



# The Ethiopian Herald

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## Premier inaugurates forensic center aimed to serve Ethiopia, beyond

BY STAFF REPORTER

**ADDIS ABABA** - Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) yesterday inaugurated the Federal Police Forensic Investigation and Research Center of Excellence, a

cutting-edge facility designed to enhance Ethiopia's forensic capabilities and serve neighboring countries.

In a social media post, the Prime Minister highlighted the milestone, emphasizing Ethiopia's transition from reliance on

external resources for critical forensic services to establishing a self-sufficient institution. "Just a year and a half ago, when DNA testing was needed, Ethiopia had to depend on external resources. Today, we have built an institution

*See Premier inaugurates... page 4*

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Khalifa Mubarak Al Dhaheri



Mustafa Younis

### Experts : Ethiopia-UAE partnership 'built to last'

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Legesse Tulu (PhD)

### Tourism drives Ethiopia's economic growth via strategic projects: GCS

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDISABABA**—The economic contribution of Ethiopia's tourism sector to the GDP has significantly increased due to various government-led projects, according

*See Tourism drives ... page 4*

### Corridor Dev't: Means to match metropolis reputation

BY HAILE DEMEKE

The corridor development project which is designed to enhance the infrastructure and living standards within the capital city has remarkably changed the image of Addis Ababa and created conducive and attractive areas for the residents of the city and beyond. Accordingly, the government has successfully completed the first phase of the project which has transformed the city to be more livable and appealing.

Following the successful completion of the first phase of the corridor development project, the city administration has announced the second phase of the project in various areas. The primary objective of the corridor project is to enhance the beauty and cleanliness of the capital, making it



a comfortable and attractive place for its residents, while maintaining the status of being diplomatic hub. A few days ago, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) has reviewed

the second phase of the Addis Ababa Corridor development after the successful execution of the first phase

*See Corridor Dev't: Means... page 4*

## Historic rights, Int'l laws legitimize Ethiopia's quest to sea access

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA** - Ethiopia's pursuit of sea access hinges on national unity and historic rights and international laws, scholars suggested.

Approached by the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Adama Science and Technology University Lecturer Tilahun Ereduno (PhD) said that historic documents attest to Ethiopia's claim to ownership of not only sea access but also ocean territory.

The country's development has been hindered by the lack of access to the sea, which it lost due to historical circumstances and conspiracies.

Tilahun argued that Ethiopia's quest for sea access is legitimate and requires close collaboration between the government and its people.

He emphasized that this endeavor deserves worldwide support and recognition.

According to the scholar, since Eritrea gained independence in 1993, Ethiopia has heavily relied on neighboring countries, particularly Djibouti, for access to ports.

Tilahun stated that fostering economic development without a sea outlet will be challenging in the future and urged every Ethiopian to commit to efforts to regain sea access.

With a population exceeding 120 million, Ethiopia's quest for sea access cannot be overstated. The country's landlocked status limits its ability to fully capitalize on ongoing economic growth.

To realize its historical maritime rights, the country must foster unity and resolve internal issues to strengthen cooperative efforts, according to the scholar.



## Ministry insists media to champion family planning

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA**- The Ministry of Health (MoH) has called on the media to prioritize the promotion of family planning as a critical tool for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

In collaboration with Yonsei Global Health Center (YGHC), KOICA, and other key partners, the MoH hosted a workshop on Wednesday under the theme "Your Voice, Their Future: Advocate for Family Planning." The event highlighted the essential role of the media in reshaping public understanding of family planning and sexual and reproductive health (SRH). Tegene Regassa (MD), PR and Communications Executive Officer at the MoH, underscored the direct relationship between family planning and sustainable development. "Family planning offers extensive and long-term benefits for women, their families, and communities, contributing to social and economic development," he said.

He urged media professionals to prioritize reporting on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) issues, which are often underrepresented, and emphasized the government's commitment to raising awareness and advancing family planning

initiatives across the country.

KOICA's Country Director, Cho Han Deog, echoed the need for continuous donor support, reaffirming KOICA's dedication to promoting family planning and SRH programs.

Genet Deres, Reproductive Health and Adolescent Health Desk Expert at the MoH, detailed the SDG health targets for 2030, including addressing the unmet demand for modern contraception and reducing maternal and newborn mortality rates. "While pregnancy and childbirth are natural processes, they can pose serious health risks. Family planning is essential for safeguarding the health of women and families, reducing unplanned pregnancies, and supporting economic development," she said.

Genet called on the media to advocate for family planning as a strategy to improve maternal, infant, and child health while fostering economic growth and social well-being.

The workshop emphasized the critical role of the media in shaping public opinion and driving long-term change, positioning family planning as a cornerstone of Ethiopia's journey toward sustainable development.

## AASTU starving for Int'l accreditation

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA**-Transformative measures are being taken to achieve quality education and obtain international accreditation of academic programs, Addis Ababa Science and Technology University (AASTU) announced.

AASTU President Dereje Engida (PhD) told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the university is taking a number of steps this year to get its academic programs accredited internationally.

AUS-based educational accreditation institution will come to Ethiopia to conduct assessment with regard to the recognition, he expressed.

Dereje explained that the recognition will be the outcome of the assessment of the quality of the education provided by the university both in Ethiopia and globally.

The evaluation bodies will come in December, and after that, students who pass the new curriculum will have international recognition, according to the President.

In the last four years, the curriculum of the university has been revised to reach this level of recognition and will be given to the engineering and science programs, he mentioned.

He pointed out that it will create an opportunity for students who graduate from university to find a job in any country of the world and they compete in.

The President said that besides its primary mission of teaching and learning, the university engages in a number of initiatives to boost the competitiveness of



Dereje Engida (PhD), President of AASTU

its graduates.

On the other hand, the university is planning for this year that students should come up with an invention when they graduate.

This makes graduates not only jobseekers but also entrepreneurs when they leave the university. The place where students can make their products and present them to the market is being prepared for this purpose, according to the president.

He also mentioned that various activities are being carried out so that innovative works and researches can be carried out to solve the problems of society.

Internationally, AASTU actively engages with the global community through academic cooperation, partnerships, and alumni associations, enriching our activities with multicultural diversity.

## Charity transforms lives of single mothers, children

• Celebrates decade of impact

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA** -The Love for Children and Mothers Charitable Organization has reaffirmed its dedication to providing psycho-social support and skill-building opportunities for single mothers and their children who are homeless and forced to beg on the streets.

The organization aims to empower these women by offering support and training, improving their circumstances, and fostering a brighter future for their families. Co-founder and Manager Martha Woldearegay briefed the media yesterday, highlighting the charity's decade-long efforts to lift mothers and children out of harsh living conditions and provide sustainable solutions.

Since its establishment, the organization has supported 500 mothers and their 560 children, who were previously exposed to extreme weather, violence, and health risks. These families have received social and financial assistance, skill training, and resources to generate sustainable income.

Every year, the organization helps 50 mothers and their children by offering daycare, psycho-social support, shelter, and skillful training. These programs aim to help mothers secure sustainable incomes by engaging in various professions. Many of the women trained by the charity are now

successfully working in areas such as food preparation, car washing, entrepreneurship, cleaning services, and coffee-making.

Martha shared that the charity is preparing to celebrate its ten-year anniversary in the coming week. The event will involve community members and government officials, promoting the organization's work and recognizing its achievements. Activities planned for the celebration include a "Thanks Day," "Giving and Generosity Day," and a "Cleaning Day."

The manager also called on community members and donors to support vulnerable mothers and children living on the streets who are at risk of exploitation, trafficking, abuse, and other dangers. She emphasized the need for collective efforts to ensure the well-being of these families.

The charity works closely with the Addis Ababa Women, Children and Social Affairs Bureau, following up monthly with selected mothers who have benefited from its programs and are now engaging in various work sectors.

Through its impactful initiatives, the Love for Children and Mothers Charitable Organization has become a vital force for change, improving the lives of a significant number of mothers and children while inspiring the community to extend a helping hand.

# Editorial

## Felicitating Somaliland for burgeoning democracy

Translating its envisioned democratic vote into action, Somaliland has just conducted a free and fair election that was accentuated by all-out participation. The election was a hit, for it was not marred by to-dos.

Such a turn of events is not a windfall. It rather shows people-and-government's chemistry for democracy and peace. To conduct a democratic election there is a call for strong opposition parties that espouse a healthy outlook and respect for citizens and people's decisions. Such parties do not show dissension when it comes to the nation's stability, peace, and best ways forward. Partaking in an election, and becoming ready to tap the outcome of the election on the back is a showcase of civilization. What unfolded in Somaliland is no other than this.

In a democratic election parties and candidates do not only freely talk about their programs and outlooks but also take responsibility to whatever they talk. In this respect, people and government of Somaliland have discharged a lofty task. As such, Somaliland has continued tranquil as it was before the election.

Conducting a free and fair election presupposes bringing forth a vibrant electoral system. In this respect Somaliland has proved successful. To carry out an election free from rigging that wins the approval of all the presence of a strong electoral board having committed and honest workers up to the grassroots is mandatory. The prevalence of a transparent system is also obligatory.

