



The Ethiopian Herald

Vol LXXXI No 049 6 November 2024 - Tikimt 27, 2017

Wednesday

Price Birr 10.00



EEU secures over 11 bln Birr revenue in Q1

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - The Ethiopian Electric Utility (EEU) said that it has managed to collect over 11 billion Birr revenue in the first quarter of this Ethiopian fiscal year.

EEU Communication Chief Executive Officer Melaku Taye said that over the last three months, the utility provided access to electric for 26 new rural villages. The plan was to provide access to electricity for 31 new kebeles or villages connecting with the main grid across the country.

Over the past three months, it has amassed a total of 11.15 billion Birr revenue from energy sale, customer services, pole lease, office rent and others. The company has seen consistent revenue increment in recent years, he said.

According to him, the EEU has welcomed over 90,000 new customers, achieving 75% of its target in the above mentioned period. It showed an increment by 17.6% compared to last year same period.

See EEU secures ... page 3



Premier pushes for holistic approach to end global hunger

• Conference acknowledges Ethiopia's agricultural progress as model

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA - Ending world hunger requires addressing systemic issues such as poverty, inequality, and climate resilience in a comprehensive way, emphasized Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) at the "World Without Hunger" conference yesterday.

PM Abiy stressed that tackling global hunger goes beyond boosting productivity; it requires confronting underlying challenges holistically. "In a crisis-prone world with a growing population, ensuring food security demands innovative solutions," he stated, advocating for sustainable practices, advanced farming techniques, improved agricultural inputs,

and climate adaptation to boost productivity.

Abiy highlighted Ethiopia's strides toward food security, noting that agricultural transformation over the past six years has doubled cultivated land and produced promising outcomes with high-value crops.

See Premier pushes ... page 3



Yasmin Wohabrebi

Ethiopia in full swing to launch trade under AfCFTA

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopia is finalizing its national strategy to begin commodity trading under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreements,

See Ethiopia in full swing ... page 3

Ethiopian becomes first African carrier to own Airbus A350-1000

• Ushering in new era of aviation excellence

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopian Airlines has become the first African carrier to receive the Airbus A350-1000, marking a historic milestone in African aviation. The airline received the advanced aircraft with a capacity of 400 passengers, making it the first in Africa to operate this model.

Ethiopian Airlines Group CEO, Mesfin Tasew, celebrated the delivery, stating, "We are thrilled to welcome the Airbus A350-1000 to our fleet, strengthening our leadership in aviation technology. This aircraft represents cutting-edge advancements in passenger comfort, fuel efficiency, and environmental responsibility. Together, we are pioneering a



Photo: Gebabo Gebrie

sustainable future for African aviation."

The A350-1000 is the largest aircraft in Ethiopian Airlines' fleet, featuring 395 seats in a two-class configuration, including 46

business class seats-an increase from the 30-seat capacity in previous aircraft. "This addition will accommodate our growing

See Ethiopian becomes ... page 3

News

Ethiopia's steps in food security, poverty reduction encouraging: MoA

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA - Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) disclosed that Ethiopia is playing an ideal role in agricultural sector thereby ensuring food security and significantly contributing to global poverty reduction.

The country is now hosting the three-day World Without Hunger Conference, a testament of its ideal role in agriculture sector to ensure food security and reduce global poverty. Ethiopia's agricultural reforms are significantly driving the economy and the nation is playing an exemplary role in ensuring food security, showcasing its capacity to lead the region toward a more secure and self-reliant future.

Ethiopia's high soil fertility, suitable climate, and comparative abundance of water supply makes the country the right place to commercial farming.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) has recently visited the ongoing agricultural activities in southern part of the country and

commended the achievement that the sector has been registering over the past recent years. He appreciated the mixed farmland in Gamo Zone's Daramalo Woreda that incorporates productive crop cultivation, horticulture, and animal fattening.

State Minister of Agriculture Fikru Regassa (PhD) said that over the past few years, the government has crafted different policies so as to improve the agricultural sector, which is the backbone of the nation's economy.

Enhancing agricultural development is one of the initiatives that the government has designed to ensure food security through summer wheat cultivation. The initiative is bringing visible results contributing to food security. Currently, wheat cultivation has been expanded across the country with outstanding achievements, he noted.

He recalled that Prime Minister Abiy has been awarded the prestigious accolade of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for his vision, leadership and commitment to food security



and nutrition and the pursuit of innovative solutions in wheat self-sufficiency in the context of fast-changing and challenging circumstances.

Fikru said that Ethiopia is hosting World without Hunger Conference which is a

testament of its progress towards ensuring food security and further cements the commitment to global food security. Commenting on the issue, he said that the three-day event will gather experts from various sectors in which Ethiopia will also learn from the success stories and finding solutions to food insecurity. Hosting the event by itself uplifts the image of Ethiopia as it is on the right path towards food self sufficiency, he remarked.

He further stated that the activities implemented over the past years have been yielding positive results and Ethiopia is contributing its part in reducing poverty and ensuring food security. Accordingly, the nation is on the right track to ensure food security and be a self resilient country and bringing the level of poverty to zero, Ethiopia has achieved a remarkable success making huge investments in the agricultural sector and pursuing wheat self sufficiency. As the sector is playing critical role the nation has marked significant growth across major commodities, he noted.



Fikru Regassa (PhD)



Namukolo Covic (PhD)

ILRI makes big inroads into Ethiopia's livestock dev't - ILRI Addis Ababa Campus marks 50th anniversary

BY TEWODROS KASSA

ADDIS ABABA- The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) sector researches have immensely contributed to transform the lives of numerous farmers and boost the country's livestock sector, experts said.

Ministry of Agriculture State Minister Fikru Regassa (PhD) said that ILRI has bold history and strong relationships for the past 50 years working with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA).

"Ethiopia has benefited more from ILRI's presence. ILRI's research outputs on improved breeds of livestock immensely contributed to boost the country's dairy and poultry sector that finally helps to ensure food and nutrition security," he said.

As to him, ensuring animal health, supply of improved animal feeds, introduction of index-based livestock insurances, capacity buildings, among others are the major contributions of ILRI in Ethiopia.

According to him, Ethiopia is estimated to be home for more than 70 million livestock population out of which some 3 million are genetically modified best livestock breeds.

In doing so, expanding best livestock breeds will have significant contributions to meet the country's food and nutrition security, he added.

"ILRI has also been a trusted partner working closely with the Ethiopian government through

providing tangible inputs in designing National Dairy and Poultry Development Strategies as well as the Ethiopian Livestock Master Plan."

The State Minister also emphasized the need to strengthening collaborations in climate smart solutions towards accelerating the national development endeavors.

Currently, increasing population, urbanization, and climate change are exerting pressures to boost productivity in both crop and livestock sector, according to him.

ILRI Director General's Representative to Ethiopia, CGIAR Ethiopia Country Convener and CGIAR Regional Director for East and Southern Africa Namukolo Covic (PhD) said that ILRI has been working to contributing better lives through livestock in Ethiopia.

"As climate crisis has become a growing concern during this time, we must have climate smart solutions to adapt and mitigate."

On his part, ILRI and CGIAR Senior Director of Livestock-Based Systems Prof. Appolinaire Djikeng highlighted that livestock is everything for farmers and ILRI will continue to support Ethiopian farmers thrive in livestock development.

Accordingly, ILRI was founded in 1973 through the establishment of the International Livestock Center for Africa (ILCA) in Ethiopia and the International Laboratory for Research on Animal Diseases (ILRAD) in Kenya and the merger of these two organizations created ILRI in 1994.

MoH launches CLM to control HIV by 2030

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA - Ministry of Health (MoH) has unveiled a plan to control HIV/AIDS by 2030 with the implementation of community led monitoring project designed to support vulnerable and affected people.

The ministry in collaboration with Tamra for Social Development Organization (TSD) has launched Community Led Monitoring (CLM) project worth 599,000 USD with a financial assistance from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Lead Executive Officer with the Ministry of Health, Fikadu Yadeta said during the launching event that Community Led Monitoring is a significant project to treat and capacitate HIV vulnerable and affected communities with smart spending and cooperative works.

He added that the ministry has formulated a policy and manual to achieve the CLM project in the country.

