



The Ethiopian Herald

Vol. LXXXI No 069 29 November 2024 - Hidar 20, 2017

Friday

Price Birr 10.00

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Ethiopia, AIIB augment renewable energy infrastructure cooperation

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – The Ministry of Finance (MoF) and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) held discussions yesterday on advancing Ethiopia’s new airport hub investment and renewable energy infrastructure projects.

During a press briefing, Finance Minister Ahmed Shide described the talks as fruitful and comprehensive, focusing on deepening cooperation between the two sides.

He noted that AIIB President Jin Liqun recognized Ethiopia’s ongoing development strides, including macroeconomic reforms, its status as one of the fastest-developing countries, the rise in foreign direct

See Ethiopia, AIIB ... page 3



Kurmuk Gold Mine to begin plant commissioning by 2025

• Commercial production by 2026

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA-Kurmuk Gold Mine PLC has announced plans to commence plant commissioning by the end of 2025, with commercial production set to start in 2026.

Speaking to *The Ethiopian Herald*, General Manager BroxWorwu confirmed that the company is progressing well in developing its

See Kurmuk Gold Mine ... page 3



Photo: Dagne Abera

Experts give thumb up to new land policy

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA – Senior agricultural economists have voiced optimism about Ethiopia’s national agricultural transformation plan following the government’s adoption of a reformed rural land administration proclamation.

This reform allows landowners to use their land as a fixed asset, a move expected to drive the commercialization and mechanization of agriculture, which accounts for the largest share of Ethiopia’s GDP.

Speaking at the annual conference of

the Agricultural Economics Society of Ethiopia, the Society’s President Endeshaw Habtie (PhD) emphasized that the previous land policy, while central to Ethiopia’s socio-economic and political landscape for decades, hindered agricultural transformation.

“The land policy adopted 50 years ago aimed to support agricultural and food system transformation pathways. Since then, key government policies and strategies have been amended to align with these goals,” Endeshaw stated.

He added that food and nutrition remain top priorities for the government, and

agricultural initiatives need to be bolstered further. However, challenges in commercialization and mechanization persist under the previous policy framework.

“Land is a fixed asset, yet its use faces competing demands from manufacturing, infrastructure, and ecosystem services. With a growing population, modern land administration is critical to transforming the food system,” Endeshaw noted.

The Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA) Deputy Director General Frew Tegegn(PhD) stressed the urgent need for modern applications and professionalism in Ethiopia’s land administration and food systems.

See Experts give ... page 3



Photo: Dagne Abera

Prosperity Party marks five years of transformational impact

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Over its five-year existence, the Prosperity Party has achieved unprecedented milestones in Addis Ababa’s 150-year history, setting Ethiopia on a path toward food sovereignty and inclusivity, Deputy Prime Minister Temesgen Tiruneh said.

The Deputy Premier made this statement yesterday during the fifth anniversary celebration of the ruling Prosperity Party, held under the theme “Ideological Excellence for Holistic Prosperity.”

As part of the celebration, the party organized a photo exhibition in collaboration with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA). In his opening remarks, Temesgen highlighted that the Prosperity Party has ignited hope by achieving significant

See Prosperity Party ... page 3

CHFE launches Christmas fundraising for children with heart disease

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA -The Children’s Heart Fund of Ethiopia (CHFE) has launched a Christmas gift fundraising campaign for children suffering with heart disease.

In a presser held yesterday, CHFE’s CEO, Hiruy Ali said that his organization launched a one and a half month long Christmas present fundraiser for children with heart disease.

Mentioning that Christmas is traditionally considered as a holiday of gifts, he called on the public and nonprofit groups to participate in the charity event and offer children with heart disease the gift of life.

According to the CEO, it is important to prepare various income collection programs in addition to the conventional



fundraising activities that the center carries out in order to continue the service it provides, he noted.

“In this Christmas gift for children with heart disease fundraising movement, various volunteer individuals, organizations and institutions would help



the center in a different way than the usual, either in kind or financially.”The Center urges communities to demonstrate their unity by ensuring that over 8,000 children in line for cardiac treatment receive care, Hiruy said.

The support from partners and the

community is indispensable since most of the resources used by the Ethiopian Heart Disease Children’s Center are imported ones, organization’s Medical Director, Eleazer Haile (MD) stated, stressing that the center highly require the support to carry on its services.

Collaborative efforts and assistances are always needed to solve the center’s problems that arises from the mismatch between limited financial resources and the current demand. Therefore, the Medical Director said that providing support must be further reinforced.

The Children’s Heart Fund of Ethiopia provides free heart treatment across the country. For the past 35 years, the center has received thousands of children with heart disease from all regions of the country and provided all medical services free of charge, including heart surgery.



Annual CSOs week preparations in full swing

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - The Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council (ECSOC) and the Authority for Civil Society Organizations (ACSO) finalized preparations to organize CSOs week.

The ECSOC in collaboration with ACSO has set to organize the annual civil society organizations week (CSOs Week - 2024) for the 4th time for the three consecutive days.

Briefing the media, ACSO Deputy Director Fasikaw Molla said that the event is aimed at creating strong bonds among CSOs through promoting activities, strengthening linkage and sharing experiences.

As to him, the week creates a platform to carry out awareness creation campaign.

According to the director, as various reform measures are undertaken to augment the contribution of CSOs, currently there are some 5,200 legally registered CSOs across the country.

The reform voided the restrictions that

were impacting the CSOs. Especially, over the past five years, the authority undertook policy, legal (proclamation) and institutional reforms for CSOs to play their vital role in sustaining peace, human rights protections, and building democracy, he added.

For his part, the ECSOC Deputy President Ahmed Hussein said that some 6,000 exhibitors would be participating in the coming event. The permission of income generation has enabled CSOs towards resource localization and substantial existence. The restrictive laws and regulations are revised.

The overall development and community engagement participation of the CSOs has been growing from time to time. Various events or programs will be held during the coming three days including panel discussions, interlinking organizations, exhibition among others, he noted.

He indicated that the CSOs used to face various bottlenecks before the sweeping reforms. CSOs are now conducting their activities and duties in a better way than earlier.

Ethiopia’s forensic center set to combat Nat’l, regional crimes: EFPC

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

ADDIS ABABA—Leveraging its modern investigation technologies, Ethiopia’s Forensic Investigation and Research Center of Excellence geared up to fight national and regional crimes, Ethiopian Federal Police Commission (EFPC) disclosed.

In an exclusive interview with Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), EFPC Deputy Commissioner General and Ethiopian Police University President Mesfin Abebe said that the Forensic Investigation Center, the government inaugurated recently, has the capacity to provide probing services beyond Ethiopia.

The center, equipped with modern technologies, designed to investigate organized and complicated crimes, is also established to serve countries of the region, Mesfin stated, while briefing representatives of 22 different African countries who visited the center on the sidelines of the Continental Peace Conference.

“We informed our African brothers and sisters about the services, technological capacities and human resources of the center.

I assured them to use the forensic center to investigate organized local and cross border crimes,” he expressed.

According to him, the center is crucial to fight crimes in the region and boost cross-national police collaborations in fighting organized crimes.

“The center is equipped with modern



Mesfin Abebe

technologies that have the capacity to investigate all types of crimes,” Mesfin said.

In addition to Ethiopia, he mentioned that the center is established to serve the region that is why its overall structures, procedures and human resources are designed to serve this demand.

According to Mesfin, drug trafficking is among the major crimes at national and continental level, and Ethiopia’s forensic investigation center will play crucial role in fighting this crime.

EFPC aspires to be among the five best police institutions in Africa by 2030 through upgrading its technological, institutional and human capacity. Ethiopia’s Forensic Investigation and Research Center of Excellence was inaugurated on November 16 by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD).

News



Ethiopia, AIIB...

investment (FDI), and the increasing involvement of the private sector.

The Minister also mentioned Ethiopia's focus on modernizing infrastructure and striving for regional economic integration, emphasizing that AIIB is well-positioned to support these efforts. Discussions specifically centered on financing the Ethiopian Airlines ongoing airport hub construction and renewable energy project development.

