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Ethiopia's Electric generation surpasses 6,000 MW

Accelerating green energy transition

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA –The Ministry of Water and Energy (MoWE) announced that Ethiopia's energy generation capacity has exceeded 6,000MW, marking a significant milestone in the country's green energy transition by tapping into its abundant renewable energy resources.

Speaking to *The Ethiopian Herald*, Mesfin Dabi, Electrification and Energy Information Lead Executive Officer at MoWE, highlighted that Ethiopia has made remarkable progress toward building a green economy. "This year, the country's energy generation capacity has surpassed 6,000MW. We are implementing comprehensive policy reforms to unlock our renewable energy potential and aim to double

this output in the near future," he said.

Ethiopia's commitment to green energy transformation is reflected in its focus on developing both energy production and infrastructure. The MoWE has constructed over 20,000 kilometers of transmission lines and expanded distribution infrastructure to

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Chinese firm lauds Ethiopia's investment policy reform

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA – Huajian International Light Industry City Special Economic Zone has commended Ethiopia's investment policy reform, which fosters a favorable investment climate, attracting international and domestic investors.

The Ministry of Transport and Logistics has organized the Ethio Green Mobility 2024 Exhibition and Symposium, taking place for over a week at the China-Ethiopia

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Nation leverages COP29 to advance climate goals, secure partnerships

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Experts: Taking long view on Ethiopian investment bank

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

Ethiopia is within an ace of launching its first investment bank, a significant step aimed at enhancing its economic aspirations and improving financial services. Experts have commended the move as a breakthrough to stimulate the economy.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, a former Wall Street banker and founder of several businesses in Ethiopia, Ermias Amelga described the announcement by the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia to launch an investment bank as a landmark event for the country's financial landscape.

According to him, through pursuing regulatory reforms and facilitating the establishment of investment banks, Ethiopia is to making significant progress



towards developing a robust capital market infrastructure. "I believe, this makeover is expected to stimulate economic growth, create job opportunities, and improve the overall financial health of the nation."

Ermias noted that Ethiopia's evolving economy presents considerable opportunities for both local and foreign players. Major Banks, in public and private

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News



Dereje Duguma (MD)

Ministry working to eliminate HIV/AIDS threat by 2030

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopia is intensifying its efforts to eliminate HIV/AIDS as a public health threat by 2030, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH).

The MoH is aggressively working to reduce the threat of HIV-related diseases by preventing and controlling the spread of the deadly virus.

The Ministry made these remarks yesterday during a press briefing held in conjunction with World AIDS Day 2024.

State Minister Dereje Duguma (MD) stated that despite a decline in the national HIV infection rate compared to previous years, HIV/AIDS remains a significant public health threat.

To achieve the goal of creating an HIV/AIDS-free generation, the MoH plans to launch various awareness campaigns in the near future.

The Ministry aims to reduce HIV/AIDS mortality and infection rates to 0.01% by 2030 nationwide.

According to a 2024 study by the Ethiopian Public Health Institute, the national HIV prevalence rate has declined to 0.87%, with 7,428 new infections annually. Approximately 605,238 people are currently living with HIV/AIDS in the country, and around 10,065 die from the disease each year.

Addis Ababa has the highest prevalence rate at 3.25%, followed by Gambela State at 3.24%.

The MoH will focus on vulnerable populations in remote and conflict-affected areas by providing diagnostic services, interrupting transmission, and creating better living conditions.

The Ministry aims to achieve a 95-95-95 target by 2025, ensuring that 95% of the population is tested for HIV, 95% of those diagnosed receive treatment, and 95% of those on treatment achieve viral suppression.

The MoH is also working to improve access to HIV/AIDS services in all health centers, particularly focusing on reducing mother-to-child transmission.

World AIDS Day 2024, to be marked globally tomorrow for the 36th time, under the theme: "Take the Rights Path: My Health, My Right."

Abbay Dam pivotal to foster economic interdependence

BY NAOL GIRMA

ADDIS ABABA - Prominent Ethiopian media practitioner and advocate of equitable utilization of Nile waters stressed the necessity of fostering economic interdependence among Nile riparian countries.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, Kings Of Abay Media Manager Ustaz Jemal Bashir indicated that Nile River holds immense potential for strengthening regional cooperation and mutual growth among riparian countries.

Nile is a common resource for all riparian countries and thus enhancing regional cooperation is mandatory, he stressed.

Citing the positive perception of some Egyptian scholars towards the vitality of Nile waters to Ethiopians, Jemal said that the radical thought of some Egyptian conservatives has become less extreme through time.

He suggested the government of Egypt to follow suit considering the need for mutual growth among all Nile riparian countries.

By supplying sufficient hydropower to Sudan and Egypt and other riparian countries, Ethiopia can meet the regional energy demand through utilizing its grand dam and other energy generating projects. These countries should also maintain multilateral collaboration in investment, transportation, communication and trade,



he stated.

“Joint initiatives for managing water resources are encouraged to ensure equitable distribution and address concerns about water security.”

Ustaz Jemal also emphasized that historical mistrust among the Nile Basin countries concerning water rights must be overcome through dialogues and negotiations, which are still ongoing. Thus confidences should be rebuilt as well as mutual understandings need be created.

Using the political and ideological differences among Ethiopians, there are some external

elements who are interfering in the country’s domestic affairs to gain political benefits. However, he noted that Ethiopians have common values which kept them together in tolerance regardless of any kind of disagreements.

Ustaz Jemal also suggested the need to maintain Ethiopia’s fraternity with the Arab world. “We have preserved a long lasting relationship with Arab Countries especially with the Arab League. This relationship should further be strengthened in trade and investment and other spheres,” he recommended.

UN commemorates Palestinian int’l solidarity day here

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA – On the commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, The United Nations (UN) emphasized the need to implement a two-state solution to ensure peace and security in the Middle East.

The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people was celebrated yesterday at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) compound in the presence of ambassadors residing in Addis Ababa.

UN Assistant-Secretary-General, UN Resident, and Humanitarian Coordinator Ramiz Alakbarov (PhD) stated that it is crucial for an immediate ceasefire, the unconditional release of all hostages, an end to the unlawful occupation - as confirmed by the International Court of Justice and the General Assembly, and irreversible progress towards a two-state solution in line with international law and relevant UN resolutions - with Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security.

“As a matter of urgency, I appeal for full support of life-saving humanitarian relief for the people - particularly through the work of UNRWA, which represents an



irreplaceable lifeline for millions of people.”

“It is a must for us to start with a long-term humanitarian ceasefire, unrestricted access for life-saving aid, the release of all hostages, the protection of civilians, and an end to violations of international humanitarian law,” Ramiz stressed.

Palestinian Ambassador Fares Alqub stated that implementing the two-state solution in accordance with the international consensus is a valuable solution to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

“Our hands are still extended for peace,

and we look forward to living in freedom and independence in accordance with the international consensus to establish peace in the Middle East by implementing the two-state solution.”

Lauding the unwavering support provided by the international community, the ambassador said: “We renew that solidarity connects people all over the world, including in times of difficulties.”

The UN commemorates the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people every year on November 29.

News

Nation leverages COP29 to advance climate goals, secure partnerships

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia has capitalized on the UN Climate Change (COP29) summit, strategically engaging in negotiations and discussions to advance its national climate goals and secure global partnerships, the Ministry of Planning and Development (MoPD) reported.

Speaking to the media yesterday, MoPD State Minister Seyoum Mekonnen stated that Ethiopia has actively participated in COP29 negotiations to safeguard its national interests. He emphasized the critical importance of adaptation and mitigation strategies in addressing the urgent challenges posed by climate change.

The negotiations culminated in an agreement for developed countries to take the lead in raising 300 billion USD annually for developing nations by 2035. This core finance target is part of a broader effort to raise an additional 1.3 trillion USD through other countries or mechanisms. These funds are intended to reduce emissions and mitigate the growing impacts of climate change, Seyoum explained.

The extensive discussions also covered

the performance, implementation, and operation of core finance, resulting in an agreement to release these funds as grant financing. The COP29 conference highlighted the devastating effects of climate change on developing countries and stressed climate risk as an increasing source of both current and future threats, Seyoum added.

The summit, which focused primarily on finance-including carbon trading and other mechanisms-saw Ethiopia participating in 21 events, holding 19 bilateral meetings, and signing two Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs). These efforts, the state minister stressed, aim to strengthen partnerships and cooperation to financially support ongoing climate initiatives in various countries.

Ethiopia also shared its best practices and efforts in areas such as the Green Legacy Initiative, the wheat project, urbanization, climate change adaptation, resilient food systems, and renewable energy.

Furthermore, Seyoum remarked that the "Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals 2030" (P4G) initiative has selected Ethiopia to host the P4G conference in 2027, further solidifying its role as a leader in global climate action.

Experts: Taking...

are well positioned to become active market participants by leveraging their financial expertise and networks.

Additionally, he said that microfinance institutions and cooperatives can help democratize market access by mobilizing small-scale investors. The opening of the wholesale and retail sectors to foreign investors is expected to increase demand for commercial properties, creating infrastructure for financial institutions and traders. High rental rates and strong demand for office and commercial spaces indicate a favorable environment for market participants.

