africa, Egypt, Senegal, and Francophone Africa are gaining growing recognition in Paris and beyond. Africa is singing in English, French, Portuguese, or any other European language, but she is singing from the depths of her heart or from her soul.

Africa is also writing, whether in its own languages or in foreign ones. It is writing prose, poetry, drama, novels, and short stories. Young and upcoming African writers are read in Europe and America as far as Asia and other parts of Africa. Africa has new ideas, philosophies, and still-untapped spiritual wealth. Whether at home or in the Diaspora, African intellectuals are producing books, articles, and nonfiction works in general, although they seldom connect with their roots and are not yet addressing African problems in their own practical ways.

Nigerian movie makers are shining in the streets of Lagos and the studios of Nollywood. They are conquering the world, although they are not so well known within their continent. They are fighting for honorable space and for their deserved niches in the global film industry. The good and bad, the beautiful and the ugly are bound to continue into the New Year. This is always true about life in general. Good years follow bad years, and vice versa. On balance, Africa continues to inspire, aspire, and respire in the arts and literature.

Apart from the arts, this is also a glorious

moment for African writing. This is what African Report (AR), the leading publishing house in Africa, is telling us by saying that "a mixture of poetry, plays, memoirs, and novels await the reader, showcasing the best of Africa and the Diaspora this year. A much-anticipated translation from Portuguese and a second effort by multitalented Ghanaian writer Nii Ayikwel Parkes are part of our selection."

Another interesting feature of African writers is that they have started to write about their major challenges in their own ways. They seem to have stopped seeking inspiration from foreign sources in order to highlight their grievances. A recent collection on African writing, which is a collection of essays entitled "Strange and Difficult Times: Notes on a Global Pandemic" by Nanja Nyabola, is lauded as "an important body of work that highlights unforgivable injustices and the courageous systems and voices trying to counter them." This is a clear case of protest writing against injustice in Africa. This is also a confirmation of the above assumption that bad times give birth to great writing.

New African poets are also emerging in many countries. One of them is called Kweku Abimbola. He published a collection of poems entitled "Saltwater Demands a Psalm" and was appreciated by the Poetry Foundation as "a powerful and stirring debut from one of the most unique voices, a nuanced description of life in the Diaspora as an African immigrant."

Portuguese writers are hardly known in the rest of Africa where English and French are the main languages used by them. But a Portuguese-language writer has shined, perhaps for the first time, through a biographical work entitled "Whites Can Dance Too," which is a "fascinating narrative about "a musical genre born in the intersection of house, techno, and kizomba in the late 1980s," the story of Kalaf, the protagonist, who is a culture agitator and ambassador of the genre who was arrested en route to Europe's most iconic music festival in Oslo on suspicion of being an illegal immigrant."

Another female writer from neighboring Sudan called Leila Aboulela has written another work called "River Spirit," a historical novel about siblings orphaned and enslaved as their country rebels against Ottoman rule. "Abulela's story has been praised by the *New York Times* as "a swift, galloping over momentous events, stating profound changes with unsettling directness."

African writers are not only writing about their home countries or from their own experiences of Africa. They were also writing about Diaspora Africans and their many lives. One of these books is called, "Relations: An Anthology of African and Diaspora Voices" and edited by Nana Brew Hammond, which is "a mélange of African and Diaspora writing into a poly-phonic chorus of poetry and prose contemplating shared humanity."

New African talents have also come up

with new African poetry. African writers are known to be multitalented as they always wrote in multiple genres and attained global recognition. Wole Soyinka, the doyen of African letters is of course the leading poet, dramatist, essayist and novelist on the continent. But now, others are following him in the poetry genre and gained appreciation in 2023. "Tisa: New Generation of African Poets," is a book edited by Kwame Dawes and Chris Abani and published by the African Poetry Fund" which, in the last twelve years, has been into the service of promoting African poets at home and abroad to discover and elevate new talents."

