

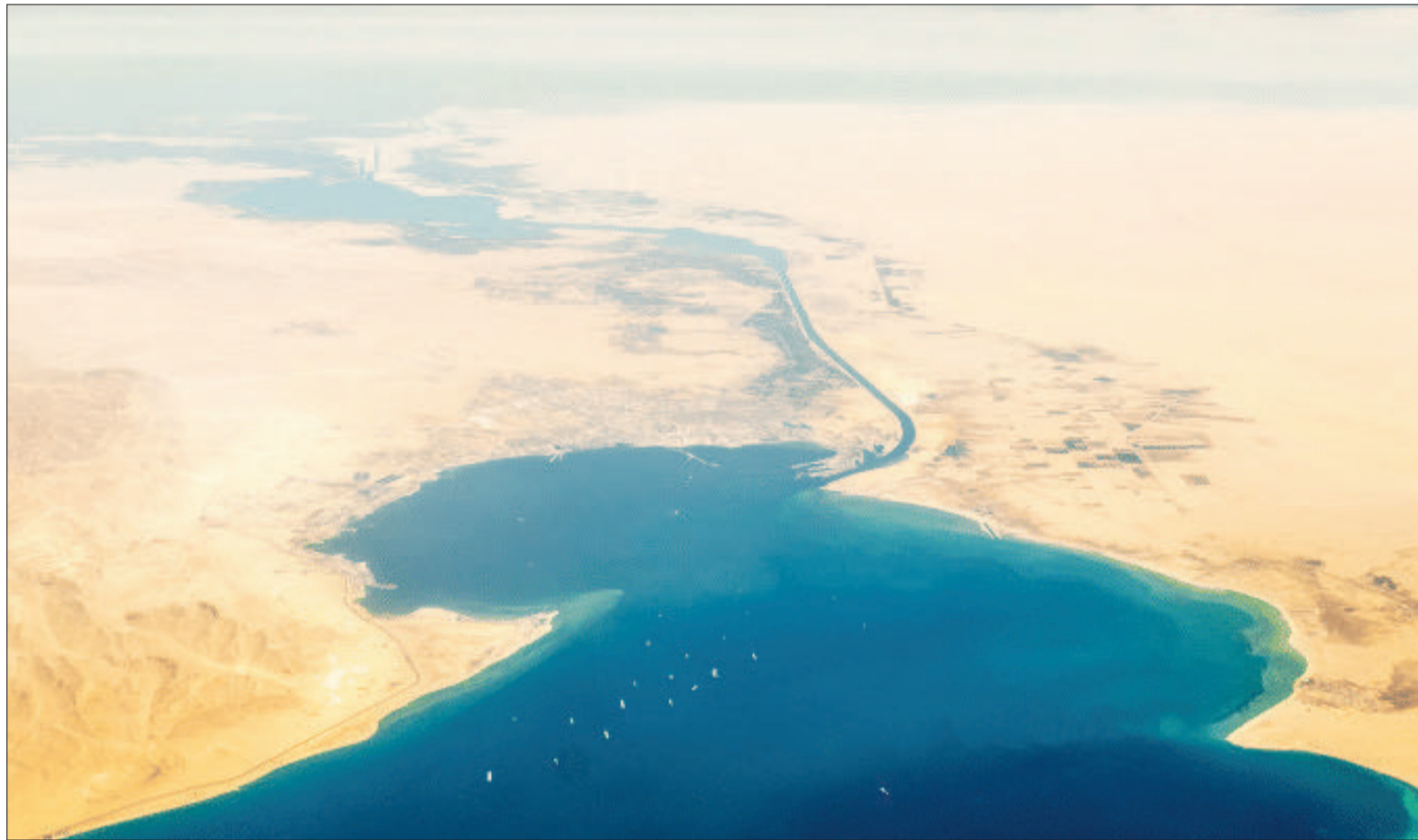


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Ethiopia's core interest to secure peaceful Red Sea access

BY YESUF ENDRIS

As Ethiopia's diplomatic deadlock with Somalia over sea access remains unresolved, the Ethiopian government has once again extended an appeal for peaceful collaboration with Somalia and other neighboring nations. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) emphasized Ethiopia's aspiration to gain sea access through

cooperation and assured that this goal would not interfere with the sovereignty or internal politics of any neighboring country, including Somalia.

In his recent address to the House of People's Representatives, Premier Abiy reaffirmed Ethiopia's dedication to regional peace. He indicated that Ethiopia's landlocked status could have broader implications, urging cooperation among neighbors to secure sea access. "If Ethiopia remains without

access to the sea, the resulting crisis will not be confined to our borders," Abiy warned, stressing the importance of a cooperative solution.

Currently, Somaliland is the only party showing support for Ethiopia's quest, advocating for the implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that would allow Ethiopia to utilize a 20-kilometer stretch along the Gulf of Aden. However, Somalia has continued to reject

See Ethiopia's core ... page 4

Telecom liberalization drives Ethiopia's digital transformation

BY HAILE DEMEKE

Ethiopia is embarking on the path of inclusive digital transformation as it is registering a significant achievement in recent years complemented by the macro-economic reform that centered at the liberalization of government owned sectors. Ethio-telecom is among the sectors long controlled by the government, in which, its liberalization was a game changer in driving nation's path towards digital transformation.

Following the reform process introduced over the past years, Ethiopia has been successful in mobilizing FDI flows compared to other countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Nevertheless, it could attract more

See Telecom liberalization... page 4



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Ethiopia in BRICS: Officials zoom in on multilateral roles

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Senior government officials highlighted that the BRICS membership has given Ethiopia significant diplomatic edge and leverage in various areas.