The people of Somaliland, who actively partook in the election, are ascribable to the gained achievement, for they have managed to demonstrate the presence of unity and consensus in diversity. In so doing the people have agreed to work with the party that basked with the majority vote warranting the furtherance of peace.

The turn of events had proved heartening not only to Ethiopia but also to people of the region. Had the election not been successful the turmoil that could have cropped up would have a domino effect on neighboring countries. Hence a word of gratitude is due to all stakeholders who contributed to the successful and peaceful conclusion of the election. Provided the successful election, a rosy future is in store for people of Somaliland who opted to mold their fate by themselves.

Based on common growth or a win-win approach the Ethiopian government is ever ready to work with the government that has seen a green light by its people to lead them in the direction they deemed right.

The people of Somaliland have decided to determine their fate casting voting cards in favor of those that holds the torch of democracy, peace and development high. This is a huge task. Like the election conducted peacefully, accepting the outcome similarly is expected. Taking other opposition parts aboard the elected government must see to the speedy stride of Somaliland on the path of growth.

As ever before, the incumbent is ready to cooperatively and harmoniously work with the elected government of Somaliland. It is displaying its readiness and willingness. It as well will press ahead with extending all due support to the newly elected government.

The word of felicitation the Ethiopian Ministry of foreign affairs extended to the National Electoral board of Somaliland is in the same wavelength

# Opinion

## Ethiopia has indispensable role in ensuring peace in the region

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

According to Somalia Business Review issued recently, Somalia's economy faces numerous challenges due to a combination of internal and external factors, Long-standing instability due to militant groups like Al-Shabaab continues to hinder investment, economic activities, and infrastructure development. This insecurity makes certain areas inaccessible and limits economic growth opportunities. Besides, clan base skirmishes and competitions over scares resources like water and pastureland that are observed over several seasons create unfavorable conditions for the population to move from place to place in search of fodder for their livestock.

Moreover, frequent droughts, flooding, and unpredictable weather conditions have heavily impacted agriculture, which is a key economic sector. Climate events increase food insecurity, displace communities, and strain limited government resources.

Somalia struggles with fragile institutions, limited administrative capacity, and inadequate regulatory frameworks. This weak governance makes economic reforms difficult and discourages foreign and local investment. The state of governability and governance in Somalia over the last several decades have shown no improvement as both the federal and local governments are weak to plan, implement and coordinate the management of the national economy

Somalia has one of the highest poverty rates in the world, with a significant portion of the population living below the poverty line. Limited job opportunities, especially for youth has continued to force them to join various terrorist groups contributing to social unrest and hinder economic development.

The nation's economy relies heavily on remittances from the diaspora, which makes it vulnerable to external economic shocks in host countries. While remittances provide vital support, they are not a stable foundation for economic growth.

Moreover, Somalia's infrastructure is underdeveloped, with inadequate roads, ports, and energy supply. This hampers trade, limits industrial growth, and restricts economic diversification. Although there is a central banking system in Somalia, the country lacks adequate operational model for the banking process in the country.

Domestic revenue collection is insufficient to meet development needs. This lack of revenue limits public service provision and makes Somalia heavily reliant on foreign aid. Recently, the USA wrote off more than one billion outstanding debt that was accumulated for more than two decades.

Inflation, particularly in food prices, has been a persistent challenge, eroding purchasing power. Currency instability and a lack of formal banking systems also hinder economic activities.

Efforts are underway to address some of these issues, with Somalia recently joining the East African Community (EAC) and collaborating on security reforms with the African Union.

However, sustained development requires stabilizing the security situation, improving governance, and building economic resilience through infrastructure and institutional development.

The military agreement concluded between Somalia and Egypt and the triple alliance created by Somalia, Egypt and Eretria to shock Ethiopian's economy by destabilizing the country and attempting to deny the nation of her rightful access to ports seems to fall apart.

The political tension between the Federal Government of Somalia and the regional states has continued to escalate. Regional states like Jubaland have now openly declared that they have nothing to do with the central government and are working on establishing their own electoral commission to run their own government.

What can both Somalia and Egypt benefit from the mess that is now created in the country? The author believes that there is no benefit for both countries but more crises that could engulf Somalia is in sight. This is not in par with the desire that Egypt is upholding to control the East African region and more particularly the Horn of African and the Red Sea route.

Ethiopia is on guard to protect her own territory and the sovereignty of the country while also showing clear interest in continuing to participate in the new peace keeping mission in Somalia which is expected to start in January 2025. The last 17 years have shown that the ENDF peace keeping force in Somalia is the only reliable force that can keep Al-Shabab at bay.

The Ethiopian peace keeping forces have already cemented strong relationship with the people of Somalia and contrary to the calls by the Federal Government to expel Ethiopian peace keeping mission, the Somalis are insisting that the Ethiopian peace keeping forces should continue to serve in Somalia.

The militarization of Somalia by the Egyptian government has not been instrumental in strengthening Somali defense forces but has only helped to strengthen Al-Shabab and other terrorist groups roaming the country with no hindrance. Most of the armaments are now ending up in the hands of the terrorist groups as already predicted by the current President of Ethiopia Taye Akelesilassie and former foreign minister of Ethiopia.

The international community is watching the entire political situation in East Africa but no organization or country has managed to come up with a viable strategy that could help to avert the revival of terrorism in Somalia and the resurgence of sea piracy in the Rea Sea.

The following months have a lot to reveal for the Horn of Africa and if things do not work out well in resolving the situation in a more rational and diplomatic manner, the geography of the Federal Republic of Somalia might be altered with a formation of independent states that could secede from mainland Somalia creating an entirely different political landscape on the Horn of Africa.

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



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# News

## Experts : Ethiopia-UAE partnership 'built to last'

BY BILAL DERSO

Ethiopia has long enjoyed robust diplomatic relations with the Arab world, a historical dynamic recently

invigorated by a vibrant foreign policy emphasizing mutual benefits. Among these relationships, the ties between Ethiopia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) stand out as a model of strategic cooperation and shared growth, witnessing remarkable development in various spheres under the leadership of both nations.

The foundation of the Ethiopia-UAE partnership lies in their mutual commitment to exchanging experiences and fostering collaboration across bilateral, regional, and international dimensions. This dynamic has bolstered relations in political, economic, and social domains, positioning the relationship as both distinctive and strategically effective. Over recent years, Ethiopia and the UAE have made significant strides in strengthening economic and trade connections, leveraging their close diplomatic ties to pave the way for comprehensive cooperation.

In an exclusive interview with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Khalifa Mubarak Al Dhaheri, Director of the Mohammed bin Zayed University for Humanities, highlighted the profound and multifaceted relationship between Ethiopia and the UAE. He underscored Ethiopia's historical significance as the land of The Najashi, the righteous king who provided refuge to early Muslims, cementing Ethiopia's role as a symbol of cultural diversity and religious tolerance. Khalifa also noted the shared values of multiculturalism and peaceful coexistence that underpin the partnership, pointing out the importance of strengthening national identity and fostering internal and social peace.

The UAE's relationship with Ethiopia exemplifies shared aspirations rooted in mutual respect and collaboration. The researcher in international relations, Mustafa Younis, told the EPA that the two countries have transformed their ties over the past two decades. What began as economic cooperation has evolved into a robust and

multidimensional relationship encompassing political, cultural, and security domains. This transformation has been catalyzed by mutual visits at the highest leadership levels, which have elevated the partnership to unprecedented heights.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD), Ethiopia has adopted comprehensive reform policies emphasizing economic diplomacy. These policies have attracted foreign direct investment and fostered collaboration with Arab countries, including the UAE, through shared goals such as trade expansion and sustainable development. The strategic agreements and memoranda of understanding signed since mid-2018 reflect the depth and breadth of this partnership, encompassing a range of initiatives in economic, social, political, and security sectors.

The Ethiopia-UAE relationship has been marked by its ability to adapt and grow, addressing both nations' shared priorities. Notably, this includes fostering peaceful coexistence among diverse populations and strengthening cultural understanding. These shared values have allowed the partnership to flourish, showcasing a consensus of vision on bilateral, regional, and global issues, Younis elaborated.

At the core of this relationship is a strategic alignment driven by the leadership of both nations. Ethiopia's commitment to building a dynamic, export-oriented economy aligns seamlessly with the UAE's focus on sustainable development and global cooperation. Together, these efforts have created a model partnership characterized by mutual respect, shared aspirations, and a future-oriented vision.

The Ethiopia-UAE partnership is an example of what can be achieved through strategic collaboration and mutual benefit. As both nations continue to deepen their ties, they offer a blueprint for how countries can navigate complex global challenges while fostering prosperity and stability. This relationship, built on common values and strategic aspirations, serves as a testament to the power of diplomacy in advancing shared goals and mutual growth.

## Premier inaugurates...

capable of addressing DNA-related challenges domestically and supporting our neighbors," he stated.

Abiy lauded the center as a testament to the extensive reforms implemented in the security and safety sector, reflecting the government's commitment to strengthening

institutional capacity and ensuring regional cooperation.