African writers have also dealt in the travel genre, and Sara Cheik proved it in her latest book with a rather long title. It is called "Tomorrow, Tomorrow, Insha Allah: How the Journey Back to My Roots Became an Adventure Escape." A prominent publication called Ms. Magazine described the book as "evocative and harrowing; Cheikh's debut work beams the spotlight on the plight and perils of the Saharawi people."

African writers also dealt with memories, as Ika Anya, who is an author and physician, did in the work entitled "Small by Small," which is "his memoir of his experience of medical school in Nigeria, which ironically also serves as a communal memoir of a specific tumultuous period in Nigeria's history and the twilight of military dictatorship."

Writers from neighboring Kenya that had so far produced prominent writers like Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o and others have been absent from the festival, while Somalia, which is still in political turmoil, has spent long years in literary abstinence. Somalia achieved international literary fame thanks to Nureidin Farah, the most prominent author who is half British and published top books like "Maps" about the chaos and suffering of Somalia.

Ethiopian writers are, as always, notable absentees from the gala festival of African writing. The problem with Ethiopian writers is that they do not write much in any of the foreign languages, without which it is difficult to gain recognition in the international arena. For that matter, Ethiopian writers have not produced notable works in their own language either. It is a dry season for literature in Ethiopia, although some American-based authors have been publishing some remarkable works in the past.

It seems that bad times are not going to go away in Africa so easily. Strangely enough, the bad times are giving birth to outstanding literature across the continent. This is also proof that the bad times are not confined to specific countries. They are everywhere, as the literary talents are unevenly distributed. The bad times will one day give their place to better times. What will the fate of African literature be at that time? Fortunately, the future is an unknown quantity not worth worrying about at the present time.

# Global Affairs

## Powering Africa: New model compares options for off-grid solar in 43 countries

Sub-Saharan Africa, home to 80% of the global population without electricity access, is unlikely to reach the United Nations' goal of access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030.

The region is significantly behind the rest of the world. Globally, access to electricity increased from 79% of the population in 2000 to 90% in 2019. In sub-Saharan Africa, access to electricity rose from 26% to 47%, and most who don't have access live in rural areas, according to World Bank data.

The World Bank predicts that, based on current electricity connection and population growth trends, sub-Saharan Africa will have more than 400 million people unconnected to electricity by 2030.

A lack of access to reliable electricity has a significant negative impact on living standards. For example, it can limit the provision of quality public services such as healthcare, education and water. It also creates a barrier to access to digital services, holding back participation in an increasingly digital global economy.

Lack of access is not the only challenge for sub-Saharan African countries. Existing connections are unreliable too. About 43% of Africans had access to electricity that worked "most" or "all" of the time in 2022. Reliability issues are typically more common in rural areas.

Just two sub-Saharan African countries have electricity grids without significant outages: Angola and Botswana. Outages reduce the benefits electricity offers to households and businesses, and create demand for expensive and typically polluting fuel-run generators.

Studies have proposed off-grid solar generated electricity as one possible solution for economies with poor electricity access. In some locations, they are the lowest-cost option, and can enable electricity access without building electricity grid infrastructure – transmission and distribution networks.

Some of these studies, however, may have underestimated the potential benefits of off-grid solar power. This is because they don't consider the cost impacts of poor reliability or of carbon price schemes.

I was part of a team of scientists using a new approach to assessing the cost of different energy access options. It combines modeling individual energy systems with spatial data covering large areas. Our approach allows us to put a cost to the reliability and the pollution of different sources of electricity. When you account for these, the relative attractiveness of technologies may change.

Our research explores the role off-grid solar could play in different scenarios in Africa. It covered 43 countries for which data is available, and that are home to more than 99% of the continent's population without access. Below, we will highlight two countries, Nigeria and Mozambique.