During a round table discussion

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KOICA to bring more Korean volunteers to Ethiopia

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - The Korea International Cooperation Agency unveiled plan to bring additional Korean volunteers to join hands with the Ethiopian people to help the country achieve prosperity and peace.

The Korea International Cooperation Agency(KOICA), Ethiopia Country Director, Cho Han Deog said that the agency has been working to increase

See KOICA to bring ... page 4



Ethiopia's trade soars as Djibouti Port drives import growth

• *ESLE reports strong revenue boost*

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - Djibouti Port remains Ethiopia's primary seaport for import and export trade, according to the Ethiopian Shipping and Logistics Enterprise (ESLE).

Despite utilizing multiple seaports for its trade activities, Ethiopia heavily relies on Djibouti for the bulk of its shipping needs.

In the past three months, Ethiopia imported over 1,857,000 tons of goods through Djibouti, both containerized and non-containerized. ESLE Corporate Communication Department Head, Demsew Benti, told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that 60,107 tons of fertilizer were also transported through Kenya's Lamu Port, with 13,246 tons reaching Moyale, enhancing the nation's total imports to 870,444 tons.

In the first quarter of the current fiscal year, ESLE handled 669,400 tons of dry bulk cargo, with 26,300 tons shipped outside containers and 402,100 tons in containers. The enterprise provided extensive services in shipping, transit, port, and terminal operations, moving 860,387 tons of goods using both owned and rented vessels.

Revenue for this period reached 21.2 billion Birr, with an expenditure of 18.79 billion Birr, resulting in a pre-tax profit of 2.41 billion Birr. Compared to the same period last year, revenue surged by 62.4%, expenditures rose by 69%, and profit increased by 24.4%.

FHC inaugurates modern housing complexes, construction center

• *Aims to boost Ethiopia's urban living, local production*

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

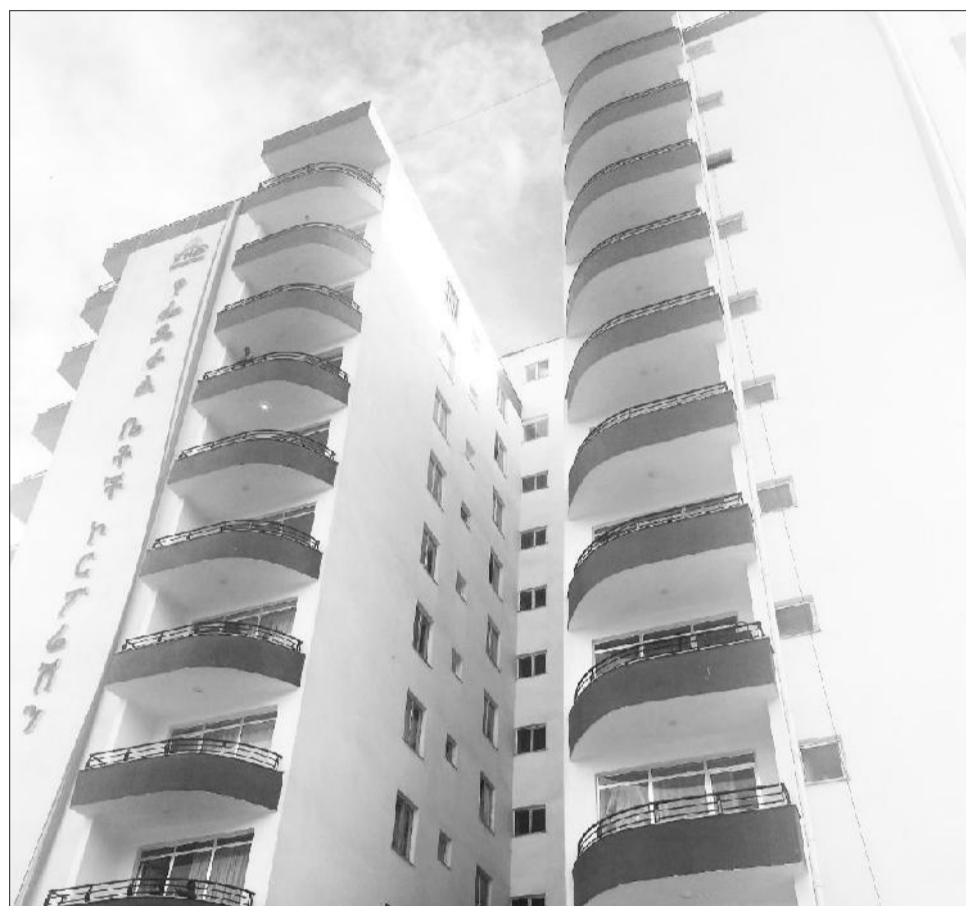
ADDIS ABABA-The Federal Housing Corporation (FHC) inaugurated newly constructed, modern housing complexes yesterday in Kokebe Tsibah and Misrak Atekaly areas, combining residential and commercial spaces to meet contemporary urban demands.

The KokebeTsibah complex, a 2B+G+10-story building, offers two to four-bedroom units along with dedicated commercial spaces. Near Misrak Polytechnic College, the MisrakAtekaly complex includes two blocks with similar layouts, providing one to four-bedroom units up to 218 square meters and additional commercial spaces.

FHC also launched a new Construction Materials Manufacturing Center in Akaki Kaliti, Gelan area, designed to reduce Ethiopia's dependence on imported building materials. Built in less than a year using self-financed funds totaling one billion Birr, the center will produce blocks, tiles, concrete, and terrazzo for the local market.

"This center will enable the construction sector to access high-quality, locally produced materials, easing foreign currency costs and stabilizing the market," said FHC CEO Reshad Kemal at the inauguration.

The construction materials plant, operating at an 8-hour daily capacity, is projected to generate over two billion Birr annually through sales. Additionally, FHC inaugurated two residential buildings, each with 13 floors, constructed by Mescon Construction, offering units from one to four bedrooms.