The facility marks a significant step forward in Ethiopia's efforts to modernize its forensic capabilities and reduce dependency on external support, further contributing to the country's broader security reform agenda.

## Tourism drives Ethiopia's economic growth...

to the Government Communication Service (GCS).

During a media briefing on current affairs and government priorities yesterday, GCS Minister Legesse Tulu(PhD) emphasized that infrastructure development and focused reforms have enhanced the tourism sector's role in the nation's economic growth. While acknowledging that poor infrastructure and inadequate policy support had historically hindered the sector's potential, he highlighted the strides made under the reform government.

Tourism has been designated as one of Ethiopia's five economic pillars, aiming to create jobs, foster cultural exchange, enhance the nation's image, and boost GDP growth. For developing countries like Ethiopia, tourism serves as a key driver for job creation, environmental protection, poverty reduction, and overall economic contribution. "The sector acts as an economic engine, attracting foreign tourists and supporting foreign currency earnings," the minister stated.

Ethiopia's reliance on agriculture and environment protection has made tourism a strategic area for economic expansion. The sector's value chain extends from hotel administration to tourist operations, logistics, and service provision, creating numerous employment opportunities.

Among the notable government projects are Dine for Nation, Dine for Sheger, and the Beautifying Sheger initiatives, launched under the leadership of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD). These projects not only modernize and build new cities but also aim to enhance tourism infrastructure and destinations. They generate hundreds

of millions annually, transform the cities' image, and attract more tourists to the country.

Infrastructure improvements, a peaceful environment, corridor developments, and Ethiopia's recent membership in BRICS have opened new opportunities for hosting international and continental conferences. Ethiopia has already hosted several high-profile events, including the World Without Hunger conference, which brought together leaders, ambassadors, investors, and global influencers.

The country also organized the First African Defense Ministerial Conference in October, showcasing Ethiopia's significant role in continental matters. Other major events, such as the 15th African Continental Free Trade Area Ministerial Meeting and CAF-related summits, have been held successfully, with Ethiopia hosting over 10 international and continental conferences in November alone.

These international events have not only allowed Ethiopia to promote its strategic interests but also provided participants the opportunity to witness the progress made on the ground. Minister Legesse noted that such events boost the country's image and contribute to trade and investment growth.

The government continues to forge bilateral and multilateral relationships to enhance trade and investment in tourism and other sectors. In line with its vision for holistic development, Ethiopia plans to undertake further initiatives to increase the economic contributions of the tourism industry while maintaining sustainable growth.

## Corridor Dev't: Means to match...

activities. In a social media message posted on X, Abiy expressed that he reviewed reports on the second phase of the Addis Ababa Corridor development, which encompasses eight corridor pathways across 2,879 hectares in the city.

Significant progress has been made so far, drawing from the experiences of the first phase to make the cities in the country more conducive to growth and livability, he stated, mentioning that the city redevelopment projects are part of the national endeavor towards achieving sustainable development.

"We must focus on three essential tasks: first, building cities that are fit for the next generation; second, nurturing a generation capable of thriving in transforming cities; and third, cultivating leadership equipped to guide these cities effectively," he wrote.

Commending the corridor development project being implemented in the capital, Russian Ambassador to Ethiopia Evgeny Terekhin, told *The Ethiopian Herald* that the project has significantly transformed the capital and elevated the image of the diplomatic capital to the next level.

Considering that the headquarters of the African Union (AU), UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and other international organizations are located here, the corridor development has played a great role in Addis Ababa's transformation to a more modern and attractive city. The transformation of the city befits its name, (which literally means new flower,) apart from complying with international smart city standards.

Seconding to the ambassador's statement, Africa Leather Products

Institute, Executive Director Nicholas Mudungwe, said the image of the capital is significantly changed since the implementation of the corridor development in accordance to the government's initial plan of uplifting the image of the capital and the country as a whole. "I am here over the past many years witnessing the transformation of the capital to more appealing and attractive manner," he noted.

"I have lived in Ethiopia for the past six years and the beautification of the city is really catchy. My first time in Addis Ababa was long time ago which is completely different from today's image of the city. Now I have seen a complete cycle. I like running but it was difficult to run, I run three kilometers and then I will give up because of limited space. But now I am doing 25 KM because the space is

there," Mudungwe expressed.

He believed that the development projects being undertaken in the capital are impressive, unfolding every day as he witnessed the transformation of Addis Ababa with firsthand over the past few months. This showcases the government's commitment in elevating the diplomatic capital of Africa to live up to its name, he added.

The government has taken bold steps in exploiting the untapped tourism potentials of the country as the nation has ample resources in the hospitality industry. In order to exploit the unexploited tourism sites, the government has identified tourism as one of the key pillars of the homegrown economic reform considering the country's rich history, heritage, culture and natural endowments.

# Opinion



Nile Basin states to get Commission after 25 years of negotiations | *the independent*

## Fostering mutual benefits, sustainable development through implementing CFA

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

It is worth mentioning that the implementation of the Nile Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) will play a part in supporting riparian nations by averting wrongful claims and ensuring equitable as well as reasonable utilization of the Nile River.

For decades, the riparian nations, except the two lower riparian countries, have been deprived of their rights to utilize the Nile River as they wish. But in light of the current situation, thanks to the CFA, all riparian nations can make use of the Nile River as they wish based on the Cooperative Framework Agreement. It is absolutely impossible to live in the past.

If truth be told, the agreement means a lot to riparian nations that have been stripped off their privileges for as long as one can remember.

As the pact is a new dawn for the riparian nations, they can set in motion utilizing the Nile River for various development-related activities that can take their respective nations at the forefront of growth and make the future bright.

It is crystal clear that on the subject of the Nile River water usage, Egypt and Sudan had been putting the colonial-era agreement in place making the most of the river as they wanted. This being the case, several nations have failed to use the Nile River for various development purposes and take their country to new frontiers.

At the time Ethiopia laid the cornerstone for the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), Egypt had been making an effort to internationalize the issue. However, through the determination of the federal government of Ethiopia and some friendly countries, all their efforts in the fullness of time ended up going for a burton. The whole thing was full of ups and downs as well as twists and turns.

Egypt has never attempted to solve its problem related to the Nile peacefully with Ethiopia or any other upper basin countries. Rather, it strived to fulfill its interest destabilizing the region. Since ancient times, the issues of Nile and Ethiopia have been means of solutions to the problems of internal politics in Egypt. The same way today's government of Egypt has been politicizing the Nile issue and attempting to cover the face of its people by instigating water war against Ethiopia,

according to a source.

The source went on to say the past and the present governments of Egypt and Sudan stiff to same idea related to the Nile issue. They propagate that "Egypt is the gift of the Nile", but none of them took the issue of Nile seriously and in humane way except reflecting their self-centeredness.

Truly speaking, there is no Nile problem as such; the problem they propagate each time is simply a vague problem fabricated by Egyptian officials themselves. Instead of sitting together and play a win-win game, they always gamble with Herodotus say "Egypt is the gift of the Nile" and the agreements of colonial periods. They know very well that Ethiopia never dreams to let the Egyptian and the Sudanese people without water, except that it insists for equitable use of water from Nile.

On the heels of the implementation of CFA, wild allegations and baseless accusation against the riparian nations will end up turning out to be a thing of the past.

In a similar way, there is no doubt that trumped up accusations and unverified accusations against Ethiopia will smooth the way for ensuring equitable use of the Nile's water rather than granting supremacy to any single nation.

It is true that the pact plays a part in nurturing collaborative benefits through joint venture which will smooth the path of cooperation among riparian nations at the earliest possible time.

The colonial-era pacts privileged downstream nations giving the cold shoulder to upper riparian nations. In the present climate, the Nile Basin nations should successfully implement CFA with the purpose of assisting their people in a number of ways and in a number of respects.

It becomes clear that the CFA offers a fundamental framework for the Nile Basin nations to collaborate and utilize the combined water resources. Putting the pact into effect can tackle the rising water challenges and making certain the safety of their populaces.

It can be noted that taking the various benefits they secure out of the CFA, the Nile Basin Nations should put into practice the pact to make their people beneficiary.

As the framework agreement can help easily

ensure a fair and equitable utilization of the water among the riparian nations, they should all work with one accord and in collaboration without batting an eyelid. In doing so, the riparian nations can grow together getting to the bottom of their quandaries making use of the CFA.

The implementation of the Nile Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement ensures an equitable share of the Nile River water among the Nile basin countries, Feki Ahmed, a researcher in water resource development said.

The Nile Basin Commission which will be established among Nile Basin States will serve as important institution for using, developing, protecting, conserving and managing the river basin and its waters.

The CFA opened for signatures on May 14, 2010 and Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi and South Sudan have ratified. Following these ratifications by 6 Nile riparian countries, officially the CFA entered into force on October 13, 2024.

Feki Ahmed told ENA that the agreement ensured to maintain equitable share of waters and benefits by nullifying the colonial treaties.

The colonial agreement had made the major water contributing countries a spectator while unjustly benefited the non-contributors for years, he added.