### Cost of carbon, cost of poor reliability

Using our new approach, we analyze which parts of each country would find solar to be the cheapest technology. We do this at a fine level of detail. Our scenarios include either a



A solar-powered motorcycle spare parts factory in Nnewi, south-eastern Nigeria

carbon price, or a penalty for poor reliability. We can show what policy would make the greatest impact in a given location.

Electricity access can be arranged into tiers that combine different levels of wattage, hours of availability, number of disruptions, affordability and so on.

For our medium electricity demand scenario (tier 3), our modeling suggests that off-grid solar would be cheapest for 65 million more people if you applied a carbon price to the calculation. If you applied a reliability penalty, off-grid solar would be cheapest for 80 million more people.

Carbon markets are financial markets which put a price on emitting greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide. These markets influence the relative cost and shares of different electricity generation technologies. However, the use of carbon credits on the African continent remains limited as they are a relatively new initiative on the continent.

The reliability of supply is crucial in determining the value of a connection. Poor reliability can lead to reduced security and reduced household income.

Off-grid solar systems may offer improved reliability when compared to national grid networks.

To demonstrate our methods and findings more clearly, let's look at two countries in more detail: Nigeria and Mozambique.

### Nigeria

Nigeria has an unreliable grid, with service levels worse in rural areas. Our analysis projects that Nigeria will have as many as 55 million households – around 20% of the population – without electricity access in 2030. In our research, we find that off-grid solar would be the cheapest way for connecting between 5% and 60% of these people to electricity.

But solar's economic viability versus the traditional grid network depends on the level of demand for electricity. At low electricity usage (tier 2 or 200Wh per day), off-grid solar beats traditional electricity grid networks. It meets the energy needs of a higher proportion

of the population (60%) at lower cost.

The reverse is true when demand for electricity is higher (tier 4 or 3,400Wh per day). Under this scenario, high electricity usage demands traditional electricity grids.

Poor reliability of national electricity grids is an issue on the continent. When the costs of poor reliability are included in the calculation, solar becomes more competitive. It meets the needs of between 38% and 65% of the 55 million households in Nigeria.

This finding highlights that to provide reliable access, focusing on off-grid solar may be the best solution. Nigeria is already using subsidies to encourage this.

### Mozambique

In Mozambique, we estimate that more than 16 million people (40% of the population) will remain without access to electricity by 2030. As it is for Nigeria, off-grid solar power is cheaper for lower electricity usage levels. Off-grid solar would, by our estimates, be cheapest for between 28% and 88% of the 16 million people, depending on demand levels.

When carbon pricing is factored in, this increases to 88% from 50%, with the greatest impact seen at higher demand levels. Our research also shows the carbon price levels that are effective at different demand levels, for different parts of the country.

Due to differences in the costs of different technologies in different places, there is variation in policy effectiveness and thresholds. When considering where carbon credit schemes may be most effective, stakeholders should consider areas highlighted as seeing a shift in technology at the lower price level.

### Targeted policy can boost access, reliability in Africa

When considering energy policy across a large region, country-specific and localized factors are paramount. We do not pretend to capture all of these in our research. However, our use of spatial data, and country-level demand and supply modeling, tries to move in the right direction.

SOURCE: THE CONVERSATION

The reliability of supply is crucial in determining the value of a connection. Poor reliability can lead to reduced security and reduced household income



# Law & Politics

## Opening up the logistic sector for foreign investment

BY EYUEL KIFLU

Ethiopia is positioning itself to enhance its presence in both international and local markets by significantly improving its logistics capabilities. As logistics plays an indispensable role in facilitating trade, the Ethiopian government is taking proactive measures to bolster the country's logistics infrastructure. This initiative is part of a broader economic reform strategy aimed at attracting foreign investment and fostering economic growth.

In a landmark decision, the Ethiopian government has opened its logistics sector to foreign investors. This move follows the passage of legislation that allows foreign participation in the finance and banking sectors, marking a significant shift in the country's economic landscape. By liberalizing various sectors, Ethiopia is creating a more conducive environment for foreign companies to operate, thereby stimulating economic activity and innovation.