"Close to 600,000 citizens are living with HIV" he said, emphasizing the need to promote combined efforts to tackle the spread of the virus. The ministry is also facilitating differentiated service delivery (DSD) for vulnerable communities based on their interests.

Fikadu underlined that maintaining good health and combating HIV requires political commitment, domestic resource mobilization and integration.

TSD's Executive Director, Biruk Yergalem on his part said that the main purpose of the CLM is maximizing services through community based approach in fulfilling the needs of anti-HIV drug users and creating suitable environment in combating the disease.

Biruk added that some 14 organizations will

jointly implement the project in 12 states and two city administrations. The project will be implemented in 84 districts and 103 health institutions in the coming one year.

In this regard, over 47,000 focused groups particularly people who have taking antiretroviral therapy (ART) will be beneficiary. PEPFAR supports will bring significant outcome in addressing HIV challenges and increasing productivity, he added.

The U.S. has allocated three billion USD to support HIV response in Ethiopia over the past two decades, according to PEPFAR Ethiopia Country Office Coordinator, Tsedey Alemseged.

As to her, PEPFAR has 1,200 treatment sites and benefited over 540,000 women and children since its inception. PEPFAR believes that community-level service is the center of achieving and maintaining high quality HIV service and reduce the disease' impact.

She noted that her agency has been working in close with 28 local civil society organizations (CSOs) for common understanding in supporting health issues.

Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Authority Deputy Director General, Fasikaw Molla on his part said that civil society organizations have been playing crucial role in the various development activities.

Some 4,400 civil society organizations are domestic and the national reform has increased the potentials of the CSOs to perform their tasks efficiently, he stated.

Fasikaw called the international CSOs to support the local ones through finance, knowledge, skills, technology, and the likes to achieve common goals.

Though local CSOs have been benefiting people in various ways, much work remains to be accomplished with regard to improve citizens' lives, he added.

News

EEU secures over 11 bln Birr...

Compared to last year's 6.6 billion Birr revenue performance, the revenue recorded in the first quarter of this year has a 32% increment. Furthermore, the sector also created some 3700 job opportunities, according to the chief executive officer.

On the flip side, the institution had faced challenges related to power fluctuation, service delivery, delay of projects and others. Hence, it has been undertaking reform measures based on four pillars including modernizing infrastructure, utilizing latest technologies, enabling

digital payment alternatives and others to improve service delivery, he added.

As part of its social corporate responsibility, the utility handed over 10,000 exercise books for needy as well as five million Birr support to Gofa landslide victims.

Currently, some 54% of the population is accessing electric energy across the country and efforts are underway to outreach the remaining 46%. The recent tariff reform on electricity services would support this plan, he indicated.



Melaku Taye

Premier pushes ...

"We have made gains in drought-resistant crops like wheat, teff, and maize, along with transformative initiatives like the Green Legacy Initiative, which has boosted climate resilience and agricultural productivity."

The Green Legacy Initiative (GLI) has expanded forest cover, restored ecosystems, and improved soil conditions, creating a stronger foundation for sustainable farming. To eradicate hunger, the Premier emphasized the importance of transforming food systems through agro-industrialization, focusing on agricultural inputs, energy access, and processing technology.

He called for a collaborative approach, with governments, private sectors, farmers, researchers, and international organizations working together to achieve this goal.

UNIDO Director-General Gerd Müller, in his opening remarks, urged that hunger be prioritized on the global political agenda, especially in Africa, which holds 60% of the world's arable land and six of the world's fastest-growing economies. "Africa has the potential to power itself through renewable energy and transform from a food importer to an exporter," he said, noting Ethiopia's progress as an example.

African Union Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat remarked that despite Africa's resources, the continent remains behind in its goal to end hunger. FAO statistics show that over 280 million Africans face food insecurity, with 850 million unable to afford a healthy diet.

President and CEO of Africa Finance Corporation (AFC) Samaila Zubairu underscored the need for investment, import substitution, and support for farmers and agri-investors.

Ethiopia's Industry Minister, Melaku Aebel, highlighted the nation's achievements in agriculture and value-added production, stating that the "Made in Ethiopia" initiative has attracted investors and advanced food security. He added that despite challenges like climate change and resource scarcity, Ethiopia's progress in processed foods, honey, and coffee exemplifies the success of public-private partnerships and serves as an inspiration to others in the fight against hunger.

In the conference, it was learned that an additional investment of 50 billion USD annually is required over the next 10 years, totaling 500 billion USD, to make the world free from hunger.

Ethiopian becomes...

premium customer base and elevate our service standards," Mesfin added.

Equipped with state-of-the-art aerodynamics, a carbon-fiber fuselage, and highly efficient Rolls-Royce Trent XWB engines, the A350-1000 offers a 25% reduction in fuel consumption and CO2 emissions compared to older twin-aisle aircraft, reinforcing Ethiopian Airlines' commitment to sustainability.

The arrival of the A350-1000 is part of Ethiopian Airlines' global expansion plan to connect destinations across five continents. "This is the first of four A350-1000s we will receive in the coming months," noted Mesfin.

The Ethiopian Airlines Board Chairman Yilma Merdasa (Lieutenant General) emphasized the aircraft's significance, stating it symbolizes progress and unity. "The arrival of Africa's first A350-1000 embodies Ethiopian Airlines' dedication to excellence and instills pride in Ethiopians and Africans alike."

Ethiopian Airlines' strategic vision

centers on four pillars: developing human skills, expanding infrastructure, growing the fleet, and advancing technology. The airline is constructing a new mega airport near Bishoftu, in Oromia State, with a capacity to serve 110 million passengers annually, aiming to transform Ethiopia into a major global aviation hub.

As part of its fleet expansion, Ethiopian plans to acquire over 125 new aircraft, partnering with Airbus to meet these goals. "The A350-1000 strengthens our mission to connect Africa with the world, using the most modern, efficient, and reliable aircraft available," GTG Yilma remarked. Technological advancement and sustainability remain integral to Ethiopian Airlines' strategy, with the A350-1000 exemplifying both through its advanced design and reduced environmental impact.

This milestone underscores Ethiopian Airlines' leading role in African aviation, setting new standards for excellence and sustainability in the industry.

Ethiopia in full swing...

announced the State Minister of Trade and Regional Integration.

In her opening remarks at AfCFTA's 15th Senior Trade Officials meeting yesterday, Trade and Regional Integration State Minister Yasmin Wohabrebi highlighted Ethiopia's completion of a strategy to maximize AfCFTA benefits within the African market. "The strategy will guide Ethiopia's efforts to effectively leverage the opportunities," she noted.

Full implementation of the AfCFTA agreement is a key milestone toward economic integration and presents a transformative opportunity for reshaping African trade, she emphasized. Recent reforms in Ethiopia, including liberalization of the telecom, financial, and foreign exchange sectors, now permit foreign investors in previously restricted import and export services.

"These reforms represent concrete steps toward strengthening our economy and enhancing trade integration," she stated.

The government is advancing the AfCFTA agreement through initiatives like the guided trade program, which includes a provisional schedule of tariff concessions adopted by African heads of state, Yasmin said. The Ministry is also promoting agreement domestication through capacity-building and awareness efforts for private sector stakeholders and implementing agencies.

"We have established a national AfCFTA implementation committee, which recently held its second meeting to oversee the agreement's execution," Yasmin added. Subsidiary committees, such as those for trade facilitation, rules of origin, and customs cooperation, have also been set up to support these efforts.

These initiatives aim to help Ethiopian businesses navigate the new trade landscape and seize AfCFTA opportunities. "We are laying a solid foundation for Ethiopia's successful implementation of the agreement, enhancing economic resilience."

AfCFTA Secretariat representative, Tsotetsi Makong (PhD), praised Ethiopia's role in advancing Africa's economic integration. He acknowledged Ethiopia's efforts to position AfCFTA as a beacon of hope for a unified African market.

On challenges, Makong noted that AfCFTA faced early skepticism from within and beyond Africa. "Some doubted the ambition, predicting it might fail. Yet five years in, we are witnessing significant progress," he said.

With over 30 countries showing active interest in AfCFTA's guided trade initiative, businesses are forming partnerships that leverage the AfCFTA framework. Meanwhile, recent meetings have addressed crucial topics like digital trade, investment, and trade goods.

