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Social protection policy bolsters citizen-government ties: MoWSA

• MoWSA, South Sudanese delegation discuss policy advancements

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA-The Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA) stated that the issuance of the 2014 Social Protection Policy has been instrumental in shaping and enhancing the trajectory of Ethiopia's social protection programs.

A South Sudanese delegation and See Social protection ... Page 3

Ethiopia appeal for adequate finance to mitigate climate change

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA – Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) announced yesterday that Ethiopia has called for adequate financial support to its climate change prevention efforts at the ongoing COP29 conference in Azerbaijan.

Addressing climate crisis requires more than financial targets since it demands equity, common but differentiated responsibility, and historical accountability, Abiy posted on X.

He added that clear climate finance definitions are essential to track progress with new goals prioritizing vulnerable

regions, especially least developed countries like those in Africa.

Ethiopia is advancing its Paris Agreement and COP 28 commitments of last year through three initiatives such as the green legacy initiative, which has increase forest coverage by 6 percent with 40 billion seedlings planted to date, an irrigated wheat

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Photo: Gebabo Gebrie

Summit highlights Nat'l, regional dev't potentials

• Ethiopia hosts its first-ever capital market summit

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopia's first-ever capital market summit aimed at accelerating the development of Country's

See Summit highlights ... Page 3

Ethiopia, Russia ramp up trade, investment cooperation

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopia and Russia are set to harness cooperation across various sectors, aiming to unlock untapped business potential and foster mutually beneficial outcomes.

In his opening remarks at the "Russia-Ethiopia: No Time to Wait" business forum, Ethiopia's Foreign Affairs State Minister, Ambassador Mesganu Arga, emphasized the longstanding relationship between the two nations, which dates back to the 17th century. He highlighted the strong spiritual and cultural ties that have formed the foundation of their enduring friendship. The forum, he noted, presents a key opportunity to enhance trade and investment, unlocking significant economic potential.

While the relationship has evolved into



Photo: Dagne Abera

one of mutual trust, trade and investment have not yet reached their full potential, with current volumes remaining low. Ambassador Mesganu stressed that now is the time for both nations to collaborate more closely and

elevate their trade relations.

Recently, Ethiopia exported around 14 million USD worth of products, including coffee, vegetables, pulses, and oilseeds, to

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Fitsum Arega(Amb.)

EDS eyes enhanced role in Nat'l dev't

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – The Ethiopian Diaspora Service (EDS) is intensifying efforts to create an enabling environment that fosters the holistic and sustainable involvement of the Diaspora community in advancing national interests.

Speaking to local media, EDS Director General Fitsum Arega (Amb.) highlighted ongoing initiatives to bolster the Diaspora's contributions to Ethiopia through reforms and inclusive platforms. He emphasized that the Diaspora has shown strong willingness to support their homeland in areas such as finance, democracy, diplomacy, peace and security, national consensus, investment, and trade.

Recalling his tenure as ambassador to the U.S. and Canada, Fitsum shared that he led 22 Diaspora town hall meetings, during which the community expressed significant interest in aiding the country's development. However, he noted that much work remains to ensure their holistic engagement.

"The recently introduced financial reforms and initiatives by the National Bank of Ethiopia are commendable steps forward in enhancing Diaspora participation," Fitsum said. He stressed the importance of aligning the nation's interests with those of the Diaspora to ensure mutual benefit.

Fitsum acknowledged challenges, including a lack of adequate human resources, as barriers to achieving active Diaspora involvement. To address this, EDS is collaborating with volunteer service providers, media, and other stakeholders to reduce obstacles and expand the community's role in national development.

Recent data from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) reveals that around 5 million Ethiopian Diaspora members reside in regions such as the U.S., Europe, Canada, and the Middle East. Despite this vast population, the country has yet to fully capitalize on their potential contributions.

The EDS continues to encourage constructive initiatives while addressing barriers to maximize the Diaspora's role in shaping Ethiopia's future.

GEOCX pivotal to test capability in emergency management

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDISABABA- The 2024 Global Emergency Operations Center Stimulation Exercise (GEOCX) is crucial to identify critical gaps and highlight areas of improvement in emergency response, fostering stronger global collaboration and preparedness.

Health Minister Mekdes Daba (MD) made yesterday the above remark at the 2024 Global Emergency Operations Center Stimulation Exercise (GEOCX) hosted by the Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI) and World Health Organization (WHO).

The Minister also mentioned that by stimulating realistic global health crises, the exercise enables public health emergency management personnel to assess their capabilities, identify areas of improvement and refine response strategies.

With the increasing of health challenges worldwide, the exercise serves a huge platform to strengthening nation's response strategies underscoring the importance of partnership.

However, global pandemic like COVID-19 underscored the need for a system capable of rapid response to unexpected health crises. Cognizant to this fact, Ethiopia has made significant investment in health emergency preparedness.

The country conducts regular risk profiling across all level and develop comprehensive preparedness and response plans through One Health approach, as to her.



"Our commitment goes beyond digitalizing disease surveillance. We established Public Health Emergency Operation Centers at various levels."

EPHI Public Health Emergency Management Director General Mesay Hailu (MD) said the exercise serve the country in identifying critical resource needs, develop proactive strategies and ensure more resilient and responsive health system.

Highlighting that the institute is playing a significant role in strengthening public health system and ensuring preparedness for and response to public health emergencies, he noted that EPHI has been conducting simulation exercise in concert with WHO country office, UNCCDC, UKHSA and other partners as part of strengthening and monitoring status of IHR core competencies.

Hence, he indicated that the exercise help the nation in testing national and subnational

PHEOCS capacity as well as building partnership to meet health challenges ahead.

WHO Acting Representative Nonhlanhla Dlamini (MD) highlighted that Ethiopia, by partaking in this global event, the country has showcased its capability in emergency management to safeguarding health and well-being of its people.

"Asa host of the Global exercise, Ethiopia joins the global community in demonstrating its commitment to the global health security efforts in confronting public health emergencies regardless of origin," she underscored.

EPHI and WHO hosted the 2024 Global Emergency Operations Center Stimulation Exercise (GEOCX) aiming to bolster the capacity of Public Health Emergency Operations Centers (PHEOC) worldwide to prepare for and respond to health emergencies, it was learned.

Czech firm joins Ethiopia to combat fluoride water crisis

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA – APIMOSO s.r.o., a Czech potable water treatment technology supplier, has announced a groundbreaking partnership with the Ethiopian government to tackle the severe fluoride water crisis affecting communities across the Rift Valley region.

The collaboration marks a significant step toward delivering sustainable solutions through innovative mobile water treatment technologies.

Following the launching of the pilot project with Ethiopia's Ministry of Water and Energy, APIMOSO's International Sales Director emphasized the company's commitment to addressing the health challenges posed by fluoride-contaminated water. "We've initiated a pilot project to install these technologies, which we believe will provide practical and immediate relief to affected areas," he said.

He highlighted that Czech geologists and research have long identified the harmful impact of fluoride water on the health of Ethiopian communities. "The problem spans a vast area, and APIMOSO is stepping in with solutions tailored to these realities," he added.

The pilot project, conducted in collaboration with Ethiopia's Ministry of Water and



Energy, involves deploying mobile water treatment systems designed to mitigate fluoride contamination efficiently. The initiative aims to deliver not only advanced machinery but also ongoing support, including maintenance and spare parts, ensuring the long-term functionality of the systems.

APIMOSO's approach is rooted in offering a full-service package, combining technology with expertise. The company's ongoing collaboration with Ethiopian businesses and government institutions highlights its broader commitment to building sustainable partnerships. "We see great potential for future engagement with private and public entities seeking reliable water treatment solutions," the director noted, adding that

private institutions dealing with fluoride challenges have shown excitement about working with the firm.

Vitezslav Schwarz, Commercial Counselor at the Czech Embassy in Addis Ababa, echoed the sentiment, urging Ethiopia to foster open dialogues with Czech companies eager to contribute their technology and expertise. "The Ethiopian market has immense potential to attract more Czech firms, provided there is a welcoming investment environment," he said.

With the pilot project already underway, this partnership between Ethiopia and APIMOSO sets the stage for a transformative solution to the fluoride water crisis, offering hope for healthier communities and stronger bilateral ties.

Social protection...

the MoWSA held discussions on social protection yesterday in Addis Ababa.