Head of the Office of the Prime Minister and Chair of FHC's Management Board Alemtsehay Paulos highlighted FHC's role in expanding development projects at 15 sites and contributing significantly to Ethiopia's economic growth. "This initiative not only meets housing needs but also strengthens the country's construction industry, transforming resources into profitable and productive assets," she noted.

High-ranking officials, including Finance State Minister Eyob Tekalign (PhD), attended the inauguration alongside FHC

executives, underscoring the project's importance for Ethiopia's housing and construction sectors.

The Federal Housing Corporation (FHC) is a government agency in Ethiopia responsible for the development, management, and leasing of urban housing and commercial properties. Established to address the growing demand for housing and support urbanization goals, the corporation oversees large-scale housing projects and commercial complexes, primarily in Addis Ababa.

Ethiopia aims to lead Africa's science, technology frontier by 2037

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia is positioning itself as a competitive and preferred hub for Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy (STIP) development, with the Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MinT) outlining ambitious goals to become a model of prosperity in Africa by 2037.

MinT State Minister Bayisa Bedada(PhD) highlighted that by advancing technological innovation, enhancing research capacity, and supporting sustainable development, Ethiopia aims to establish itself as a global player and a self-sufficient center for science and technology within Africa.

Bayisa emphasized the importance of close collaboration among government, academia, industry, civil society, and development partners to ensure transformative growth that is inclusive and fosters a culture of creativity to drive Ethiopia's development

journey.

According to the state minister, this policy will serve as a strategic framework to foster innovation-driven, knowledge-based economic growth, positioning Ethiopia as a beacon of prosperity for the continent.

Professor Chux Daniels, an STIP strategy expert from the University of Pretoria, told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that investment in science and technology is key to accelerating economic growth and addressing complex social and environmental challenges.

"Science plays a pivotal role in essential sectors such as agriculture, healthcare, and other leading industries in today's global business ecosystems," Prof. Daniels explained. "It is crucial for tackling issues like unemployment and underdevelopment."

He emphasized the need to create an enabling environment for science, technology, and innovation (STI), which would promote job

creation, wealth generation, and economic growth. Prof. Daniels further advocated for the strengthening of science education to improve global competitiveness through enhanced capacity building and partnerships with universities.

"While many African countries have STI policies, they often lack effective implementation strategies," Prof. Daniels added. "Ethiopia's commitment to an actionable strategy for demand-driven manpower and next-generation industries represents a significant milestone."

The expert also noted the importance of fostering regional and international partnerships and strengthening institutional linkages to benefit from a robust STI culture. Developing an organizational structure to support STI will also be essential in nurturing indigenous knowledge and sustaining Ethiopia's innovation ecosystem and economic growth for years to come.

Editorial

A beacon of peace and harmony

Ethiopia, the cradle of mankind and a living testament to ancient civilization, is renowned for its benevolence. It is also the epitome of religious harmony. The astounding coexistence among followers of Christianity, Islam, and Judaism—the major religions that have long been present—testify to this fact.

In this wonderland, unlike anywhere else in the world, it is not surprising to see crosses reaching toward the sky alongside crescents and stars visible from afar. In a show of magnanimity and consideration, citizens from these diverse faiths help one another during religious festivals and anniversaries. It is worth mentioning the colorful intangible heritages inscribed on UNESCO's list. In awe-inspiring Ethiopia, religions uniquely serve as a source of peace and coexistence rather than as reasons for conflict. Owing to this peculiarity, tourists visit Ethiopia to witness these virtues firsthand.

The tangible heritages, such as Lalibela—which showcases a blend of tradition and modernization—could play a seminal role in the country's prosperity, a path Ethiopia is eager to embark upon.

Against this backdrop, organizing a conference on peace and religious tolerance in Ethiopia—a prime destination for tourism conferences—is essential. Travelers from Ethiopia and members of the Star Alliance can expect a warm reception upon their arrival, whether in Addis Ababa or elsewhere. They will encounter breathtaking natural wonders and a pleasant climate. The diverse topography is also visually captivating. Organic and fresh fruits are among the many delights the country offers its guests. Moreover, its rich tapestry of ethnic groups enhances its appeal for tourism conferences.

The ongoing corridor development beautifying the capital and other cities adds to the nation's attractions. The greenery and scenic views can refresh the minds of conference participants. Like mushrooms after rain, standard hotels are now dotting Ethiopia; they not only provide excellent services but also encourage tourists to extend their stays, thereby augmenting the much-needed inflow of hard currency. In today's Ethiopia, with additional attractions such as new parks, it would be unwise not to plan for an extended visit or to explore the country thoroughly.

Recently, an international conference of religious institutions is slated to be held at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), with peaceful coexistence at the top of the agenda. All Ethiopians are expected to contribute to the successful completion of the conference. Appreciation is due to the stakeholders who helped organize it. Such conferences go a long way in promoting the country to satisfied guests; they can even be more effective than costly image-building advertisements, as firsthand experiences create lasting impressions that turn guests into ambassadors for Ethiopia.

Religious leaders and institutions participating in this conference will have the opportunity to exchange ideas and share experiences, gaining valuable insights in the process. Close to 360 participants will attend, bringing together religious leaders from Asia, Europe, and Africa. It is hoped that they will develop terms for working in harmony.

Ethiopia must continue to enhance its status as a hub for tourists and investors. According to the Ministry of Peace, participants will be invited to visit notable sites such as the Adwa Museum, Unity Park, and the corridor development project.

It goes without saying that peace and development mutually reinforce each other. Fostering peace and coexistence enhances development, while their absence undermines peace. Therefore, holding this timely conference in a place that embodies both principles is both appropriate and necessary.