AIIB President Jin Liqun, making his first visit to Addis Ababa, expressed optimism

about the collaboration. He remarked on the city's ancient civilization, cultural heritage, and the welcoming and harmonious nature of its people, which further encouraged AIIB's commitment to supporting Ethiopia's development.

"This has been a productive visit, and our discussions with Minister Ahmed Shide have laid a strong foundation for future cooperation," said Liqun. He affirmed AIIB's readiness to work closely with the Ethiopian government and its people in advancing infrastructure development,

enhancing connectivity, improving financial systems, and addressing climate change challenges in the years ahead.

Furthermore, Liqun noted the importance of partnerships with global stakeholders such as the World Bank (WB), African Development Bank (AfDB), and other key actors in driving Ethiopia's development agenda.

MoF and AIIB are optimistic about building a long-term and impactful partnership to promote sustainable growth and regional integration, it was learned.

Prosperity Party...

development milestones in a short period.

"The volume and quality of development activities in Addis Ababa over the past years clearly demonstrate the party's commitment. The Prosperity Party has introduced new thinking, eradicated poverty, worked toward food self-sufficiency, and ensured fair and inclusive benefits for people from all walks of life," he stated.

The Deputy Premier also emphasized that the party has become a practical example of resilience by overcoming challenges and pledged that it will continue its efforts to preserve the nation's history and advance prosperity.

To address Ethiopia's longstanding challenges, the Prosperity Party has taken decisive actions, including establishing a National Dialogue Commission, formulating a transitional justice policy, and creating a Reconciliation Commission, Temesgen noted.

The Prosperity Party Deputy President, Adem Farah, reflected on the internal and external challenges faced over the past five years. Despite these obstacles, the party has turned challenges into triumphs by embracing a transformative, collective, and harmonious philosophy.

Adem also highlighted that the photo exhibition chronicled the party's difficult journey, the pursuit of equality, and the drivers of reform over the past five years, while also projecting the party's vision for the future.

The Prosperity Party's leadership reaffirmed its commitment to building on these achievements and fostering Ethiopia's holistic prosperity.

Kurmuk Gold Mine...

gold mining plant, which will be ready for commissioning next year.

Preparations are already underway to purchase and import the necessary mining machinery and equipment. So far, the company has imported around 700 transportation trucks, with another 3,000 expected to arrive within the next three to eight months. According to Brox, the construction process is on schedule, ensuring that operations will begin as planned.

The project has the capacity to produce nearly nine tons of gold annually during its initial years of production, supported by an investment of half a billion USD. It is projected to generate one billion USD in annual revenue and pave the way for other companies to enter the mining sector. Covering 100 square kilometers of land, the project is expected to attract significant interest from potential investors.

Despite challenges, the company is pushing forward and resolving obstacles. "This project demonstrates the possibility of achieving ambitious goals, and other companies are observing our progress closely," said Brox. He also emphasized the need for the quick installation and supply



BroxWorku

of electricity to support future operations.

The government has been providing support, recognizing the mining sector's importance for economic growth, job creation, and foreign exchange earnings. Brox, an Allied Gold shareholder, emphasized the long-term nature of mining projects and their transformative potential for the region.

Located in Benishangul-Gumuz State, Kurmuk Gold Mine is Ethiopia's largest mining project and a major initiative in Eastern Africa. Currently, the project has created around 600 jobs and is set to employ over 1,700 people by the end of the fiscal year, showcasing its significant impact on job creation and economic development.

Experts give...

"ATA has conducted extensive research on these challenges. Studies underscore the necessity of improved professionalism and coordination. Reforms must be backed by educated farmers and sectorial experts," Frew said.

The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) Senior Advisor Getachew Diriba (PhD) outlined the history and challenges of Ethiopia's land administration system over the past five decades. The new rural land administration proclamation, he noted, is a significant step forward.

"This reform empowers farmers to use their land as collateral and engage in land transactions, enhancing their access to financial services, including credit. The aim is to foster agricultural commercialization and mechanization," Getachew explained.

Reflecting on the past, Getachew remarked, "The land-to-tenure revolution achieved fair distribution of land but left everyone equally poor. It failed to modernize farming practices, and this trend persisted until these recent reforms."

He expressed optimism about the new proclamation, emphasizing that farmers will now have better access to financing. This, in turn, will enable investments in agricultural inputs and technologies, revitalizing resource utilization and driving transformation in the agricultural sector.

The reformed proclamation, coupled with ongoing efforts by the government and agricultural agencies, is expected to reshape Ethiopia's agricultural landscape and support the country's broader economic goals.

Opinion

The EV boom in Addis

BY KASSAHUN GEDLU

As an electric vehicle enthusiast, I recently found an article titled “Managing Grid Impacts from Increased Electric Vehicle Adoption in African Cities”. The title itself would not sound dry in any aspect. Interesting read: how electric vehicles charge up Africa’s urban landscapes, if puns may be allowed; this study shows African cities need their own very specific game plan. Findings from Nairobi show quirks in the urban transit across cities, where “public” transport usually means informal set-ups—think of Kenya’s matatus or Nigeria’s danfos, just buzzing around cities like some army of ants.

Applying this lens to Addis Ababa—with blue-and-white minibus taxis—gives a common challenge from Nairobi and how far our friendly neighborhood transformers may suffer without some thought-through planning.

Can Your Transformer Take the Heat?

The Nairobi study assessed the grid impacts of EV adoption across private, commercial, and Para transit fleets. Key findings are Grid Overload Risk, Increased Peak Demand, and Demand for Frequent Charging in Public Transit areas.

Even at just 5% EV penetration, Nairobi’s transformers reached 125% of capacity during peak hours, mainly due to uncoordinated private EV charging. This overload underscores the need for immediate grid reinforcements to prevent costly transformer replacements and maintain stability.

Furthermore, the study showed that as EV usage grows, peak electricity demand could rise by 11% at a 30% adoption rate. Unmanaged charging only heightens the risk of outages and service disruptions, highlighting the critical need for peak-demand management strategies and off-peak charging incentives.

Nairobi’s high-mileage Para transit vehicles, like matatus, travel up to 220 km daily, requiring multiple charges that put added stress on transformers in busy transit hubs. Without dedicated charging infrastructure, grid strain will likely worsen as more transit fleets go electric, pointing to the need for strategically placed, high-capacity charging hubs.

The study’s findings raised concerns in Nairobi, where, even with limited EV adoption, transformers were already facing considerable strain. In other words, they were overworked, risking overload and possibly an identity crisis.

The timing of EV charging is just as crucial: Nairobi’s report noted that peak demand could increase as more EVs hit the streets. The combination of private EV charging and Para transit demand at peak times places the grid at high risk, underscoring the need for planned solutions that match the local transit profile.

The study’s findings raised concerns in Nairobi, where, even with limited EV adoption, transformers were already facing considerable strain. In other words, they were overworked, risking overload and possibly an identity crisis.

As a solution, I would like to take some practical approaches from various sources. The first one is Get Smart with charging infrastructure. However, this does not mean hooking up your Car to a lamp or oven post or even having a separate breaker with the proper charging device. I do acknowledge the need for it for safety reasons. Getting smart with managing the grid load is vital. A good example is in this case in California.

California has been simply legendary with time-of-use pricing to discourage EV drivers from peak-hour charging, and that has shifted some 40% of EV charging into late nights and early mornings. Similar incentives could get EV drivers thinking twice before plugging in at rush hour; after all, a good bargain might bring out the best in people in Addis.

Having such a success needs technical awareness with EV owners. Most of the cars have the functionality to configure start and stop the intake. No need to wake up late at night. Additionally, Smart chargers come with a mobile app to monitor the price and

notify the customer to charge. Even the apps can be configured to start and stop charging with a preconfigured price range, and usage patterns more or less autonomously.