Speaking at the event, MoWSA Minister Ergogie Tesfaye (PhD) highlighted that social protection programs have bolstered both individual security and social cohesion, serving as a bridge between citizens and the government. "In Ethiopia, social protection is a government priority, demonstrating our commitment to safeguarding citizens' well-being during and beyond their working years," she stated.

Minister Ergogie emphasized that social protection is a crucial tool for sustaining peace at the local level, strengthening social bonds and the social contract between citizens and the government. She noted that Ethiopia, in collaboration with key stakeholders, has prioritized and invested in social protection as a central pillar of national development. "Our 2014 National Social Protection Policy, along with its Strategy and Action Plan, has broadened social protection's reach, covering a larger segment of our population and addressing a wider array of risks," she added.

To date, Ethiopia has launched several flagship programs, including the Rural



Safety Net Program, Urban Safety Net Program, Community-Based Health Insurance, School Feeding Programs, Active Labor Market Interventions, and Legal Aid and Support Services.

Ethiopia's experience in implementing these programs provides valuable insights in key areas highlighted during the visit, including digital and adaptive social protection systems, shock-responsive safety nets, livelihood initiatives, and connections to essential social services. Minister Ergogie added that the 2014 Social Protection Policy

has been pivotal in positively influencing the direction of these social protection programs.

Over the past two decades, Ethiopia's social protection sector has advanced, supporting the nation's social, economic, and environmental development. However, key areas still require modernization to meet evolving needs.

South Sudan's Gender, Child, and Social Welfare Minister Aya Benjamin Warile commended Ethiopia's efforts and achievements in social protection.

Ethiopia, Russia...

Russia. In return, Russia exported 40 million USD worth of agricultural machinery, semi-finished iron, wheat, and edible oil to Ethiopia.

Ambassador Mesganu highlighted Ethiopia's potential to become a top investment destination for Russian companies in Africa. As one of the world's largest economies, Russia is well-positioned to serve as a primary market for Ethiopian exports. The Ethiopian government's recent macroeconomic reforms have made the country more attractive to investors, offering a broad range of incentives.

He added, "With the adoption of the Home-grown Economic Reforms, we are on track to achieve our goal of rapid, green, and sustainable economic growth, positioning Ethiopia as one of the fastest-growing

economies in the world."

Russian investors are showing increasing interest in sectors such as energy, mining, agriculture, and manufacturing. In line with this, Russia's nuclear corporation, Rosatom, has signed an agreement with the Ethiopian government to establish a nuclear energy facility and research center. Similarly, Russian oil giant Gazprom has partnered with Ethiopia's Nile Petroleum to explore oil and gas reserves, while Russian Railways has signed a cooperation framework with the Ethiopian Railway Corporation to modernize and expand railway infrastructure.

Furthermore, Russia's state-owned Rostec plans to invest in creating an industrial zone in Ethiopia to attract Russian manufacturers and boost bilateral trade. Other state-

owned companies, including Rusagro in agriculture, Rostec in textiles, and several car manufacturers, are also exploring investment opportunities.

Russian Ambassador to Ethiopia, Evgeny Terekhin, echoed these sentiments, highlighting Ethiopia's vast investment potential with its population of over 120 million. He praised the country's rapid development and favorable investment climate, bolstered by Free Trade Zones and Industrial Parks across various regions.

Ethiopia's recent entry into BRICS further strengthens its diplomatic ties with Russia, elevating their cooperation to new levels. The forum marks a significant moment in the growing economic and trade partnership between the two nations.

Ethiopia appeal...

program that transformed a grain deficit into surplus by 2023, and climate smart urban projects creating sustainable, greener cities with renewable energy, pedestrian pathways and electric vehicles, according to the premier.

At the 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, Ethiopia has called for adequate financial funds. The country is showcasing its flagship Green Legacy Initiative, renewable energy projects, and summer wheat production as key components of its commitment to combating climate change, he added.

Ethiopia's achievements through the Green Legacy Initiative are also featured at the Ethiopian pavilion at COP29. As global leaders deliberate on climate action, let's take a journey in this video into Ethiopia's practical contributions through the Prime Ministerial Green Legacy Initiative.

Addressing the attendees of the Conference, President Taye Atske-Selassie highlighted Ethiopia's forward-looking commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable development, citing key national efforts such as the Green Legacy Initiative.

He stressed Ethiopia's proactive measures in protecting and nurturing natural resources and outlined major projects aimed at addressing and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

President Taye further stressed the importance of international collaboration and support for such environmental efforts, underlining that global backing is essential to ensure the success and sustainability of climate resilience projects.

On the occasion, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres urged world leaders at COP29 to focus on three areas such as

making emergency emissions reductions, protecting people from the ravages of the climate crisis and tearing down the walls to climate finance by agreeing a new finance goal that contains a significant increase in concessional public finance.

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Executive Secretary Simon Stiell on his part said that climate impacts are carving up to 5 percent off GDP in many countries so that climate crisis is a cost-of-living crisis because climate-driven disasters are driving up costs for households and businesses.

Bolder climate action can drive economic opportunity and abundance everywhere as cheap, clean energy can be the bedrock of many economies. It means more jobs, more growth, less pollution choking cities, healthier citizens and stronger businesses, he added.

Summit highlights...

capital market and boosting investment opportunities in the Horn of Africa region opened here.

Opening the summit yesterday, Ethiopian Capital Market Authority (ECMA) Director General, Hana Tehelku stated that the summit is a vital platform to foster collaboration, attract investment and promote sustainable economic growth in the region.

It also marked a significant milestone in Ethiopia's financial landscape, as the nation embarks on a journey to establish its first capital market, she added.

Ethiopia's first ever capital market summit, launched yesterday under the theme "Paving the Way for Sustainable Future," is a cornerstone for sustainable economic growth and development in the region, she remarked.

As the summit progresses, Hana expressed that the government will explore opportunities in emerging sectors, including green and sustainable finance and how these opportunities help to meet Ethiopia's housing needs and narrow infrastructure gaps.

"We aim to strengthen market liquidity, boost investors' confidence, and envision the capital market dynamically supporting Ethiopia's economic ambitions and serving as a catalyst for sustainable growth. We also focus on fostering a culture of transparency and public understanding," she said.

Finance State Minister Eyob Tekalign (PhD) said that the operation of a strong capital market closely aligns with the fundamentals of well-established markets to provide alternative financing for agribusiness and other sectors.

The establishment of capital markets brings transformative potential for young entrepreneurs, small and medium enterprises, which is vital for economic growth and job creation in Ethiopia, he stated.

This closely aligns with the goal of realizing an inclusive economy where people from all backgrounds have the right to access finance, innovate and rehabilitate, he said, adding that his government is aspiring to create a united political and economic society.

Among the major economic reforms taken by the government in the last six years include liberalizing the capital market and public enterprises, which have resulted not only in improving efficiency but also in enhancing public sector participation, as clearly exhibited in the sale of 10% of Ethio telecom's stake, Eyob added.

The National Bank of Ethiopia Governor, Mamo Mihretu also stressed the need to ensure market access to all to raise capital market to achieve their daily tasks.

Strong capital market give sovereign business access to more diversified and offer African investors, he mentioned.

The summit organized by ECMA in partnership with the African Development Bank and international finance cooperation will be wrapped up on 15 November 2024.

Opinion

A historic pact for economic growth, regional stability in Horn of Africa

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

It becomes apparent that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that has been signed between Ethiopia and Somaliland beyond a shadow of a doubt is a substantial move and momentous step in fast-tracking trade and commerce in the Horn of Africa and beyond.

There is no denying that as the deal circles around in various domains of collaboration in terms of social, economic, political, military and other things of a similar kind, it will take the Horn of Africa to whole other level and new horizons through the passage of time.

It is quite clear that the MoU becomes involved in giving a push to make Ethiopia's desire a reality at the earliest possible juncture. As access to seaport brings tremendous opportunities to the people of the Horn of Africa, bodies involved should join hands for the full realization of the agreement.

Instead of fanning the flames of hatred and spreading figment of imagination and shameless falsehood, scaremongers should alienate themselves from their wicked deeds and stand for the truth.

As things stand now, as the broader international community knows the full pictures of the whole situation going behind closed doors like the palm of their hand, they will not be for sure hoodwinked by the conspiracies of worrywarts that have an intense aversion to see the growth of Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa region.