Opinion

Promoting research in applying AI on development sectors

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

The Ethiopian Institute of Artificial Intelligence (EIAI) conducts various researches to strengthen various national interventions including health care, agriculture, education, finance and several other sectors.

A project on diabetes is one of them. Diabetes is a leading cause of blindness, kidney failure, heart attacks, stroke, and amputation of lower limbs. Diabetes burden is strongly linked to metabolic risks and behavioral factors. Algorithms supporting predictive models for the risk of getting diabetes or its complications have been developed using artificial intelligence. It is also capable of identifying diabetes mellitus type based on the data obtained from a patient.

According to the Ministry of Health, skin diseases are among the most common illnesses in the world, ranking fourth in terms of non-fatal human sickness. In Ethiopia, scabies, papular urticaria, and atopic dermatitis are the most prevalent, with rates of 14.5%, 20.3%, and 19%, respectively. Clinical presentations of these conditions can be difficult to differentiate, and the underlying causes and treatments vary widely. Therefore, it takes a well-trained dermatologist to properly diagnose and treat each condition. To address this need, EIAI has developed a mobile application that can help differentiate these common and itchy skin conditions among children.

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women in Ethiopia. Unfortunately, many patients only seek medical attention when the cancer is already advanced. To address this issue, it is recommended that women over the age of 40 develop a regular screening habit for early detection of breast cancer. However, despite efforts to promote screening, the shortage of radiologists remains a challenge. An AI-based breast cancer detection system can help radiologists efficiently screen and prioritize cases for further evaluation using mammography images. Ultimately, such a system can improve early detection rates and potentially save lives.

Heart disease remains one of the leading causes of mortality worldwide. Early detection and accurate classification are crucial for effective treatment and management. This project presents a comprehensive approach to heart disease detection and classification by leveraging Electrocardiogram (ECG) signals in conjunction with interpretable deep learning models.

Tuberculosis (TB) is one of the deadliest infectious diseases in the world, claiming millions of lives each year. Early and accurate detection is crucial for effective treatment and prevention of its spread. One promising approach is using weekly supervised deep learning techniques to analyze chest X-ray images for TB detection. These advanced algorithms not only identify the presence of the disease but also provide precise localization of the affected regions within the lungs,

Stroke detection and classification from brain CT scans involve categorizing the brain's condition into four key categories: hemorrhagic stroke, ischemic stroke, non-stroke abnormalities, and normal. Early diagnosis through CT scans enables prompt treatment, significantly improving the chances of recovery and reducing the impact of brain damage.

Ethiopian Artificial Intelligence institute is providing research-based Artificial Intelligent services and products on different sectors such as on natural language. In natural language processing, the institute is introducing the local languages with artificial intelligence technology to benefit from the technology.

The Institute developed a mobile application that enables users to self-learn Ethiopian languages, with the added capability of transcription. This app provides a user-friendly interface that allows learners to easily access a wide range of language resources.

Coop bankbot is specifically designed for the Cooperative Bank of Oromia, which serves customers in three languages - English, Amharic, and Afan Oromo. It offers a range of services, including delivering information about the bank's services, collecting customer feedback, assisting in locating ATMs, providing exchange rate information from the bank's database, and facilitating basic account operations such as checking account balance, requesting a check book, registering disputes over transactions, and reporting lost ATM cards and PIN information. The

oromia bankbot is an AI-enabled chatbot that has been specifically designed and deployed for the Bank of Oromia. It provides customers with instant and consistent answers to their queries with endless patience, 24/7. The Oromia Bank Bot delivers a variety of services, including providing information about the bank's services, collecting customer feedback, and delivering exchange rate information from their database.

Hibirbot is a chatbot that uses AI technology and is specifically designed for Hibret Bank. It is highly efficient and can provide prompt and consistent responses to customer queries 24/7, with a high level of patience. The chatbot offers a variety of services, including providing information about the bank's products and services, collecting customer feedback, and deliver exchange rate information by retrieving from their database.

Citizen Engagement is an app that allows you to report crimes to the Federal Police of Ethiopia in a fast and easy way. You can attach videos, pictures, documents, and location to your report, and also track the status of your report online. With Crime Reporter, you can help the police fight crime and make your community safer.

The author believes that Ethiopia can effectively use AI for controlling and combating contraband, illicit trade, human and arms trafficking. Therefore it is important to incorporate the technology and theory into the curriculum of the educational system in the country at all levels.

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



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News

Ethiopia in...

regarding BRICS membership role for the country, Foreign Affairs Minister Gedion Timothewos (PhD) noted that Ethiopia's membership to BRICS bloc would serve the country to ensure its national and the Africa's interests as a whole.

As a country with long years of strong diplomatic journey and being founding member of different international organizations, its membership would play pan-African role in shaping the new world order, he said.

He also mentioned that following country's rapid economic growth, joining bloc would serve the nation in ensuring financial provision.

National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) Director General Redwan Hussien highlighted that BRICS membership has increased country's visibility in different corners.

Apart from echoing Africa's voice, as part of its non-alignment strategy, it would serve in promoting peace, negotiation and peaceful resolution among countries.

Moreover, he added that it contributes to attracting new investment while ensuring ease of doing business and areas of cooperation. Nonetheless, the nation needs to give due emphasis creating business friendly environment.

For Mamo Mihretu, Governor of National Bank of Ethiopia, Ethiopia's diplomatic history has remained consistent which has also been showcased in joining the bloc.

Recently, Ethiopia has engaged in preparing BRICS foreign policy engagement strategy, while it has undertaken several steps to

become member of the bloc's development bank, as to him.

Reminding that BRICS member countries have signed over 30 memorandum of understanding (MoU) on various areas, he indicated that the nation is seeking opportunities that fits with its term and conditions so as to benefit from the agreements.