International firms specializing in investment banking, asset management, and securities trading are likely to be drawn by Ethiopia's untapped market potentials. The recent opening of wholesale and retail sectors to foreign investors creates synergies, enabling global firms to establish local offices and invest in infrastructure.

Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce, Trade and Investment Acting Director Mebratu Belachew told *The Ethiopian Herald* that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) have struggled to access adequate financial services, despite contributing about 30 percent to the country's GDP.

"The establishment of an investment bank by the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia could help bridge these gaps and stimulate economic growth," Mebratu said.

He believed that the new bank could play crucial roles, such as providing essential

capital for SMEs to grow and innovate, and offering advisory services' seed money for mergers and acquisitions to attract foreign direct investment, which is vital for economic diversification.

The success of the investment bank will hinge on a supportive regulatory framework and its ability to manage risks effectively. A vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem could lead to job creation and enhanced economic stability. Mebratu acknowledged the investment bank's potential but noted persistent challenges, particularly the underdeveloped capital market and low financial literacy, which must be addressed systematically.

He commented, "While the potential is significant, the bank must navigate the complexities of the Ethiopian financial landscape to achieve its goals."

Establishing an effective investment bank requires compliance with regulatory frameworks, including necessary licenses, capital requirements, and reporting obligations. Engaging legal experts who specialize in financial regulations will be crucial for navigating these complexities.

Mebratu described Ethiopia's initiative to create an investment bank a critical step in its economic development journey. It promises to enhance innovation and entrepreneurship by improving financial access for SMEs and providing guidance for startups. Nevertheless, careful implementation and strategic planning will be essential to realize its full potential and ensure sustainable growth in the years to come.

Ethiopia's ...

over 150,000 kilometers. These developments aim to improve energy accessibility and connect more communities to the power grid.

Mesfin emphasized the integration of renewable energy across various sectors, including transportation and industry. Historically dependent on engine-powered transport, Ethiopia has now banned the import of engine vehicles and is promoting the use of electric vehicles (EVs). This transition not only reduces greenhouse gas emissions but also conserves foreign currency previously spent on petrol imports.

"This policy shift has created opportunities for EV manufacturers and private investors to thrive in Ethiopia's emerging EV market," he noted. The MoWE is collaborating with the Ministry of Transport and Logistics to completely transform the transport sector by adopting renewable energy solutions.

Ethiopia's ongoing efforts underscore its commitment to harnessing untapped renewable energy resources, driving the nation toward sustainable development and a greener future.

Chinese firm lauds...

Huajian International Light Industry City Special Economic Zone from November 22 to 30, 2024. This exhibition serves as a leading platform for showcasing advanced technologies within the country.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, of Huajian International Light Industry City Deputy General Manager, William stated that Ethiopia's investment policy reform fosters a favorable investment climate, successfully attracting investors from around the world.

He stated green energy is among the sector that the country has given due attention and Ethiopia is making significant strides toward achieving a green energy transformation and seeing encouraging results in the sector. Ethiopia has recently banned the import of petrol cars to promote the adoption of Electric Vehicles (EVs), demonstrating the nation's commitment to green energy transformation. This initiative is a crucial step in addressing the pressing issue of climate change globally, he emphasized.

He explained that as a result of these reforms process, the influx of local and international investors is significantly increasing, contributing to the economy of the country which is on the rise due to the supportive economic conditions.

Positioned strategically in the Horn of Africa, Ethiopia presents a promising investment destination and it is fostering favorable conditions for industrial growth,



he noted.

With a population exceeding 120 million, Ethiopia possesses a significant market potential, which is vital for attracting investors. "Ethiopia has a vast human resource base, with over half of the population being young and workforce. This offers a great opportunity for investors by providing affordable labor and enhancing the attractiveness of companies to invest in the country."

Given the large population, the company is working to fulfill local demands and beyond, thereby increasing its production capacity. Moreover, it plays a crucial role in generating ample job opportunities for local citizens. The country is poised for substantial growth in the manufacturing sector. I am optimistic that Ethiopia will evolve into a manufacturing hub in the

region in the future.

Transport and Logistics Minister Alemu Sime (PhD) stated that Ethiopia has made significant strides in implementing green initiatives and continues making a remarkable progress towards achieving green energy transformation and committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the implementation of green initiatives.

The ten-year strategic plan for the transport sector serves as a standard for sustainable development goals, with Ethiopia emphasizing the execution of electric transport services as a key component of its dedication to green energy. The government focuses on the adoption of vehicles powered by renewable energy as part of the country's commitment to fostering a green economy, according to Alemu.

Opinion

Undertaking comprehensive macroeconomic reform for shaping Ethiopia's future

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

It is certain that in the aftermath of the effectuation of the macroeconomic reform, a broad range of sectors has set in motion reaping the fruits of attainments in stages and drop by drop.

The federal government's undertakings to tackle vital encounters revolving around the economy of the country has in the present climate jump-started getting back to the right track and heading in the right track in the face of hiccups.

Notwithstanding the fact that the intended target is being achieved on account of the macroeconomic reform, certain segments that have an aversion to see Ethiopia's growth have been making an effort to smudge the promising strides.

However, no matter what happened and who said what, Ethiopia has been heading in the right direction proving naysayers wrong and throwing a wet blanket on their barefaced lies.

As the group does not want to witness the positive strides of the country, it has been involved in distorting facts and bamboozling the wider international community.

Subsequent to the ongoing macroeconomic reform policy, the country has been plunged into smoothing the path of its foreign currency reserves and foreign reserve assets which signals the positive outcomes and progress.

In the present circumstances, positive achievements have been registered in numerous sectors such as mining, manufacturing, tourism, agriculture and other things of a similar kind.

Ethiopia's home-grown economic and macroeconomic reforms have fostered a supportive environment for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), according to the Ethiopian Intellectual Property Authority (EIPA).

EIPA, in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Japan Patent Office (JPO), held a national intellectual property workshop in the recent past to increase SMEs' awareness of innovation management and the importance of intellectual property (IP).

EIPA Director-General Woldu Yimesil highlighted that these economic reforms have been paving the way for SMEs to play a more active role in Ethiopia's economic growth, although their current contribution to the GDP remains modest.

"SMEs need to focus on building intangible assets, especially intellectual property, which is essential for enhancing competitiveness, increasing product value, creating jobs, and addressing financial hurdles," he said. The reforms, Woldu added, present SMEs with new opportunities to contribute to Ethiopia's development.

The workshop aimed to boost awareness and create a forum for discussing SME-related agendas and sharing experiences. Woldu pointed out that many developed countries, such as Japan, Taiwan, and South Korea, have grown their economies through strong SME sectors, with SMEs making substantial contributions to GDP and job creation.

It is widely acknowledged that Ethiopia's macroeconomic reform plays a paramount role in opening up new market opportunities for the country by attracting both domestic as well as worldwide financiers.

In addition to that the newly implemented macroeconomic reform has been bringing about widespread stable economic growth across the nation.

If the whole thing keeps going in this way, the whole kit and caboodle through the passage of time will fully end up getting back on the right track playing a vital role in abolishing obstacles to trade, fashioning new commercial opportunities, improving competitive capacity and more of the same.

It is obvious that enhanced prospects, foreign reserves, and other various things will give the green light to better influence government-backed initiatives with success.

In light of the current situation, most people from all sections of the society have been certifying the encouraging moves and positive achievements of the macroeconomic reform implementation.

It is true that the federal government has allocated noteworthy possessions to alleviate the influence of improvements on populations for the most part through subsidizations for vital goods such as medicines, fertilizers and what have you.

The MoPD Development Planning and Government Investment Administration Lead Executive Officer Bereket Fisehatsion recently told The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the comprehensive macroeconomic reform would have a range of contributions such as increasing productivity, substituting imports, overcoming debt burden, improving foreign exchange earnings and so on.

Over the past years, the country has been undertaking various short and long term economic reforms, which include the ten-year development plan, homegrown economic reform and macroeconomic reform agendas, he mentioned.

The floating foreign exchange rate system is one of the macroeconomic reform agendas that the country lately introduced to overcome economic challenges, he said.

This system would address country's structural economic problems, contributing to allocate resources in effective sectors, overcoming macroeconomic distortions, ensuring sustainable economic growth and its competitiveness, minimizing debt, ensuring fair and effective distribution of foreign exchange in successful sectors, encouraging production and productivity, correcting foreign exchange rate and others, he added.

Moreover, it has a huge contribution to attracting FDI, substituting import, balancing trade deficit and debt structuring among others. In the long run, the new system would reduce debt to GDP ratio and it leads to increase export and revenue, he noted.

The fundamentals of this reform is getting the price right. If there is a right price in the country, the lenders would release extra finance to mobilize development finance. As a result, country's debt servicing would be significantly improved.



In actual fact, the current macroeconomic reform is directly related with the previous economic reforms and one of the reform measures that planned in the second homegrown economic reform agendas. There would be community sectors that might be impacted following the reform so that the government is working on safety net, subsidization and others legal measures to address these challenges.