The logistics sector is particularly critical for attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). A well-developed logistics infrastructure can significantly enhance the efficiency of trade, reduce costs, and improve service delivery. Recognizing this, the Ethiopian government is focused on enhancing logistics services to meet the demands of both local and international markets.

In addition to improving land-based logistics, Ethiopia is also exploring opportunities to expand its capabilities in maritime logistics. The country is strategically navigating various sea routes to facilitate smoother and more efficient logistics services on water. By enhancing its access to ports and shipping lanes, Ethiopia aims to streamline the movement of goods and reduce transit times, which is vital for boosting competitiveness in global markets.

The ongoing economic reforms in Ethiopia are designed to create a more open and competitive market environment. By inviting foreign investment into the logistics sector, the government hopes to leverage international expertise and capital to improve service delivery and operational efficiency. This strategic move is expected to lead to significant improvements in the logistics landscape, ultimately benefiting the country's economy.

According to recent Ministry of Finance announcement there have been policy amendments to pave the way for greater participation of foreign companies in the logistic industry.

"The government has been taking various reform measures to improve the sector

**E**thiopia's efforts to enhance its logistics sector are a pivotal part of its broader economic reform strategy. By opening the sector to foreign investors and improving maritime logistics, the country is positioning itself as a competitive player in the global market

including increased budget allocation, policy reforms, enhanced international cooperation, said," Finance Minister Ahmed Shide. The minister also revealed plans to open up the sector for international investors during an event held recently to recognize entities engaged in the logistic sector.

Speaking at the occasion themed: "Logistics Transformation for Sustainable Growth and Prosperity", Ahmed emphasized the importance of modernizing the sector for overall national development.

He stated, "Strengthening our logistics capabilities is essential for our country's future."

In his remarks, the minister noted that infrastructure development, particularly road construction, is receiving significant budget allocations. "Different steps are being taken to enhance our logistics sector," he said adding that in the effort of expanding the nation's cargo capacity, the government is also progressing on plans for a new airport. Looking ahead, Ahmed Shide underscored the necessity of enhancing Ethiopia's competitiveness in the international market. He mentioned that beyond strengthening logistics ties with Djibouti, there are on-going efforts to address port access challenges.

Support from the World Bank has been pivotal in advancing road construction projects, which are in their final stages. "These infrastructure improvements will save time and reduce costs in the logistics sector," he remarked.

Transport and Logistics Minister Alemu Sime (PhD) echoed these sentiments, stating that significant efforts are underway to position Ethiopia as a competitive player in the global logistics arena.

Alemu (PhD) detailed the progress made. He noted that an independent assessment by the World Bank revealed improvements in Ethiopia's logistics capabilities in 2023.

To attract trade and investment, a comprehensive policy and strategy for the logistics sector is currently being implemented. Alemu stressed that modernizing logistics is vital for economic development, and addressing existing challenges is crucial for optimizing resource use. Recent assessments indicate a rise in Ethiopia's Logistics Performance Index from 2.53 to 2.94, reflecting the growing efficiency and capacity of the country's logistics operations.

Also, according to Dhenge Boru Minister of State for Transport and Logistics says that Ethiopia's international trade is experiencing consistent growth. The

country's logistics sector has improved its global ranking from 113<sup>th</sup> to 66<sup>th</sup>. Also, over 6,000 professionals are employed on international ships and generated more than 39 million dollar.

The average port duration for ships has been reduced from 20 to 30 days to just 12 days. Dhenge emphasized that modernizing logistics is vital for economic development, highlighting efforts to address sector challenges, update systems, and coordinate resource use.

To position Ethiopia as a preferred trade and investment destination, a comprehensive logistics policy and strategy are being implemented. Efforts include institutional organization, technology enhancement, and increased private sector participation.