Economically, he stressed that it would attract guaranteed and well facilitated business market for investors in the nation. It is important to note that the bloc would open door for financial provision which is the core for investment, he added.

Ambassador Mesganu Arga, State Minister of Foreign Affairs, on his part stated that Ethiopia's membership to BRICS is double opportunity as its foreign policy anchors cooperation.

Besides smoothly integrating in the bloc, joining the bloc has contributed to enhancing nation's former bilateral and multilateral relation and cooperation with member states.

Moreover, it has created trust and strengthened its cooperation on security, politics, business, and economic issues with countries.

Mentioning that over 200 discussions were held in Russia, he said that Ethiopia took part in around 120 ones where the country built its image as well as draw valuable lesson from the discussions.

The fact that Ethiopia's role is immense in ensuring collective security, now that the country is member of the bloc, its role in peace and security would also be enhanced globally, he added.

Ethiopia's core...

the MoU, leaving Ethiopia's sea access aspirations in limbo.

Ethiopia is home to the second-largest Somali population worldwide, second only to Somalia itself, underscoring the deep cultural and regional ties between the two countries. Abiy emphasized, "Somalia is not just a neighboring country; it is like a brother or sister to Ethiopia," dismissing claims that Ethiopia's intentions threaten its neighbors' sovereignty. "Our focus is on securing food and resources for our growing population," he added, noting the expansive 5,000-kilometer coastline extending from Massawa to Somalia, which he believes could promote greater integration and mutual benefit.

Foreign Minister Gedion Timotiws (PhD) echoed the Prime Minister's sentiment, instructing Ethiopian diplomats to prioritize this national interest on the global stage. He reiterated Ethiopia's stance of non-aggression and affirmed that the country would not compromise its neighbors' security in pursuit of sea access.

Highlighting the urgency of Ethiopia's foreign policy priority, Gedion acknowledged that while some coastal nations may not readily support Ethiopia's position, diplomatic solutions remain on the table. African affairs senior researcher Gizachew Asrat (PhD) pointed out that Ethiopia's MoU with Somaliland aligns

with a mutual benefit policy, designed not to undermine others' interests.

Prime Minister Abiy clarified that the MoU with Somaliland is a fair, time-limited agreement granting Ethiopia temporary access to a portion of the coastline for 50 years. "The unfounded narratives around this agreement are gradually being dispelled as the facts emerge," he said. "If we fail to utilize this extensive coastline collaboratively, other continents will continue to benefit, while Ethiopia misses crucial opportunities for stability and growth," he warned, noting the potential regional impact if Ethiopia remains isolated from maritime access.

The Institute of Foreign Affairs American and European Affairs Director General Dareskedar Taye (PhD) defended Ethiopia's pursuit of sea access as a natural right, urging neighboring countries to recognize the importance of Ethiopia's growing logistical and economic needs. "Ethiopia's interests in gaining sea access and fostering sustainable peace are not solely national but also crucial for the development of the entire region," Dareskedar stated.

Abiy concluded, "Our continued pursuit of sea access through peaceful negotiations reflects our deep respect for international law," reinforcing Ethiopia's commitment to diplomacy and peaceful collaboration while safeguarding its national interests and regional stability.

KOICA to bring ...

the number of Korean volunteers that would team up with the Ethiopian people to make the African country prosperous, peaceful and inclusive.

Before the outbreak of coronavirus pandemic, there were thousands of Korean volunteers in Ethiopia lending hands for the development of the health and other sectors, but the pandemic affected the number of volunteers, the Director recalled, mentioning that Korea was the first country to send volunteers to Ethiopia in the fight against the pandemic.

Despite the tangible progresses in Ethiopia's health system in the past several decades, a lot remain to be done in line with the huge number of people that require healthcare services and KOICA has been supporting the sector, he stated.

KOICA Ethiopia Office Deputy Country Director Jung Sun-Ha for her part said that Korean volunteers are working hard here in Ethiopia to improve lives and strengthen both countries' partnership.

The volunteers dispatched by KOICA are

based on their experiences in areas they can contribute to Ethiopia's growth, especially in public sectors, she said, adding that there are 12 volunteers servicing in Ethiopia including two global doctors.

According to Cho Han Deog, there are also Korean volunteers in Ethiopian schools to improve quality of education, advance children's educational performance and library quality, in which, the library enhancement project is resulting tangible outcome in terms of improving students' results.

KOICA has been actively supporting Ethiopia's development in manufacturing, healthcare, education and climate change adaptation. The agency is also assisting Ethiopia in dairy development, TVET, health institutions construction and business startups. Particularly, it has been supporting internally displaced peoples (IDPs), efforts to make the country to be more inclusive and peaceful, restore forest coverage, gender based violence victims, manufacturing sector capabilities and other projects in bid to facilitate country's economic development, he said.

Telecom liberalization...

investment through championing digital transformation in the industrial sector and ensuring that the manufacturing sector has access to a greater availability of digital technologies and associated skills.

Recently, Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA), in collaboration with Ethio-telecom, has launched a report on Ethiopia's digital transformation titled "Driving Digital Transformation Economy in Ethiopia" in telecom stakeholder. The report highlights ethio-telecoms role in driving the nation's economy, attributing the progress to government's digitization drive, reforms in telecom sector, and mobile technologies.

GSMA's report has projected that Ethiopia's digital economy would contribute 1.3 trillion Birr to the country's GDP by the year 2028, highlighting the sector's bold role in driving economy.

Ethiopia's mobile money services have played a pivotal role in financial inclusion, with over 90 million registered accounts in June and a penetration rate of 70 percent, the report found out, and added, this has contributed to the financial inclusion of more than 50% of the Ethiopian population.