Up to this juncture, some groups have maintained mystifying the wider international community with their usual cock and bull stories that do not reflect the prevailing circumstances and the tangible existence on the ground. In actual fact, no matter how hard they attempted to materialize their dream, all their efforts has set in motion going for nothing.

To everyone's dismay, Ethiopia's population which is estimated to be more than 120 million does not have sufficient access to seaport to assist the progress of its economy as the country's desire.

In the same way, owing to the fact that the country is generally known for its population boom, pertinent bodies should lay too much stress on Ethiopia's economic growth standing by the side of the country.

No matter what wet blankets enunciate with respect to seaport access agreement, the two parties have sustained augmenting their cooperation and moving forward in the right direction turning a blind eye to their bogus news stories.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed expressed Ethiopia's pursuit of peaceful access to the Red Sea, citing the necessity for a sea outlet to support the nation's growing economy and expanding population of over 120 million, according to information obtained from local media.

Speaking before the Parliament, PM Abiy emphasized Ethiopia's commitment to a non-aggressive approach to realizing these



Ensuring sea access for regional integration and mutual benefit

strategic goals.

"We seek access to the Red Sea in a peaceful manner, as is fitting for a nation of our size and growing economy," PM Abiy stated. "Our agenda is not about confrontation, but about ensuring economic growth and benefiting the Ethiopian people."

The region has ample resource of sea access, he said, noting the Horn of Africa region has more than 5,000 kilometers of sea access stretching from Massawa to Mogadishu.

He went on to outline that Ethiopia's interest in access to the Red Sea is a logical move for economic growth, and with the presence of such a long coastline within reach, the country remains committed to pursuing agreements that promote mutual benefit.

"Our approach is one of shared prosperity and respect for our neighbors," PM Abiy remarked, pointing to Ethiopia's ambitions for regional development.

He highlighted this vast region as a potential resource, stating, "With this extensive coastline within our neighborhood, we see a wealth of opportunities for trade and cooperation that can uplift not only Ethiopia but the entire region."

Ethiopia's commitment to peaceful engagement remains steadfast, seeking to create a strong foundation for trade routes that could transform the Horn of Africa into a hub of growth and connectivity.

There is no doubt that access to sea port is essential to achieve success particularly for Ethiopia, which has been endeavoring to set the scene for the import and export business of the country.

It seems obvious that the MoU would play a significant role in the Horn of Africa paving the way for building prosperity and growth through economic development.

In view of the fact that access to seaport plays a monumental role in paving the way for international and regional development, relevant actors should act in concert and present a unified front.

Securing seaport through diplomacy and shared development takes a role in expediting socioeconomic integration and amalgamating cooperation with nations in the Horn of Africa.

It becomes evident that the move to secure seaport access through diplomatic way is vital for the realization of socio-economic

integration and augmenting alliance with a broad set of nations in the Horn of Africa.

As long as Ethiopia's hunt for access to seaport is to prosper together, nations in the Horn of Africa should combine efforts and form an alliance at the earliest moment.

It is recalled that Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and the President of Somaliland, Muse Bihe Abdi signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding in Addis Ababa in January, 2024, according to a source.

Office of the Prime Minister said the Memorandum of Understanding for Partnership and Cooperation, between Ethiopia and Somaliland, is intended to serve as a framework for the multisectoral partnership between the two sides.

The MoU shall pave the way to realize the aspiration of Ethiopia to secure access to the sea and diversify its access to seaports. It also strengthens their security, economic and political partnership, according to Office of the Prime Minister.

Furthermore, the Memorandum of Understanding also indicates the pathway to bolster their political and diplomatic relations. The MoU reaffirms the principled position of the Ethiopian government to advance mutual interests through cooperation on the basis of reciprocity, it pointed out.

It ushers in a new chapter of cooperation and has a huge significance for regional integration in the horn. It also enables Ethiopia to enhance its role in maintaining regional peace and security.

In a similar way, the MoU can easily greases the wheels of the implementation of seaport access deal standing in solidarity with nations in the Horn region.

It goes without saying nations in the Horn of Africa should comprehend Ethiopia's peaceful approach on the grounds that the country has been working towards mutual growth and taking the Horn of Africa to new opportunities.

Likewise, it serves as a guideline for the multi-sectorial partnership between the two sides and makes the country's dream become a reality down the road.

Theregional economic corporation, combined military efforts, cooperation in the field of culture among the various nations of the region will smooth the way

for the integration of the Horn of Africa.

The nonviolent endeavors undergoing by the Federal government of Ethiopia to gain access to seaport should be taken doubtlessly.

The attempt of certain sections that have been working around the clock to disrupt the efforts of Ethiopia to gain access to seaport is on a par with bending over backwards to throw cold water on the efforts of the country to grow and prosper.

Ethiopia's right to access direct maritime seaport is a legitimate call through legal frameworks to facilitate the country's overall economic development, a distinguished Congolese law professor at University of Lubumbashi said.

Speaking to ENA, Professor Joseph Yav who is also Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU) Life time member and Commercial Law Committee Co-Chair said Ethiopia's ongoing quest for having access to seaport is acceptable.

Given its geographical, historical, economic backgrounds, Ethiopia has initiated discussions to secure sea outlet based on the principle of mutual benefits and partnership that provide amicable opportunities to strengthen shared development.

Quest for coastal access to sea outlets is essentially considered as a legitimate right to Ethiopia with its sizable economy and population as well as the ever growing import-export trade.

Moreover, the country's direct coastal access is anticipated to increase physical economic growth of the people in the Horn of Africa, it was learned.

For professor Yav, the ongoing Ethiopia's endeavor to secure seaport is extremely important to expedite regional economic growth and collaboration with neighboring countries.

There are pathways to achieve this goal through peaceful negotiations and international legal frameworks. Ethiopia deserves access to the seaport like any other nation," Yav noted, urging for discussions that respect international law and promote shared resources.

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

Editorial

Climate financing for curtailing carbon emission

As the reality on the ground across the globe would have it, developing countries are highly affected by carbon emissions released from developed/advanced ones and have forcibly swallowed the bitter morsels of the impacts of climate change though they have been distributing little or no share to the global atmospheric oscillation.

Being punishable and primarily susceptible to danger without committing any wrongdoing could by no means be just and acceptable. What developed nations of the world are imposing on those of the developing ones is tantamount to such a devastating picture. If it happens unfortunately, in case, proportional compensation has to be well fixed and a number of promising mechanisms have to be devised at least to narrow the gap which can be expressed using a paradoxical canto—highly contributing to climate change via emitting too much carbon, but no harm; making no or little contribution, but incur unbearable socio-economic cost. What an iniquitous global reality!

Unequivocally, developed countries are responsible for a large portion of global carbon emissions, and are expected to overshoot their carbon emission targets as they have all the time been responsible for grand cumulative global CO₂ emissions. Besides, these countries, prime emitters, have to deepen their emissions cuts to meet global climate goals.

Yes, advanced nations have to think of compensating developing counterparts for carbon emissions, following their state of rapid industrialization and the ever-shifting stance towards manufacturing, which has been imposing serious harm on developing ones.

It is also well recognized that developing countries are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change since they are more exposed to extreme weather events, susceptible to adverse impacts on health and agriculture, less resilient due to weaker infrastructure and institutions, as well as highly uncovered to the effects of climate change.

Hence, the advanced nations have to live up to their promises and should meet their pledge to provide developing nations with compatible climate finance, of course.

No doubt, most of the climate finance has been earmarked for mitigation and adaptation to climate change. Since the financial need of developing countries to transition away from fossil fuels to deal with climate impacts is a huge amount of money, advanced ones are seriously urged to embark on climate financing.

As some countries have been leading the way in reducing their carbon emissions, which aims at cutting greenhouse gas emissions by a significant percentage and having a net-zero carbon economy in the near future, some others have to follow suit.

Undeniably, gas emissions resulting from human activity are the main root of climate change. These emissions are produced from industrial chimneys and different types of fuels. These kinds of emissions often come from developed and well-industrialized nations. That is why it is recurrently heralded that industrialized nations have to pay compensation.

Since developing countries like Ethiopia have contributed a lot to carbon sequestration through forest coverage expansion, as forests are a vital part of climate change resilience and can absorb greenhouse gas emissions, carbon capture and storage as well as rehabilitation of degraded lands, these nations have to be well nurtured and the best experience they have been exhibiting has to be replicated to confidently defeat climate change. One of the most common offsetting schemes in this regard is planting tree seedlings, indeed!