The second approach is to Give Those Transformers a Break with Dedicated Public Transport Charging Hubs. Shenzhen in China practically invented the EV fleet hub, with rows of high-capacity stations that keep fleets of electric buses running without overheating the city’s transformers.

In Ethiopia’s case, this approach would be more appropriate for corporate users. They can build their charging infrastructure geographically closer to bigger substations to avoid the load over residential and commercial districts. Commercial districts are relatively free at night which can be an alternative. The solution for Addis might be placing hubs at transit points to prop up its blue-and-white minibus fleet, take the pressure off overloaded transformers and give the neighborhood transformers a well-deserved latte break.

The third approach is “Put Charging Where It’s Needed Most Smart charger placement” by Amsterdam city administration is genius in its simplicity. They roll out charging stations where the highest EV adoption is, targeting areas that need the infrastructure most. Addis could benefit from the same, basing new stations on where EVs are most likely to appear and reinforcing grid sections before they are strained to breaking.

To achieve this we need to have the data. The city administration needs to have details of the EV owners including their charging plans. I am not sure if such detailed data were collected or can be extracted from the vehicle register system. It is time to start now.

At last, Public Awareness is a crucial step. All concerned entities need to plan public awareness strategies for themselves and must find a way to implement them collaboratively. A Little EV Education Never Hurts the Society. A good example in this case is the “Weird Stockholm electricity vehicle campaign”. The campaigns have informed citizens when and where to charge. Addis could follow suit and keep drivers informed as to when charging is cheap for peak-hour grid stress alleviation. Will Addis drivers get the advert like “If you want to save, wait for the clock to tick!”

It is important to have a Detailed Grid Study. The capital first needs a city-specific grid study to determine precisely where charging hotspots could create overloads. Building from an infrastructure map will show utilities where the grid needs reinforcement and which transformers might need backup.

After All, Power to the People Works Better Coordinated. Create an EV Team for Cooperation is a must to achieve working policy and strategy referring to the success of Norway, where the Norwegian EV Association unified efforts between the government, utilities, and private partners. Ethiopia could also lead the charge with

a working group to push for policy. As Christina Bu of the EV Association in Norway once commented so aptly in her TED Talk, Norway succeeded because every player was at the table. A multidisciplinary committee such as this would be able to lead efforts toward policy formulation, technical standards, and incentives.

Smart Charging Policy and Public Transportation Charging Hubs Success stories from California to Shenzhen suggest that incentivized smart charging and dedicated high-demand hubs could take a big load off the grid. Give people cheaper off-peak rates, and they might be tempted to charge at times of day that help the grid balance its load; locate public transport hubs centrally, and the city’s minibuses can keep running without frying transformers in residential areas.

Data-Driven Infrastructure and Education The high-resolution data of charging demand give Addis an edge in the optimal deployment of charging infrastructure. If drivers know they will save by charging at specific times, they will. And, as Stockholm has proved, a little knowledge goes a long way toward trimming peak-hour demand. Data driven decision making process was the key tool for the success of Amsterdam’s Infrastructure Strategy.

The Ethiopian government’s bold decision to cut EV taxes and ban the import of internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles marks a transformative moment for electric mobility in Africa. With policies that could soon make Ethiopia one of the top countries for 100% EV registration, the groundwork is set for Addis Ababa to lead in sustainable urban transport. Norway, for instance, achieved over 80% EV adoption for new car sales through similar policies and incentives, setting a clear example of the impact such decisions can have.

However, this EV shift introduces a pressing challenge: managing grid capacity. Nairobi’s experience, where only 5% EV penetration led transformers to reach up to 125% of their rated capacity, highlights the strain that EV adoption can impose on the grid. For Addis Ababa, these findings are a critical reminder that planning is essential. Reviewing Ethiopia’s roadmap for electric mobility, establishing a formal framework for collaboration, and fostering public awareness with a dash of humor will all be key to ensuring that EV adoption doesn’t transform the grid into an overloaded system.

Addis is poised to become an example of sustainable EV adoption in Africa—with the right measures, early planning, and a commitment to grid resilience, the city can lead the way in embracing electric mobility while maintaining a strong, reliable power infrastructure

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

Editorial

A deserved testimony of valor!

Ethiopia despite the trials and tribulations throughout its history has been bearing the torch and remains at the forefront in promoting peace both globally and within Africa. Ethiopian servicemen and peacekeeping force, under the auspices of the United Nations and the African Union, have successfully and impeccably executed their mission in Korea, Congo, Somalia, Rwanda, Sudan, Liberia, and other countries, fulfilling their mission with distinction. This sacred virtue is in Ethiopia's DNA and is deeply rooted in its history.

The country's unwavering resolve to advance Africa's and the world's cause has not and will not falter with time and has remained steadfast through changing governments. Its impeccable peacekeeping missions are a stark reminder of its strong, unflinching stand and are part and parcel of its dedication to noble causes.

As a key participant in UN peacekeeping missions across conflict zones and contributing significantly to regional and global peace efforts, Ethiopia has earned a strong reputation for mediating disputes and brokering peace in countries like Somalia and Sudan, further solidifying its role as a regional stabilizer.

Ethiopian soldiers have made tremendous sacrifices in the pursuit of peace, often paying the ultimate price. Since the Korean War, the country has contributed significantly to international peacekeeping efforts. Its diplomatic resilience maintaining strong ties even with adversaries has been a hallmark of its foreign policy.

The country has played an indispensable role in curbing the prolonged conflict in Somalia, working to restore order, peace, and stability by countering the Al-Shabaab insurgency. Its contributions have been vital in helping Somalia, once a stronghold for Al-Shabaab, rebuild a functioning state and achieve self-reliance. Since 2007, Ethiopian forces under the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) have been key in combating Al-Shabaab and stabilizing the country. Ethiopia's efforts in restoring peace and stability in Somalia have earned widespread recognition, with Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) soldiers receiving African Union medals in acknowledgment of their service.

The recent awarding of UN medals to Ethiopian peacekeepers under the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) is not merely a ceremonial act but a profound acknowledgment of the selflessness and dedication of those serving in some of the world's most challenging conditions.

Alongside peacekeepers from South Korea and India, Ethiopian forces have demonstrated unwavering commitment to restoring peace and stability in South Sudan's volatile regions, particularly in Jonglei and the Greater Pibor Administrative Area.

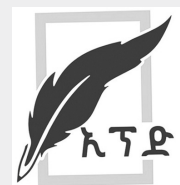
Lately, Ethiopian peacekeepers deployed in South Sudan under the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) have received UN medals for a variety of key contributions in South Sudan.

"While giving medals to uniformed peacekeepers may appear to be a standard procedure, it is an act that carries profound meaning. The Blue Helmets who receive them have proved their worth by demonstrating selflessness, commitment, and sacrifice, often under challenging circumstances, said Lieutenant-General Mohan Subramanian, Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), at three recent medal-pinning events in Bor.

The 18th Ethiopian contingent conducted 124 short and long-duration patrols, including some by air, to deter violence against civilians. They have also completed about 1,000-foot patrols and provided force protection for countless missions undertaken by UNMISS and humanitarian partners.

This recognition is a justification of Ethiopia's valor and heroism towards maintaining global peace and rekindling hope for the desperate.

To sum up, Ethiopia has remained a steadfast partner to countries near and far even during periods of nation upheaval. Across successive regimes, the country has demonstrated unwavering loyalty and credibility in its efforts to foster peace and stability. This glittering track record will continue down the roads with the valor and determination of its troops.



The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays
By The Ethiopian Press Agency

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The Ethiopian Herald

Opinion

Ethiopia's all weather commitment for African Unity has continued firm

BY MEKDES TAYE (PhD)

The people of Ethiopia and the leaders in different times have shown remarkable contribution to the values of pan Africanism. Especially the art and efficacy of Ethiopian leaders did drag back us to the period of Monarchical system. Emperor Haile Selassie took the initiative of building an organization that cares the issues of the continent to be faced and solved by Africans. As sources revealed, he contacted over 32 African countries' leaders and foreign ministers and convinced them to join the meeting that was going to be held at Addis Ababa for the mentioned purpose.