According to the report, mobile connections have been a significant driver of Ethiopia's economic growth, contributing 10% to GDP over the past five years. This makes Ethiopia the second-highest country in Africa in terms of mobile contribution to GDP, after Nigeria. Furthermore, the digital economy is expected to create over 1 million new jobs and generate an additional 57 billion Birr in tax revenues by 2028, it has projected.

Noting that digital technologies are catalyzing growth in key sectors such as agriculture and manufacturing, the report stated that agriculture is projected to generate 140 billion Birr, while manufacturing is expected to contribute 114 billion Birr by 2028. Despite the significant progress, a substantial usage gap persists, with 76% of the population still not using mobile internet. Bridging this gap, particularly the 40% gender disparity in mobile internet use,

is crucial for Ethiopia's digital future.

Innovation and Technology State Minister Yeshurun Alemayehu said that Ethiopia's telecom liberalization is evident how government-private partnership drives cross-sector growth. Ethiopia has made significant strides in digital transformation and the government is also committed to create conducive environment for innovation and entrepreneurship. Ethiopia has made significant strides in embracing digital transformation as a core component of its national development strategy and recognizes that technology is a key enabler of growth.

The liberalization of telecom sector has opened door to new investments, increased competition and enhanced service delivery and similar partnership and different modalities in other sectors like in health, agriculture and education will further accelerate the nation's digital transformation.

Ethio-telecom CEO Frehiwot Tamiru said the company is working closely with domestic and global organizations to ensure accessibility of telecom services across the country. The number of mobile users was 37 million in 2018 and has now reached 79 million, while the number of internet users has increased from 16 million to 46 million, she said.

Safaricom Ethiopia CEO Wim Vanhellepute said that similar to ethio-telecom, the sector is significantly contributing to digital transformation of the country and the company is applying similar strategy in Ethiopia to pursue the nation's digital move. Entered Ethiopian market two years ago, Safaricom has managed to onboard close to 6 million users.

By leveraging mobile technologies, the country can boost productivity in various sectors, create new opportunities, and improve the lives of its citizens. Ethio-telecom and Safaricom Ethiopia have been instrumental in driving this growth through expanded mobile internet access and increased competition in the telecom market.

Opinion

Regional harmony, international cooperation as pathway to eliminate radicalism in Horn of Africa

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

It is important to highlight that Ethiopia's effective diplomacy, which attaches due importance to economic regional integration, has been playing a paramount role in smoothing the path of peace and security in the Horn of Africa, working in collaboration with various stakeholders. In the face of challenges, the country has been significantly foiling terrorist assaults forged by internationally dubbed unofficial combatants and ensuring peace and tranquility in the region.

It is widely acknowledged that Ethiopia's fruitful diplomatic journey has been oiling the wheels of the involvement of all nations in the fight against terrorists hiding themselves under the world skies and doing away with them from all corner of the globe.

It becomes apparent that the Horn of Africa has been inundated by terrorist groups fighting around the clock to venture the region into unknown territory and set sail for uncharted seas. No matter what the cost, Ethiopia's efforts have set in motion bearing fruits and moving forward in the right direction.

Apart from bending over backwards to distract the Red Sea trade route, terrorist networks have been making use of Somalia as their stronghold to take the volatile region from one predicament to another and from one quagmire to another.

No matter how hard extremists tried several times to back the region into a corner, they failed to accomplish their dream on account of the bravery of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces.

It appears clear that the political deterioration and uncertainties in the Horn of Africa have been fashioning the anti-terrorism campaign and uniting the wider international community to unshackle the Horn of Africa from terrorism with one accord.

In a related move, with the aim of abolishing rebel groups from every corner of the world, the global community should go to the ends of the earth to work in concert with the intention of obstructing the threats of the act of terrorism from the region at the earliest possible moment.

As the Horn of Africa is swarmed with a broad range of natural resources, extremists have been leaning over backwards to move the region into uncharted waters and accomplish their motives going behind closed curtains.

Each and every one should move heaven and earth to get rid of non-state actors working time and time again to place the region between the hammer and the anvil as well as between the devil and the deep-blue sea in the timeliest manner possible.

In response to the volatile global order and contemporary security challenges facing

the continent, African defense ministers and military attachés recently convened a critical conference aimed at addressing Africa's complex security landscape.

During the gathering in Addis Ababa, delegates explored Africa's military evolution and future strategies, emphasizing the need for continental cooperation to counter emerging security threats in the global arena.

Ethiopian Defense Minister Ayisha Mohammed (Eng.) stressed the importance of strengthening knowledge and collaboration to tackle the growing threats of cyber-attacks, organized crime, and human trafficking.

"It is impossible for a single nation to confront these challenges alone. Building strong cooperation between African defense forces is essential to shape Africa's defense strategy against adversities," she said.

Africa faces a range of security threats that vary across regions, including terrorism and violent extremism from groups like Boko Haram in Nigeria and al-Shabab in Somalia. Ethnic and sectarian conflicts contribute to instability, and political instability and coups undermine governance. Maritime insecurity, particularly piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and Red Sea, poses risks to trade routes, while expanding digital infrastructure has led to rising cyber security threats.

In the present circumstances, the Horn of Africa has sustained being a hotbed of terrorists that have been working unremittingly to turn the lives of the general public into a fate worth than death and an absolute nightmare.

The necessity of having collective efforts to dissuade the intimidations of radicalism by developing a sustainable solution to the ongoing mounting discord and chaos in the region is compulsory.

Taking the aforesaid reality on the ground, all stakeholders should do their part to get to the bottom of the predicaments hovering around the region. What is more, the world at large should join hands with a focus on ensuring peace and tranquility, bolstering regional cooperation, effectuating international standards and other things of a similar kind.