The feasible actions developing countries have been taking to reduce emissions like forestation and reforestation, producing blue and green hydrogen phasing out coal and curtailing operations of coal-fired thermoelectric power plants require huge amounts of capital, they have to be well backed through sufficient climate financing.

It is also well-recognized that universal deforestation has long been an important factor in the rise in carbon emissions. Therefore, reforestation is an accessible and economical way to contribute to offsetting greenhouse gas emissions.

Most importantly, the climate financial pledge developed nations made earlier needs to be properly discharged for it is instrumental in fostering the effort geared towards creating a safer planet.

Opinion

High time to emphasis on climate financing

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Nearly all nations participate in the United Nations Climate Change conferences, commonly referred to as COPs, which serve as the sole multilateral platform for making decisions on climate change globally. These conferences are crucial for reaching a global consensus on solutions to the climate crisis, such as achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, supporting vulnerable populations in adapting to climate change impacts, and limiting the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The COP conferences bring together member nations of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), business leaders, young people, climate scientists, journalists, experts, stakeholders, and delegates. These conferences play a vital role in addressing global climate change challenges, setting emission reduction targets, and fostering international cooperation.

The 29th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, or COP, commenced this year in Baku, Azerbaijan. Among other objectives, this gathering aims to finalize the first enhanced transparency framework and the new collective quantified goal on finance. A key question arises: Why is COP significant for climate finance? What challenges does climate finance currently face? What steps should be taken to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change?

COP holds importance for climate financing due to several reasons. It establishes a global framework for various initiatives, including negotiating and agreeing on collective measures to combat climate change. Additionally, it contributes to the development of international standards and obligations that govern climate funding activities. Furthermore, COP conferences play a crucial role in mobilizing financial resources from developed countries to support developing nations. The goal of raising \$100 billion USD annually to aid vulnerable countries in climate mitigation and adaptation efforts is frequently discussed.

Moreover, COP promotes private-sector investment by showcasing successful climate financing models and projects that can attract private investment. It also facilitates climate loss and damage, technology transfer, and networking among stakeholders like governments, NGOs, businesses, and international organizations to form partnerships.

However, COP conferences are essential for establishing a coordinated global approach to climate financing, resource mobilization, ensuring accountability, fostering collaboration, and driving innovation in climate action. Yet, countries, especially developed ones, often fail to translate their

promises and pledges into action fully.

Reports indicate that climate financing faces various obstacles that could hinder the effective implementation of climate action plans and initiatives, particularly in developing countries. Many developing nations struggle to access available climate funds due to complex application processes and stringent criteria imposed by institutions. This may discourage potential applicants and limit the number of initiatives receiving funding.

Furthermore, developed countries' lack of commitment to climate financing could hinder their ability to support climate action both domestically and internationally. Political will and commitment may change with shifts in government or leadership, leading to less public support and complex funding channels that pose barriers to climate finance.

Climate financing often requires long-term investments, but political cycles in developed countries may prioritize short-term outcomes, resulting in underfunding for crucial long-term climate projects. Lack of coordination among donors and stakeholders also presents hurdles to climate financing, making it challenging to collect committed funds annually.

These challenges impede the financial resources allocated to support climate change mitigation and adaptation activities, affecting developing countries' development initiatives and climate change efforts.

For example, Ethiopia is advancing commitments from the Paris Agreement and COP28 through initiatives like the Green Legacy Initiative, which has increased forest cover by 6 percent, the irrigated wheat program that transformed a grain deficit into a surplus, and climate-smart urban projects creating sustainable cities with renewable energy and electric vehicles.

Efforts like those in Ethiopia to address climate change require support through climate financing. Addressing the climate financing needs of developing countries is crucial for achieving global climate goals and promoting sustainable development. By improving access to finance, the global community can empower developing nations to take meaningful action against climate change while fostering economic growth and resilience.

Furthermore, providing climate financing to developing countries is essential for reducing poverty, achieving long-term self-sufficiency, and addressing related issues through their development initiatives. Therefore, developed countries must commit to fulfilling their pledges. COP 29 should particularly focus on climate funding as a key element of the global response to climate change and enhancing developing nations' efforts worldwide.

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The Ethiopian Herald

Business & Economy

A shift towards market-based exchange rate fostering resilient economic environment

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Ethiopia is embarking on a significant economic transformation aimed at rectifying long-standing imbalances within its economy. A pivotal step in this journey is the National Bank of Ethiopia's (NBE) recent decision to adopt a market-based determination of the national exchange rate. This move signals a renewed commitment to fostering a more resilient and competitive economic environment.

For years, Ethiopia has grappled with a range of economic challenges, including inflation, currency devaluation, and trade deficits. These issues have hindered sustainable growth and have disproportionately affected various sectors of the economy, leading to disparities in wealth and access to resources. Recognizing the need for comprehensive reforms, the Ethiopian government is taking deliberate steps to address these imbalances.

The NBE's shift to a market-based exchange rate system is a cornerstone of Ethiopia's economic strategy. Previously, the exchange rate was heavily regulated, with the government playing a dominant role in setting rates. This approach often led to distortions in the market, contributing to a black market for foreign currency and limiting the competitiveness of Ethiopian exports.

According to the governor of NBE Mamo Mihretu, by allowing the exchange rate to be determined by market forces, the NBE aims to enhance transparency and efficiency in foreign exchange transactions. This new framework is expected to bring various benefits to the nation's economy including attracting Foreign Direct Investment, diminish black market, inhibits illegal trade and enhance the nation's foreign currency reserves.

In addition, a more predictable exchange rate environment can attract foreign investors who seek stability and clarity in their financial dealings.

It also boosts exports with a market-driven exchange rate; Ethiopian products may become more competitively priced in international markets; potentially increasing export volumes and revenues.

By aligning the exchange rate with market dynamics, the government hopes to reduce the fiscal burden associated with maintaining an artificially pegged currency.

The NBE's decision is part of a broader set of economic reforms aimed at promoting sustainable development. These reforms include efforts to improve the business environment, increase access to finance, and enhance infrastructure development. The government is also focusing on diversifying the economy, which has traditionally been reliant on agriculture, by promoting sectors such as manufacturing and services.

While the move to a market-based exchange rate is promising, it is not without challenges. The transition may lead to short-term volatility as the market adjusts. Additionally, managing inflation and ensuring sufficient foreign reserves will be



Market based exchange rate regime is backing Ethiopia's economy become competitive

By aligning the exchange rate with market dynamics, the government hopes to reduce the fiscal burden associated with maintaining an artificially pegged currency

critical to stabilizing the economy during this period of change.

Ethiopia's renewed efforts to address economic imbalances through the adoption of a market-based exchange rate represent a significant step forward. By embracing market mechanisms, the NBE is positioning the country for a more sustainable and equitable economic future. As these reforms unfold, the international community will be watching closely, hopeful that Ethiopia can navigate the complexities of this transition and emerge stronger as a result.

According Zemedeneh Negatu, a distinguished Ethiopian-American business leader, global strategist, and investor, the measure taken by the government will bring significant development for Ethiopia's financial landscape, increases the volume of export trade and make the financial industry more competent at the international market.

Fitch Ratings, an international financial think thank group, on its part, announced that the measure signaling a cautious optimism toward Ethiopia's economic restructuring. The opening up of the financial sector to foreign companies and introducing of floating exchange rate encourages both importers and exporters to enhance their business by easing shortage of foreign currency in Banks. In addition, it supports to serve the nation's debt as per the schedule. Moreover, it reduces the nation's dependency on foreign financial institutions

for its development endeavor.

The move reflects Ethiopia's renewed efforts to address long-standing economic imbalances, starting with the NBE's recent market-based determination of the national exchange rate. This policy, introduced in July 2024, led to over 50% depreciation of the official exchange rate, aligning it with the parallel market and alleviating distortions that had hampered trade. The NBE also introduced an interest-rate-based monetary policy, setting a 15% policy rate to stabilize inflation and enhance the effectiveness of monetary policy.

The changes follow Ethiopia's new four-year agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under the Extended Credit Facility, which immediately disbursed 1 billion USD as part of a 3.4 billion USD package to support Ethiopia's economic adjustments. The arrangement, alongside anticipated funding from the World Bank totaling 3.75 billion USD, is expected to reduce Ethiopia's reliance on domestic financing and enable a shift toward market-based auctions for Treasury bills.