Since the idea was too new, countries were not willing to agree with the simplest approach. He was too smart in changing their minds to understand the objective of the idea of Africanism. Again, he was also supposed to persuade them about the seat of headquarters of the organization to be made at Addis Ababa.

As Mekonen Ketemawu said in an interview with VOA two years ago, the process was too tough. There were challenges like some of them were hard to express in words. But the strategy and personality of convincing people had helped him to get the heart of the leaders to vote for Addis Ababa.

As the historical speech of the emperor heard, his ambition was to start the journey of African Unity and solidarity that could be done by the cooperation and coming together of the countries. The base of this ambition was the historical path of the United States of America. He needed to see Africa to stand together as a united nation. Unity is the source of strength. Though he believed that this could not happen overnight, he was sure that this initiation could be taken up by the coming generation once it is started at a time.

The emperor was keen on to the freedom of countries those colonized. He was committed in giving hand and cooperated in the process of their independence. He was too close and cooperative with many African leaders. As Mekonnen said, the emperor was used to call African leaders as 'brothers' which is he believed smartness of the king to show his affection and care for them.

He dreamed the unity of Africa. With the diplomatic skill and efficacy, he exceedingly organized the union. Secondly his effective diplomacy was seen when he approached African leaders. Every leader was in need of basing the headquarters to their own cities. But the emperor was active and tactical that he got these leaders in the meetings that was about this issue and used his personal and leadership efficacy to influence their mind. Strategically, he could change their mind and stem the headquarters in Addis Ababa with the logical support of the influential leaders like Julius Nyerere of Tanzania.

After the downfall of the monarchical system, the military regime was also good in its diplomacy with African countries. Mengistu's regime was assisting the

rebellions of Zimbabwe during their freedom fight with British colonizers. He was creating various ties with African countries. Military alliances, economic cooperation, cultural diplomacies and related issues were done in the period.

After EPRDF took power the then PM Meles Zenawi has displayed commitment to maintain AU in Ethiopia. "It was the people like Julies Nyerere and Kwame Nkrumah who decided that Addis Ababa should be the headquarters of OAU. There is one fact irrespective of what government rules Ethiopia; Ethiopia has always been committed for African independence and liberation."

He amplified the relevance of togetherness as follows. "Every African and Ethiopian knows how it feels to be alone. We were alone on the table of Europeans during the League of Nations and we know what happened to us then. Now we are not alone; we have 53 African countries. Therefore every Ethiopian could understand the meaning of African unity."

By the same token, the current ruling party, prosperity party, is revealing its curiosity, commitment and vision to the unity and solidarity of Africa in the yearly meeting held in the city. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) the president of the ruling party uses to say points like the problems, issues, and any forms of the cases of the continent are going to be handled and treated by the indigenous knowledge of our forefathers. He usually reflects that Africans had the potential to solve out the issues of the continent. He believes that Africa knows how to approach its cases. It had a shining history in the context.

Particularly, during this year's AU submit, he underlined that the continent is booming its rate in population. Thus, he recalled the globe that this does mean a lot for the transformation and prosperity of the countries in the continent. Africa deserves its proper place at the United Nations Security Council with full veto power.

Besides, this population is the reliable input for any form of production. Therefore, Africa is going to be benefited from this resource and going to shine up than ever. On top of this, nations in the continent need to be alerted about the potential and effectiveness of their people and look out the bigger image of togetherness and cooperation with each other.

The Ethiopian government has taken actions that practically conveyed its level of commitment for Africanism. As the African Hall in Addis Ababa was the historical place that brought all African leaders to convene together for their own issues for the first time, the current leadership made a remarkable reform on the architectural and resilience of the building. He explained the great meaning this work gives for Africans. Since the place is assumed to be for Africans too, the primer said that the renovation of the Hall was made with this perspective. It is the sign of resilience, solidarity, unity, and togetherness. Thus, it is arranged with this sprit.

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

Business & Economy



Manufacturing in Ethiopia is registering promising result

Ethiopia's manufacturing sector attesting remarkable increase

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

The government has been exerting maximum effort to transform the nation's economy from agriculture led into industrial led one. To this end, it has been taking various measures that include homegrown economic reform agenda and a comprehensive macroeconomic reform program that has been launched recently to tackle long-standing economic challenges and transition to a more stable and competitive economy.

According to the recent report of Ministry of Planning and Development, in the last two decades double digit economic growth has been witnessed but regarding attaining transformation, very little achievement is registered. As to economists, agriculture still contributes more than 45% to the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) followed by service sector which is 40% and the remaining is contributed by the manufacturing industry and other sectors.

Since its power assumption six years ago, the government has emphasized on expansion of industrialization and clearly outlined the goals of economic development in its 10 years perspective development plan.

To evaluate activities and status of the industry sector, the high level Development Partners Group (DPG) Heads of Agencies conducted meeting with the officials of Ministries of Industry and Labor. On the occasion, they discussed vitality of skills Development to supply the labor market, sectorial reform, its sustainability and attaining transformation.

The Ministry of Industry disclosed that the manufacturing sector witnessed a remarkable increase in investment over the past year, signaling strong confidence from both local and foreign investors. Recent data underscores Ethiopia's significant strides in economic development, with a particular focus on the manufacturing and labor sectors.

At the same time, the DPG Heads of Agencies meeting held at the Ministry of Finance has also learnt that the Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) system has successfully trained over 7.8 million individuals in the past two years, with 3.5 million trained in the previous year alone.

The State Minister of Industry, Hassen Mohammed provided an encouraging outlook on Ethiopia's manufacturing landscape,

underscoring the government's dedication to the "Made in Ethiopia" initiative. A remarkable 40% increase was recorded in the sector's investment over the past year and ambitious goal set for raising the manufacturing sector's contribution to the national GDP from 6.8% in 2020 to 17.2% by 2030, it was reported.

The source of the growth, according to Hassan is the "Ethiopia Tamrit"/ "Made in Ethiopia" movement that have been undertaken for the past one and half years reinvigorating the industry sector.

He recalled that the "Made in Ethiopia" movement was launched by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD), with the aim of realizing a competitive manufacturing industry by solving the bottlenecks in the sector.

"Made in Ethiopia" movement is a national effort to create a competitive manufacturing industry by solving the multifaceted problems the sector encountered in a sustainable, integrated and comprehensive manner. The movement has been taken as bedrock for the economic development of the country. It is a national effort to create a competitive manufacturing industry by solving the challenges in the sector in a sustainable and comprehensive manner.

He further said that the movement has solved the problems faced in the sector through coordination and achieved great results.

He, therefore, urged stakeholders to work with greater cooperation and efforts by keeping the movement as the main basis of economic growth. The leadership at all levels should work with passion and determination, especially by fighting corruption and corrupt practices in the sector.

Moreover, he noted that solving problems related to policies and implementation through coordination should continue to be a task that cannot be left for tomorrow. Adding value to products, modernizing the procurement system and providing quality products for the domestic and international markets should be given attention.

As mentioned earlier, the manufacturing industry sector was projected to grow from 6.8% in 2020 to 17.2% by 2030, increase its production capacity to 85% from the current 50% target, and increase foreign trade revenue to 9 billion USD from the current 400 million USD.

Some 160 factories which are new and renovated have been operational by the

"Made in Ethiopia" movement. Therefore, huge production and productivity is expected as the result of the movement was effective.

In relation to the sector, Hassan said that utilization of energy has increased by 15% showing the ever-increasing demand of the industry sector.

The manufacturing sector reform is supported by the Homegrown Economic Reform Agenda and the Ten Years Perspective Development Plan, which underlines the establishment of industrial clusters, import substitution, and enhanced export promotion.

The State Minister also told the gathering that the import substitution initiative enables the country to save 2.8 billion USD in foreign currency over recent years as well as an increase in domestic market share for manufacturing to between 40% and 50%.