Makong urged member states to expedite full implementation amid global trade challenges, such as trade wars, supply chain fragmentation, and climate change impacts. "We are seeing a shift in countries' economic policies that focus on Africa, with technological advancements opening new opportunities for trade."

Investment policies are also evolving, he added, with a central focus on micro, small, and medium enterprises, as well as women and youth, recognized as key drivers of sustainable economic growth.

Opinion

Fostering national unity, ensuring peace through diplomatic endeavors

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

It is worth recalling that over the past week, Ethiopia's House of Representatives undertook its 3rd regular meeting in the presence of Prime Minister Abiy.

They raised a broad range of pressing national issues revolving around peace and security, the current situation of the Amhara region, national harmony, the National Dialogue Commission, corridor development, diplomacy, and other things of a similar kind.

It appears clear that on the heels of Ethiopia's success story in various development accomplishments, the country has been yielding results and coming to fruition. Reasoning from this fact, Ethiopia has been receiving a pat on the back and making progress in the right direction.

It is important to highlight that following Ethiopia's fruitful diplomatic journey being achieved in various sectors, the country has been bringing about most of its deliberate objectives and supposed targets in an extensive range of undertakings undeterred by challenges.

Notwithstanding the fact that Ethiopia's adversaries have been pulling out all the stops to deter the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), all their efforts went for nothing on account of the concerted efforts of the federal government of Ethiopia and the general public.

Addressing Ethiopia's House of People's Representatives, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) declared that Ethiopia's path to development can no longer be halted, according to information obtained from local media.

Referring the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), he said, building this mega project with our own hands and treasure proves that no obstacle can stop Ethiopia's forward march.

The Prime Minister emphasized that Ethiopia is prepared to undertake further projects independently, dismissing any efforts by external forces—whether financial, propagandistic, or military—to hinder the country's growth. "We have the resilience to push forward with our development plans, regardless of resistance," he stated.

Regarding GERD, the Prime Minister addressed the initial concerns raised by Egypt and Sudan over potential downstream impacts. He confirmed that the Dam's water impoundment has proceeded without harming downstream countries.

GERD stands as a symbol of Ethiopia's unwavering commitment, he remarked, adding that Ethiopia is committed to assisting Egypt and Sudan if they face water shortages.

"We will always support our brothers in need, but stopping Ethiopia's development is no longer possible. The attempts have already failed."

Prime Minister Abiy emphasized Ethiopia's commitment to peace, clarifying that the



nation has no desire for conflict. However, he assured that Ethiopia would firmly counter any efforts to undermine its stability.

"We have the strength and resources to defend our country if necessary," he stated, highlighting the focus on boosting domestic production of essential goods and reinforcing Ethiopia's readiness to maintain peace and security.

No matter what challenges come on its way and no matter what sort of adversaries it faces, the flagship project is going to be fully operational just around the corner. The entire journey was not low-hanging fruit. To attain the intended target, the country has passed through many twists and turns as well as peaks and valleys.

Similarly, the government has been making progress in the right direction in terms of a wide range of development undertakings proving doomsayers wrong in a wide array of activities. No matter what they enunciate, Ethiopia has been at the forefront of fruitful development-related accomplishments giving a wide berth to cock and bull stories.

Due to the triumphant voyage of the federal government of Ethiopia, people from all backgrounds and all segments of society have been tossing around their ideas in a number of ways.

In the present circumstances, Ethiopia's diplomatic journey has set in motion taking the country to the next level of accomplishment. In defiance of a broad range of challenges, the country now and then has been registering a broad range of fruitful results.

The country has registered fruitful diplomatic outcomes and ensured national interests in the just ended Ethiopian fiscal year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) in the recent past said.

Ethiopia has registered remarkable diplomatic outcomes and ensured its national interest in the just ended fiscal year, the ministry stated in its annual report mentioning 12 agreements the country has signed with the neighboring countries in various sectors such as education, tourism, economy and infrastructure.

In general, over 140 agreements were signed on national interest issues, bilateral and multilateral relationships in that year, it said.

Several joint meetings, including leaders' summits, ministerial forums, and high-level meetings, were held in Ethiopia. About 29 African leaders and high officials visited

Ethiopia for bilateral purposes, the report mentioned.

In strengthening its international presence, the ministry expressed that Ethiopia participated in 501 international discussions and bilateral events. About 195 international diplomatic decisions, compliant with Ethiopia's stance, were passed, it noted.

Ethiopia's membership in BRICS is another notable achievement. Amid regional challenges and global geopolitical shifts, Ethiopia's diplomatic mission has successfully navigated complex negotiations, secured critical partnerships, and advanced national interests on the global stage.

The Foreign Minister of Ethiopia, Gedion Timothewos, addressed the diplomatic corps during a reception held at the Skylight Hotel in Addis Ababa on Thursday (October 31), marking his formal introduction to ambassadors, heads of diplomatic missions, and representatives of international organizations, according to MoFA.

During the occasion, the Foreign Minister emphasized Ethiopia's distinguished history as a nation with ancient roots and a rich civilization. He also highlighted that, with a median age of 18 years and 40% of the population under the age of 15, Ethiopia is a country brimming with youthful potential. This combination of historical depth and youthful vigor, he noted, positions Ethiopia as a nation poised for future growth and influence.

Addressing Ethiopia's regional priorities, the Foreign Minister emphasized the significance of reinforcing relationships with neighboring countries and advancing collective efforts to confront shared challenges. He called for collaboration in promoting economic integration and enhancing security, drawing upon cultural and social ties.

He reiterated Ethiopia's dedication to playing an active role in the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) region and underscored the importance of the Nile River Basin as a source of unity and shared prosperity. Additionally, he highlighted Ethiopia's commitment to regional stability in the Red Sea and Indian Ocean, acknowledging their strategic relevance in global security and development.

He also expressed Ethiopia's pride in being home to numerous African diplomatic and political institutions. Here affirmed Ethiopia's commitment to ensuring that Addis Ababa,

as a hub for the continent, continues to offer a welcoming and supportive environment for African partners. Efforts to enhance people-to-people relations, trade, transportation, and tourism with African nations would be intensified through comprehensive inter-agency initiatives.

Turning to Ethiopia's broader diplomatic engagements, he underscored the country's commitment to nurturing strategic partnerships with international allies. He mentioned Ethiopia's economic reforms as pivotal in creating an environment conducive to renewed partnerships and innovation. The Minister noted the importance of extending economic diplomacy beyond traditional areas, advocating for collaboration in technology transfer, scientific research, and cultural initiatives.

In the present circumstances, the government has sustained engaging in various diplomatic activities with the intention of taking the country to new possibilities, new opportunities and new perspectives.

In the same manner, the government has been working around the clock to ensure peace and tranquility in every nook and cranny of Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa attaching due importance to diplomacy.

It is crystal clear that since time immemorial, Ethiopia has been working around the clock to get rid of terrorist groups housing themselves in the length and breadth of the Horn of Africa region with the purpose of moving the region into uncharted waters and accomplishing their hidden target by going behind closed curtains.

As nothing can be achieved in the absence of peace and take the country to new perspectives, all and Sunray should join hands to take the country to new frontiers, making use of all possible options.

The government of Ethiopia has remained committed to ensuring durable peace and security, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed underlined, as learned from ENA.

Addressing members of the parliament, the Premier stated that the government always opts for peace over a forceful approach. According to him, the government has prioritized peaceful resolution of conflicts. The nation is still in a strong position to solve disputes with any force peacefully, he revealed.

However, he stated that nobody can achieve its goal through forceful means, stressing the need to patiently contemplate the issues since a struggle without thought is unsuccessful.

Recalling conflicts that have resulted in tremendous destruction in Ethiopia during various courses of history, the Premier renewed his government's call for peace to achieve its ambition of bringing tangible development to the country.

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

Editorial

Marching towards global zero hunger target

Addis Ababa is deliberating on the most pressing global issue of creating a world without hunger.

The city that is a seat of historical and prestigious continental and international organizations as well as foreign missions of various countries has brought together over 1,500 high-level stakeholders that included Heads of State/Government, Ministers, UN agencies, the private sector, financial institutions, donor community, DFI/IFI, civil society, non-governmental organizations, academia, and media will be present.