Fitch also noted Ethiopia's intention to phase out non-market-based local financing, which had contributed to financial repression and inflation. In a related move, the NBE converted 242 billion Birr in direct advances to long-term government securities, easing rollover risks. The NBE's initiative to conduct regular open-market operations is a key step in creating a sustainable fiscal framework.

The government's shift toward managing its debt more sustainably is evidenced by a narrowing of its fiscal deficit from 2.5% of GDP in 2023 fiscal year to 2% in 2024 fiscal year. Fitch projects a slight increase to 2.7% in 2025 fiscal year due to government spending on essential social programs and public sector wage increases.

Despite the positive trajectory in local currency management, Ethiopia's external debt challenges persist with the foreign-currency International Depository Receipt (IDR). Ethiopia is restructuring 15.1 billion USD of external debt through the Common Framework, which began in 2021 and includes both bilateral and commercial debt. A standstill agreement with major Chinese creditors and the Official Creditor Committee (OCC) granted Ethiopia relief

on debt service for 2023 and 2024. Progress toward an agreement with the OCC is expected by the end of 2024, a crucial step before Ethiopia begins negotiations with private creditors.

The International Monetary Fund also outlined conditions for further positive rating action, indicating that a resolution of Ethiopia's foreign-currency debt restructuring and successful implementation of economic reforms could lead to further upgrades. The alignment of official and parallel exchange rates has boosted gold exports, contributing to an expected rise in international reserves from 1 billion USD in the 2024 fiscal year to an anticipated 4.5 billion USD by 2026.

However, challenges remain, particularly in institutional transparency, which impact Ethiopia's credit profile. Fitch's scores highlight governance concerns, particularly in terms of rule of law and corruption control, underscoring the need for continued progress in these areas to solidify Ethiopia's path to economic stability.

According to the IMF, the nation faces a delicate balancing act as it seeks to achieve sustainable growth and meet the conditions of international creditors. The journey is ongoing, but Fitch's assessment reflects growing confidence in Ethiopia's reform agenda and economic potential.

Tewodros Tassew, an economist working in the World Bank Ethiopia Branch said that floating the currency is a necessary step for the economy that will allow Ethiopia to gradually move away from aid and towards global markets as a source of foreign exchange and investment.

He further said that trade with the foreign world through export is essential to boost the nation's foreign currency reserve which plays key role in importing industrial inputs and capital goods.

Currently, agriculture, though it is subsistence, contributes more than 75% for foreign currency earnings. The export products are mostly exported in their raw form with no value addition which again reduces their competency in the international market. Therefore, exporting goods by adding value further enhances the nation's foreign currency earnings.

As to him, Coffee, which is a traditional export product, is still exported in its raw form; this again deducts the amount of the nation's foreign currency earnings. Therefore, exporting roasted and grinded coffee, which has been flourishing in some parts of the country, should be enhanced. Ethiopia exports oil seeds. Paradoxically, it imports edible oil by spending millions of Dollars which is not reasonable. Hence, halting such practices should be a priority. Expanding manufacturing can be taken as a way out for linking agriculture with industries and boosting value-added agricultural products.

As mentioned above the floating of currency is critically vital to enhance the nation's hard currency reserve through stimulating export and value addition on agricultural products.

Art & Culture

Corridor Development: The project crystalizing modernization

BY WONDWOSSEN ALEMAYEHU HAILE

The development undertakings in Addis Ababa are becoming a source of inspiration across Ethiopia. The project is a monumental impetuous force for change in many paradigms of development as well. It is believed to touch some other facets driving further advancement.

The ongoing project will have enormous power to spur social change. It is impossible to realize tangible development without readiness for social change. A country's cultural aspects play a central role in spurring economic advancement. Cultural facets that resist new ideas and innovations become real impediments to economic improvement. In return, the development that is in progress is set to bring about positive changes for the betterment of society.

The monumental city project is playing a significant role in setting up platforms for digitalization. The digitalization generation is aiming towards improving the service sector to enhance the satisfaction of customers. Improved customer service will have a central place in achieving equity and equal opportunity in society. The improvement of the service sectors, such as the financial institutions, health, and education sectors, through digitalization will render effective provision of services, realizing capital growth in revenue. Consequently, the effective provision of services in all sectors will have an enormous ripple effect, streamlining the fast economic growth of the country.

The digitalization process will also have its own hegemonic influence in maximizing productivity. It enhances productivity through enabling time-efficient and more dependable internal processes. It facilitates a more efficient relationship between suppliers and customers, as well as between employees and processes. Enhanced connectivity is of vital importance in improving innovation in the manufacturing sector, leading to increased productivity.



The digital transformation will have further significance in enhancing collaboration between various companies. The digital collaboration will help improve team efficiency, capitalizing on combined productivity. For instance, the digital collaboration within the banking and transportation industries will bring about an increase in revenue, minimizing overhead costs. The fast connectivity between various stakeholders will be of paramount importance in managing a plethora of activities all at once coming up with momentous impact.

The grand corridor project of Addis Ababa will inevitably create a better future for the community. It brings a social change that can lead to a more just and equitable society where everyone has access to equal opportunities and resources. Such undertakings in the capital would give everyone the opportunity to have a deeper understanding of the environment with more economic and social transformations

to seize the best out of a future full of dynamism.

The other positive impact that the ongoing corridor development brings about to the inhabitants is the preservation of the natural environment. The project renders a better opportunity to expand on plantations maintaining the natural ecosystem of the city. It returns the green legacy of the city making outstanding influence over the pollution threat which is emerging due to industries in different corners of the area.

Such a form of development which is underway in effective collaboration between the government and the community will have its significant positive influence on the transformation of social institutions. The changes that occur sporadically will have profound and long-term positive consequences for society. The social institutions which tend to have traditional norms will inevitably be triggered for irrevocable change. For instance, such

pivotal development will bring tremendous, marvelous influence to important social institutions such as health care and educational institutions. The development project will provide better facilities for institutions thriving in their economic capacity.

The development will have also its own spectacular leverage over the use of renewable energy. Its impact on the proliferation of clean energy is so expansive. The government's insatiable effort to introduce solar and wind energy for a better environment is one of the showcases for sustaining sustainable energy.

In a nutshell, the progressive development project that is underway in parts of the capital will come up with innumerable benefits to the society adding up value to the social and economic thriving of the country. The project will drive Ethiopia to the best opportunities yet to come.

(Email: wondwossen.a.haile@gmail.com)

Peace

BY GEORGE HERBERT

Sweet Peace, where dost thou dwell? I humbly crave,
Let me once know.
I sought thee in a secret cave,
And ask'd, if Peace were there,
A hollow wind did seem to answer,
No:
Go seek elsewhere.
I did; and going did a rainbow note:
Surely, thought I,
This is the lace of Peace's coat:
I will search out the matter.

But while I looked the clouds
immediately
Did break and scatter.

Then went I to a garden and did spy
A gallant flower,
The crown-imperial: Sure, said I,
Peace at the root must dwell.
But when I digged, I saw a worm
devour
What showed so well.
At length I met a rev'rend good old
man;
Whom when for Peace
I did demand, he thus began:

There was a Prince of old
At Salem dwelt, who lived with good
increase
Of flock and fold.

He sweetly lived; yet sweetness did
not save
His life from foes.
But after death out of his grave
There sprang twelve stalks of wheat;
Which many wond'ring at, got some
of those
To plant and set.
It prospered strangely, and did soon
disperse

Through all the earth:
For they that taste it do rehearse
That virtue lies therein;
A secret virtue, bringing peace and
mirth
By flight of sin.

Take of this grain, which in my garden
grows,
And grows for you;
Make bread of it: and that repose
And peace, which ev'ry where
With so much earnestness you do
pursue,
Is only there.

Indepth

COP 29: Global climate action and the path forward

BY STAFF REPORTER

As the world gathers once again for the 29th annual Conference of the Parties (COP 29) in Baku Azerbaijan, the urgency to address climate change has never been greater. This conference, hosted in [Host Country/City], marks a pivotal moment for global leaders, scientists, and activists to review progress, solidify commitments, and chart new courses for collective action.

Recent data continues to highlight the severe impacts of climate change. From record-breaking temperatures and unprecedented wildfires to devastating floods and hurricanes, the consequences of global warming are being felt worldwide. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns that the world is on track to exceed 1.5°C of warming within the next decade unless dramatic cuts in greenhouse gas emissions are achieved.