Hence, the CFA ascertains the fair and equitable benefit of the Nile basin countries on legal basis, he pointed out.

Feki added that any issues related to sharing of the Nile River waters among the upper and down-stream countries will be resolved through the CFA. Furthermore, entering into force of the CFA is a milestone for the Nile Basin countries towards mutual cooperation.

This will lead the countries to mutually cooperate on sharing technological advancement, human power and water utilization.

As long as the Cooperative Framework Agreement plays a huge role in giving the freedom utilizing the Nile River, riparian nations can harness the River for the economic growth of their respective countries.

As attaching significance to the agreement brings about the desired goal, all stakeholders should form an alliance and unite the efforts.

At the moment, riparian nations have made

history by making the impossible possible at the earliest possible time. Reaping the fruits of accomplishing will be easier said than done.

As learnt from a document the preamble of the Agreement on the Nile River Basin Cooperative Framework has been stated in the following ways.

The States of the Nile River Basin, Affirming the importance of the Nile River to the economic and social well-being of the peoples of the States of the Nile River Basin;

Motivated by the desire to strengthen their cooperation in relation to the Nile River, a great and vital natural resource which binds them together, and in relation to the sustainable development of the Nile River Basin;

Recognizing that the Nile River, its natural resources and environment are assets of immense value to all the riparian countries;

Convinced that a framework agreement governing their relations with regard to the Nile River Basin will promote integrated management, sustainable development, and harmonious utilization of the water resources of the Basin, as well as their conservation and protection for the benefit of present and future generations;

Convinced also that it is in their mutual interest to establish an organization to assist them in the management and sustainable development of the Nile River Basin for the benefit of all;

Mindful of the global initiatives for promoting cooperation on integrated management and sustainable development of water resources;

Taking the unvarnished truth and the self-evident truth into account the riparian nations should bend over backwards to take their respective nations to new frontiers, unprecedented heights, and high level of success at some time in the future.

As the future is rosy for the riparian nations, they should keep themselves involved in various development activities utilizing the Nile River. On top of that as they have made history, they should keep on working around the clock.

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

# Business & Economy

## Enhancing agricultural mechanization to fully benefit smallholder farmers

BY BAHIRU SETEGNE

(From MoA public relations)

Ethiopia's agriculture is a cornerstone of its economy, contributing over one-third of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Given its vital role, modernizing this crucial sector through the adoption of machinery and technologies is of paramount importance.

Implementing mechanization can significantly enhance agricultural productivity and efficiency, allowing farmers to cultivate larger areas of land and increase crop yields. By integrating advanced technologies, such as precision farming tools and automated irrigation systems, Ethiopian farmers can optimize resource use, improve crop quality, and reduce labor-intensive practices.

Agricultural mechanization in Ethiopia is gaining momentum as a crucial strategy to enhance productivity, efficiency, and sustainability within the sector. As a country where agriculture employs the large population, the need for modernizing farming practices has become increasingly urgent.

Mechanization involves the use of machinery to perform agricultural tasks, which can significantly streamline operations and improve yield. In Ethiopia, the adoption of mechanization is seen as a way to transform smallholder farming. By integrating advanced machinery into farming practices, farmers can achieve higher levels of production, better quality crops, and reduced labor costs.

Taking this in to account, Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) is doing with different partners. The Agricultural Mechanization for Smallholder Farmers (AMS) is one of mechanization initiative supported by German Development Cooperation (GIZ). The Agricultural Mechanization for Smallholder Farmers (AMS) is a crucial initiative within the sector focus on sustainable use of natural resources, agriculture, and food security in Ethiopia.

The primary aim of the AMS is to improve working conditions in agriculture through the adoption of mechanization. By promoting the use of machinery, the project facilitates more efficient land cultivation, which in turn increases farmers' incomes and enhances occupational health and safety. Mechanization significantly reduces the burden of heavy physical labor, providing particular benefits to women, who often carry the primary responsibilities on farms.

The AMS project has established specific outputs to measure its success. These include improving planning for the National Agricultural Mechanization Strategy, strengthening training offerings from agricultural institutions, increasing the delivery capacity of service providers, enhancing public relations and information on mechanization, and initiating an innovation fund to promote advancements in agricultural mechanization.

Geographically, AMS initially focused on several regional states, including Amhara,



**By promoting the use of machinery, the project facilitates more efficient land cultivation, which in turn increases farmers' incomes and enhances occupational health and safety**

Oromia, Sidama, and Central Ethiopia. Recently, it has expanded to assist in advancing mechanization in Tigray region, thereby extending its impact on agricultural practices and livelihoods in Ethiopia.

In a significant move to boost agricultural productivity, the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture is actively working to expand mechanization services for smallholder farmers. Mechanization streamlines agricultural processes and allows for more precise farming techniques, leading to improved resource management, including the efficient use of water, fertilizers, and pesticides. As Ethiopia seeks to enhance food security and improve farmers' livelihoods, expanding mechanization services is essential.

Pascal Kaumbutho (PhD), the AMS project team leader, noted that the project has prioritized improving access to machinery and providing training for effective use over the past few years. He emphasized the importance of enhancing mechanization to increase productivity among smallholder

farmers, stating, "Our goal is to make these services more accessible, enabling farmers to achieve higher yields and improve their working conditions."

A core component of the AMS project is training and capacity building. Recognizing that providing machinery alone is insufficient, the project offers hands-on training programs that cover machinery operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting, as to him.

The Ministry of Agriculture collaborates with regional agricultural institutions, NGOs, and private sector stakeholders to deliver these training programs effectively, ensuring that even farmers in remote areas can benefit.

Active stakeholder engagement is crucial to the success of the AMS project. The Ministry of Agriculture is committed to collaborating with regions, agricultural cooperatives, and international partners. By evaluating performance and gathering feedback from farmers, the ministry aims to refine its strategies and ensure that mechanization services are effective and sustainable. This participatory approach not only builds trust, but also empowers farmers to play an active role in shaping their agricultural practices.

Abdurahman Temam, an agricultural mechanization expert in MoA, highlighted the significance of integrating technology into farming practices. He stated, "Our commitment to collaborating with stakeholders will ensure that the latest mechanization technologies are widely disseminated, benefiting smallholder farmers across the country."

When considering agricultural productivity, mechanization is paramount. The Ministry of Agriculture has emphasized the need for mechanization, particularly in the context of smallholder farmers, Abdurahman said.

The expert highlighted that the project aims to significantly enhance the role of mechanization in this area. Integration with regions and other stakeholders is so important to ensure sustainability and to effectively expand mechanization in the future, as numerous

attempts have been made to achieve this.

The expansion of mechanization services is vital for Ethiopia's economic development, given that agriculture employs a large portion of the population and is critical for food security and economic stability. As the AMS initiative progresses, it promises to transform the agriculture, making it more efficient and sustainable.

Experts believe that increased mechanization will not only improve productivity but also attract investment in the agricultural sector, leading to enhanced income generation and improved livelihoods.

Despite the promising outlook, several challenges must be addressed to ensure the initiative's success. Access to finance remains a significant barrier for many smallholder farmers who struggle to afford the initial costs of purchasing or leasing machinery. The Ministry of Agriculture is exploring various financial support options, including microloans and subsidies, to make mechanization more accessible. Additionally, infrastructure improvements in rural areas are necessary to support the effective distribution and maintenance of agricultural machinery.

In conclusion, the ongoing efforts to enhance agricultural mechanization for smallholder farmers in Ethiopia represent a transformative step toward modernizing the agricultural sector. By focusing on collaboration, training, and technological integration, the Ministry of Agriculture and its partners aim to improve productivity, sustainability, and livelihoods for farmers across the country. As these initiatives develop, they hold the potential to reshape Ethiopian agriculture into a more efficient and economically viable sector, ultimately contributing to national food security and economic growth.

The Ministry of Agriculture remains committed to ensuring that all farmers can benefit from advancements in agricultural mechanization, thereby strengthening the agricultural foundation and fostering growth in rural communities.

# Planet Earth

## Pavilion promotes Ethiopia's climate change mitigation efforts

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Climate change is defined as long-term changes in temperature, precipitation, wind patterns, and other components of the Earth's climate system. It is mostly caused by human actions, particularly the use of fossil fuels, deforestation, and industrial processes that raise the concentration of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere. These gases trap heat, causing the greenhouse effect.

Besides, climate change has negative consequences, such as increased temperatures across the globe. Global temperatures have risen dramatically over the last century, resulting in increasingly frequent and severe heatwaves. Climate change has also increased the frequency and severity of extreme weather events such as hurricanes, floods, droughts, and wildfires. In addition, it causes melting ice, rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and so on.

Consequently, countries come up with a variety of adaptation and mitigation plans. They work on the shift to energy. Renewable energy sources that can drastically cut carbon emissions, such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power, are replacing fossil fuels. To reduce energy use and emissions, they also focus on energy efficiency. Other adoption and mitigation techniques to lessen climate change include afforestation and reforestation. Additionally, they use environmentally friendly farming methods that can improve food security.