By the same token, Minister of Labor and Skills, Muferihat Kamil emphasized the urgent need for labor market reforms. She noted the necessity to equip Ethiopia's large youth population with the skills needed to thrive in the evolving job market and underscored the Ministry's commitment to promoting job creation and industrial peace.

She also highlighted important accomplishments stemming from the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system, which has successfully trained over 7.8 million individuals and helped to generate 9.6 million quality jobs in the past three years.

The Minister told the gathering that 57,000 trained and certified Ethiopians secured employment abroad, contributing to the economy. Notably, 345,000 individuals were sent abroad for employment opportunities in the last budget year.

It was also reported that Ethiopia has ascended to 10th place in the global entrepreneurship ranking within just three years, highlighting a progressive entrepreneurial climate.

The meeting concluded with an interactive question-and-answer session that sparked vibrant discussions among participants. Topics included customs efficiency, engagement of the private sector, and the significant role of Artificial Intelligence in training initiatives.

Both Ministers reiterated their commitment to cultivating an environment that supports private sector-driven growth and sustainable economic advancement.

Co-chair of the DPG Secretariat and State

Minister of Finance for Economic Cooperation for Ethiopia, Semereta Sewasew, for herself, expressed gratitude to all participants for their insights and reaffirmed the government's dedication to partnering with stakeholders to promote robust economic growth and development across Ethiopia.

She also noted that the meeting as a journey that needs to scale up underlining the importance of ongoing collaboration remains essential for addressing challenges and unlocking opportunities in the manufacturing and labor sectors.

As to Semereta, the robust reform being executed by the government in recent years has been critical for the surge of the manufacturing sector. The measure enabled the sector to identify new opportunities and tackle emerging challenges. In addition, it serves to maximize the industries' production amount both qualitatively and quantitatively, enhance their employing capacity and tap the market.

She further commended the reform activities being undertaken by the government of Ethiopia particularly in the economic sector, including the recently launched macroeconomic reform policy that is under implementation brought optimism to investors to produce in their full capacity with no anxiety with regard to securing hard currency in Banks.

For the State Minister, improvements carried out in logistics, power supply and other infrastructural developments have been pivotal to enhance the manufacturers' production capacity. "Made in Ethiopia", the national movement has been also instrumental to further mobilizing the manufacturing sector at the national level in recent years.

So, basic manufacturing services have been improving following the reforms undertaken for the past six years, Semereta noted. Accordingly, the sector registers 10.1% annual growth as a result of the reform. Stating that the country is making major reforms in the sector, she urged investors to benefit from such incredible opportunities.

The forum is a good opportunity to identify the opportunities and challenges, she said, adding it aims also to utilizing opportunities and resolving challenges together. Various organizations, including the World Bank, the UN, EU and other development partners participated in the DPG meeting, it was learned.

Art & Culture

Life devoted to art

BY MENGISTAB TESHOME

Artist Yadesa Zwege Bojia was born in West Showa Asgori city in the Oromia State of Ethiopia. He is the eighteenth child born after eight sons and nine daughters. His father was noted for playing a major role in the Oromo Tulama struggle. When his father was killed along with his friend, Yadesa ran away from home and began to live in Addis Ababa at a young age.

He attended primary school at Yekatit 23. He was an outstanding school and scored high marks in the eighth-grade national exam, so he attended Addis Ketema High School.

Although Yadesa believes that it is not wise to compete, but to learn; He spent his childhood in racing. Later, he joined Addis Ababa University College of Commerce. He earned his bachelor's degree in accounting. Yadesa, entered the United States after completing his university studies; But when he went to America, he quit accounting and studied design at Seattle University.

Yadesa Zewge Bojia let Ethiopia's name be raised via his works by designing the emblem of the African Union. He is our guest.

Could you brief us on what your childhood looked like?

Although my family was very well off; I grew up leading a troublesome life. Since our father was killed and our house was confiscated, we were forced to live on aids. Growing up in adversity, I learned that greatness is not measured by wealth. So I measured people in terms of their personalities.

I am the eighteenth child of my house. Only Gash Goroku the eldest child of the house was born from another mother. The other eighteen of us were born from same parents.

When did you realize art is your calling and start translating it into action?

My passion for art is boundless. But they could not study art in Ethiopia. As soon as I completed grade 12, I was assigned to Town Planning College. But they declined to take me up claiming it is not possible because my grade in mathematics was "B". So I was denied the chance and instead studied accounting. But as soon as I went to America, I studied fine art.

Fine art presupposes generating ideas from oneself; and commercial art is designing and drawing to meet the needs of the buyer, not one's feelings. By mastering these two, I was able to kill two birds with a stone. What I do now is not only confined to my work; I juggle different jobs. I did the African Union's logo in the same way.



“My brother wrote the song lyrics. The song posed the question of what the fate of the Oromo people will be. I sang the song without contemplating it.”

While I was in Ethiopia, as a child I used to practice painting. I decorated hotels. When I was still in elementary school I drew a picture with a caption, “I will be like my father.” The picture is of wartime, so the father is dressed in military uniform and the son is standing next to him. So, I would try.

People knew this, so they looked for me to give me information. People used to tip me with ideas of wonderful designs. But since I was a student, I didn't take the tips seriously.

Can we say that your childhood is entirely permeated by art?

When I was a kid I used to sing a song in

Afan Oromo language. At that time, people did not sing much that way. It wasn't that common for me to sing a song called Gangen Oromo in Oromo as a child in the top six. My brother wrote the song lyrics. The song posed the question of what the fate of the Oromo people will be. I sang the song without contemplating it.

The contents of the songs mostly revolved around my country. If I include my own story, I was pushed out of my country; I sang a song called I will not forget my country. Even if I sing in any language, whether in Amharic or any other language, I will never forget respecting my Oromoness. We cannot be one another's enemies.

Language doesn't matter. For example, not because he speaks Oromo, but as an Amhara, he can speak Oromo. There is such a thing as intimacy. I consider everything that I have been through as a blessing. I enjoy knowing and learning.

What did you further practice in art after you went to America?

Yes! I designed the logos many hotels. I created corporate accounts as well as websites. I have worked for many people in commercial art. I have also exhibited in many galleries at Fine Art.

When the name Yadesa is raised, the logo of the African Union is mentioned. What initiated you to design the AU logo?

In the past, when a big design request came up, people informed me to compete. I participated in many of them. But when I saw this, I really wanted and thought about it, so I took my time and studied about the Organization of African Union (OAU) first. They wanted Africa to be portrayed as a country. It was the African Union (AU) but it had to be separated. I studied that well. When we competed, they wanted it to be like a country.

What activities are you undertaking to promote the country's culture and art?

A sense of possibility dawned on me. If

Addis Ababa is able to grow and come up with allurements everyone can do it. The contagiousness of this spirit to everyone is great. People will learn more than me. I believe that it will be respected.

What are you doing to promote the country's culture and art?

I have various pictures related to Irrecha. I have a very famous painting. I also have an award-winning song I wrote about a woman from Ambo. The song is famous in America.

Sunday is the day of Irrecha

Glittering charming girl like light

Trek to Bishoftu

Pray for peace....

This shows how and why a young Irrecha went from Ambo to Bishoftu to celebrate and died. I believe that marking Irrecha is a fundamental right of the Oromo. Respecting culture is also good for the country. It will set a lesson for the coming generations. So I can mention this among what I have done in terms of promoting culture through art.

Have you ever participated in an Irrecha since you started living abroad?

Yes, we were celebrating Irrecha in America, so I have been participating year after year.

Apart from the painting picture, is it possible to expect you as a singer?

Why not? Artistry is about generating ideas though it is also expressed in paintings, song, and other works of art. Expressing our ideas differently allows our ideas to be more influential.

How many songs have you sung?

The album consists of twelve songs. I also have four singles. And now I have a new English song. I just did it recently; I didn't promote it in a profound fashion. I have three songs in Oromo.

What do you plan to do in the future with art?