This threshold—while seemingly small—is a critical line. Crossing it risks triggering irreversible changes in the Earth's climate system, including the melting of polar ice caps, rising sea levels, and more extreme weather events that disproportionately affect vulnerable communities.

COP 29 serves as an essential platform for the global community to collaborate and make meaningful progress. Key objectives for this conference include: COP 29 will push for concrete steps toward fulfilling and surpassing the \$100 billion annual commitment made by developed countries.

The conference will showcase advancements in renewable energy technologies and discuss strategies for scaling up their adoption to replace fossil fuels.

One of the most pressing discussions will center on mechanisms for compensating countries that suffer severe climate-induced losses.

Ethiopia stands out as an example of proactive climate action through its Green Legacy Initiative. Launched in 2019 by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, this ambitious program aims to combat deforestation, reduce soil erosion, and improve biodiversity by planting billions of trees. To date, Ethiopia has planted over 25 billion trees, a remarkable achievement that not only supports local ecosystems but also contributes to global carbon sequestration efforts.

The Green Legacy Initiative has proven successful in several ways: Environmental Restoration: Reforestation has helped to rehabilitate degraded lands, increasing rainfall retention and reducing the impact of droughts.

Millions of Ethiopians, including students, farmers, and urban residents, have participated in tree-planting campaigns, fostering a culture of environmental stewardship.

By promoting agroforestry, the country has created new economic opportunities,



By emphasizing community engagement, sustainable practices and international cooperation, Ethiopia is positioning itself as a leader in reforestation and climate resilience

enabling farmers to grow fruit-bearing trees alongside their crops, which helps improve food security and livelihoods.

Ethiopia's broader climate efforts also include investments in renewable energy, particularly in hydroelectric power. The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) is poised to significantly boost the country's renewable energy capacity and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. However, challenges remain, such as balancing economic development with environmental conservation and ensuring that climate initiatives are inclusive and sustainable.

Launched in 2019 by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, this program aims to combat the adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation by mobilizing millions of Ethiopians to plant billions of trees across the country. The initiative has grown into one of the largest reforestation projects in the world, garnering attention and admiration both regionally and globally.

The Green Legacy Initiative was conceived as a direct response to the growing challenges posed by deforestation, soil

erosion, and erratic weather patterns affecting Ethiopia. Deforestation had reduced the country's forest cover from around 40% at the beginning of the 20th century to less than 15% by the early 2000s. Recognizing the urgent need to reverse this trend, the government initiated a nationwide tree-planting campaign with the ambitious goal of planting 20 billion seedlings by 2024.

Since its launch, the Green Legacy Initiative has seen tremendous success. By 2023, Ethiopians had already planted over 25 billion trees, surpassing initial expectations. The campaign's most remarkable moment came in July 2019, when Ethiopians planted over 353 million trees in a single day, setting a new world record for the most trees planted in a 24-hour period.

This large-scale environmental movement has been supported by both public and private institutions, with schools, community groups, and local governments playing significant roles in organizing and executing tree-planting events. The initiative has also garnered international partnerships and attracted attention from environmentalists worldwide.

Despite its significant achievements, the Green Legacy Initiative is not without challenges. Ensuring the survival and maintenance of the planted trees is a critical concern. Limited resources, climate variability, and competing land use needs can impact the long-term success of reforestation efforts. Additionally, scaling up the initiative to ensure sustainable impacts requires continuous support, both financially and technically.

Looking ahead, Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative holds immense potential to serve as a model for other countries facing similar environmental challenges. By emphasizing community engagement, sustainable practices and international cooperation, Ethiopia is positioning itself as a leader in reforestation and climate resilience.

Legacy Initiative is a testament to the

power of collective action and visionary leadership. As the world grapples with climate change and environmental degradation, the initiative stands out as a beacon of hope, showcasing that large-scale environmental restoration is possible with coordinated effort and public commitment. While challenges remain, the seeds sown today promise a greener, more sustainable future for Ethiopia and, by example, for the world at large.

Despite incremental progress made in previous summits, significant challenges remain. The world has seen a rise in renewable energy use, but this progress is uneven. Some nations have rapidly expanded solar and wind capacities, while others struggle with economic and political barriers.

Furthermore, global emissions, particularly from industrialized nations, continue to rise. The transition to a low-carbon economy requires more than ambitious pledges; it needs actionable policies, innovative technologies, and systemic changes in sectors such as transportation, manufacturing, and agriculture.

Beyond governmental policies, COP 29 emphasizes the importance of grassroots movements and corporate responsibility. Citizens, NGOs, and private sector players are increasingly involved in sustainable practices, pushing for transparency and accountability in climate action.

COP 29 represents not just another conference but a moment of global reckoning. Achieving tangible results will require unity, determination, and a shared commitment to ambitious, immediate action. The stakes are high, but so are the opportunities to foster a sustainable future for all.

As the world watches the outcomes of COP 29, one thing remains clear: the fight against climate change is a collective journey—one that requires contributions from every sector, nation, and individual. The decisions made at this summit will shape the future of our planet for generations to come.

Law & Politics



Must have recipes to unlock Africa's leverage on international blocs

BY FIKADU BELAY

The quest for permanent African representation in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has been a longstanding issue, deeply rooted in the continent's historical, political, and social situation. After the decolonization wave in the mid-20th century, African nations emerged with a strong desire for greater representation and influence in global governance structures.

Almost 80 years later, Africa has been unrepresented and largely remained a missing entity in the UNSC, even when its internal political and security matters are discussed and decisions are passed.

The push for a permanent African seat in the UNSC is not merely about gaining influence; it is also about rectifying historical injustices and ensuring that the voices of African nations are heard in discussions that impact their futures. The lack of representation is often seen as a continuation of colonial legacies, where African voices were marginalized in international affairs.

The quest for a permanent seat has gained stimulus over the years, especially following the African Union's (AU) endorsement of the Ezulwini Consensus in 2005. The proposal highlighted the continent's resolve to participate in and influence global governance structures that have factually marginalized it. However, the Ezulwini Consensus is not yet achieving its goals.

The absence of the populous and biggest continent from the international bloc made the path to peace and conflict resolution elusive. The resolutions that the UNSC passes and the directions it sets mostly go unheeded and unyielding due to the continent's exclusion in the process.

Since recently, the exclusion of the 1.5 billion continent from the security bloc has raised serious concerns about the fairness and efficacy of the global governing system. This concern gained traction and intensity lately with African countries like Ethiopia setting the tone and spearheading the efforts.

The significance of Africa's quest for permanent seats in the UNSC extends beyond

mere representation. It is fundamentally about ensuring that African perspectives and interests are integrated into global decision-making processes.

The expected Ezulwini Consensus and request the permanent seats in the UNSC reflect the understanding among African nations that a seat at the table is crucial for addressing issues and ensuring sustainable development on the continent.

But not yet, the persistent challenges such as security threats, famine, drought, and terrorism as product of systemic inequities faced by the continent of 55 nations. The absence of a permanent seat in the UNSC has become a focal point for many advocating for reform of the international system.

While the question of representation takes root, experts have been signaling the need to elevate Africa's positions in different spheres for the continent to exercise its deserved places to the fullest.

However, achieving this goal according to experts will require more than diplomatic efforts; it necessitates a concerted push to harness technological advancements and improve governance structures within African nations.

Moreover, some experts argue that instead of focusing solely on securing permanent seats at the UN, African nations should pursue the right to vote powers. This strategy could provide a more effective means of influencing decisions that impact the continent, ensuring that African voices are heard and considered in global governance.

In August 2024, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres reignited this long-standing issue, asserting the necessity for African representation in the UNSC. He argued that the Council's current membership does not reflect global dynamics and that Africa's exclusion is increasingly untenable.

Guterres emphasized that Africa's exclusion from critical discussions is increasingly untenable, as the continent grapples with unique challenges that require effective and relevant solutions.

With a population expected to be two billion by 2050, Africa's absence from the UNSC not

only undermines its interests but also hampers global efforts toward peace and security.

Experts agree that securing a permanent seat for Africa in the UNSC could significantly enhance the continent's ability to face its distinct challenges. This representation is crucial, as it would allow African nations to engage more directly in discussions about pressing issues such as climate change, economic inequality, and conflict resolution, all of which disproportionately affect African states.