Nonetheless, minimizing the effects of climate change requires global collaboration, but it is difficult to conclude that all countries are equally committed to delivering on their promises. As a result, countries that are committed to combating climate change utilize a variety of techniques to demonstrate their commitment. Climate change pavilions, for example, are a crucial opportunity for organizations to unveil and demonstrate their commitment.

The Pavilion is a dedicated space or exhibition area that is frequently used at international conferences, expos, or summits to showcase initiatives, technologies, and strategies for addressing climate change. These pavilions serve as forums for discussion, knowledge sharing, and collaboration on climate-related topics.

COP meetings, particularly those held under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), are ideal venues for establishing pavilions to demonstrate their climate initiatives, commitments, and collaborative efforts. These pavilions frequently address a wide range of climate change mitigation and adaptation issues. It can also be used to promote awareness about the importance of addressing climate change, as well as the diverse ways being done throughout the world, to share best practices, inspiring people to adopt new technology or habits that improve climate resilience.

Taking these facts and its commitment into account, Ethiopia has prepared climate change pavilions on various occasions. For example, Ethiopia prepared a climate



change pavilion for the COP28 meeting in Dubai last year. It gives an important chance for Ethiopia to highlight its diverse initiatives to contribute to global efforts to confront the oncoming environmental crisis.

It is also necessary to demonstrate its efforts to minimize greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change. The pavilion also emphasized renewable energy projects, sustainable land management methods, and endeavors to develop climate-resilient infrastructure. As a result, the Pavilion demonstrated Ethiopia's strong commitment to tackling climate change through practical solutions.

Similarly, the COP29 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) took place this week in Baku, Azerbaijan. Ethiopian President Taye Atske Selassie opened the Ethiopian Pavilion at the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29). The conference is significant because it brings together international leaders, policymakers, and activists with a renewed resolve to address the escalating climate crisis. The pavilion is critical to demonstrating Ethiopia's ongoing commitment to climate change mitigation efforts.

According to Abiy Ahmed (PhD), Ethiopia is moving forward with its Paris Agreement and COP28 commitments from last year through three initiatives: the Green Legacy Initiative, which has increased forest cover by 6% with 40 billion seedlings planted to date; an irrigated wheat program that has turned a grain deficit into a surplus by 2023; and climate-smart urban projects that are creating sustainable, greener cities with renewable energy, pedestrian pathways, and electric vehicles.

Indeed, the Green Legacy Initiative is an essential effort for addressing deforestation in the country. It is an important environmental initiative initiated by the Ethiopian government in 2019. Its principal purpose is to stop deforestation, repair degraded landscapes, and increase biodiversity throughout the country.

The Initiative promotes tree planting as an important technique for tackling environmental issues such as climate change and land degradation. Furthermore, it contains goals such as tree planting, which is crucial for biodiversity conservation, community engagement, benefits, and awareness raising.

Since its inception, the Green Legacy Initiative has reached significant milestones, including: Planting billions of trees in a short time, making it one of the world's largest tree-planting efforts. Mobilizing millions of Ethiopians, including students, government officials, and community people, to take part in tree-planting efforts. Furthermore, it is critical to develop collaboration with a variety of stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), corporate sector entities, and international organizations, to assist in reforestation activities. More crucially, the Initiative has gained international recognition as a model for large-scale reforestation efforts, inspiring similar initiatives in other nations. It highlights Ethiopia's commitment to environmental sustainability and attempts to solve the critical issues of climate change and deforestation.

An irrigated wheat program is another important tactic Ethiopia has been pursuing to ensure food security and economic growth. Significant progress has been made in the country's agricultural sector transformation, especially with the creation of an irrigated wheat program. By 2023, this program improved food security, boosting economic growth, and transforming the country from a grain deficit to a surplus. Hence, Ethiopia's irrigated wheat program has greatly aided the country's larger socioeconomic development objectives in addition to changing the agricultural landscape of the country.

Ethiopia is also working on climate-smart urban developments, which are critical to mitigating climate change. The initiative is also critical for developing sustainable,

greener communities that incorporate renewable energy, pedestrian walkways, and electric vehicles. As it faces issues such as rapid urbanization, environmental degradation, and climate change, the country has become more aware of the necessity of climate-smart city development. Several programs and initiatives have been launched to encourage sustainable urban expansion, strengthen resilience, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Addis Ababa's Climate Resilient Green City Strategy could be a good example. The city has devised a comprehensive strategy for being a climate-resilient and green city. This policy emphasizes sustainable land use, enhanced public transportation, and green spaces. The country's efforts to encourage climate-smart urban development demonstrate its understanding of the interdependence of urbanization, environmental sustainability, and climate resilience.

Furthermore, the country is pushing clean energy throughout the country. Ethiopia has also made significant investments in renewable and green energy resources such as hydroelectric, solar, wind, and geothermal sources. Ethiopia aims to treble its present power generation capacity and double its energy consumption efficiency by 2030. This, in turn, will enable the country to attain universal access to power, reduce reliance on biomass fuel, and give opportunities for industries to meet net-zero targets by 2050.

Therefore, this year's pavilion is imperative to promote the country's cutting-edge methods of climate change mitigation efforts like renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and forest conservation. The pavilion has demonstrated its commitment and drive to combat the effects of climate change. It also calls on the international community to support Ethiopia's green legacy initiatives, such as the irrigated summer wheat program and climate-smart urban developments.

# Art & Culture

## Art Conservation or Preserving the Past for Eternity

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

According to many observers in the field, art conservation in Ethiopia is a recent phenomenon although the country is endowed with rich and diverse and ancient artistic legacies. According to a Belgian woman art conservator, “Not only does Ethiopia has an unparalleled wealth of historical sites that are part of humanity’s anthropological history, but the overwhelming amount of on-going art and cultural experiences is impossible to map. Ethiopian art is inextricably linked to daily and ceremonial life. From childhood one comes into contact with centuries-old traditions which carry liturgical and philosophical meanings. The traditions are recorded in everything, from art objects to utensils and in educational and decorative depictions.”

Before we dip into a broader discussion of art conservation, it would be relevant to make the definition or objective of art conservation clear to the reader.

The simplest definition of art conservation is that it consists of the preservation of cultural heritage, such as art architecture and museum collections for future generations. “The term art conservation denotes the maintenance, and preservation of works of art and their protection from future damage and deterioration.” Art conservation has at least three features and known as preventive conservation, remedial conservation and restoration, depending on their objectives and function. At this point, we may ask why it is important to conserve works of art. What is the primary role of art conservation? Available information indicates that “art conservation aims at managing, preserving, treating and document works of art, artifacts and specimens.

The answer to the above question was given by a Belgian art conservator who was part of a group of Belgian art conservation workers that visited Ethiopia back in 2022 and visited many cultural and artistic sites that needed urgent preservation work. This art conservator said that, “The beauty of art conservation for many conservators is that we strive to play a neutral, yet irreplaceable and universal, role in the world. Preserving the past is a pleasure because it often brings to light knowledge about the history and the creative soul of our ancestors.” A more functional or utilitarian approach to art conservation would be the conception of art conservation as objects of legacy or pride by future generation or as objects of touristic attractions by the present generation.

Although Ethiopia has a very rich and ancient cultural or artistic legacy, the need for their conservation or preservation has hardly attracted serious attention. One reason may be the tendency to use ancient artistic and cultural products as objectives of tourism, primarily for consumption by foreign tourists. We often tend to think that the older a given art product is, the

**Art renovation is not only cultural or heritage preservation. It is also an asset in preserving old artistic sites for tourism consumption. Art renovation is closely linked with the promotion of cultural tourism which is also a largely neglected activity in Ethiopia**

more attention it attracts. Art preservation is also the preservation of cultural identity or legacy. “Using our preserved heritage to look back can provide a new interpretation of both cultural issues and traceable evidence of our society’s identity. It is precisely this search for identity that forms the founding principles of the Ethiopian Art Conservation Program.

Hence, the tendency to neglect the work of conserving and renovating works of arts or watch them crumble and deteriorate under the impacts of irresponsible human activities. Ancient works of arts are likely to deteriorate under the influence of adverse climatic or weather conditions, particularly of those works are preserved or protected in old and crumbling or derelict houses or conditions. A good example is

the condition of the ancient residences of dignitaries in Addis Ababa that should be conserved or renovated as art works or architectural wonders.

They were left to deteriorate as they were used to houses homeless families in the vicinities of Gulele, a district north-west of the capital Addis Ababa. Some of them, including the residence of Hakim Werkeneh, an old nobleman and medical doctor under Emperor Menelik, were bulldozed during the current reconstruction work undertaken around the old district of Piazza.

What makes art conservation work a very arduous one is the fact that it requires patience, a lot of financial resource, technology and knowhow. Art preservation or restoration is not something that can be done in a short time because the work usually passes through various stages. The stage of studying the conditions of the art works is in itself very time consuming, arduous and requires a lot of patience and perseverance. One of the reason is that the art works to be preserved are found in remote or isolated areas and art restorers are required to reach the sites under difficult conditions. There is also the need to transport the materials and technical tools used in restoration work right to the sites under constraining logistical conditions.