At this moment in time, following the implementation of macroeconomic reform, the Ethiopian Diasporas has kicked started showing interest to invest in their motherland and take the country to the next level of accomplishment at the earliest possible juncture.

It is learnt that Ethiopia's recent commitments to implementing comprehensive macroeconomic reform policies aims to correct foreign exchange distortions, address the structural balance of payments deficit, and reduce inflation by modernizing the monetary policy framework. These reforms are designed to create a favorable balance to meet national development needs by increasing domestic income and addressing debt vulnerability.

Additionally, the reforms focus on enhancing the inclusiveness, competitiveness, and resilience of the financial sector. By improving government service delivery, addressing climate change, and ensuring food sovereignty, the reforms seek to build a robust, inclusive, and sustainable economic system.

Manufacturer Industry Development Institute has confirmed that Ethiopia's recent macroeconomic reform is playing a significant role in stimulating inclusive economic activities, particularly export performance and import substitution.

Ethiopia has embarked on full implementation of macroeconomic reform to enable the country achieve high and stable economic growth, maintain single-digit inflation, and build a globally competitive economic system.

The full implementation of the policy is expected to establish the prosperity of the nation on firm foundation.

Experts have been showing strong optimism that Ethiopia is in the right track in its effort to enhance the overall economy through the implementation of the reform.

In his exclusive interview with ENA, the Deputy Director General of the Manufacturer Industry Development Institute, Hadgu Haile

Kiros emphasized that comparing to the same period last year; exports have surged by a staggering 84 percent.

Import substitution has also seen positive growth, with a 1.3 percent decrease in imported goods during the first quarter compared to the previous year. He attributed this success to the "Made in Ethiopia" initiative, which has raised public awareness and encouraged the use of locally produced goods.

A well-designed import substitution strategy is being implemented, leading to the complete replacement of imported items like furniture with locally manufactured products.

The country's all-embracing reforms have kicked off attaining considerable results and remarkable successes in breathing new life into boosting nation's economic growth in a permanent manner.

Nowadays, Ethiopia has commenced putting in place wide-ranging macroeconomic reforms with the purpose of attaining robust economic growth, continued economic growth, and what have you.

It is a well-known fact that the reform procedures put a high value on a diversity of matters encompassing macroeconomic stability, general price stability, bolstering the economic sector and whatnot. Reasoning from this fact, the results have been observed in various development activities of the country.

The ongoing economic reform in black and white demonstrates the fact that the country's economic growth is going in the proper direction. If all pertinent bodies keep on going in this way, the country's economy in the shortest possible will accomplish the desired goal.

Ethiopia has been effectuating an all-inclusive macroeconomic reform to oil the wheels of its competitive capacity in terms of business and investment sectors, reinforce indigenous production and other things of a similar kind.

The employment of macroeconomic reform has begun producing outstanding results in various sectors all over the country paving the way for the country's development activities.

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

Editorial

Strengthening ties: Ethio-France partnership

Yesterday, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD), on his official twitter page, stated, "This morning, I had the honor of receiving Jean-Noël Barrot, the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France, in my office. Our discussions centered on strengthening the ties between our two countries, which have historically shared a rich relationship built on mutual respect and cooperation."

Plausibly, the two leaders might explore various avenues for collaboration, including economic partnerships, cultural exchanges, and shared interests in regional stability and security. They could further discuss the ongoing projects and initiatives that could enhance the bilateral relations, emphasizing the importance of open dialogue and cooperation in achieving the common goals that can reflect their commitment to deepening the partnership of the two nations.

Ethiopia has actively engaged in the cultivation of both bilateral and multilateral relations with nations around the world, reflecting its commitment to fostering diplomatic ties and enhancing international cooperation. This strategic approach involves not only the establishment of partnerships with individual countries but also participation in regional and global organizations that promote dialogue, trade, and mutual understanding. By leveraging its historical and cultural connections, Ethiopia seeks to position itself as a key player on the international stage, addressing global challenges such as peace and security, economic development, and sustainable resource management. The nation's diplomatic efforts are underscored by a desire to enhance its influence while contributing positively to the collective progress of the international community.

In deeded, the country has established itself as an exemplar of balanced and mutually advantageous diplomacy, consistently fostering meaningful relationships with nations across the globe. This approach, rooted in rationality and foresight, demonstrates Ethiopia's steadfast commitment to peace, cooperation, and shared development. Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD), Ethiopia has prioritized engagement with diverse international partners, exemplifying a diplomatic strategy that transcends geographical and ideological barriers.

The recent visit of Jean-Noël Barrot, France's Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, to Ethiopia is a significant milestone in the longstanding relationship between the two nations. This engagement underscores the enduring and evolving nature of Ethiopia-France relations, reflecting a shared desire to advance mutual interests while addressing global and regional challenges.

The partnership between Ethiopia and France is deeply rooted in history and enriched by diverse collaborations. France has been a steadfast supporter of Ethiopia's cultural heritage, exemplified by its role in restoring the Rock-Hewn Churches of Lalibela, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Beyond cultural preservation, France has also contributed to Ethiopia's infrastructure development, education, and economic growth. These initiatives not only strengthen Ethiopia's development trajectory but also cement France's position as a reliable partner in Africa.

The Ethiopia-France relationship is a testament to the power of cooperative diplomacy in addressing contemporary global challenges. From combating climate change to fostering economic equality and ensuring regional stability, the two nations exemplify how strategic partnerships can deliver tangible benefits for their peoples. Minister Barrot's visit comes at a pivotal time for Ethiopia as it undertakes significant development efforts. The presence of a high-level French delegation signals France's confidence in Ethiopia's potential and its willingness to play a constructive role in Ethiopia's economic development.

In sum, the Ethiopian government's dedication to fostering relationships that contributes to national and global progress continuous to benefit all. The partnership with France serves as an inspiring example of what can be achieved through win-win diplomacy. As Ethiopia builds on its successes, we hope that such alliances will continue to drive the nation's aspirations, ensuring that its foreign policy remains a cornerstone of strength and a catalyst for sustainable development.

Opinion

Modernizing taxation, locking doors on illicit trade to boost domestic resource

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

nine months of the 2015 and 2016 fiscal years, respectively.

Developing countries need to step up efforts of mobilizing domestic financing resources so as to gather adequate resource for their development and contribute to the efforts of realizing SDGs. The countries can raise their domestic resource mobilization by enhancing efficiency of tax collection capacity as well as eliminating loopholes in the economy like illicit trade that waste the meager wealth of the country.

No one is interested in providing hideous material for the one they love. Similarly, transforming modern and prosperous Ethiopia for our posterity should be our shared vision that all citizens strive for. With this in mind, working day and night towards a vision of multifaceted growth and development in all fields, and paying taxes from what we earn, is what the nation expects from its citizens.

For a developing country like Ethiopia, there is no better option than collecting taxes from the people to fund various development projects, as it is one way of earning income. However, due to the absence of a proper tax system, the country has not been able to collect the expected revenue.

One of the important factors contributing to the low tax collection in Ethiopia is the lack of awareness among the people about taxation. Despite the wide-ranging development needs of the people, many do not understand that paying taxes is mandatory. In this regard, although efforts have been made to raise awareness, they have not been sufficient.

The tax system was backward and exposed to various fraud, corruption, and maladministration, especially before the country underwent a series of reforms after the incumbent assumed power. Despite some changes, there is still a need to implement a modern tax collection and administration system that is well-suited to the evolving times, with the goal of boosting Ethiopia's revenue and meeting the country's untapped potential and growing demands.

The government has identified tax reform as a key component of these efforts, and after implementing reform measures that create a more efficient and equitable system, the revenue from taxes and duties increased from 324 billion birr to 374 billion birr in the

According to a recent report by the Ministry of Finance, common revenue increased to 54 billion Birr in the 2016 fiscal year from 42 billion Birr in the previous year. However, the overall revenue still falls short of the nation's capabilities and needs.

Apart from broadening tax bases to include sectors that are not currently covered, revenue sector institutions are adopting modern strategies and technology-driven systems to combat tax evasion and fraud, while expanding the tax base and investing in projects that will secure prosperity for future generations.

Emphasizing Ethiopia's immense economic potential, doubling the current revenue would unlock the ability to undertake numerous transformative projects that will benefit future generations and realize the country's prosperity.

To achieve this, revenue sector institutions must fulfill their responsibilities diligently, focusing on preventing tax evasion and fraud, and adopting a tax collection and management system that is well-suited to the evolving times.

A forward-looking approach is needed to modernize the system and implement new taxation measures that close loopholes for those engaging in various forms of tax fraud. Strengthening operational strategies driven by technology and aligned with the demands of the present era is imperative.

Efforts will be focused on strengthening technology-assisted tax collection and administration, as well as expanding tax bases to address challenges such as illegality and smuggling, which affect revenue collection. Establishing a digital system to better control contraband movement and reinforcing border control measures are necessary steps.

In addition to bringing clarity to taxation, rewarding trustworthy taxpayers continuously is critical to encouraging compliance. Ultimately, the development of today's Ethiopia rests in the hands of taxpayers. By paying taxes properly and holding the government accountable for development, we can contribute to the prosperity of the country and pass on a prosperous Ethiopia to the next generation.