According to the UN, the November 4-7, 2024 conference deliberates on the gravest challenges of our time, solution-oriented technical sessions, an investment forum, and a high-level political forum that will result in a Conference Declaration to achieve Zero Hunger.

Accommodating eight billion populations, the earth has to address global hunger crisis, effects of climate change, drought and the likes that have in one way or another attributable to hunger and poverty.

The global pressing challenges have to be overcome by amalgamating states' capacities, production opportunities, and human resource assets, among others. Ethiopia is a case in point in this regard. The government has focused on sustainable investment in agriculture and manufacturing, as such a thematic move is at the heart of its actions if the country is to achieve the sustainable development goals, which are part of the objective of a world without hunger.

Basically, it looks an unattainable option to come up with the planet without hunger, but achievable one by working with countries like Ethiopia, which can potentially be a basket of bread if all its resources are manageably and resolutely exploited.

The conference, which is being held this time, serves as a critical platform to renew commitments and address vital topics such as agribusiness policy, infrastructure for agriculture, digital innovation, climate resilience, and fair trade practices as the topical hindrances in fighting hunger are highly associated with economic slowdowns, climate change impacts, and conflicts, be they are sporadic or recurrent ones.

Undeniably, investing in countries like Ethiopia, which are endowed with untapped wealth, has well attested to be essential for sustainable agricultural practices and resilient food systems. Hence, the role Ethiopia would play in meeting the global zero hunger targets is untold.

Unequivocally, Ethiopia has made significant strides in the fight against hunger and malnutrition. The various initiatives that inspired and mobilized both the urbanites and rural communities are cases in point in this regard. The summer wheat irrigation, expansion of rice farm practices and the bounty of the basket have brought significant results. The latter for instance has helped produce large amount of poultry, dairy and other products. Ethiopia also started exporting wheat to the neighboring countries.

As experience would have it and the reality on the ground attests well, hunger and food insecurity require coordinated international efforts with a view to overcoming the tiresome global defies.

The concrete efforts have brought about wheat self-sufficiency and are contributing to reducing hunger. Yes, its allegiance to food self-sufficiency and nutrition promotion has earned international recognition. For instance, the ground-breaking approach of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (Ph.D) toward wheat self-sufficiency, amid testing conditions, has been globally praised, to mention but a few, the world Food and Agriculture Organization in January this year awarded the prestigious FAO Agricola medal to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. Taking Ethiopia's progress as a milieu, the conference aims to inspire and implement sustainable solutions that will have a lasting impact on global hunger via of course getting the world much closer towards achieving food security.

In a nut shell, a well organized, unified and reinvigorated international collaboration has to be exercised towards achieving the mission global zero hunger goals.

Opinion

Scaling up media contribution to all spheres of development

Part I

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

The Ethiopian Press Law and other related laws make a clear distinction between public and commercial media houses with regard to ownership. However, in terms of professional media standards and requirements, all media in the country are expected to adhere to professional media quality and standards in promoting the national interest of the country. All the opinions the author expresses here discern public and commercial media for the purpose of analysis and not because they hold differences in basic objectives.

Ethiopia has a well-established Broadcasting Agency that is established to play a role as the national gatekeeper and coordinator of media activities in the country.

Despite their long years of existence, media outlets, including print, electronic media, and social media houses, have exhibited various levels of growth areas and shortfalls that need to be effectively addressed. The writer of this article intends to make a comparative analysis in the context of the growth of media firms in the country and the deep-seated challenges and possible recommendations.

In terms of technology, media in this country have gradually developed from analog to digital media systems with modern automation, animation, and the use of AI products. The introductions of new technologies have helped these media companies to conduct their duties on more efficient and better levels.

Over the last 30 years, the numbers of media houses have grown with a promise for better mass communication and the creation of a common national narrative that will create a positive social psychological framework for national development.

Most of the media outlets have developed some kind of editorial policy and strategic directions which are mostly based on content development and management. The author knows from experience of working with both public and commercial media that most of the staff members are not fully aware of such documents, which are in most cases not revised on time.

The number of journalists working for the media in Ethiopia is ever-growing. Most of them are graduates from schools of journalism like AAU, which provides post-graduate training. In terms of gender parity of staffing, both among journalists and administrative staff, there is a better scale of gender sensitivity in employment, which is quite promising.

Over the last several years, media outlets have tried to create a better working condition both for journalists and administrative staff by providing them

with spacious newsrooms. Besides, major public media houses have now established nurseries for journalists who cannot keep their babies at home. The media companies have recruited caregivers for staff babies so that they can perform their duties in a more stable mindset.

Ethiopian media outlets have now managed to expand their audiences not only at the national level but also on a global scale by accessing satellite TV networks, social media systems, and online prints of newspapers and periodicals. Besides, they have made far-ranging progress in preparing programs and columns covering a wide range of national development issues focusing on the commanding heights of the economy, government policies, health, sports, and entertainment programs.

Major media companies in the country, including commercial media, have been able to engage in self-financing while some are working in that direction. A number of media outlets have been conducting social services that cater to the youth and the general public by covering environmental rehabilitation programs like the National Green Legacy Initiative, GERD, city corridor development, and housing programs.

Despite the above-mentioned areas of progress and development, Ethiopian media houses are still grappling with various challenges and shortfalls that they need to address with the support from the government.

In a country like Ethiopia where the media is of crucial importance not only to form national unity and peace, the country has no media policy and strategy at the national level. The author is aware of the fact that some attempts have been made to come up with such policy over the last several years, but no policy related to media has seen the light of day to date.

In spite of the fact that the media in this country have access to efficient and fast digital media systems and modern software, news reporting is usually slow and not in line with international standards of efficiency and proactivity.

Although there is an urgent need for promoting investigative journalism, reporters feel insecure about their own safety in covering sensitive issues that may sometimes relate to government officials and managers of higher caliber in sector offices. Indeed, some attempts have been made earlier, but such programs are not conducted in an organized manner.

None of the media houses in the country possess style books that could help to promote styles of reporting and mode of coverage both in content and language style. The author is aware of the fact that some attempts are underway by press media.

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



The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays
By The Ethiopian Press Agency

Office of the CEO

Tel. 011-126-42-22

Fax. 251-011-156-98-62

email- epa@press.et

Advertisement and Dist.

Department

email: etpresspromotion@gmail.com

Tel. 011-156-98-73/011-811-13-15

Telegram :- 0976084707 - press

Editor-in-Chief: Worku Belachew

email- workubelachew@press.et

Address- Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-city

Woreda - 05, House No----

Tel- +251 111 26 41 98

Managing Editor: Wakuman Kudama

Email: wakuma220@gmail.com

Deputy Editors-in-Chief:

Alem Hailu

Elizabeth Mengistu

Zekarias Woldemariam

Desta Geberehiwot

Daniel Beyene

Website: www.press.et

email: ethiopianherald@press.et

Fb/ /Ethiopian Press Agency/

The Ethiopian Herald

Business & Economy

Ethiopian textile industry: Labor intensive, lucrative

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Ethiopia's economy is primarily based on agriculture, but starting in 2010, the government has been determined to diversify the exports with a priority set for strategic sectors like light manufacturing, in which textile and apparel manufacturing industries are incorporated.

Ethiopia is a Sub-Saharan country with a population of over 120 million, the second largest population in Africa. Though it is labeled as one of the poorest countries in the world, its economy is growing, trying to abate unemployment and increase production and productivity. Of the myriads of sectors and sub-sectors employed for the purpose of boosting job opportunities and production echelon, the textile and attire industry has been well utilized.

Taking the significance and the current level of the textile and apparel industry into account, *The Ethiopian Herald* approached Lijalem Admasu, a graduate from Bahir Dar University, to forward an opinion about the apparel and/or textile industry.

He said that Ethiopia has put in place strategies to address some of these challenges by attempting to improve employment opportunities for a growing population and diversifying its trade. The strategies have shifted the country's focus from agricultural sector-led growth to manufacturing industry-led development.

As to him, the country is attracting the attention of companies due to the availability of cotton, easily trainable workforce, and affordable energy supply. The role of textile and apparel industries in growth and development strategies in developing countries like Ethiopia is immense but not yet well exploited. Yes, the textiles industry is important in economic and social terms, in the short run by providing incomes, jobs, especially for women, and foreign currency receipts, and in the long run by providing the country with opportunity for sustained economic development if appropriate policies and institutions are applied to enhance the dynamic effects of the textiles and apparel industry.