I got a lot for myself. But now I think about the people. Therefore, I am making an effort to educate children in cooperation with the Oromia Regional State. In the future, requesting land I will take a place and open a gallery where children can learn. I want others to find what I could not find while living in this country. It takes a lot of resources and property to open another school. I believe that if I get such help, I will let the country unleash young talents.

How long have you been in America?

I have been there for twenty-nine years and I came in 2012 for a wedding.

(Adopted from Addis Zemen)

Science & Technology

Science Fair: scouting for talents, promoting inventors to entrepreneurs

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

Soresa Tadesse is attending his secondary education in Saden Adea Secondary School in Bishoftu city. Parallel his formal class, Soresa joins Foka STEM Energy in Bishoftu as he has special interest to science and math subjects. After he joined the Foka STEM Center, it helped him to develop his knowledge and cultivate his talents in the science field. The practical education he received from the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) center helped him not only to develop his knowledge in the fields, but also to translate his idea into innovational products.

By innovate an Autonomous Driving Robot; Soresa came to compete at the 9th National Science and Engineering Fair, organized by Ministry of Education with other stakeholders at Addis Ababa Science and Technology University (AASTU), in Addis Ababa where talented primary and high school students from across the country attend the competition. Participated for the first time at the national Science Fair, Soresa won the national Science Fair (students' competition) in robotics category.

Speaking to *The Ethiopian Herald*, Soresa said that beyond winning the competition in robotics category, the experience he learnt from the science fair is more valuable to realize his vision. "The competition is interesting as it exhibits a lot of innovations created by students and I am happy for winning the robotics category. Beyond winning the competition, the experience means a lot for me," Soresa said mentioning the four days experience sharing event with other talented participant students and from the invited guests.

Soresa's Autonomous Driving Robot, is a robot designed to perform its activities by moving from place to place independently using its automatic sensors. It has the ability to detect obstacles and safely pass the obstacles during its movement. He designed the robot dreaming to develop robotics in Ethiopia. He said that the robot is designed to perform different tasks in factories to fulfill difficult tasks.

Soresa is dreaming to realize his idea of creating a company and manufacturing his own designed robot for actual purpose as it currently is at prototype level. As to him, his participation at the national science fair, the experience he got from the fair and the recognition he received as he won the robotics sector competition initiated him to continue working on translating his innovative ideas into a practical product. So far there is no autonomous driving car in Ethiopia, Soresa said adding despite his current idea is autonomous robot, he is dreaming to create an autonomous driving car in Ethiopia in the future. Soresa calls the youth generation to cultivate their talents, to give due focus to science and



Participants of the 9th National Science and Engineering Fair displaying their innovative products to visitors

math education and to join STEM Centers to develop their innovative talents as there are theoretical and practical trainings.

Yonathan Afework, is a grade 12 student in Adama City and parallel to his formal class he joined the Adama Science and Technology University STEM Center as he loves science and math subjects. Yonathan also participated at the National Science and Engineering Fair bringing his own designed IOT Assisted Vertical Fodder Producing Machine. He designed the machine after taking the practically-supported trainings he got from the STEM Center.

Yonathan's ideas is to produce a machine that can produce nutrient-rich fodder as he realized there is a shortage of fodder especially during dry seasons. His idea is to develop a machine that can produce nutrient-rich fodder to address shortage of fodder in Ethiopia, a country with top livestock resource in Africa. Yonathan also won the competition in the category at the ninth national science and engineering fair, which brings talented innovator teachers and students from across 29 STEM Centers and 10 regional states of Ethiopia.

"I am happy as I won the competition in the specific category at national level and it initiates me to translate it in to practical project," Yonathan noted dreaming to create a company in the future.

"The key issue here is not to win the competition, but translating the ideas into practical projects that can solve existing problems" he underlined. He eyes to create a business and wealth by realizing his innovative idea into a meaningful project in the near future. As to him, his innovative machine was designed to produce fodder by using sustainable inputs with variety of nutrients.

Teachers and Educational Leadership Development Lead CEO, Muluken Negatu (PhD) said that the national science and engineering fair is organized for the ninth round and is organizing in connection with World Science Day. The main goal of organizing the national teachers and students' science fair, according to him, is to develop STEM education in Ethiopia as it is key driver of development.

Approached by *The Ethiopian Herald*, Muluken said that Ethiopia gives due attention to quality education and the science sector remains top priority in this regard. As to him, the development of developed countries was achieved by developing STEM education. Hence, in addition to working on developing quality education at school level, the Ministry of Education started organizing national science and engineering competition to cultivate talents, to promote innovators and researchers in the STEM education. During the 9 rounds, the National Science and Engineering Fair promote a lot of innovators, researchers and entrepreneurs currently creating and owning technological companies. The national annual competition promotes science education and creates competition among students.

In addition to the national level competition, Muluken said that, Ministry of Education is creating structures to promote lower structures to organize science and engineering fairs at regional, zonal, district and school levels. This helps to cultivate talents at the grassroots level early and develop the competition. The national participants, as to him, are winners from each area and the winners at the national level are winners of winners.

"The fair brings not only competitive participants, but also stakeholders from

various sectors and company owners with the aim of creating linkages between the innovators and stakeholders to help realizing the innovations," Muluken reiterated. As to him, the aim of the annual science fair is not limited to award the winners, but to promote youths to continue invest on innovations and to support the innovators to create linkages with companies and entrepreneurs to achieve their goal. As to him, the goals is all about creating innovative businesses, promoting scientific innovations and promote local technological inventions to create local technology companies.

For example, Ezedin Kamil, founder and CEO of IBEX Technologies, was among the winners of the national science fair some six years ago. By developing his idea, Ezedin created his own technology company creating a lot of job opportunities for youths. Ezedin visited the 9th science fair and inspired the innovators to continue working on their innovations and create their own businesses. He translated his innovative technological ideas in to products and becomes an entrepreneur. He shares his experience to the participants and calls youths to continue working on develop their talents and create businesses by translating the talents in to products. "You have to continue to realize your problem-solving innovations. You have to use this opportunity to elevate your project ideas in to new heights," he added.

Mentioned the success of Ezedin, Muluken further stated that the national competition is hunting talents to help realize their innovations and the fair shows significance progress from year to year. As to him, Ministry of Education is working to strengthen the science fair at school and local levels to reach and hunt talented students in rural areas of the country.

Society

Promoting Ethiopian traditional medicine!

BY TEWODROS KASSA

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), traditional medicine has a long history. It is the sum of the knowledge, skills, and practices based on the theories, beliefs, and experiences indigenous to different cultures, whether explicable or not, used in the maintenance of health and the prevention, diagnosis, improvement, or treatment of physical and mental illness.

WHO recommends that countries integrate traditional medicine into their national health systems while ensuring that products and practices meet quality, safety, and efficacy standards. The WHO also recommends that consumers are educated and can make informed choices about traditional medicine.

It is believed that more than 80 percent of Ethiopians utilize traditional healing at different times and for different illnesses. The Ethiopian Prof. Aklilu Lemma found a treatment for Schistosomiasis (Bilharzia) from *Endod*, the Ethiopian endemic plant. Since then, other traditional healers have also cured numerous scientifically incurable diseases and provided services dispersed across the country.

In the rural parts of Ethiopia, most traditional healers have been providing their services freely and are still healing both humans and animals.

However, the sector is currently generating a good income for traditional healers in urban areas through curing numerous diseases. Especially, in Addis Ababa the service demand is growing among the people and numerous service users are traveling long distances (from different parts of the country) to access traditional medicines.

Ustaz Nuru Jemal is a traditional healer based in Addis Ababa. He was born in Southern Gondar in Adis Zemen Town. He studied Plant Science at Gondar University and served in his profession after graduation. His father practiced the utilization of traditional wisdom to heal people for more than 70 years.

Thus, Ustaz Nuru started exercising traditional healing by learning and inheriting from his father when he was a teenager. He has been practicing traditional healing for the past couple of decades.

However, attracted to the traditional healing skills that his father had been exercising during his childhood, he grasped the knowledge and started practicing it.