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



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Art & Culture

Spirits lost, spirits must revive

“Students must not pass through colleges but colleges must pass through students”

BY HENOK TIBEBU

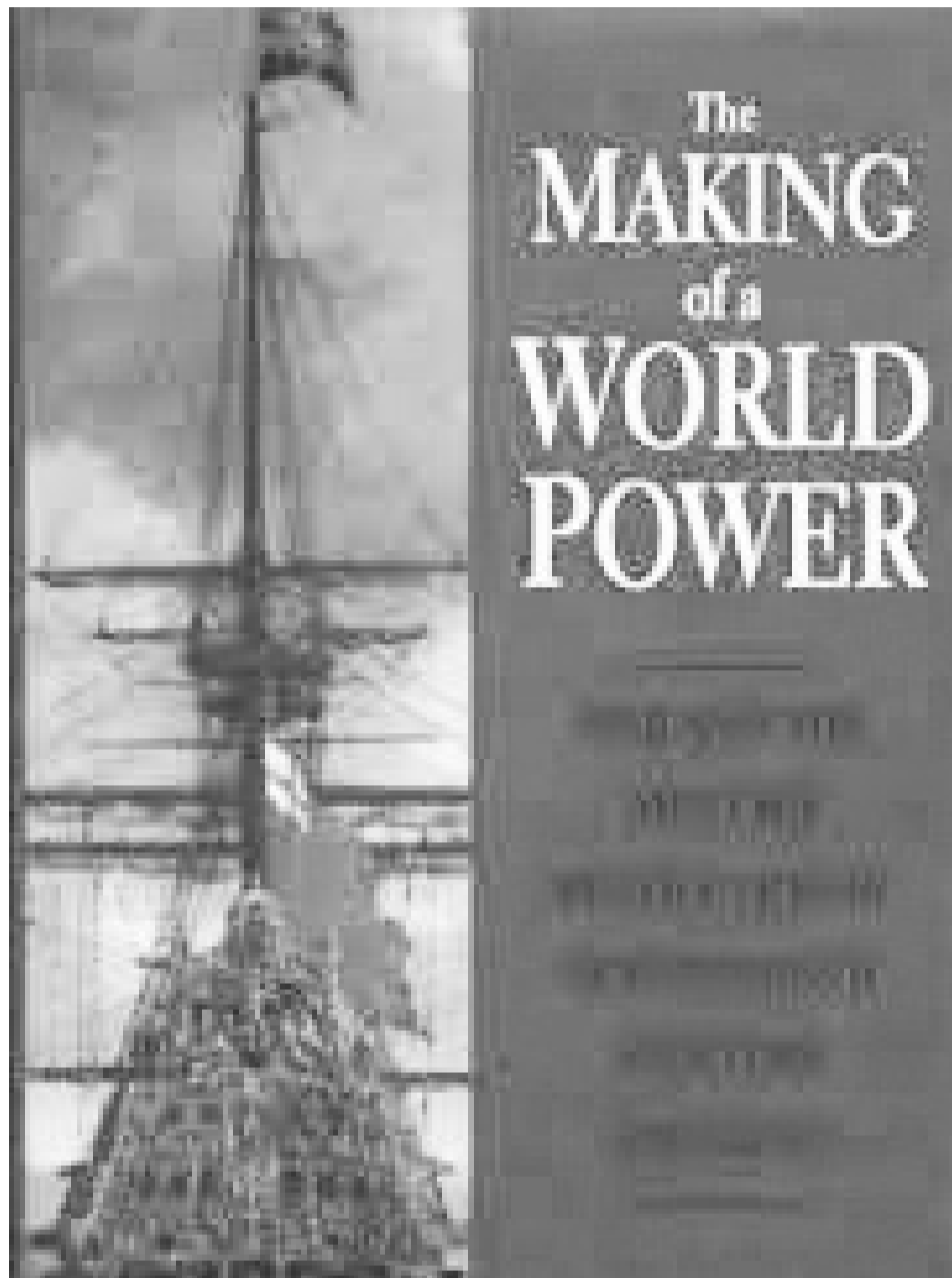
This ancient nation, Ethiopia, currently in sophisticated socioeconomic and political development, has spirits lost and spirits that must resurface. The idea occurred to me after reading an American historical document, the first premier printing of September 1960, published by FANCET WORLD LIBRARY. It is a book of five volumes, and I happened to get the chance to read “The Making of a World Power,” the fourth volume.

From this volume I have preferred to pick one topic for my first opinion on the spirits our country has lost and the spirits it must revive “Why they went to college?” was the title and it depicted how American youths of late eighteen, nineteen flocked to college even though several efforts were made to keep them back. Who wanted to keep them back and why was not explained by Henry Siedal Canby, whose argument was printed in this part of the book. But I also picked the subject because it is about time that new college students are ready to swarm their campuses.

He explained despite the challenges thousands up on mounting thousands swarmed campuses during that era, for the best of reasons. Some had looked into opportunities for new life experiences, romance, and freedom of entertainment. However, the majority as per Canby chose to join the colleges with ambitions of much more realistic. They had learned in preparatory school that the college world was a career as well as a utopia and a career where the sharp one, energetic, might overcome handicaps of birth, poverty, or even of character wrote Canby.

According to him the careerist groups of college students were ambitious about social democracy, and they were also well aware that college climbing would lead to much more than college success. This group of people knew how to join the right groups go to the right club and make the best out of their future by themselves unaided by the power of money. The American college life of the period as per Canby educated specifically for the harsh competition of capitalism for the successful and often unscrupulous pursuit by the individual of power for himself, for class superiority, and for a success measure by the secure possession of the fruits of prosperity.

From historical books and novels of the generation in the sixties I have observed that even if contextually different, such spirits of college life have been witnessed in Ethiopia. The problem was that as many agree, the generation annihilated itself during the seventeen years of civil war. The remaining conscious youths of



the generation became canon fadders during the Ethio-Eritrea war. That was the time when the spirits that would have lifted the country out of poverty, illiteracy, bad health, and outmoded agricultural systems and led it to a world standard of prosperity were buried deep down in the nation's soil.

That was the time when the college spirits that held social justice and democracy so dearly started to decay, and ethnic madness was planted in a few universities of the country. A generation of new curriculum, whom all the restraints of high grades with difficult national exams to keep the students back from college but for the sake of quality education of course was lifted for, would start swarming campuses like the American college students of the late eighteenth and nineteenth.

So many universities were built over the past three decades but were the spirits of a career given more value than enjoying a college life experience? Has it been social Justice or ethnic madness, which has been embraced by the college society? Was it to graduate from college and win the world by one's effort or holding documents in plastic binders and walking around the

streets of Addis all day, searching for jobs that, dominated the youths' minds? So many old scholars have criticized the generation for being Lazy and keeping themselves out of accountability. The generation blamed the scholars for not sharing their best as college lecturers! Some blamed the curriculum.

As to me, the Country has to let bygones be bygones, as a result of bad political trends and lazy curriculum. It must work towards the revival of the spirits of career, social justice, entrepreneurial skill, and the spirits of a generation who knows what to do about his country before anyone else comes to tell him.

The new college students who are going to campuses must be aware that a college is a ladder to climb up for much more than college success. You may enjoy romance and entertainment but also remember that it is also an education for your future adult lives. In this case, I do not see any genuineness of graduate Students complaining about, Minister of Education's implementation of the exit exam. If a college graduate student fears exit exam, how does anyone expect the Prime Minister to transform such a big nation single-handedly? If Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed is to keep up with the positive developmental reforms of the country the greater national assistance will be from a very conscious, careerist self-confident and knowledgeable college society.

I also argue that old scholars are to blame for creating a generation that is controlled by situations instead of creating a generation that controls situations. It is better to stop boasting of the whereabouts of their masters or doctorate degrees and start sharing their knowledge of it. It is high time the standards of education cleanse ethnic madness and embrace synergy for a prosperous future of society.

In terms of knowledge, I have had many teachers and lecturers tell me that it comes from too much reading. What I have been observing these days is little reading and too much argument or talking without referring to evident documents. This is creating barriers to historical knowledge among the youth, which is one of the major factors that have been leading generations to ethnic madness. Thus, new college students are expected to engage in reading rather than being mutants of worth-nothing social platform videos.

One of the best things one could get from proper education is confidence. If you can pay someone to do your graduation paper but complain about the exit exam as a graduate student after years of college life, is an insult to your own career life.

Let me wrap up with the saying “Students must not pass through colleges but colleges must pass through students.”

The new college students who are going to campuses must be aware that a college is a ladder to climb up for much more than college success

Law & Politics

The policy of looking inward: Africa must resolve its own conflicts

BY EYUEL KIFLU

In today's complex world, the importance of utilizing local capacities in conflict resolution cannot be overstated. Many experts agree that leveraging one's own resources and knowledge is often the key to achieving sustainable success. Prioritizing internal capabilities before seeking external assistance is essential, particularly in the context of conflict resolution.