"Contrary to the act of making fabrics and clothing at home by individuals for personal use up until the revolution of industries, now a day, the textile industry is a global phenomenon comprised every business involved in the developing, producing, manufacturing, and distribution of textiles," he added.

"The potential of the textile and clothing industries to contribute to long-run growth and development will depend not only on the attributes of the investors, but also on the quality and effectiveness of government policies and institutions in Ethiopia, in fact."

"The industry is very important in terms of trade, GDP and employment and has contributed significantly in several other countries. The industry has indeed provided Ethiopia with opportunities for export diversification and expansion of manufactured exports for low-income countries that can exploit their labor cost



Textile industry in Ethiopia is labor intensive and lucrative, indeed!

advantages and fill emerging niches and meet buyer demands," Lijalem added.

He further stated that there are dynamic effects of the industry and these dynamic effects are greater, the more linkages have been built up between the garment industry and local textile suppliers. At the macro level there are a number of ways in which the textile industry affects economic development as it has been a major contributor to a range of means of income.

Now, the industry has become a very complex one and it starts in agriculture with fiber production, husbandry of sheep and silkworm, mining of metals and minerals, and the fibers are processed into yarns, fabrics and apparels. This includes, spinning mills, weaving mills, knitting mills, dyeing mills, garments. In addition, companies that sell buttons, zippers, knitting supplies, sewing machines and threads, laces, looms, and drapery hardware are also related to this industry.

There are also important social aspects of the textile industry apart from the jobs provided. Without appropriate policies and institutions, developing countries often do not have the skills to enter into higher value added activities such as design and marketing, he opined.

The garment industry is now contributing a lot to the employment section. It is the main source of manufacturing employment and exports. The textile and attire industry form a major part of manufacturing production, employment and trade in many developing countries like ours. The economic and social aspects describe the importance of textiles and clothing in incomes, employment and growth and development strategies of the nation.

He said despite relatively low start-up investment costs, expansion of the sector provides a base upon which to build capital for more technologically demanding activities in other sectors. Growth of the sector allows imports of more advanced technologies to be financed through revenues gained from garment exports.

According to Lijalem, the production of textile and apparel industries has become increasingly more knowledge-intensive

as investments in intangibles such as knowledge of soils and farming techniques, research and development including the production of software and the application of biotechnology, design capabilities, engineering skills, training, monitoring, marketing and management have come to play a greater role in the production of goods and services.

As to Lijalem, Ethiopia is currently in the process of changing from an agricultural led to an industrial led economy, and considering the significant role of the textiles sectors in the industrialization movement and its world potential market, Ethiopian industrial development policy has put the textile and apparel industry to the forefront to accelerate the country's industrialization process.

The growth in the textile industries in the country is directly linked to the government's move to set up an industrial development strategy. The Ethiopian Government has taken many steps and formulated strategies and policies to attract investment in the textile and apparel sector via numerous ways, including: ease of entry into the industry, employment opportunities due to the labor-intensive nature of the sector, export earnings from manufacturing, growth of the industrial culture, and capital accumulation for further actions.

Because of clothing and protective gear, farmers can use fertilizers, herbicides, or pesticides to increase crop yields. They can also use equipment filters and protective coverings for planting, harvesting, and protecting their crops. Without all these technical textiles, food production would be less reliable.

The textile industry has been utilized to produce bags and other means of carrying objects, balloons, kites, sails, parachutes, clothing, flags, furnishings and other home accessories, industrial and scientific uses like filtration, nets, rugs and carpets, among others, to serve the public as per their preference, he opined.

"The textile production accounts for a reasonable share of industrial production, which is a considerable contribution from the sector, indeed. Besides, a number of people directly have been benefiting from the employment it creates. It contributes a

lot to the nation's foreign exchange revenues though it is not that much exaggerated," he underlined.

According to Lijalem, from an international market perspective, apparel exports encounter both favorable and unfavorable factors. The export pressure may not ease in the short term, but there is an expected increase in inventory demand in developed countries, faster growth in emerging markets, and rapid development of new methods like cross-border e-commerce. These developments are expected to result in a stable trend in nation's apparel exports as prices improve, and the market structure continues to optimize.

The factors adversely contributing to the growth of the textile industry such as trade protectionism and geopolitical risk factors lead to an increase in uncertainty in the international environment, the spillover effects of conflicts and unrest, conflict, as well as the unfolding political situations in the world's major economies.

As to Lijalem, from the point of view of the domestic market, Ethiopia's economic stabilization and good development for the recovery of consumption create good conditions and foundations. The textile industry has to continue in Ethiopia to be the most influential contributor to the employment-generating sector in the nation by giving due emphasis to it. It would offer direct employment to a number of citizens, undeniably.

In a nutshell, the textile industry is characterized by relatively high demand for skilled labor force. However, there is a shortage of skilled textile workers, and the interest in qualification in this area is quite low despite the high unemployment in the country. The reasons for this situation are a result of the complex influence of many socioeconomic factors.

The medium- and long-term shortage of skilled labor can be offset by investing in new technology and automated machines, but due to the labor-intensive nature of this industry, the need for quality human resources is permanent, and the industry's development depends on it. The country has to thus well capitalize on the textile/apparel/ attire industry, thereby gaining the benefit it deserves out of it.

Art & Culture

The thin line between journalism, literature-the case of Ethiopia

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

What do journalism and literature have in common? The answer to this question is clear. Both deal with the human condition, about human life and human activities. Nothing more interesting or more attractive than writing or speaking about human affairs! Almost everyone is interested in human interest stories. Journalism is defined as, "The act of gathering and presenting news and information, though the term is also used to refer to the news and information itself. It is a type of storytelling that comes in many different forms and is a key component to a democratic society." What is the purpose of journalism? It is to inform the public about events, issues and people that impact society.

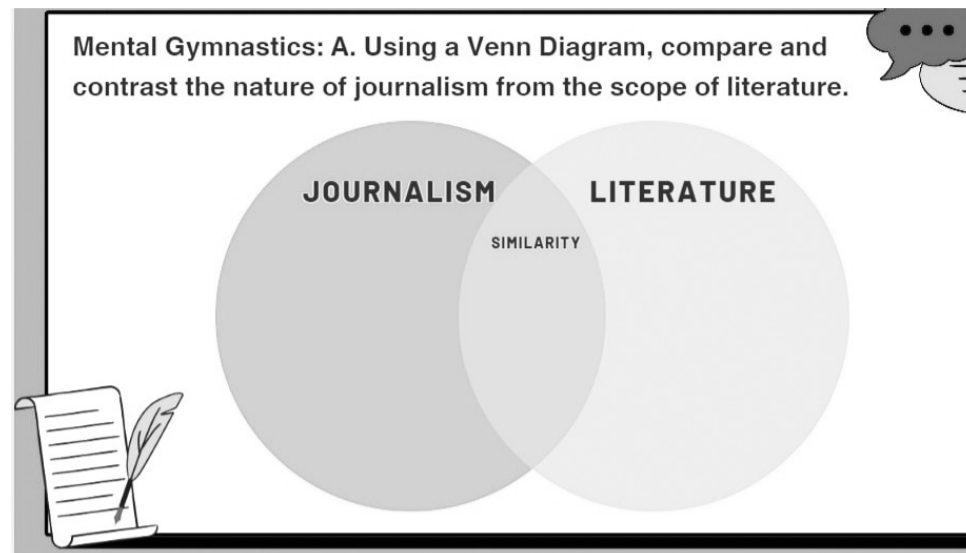
In both definitions, the human element is most prominent because in the first definition, journalism is portrayed as being about storytelling and there is no story without the people who are behind the stories. In the second definition, journalism is about issues and people. These are key words that define the objective or purpose of journalism.

There are many definitions of literature and one of them says that, "Literature explores human experiences through language. Another definition says that, "Literature is the depiction of humanity and enables us to see the true colors of society." According to the above arguments both journalism and literature have something in common and that is the centrality of human experience or human life.