Unless the global community stands shoulder to shoulder with the goal of eradicating extremism, the entire world will be directly or indirectly affected. Moreover, the situation in the region and beyond will end up going from the frying pan into the fire giving a hard time to the overall population residing in the region.

Failing to avert the threats of terrorist groups posing a threat to the existence of the global community, everyone irrespective of age, sexual category, religion, education backgrounds and more of the same should unite efforts and form an alliance before the entire situation goes any further.

Speaking at the 79th United Nations General



Concerted effort essential to eliminating terrorism

Assembly (UNGA), former Minister of Foreign Affairs, (now president of FDRE) Taye Atske-Selassie said that over the years, Ethiopia has played an instrumental role in combating the cause of insecurity.

We also continue our efforts to work with other neighbor to contribute on durable basis to ensure peaceful navigation on the high seas. "We see a great need to chart a new path for inclusive maritime security engagement with equal participation of countries with stakes on both sides of the Red Sea and Indian Ocean."

Furthermore, terrorism continues to be a grave threat to the peace and security of the Horn of Africa. The growing rise of violent extremist groups like Al-Shabab and its international and regional affiliates have continued their vicious attacks against civilians and security of the region.

The region has reached a milestone in degrading terrorism owing to the resilience of the people of Somalia and the sacrifices of the sons and daughters of Burundi, Djibouti, Kenya, Uganda, and our country Ethiopia.

The recent maneuvers of actors from outside the Horn of Africa region undermine these efforts. Nevertheless, Ethiopia will not be deterred from its resolute commitment to combating terrorism. He called upon these actors to immediately stop their reckless actions.

The international community should recognize the imminent risk originating from these irresponsible acts and take concrete measures to prevent the loss of hard-won gains in combating terrorism in the Horn of Africa.

Since time immemorial, Ethiopia has been reiterating its unwavering stance towards fighting against terrorism and eliminating terrorist cells. In actual fact, Ethiopia's struggle against extremism has been receiving over and over again a pat on the back from the world community as a whole.

If the Ethiopian National Defense Force had not partaken in battling against terrorist groups with the purpose of ensuring peace

and tranquility, the Horn of Africa would have been a breeding ground for diabolic elements.

In the aftermath of the increasing threat of terrorism acts in every corner of the Horn of Africa and beyond, international partners, governments and others pertinent bodies should join hands with the purpose of eliminating terrorist squad and minimizing the negative impact of terrorism and extremism on the global peace and development.

All things considered, a wide spectrum of nations should get involved in abolishing skirmish, radicalism, and anarchy, which hold back economic growth of the entire Horn of Africa without batting an eye.

Similarly, as much as they can, African leaders should work more than ever before to augment their engagement in peace, security, and development on the continent of Africa in view of the fact that taking the region to a new frontier in the absence of peace will be a wild goose chase and an insurmountable mountain.

Enhancing stronger partnerships, advanced military capabilities, and renewed determination are critical to nurturing a peaceful, secure, and thriving Africa, the Ethiopian Deputy Prime Minister said.

The Deputy Prime Minister Temesgen Tiruneh made the above remark recently while opening the three-day African Defense Ministers' conference held under the theme "Africa: United in Peace, Strong in Security!" at the historical Adwa Victory Memorial Museum, Addis Ababa.

He noted that the continent is facing profound security challenges such as intra-state conflicts, cross-border tensions, and terrorism, and the extremist groups are taking root not only in governed spaces but also in areas where they see as their safe heavens.

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

Business & Economy

Ethiopia's economy has continued in tangible progress

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Recently, the 6th House of People's Representatives conducted its 4th year's 3rd regular meeting. On the occasion, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) gave a response to questions raised by the parliamentarians focused on myriads of economic, political, and social issues of the nation.

With regard to the ongoing economic reform, he said that in the first phase of the fiscal year, the government completed reforms in different sectors and started working on national revival. Therefore, in the fiscal year, the nation will see drastic changes in all sectors and will move forward to tomorrow by leaving the ideas of yesterday.

He also said that in the last fiscal year, Ethiopia recorded 8.1% growth. This is a great achievement worldwide. In this year's fiscal year, it is expected that 8.4% growth will be recorded. Among these, agriculture is expected to grow by 6.1%. By cultivating 30 million hectares of land, 1.4 billion quintals of crop are expected to be harvested.

With regard to "Yelemat Tirufat" he said that it has become a sector with promising growth in a short period of time. In the budget year, the sector has recorded growth of 5.4%. For instance, 12 billion liters of milk are expected to be produced annually, 8 billion chicken eggs, 218 thousand tons of meat, and 297 thousand tons of honey will be produced annually.

The capacity to produce is also created. He also said that compared to the past years, 1 million quintals of production has been recorded in coffee. Currently, extensive work is underway to make Ethiopia the 2nd coffee producer in the world.

He further said that in the past years, a lot of work has been done to stimulate the industrial sector by the Ethiopian Manufacturing expansion endeavor. Especially, a better work has been done in solving the problems that were arising with the power supply. Currently, the production capacity of industries has been grown by 67%. It is expected that the industrial sector will grow by 12.8% in the budget year.

As it is known, agriculture is the main stay of the economy in which about 80% of the population has taken the sector as means of living. The majority of the population is engaged in small scale farming. As the sector is vulnerable to climate change and global warming, scale upping farming through irrigation system is essential. The sector's contribution to the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is 45% and still the sector plays pivotal role in the economy. But the growth witnessed in the sector plays insignificant role in transforming the economy. To attain sustainable development, building self-sustaining industry led economy is vital.

To achieve economic transformation, government has tried its level best through expanding of manufacturing because



it is the base for the industrialization. Manufacturing can absorb the stranded rural labor force, boost export, substitute import, creates conducive environment for innovation and linkage with agriculture. That is why the government underlined the value of industrialization.