Currently, Ustaz Nuru is 42 years old and has become a famous traditional healer in Ethiopia. He is the Founder and Manager of Mina Traditional Medicine Center located in Addis Ababa, around Bethel. He strives to harness the wisdom of Ethiopian traditional healing by effectively modernizing his traditional healing knowledge inherited from his father by integrating it with his modern educational achievement.

He aspires to repeat Prof. Aklilu Lemma's



Ustaz Nuru Jemal

In the future, he dreams of exporting Ethiopian traditional medicines like China. This sector is Ethiopia's intangible heritage and asset that should be developed well and researched more to harness its untapped potential

footprint through discovering his own patented cure for diseases from medicinal plants.

Ustaz Nuru Jemal told *The Ethiopian Herald* that integrating Ethiopian traditional healing with modern medication is important to harness the sector's potential.

As to him, herbals found in urban areas are not much needed for traditional medicine since the leaves are exposed to vehicle and factory smoke and can be toxic as they attract fumes. Therefore, most Ethiopian traditional healers do not consume plants grown in the urban areas as an input for traditional medicine; thus, collect their medicinal plants from remote areas.

"Fertilizers, pesticides, smoke from manufacturing industries, and vehicles are toxic to be utilized as a traditional healing. Cleanliness is also the core of traditional healing. Thus, traveling far from urban areas is mandatory to collect medicinal plants to ensure its curing potential," he said.

He believes that there is no incurable disease in traditional healing worldwide unless the medicine is not discovered yet.

He has collected and stored dozens of medicinal plants to be utilized as disease prevention for his clients.

October and November are the proper seasons to collect medicinal plants for traditional medication in Ethiopia, he said.

"Learning scientific education immensely contributed to me to identify how to reforest plants, use it, and understand basic characters."

Currently, he is also a member of the Ethiopian Traditional Healers Association and serves the Association to strengthen itself and manage the sector effectively. So far, he believes that building the credibility of traditional healing is still a challenge, especially in urban areas.

Though, Ethiopia is blessed with diverse plant species as its climate, soil, and water resources are suitable to grow every medicinal plant species, the country has been generating lower from the sector compared

to China, India, and Germany, among other countries. Numerous countries are prioritizing the contributions of traditional medicine and generating a tangible income through exporting traditional medicines.

Therefore, the country will become a proper destination for traditional healing like China and India if pertinent stakeholders work actively regarding developing the sector, he underscored.

All in all, Ethiopian traditional healers meander every forest of the country as well as the Ethio-Sudan, and Ethio-Kenya borders to find medicinal plants that cure various diseases in humans and animals.

Ustaz Nuru mostly collects the medicinal plants he utilized for healing various diseases from the desert areas such as Metema and Quara as well as travel to Afar and other areas to meet his clients' treatment demands.

In the future, he dreams of exporting Ethiopian traditional medicines like China. This sector is Ethiopia's intangible heritage and asset that should be developed well and researched more to harness its untapped potential.

Currently, he is working with overseas pharmaceutical manufacturers and local sector experts to modernize the sector. He is contributing his part to promoting Ethiopian traditional healing sectors like the Chinese and Indian healers through utilizing technological advancements.

In sum, WHO also recognizes the diversity of traditional, complementary, and integrative medicine (T&CM) practices across countries of the world and its contribution to health, well-being, people-centered health care, and universal health coverage. Appropriately, integrated T&CM can improve health outcomes by increasing the availability of services, especially at the level of primary health care. Many countries have a long history of traditional medicine and practitioners that are important in providing care to populations, and WHO recognizes that traditional, complementary, and alternative medicine has many benefits.

Headway to harness...

among others.

In addition, the cultural landscape of the destination including festivals, cultural routes, museums, and cultural heritage could be re-created to have an interactive role and provide better and more engaging experiences co-created between the visitors and the local population.

Recently, the Africa Celebrates 2024 event was held at the African Hall in Addis Ababa with the participation of numerous African actors and other stakeholders in the cultural sector.

Accordingly, the Africa Celebrates is an annual event designed to support the development and prosperity of the continent by connecting Africa through education, art, culture, and technology.

At the event, Africans are urged to adequately use the potential of tourism for sustainable economic development and prosperity.

On the occasion, Ethiopia's Tourism Minister, Selamawit Kassa said that Africa has a tourism potential that could enhance its economic growth and prosperity.

Stating that Ethiopia is an ancient country endowed with various historical heritages and unique cultures, she highlighted the significance of such continental events to showcase these attractions to African brothers and sisters.

There is huge potential for the African continent to be globally competent and



a very unique destination that can ensure sustainable socioeconomic benefits, she indicated.

"Organizing events like this, Africa Celebrates, would indisputably enhance the visibility of Africa as a continent and Ethiopia as a host country showcasing our variant products, offering and setting a path to unleash untapped potential."

'Africa Celebrates' is an opportunity to use Africa's diverse culture, art, and creativity for the development and prosperity of the continent, the Minister added.

Tourism excels in its role in accelerating economic growth by strengthening people-to-people ties, Selamawit said noting that Africa has the potential to be competitive across the globe in the sector.

According to the Minister, Africa is a continent with unique and magnificent tourism destinations that can expedite its social and economic development, so platforms like Africa Celebrates are useful to promote these potentials to the world.

Historical and cultural heritages in Africa

should be utilized as tourism attractions to realize a peaceful, united, and prosperous Africa, she urged.

As the birthplace of Pan-Africanism, Ethiopia is ready to tap the tourism potential through cooperation, the Minister affirmed.

"Ethiopia is a destination for Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) tourism being a vibrant diplomatic center of Africa and Addis Ababa stands out as a classic destination for MICE."

General Manager of Africa Celebrates, Lexi Mojo for his part said the African Celebrates is an annual event organized with the main objective of enhancing trade exchange and cultural ties among Africans to realize the continent's prosperity.

The Director General of Pan African Trade and Industry Council, Kibur Gena on his part said that the creative art industry has a 2.5 trillion USD market and 50 million jobs worldwide.

However, he added that Africa currently spends less than 0.03 percent of its annual budget on creativity and arts, stressing the

need for more attention.

Burundi's Ambassador to Ethiopia Willine Yamituwe underscored that Africans should strengthen their unity and mutual understanding in order to use their culture, history and heritage for economic development.

"Africa Celebrates is not just a festival; it is the world's largest event showcasing Africa's unity in diversity. We gathered here to share our cultures, arts, stories and most importantly our heritages," the Ambassador pointed out.

The Africa Celebrates 2024 event was held focusing on promoting African art, culture, heritage, technology and business. Ambassadors of African countries, scholars of economics, elders, media professionals, tourism actors and others attended this important continental event.

What is more, creative tourism is a type of tourism that involves visitors participating in creative activities and learning experiences to connect with the local culture and people. Above all, it is a way for tourists to feel like part of the community and gain a more authentic experience.

In sum, linking the creative industries with tourism can boost demand, stimulate innovations in tourism experiences, revitalize tourism products, add atmosphere to destinations, and improve place image. Creative tourism was first defined in 2000 and it offers a new way of redesigning non-interactive mode of discovering cultural tourism.

Africa: New Step in African Region's Efforts to Eliminate Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV, Syphilis and Hepatitis B

Brazzaville — The World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Africa has launched a Regional Validation Committee for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B virus, marking a pivotal moment in ensuring a healthier future for every mother and child across Africa.

The Regional Validation Committee has a crucial task of verifying the content, validity and quality of the national validation reports towards the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of the three infections.

Validating the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B is a transparent process using a set of standard criteria, processes and tools to certify that a country has achieved the elimination goals. It requires rigorous assessment at the national, regional and global levels of a set of impact and process indicators and the fulfilment of the four foundational requirements: data quality, programmes, laboratory quality, and human rights, gender equality and community engagement.

The committee - whose inaugural meeting was held in Brazzaville on 25-26 November 2024 - comprises members from Botswana, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Uganda, the United States and Zimbabwe. The launch of the Regional Validation Committee underscores countries' commitment to effectively end the transmission of the three infections.