When conflicts arise, attempting to resolve them through internal mechanisms is not only commendable but often more effective than inviting outside entities. Local stakeholders possess a deep understanding of the root causes of these issues, which outsiders may overlook. Moreover, they are typically more agreed to the specific cultural and social dynamics at play, enabling them to identify the most appropriate peace mechanisms for their unique situations.

This emphasis on local solutions has gained significant traction across the African continent in recent months. African leaders and pan-Africanists are increasingly advocating for self-reliance in addressing the continent's challenges. This growing movement was prominently highlighted during the recent Continental Peace Conference held in Addis Ababa, where Ethiopian leaders and various speakers underscored the necessity of African nations resolving their own problems.

During his opening remark, President Taye Atske-Selassie emphasized the need for Africa to harness its own resources and solutions to tackle the challenges facing the continent.

Highlighting the continent's ongoing conflicts, and stressed the importance of prioritizing dialogue and resolution, he pointed to successful initiatives, such as the indigenous national dialogue in Ethiopia, as examples of how Africa can lead its own peace-building efforts.

Taye expressed that Africa must move forward with a sense of urgency and purpose, recognizing its position as a vital geostrategic player in a rapidly changing global landscape. He urged African nations to prepare themselves to build robust systems of peace and prosperity, leveraging commerce and technology as key drivers of progress.

The President emphasized the critical role of development in establishing a foundation for sustainable peace. He argued that a prosperous Africa cannot exist without a strong commitment to peace, urging nations to work collectively towards integration and cooperation.

Despite the positive strides made, he noted that a crisis persists across the continent,

complicating efforts to achieve lasting peace. He called for a transformative approach to peace and prosperity, advocating for Africa to become an active agent in generating and institutionalizing innovative ideas within its societies.

As the continent grapples with the impacts of climate change, Taye highlighted the urgency of addressing environmental challenges through sustainable practices. He criticized the global response to climate issues as inadequate and called for African nations to take charge of implementing effective solutions.

The President concluded with a call to action, encouraging African nations to mobilize their resources and workforce while remaining vigilant against the adverse effects of climate change.

African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace, and Security, Ambassador Bankole Adeoye on his part highlighted the necessity of integrating peace, security, and development efforts, calling for robust collaboration among member states, regional economic communities, and global partners.

Referring to the African Union's Agenda 2063, he underscored the importance of unity and democracy, stating, "We must strengthen our policy and pragmatic interventions by integrating peace, security, and sustainable development in all our endeavors."

Durable peace is a license for prosperity, Adeoye concluded, reaffirming the African Union's commitment to fostering a united and peaceful Africa.

Dr. Ramiz Alakbarov, UN Assistant Secretary-General and UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, emphasized the urgent need for African-led solutions to the continent's challenges.

He urged participants to address the root causes of conflict and to seek amicable, peaceful resolutions to disputes. "We must focus on African solutions to African problems," he emphasized, advocating for the integration of Africa's rich traditions and indigenous knowledge into frameworks for conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and reconciliation.

Dr. Alakbarov called for investment in traditional systems that leverage Africa's heritage, contributing to peace, stability, and harmony. He expressed the UN's commitment to supporting Ethiopia in these efforts and stressed that national leadership, inclusivity, and ownership are critical for sustainable peace.

"Peace is not merely the absence of conflict, but the presence of justice," he stated, highlighting the shared responsibility in building a future where peace underpins societal foundations.

"The world is at a crossroads," he warned,

noting that peace, stability, and security are essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa an area rich in potential yet often hindered by conflict. He pointed to the African Union's Agenda 2063, which encapsulates the hopes and aspirations of the continent, and stressed the need for actionable strategies developed in partnership with governments, the private sector, and civil society.

Dr. Alakbarov highlighted that peace is vital not only for Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa but for the entire continent and the world. Without peace, significant progress on the SDGs and the realization of Africa's development potential remain unattainable.

In conclusion, he urged all stakeholders to pursue inclusivity and equity while creating an environment conducive to the implementation of the SDGs. "Let us approach this endeavor holistically," he stated, emphasizing the transformative potential of coordinated interventions for all especially women, men, and youth. "Today, let us recommit to taking bold steps toward a peaceful and prosperous Africa."

To achieve durable peace across the African continent and foster sustainable development, it is imperative that solutions be led by Africans themselves, rather than relying on external interventions. This sentiment, echoed by experts such as Dr. Alakbarov, underscores the importance of harnessing indigenous capacities to address the continent's challenges.

Africa has reached a pivotal moment where it can leverage its own resources and expertise to resolve conflicts and promote stability. Collective action among African nations is essential; unity and collaboration are vital for ensuring sustainable peace. The tranquillity of the continent is a prerequisite for any meaningful development initiatives, as stability fosters an environment conducive to growth.

The conferences have highlighted the significance of establishing a functional African Free Trade Area and promoting visa-free movement among African Union member states. Such initiatives not only enhance economic cooperation but also contribute to a peaceful and integrated continent. Ensuring peace is a fundamental aspect of addressing the current crises that plague various regions.

A noteworthy example of African-led conflict resolution is Ethiopia's role in the Pretoria Peace Accord, which demonstrated that African nations can effectively resolve their own issues. This approach not only builds trust among countries but also reinforces the idea that Africans are capable of crafting their own solutions to the challenges they face.



To achieve durable peace across the African continent and foster sustainable development, it is imperative that solutions be led by Africans themselves, rather than relying on external interventions



I now understand what global citizenship really means

- Samson Dawit

BY STAFF REPORTER

Ethiopia and Kazakhstan share many similarities in culture and economy. They are accordingly beefing up their diplomatic relations and multilateral cooperation to further upscale their relations. Among the major areas of cooperation that has not been exploited so far is education. Samson Dawit Bekele, 3rd year undergraduate Computer Science student at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University explains his breathtaking experience as a University Student in Kazakhstan and reflects on how the two countries should uphold exchanges in education, culture and public diplomacy. Enjoy reading!

What inspired you to choose Kazakhstan for your studies, and what were your initial impressions of the country?

As a high school student, I was determined to pursue my studies at a top research university. Naturally, I turned to platforms like QS Rankings and Times Higher Education, searching for highly-ranked institutions. After graduating during the pandemic—a time when opportunities were scarce—I was fortunate to spend that period in Turkey studying the Turkish language. While I had the option to continue my education there, I found myself yearning for a more compelling opportunity. If one didn't present itself, I was prepared to return to Ethiopia to continue my studies.

Just as my time in Turkey was coming to an end, I came across Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, a research university ranked 150th on the QS World University Rankings in 2022. Intrigued, I delved deeper and was thrilled to discover that they offered scholarships. Upon consulting my Kazakh friends, I learned about the university's prestigious reputation and how competitive admission could be. Without hesitation, I applied as an undergraduate Computer Science student through the Bologna Process scholarship program.

After passing a psychology test and interview, I was accepted into the scholarship program, which waived my tuition fees and provided a monthly stipend. While the stipend is modest and I am responsible for covering most of my expenses, the opportunity was invaluable—especially given the university's reputation and my aspiration to become a research scientist.

Though life as an international student has its challenges, my experience in Kazakhstan has been overwhelmingly positive. The people are warm and welcoming, and Almaty, with its lush greenery and stunning mountain views, is nothing short of breathtaking. It felt like stepping into a scene from a movie, and I immediately sensed that I would thrive in this environment.

How have the cultural differences between Ethiopia and Kazakhstan influenced your study and life experiences here? What commonalities have you found between the two cultures?

The cultural differences between Ethiopia and Kazakhstan are fascinating, and they have significantly shaped my personal and academic experiences. Coming from Ethiopia, where communal living, family values, and hospitality are deeply cherished, I was struck by the similarities in Kazakh culture. In Kazakhstan, hospitality is equally central to daily life. People are incredibly warm and welcoming, often eager to assist, especially when they realize you are an international student.

What impressed me the most was the mutual respect that permeates social interactions. Professors, regardless of their status, greet students with warmth and respect, often shaking hands—a gesture that is not as common in Ethiopia. There's a profound humility in the way people interact, both academically and socially. This is also reflected in the respectful terms used in everyday conversations, such as "agai" (older brother) and "apai" (older sister), which convey not just age but a deep sense of respect and closeness. This dynamic feels more pronounced than what I experienced back home, giving a special significance to interactions in Kazakhstan.

However, some cultural differences posed challenges. The language barrier has been the most significant, as Kazakh and Russian are the dominant languages. Although this initially made communication difficult, it became a valuable opportunity to develop new language skills, enhancing my ability to navigate cross-cultural situations. I have learned enough Kazakh to get me by in my day-to-day routines. This experience has encouraged me to become more independent, especially in my studies and daily routines.

Another noticeable difference is the approach to family life. In Kazakhstan, it is common for people to marry and start families earlier, often around the ages of 22 or 23, striking a balance between family and career. In Ethiopia's big cities, however, marriage typically happens later, closer to 30, as people focus more on personal and career development before settling down. Despite this difference in timing, the importance of family is a common thread in both cultures, influencing how I view relationships and balance personal and academic life here.