There were various attempts to marry journalism to literature and create some hybrid form of literary journalism or journalistic literature if you like. Anyway, what is literary journalism? "Narrative journalism, also referred to as literary journalism is defined as creative nonfiction that contains accurate, well researched information. It is related to immersion journalism, where a writer follows a subject or theme for a long period of time and details an individual's experience from a deeply personal perspective."

The difference between literary journalism and literature proper is rather easy to identify. Literary journalism is the use of literary devices in order to report about real events or human activities. Literary journalism is based on true events while literature is basically fictional, inventive or creative. Literary journalism is therefore the use of the techniques of creative writing narrative art such as characters, plot development, setting or description in order to report about events that have taken place in reality.

The characters in fiction are invented by the author while those in literary journalism are real life personalities. The plot in literary journalism consists of the way the story is told or how the story begins reaches midpoint and concludes through denouement or conclusion. This is also the way fictional narratives begin and end. There is a story opening, conflict, midpoint and then conclusion. The difference between the two genres is as we said above, is that the first



deals with imagined events and imagined characters while the second deals with real life events. American journalist Tom Wolfe, who was both a journalist and a fiction writer, used this kind of literary journalism as the cornerstone of what he called "The New Journalism".

"In 1973, Wolfe published an essay he entitled "The New Journalism", in which he explained the features of the genre. He went on to write several successful books in the style of the New Journalism. Many literary critics agree that the father of New Journalism was rather a fiction writer called Stephen Crane, author of a famous book called "The Red Badge of Courage" which is a war novel written in the style of literary journalism.

The author wrote the book without being present or without visiting a war front and invented the characters and events in such a way that they all looked plausible or a true portrait war by someone who was at many war fronts. According to these same critics, Tom Wolfe simply popularized the notion or idea of literary journalism and made it into a kind theory that was famous among literary scholars around the same period. As we said above, this writing style was popular for a limited period of time and then its popularity waned and disappeared without gaining widespread acclaim or following although it was given as a subject in literary departments of many universities in the United States.

The close relationship between journalism and literature might also be the factor behind the emergence of literary journalism as a style. The distance between writers and journalists is not very wide. Many famous writers in America for instance started their careers as journalists and then switched to fiction as soon as they discovered their talents by exercising traditional journalism. The best example is Ernest Hemingway, who was first a reporter for the "the Toronto Star" newspaper in Canada and then became a war reporter in Europe and at last a famous author who used his experiences of war and life in Europe to produce such literary classics as "The Sun Also Rises", a book based on bullfighting in Spain, "For Whom the Bell Tolls" based on his experience of the civil war in Spain and others. He was later on awarded the Nobel prize for his literary productions.

When we look at the situation in Ethiopia, we

The close relationship between journalism and literature might also be the factor behind the emergence of literary journalism as a style

unfortunately realize that literary journalism or journalistic literature was virtually unknown and has never been practiced by anyone of our famous journalists or authors. The golden age of Ethiopian literature came in the 1970s that is to say after the 1974 Revolution. Famous writers in Amharic, such as Be'alu Girma, Berhanu Zerihun, Dagnachew Worku and others who produced meaningful fiction during that period were not stylists. They were rather realistic narrators who were interested more in telling their stories and not how the story should be told.

If there was any style among them, it was Dagnachew Worku, author of "The Thirteenth Sun" which is narrated in the style of what was then known as the stream of consciousness style that was famous in Europe in the 1920s and 1930s and practiced in America by author like William Faulkner and others. This style might have picked up fashionable at that moment and Dagnachew who studied literature in Canada might have been acquainted with the style by reading Virginia Woolf and Faulkner during his literary sojourn in Canada.

Speaking of the natural close relation between literature and journalism, we might

perhaps speak of Berhanu Zerihun and Be'alu Girma who were both journalists before they became writers in their won rights. Yet, it is impossible to detect any sign of literary journalism in their newspaper articles while they wrote novels in the style of literary realism. Although Be'alu studied journalism in America, he did not show any sign of literary journalism simply because the genre was not even invented when he was studying at the school of journalism.

Why do many journalists become fiction writers? The answer to this question is not difficult. In order to become a writer one has to read a lot of books fiction as well as non-fiction. Ethiopian journalists who started as reporters or feature writers later on turned to fiction simply because they had ample time to read books. They were writing and reading and this created a fertile ground for them to discover that they could write the books they have written. This comes naturally of course. It is in the process of reading and writing that people discover their talent. In a way, it would be true to say that books create writers or that there is no writing without reading.

Ethiopian literature in Amharic had produced notable writers in the period's right before the revolution and after the revolution. Almost all the prominent writers of fiction have emerged in this period, with the exception of Haddis Alemayehu who produced his classic novel entitled "Love Unto Death" earlier in his career when he was the Ethiopian Ambassador in a number of European countries. It was at that time that he started writing his classic novel simply because he had ample time for such activity. Although he was exposed to European literature at that time, he did not show any kind of attraction to the literary styles of the time although some critics argued at that time that his novel was inspired by Victor Hugo's "Les Miserables". There is however no strong evidence to support this argument.

Judging it even by African standards, I believe Ethiopian literature in Amharic or any other language, seems still underdeveloped. Many African countries have produced a number of original styles such as Chinua Achebe from Nigeria and Ngugi wa Tiongo from Kenya. This may be due to the colonial cultural influence they were exposed earlier in their careers. Although they have no colonial cultural experience, Ethiopian writers could however study the literary styles of European and American writers in order to tell their stories. As critics say, in art or literature "the style is the person".

Maybe most Ethiopian writers had no natural inclination for displaying their styles or they had no appetite for learning from foreign experiences. That is a pity because in any country, art and literature develop by borrowing from foreign experiences and styles. Magic Realism as a style was born in Columbia but it has now become a universally accepted and imitated literary device. Maybe the coming generation of Ethiopian authors would prove more open minded, inquisitive or curious to learn from other writers to develop their own styles.

Global Affairs

Has the United Nations outlived its usefulness ?

The United Nations, established in 1945 at the end of World War II, has sadly virtually outlived its usefulness as it commemorated its 79th anniversary due to its failure to reform itself and adjust to the new world order following the collapse of the Soviet Union, which is significantly different from when the UN was established.

The UN's mission, which is to promote peace and stability, has failed time and again, as many of the current violent conflicts, especially the Ukraine War and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, glaringly demonstrate.

Over the years, scholars and think tanks have offered reformist ideas to make the UN more adaptable and responsive to the changing world order. They have failed primarily because of how the UN was structured and the opposition of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) – the US, Russia, China, Britain, and France – to any significant reforms that could diminish their power.

Offering any comprehensive reforms to the UN is certainly beyond the scope of this column. However, there are some limited reforms that the UNSC can take, without a fundamental change in its structure, to enhance its effectiveness in maintaining global peace.

Before that, it is essential to point out some of the UN's shortcomings to put into context the limited reforms that can be taken.

The UN Security Council's structure

The UN Security Council's structure, particularly the veto power held by its five permanent members, often leads to inaction. This power allows any one of these countries to block resolutions, even if there is broad international support. This has resulted in deadlocks on critical issues such as the Syrian Civil War, the Ukraine War, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The killings of civilians and the destruction of cities and towns, particularly by Israel and Russia, are devastating and continue unabated even through the UN and its humanitarian agencies. The International Criminal Court and UN human rights experts have repeatedly called on the Security Council to act. In these cases, the US and Russia's adversarial relations prevented them from reaching solutions to mitigate these conflicts.

The composition of the Security Council does not reflect current global dynamics, leading to questions about its legitimacy and effectiveness. Calls for reform have been persistent but largely unaddressed due to the reluctance of current permanent members to alter a system that benefits them.

Only one-quarter of the global population is represented by the Security Council. Blocks of countries, including Muslim states, African nations, South American countries, and India, with over 1.3 billion people, are not represented in the SC.

Peacekeeping constraints

The UN peacekeeping missions are often criticized for their limited mandates and resources. Peacekeepers are usually



The UN, which was established to foster global peace and stability, has now become a paralyzed institution that inadvertently contributes to raging conflicts because it is constrained by an archaic structure that no longer meets the dramatically changed world order.

deployed in areas where there is no peace to keep, like Cyprus, Kosovo, and Western Sahara. They are generally not adequately equipped or have the authority to engage in violent operations.