According to experts, modern art restoration requires a great deal of technological inputs in the form of advanced materials and tools. These materials are not easy to transport to the sites where the renovation works are taking place. Even if it is possible, the logistic costs are tremendous. The case of the Axum obelisks is a good example. It is to be recalled that the obelisks were dismantled and transported from the town of Axum to Italy by air because the necessary technology was not available here in Ethiopia. Even in Italy, the cost of renovating the steles was very high. Usually art renovation in developing countries like Ethiopia is done through foreign assistance or collaboration from institutions engaged in art renovation simply because the financial resources are not available here at home.

Art renovation is not only cultural or heritage preservation. It is also an asset in preserving old artistic sites for tourism consumption. Art renovation is closely linked with the promotion of cultural tourism which is also a largely neglected activity in Ethiopia. “According to the United Nations World Tourism organization, cultural tourism is, “movements of persons of persons for essentially cultural motivations such as study tours, performing arts, and cultural tours travels to festivals and other cultural events, visits to sites and monuments. , travel to study nature, folklore or art.”

It was recently disclosed that the Ethiopian capital has a great potential for the development of conference tourism. The capital has also untouched potential for the development of cultural tourism. According to a recent observer of the tourism sector in Ethiopia in general and Addis Ababa in particular, “Currently Ethiopia should

focus on other tourism asset such as urban destination, business conference, spa etc specifically for Addis Ababa. It is a pity that he failed to mention cultural tourism or art tourism as another area that has not so far been explored.

Arts and cultural tourism heritage is a type of tourism where people travel to experience a destination’s art, culture and heritage. It can include visiting museums and galleries, attending art festivals or participating in hands-on activities. As indicated above, art renovation is an expensive undertaking and is usually funded by international organizations or donor institutions working in the areas of art and culture.

“Moreover, Addis Ababa is a home of tremendous tourist attractions that have various cultural, historical, architectural, aesthetic, economic, spiritual, political and symbolic values. They have a considerable importance to inform us about the true remarkable past of Ethiopia in general and Addis Ababa in particular. They have also greater potentials for tourism industry if they are well promoted and appropriately utilised.

Not only does Ethiopia have an unparalleled wealth of historical sites that are part of humanity’s anthropological history, but the overwhelming amount of on-going art and cultural experiences is impossible to map. Ethiopian art is inextricably linked to daily and ceremonial life. From childhood one comes into contact with centuries-old traditions which carry liturgical and philosophical meanings. The traditions are recorded in everything, from art objects to utensils and in educational and decorative depictions.

Capacity building in Ethiopian art preservation or renovation is another challenge. Local capacity in technical and educational areas has not so far attracted the necessary attention to promote long-term conservation programs. The Belgian art conservator who is quoted above said the following about this problem. “Initially, the lack of an Ethiopian educational program for national conservators became immediately apparent. But in addition, the absence of a structured cultural sector is a long-term problem that makes Ethiopians completely dependent on international intervention in the management of conservation for their patrimony. These two major obstacles create the parameters on how to work together with the Ethiopian and international communities.”

The time has obviously come for the promotion of art renovation and conservation as many artistic sites and heritages across the country are getting older by the year and neglect or lack of awareness is bound to add additional constraint on already constrained situation. This is definitely the time to bridge the gap that, if left unaddressed would make art conservation and renovation work an uphill task. It should be clear that art preservation is not for today or tomorrow; it is for eternity.



# Society

## Enhancing workforce capacity to increasing productivity

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

Captivating citizens with the required training that the market demands pays off in many ways. Aside from building individuals' knowledge and skills in specific areas and making them competitive in the job market, training contributes considerably to generating a qualified workforce that could play a vital role in nation-building.

These days, following the development of the construction sector, welding is becoming one of the professions in high demand worldwide.

As the area is a specialized profession that requires knowledge and practical skills in materials, metallurgy, safety practices, and advanced technology, training is critical to keep up with the rapidly changing technological advancement and excel in the area.

Ethiopia is taking significant steps to enhance the capacity of its workforce through arranging various training that the market demands and in a way fulfilling international standards.

In view of this, the country is working focusing on providing trainees with the necessary knowledge and skills to succeed both locally and globally.

As central to this effort, the Center of Excellence for Technology Manufacturing and Welding is offering state-of-the-art training facilities and qualified workforces through hands-on learning. The center not only trains new welders but also upgrades the skills of existing workers, in a manner aligning with global standards. Recently, the Center graduated the first round of welding trainees for this fiscal year.

Speaking in the inauguration ceremony, Federal Technical and Vocational Training Director General Biruk Kedir (PhD) said "As the manufacturing sector is growing rapidly in our country, the profession of welding is more in demand than ever before.

The Director General announced that the center has a standard workshop and is equipped with qualified trainers, so it is producing internationally competitive welders. Thus, the Center plays a considerable role in producing competent professionals. The Center has a standard workshop and is equipped with qualified trainers, so it is producing internationally competitive welders.

"You, welding apprentices, should be proud of your profession as it is a much respected profession. If you exercise the knowledge and skills you grasped from and update yourself, you can play a considerable role in nation's building," he added.

The Center in addition to the training provided in the regular sector, is also capacitating welding professionals who are working in large industries in short-term training. In the future, work will be done by the Ministry of Labor and Skills and Federal Technic and Vocational Training Institute to modernize



The first round welding graduates

and advance the Center to a level where the global welding technology reaches.

Center's Chief Executive Officer, Selamu Yishak (PhD.) on his part urged trainees to exert maximum effort and improve their skills through continuous practical training thereby ensuring the quality of the welding profession. "Trainees should engage to do practical exercises and fulfill their duty to ensure the quality of the welding profession in Ethiopia."

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopia Herald* Selamu (PhD) said that it is high time to deliver high-quality training because there is high demand in the labor market at local and international labor markets. The center is investing in modern training facilities equipped with state-of-the-art welding equipment.

These facilities provide trainees with hands-on experience using the latest technology, which is crucial for developing their knowledge and skills in a real-world context.

The Center's focus areas are providing smart manufacturing and import substitution and research. To this effect, the Center is operating round the clock in five Centers in Ethiopia. "We are planning to the autonomous nominal body and apply for ISO 17025, and realizing this plan will be our priority task in this budget year."

The welding profession is often underestimated, with some believing that it requires minimal skill and knowledge. However, the reality is quite the opposite. Welding is a highly specialized craft that demands a deep understanding of materials, metallurgy, and safety protocols. Welders must possess exceptional hand-eye coordination and precision to create strong, durable joints in various environments, often under challenging conditions.

Additionally, they must stay updated on the latest techniques and technologies, as the industry continually evolves. The ability to read blueprints and technical drawings, coupled with problem-solving skills, further underscores the high value of welders in manufacturing, construction, and fabrication.

**E**thiopia is taking significant steps to enhance the capacity of its workforce through arranging various training that the market demands and in a way fulfilling international standards.

"We want everyone to know that skilled welders are essential to ensuring the integrity and safety of structures and products, making their expertise invaluable in today's economy. In this regard, we work with private firm welders and let them get the skill and knowledge as per the set standards."

There are several welders at each level of the welding ladder, but as of now Ethiopia has 86 internationally certified welders. To maintain high training standards, the Center is keeping on investing in the continuous development of welding instructors. Ensuring that instructors are well-trained in the latest welding techniques and educational methodologies is vital for delivering effective training.

He further underlined that as welding is a critical process in the manufacturing industry, serving as a fundamental technique for joining materials, particularly metals the center is engaged in providing a practical approach rather than theory. Because, welding skill spans various sectors, including automotive, aerospace, construction, and energy, equipping the workforce with

standard skills at the international level the center is working to provide trainees with the desired competencies.

The Center recognizes the critical role that welding plays in its industrial development and economic growth. As the country aims to enhance its manufacturing capabilities, significant efforts are being made to expand welding services and provide world-class training for welders. This initiative is essential for developing a skilled workforce that can meet the demands of various industries, including construction, automotive, and manufacturing.

The Center holds maintaining safety is critical in reducing workplace accidents and ensuring a safe working environment for all practitioners. All the training programs emphasize safety protocols and practices in welding.

The move towards providing international standard welding training in Ethiopia is expected to have far-reaching effects because a lot should be invested. As more individuals gain access to quality education in welding, the nation will see an increase in skilled labor, driving economic growth and attracting foreign investment.

"I believe Ethiopia is making significant strides in enhancing its vocational training programs, particularly in the field of welding. This is happening because the leadership is recognizing the critical role that skilled trades play in economic development," he added.

He further noted that the Ethiopian government and various educational institutions are collaborating to provide international standard welding training for trainees. This initiative is aiming to equip the workforce with the necessary skills to meet both domestic and global demands.

Ethiopia's commitment to enhancing welding training aligns with its broader goals of industrialization and economic development. With ongoing efforts to meet international standards, the country is paving the way for a skilled workforce capable of meeting both local and global demands.