One of the most remarkable aspects of Kazakh society is its meritocratic nature, at least from my experience. In Kazakhstan, your skills and knowledge are what matter most, and I have never faced discrimination or bias based on my background. This



merit-based environment has been incredibly refreshing, especially after living in other countries where challenges like racism were more prevalent. This culture of meritocracy was a key for me to join my department's scientific institute laboratory, where I've had the chance to engage in real-world research and contribute to research. This opportunity has been transformative, reinforcing my belief that hard work and ability are genuinely valued here.

Are there any aspects of the Kazakhstani education system that you believe could be beneficial to implement in Ethiopia? Which Kazakhstani approaches to learning do you particularly appreciate?

One of the standout features of the Kazakhstani education system is how personal and practical the lessons are. Given that I attend a public university, I was pleasantly surprised by the small class sizes, which have made the lessons far more interactive, thorough, and effective. The classes are divided into three main types: lectures, seminars, and labs, each serving a specific role in the learning process.

In lectures, the focus is primarily on theoretical knowledge, with professors presenting the fundamental concepts of the subject. This is followed by seminars, where students are divided into smaller groups for more interactive discussions. In these seminars, students ask questions,

engage in debates, and give presentations on topics from the previous lectures. The intimate setting fosters confidence, encourages participation, and strengthens understanding. It also allows students to receive immediate feedback, building a solid foundation for their learning.

The third and perhaps most important type of class is the laboratory session, where theory meets practice. Here, students are given challenging tasks to test their comprehension of the lecture and seminar materials. Whether it's coding, experimenting, or presenting, these lab sessions ensure that students not only understand theoretical concepts but also know how to apply them to real-world problems. Depending on the complexity of the task, lab sessions can range from 20 minutes to several hours, giving students the time they need to fully grasp the material. Additionally, students are encouraged to take supplementary courses from Massive open online course (MOOC) platforms like Coursera, which broadens their understanding of the course material through diverse perspectives.

One aspect of the Kazakhstani education system that I believe could be immensely beneficial for Ethiopia is this balance between theoretical knowledge and practical application. The integration of lectures, seminars, and lab sessions promotes active

Continued to page 9

I now understand ...

Continued from page 8

participation, critical thinking, and hands-on learning—all crucial skills for fields like computer science. In Ethiopia, the education system is often more theoretical, with fewer opportunities for students to apply their knowledge in practical settings. Adopting a similar approach to smaller class sizes and hands-on lab sessions in Ethiopia could lead to a more engaged and better-prepared student body. This would also help address the issue of high student-to-teacher ratios by allowing for more focused, personalized instruction.

Additionally, Kazakhstan's approach to research is another area that could benefit Ethiopia. Even as an undergraduate student, I was able to join research groups and work in well-equipped laboratories, experiences usually reserved for postgraduate students in many other countries. The accessibility of these research facilities to students who demonstrate initiative and academic excellence is something I deeply appreciate. I've had the honor of winning national competitions, such as the National Republican Competition of Undergraduate Student Works, thanks to this meritocratic and supportive environment.

Moreover, the research opportunities available in Kazakhstan are exceptional. Kazakhstan's significant investment in research and innovation is also a model that Ethiopia could follow. Each year, Kazakhstan allocates over 300 million dollars towards research grants, fostering an environment that encourages scientific and technological advancement. Programs like grant funding, mega-projects, and competitions for young scientists' funding create a fertile ground for research. Such initiatives could greatly benefit Ethiopia by nurturing local talent and supporting innovative projects in fields like technology, agriculture, and public health. These investments would help Ethiopia build a robust research culture and connect its academic community to the global scientific arena.

Additionally, Kazakhstan's Bolashak program stands out as an exemplary initiative. This government-sponsored program supports graduate students and postdoctoral researchers to study abroad at over 400 top-tier institutions worldwide. Besides covering tuition and travel costs, Bolashak provides a generous stipend, ensuring students can focus on their studies. Upon returning home, they contribute to the development of Kazakhstan, a model Ethiopia could emulate to promote brain power and global collaboration.

Another feature of the Kazakhstani education system that I think would benefit Ethiopia is the practice of assigning academic advisors to undergraduate students. These advisors help with academic-related issues and guide students through their educational journey. This personal connection ensures that students have support when they face academic or administrative challenges, which can significantly reduce stress and



help students focus on their learning.

Lastly, for PhD students in Kazakhstan, there's a unique requirement to have two supervisors: one local and one from a reputable foreign university. This ensures students receive high-quality, well-rounded mentorship and engage with global scientific communities. In addition, Kazakhstan offers a multitude of exchange programs at all academic levels, allowing students to gain international exposure and broaden their academic horizons. This approach will undoubtedly pay off in the long run, positioning Kazakhstan as a global leader in science and technology, producing a new generation of scientists. Introducing similar structures in Ethiopia could enhance the quality of postgraduate education and research, while fostering international collaboration.

How has your experience in Kazakhstan changed your worldview and influenced your understanding of global citizenship?

Studying in Kazakhstan has dramatically broadened my perspective on global citizenship. I now understand that being a global citizen means more than just interacting with people from different countries—it involves appreciating and respecting their histories, values, and worldviews. It has made me more adaptable, open-minded, and conscious of the interconnectedness of our world.

Before coming to Kazakhstan, I had already lived in two different foreign countries, which gave me some exposure to global issues. However, my time here has further deepened this understanding. Interacting with students from all over the world, experiencing the education system firsthand, and engaging with diverse cultures have provided me with a more nuanced perspective. I've gained a deeper appreciation for how global cooperation, cross-cultural exchanges, and education can shape the future and tackle shared challenges. Kazakhstan's multicultural environment, situated at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, has also reinforced my belief in the importance of inclusivity and diversity of thought in fostering meaningful connections.

I now realize that global citizenship is not

just about recognizing diversity but also about fostering an environment where different ideas, cultures, and knowledge systems can coexist and collaborate. Kazakhstan, being at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, exemplifies this blend of cultures and traditions, which has significantly influenced my worldview.

What projects or initiatives related to international cooperation would you like to implement upon your return to Ethiopia?

When I return to Ethiopia, my primary goal is to apply the knowledge and experience I've gained in Kazakhstan to foster international cooperation, particularly in the fields of education, research, and technology. One of the key initiatives I would like to implement is establishing partnerships between Ethiopian universities and prestigious international institutions like Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, Nazerbayev University, and Kazakh-British Technical University, to name a few. These partnerships could facilitate student and faculty exchange programs, joint research initiatives, and collaborative projects that would enable Ethiopian students and scholars to gain global exposure and enhance their academic and research capabilities.

In particular, I believe that adopting Kazakhstan's model of investment in research and innovation could be transformative for Ethiopia. Kazakhstan allocates significant funding toward scientific research, providing opportunities through grants, mega-projects, and competitions aimed at young scientists. This system promotes a culture of research and development that Ethiopia could greatly benefit from. By creating similar programs in Ethiopia, we can support local researchers and encourage innovative projects that address the country's unique challenges in areas like technology, agriculture, and public health. These investments would not only nurture local talent but also create opportunities for Ethiopian researchers to collaborate with global experts and institutions, ensuring that Ethiopia contributes to and benefits from the global scientific community.

Additionally, I would like to introduce a Bolashak-inspired program in Ethiopia.

Kazakhstan's Bolashak program, which sponsors graduate students and postdoctoral researchers to study abroad at top-tier institutions, is an incredible initiative that invests in brainpower and strengthens the country's future. Ethiopia could benefit from a similar program that would provide full scholarships to promising students, covering tuition, travel, and a stipend. Upon returning, these students would be equipped to contribute significantly to Ethiopia's development in science, technology, and education. By investing in its brightest minds, Ethiopia could accelerate its progress in various fields.

Beyond higher education, I am also passionate about promoting the adoption of online learning platforms and digital education in Ethiopia, similar to Kazakhstan's integration of MOOC platforms like Coursera. In Ethiopia, access to quality education, especially in remote or underserved areas, remains a significant challenge. By implementing government-supported programs that provide widespread access to online courses and resources, we can bridge the educational gap and offer students a wider array of learning opportunities. This initiative could also help local educators integrate international teaching methods and cutting-edge content into their curricula, which as a result raises the overall quality of education in Ethiopia.

Furthermore, I would love to work on initiatives that foster cultural exchange programs between Ethiopia and Kazakhstan. These programs could allow students from both countries to experience each other's cultures, gain insights into different educational systems, and develop a deeper understanding of global citizenship. By promoting cross-cultural learning, these programs would not only enrich students academically but also encourage tolerance, cooperation, and a sense of shared responsibility in addressing global challenges. Such exchanges would be a powerful tool in strengthening diplomatic and cultural ties between our two nations.

Finally, I plan to advocate for Ethiopia to implement dual-supervision programs for PhD students, similar to Kazakhstan's requirement for having both a local and an international supervisor. This would ensure that Ethiopian postgraduate students receive well-rounded mentorship and are exposed to diverse perspectives from global academic communities. These initiatives, alongside expanding exchange programs for students at all academic levels, would foster stronger international collaborations, enabling Ethiopia to play a more active role in global research and knowledge exchange.

By implementing these projects, I hope to contribute to the development of Ethiopia's educational and research infrastructure, helping to nurture the next generation of thinkers, innovators, and global citizens.

Thank you for your time!