This limitation is starkly evident in regions plagued by terrorism and violent extremism, including the Sahel region in Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Central African Republic, where peacekeepers struggle to stabilize situations without adequate support from powerful nations. In addition, there is often a disconnect between UN mandates and local realities, which complicates peacekeeping efforts.

Peacekeepers may not be adequately trained or prepared to handle complex regional dynamics, leading to ineffective interventions.

Lack of enforcement mechanisms

The UN often lacks effective enforcement mechanisms for its resolutions. While the Security Council can theoretically impose sanctions or authorize military action, veto power and political considerations frequently prevent decisive actions. This allows countries that are committing crimes against humanity or engaged in war crimes to escape any punitive measures with impunity, even when imposed by the UNSC.

National interests over global peace

The interests of powerful member states often precede collective global security objectives. The major arms-exporting nations are also permanent members of the Security Council, creating conflicts of interest that undermine efforts to resolve disputes where these nations have strategic interests.

This is highly evident in the Israel-Hamas war and Russia-Ukraine wars, where the US, in particular, is providing massive military support. In this context, geopolitical rivalries among major powers hinder consensus on critical issues. For example, China and Russia often align against Western countries

on various international matters, leading to a stalemate in effectively addressing conflicts.

Bureaucratic inefficiencies

Slow bureaucratic processes and mismanagement frequently hamper the UN's operations. These inefficiencies can delay critical humanitarian aid and other interventions necessary for maintaining peace. Addressing these issues would require substantial reforms, particularly within the Security Council, alongside a commitment from member states to prioritize global peace over national interests.

Reforms that can enhance effectiveness of UN operations

Given, however, the insurmountable difficulties in undertaking comprehensive reforms of the UN, it is still possible to reform the UNSC to enhance its effectiveness in maintaining global peace, which involves addressing several key issues. Here are several doable reforms that could rectify some of the problems.

Reform proposals include limiting the use of vetoes, particularly in cases involving mass atrocities or violations of international law. This could include requiring a supermajority for vetoes to be effective or mandating discussions in the General Assembly following a veto.

Regional representation

Ensuring geographic balance and representation of diverse cultures and civilizations is crucial. This could involve creating regional seats that rotate among countries within a region, thereby enhancing representation without significantly increasing the number of permanent seats.

Strengthening the role of the General Assembly

Enhancing the General Assembly's role in peace and security matters could counterbalance Security Council paralysis. Initiatives like the "Uniting for Peace" resolution allow the General Assembly

to act when the Security Council is deadlocked. Given the differing national interests and geopolitical considerations, consensus-building can still be achieved without necessarily compromising national interests.

Non-amendment reforms

Reinterpreting existing UN Charter provisions may allow for more flexible responses to global crises without formal amendments. Such reforms could empower other UN bodies to act when the Security Council cannot.

Balancing power dynamics

Expanding membership while managing veto power requires careful negotiation to ensure new members do not exacerbate gridlock. There is also concern about maintaining the council's effectiveness with an increased number of members.

Expansion of membership

Increasing permanent and non-permanent members is a widely discussed reform. This expansion could include adding new permanent members without veto power, such as countries from underrepresented regions like Africa, Latin America, and Asia. The G4 nations (Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan) and African countries have been prominent candidates for permanent seats.

Although there is broad agreement on the need to reform the UNSC, achieving that involves piloting multifaceted geopolitical landscapes and balancing various national interests. That said, incremental changes, especially those not requiring formal amendments to the UN charter, may offer a feasible path forward.

If the UNSC does not adopt some of these reforms, the UN will virtually outlive its usefulness, especially in the area of conflict resolution, where the daily horrific death and destruction around the world attests to its dismal failures.

SOURCE: INTER PRESS SERVICE

Law & Politics

Joining the Nile family: Not an option

BY SOLOMON WASSIHUN

The Nile is not only the longest river in the world but also one of the most politicized. Very few rivers have been the subject of discussion in the UN Security Council, the premier global body responsible for maintaining international peace and security. Efforts in recent decades to achieve a fair and harmonious sharing of waters among riparian states have often been characterized by deceit, greed, and tensions based on historical claims and geopolitical maneuvering. But a cloud of hope has been brewing over the Nile since July this year. Future talks on the Nile seem to be focusing more on economics and conservation, shifting from confrontation to cooperation, from threats of war to proposals for cross-border investment.

At the heart of recent advancements is the progress made by the Nile River Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA), an initiative that promises fundamental change. After sitting idle on the table for over fourteen years waiting for compliance, the CFA was finally enacted on October 13, 2024, marking a decisive shift in the governance of the Nile waters.

More than four-fifths of the Nile's water comes from the majestic Ethiopian river Abbay. This means that the source of the Nile is essentially the source of the Abbay. [It is quite confusing why so many writers, scholars, and news agencies like Reuters wrongly refer to Uganda as the source of the Nile] October is the optimal time of the year when thrill-seeking tourists can experience the power and splendor of the Abbay River by standing right at the edge of the waterfall where the air is filled with the deafening roar, mist and splashes of the Abbay water. Another thing has emerged recently that links the Nile inextricably with October. It is what happened on October 13 of last month.

This day holds a special place in the calendar of the upper riparian states. It is a day that marks a breakthrough in their decades-long quest for justice to guarantee their rights to a fair share of their most important natural resource, the Nile Basin. Undoubtedly, Ethiopia has always been the actor at the forefront of the diplomatic struggle to make what happened on October 13 a reality. It was none other than Ethiopian Premier, Abiy Ahmed who broke the news to the whole world of the big day.

"Today, 13 October 2024, marks the culmination of a long journey toward the equitable and reasonable utilization of the waters of the Nile, with the entry into force of the Agreement on the Nile River Basin Framework (CFA). This day will be remembered as a historic milestone in our collective efforts to foster genuine cooperation in the Nile Basin. The CFA's entry into force strengthens our bond as a Nile family and ensures that the management and utilization of our shared water resources benefit all, for the good of all," he wrote.

The CFA represents a multilateral effort by the Nile Basin states to create a sustainable

The implications of the CFA for regional cooperation and water management are profound. By paving the way for a collective mechanism that allows equitable water shares to all riparian states, the agreement seeks to diffuse tensions and encourage cooperative development

and comprehensive framework for managing and utilizing the river's resources. This groundbreaking agreement was born out of necessity, aiming to establish a legal and institutional groundwork to prevent conflicts and promote equitable utilization of the Nile's waters. The CFA's objective is not merely the peaceful sharing of a river but the foundation of a new era of cooperation among countries with historically divergent and even conflicting interests.

Central to the CFA's enactment is the planned launch of the Nile River Basin Commission, NRBC. This body is envisioned as a cornerstone institution that will oversee the equitable and sustainable management of the river, ensuring all signatory countries have a say in its governance. However, the momentum was tempered by the postponement of the Second Summit of

the Nile River Basin Heads of State and Government which was scheduled to be convened on 17th October 2024. It was a signal of both the complexity and the contentious nature of the Nile politics. Let us hope that the Egyptians had no hand in the undisclosed reason for the postponement of the summit, which is very unlikely. And let us not forget the Egypt-Ugandan military pact signed three years ago in Kampala. The pact would undoubtedly bring in so many enticing benefits to the Kampala authorities.

Obviously, not all Nile Basin countries are in agreement. Egypt and Sudan have been vocal in their opposition, standing firm in their historic claims to the river's waters. These nations argue that the commission lacks legitimacy, as they view the current agreement as incomplete and inadequately ratified. Their futile attempts to delegitimize the commission are rooted in their selfish, outdated desire to maintain hydro-hegemony in the Nile basin.

The resistance from Egypt and Sudan was crystallized in a statement from the Egyptian-Sudanese Permanent Joint Technical Commission (PJTC), released even a day ahead of the announcement of CFA activation. In its statement, PJTC outright rejected the legitimacy of the NRBC which it said is constituted by only six of the Nile states.

Legal experts interpreting the PJTC's position underscore that it is a baseless accusation that has no legal grounds, as the NRBC has fulfilled all the prerequisites as stipulated in the CFA document. PJTC also tries to undermine the CFA as incomplete, implying controversial sub-article 14b, under the title Water Security, which is left blank in the document. They deliberately overlooked the annex in the CFA document that adequately addresses the blank sub-article, stating that it shall be resolved by NRBC within six months of its establishment. The Sudanese and the Egyptians are desperately looking for pretexts to reject the commission as they are entrenched in geopolitical stances that reflect fears of diminished control and influence over the Nile.