"The establishment of the (committee)

reflects the scale of our commitment to supporting Member States and recognising their progress towards triple elimination of these significant public health threats," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa.

The African region has made notable progress against HIV. Over 21.3 million people are now on life-saving antiretroviral treatment, and in Eastern and Southern Africa, 90% of pregnant women receive antiretroviral therapy to protect their babies from HIV. However, this progress is not universal. In West and Central Africa (WCA) progress is slower.

The Regional Validation Committee will rigorously reviewing national reports, identifying gaps, and supporting countries to meet the rigorous standards for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B validation. The committee will ensure that progress is measurable and impactful. More than a validation body, it will serve as a catalyst for stronger, more resilient health systems.

Guided by WHO's Framework for Triple Elimination and a tiered certification process (bronze, silver, and gold), the committee offers high-burden countries a roadmap for progress. Botswana's silver-tier status for HIV elimination and Namibia's achievements for hepatitis B and HIV elimination are shining examples of what can be achieved with dedication and collaboration.

"The triple elimination agenda is part of our

collective efforts towards ending diseases in Africa and articulates the vision and strategy for multi-disease burden reduction for the region," Dr Moeti said.

Source: WHO-AFRO.

Nigeria: Presidency Speaks On Privatisation of Port Harcourt Refinery, Others

For decades, the refineries have performed below optimal levels despite the huge resources earmarked for their rehabilitation.

The presidency has announced that plans for the complete privatisation of Nigeria's state-owned refineries are currently underway.

Sunday Dare, the special adviser, media and public communications to President Bola Tinubu, disclosed this in a reforms tracker posted on his X handle on Sunday.

The tracker highlights the key milestones achieved by Mr Tinubu's administration in the oil sector.

"Full privatisation of Port Harcourt, Warri, Kaduna refining in the works. Local oil refining and production to peak steadily with Dangote and modular refineries active. With full local refining capacity gradually being met, days of fuel queues to end," it said.

Nigeria has four major refineries, two in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, which combine to form the Port Harcourt Refining Company (PHRC) with a combined installed capacity of 210,000 barrels per day (bpd); the Kaduna Refining and Petrochemical Company Limited (KRPC) with an installed capacity of 110,000 bpd; and the Warri Refining and

Petrochemical Company Limited (WRPC) with an installed capacity of 125,000 bpd.

All the refineries have a combined installed capacity of 445,000 barrels per day.

For decades, the refineries have performed below optimal levels despite the huge resources earmarked for their rehabilitation.

In May 2023, the House of Representatives ad-hoc committee on the state of refineries in the country said the federal government spent over N11 trillion on the rehabilitation of the refineries from 2010 to 2023.

The moribund state of the local refineries pushed Nigeria to depend solely on the importation of petroleum products for domestic use for many years, constituting a major drain on the nation's foreign reserves.

For decades, successive administrations have promised and made moves aimed at reviving the nation's refineries to reduce dependency on petrol importation but have failed.

In August 2023, the President Bola Tinubu administration assured that the PHRC would become functional by December after numerous failed attempts, noting that Warri would come on stream by the end of the first quarter of 2024, and Kaduna would also come on board towards the end of 2024. However, the timelines were not met.

PREMIUM TIMES had in October reported the Nigerian government's failed moves and unfulfilled promises to revive moribund refineries.

Source: Premium Times.



This is Ethiopia

Headway to harness creative tourism potentials

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Experts in the tourism sector urge that conventional sea-sun-sand tourism or cultural tourism where tourists see things does not satisfy them anymore. Thus, new form of tourism, that meets the new demand and known as creative tourism, has emerged.

Accordingly, in major cities such as Barcelona, Paris, and Rome, creative tourism is now being developed as an alternative to mass cultural tourism. Creative tourism is experience-based and educational tourism, which makes tourists live like locals, interact with locals, see their way of living, take part in it, and learn.

Therefore, countries are now exploring more about the newly emerged creative tourism to attract more tourists and generate a tangible income from the sector.

In 2006, UNESCO determined creative tourism as “travel directed toward an engaged and authentic experience, with participative learning in the arts, heritage, or special character of a given place; and



it provides a connection with those who reside in this place and create this living culture.”

Thus, creative tourism is considered the new generation of tourism, characterized

by co-creating authentic experiences between locals and tourists. This new way of discovering, the genuine culture by experiencing it with the locals, has been growing for the last decade. The creative arts sector can also contribute to tourism in

a number of ways, including; enriching the visitor experience through integrating the tourists with locals, promoting sustainable tourism, and developing new demand,

See Headway to ... page 21



Published Bimonthly in Collaboration with Ethiopian Electric Power

EEP commences second round SAP technology

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

The second phase of the SAP technology that will update the Enterprise Resource Planning System - ERP of Ethiopian Electric Power has officially started to be implemented this week with the completed eleven modules.

Chief Executive Officer of Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP), Engineer Asheber Balcha, officially launched the completed operational modules. During the first phase of the SAP implementation, filling the gaps and correcting those that are not convenient for operation should be taken seriously.

Also, EEP's Modernization Department Director, Genetu Desalegn, the second phase of the 22 modules related to finance, asset management, employment and human resource management are 11 modules that will be fully completed and put into operation. The remaining 11 modules have been made minor adjustments and are being implemented soon.

Similarly, Ethiopian Airlines Chief Information Officer, Getnet Taddese and other officials involved in the matter briefed EEP officials about the modules.

When the modules are fully implemented, they will play a key role in establishing a

strong resource control system, reducing the institution's costs and streamlining operations, refining data and modernizing the services and procedures provided by the institution. As Ethiopia continues to expand its electric power infrastructure and services, the integration of advanced technologies becomes increasingly critical. One such technology is SAP (Systems, Applications, and Products in Data Processing), which offers a suite of applications that can significantly enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of electric power management.

SAP technology enables the automation of various processes within the electric power sector, from generation to distribution. By streamlining operations, utilities can reduce manual errors, improve response times, and enhance overall productivity. This efficiency is crucial for meeting the growing energy demands of the population.

SAP systems provide robust data management capabilities, allowing for real-time tracking and analysis of energy consumption, generation, and network performance. Improved data reporting helps decision-makers identify trends, forecast demand, and optimize resources. This is particularly important in Ethiopia, where reliable data can inform better planning and investment

decisions.

Effective asset management is vital for maintaining the infrastructure of electric power systems. SAP technology can help utilities monitor the health of assets, schedule maintenance, and manage inventory. This proactive approach reduces downtime, extends the lifespan of equipment, and ensures that the power supply remains stable and reliable.

With the growing customer base in Ethiopia, effective customer relationship management (CRM) becomes essential. SAP solutions can enhance customer service by enabling better communication, personalized services, and efficient handling of billing and inquiries. This leads to increased customer satisfaction and trust in the utility provider.

SAP technology provides comprehensive financial management tools that can help electric power companies in Ethiopia manage budgets, track expenses, and ensure compliance with financial regulations. These tools facilitate better financial planning, enabling utilities to allocate resources more effectively and invest in necessary infrastructure upgrades.

SAP technology can support the integration of renewable sources, particularly hydroelectric

and wind power, into the national grid by providing tools for monitoring, forecasting, and optimizing energy production. This can help the country transition towards a more sustainable energy future.

As the sector evolves, compliance with local and international regulations becomes increasingly important. SAP systems can streamline compliance processes and ensure accurate reporting, helping utilities adhere to regulatory requirements and avoid penalties.

SAP technology offers scalable solutions that can adapt to changing needs as the sector expands. This flexibility allows utilities to implement new functionalities and processes without overhauling existing systems, ensuring that they can keep pace with growth.

The application of SAP technology in EEP holds significant promise for enhancing operational efficiency, improving customer service, and supporting sustainable energy initiatives. By adopting these advanced systems, utilities can better manage resources, respond to challenges, and contribute to the country's economic development and energy security. As Ethiopia continues to develop its electric power infrastructure, the integration of SAP technology will be a critical factor in achieving its goals.