Abdulber Shemsu (Eng.), the Director General of the Ethiopian Maritime Authority, noted that import and export activities reached over 15.6 million metric tons in 2016 E.C. The opening of multimodal transport to local and foreign investors has increased imported goods coverage to sixty-one percent.

It is also recalled that the Ethiopian Investment body announced The Ethiopian Investment Authority has announced a policy change allowing foreign investors to own up to 49 percent in joint ventures within the logistics sector. This move includes areas such as bonded warehouses and consolidation services. Previously, services like packaging and shipping were reserved for Ethiopian nationals, according to Article 3.1(b) of the investment regulation. This shift is part of the country's broader economic reforms aimed at increasing private investment.

As the country continues to develop its logistics capacity, the government is committed to ensuring that the sector can support the growing demands of trade and investment. This includes investing in infrastructure, technology, and training to build a skilled workforce capable of managing advanced logistics operations.

Overall, Ethiopia's efforts to enhance its logistics sector are a pivotal part of its broader economic reform strategy. By opening the sector to foreign investors and improving maritime logistics, the country is positioning itself as a competitive player in the global market. As these initiatives unfold, they hold the promise of attracting more foreign direct investment, fostering economic growth, and ultimately benefiting the Ethiopian populace. The government's commitment to developing a robust logistics infrastructure will be crucial in realizing these ambitions.

# Planet Earth



## Ethiopia to transform artisanal miners to modern ones to mixize economic, environmental benefits

BY FIKADU BELAY

Ethiopia's potential of Mining sector is underutilized due to several challenges, including regulatory issues, long history practice of Artisan mining, environmental concerns, and lack of investment.

Artisanal mining in Ethiopia has been primarily informal, with little regulation or oversight. Artisanal miners typically use rudimentary tools and techniques, which can lead to inefficient resource extraction and significant environmental harm. The lack of formal structures in these operations often result in illegal mining activities that exploit natural resources without regard for environmental or social impacts. Such practices have led to severe land degradation, water pollution, and the displacement of communities, raising urgent concerns about the need for reform in the mining sector.

Additionally, the rise of illegal mining activities has posed significant challenges, leading to environmental degradation, loss of biodiversity, and social conflicts. In response, Ethiopia is undergoing a crucial transition towards modern mining practices that prioritize sustainability, legality, and community well-being. This transition is not only essential for the responsible extraction of resources but also for the recovery and rehabilitation of areas affected by mining activities.

The Ethiopian Ministry of Mines is poised to revolutionize the country's mining industry by transitioning artisanal operations into modernized production methods. In an interview with the Ethiopian Press Agency, State Minister of Mines, Million Mathewos stated that the transition to modern mining techniques is crucial, as it enables producers to acquire better machinery and technology, thereby enhancing production efficiency.

"The use of advanced equipment is critical in minimizing waste, both in terms of production and labor," the state Minister added. This shift is expected to not only increase overall output but also elevate the quality of the minerals extracted.

Ethiopia is rich in mineral resources, and the government is actively working on improving the legal frameworks and policies that govern

the sector. He highlighted ongoing institutional changes aimed at fostering both traditional and industrial mining practices. These reforms are designed to boost foreign exchange earnings while ensuring that local producers reap greater benefits from their resources.

Over the past six years, the mining sector has gradually gained the attention it deserves from the government. Over all, it was an underappreciated area; however, recent efforts have sparked significant growth. "The focus on mining has led to noticeable developments and expansions within the sector," the state Minister remarked.

The shift towards modern practices involves the application of advanced technologies and methodologies that enhance efficiency while minimizing ecological paths. For instance, the integration of geospatial technologies that allows for better planning and management of mining operations. These technologies facilitate more accurate assessment of mineral deposits, leading to reduced waste and lower environmental impact.