Guterres has reiterated the urgency of this matter, expressing hope for reforms that would ensure Africa's representation in the UNSC.

He stated that highlighting the need for resolute actions and renewed cooperation among African nations and the international community. The call for a permanent seat is not merely about representation; it is about reshaping the narrative surrounding Africa's role in the global arena.

By participating in the UNSC, African countries would have the opportunity to articulate their needs, set agendas, and amplify their voices on issues that matter most to them.

The implications of such a shift are profound. A permanent seat would empower Africa to advocate more effectively for its interests and craft solutions that are equitable and just.

This engagement could alter perceptions of Africa from a continent often seen as steeped in crises to one recognized for its potential and leadership. However, the path to achieving this goal is fraught with challenges.

Worku Yakob (PhD), General Director of African Change for Interaction and Think Tank emphasized that securing a permanent seat requires significant groundwork and collaboration at the country level.

He noted that many African nations have drifted away from a culture of collective development and mutual agreement, which has fostered conflict and eroded trust. This lack of unity undermines confidence in any single country chosen to represent the continent, as often the elected nation finds itself constrained by external (particularly

Western) influences that can impede its advocacy for African interests.

To address these challenges, Worku suggested that rather than pursuing individual representation at the UN, Africa should present a united front through the African Union. The approach could enhance collective bargaining power and ensure that Africa's interests are more effectively represented.

Tesfaye Abate (PhD) is a law professor and legal advisor at the Ethiopian Civil Service University. He emphasizes the critical need for Africa to secure a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

He argued that such representation would empower the continent to address its unique challenges more effectively. "The contributions of Africa to global peacekeeping and conflict resolution are often overlooked," he asserted, highlighting that this oversight leaves the continent vulnerable to decisions made without its input.

The absence of a permanent seat on the UNSC has significant implications for Africa's developmental aspirations. Developing countries on the continent, striving for growth and stability, often find their progress stifled by a lack of representation in crucial international discussions, he added.

A permanent seat would enable African nations to participate actively in voting on issues that directly affect their futures, fostering an environment conducive to sustainable development. This inclusion is vital for establishing policies that resonate with the realities and needs of African societies.

While the journey toward securing a permanent seat for Africa in the UNSC is fraught with challenges, it is a goal that must be pursued vigorously. Abate asserts that Africa's voice should not only be heard but also hold influential power in shaping the future of global governance.

The time has come for the United Nations to recognize Africa's rightful place on the global stage. This recognition would reflect the continent's demographic and geopolitical significance, enhancing the effectiveness of the Council in promoting peace and security worldwide.

Women in Focus

A passion that comes into reality through determination, dedication, effort

BY STAFF REPORTER

It is not a common trend for people to move from city life to the countryside to reside or work there. Especially, when it is to remote areas where there are limited amenities, the move will be much difficult and testing to one's energy and strength.

However, for Rahel Hiruy, who outweighs the natural blessings of the areas and gives due attention to nature, the challenges that come following shortcomings of the infrastructure were not as demanding.

Even though she was born and raised in the capital, Addis Ababa, it never restricted her from moving to the rural part of the country where there is limited amenities. In areas where others might see shortcomings, Rahel sees opportunity—a chance to reconnect with nature and embrace life in rural areas.

Thus, deciding to follow her ambition, she moved to the rural part of the country, Kaffa Bench -Shako Zone. Her determination, in turn, benefited five thousand mothers to have job opportunities and generate income through introducing new a work culture.

Mainly by encouraging mothers and young people at Kaffa Bench Shako zones to grow different types of spices in their farmyard and supplying improved seeds as well as the needed backing, she helped them to be self-reliant financially. Most of all, as encouragement and market strategy, after the produces are produced, she buys them from the farmers and re-supply to the market.

Rahel attended her primary and secondary education at “Hiwot Birhan” School, here in Addis Ababa. She also earned her first degree in the field of Pharmacy and served in her profession till a senior pharmacist level.

With the hope to realize her passion, and to be successful in the field of spice and agriculture sector, which she is currently engaged in, she took training at various times and earned her second degree in ‘Agribusiness Administration’.

As she stated to EPA, Rahel, the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Damascene Essential Oil Processing PLC and a pioneering figure in the area of spice farming, the reason that drives her to engage in spice business was to be part of the solution and close the gaps witnessed in traditional medicines and beauty products.

“Our traditional medicines are often prepared haphazardly. We never preserve and keep them accordingly. Even, we never work in a manner to reach the global market,” she said.

To this end, she pointed out the significance of working committedly and



Rahel Hiruy, Founder and CEO of the Damascene Essential Oil Processing PLC

passionately to promote the area thereby increasing the revenue generated from the spice sector.

Rahel gives special attention to the value of traditional knowledge that is passed down through generations. “Our mothers have their own traditional knowledge. For this reason, at Kaffa, we brought together mothers from each kebele to tap into their untapped expertise and to identify the best types of leaf species for spices. Based on their, expertise, we multiply and bring to the community for planting. Today, many women are growing rosemary, Koseret, ginger, and lemonade in their yards,” she said

Thus, utilizing the traditional knowledge she grasped from the community, she has established nurseries and working on species. Thus far, she set up around six nurseries. “Now the women have familiarized themselves with the activities and they are growing seedlings by themselves and sharing with each other. The government is also distributing the seedlings purchasing from us,” she added.

Mentioning that in earlier times, cardamom was not popular among the people in the area, she said however following the work done, it is now sold at the specialty level.

These days, it seems that to some extent

Rahel's effort is bearing fruit in producing and introducing the spice products to the world. Even though she had started her business by involving 20 farmers, today, she can increase the number and involve five thousand women farmers in Kaffa Zone.

Currently, engaging in over two thousand hectares of land, she is working in five woredas of the Kaffa Zone and two woredas of the Bench Shako. She is producing and supplying 15 types of spices and herbs for the local market. Her company is engaged in the production and supply of essential oils, herbs, spices and other body care products.

Further, expanding her destinations, she is operating at Bench Shako Zone. In addition, her company is supplying spice products to two countries. She is also striving to expand her market destinations and export spice produces to various countries in a sustainable manner by increasing the number of farmers, and her spice produces in quantity and variety.

Her efforts and dedication also earned her recognition not only at the national but also at the continental level - she has been awarded at the continental level in the category of effective farmer women, and as an entrepreneur at the national level. Moreover, it led her to participate as a consultant at some governmental

organizations in annual plan preparations.

In fact, the success that Rahel achieved so far was not gained simply or without challenges. Rather she encountered many challenges. For instance, even though her company was established in 2013 with the target of producing beauty cosmetics, it was challenged to move at its plan due to a shortage of raw materials. That was why it entered to the agriculture sector aiming to produce and supply raw materials to the market.

While talking the steps that should be taken to advance the sector, she said: “research institutions should play a key role in this work. According to her, by combining modern research with local knowledge, it is possible to ensure that these spices are accessible to a wider population and generate considerable income.

Looking ahead, Rahel aspires to expand her spice business internationally, and meet to the needs of customers across different markets. “My next goal is to supply spice products to many countries in a way that meets customer demands. I have also a plan to continue conducting research in this sector.” she said.

She also urged financial institutions to support her work by facilitating loans for further expansion.

Society

Renovation tourist destinations, enhance tourism returns

BY STAFF REPORTER

Ethiopia is undergoing renovation activities including its tourist attractions. Large-scale projects are underway across the country. Under the initiatives launched in earlier years including Dine for Sheger, Dine for Ethiopia and Dine for Generations plus the newly introduced projects of Corridor Development, massive renovation and development works have been carried out across the country, reshaping the country's key tourist attractions. As a result, it was possible to carry out activities that compelled everyone to raise an eyebrow.

One of the most significant projects, the 'Corridor Development' initiative, is also revitalizing major landmarks and public spaces across the country, and changing the appearance of the cities, particularly in Addis Ababa.

The renovations and construction activities to iconic sites such as Entoto Park, Friendship Square, Science Museum, and the Adwa Victory Memorial among others are part of this broader effort in this regard. These projects, in conjunction with the 'Addis Ababa Corridor Development', are dramatically transforming the city's urban landscape, improving both aesthetics and accessibility.

The 'Dine for Nation' initiative, designed by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, has also been the other instrumental initiative in enhancing the country's tourist attractions, with a focus on beautification and green space development.