Egypt's and Sudan's claims on Nile water are shaped by treaties they signed with each other and their colonial masters, apportioning the entire volume of Nile's waters among the two excluding the other nine as if they do not exist. But now, the activation of the CFA disrupts this status quo, forcing Egypt to reconsider its approach to water management and foreign diplomacy within the Nile Basin context.

The Egyptians and the Sudanese should have the courage to face the new reality that Nile politics has entered a new era of cooperation rather than competition and that the future of the Nile will be determined and shaped by a multinational organization, the NRBC. They cannot overshadow the status and voice of this regional body in the global arena, unlike what they have done separately with other riparian states. The Nile is no longer for a few but will be harnessed for all

riparian states.

Uganda, which is currently at the helm of the Nile Basin Initiative, should play a central role in steering this historic change. As the current leader and host of the upcoming summit, Uganda should ensure that the Commission is launched without further delay and act as a driver for cooperation.

Uganda's leadership role appears to be in the middle ground in the broad spectrum of conflicting interests of the Nile states and is therefore crucial in navigating these troubled waters. The postponement of the summit until next year would give the Ugandan president ample time to make it clear to the Egyptians and Sudanese that they cannot afford to be excluded from the new commission, which will be established through due process involving the continent's political body, the AU.

As stated in its founding agreement, CFA, the commission is expected to be a powerful authority on matters regarding the Nile Basin interims of politics, finance, and technology. The Nile River Basin Commission (NRBC) would possess a wide range of capacities, including dispute resolution, rulemaking, data collection and management, identifying optimal water use measurements, and so on. Thus, NRBC would be powerful enough to effectively promote and coordinate cooperation among the basin states to ensure sustainable and good governance of the resources of the Nile basin.

The implications of the CFA for regional cooperation and water management are profound. By paving the way for a collective mechanism that allows equitable water shares to all riparian states, the agreement seeks to diffuse tensions and encourage cooperative development. It is a blueprint for turning potential flashpoints into opportunities for mutual growth.

The Nile River politics have irrevocably shifted. The hegemonic control once wielded by the lower riparian states, predominantly Egypt, is now being redefined. With the CFA coming into force, the power dynamics have transformed permanently. It is now the collective leadership of the Nile states that dictates the river's future utilization. Egypt, disillusioned with the notion of 'historical rights', now faces the compelling reality of equitable sharing with upstream states. And joining the Nile family is not an option, but a must.

The future of Nile Basin cooperation hinges on the realization that collective governance and shared resource management are not only pathways to peace but essential lifelines in an era of climate change and regional instability exacerbated by the interference of world powers. The CFA's activation is not the end but just the beginning of a challenging journey. For all Nile Basin states, the path forward lies in dialogue, compromise, and the commitment to shared prosperity. The era of unilateral dominion over the Nile basin is over; the age of collaboration has just begun.

Planet Earth

Endeavor to fill natural fertilizer gaps

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Natural compost is organic matter decomposing and converting into a nutrient-dense soil amendment. It is made from a variety of organic elements, including kitchen leftovers, yard waste, and other biodegradable materials. Composting reduces trash, enriches the soil, strengthens its structure, and promotes healthy plant development.

Studies indicate the various advantages of using natural compost. It is nutrient-dense, giving plants essential elements such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium. It is also beneficial for soil structure improvement, as it enhances aeration, drainage, and water retention.

Natural compost supports a wide range of beneficial microbes that sustain healthy soil ecosystems, making it important for microbial activity. Additionally, it plays a significant role in waste reduction by keeping organic waste out of landfills and lowering methane emissions.

It can also be used as a soil supplement for landscaping and gardens, to improve the soil for potted plants, to increase the fertility of flower and vegetable beds, and more. Thus, utilizing natural compost can enhance gardening and environmental quality while also promoting healthier surroundings.

A variety of natural resources can be used to make organic fertilizer or natural compost. In particular, nitrogen-rich green materials such as coffee grounds, grass clippings, fruit and vegetable scraps, and herbivore manure are required to make natural compost. Carbon-rich brown materials include cardboard, non-glossy paper, wood chips, straw or hay, and dry leaves also used to prepare natural fertilizer, according to the studies.

The most crucial question in this situation is what additional resources are needed to make natural fertilizer or compost?

Haramaya University (HU) College of Agriculture Lecturer and Poultry Farm Coordinator Seid Aragaw said that Ethiopia has a lot of potential for preparing organic compost and fertilizer. However, the country has not taken advantage of this opportunity to conserve the environment and replace imported fertilizers.

He also said that preparing and using natural compost or fertilizers has a long history in Ethiopia. Farmers have been using it for generations, but only recently have higher education institutions started researching and encouraging the community to utilize it.

Several explanations are cited as to why Ethiopia did not use it as early as other countries. One of the causes is that researchers pay little attention to this.

The government has implemented various initiatives, including *Ye Lemat Turfat*, to ensure national food security. Therefore, it is critical to expand hands-on training, community participation, and strengthen the laboratory system, among other things

It has received little attention, and the number of professionals and institutions involved in this field is too small.

Taking this into consideration, Haramaya University (HU) has prepared natural compost or fertilizer from diverse scraps. To be more specific, the institution created compost from chicken manure and used it for its own consumption as well as to benefit the surrounding populations. Chicken manure, in particular, is a good natural compost element due to its high nutrient content and capacity to improve soil health. Farmers are accustomed to it, and researchers in the field are encouraged to use chicken manure for natural compost preparation.

Compost made from chicken manure contains a lot of nutrients. It is abundant in potassium, phosphorus, and nitrogen, all of which are necessary for plant growth. Additionally, they exhibit microbial activity. Soil aeration, drainage, and moisture retention are all improved by adding compost made from chicken manure. Therefore, composting chicken manure enriches the soil with organic content, supporting thriving plant ecology.



Seid Aragaw

HU has been working on a poultry farm to provide affordable chicken products and ensure food security not only in the surrounding community but also across the country.

Accordingly, it has been preserving and protecting many different kinds of chicken species in the country that can be utilized for meat, feathers, eggs, and other purposes. Additionally, their manure is a valuable resource for the production of natural fertilizers.

However, the nation has not made adequate use of them. Therefore, higher education institutions, including HU's agricultural research efforts, should be encouraged to bridge the massive gap between the demand and supply of natural fertilizers made from chicken manure.

In actuality, the HU poultry farm was established around the early 1950s and has since engaged in a variety of teaching and learning activities, research, and community engagement endeavors. This, in turn, has made HU successful in preserving, maintaining, and improving chicken breeds for over 50 years, which is crucial for both the local population and the country.

He added that offering courses from undergraduate to doctoral levels is not enough. It is important to carry out research and provide the community with better chicken breeds since poultry farming provides multiple benefits to the community and the country, he underlined. Working with the community helps to improve laying hen performance and chicken meat production as well as provides real-world experience and training.

Apart from providing low-cost chicken products, particularly eggs, to the community, it is also critical to teach the community how to make organic fertilizer out of chicken manure. For example, HU fulfills its responsibility by providing 10 chicks and 10 kg of fodder, as well as comprehensive training, to those in need. These individuals not only benefit from chicken breeding but also create natural fertilizers from chicken manure. This, in turn, enables people to cultivate their backyards.

In general, chicken farming is quite profitable and has several benefits for both the community and the country. As a result, the government has implemented various initiatives, including *Ye Lemat Turfat*, to ensure national food security. Therefore, it is critical to expand hands-on training, community participation, and strengthen the laboratory system, among other things.

To reap further benefits from poultry farms, not only the government but also relevant organizations should fund poultry farming research and related activities in higher education. They should encourage the use of chicken manure as a natural fertilizer because using chicken manure in natural composting is an efficient way to recycle trash while also supplying vital nutrients to plants.

Furthermore, farmers and anybody may make quality compost that improves soil health and encourages strong plant development by using proper composting processes and safety considerations. This is critical to completing the government's newly announced *Ye Lemat Turfat* program, which helps to close the supply shortages for animal products, notably chicken products, in Ethiopia.