Artisanal, Ethiopia's mining activities have been characterized by artisanal methods, primarily focused on gold, jewelry, and construction minerals. To enhance productivity, the government is committed to modernizing these traditional practices and integrating technology into the production process. This modernization effort aims to empower traditional miners, enabling them to accumulate capital and enhance their skills.

In line with these initiatives, its approximately 3,600 kilograms of the planned gold production will come from traditional methods under the whole planed in that expected in annually. The state Minister stated that traditional mining is evolving into a more structured industry, encompassing small, medium, and high-level operations. The modernization of production techniques is set to further reduce inefficiencies and maximize output.

Despite these efforts, challenges remain. Illegal mining has still continued to pose a threat to the success of modern practices, as enforcement of regulations can be difficult in remote areas. Additionally, the need for ongoing education and awareness-raising among local communities about the benefits

of legal mining practices is paramount. The government must prioritize outreach programs that highlight the significance of sustainable mining and the potential consequences of illegal operations.

Moreover, the government has established regulatory frameworks aimed at formalizing the mining sector. By creating a legal environment that encourages responsible mining, authorities can curb illegal operations while promoting transparency and accountability. Licensing processes are now more stringent, requiring miners to obey to environmental standards and social responsibilities. This regulatory shift is essential not only for protecting the environment but also for ensuring that local communities benefit from mining activities through job creation and infrastructure development.

According to him, the recent government's macroeconomic initiatives have led to a notable increase in mineral output. The government reforms aimed at significantly boosting mineral production, with a particular focus on gold. Also, these reforms are already yielding positive results, enhancing productivity and reducing production losses across the sector. "We are witnessing a substantial growth in mineral production, especially in gold," he stated.

For the current fiscal year, he mentioned that the government has set an ambitious target of producing 8.6 tons of gold, a figure that reflects a significant uptick from previous years. Impressively, the state minister noted that 70 percent of this target has already been achieved in just the first three months.

The government's dedication to transforming the mining sector is evident in its strategic approach to harnessing Ethiopia's vast mineral wealth. By implementing these macroeconomic reforms and focusing on modernization, the Ministry of Mines is not only enhancing production but also laying the groundwork for sustainable growth in the industry.

Another critical component of the efforts is the emphasis on community engagement and empowerment. The government recognizes that sustainable mining practices must involve local communities, who are often the most affected by mining operations. By fostering

partnerships with local stakeholders, the government can ensure that the benefits of mining are distributed equitably. Community consultations and participatory decision-making processes are now integral to mining projects, allowing local voices to influence how resources are managed and utilized.

He underlined that the country continues to develop its mining capabilities, the potential for increased foreign investment and economic development is substantial. The government remains optimistic that these efforts will lead to a more robust mining sector, ultimately contributing to the country's overall economic prosperity. With the right support and continued focus on modernization, Ethiopia's mining industry is on track for a bright future.

In addition to these reforms, Ethiopia is actively involved in the recovery and rehabilitation of areas affected by mining. This involves comprehensive plans for land rehabilitation, which are crucial for restoring ecosystems and supporting local livelihoods. The government is investing in reforestation programs, soil restoration projects, and the establishment of protected areas to mitigate the impacts of past mining activities. These initiatives not only help restore the environment but also provide alternative livelihoods for communities that previously relied on mining.

Furthermore, the government is collaborating with international organizations and NGOs to support sustainable mining practices and recovery efforts. These partnerships bring technical expertise, funding, and innovative approaches to environmental management. By learning from global best practices, Ethiopia can enhance its capacity to manage its mineral resources responsibly while addressing the legacy of illegal mining.

Besides, by implementing regulatory reforms, engaging local communities, and investing in environmental recovery efforts, the government is attempting to address the immediate challenges posed by illegal mining and others that lays the foundation for a more sustainable and equitable mining sector in the future. The country's commitment for balancing economic development with environmental stewardship will be crucial for the well-being of its people and the preservation of its natural heritage.