# Law & Politics

## Ethiopia's commitment to COP29

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

Ever since the conferences on the environment have been held at the international level Ethiopia has been an active participant because along with other African countries more or less like Ethiopia, it realizes that climate change has hurt it a lot causing extensive and prolonged damage to its subsistence rain-reliant farmers.

It has been established by extensive research and studies that the less developed countries have had little contribution to how the climate has changed over the decades due to the maximum use of carbon and fossil fuels by the advanced industrial countries and by what they emit from the enormous factories and industrial complexes.

Lately every year, we have been recording the hottest months compared to all other previous years and this has created not affordable property devastations and displacement of millions including the deaths of many more others. The poorer countries have been made to bear the brunt of the major and more serious and more lasting consequences beyond their economic means unless continuously and robustly assisted by the advanced countries admittedly largely responsible for this state of affairs.

African countries and Ethiopia is one of them, have been deeply affected by this phenomenon of climate change destroying their crop harvests due to the continuous aridity or vast inundations with untimely and unexpected very heavy rains. Today, according to every environment academic, the situation is very dangerous as there are clearly evident signs of how the climate has been changed for the worse due to the vast emissions to the atmosphere and the consequent overheating of the earth.

The regular weather conditions that we have known for a long time are now inexistent having been replaced by significant aberrations and unpredictability. Droughts have become more frequent even in traditionally wet countries such as Ethiopia for instance; fires have raged in so many places in the world more commonly and frequently in the western countries burning hundreds of thousands of forests and yet the actions taken to prevent such disasters according to many climate activists have in many cases been too little too late.

Today more than ever before, we are grappling with this serious state of affairs by staging discussion forums at the international level and adopting a

### The Ethiopian pavilion at the site of the COP29 means a lot. Ethiopia through its prime minister has also called for equity, common but differentiated responsibilities, and historical accountability

new strategy to combat climate change.

Ethiopia has repeatedly shown that it is committed to contributing its part for this cause. At the Baku Conference of Parties, COP29 Ethiopia has taken an active part. The presence of its head of state President Taye Atske Selassie who inaugurated the

The Ethiopian pavilion at the site of the COP29 means a lot. Ethiopia through its prime minister has also called for equity, common but differentiated responsibilities, and historical accountability.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, (PhD) has noted that clear and precise definitions of climate finance are essential to track progress with new goals focusing on vulnerable regions, particularly the least developed countries in Africa. The premier said Ethiopia has been advancing its commitment to the Paris Agreement of 2015 and COP28 from last year through several key initiatives.

He talked about the Green Legacy

Initiative which has been carried out through the past five years with 40 billion trees planted and in the process has expanded its forest coverage by 6 percent. He also mentioned the irrigated wheat program as another important initiative that has transformed Ethiopia from a grain deficit country forced to import it to one that now harvests in surplus exports wheat and earns foreign currency.

The premier also stated that Ethiopia is carrying out greening its cities with vast parks, green areas, and planted trees along the avenues contributing to a clean and healthy environment. This includes adding to the curriculum of schools and teaching students beginning from their early years the awareness of how to combat climate change and what the contribution of every citizen be such as taking part in all the initiatives of the government including taking an active part in the Green Legacy programs by planting tree seedlings and nurturing them.

Among the initiatives realized must be noted the use of renewable energy, preparing pathways for pedestrians, and the extensive use of electric vehicles which are now a common scene in Addis Ababa. These new initiatives have been extended to other cities besides the capital city.

At the COP29 in Baku scheduled to last from 11 November to 22, 2024, several world leaders, policymakers, and activists were brought together with a renewed commitment to address the worsening condition of climate change. Ethiopia has prepared a pavilion where it was showcasing its programs against climate change and the positive results getting acquired. Many African countries have admired Ethiopia's achievements in this regard and asked to share its experience with them.

The conference's main agenda was to seek to increase funding to support lower-income countries in reducing greenhouse emissions. It was stated that finance will be the focus of COP29 and is expected to aim to set a new finance goal that unlocks the trillions of dollars needed and provides confidence that it will be delivered.

Energy supply, human development, food security, and biodiversity have been this year's other main agenda of the conference. The Ethiopian delegation has been participating actively with high commitment showcasing what it has been undertaking through the past several years. It has been asking for more equitable access to funds for developing countries. Ethiopia's commitment to rehabilitating degraded lands with forest and the ongoing activities to ensure sustainable land use has been presented at the conference.

Ethiopia has asked at this international event for support and partners to expedite its efforts in mitigating the impact of climate change.

Similarly, President of Ethiopia Taye Atske Selassie, present at the conference, has reaffirmed his country's commitment to the Paris Agreement of 2015 and its being proactive in disaster preparedness. He also urged global action to cap global warming at 1.5-degree centigrade stressing the need for resilience against climate impacts affecting particularly developing countries that lack the finances to cope with the damages and devastation. This situation has been caused activists have stressed, by hostile climatic conditions created by the reckless utilization of certain resources of the earth by the highly industrialized countries creating mass greenhouse gas emissions.

The COP29 has been deliberating on ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen financial capacity for climate change, and ensure sustainable climate change with the primary focus being climate finance.

The COP28, COP29, and COP30 presidencies which are called the Troika, have called on the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to mobilize the entire UN System to support Parties, especially developing countries in designing, delivering, and implementing the National Determined Contributions, NDCs. In response to this call, UNECA has been coordinating fortnightly meetings of Pan-African institutions that is the AUC, ECA, AfDB, and AUDA-NEPAD which are mandated by the AU Summit to support Africa's participation at the global climate change negotiations, logistics support to the African Group of Climate Change Negotiators.

Established in 1992 the UN Framework Conference on Climate Change, UNFCCC treaty arose from the initial findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC, to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations to prevent human-driven disruptions to the climate. Since its inception, the UNFCCC has underpinned global climate agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol in 1997 and the Paris Agreement of 2015. The convention's 198 member countries meet annually to assess progress and negotiate collective responses to the climate crisis. This year's conference in Baku has promised a renewed emphasis on actionable commitments. According to the UNECA at the core of this assistance is the technical backstopping and innovating funding mechanism to drive global progress.

BY EPHREM ENDALE

# Between you & me

## For Better or Worse!

It was not one of those jovial calls where you treaded jokes, talked about everything much of it being nothing but laughter. Even the serious matters have big dose of humor within them. It was real serious call. A sort of relative who lived in the US for the better part of two decades. After a lot of stumbles and falls during the initial years he finally was able to stand up on his own two feet. He was a family man with two teenage kids. Still he helps those relatives and friends of him back home every month. Someone you wonder how a family man working in the US of all places could manage to cover his own family's needs and still manage to financially support friends and relatives back home.

The interesting part of that a couple of family members who get those monthly....don't work or even try to get employment. Both depend on his support and what a life they are leading! You don't get them in those places where the rank and file gather for tea or coffee. You don't find them in the discount markets or weekend markets as many are doing these days. No they usually are in the four and five star hotels and every attire they put n themselves are 'brand' stuff.

The guy found out all this a number of years back. He tried to talk them into finding themselves some employment. He failed to make any impact. But he kept sending money largely fearing that if he folded his hands he feared the worst might happen to them. Well that was then and now is now. Now meaning that the start of the Donald Trump era where

plans are to cut the government workforce in half. Now this should scare everyone and this long time government employee is justified to fear the worst. So he was telling me he now has to do what he should have done years back, stop sending money. He now is worried about what will happen to his family when the sword of Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy falls! If the rhetoric is anything to go by it is going one big, merciless sword! God help compatriots back there!

Look many of our compatriots in the Western hemisphere and elsewhere in the world have been doing their best to help family and friends back home while they have to pant and sweat for every dollar and pound.

The problem is it would be very difficult to convince those of...back home. "Oh, he's becoming greedy!" It has been some time now since life across the Atlantic has become even more challenging than it has ever been. We hear many compatriots complaining things are no more as they used to be. Not that it has been any nicer previously. But at least people managed to work on two or three jobs and managed to make ends meet over there and still kept the helping hand stretched.

There was this guy who planned to make the final homecoming once he reached the retirement age. So he plans to build some residence and assigns one of his childhood friends to look after the construction process which was going to take years. Along with the funds forth construction he also sent enough money to help the childhood friend

his family. This goes on for several years. How did he know that the construction was being carried out according to his plans and wishes? Of course photos; that's how! Now nothing seemed out of the ordinary; at least not so far. In fact the guy was glad to have such a loyal friend. Who wouldn't! But after a couple of years things just didn't add up. The pictures sent to him became even weirder. "Did my friend change the original plans?" The pictures looked nothing like the house he planned was supposed to look! He asks his friend in so many words if there had been a change of plans. His friend goes ballistic over the phone. The guy backs down. Years back during which the childhood friend sent far fewer and even weirder pictures. The guy finally decides he has to rush back to home country and see for himself. It has been six or so years since his last visit.