Thank you!

Society

Strategic interventions to prevent, control and eradicate NTDs

BY STAFF REPORTER

The African Union's Continental Framework for the Control and Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) by 2030 defines NTDs as a wide range of diseases that primarily affect regions in Africa, Asia, and the Americas, impacting over 1 billion people worldwide.

The World Health Organization (WHO) currently recognizes 20 different disease groups as NTDs. These diseases, which include a mix of parasitic, bacterial, fungal, viral, and non-communicable conditions, are endemic in 49 African countries, where they affect more than 600 million people, accounting for 42 percent of the global burden of NTDs.

According to this Continental Framework, the epidemiology of NTDs in Africa is highly varied, with many countries experiencing multiple infections simultaneously - five or more different infections at the same time. For example, nearly 90 percent of the world's cases of Schistosomiasis and Onchocerciasis occur in Africa.

Despite being treatable and preventable, NTDs continue to spread and impact the global community due to a range of socioeconomic factors, including poor sanitation, exposure to disease vectors, unsafe water and food, climate conditions, and inadequate living environments. Furthermore, political instability and civil unrest in certain regions have worsened the situation, hindering effective efforts to control and eliminate these diseases.

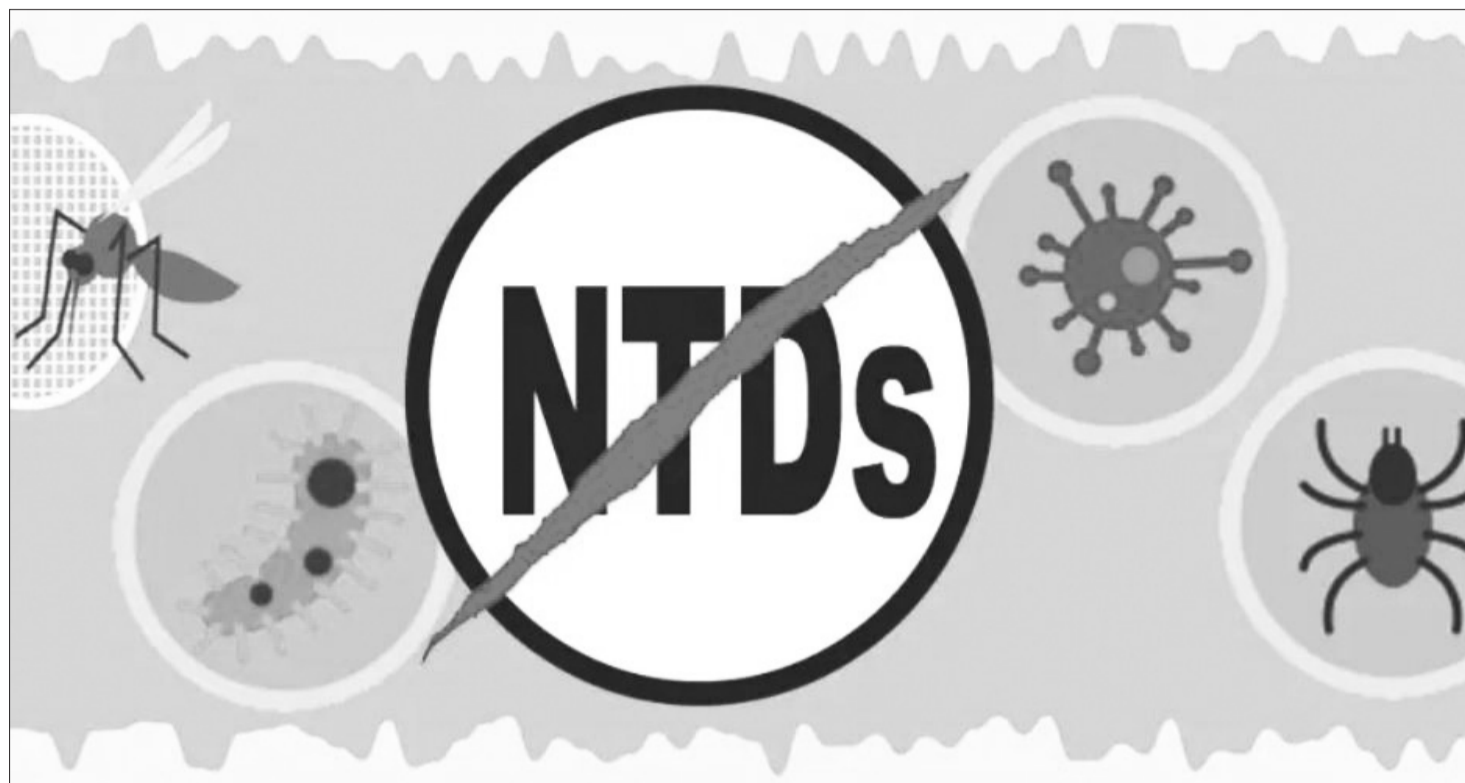
In actual fact, although NTDs are preventable and treatable, they still result in over 500,000 deaths each year. Worse than this, if left untreated, they can cause irreversible long-term damage, such as blindness, disfigurement, chronic pain, and cognitive impairments. They also create significant barriers to education, employment, and economic development, leading to social stigmatization and exclusion, which further impedes overall societal progress and economic growth.

In view of this, reducing the mortality and morbidity rate associated with NTDs, therefore, crucial to improving the health of the world's most impoverished populations.

Ethiopia is one of the countries with a high burden of NTDs. However, launching the National Master Plan on Neglected Tropical Diseases ten years ago, is working to address this challenge and prevent the burden of NTD cases in Ethiopia.

Mainly, by identifying nine NTDs as diseases of public health significance, such as trachoma, soil-transmitted helminthes, onchocerciasis (river blindness), schistosomiasis, and dracunculiasis (Guinea-worm disease) among others, the Ministry of Health is undertaking wide-ranging activities.

Recently, a workshop, targeted to discuss strategies for eradicating Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) such as dracunculiasis, trachoma, leishmaniasis, and Guinea Worm diseases; and to strengthen cross-border



collaboration by sharing best practices, and lessons learned, was held here, in Addis Ababa.

The workshop organized under the theme 'United against NTDs in Cross-Border Approaches, also aimed at developing actionable recommendations for future initiatives.

At the workshop, health professionals drawn from Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan, and Uganda emphasized the importance of coordinated planning and action to eliminate the diseases across bordering countries.

Senior Disease Prevention and Control Advisor to the State Minister in the Ministry of Health, Lelissa Amanuel, highlighted the need for a unified approach to ensure that NTD elimination efforts across borders are comprehensive and inclusive, leaving no one behind.

"We are honored to welcome delegates from our esteemed neighboring nations of Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan, and Uganda to this historic, first-ever integrated NTDs cross-border planning meeting," he stated. He underscored the urgency of regional collaboration and joint efforts to eradicate NTDs in the sub-region," the Advisor remarked.

He also underscored the urgency of neighboring countries collaborating on a joint plan and taking action to eradicate NTDs in the region.

It is time for neighboring countries to unite and take coordinated action to eradicate NTDs in Africa, particularly in our sub-region, he reiterated.

Nonhlanhla Dlamini, Deputy WHO Representative to Ethiopia, on her part commended the Ethiopian Ministry of Health for initiating and hosting this historic cross-border meeting, noting its vital role in strengthening regional collaboration to accelerate progress towards NTDs elimination.

"I commend the Ethiopian Ministry of Health for taking the initiative to convene this historic cross-border meeting, themed

'United against NTDs in Cross-Border Approaches. This gathering of stakeholders from various countries marks a significant step towards strengthening regional collaboration and accelerating progress towards NTD elimination," Dlamini explained.

"Ethiopia shares borders with six countries and faces unique challenges in controlling NTDs, particularly in remote areas where the movement of people and animals can facilitate disease transmission. To halt the spread of NTDs in the region, we need collective commitment, joint planning, joint implementation, and data sharing," Dlamini added,

The meeting is a testament to a collective commitment to overcoming these challenges through collaboration and coordination, she said.

USAID Ethiopia Acting Deputy Mission Director, Jonathan Ross, also emphasized the significance of the meeting, describing it as platform not only to strengthen partnership between neighboring countries but also represents a shared commitment to protecting and improving health outcomes in the region.

NTDs do not recognize borders, Ross said, adding that "To counter this challenge, we must build dedicated partnerships, close collaboration, and coordinated interventions to maximize the impact of NTDs efforts and ensure that no one is left behind."

Meanwhile, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) revealed that the African Union Member States have endorsed a new strategic plan, the Africa CDC's blueprint for 2024-2027, to tackle endemic diseases across the African continent.

This was stated subsequent to the two-day cross-border workshop held from November 27-29, 2024, in Addis Ababa to deliberate on NTDs and launch a new strategy with an emphasis on integrated health systems, prioritizing preventing and controlling major health threats such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis (TB), hepatitis, and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs).

"It is indeed an honor to address you today and to participate in this important workshop with the expectation that we come out of it stronger with strategies and renewed commitments for the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria, Hepatitis and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) on the continent," said Director General of Africa CDC Jean Kaseya (MD).