The newly renovated sites such as the Wonchi, Halala Kella, and Gorgora as well as the Chebera Churchura Elephant Paw Lodge situated in Dawro Zone of South West Ethiopia State, have already seen an increase in visitors, showcasing the success of these initiatives.

In a similar manner, the ongoing renovation works of the historic Fasil Ghebbi (Fasilides Castle), in the historic city of Gondar, are progressing well in a way that preserves the ancient reputation and structure of the heritage.

While speaking in connection to the renovation activity of Fasil Ghebbi in Gondar city, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed had said that in no time, Fasil will be elevated to its former glory.

Recently, Tourism Minister Selamawit Kassa visited the renovation works of the Fasilides Castle, where she also observed the progress of the city's corridor development projects, and launched the renovation of houses of the vulnerable segments of the society.

Following the visit, the Minister said that Gondar is a tourist destination rich in history and culture. The renovation works of the Fasil Ghebbi (Fasilides Castle) and similar activities ongoing under the corridor development projects are works that are



Partial view of Gorgora Eco Resort



The renovation works of the Fasilides Castle

designed to preserve the historic legacy of the city. Thus, they are works carried out in a manner fitting the historic reputation and name of the city.

The Minister also discussed with religious fathers and representatives of the people with regard to the progress of the project and praised the efforts exerted to maintain the city's historical integrity while making it more accessible to tourists.

Tourism State Minister Sileshi Girma on his part said that efforts are ongoing to increase the contribution of the tourism sector to the country's economic growth by preserving, renovating, refurbishing, and utilizing Ethiopia's heritage.

Accordingly, the expansion of infrastructure facilities that boost the capacity of the tourism sector such as hotels and resorts, roads, telecommunication, and the like amenities has been constructed and is still

ongoing. In the future, works that help to conserve and utilize the historic, cultural, and religious values of Ethiopia will be further strengthened.'

The first Deputy Mayor of Gondar City Administration, Chalachew Dagnachew, on his part, said that the corridor development projects and the renovation works of Atse Fasilides Castles have brought a new working culture among the people. The strong collaboration and participation that the residents of the city have shown by their own free will, is helping the construction activity to move ahead and accelerating the performance of the projects. The corridor development projects and the renovation works of Atse Fasilides Castle will transform and enhance the beauty of the city, which is a historic tourist destination.

Drawing lessons from the experiences of these projects, currently, preparations are

finalized to launch the second phase of the urban corridor development project that stretches around 14 km, in the city.

According to him, the ongoing renovation work has created job opportunities for more than 1,200 people. He also extended his appreciation to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed for his initiative to renovate this historic site and residents of Gondar city for their relentless cooperation and dedication they have shown.

Surrounded by a 900-m-long wall, the city contains palaces, churches, monasteries and unique public and private buildings marked by Hindu and Arab influences, subsequently transformed by the Baroque style brought to Gondar by the Jesuit missionaries.

According to historical accounts, in the 16th and 17th centuries, the fortress-city of Fasil Ghebbi was the residence of the Ethiopian Emperor Fasilides and his successors.

The city previously served as the capital of both the Ethiopian Empire and the subsequent Begemder Province. The city holds the remains of several royal castles, including those in the Fasil Ghebbi UNESCO World Heritage Site for which Gondar has been called the "Camelot of Africa". The site was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979.

Ethiopia is working committedly to renovate and restore its several palaces, popular tourist attractions and government buildings with the aim of increasing the flow of visitors and generating substantial economic returns from the tourism sector.

Among these tourist sites, that the government allocated budgets, including the Fasilides Castle, the Guzara Castle, built by Emperor Sertse Dingil in 1572 and located in Gondar Zuria Woreda, the Jimma Abba Jifar Palace and the Sof Omar caves located in Oromia State, the located, were some.



Published Weekly in Collaboration with Haramaya University

HU hospital provides prenatal micronutrient to 3000 mothers

BY DIRRIBA TESHOME

Haramaya University (HU) has been providing very broad community service since its inception. And it has been doing this through its own budget and with the supports of its international partners who have been supporting its community reach in several aspects.

And HU teaching hospital, Hiwot Fana Comprehensive Specialized Hospital (HFCSH), is one of its medical outreach in serving the surrounding community specifically and the neighboring countries. On Tuesday, HFCSH provided Prenatal Micronutrient to three thousand pregnant mothers in Harari State and East Hararghe Zone.

On that day, HFCSH handed over the support of Prenatal Micronutrient Pills to Harari State Health Bureau Head, Yasin Abdullahi to distribute them to the nine health centers and one hospital in the State.

On the event, HU College of Health and Medical Sciences and HFCSH Chief Executive Director, Dr. Ahmed Mohamed, said: “We observe many problems with the mothers who come to our university hospital to give birth. Based on this, we have

done extensive research on the problem and based on the results, we are carrying out activities to solve the problems through discussions with international institutions as much as possible. One of these is that we have supported 3000 mothers with medicines to be taken during pregnancy.”

As well, free ultrasound examination and other medical supports are being provided to solve the complex health problems of pregnant mothers and children by going to the areas where mothers have children in the Harari State as well as East Hararghe. “And it will be strengthened in the future,” he reaffirmed.

Likewise, Harari State Health Bureau Head, Yasin Abdullahi, said that the support provided proves that the hospital, which is the only referral hospital in the eastern part of Ethiopia, is carrying out many health-oriented works in the State and the Zone.

“If everyone can do their part to protect the health of our society, it is possible to bring about a big change. And the supported health institutions have to avail the provision only to pregnant mothers,” he urged.



Equally, “Prenatal Micronutrient medicine, which contains important vitamins and nutrients, supports the nutrition that a pregnant mother should get and prevents health problems that may occur due to lack of nutrition on her and the fetus during pregnancy,” Cancer Specialist at HFCSH, Dr. Elias Jemal explained.

Similarly, HFCSH Chief Clinical Director, Dr. Abdi Amin, noted that the support provided contains essential nutrients that expectant mothers should take in order to have a healthy pregnancy period. “So,

the support is aimed at enabling pregnant mothers in the region to be healthy and their children to be born free of related health problems.”

He also disclosed that the Prenatal Micronutrient support is received from an American organization called Christian Relief Association.

The officials of the health institutions who took the support said that it will enhance more accessibility creating the capacity to make the maternal and child health and medical services provision.



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DaDU's educational framework

Education is fundamental to the advancement of the economy, society, politics, and nation-building. Enhancing the education system and delivering high-quality education are vital for nurturing a competitive, self-sufficient, and skilled generation that plays a significant role in national progress.

To accomplish this, it is imperative to ensure that education quality adheres to established standards. Educational institutions bear a crucial responsibility in upholding this quality to develop competent and responsible citizens.

Dambi Dollo University (DaDU) is a higher education institution in the country, recognized as part of the fourth generation of educational establishments. Its mission is to deliver quality education, which will contribute to establishing a strong reputation and a prominent position within the academic community.

The university is committed to three core missions: teaching learning, research and community engagement, all focused on empowering generations. To fulfill these important goals, the institution is undertaking



DaDU compound

extensive scientific research through five center of excellences aimed at improving educational results and community engagement.

These centres concentrate on agriculture, technology, health, eco-tourism, and mining. This ambitious initiative seeks to transform the university from a comprehensive institution into an applied university, prioritizing the enhancement of educational quality.

DaDU Vice President for Academic, Research,

Technology Transfer and Community Service Dr. Gemachu Fufa, provided insights regarding the current status of the university's educational framework.

He highlighted that since October 6, students have been fully immersed in their studies, taking advantage of a supportive learning atmosphere. The university is structured into six colleges, two schools and one institute, and 54 departments, all committed to providing high-quality education

and upholding the motto “Empowering Generations.”

Initiatives are being implemented to enhance educational quality, as demonstrated by the recent national examination for 12th-grade students at the university, where a remarkable 100% passing rate was achieved along with exceptional results.

Dr. Gemechuu noted that this achievement underscores the university's dedication to upholding high standards of education throughout the campus.

In conclusion, the university is partnering with local stakeholders to improve the quality of education by addressing the specific educational needs of the community. This initiative seeks to make education more accessible across multiple locations, including Dambi Dollo, by establishing five educational centers in the districts of Haroo Sabbuu, Qaaqee, Qeebbe, and Ayira. Weekly educational programs are being implemented to fulfill the community's requirements. (DaDU Public and International Relations Directorate)



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