Without confiding his plans to anybody he descends on Addis. After a couple of days in his hotel he calls another friend with whom he kept contact just for the sake of having those small talks which go some way to make some days better than they really are. This friend drives him to the construction site where his house was supposedly being built. It was a day he'd never forget! Except for a few crudely standing columns and structure that appeared to be like basement of something there was nothing there! And over the year he practically sent millions! Now he was advised not to confront his childhood friends lest he might spoil everything for him. All this time his childhood friend doesn't know

he was in town. What he did was he goes to the relevant government office and makes this close friend his legal representative. This friend has some experience in such things and was a respected family man.

So the guy with his new representative by his side suddenly descends on the residence of his childhood friends. And what a wonderfully furnished house filled with the most modern furniture most wouldn't have even dreamt of. Now except for the monthly support of our guy this childhood friend was supposed to be a mid-level civil servant and there was no way he could manage such luxurious furniture on his monthly income. He was shocked to like he has never been shocked. The childhood friend was told he no more was the representative and asked to hand in the documents which he did. The friendship for all practical purposes ended there. Never did they talk after that!

A couple of years later our guy had one the best G+3 villas in town! That is what a real friend like. Mind you he didn't send a single extra dollar to this friend as the friend himself insisted he needed nothing and the main aim should be to complete the construction. Blessed are those who are have such friends!

So those of us back home who rely on the flow of the dollar from compatriots across the ocean should realize it's not all nice and dandy over there; at least not until whatever dust there might be thins out or settles. Better be ready for better or worse! God help our compatriots back there!

## A Click or Two Away!

Recently I was part of a group in a certain horrifyingly expensive and the agenda was of course, the American election. (Just to fill in any void in info, I wasn't paying! Now, you know that it wasn't because the wallet was any thicker I found myself in that place where most act as if they were following some rule book reserved for loyal customers! Even the way they took up the tea and coffee cups to their lips seemed to be, what should I say... choreographed! Anyway, if I was surprised of the whole ambience of the place and the way everyone seemed to act real surprise was to come when the discussions about the elections progressed. By the way I've to tell you only one was a friend of mine and I wasn't cordially familiar with the others though my friend now and then tells me about them. If what I heard was anything to go by, I've to tell you they were supposed to be very well informed especially in global affairs. At least one of them being an employee one or another international agency he spent his days with the ferenjis! Ha! And the conventional wisdom seems to be if you're spending enough time with the ferenjis you'd know more about other countries. What if I told there could be more ferenjis than you could imagine who know not much about their own countries and other hot spots of the world. For more recent examples plunge yourself in the social media world and listen to all the narratives, debates, so-called exclusive reportage during the just concluded American elections. In fact just playing the nice guy in town game you'd admire them for being involved in such heated and rage

filled debates and arguments with the blood vessel making all those tributaries across the foreheads over things they know so little or nothing about. The fact is that this is an age of where many of us are going around trying to appear to act what we're actually not.

Does that sound familiar to you? It should! There are many of us around here who claim to know everything there's to know about the country and do no better than engaging in all those beer table talks where are no checks and balances about the authenticity of the things we say. Informed about what's going in in faraway places! Hmmm..... at least one working in some international organization. They were the types of guys from whom you expected the cream of global affairs and even more about things American.

Sometimes you wonder where the hell they are getting all this stuff! At times things get so bizarre you'd be surprised there are minds around which could create such otherworldly scenario. Because otherworldly is how those things sound. In this discussion I was telling you about I couldn't help almost gaping with wonder hearing narratives or so-called bits of information I didn't come across even in the weirdest social media sites. You know those sites which despite the foulest and the most appalling posts and still attract views on the upper side of hundreds of thousands. Just for the fun of it I try to read some comments which I think are posted by the saner souls. Well many times than not such attempts turn out to be fruitless. Well, I must be cooling

myself down with, "Well this is not the world as we used to know it. So wake up you dude! Or look for some time machine to fly you back through the ages to where you'd feel more comfortable!" Ok I'll sleep on it and come back to you any time before this millennia runs out.

I noticed a couple of things during the discussions and they made me a little uneasy. Not that they were new things in any way. But as I told t you the gathering around the table was of people who supposedly are well informed and who are expected to keep pace with all the changes happening all over the place through the mainstream media and, even more widely, from the social media. In fact two of them are very active on the social media. But then there is this problem of 'source.' I mean it is not that you have heard about some event in America or in the Middle East or wherever what matters. It's also from which source you heard it. Of course, that too is limited to a very condensed part of the world. Because whether we like it all or not and in spite of all the flowery and glittery narratives there are parts of the world where every human being is not put on the same level and treated with equal respect.

While we are at it just a 'legendary' leader once said, "I am strongly in favor of using poison gas against uncivilized tribes, the moral effect should be good and it would spread a lively terror." That's what the big man was quoted as saying! No wonder that despite our attempt to make it look to the contrary this world is one

of the most horrible places in the universe. I mean decades and decades later, when you'd expect real civility has sent its roots deeper than ever before chaos and mayhem is all over the place. You can't help wondering how many acts of pure evil and barbarity in various corners of the world pass by without as much of a few highly stifled denunciations. And it seems that we expect inhuman deeds where like always it's the innocents and the unsuspecting that are the final victims to be not only denounced but also the perpetrators made to answer to their deeds. No! Not at least in the world we're in.

The writing on the wall seems to be that such acts are subject to the closet scrutiny depending where they actually happened. Anyone who thinks all the curse on the so-called mainstream media is nothing more than the result of politicized conspiracy theories should look into reports about things appearing about things happening in the third world countries. If you noticed that some commentators highly sensitive scare tactics against the American people was that their country was on the verge of becoming a third world country! Scary indeed!

Anyways I don't know it is just one of the thousands of misfortunes or actual curse on us that makes us act what we are not. The sad part is everything we want to know about is just a click or two away and we're still caught in in that old spiral being knowledgeable without the knowledge.

*A click or two away! Isn't that nice!*

# In Pictures

## Visit Beynouna village: The newly developed tourist destination site

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's (PhD) nationwide tourist destination development initiative is exploring magnificent natural beauties across different areas of Ethiopia. Started by developing tourist sites in Addis Ababa and surroundings, the Unity Park, Sheger Beautification Project and the Entoto sites, PM Abiy's initiative brings a revolution in developing tourist destination sites across the country. So far, in addition to the Addis Ababa and surrounding sites, Wonchi, Gorgora, Halala Kella, Chebera Churchura Elephant Paw Lodge were among the developed destination projects where additional sites are on the way to join the industry.

Inaugurated last week, Beynouna Village joins the tourist destination industry with its magnificent natural and traditional beauty.



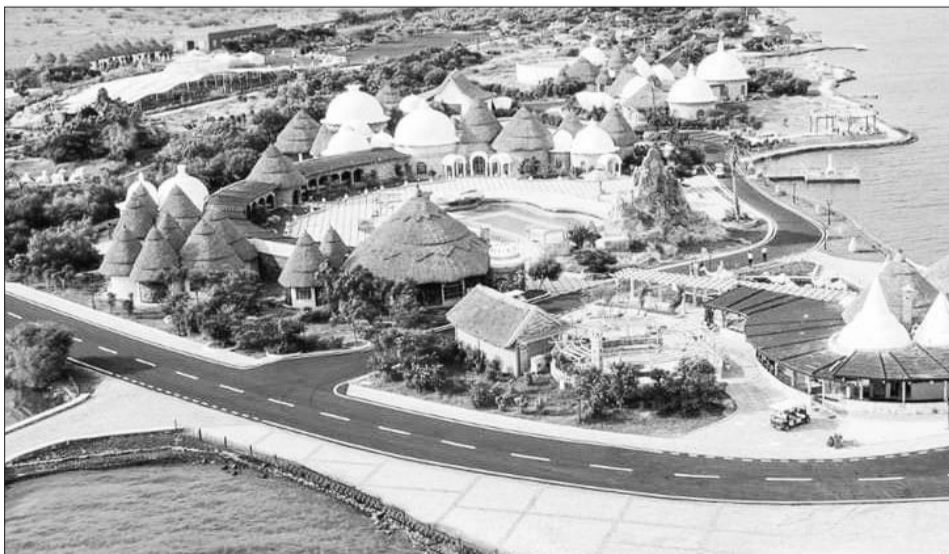
### Members of the community visiting Beynouna Village

Elders of the community residing around Lake Beseka were part of the inauguration ceremony of Beynouna Village. What makes the tourist site initiatives developing by the idea of PM Abiy is that these sites gives due priority for the community residing in these areas.



### Beynouna Village discovers the hidden Gem of Lake Beseka

Equipped with modern and luxurious facilities, Beynouna Village's buildings show the features of the traditional house making style of the community residing in the area. This naturally beautiful area is also features plenty of traditional features of the community which makes the village an ideal place for all tourists to enjoy all types of beauties in one place.



### PM Abiy innagurates Beynouna Village

Last Sunday, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed joined by First Lady Zinash Tayachew, senior government officials, Ambassadors and heads of international organizations inaugurated Beynouna Village, a state-of-the-art tourist destination located on the scenic shores of Lake Beseka in Oromia state.

The picture shows PM Abiy and First Lady Zinash walking on the streets of Beynouna Village during the inauguration day. PM Abiy said that "Beynouna Village stands as a testament to the belief that "Anything is possible."