Delegates from all 55 African Union (AU) Member States came together reviewed and endorsed the Africa CDC's blueprint for 2024-2027. This plan represents a unified effort to address the continent's most urgent health challenges by integrating prevention and control strategies into national health systems, the Director General added.

In Africa, infectious diseases continue to have a disproportionate impact, accounting for 94 percent of global malaria cases and 95 percent of malaria-related deaths. The continent also carries 40 percent of the global burden of NTDs, and all African countries face at least one endemic NTD. Yet, the main barriers to progress remain underfunding, weak health systems, limited research, and poor access to treatment.

"We need to brace up to change this narrative by intensifying our efforts to find lasting solutions for the control and eventual elimination of these diseases," said Kaseya.

This effort is aligned with the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the Africa CDC's "New Public Health Order," which focuses on boosting the continent's self-reliance in health security.

In addition to expert contributions, political leadership will play a critical role, with AU Champions leading key initiatives:

At the end of the workshop, delegates delivered a validated strategic priorities document, alongside a costed implementation plan, setting the stage for more effective health responses across Africa. "The involvement of Member States is transformative," said Dr Kaseya. "Together, we will create a more resilient, integrated, and inclusive health future for Africa," Africa CDC reported.

International News

Zimbabwe: Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube's 2025 National Budget Further Erodes Workers' Earnings, Wages As Little As U.S. \$103 to Be Taxed

ZIMBABWE's working class will continue to feel the pinch of anti-poor government policies in the coming year following Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube's decision to set the income tax-free threshold at an equivalent of a paltry US\$103.

The working class is already reeling under appallingly low salary brackets trailing far behind the Poverty Datum Lines (PDL).

Official records from the trade unions fraternity indicate that a number of workers are earning salaries not exceeding the official rate equivalent to US\$200.

The decision by the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe to devalue the local unit by 43% recently further eroded the workers' salaries.

A recent study by research and stockbroking firm, IH Securities established that working poverty in Zimbabwe has risen to 35,3% confirming the hardships being experienced by the country's labor force.

The International Labor Organization (ILO) defines working poverty as a situation



where individuals are employed in full or part-time jobs but still struggle to make ends meet, live below the official poverty line and claim income-related welfare benefits.

But presenting the 2025 National Budget

blueprint, Thursday Ncube turned a blind eye on the hardships endured by the working class, choosing instead to peg the tax free threshold at the bare minimum.

"Mr Speaker Sir, current legislation

exempts the first US\$100 income earned by employees, hence, any subsequent income is taxed at rates ranging from 20%, up to a marginal income tax rate of 40% for incomes above US\$3 000 per month.

"The equivalent exempt portion in local currency and the tax bands thereof have, however, been affected by the recent macroeconomic developments, hence, the need to provide relief to taxpayers.

"In view of the above, I propose to review the local currency tax-free threshold to ZiG2 800 per month and accordingly adjust the tax bands as follows, with effect from 1 January 2025," he said.

Effectively ZiG2 800 is equivalent to about US\$103 using the official exchange rate.

Thereafter, income in the band of 2 801 to 8 400 a total of 20% tax will be applied cascading up to 40% on sliding scale for incomes above ZWG84 000.

Source: New Zimbabwe.

Nigerian Businesses Court French Investors During Tinubu's Landmark Visit

President Bola Tinubu's state visit to France brings a delegation of Nigerian business leaders seeking new investment in Africa's largest economy. It also reflects growing efforts to strengthen economic links between Nigeria and France.

Tinubu began his two-day trip on Thursday with a ceremony at Les Invalides in central Paris, accompanied by President Emmanuel Macron, the leaders' two wives and representatives of the French army and ministries.

It comes as Nigeria aims to tackle economic challenges, including insecurity and corruption, which have left more than half of the population - 129 million people - living in poverty.

A major oil producer with a robust film industry, Nigeria offers significant potential for foreign investment.

Macron, who has long sought a "renewal" between Paris and Africa, said his country will "continue to invest" in Nigeria, at a time when France's influence on the continent is waning.

Travelling with Tinubu is a delegation of entrepreneurs and young business leaders in Paris for a packed programme of meetings, including dinner with the Macrons and talks at the French Development Agency.

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Accept Manage my choices deepening ties

Among them is Kolawole Osinowo, CEO of Baobab Plus, a French-Nigerian renewable energy company, who told RFI Tinubu's visit was a chance to deepen ties and encourage sustainable growth.

"A lot of people in Nigeria don't have access to electricity, so we're supporting the government by bridging the gap," he said.

"There's a connection in terms of technological and financial support that is key."

Osinowo hopes to move beyond aid-based relationships between Africa and Europe, pushing instead for increased investment to boost Nigeria's economy and create jobs.

"This is essential so that people don't have to migrate and cause different migration issues around the world," he added.

France is looking to diversify its economic partnerships in Africa following military coups in Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Gabon.

Nigerians, it appears, have quite a positive image of France.

Because Nigeria is not a former colony, it has a simpler relationship with France than most of its neighbours, Abuja-based political scientist Jibrin Ibrahim told RFI.

Meanwhile the arts have also played a role in fostering positive perceptions of France.



Uchenna Pedro, founder of lifestyle platform Bella Naija and one of Forbes Africa's 50 Most Influential Women, said France had much to offer Nigeria as a potential partner - particularly in the creative industries.

Her platform already has ties to French companies, such as L'Oréal, in the beauty and fashion industries.

"French industries in my domains bring high value, and France's belief in the arts makes it a great partnership," said Pedro, who is part of the young leaders of the

French Africa Foundation

Singer-songwriter and activist Chioma Ogbonna, known as Cill, agrees that French industries in the cultural domain bring high value.

"Because of how the arts and the creative industry thrives here in France and how it is prioritized, it is an important destination for Africans and Nigerians especially," she said.

Source: RFI website.

Verbatim and Caption



Ethiopian Air Force developed aircraft ready for flight: PM Abiy

The Ethiopian Air Force, celebrating its 89th anniversary, which achieved a significant milestone following the Security sector reform, has successfully developed an aircraft ready for flight, named Tsehay 2.0. The reform efforts undertaken by Ethiopia's security institutions have established a foundation for building institutions suited to the nation's needs, Ethiopian Air Force among these institutions. Equipped with advanced technology to carry out its missions effectively, this achievement underscores the Air Force's progress toward realizing its vision of becoming the largest air force in Africa by 2030.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD)

Ethiopia's peace-building efforts are commendable: Ambassador Bankole



Ambassador Bankole Adeoye, African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace, and Security said during the Continental Peace Conference in Addis Ababa

The peace-building efforts which Ethiopia is undertaking are exemplary. Especially, the efforts undertaken to ensure peace following the Pretoria Cessation of Hostilities Agreement are exemplary models to ensure peace and security. Ethiopia's contributions in the peace domain exemplify the model for peace. To support Ethiopia's peace-building efforts, the African Union allocates one million USD for Ethiopia's disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) programs. Integrating peace, security, and development efforts and fostering robust collaboration among member states, regional economic communities, and global partners is crucial.

New version of 'Band Aid' song against Ethiopia's current reality: PM Abiy

The intention behind the release of the new version of Band Aid's "Do They Know It's Christmas?" song after 40 years never considers Ethiopia's current reality.

I acknowledge the well-meaning intentions behind the original Band Aid initiative; however, the intention behind the new version after 40 years is reductionist and dehumanizing. Ethiopia has undergone substantial transformation since the 1980s. Ethiopia would be better off if it was recognized as one of the fastest growing economies; its ancient sites were on every traveller's bucket list, and for building the largest hydropower project in Africa. Ethiopia has become self-sufficient in wheat production and fully substituted wheat and other cereal imports. The song, which perpetuates images of a famine-stricken Ethiopia, fails to reflect



the nation's rich history, culture, and significant progress. Ethiopia is now one of Africa's fastest-growing economies.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) commented opposing the release of Band Aid's song new version after 40 years.

Ethiopia deploys some 142,000 peacekeeping troops since 1950s: State Minister

With its firm stance to regional, continental and international peace and security, Ethiopia has deployed more than 142,000 peacekeeping troops to eleven countries since early 1950s. Ethiopia is consistent in contributing its role towards international peace. Ethiopia's firm stance to regional, continental and global peace is steadfast. In addition to its peacekeeping efforts, Ethiopia is creating platforms to discuss on continental peace and security so as to promote collaboration to ensure peace and prosperity in Africa.

Keyredin Tezera (PhD), State Minister of Peace



Continental Peace Conference achieved its intended purpose: Outgoing Minister of Peace

The continental peace conference organized in Addis Ababa, attended by hundreds of participants from 22 African countries, was successful in fostering dialogue in ensuring peace and prosperity in Africa. Similarly, the forum helps Ethiopia showcasing its transformative reforms at home. The conference provided a crucial platform for in-depth dialogue on how to collectively resolve or at least minimize the common regional and continental challenges. For example, we explored collaborative strategies for information sharing to address illegal activities and discussed joint measures to combat illicit arms trafficking, human trafficking, and other unlawful operations.



Binalf Andualem, outgoing Minister of Peace said following the conclusion of the Continental Conference on Peace and Prosperity