With regard to the Ethiopian airlines, part of aviation industry, the Prime Minister said that movement has been started to build the biggest airport in Africa. This new airport will also accommodate 100 to 130 million passengers per year. At present, the government has decided to buy 124 new airplanes. This will make Ethiopian Airlines not only the largest airport owner in Africa but also the largest airline. The service sector's contribution to GDP also will increase 7.1% in the budget year.

In the past macro-economic imbalance was a challenge for the nation including, shortage of hard currency, debt service, inflation unemployment and illegal trade. One of the objectives of the recently introduced economic reform focusing on the floating of exchange rate, Dollar against Birr is to cure the economic malaise.

Economists and Ministry of planning and Development endorsed that after the introduction of the new exchange rate to be determined by market, the inflow of remittance is increased by 20%, the inflow of Foreign Direct Investment is increasing, the volume of export is growing and illegal trade is reduced.

"Our economic system was much closed in the past. This has been making Ethiopia not to use as much as it should in foreign trade and foreign direct investment. By now, the macro economic reform will lay the foundation for Ethiopia," the Prime Minister reiterated.

He further said that following the reform of the macro economy, the government revenue has increased significantly. 180 billion Birr has been collected in the last three months. This is a better growth compared to the same period of the previous fiscal year. In the first three months of the 2023/24 fiscal year, the revenue collected was only 109 billion Birr. But Ethiopia earned these only from the total domestic product. In comparison, it is still a low

Ethiopia's abundant natural resources including, land, renewable energy sources, water and man power have made it the best option for investment. The macro economic reform has also opened a way to utilize this investment potential.

According to Prime Minister Abiy, 3.4 billion Dollar has come over the past three months from foreign countries to Ethiopia in different ways. Compared to the same period of last year, there is a huge increase. In the first three months of the last fiscal year, the amount of money that came from foreign countries to Ethiopia was 400 million dollars. In total, 27 billion dollars have come to Ethiopia through the macroeconomic reform.

The macroeconomic reform also enabled the nation to build its capacity to serve its debt burden. A few years ago, international financial institutions showed reluctance to provide loans to Ethiopia, but after the introduction of the new exchange regime, they began to provide loans to the country.

The government also banned drawing loans from local and foreign financial institutions. Reflecting on this issue, the Prime Minister said that the government has not taken any commercial loans in the past six years. Ethiopia's debt burden has been reduced from 30.6% to 13.7% in comparison to the total national production. In the coming years, a lot of work is ahead to reduce this figure to below 10%. In the past six years, excluding airline and telecom, 13 billion dollars of debt have been paid. This is not a cure, but it supports the government's efforts to pass on wages to the next generation.

In line with these, the reform in the macro economy has saved the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia from collapsing. The commercial bank has gotten a 900 billion dollar extended bond. The success of Commercial Bank of Ethiopia is motivating all the local banks. Currently, the banks' deposits have reached 3.5 trillion Birr. The number of banks has reached 32; 50 million customers in Ethiopia have mobile phones. Banks have just taken advantage of it. The government also opened the financial market to foreign banks, and the situation creates an opportunity to attract more foreign investment, and local banks need to be competent.

With regard to overcoming the skyrocketing living cost, the Prime Minister said that the government can overcome the cost of living sustainably by increasing productivity. Upgrading the business system is also of great importance. The government has allocated 300 to 400 billion Birr subsidy to prevent the cost of living burden on the low-income citizens.

Sharing of meals, school feeding, and Sunday markets are part of the government's effort to help the needy. Nationwide, 249,000 houses have been transferred to disadvantaged citizens. This is a work done by the government through browsing finance from investors. The inflation rate has been reduced to 17% by now; bringing this down to single digits is a priority of the government, the premier stressed.

Manufacturing can absorb the stranded rural labor force, boost export, substitute import, creates conducive environment for innovation and linkage with agriculture

income country. This should continue to improve.

In the past three months, 1.5 billion Dollar of revenue from export trade has been received. If we continue with this performance, at the end of the fiscal year, more than 5 billion Dollar of income will be received. This is an increase of 1 billion Dollar compared to the previous year. Especially the macro economic reform has brought a big difference in the gold production and export. In the last three months, 500 million dollar has been earned from gold trade. This shows how much gold trade is lucrative. In coffee production, 2 billion dollar is expected to be obtained in the budget year.

In addition, foreign direct investment has increased by 6.4%. The works that have been done especially by creating an environment conducive for investment is creating enabling environment to attract investment.

Planet Earth

Addis Ababa installing new devices to monitor, prevent air pollution

BY FIKADU BELAY

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) data, a third of the world's population, or around 2.4 billion people, still relies on open fires and inefficient stoves to cook using solid fuels like wood, charcoal, coal, and dung. Most of these individuals are underprivileged and reside in low- and middle-income nations, with access to cleaner cooking options varying significantly between urban and rural areas.

In 2020, around 2.1 billion people will still cook using solid fuels. Among these, household air pollution was estimated to cause 3.2 million deaths globally per year, with air pollution linked to nearly 30% of cerebrovascular disease deaths in the Middle East and North Africa. Children, due to their heightened susceptibility and exposure, are especially vulnerable to the harmful health impacts of air pollution, which is responsible for 20% of infant mortality worldwide. Overall, about seven million premature deaths each year are attributed to the combined effects of household and ambient air pollution.

The issue of climate change continues to be a topic of intense debate, with no clear or sustainable solutions emerging. Countries worldwide are being forced to grapple with the burdens and challenges posed by its impacts. This problem is severe in developing and underdeveloped nations, which often lack the resources and infrastructure to effectively adapt to and mitigate the effects.

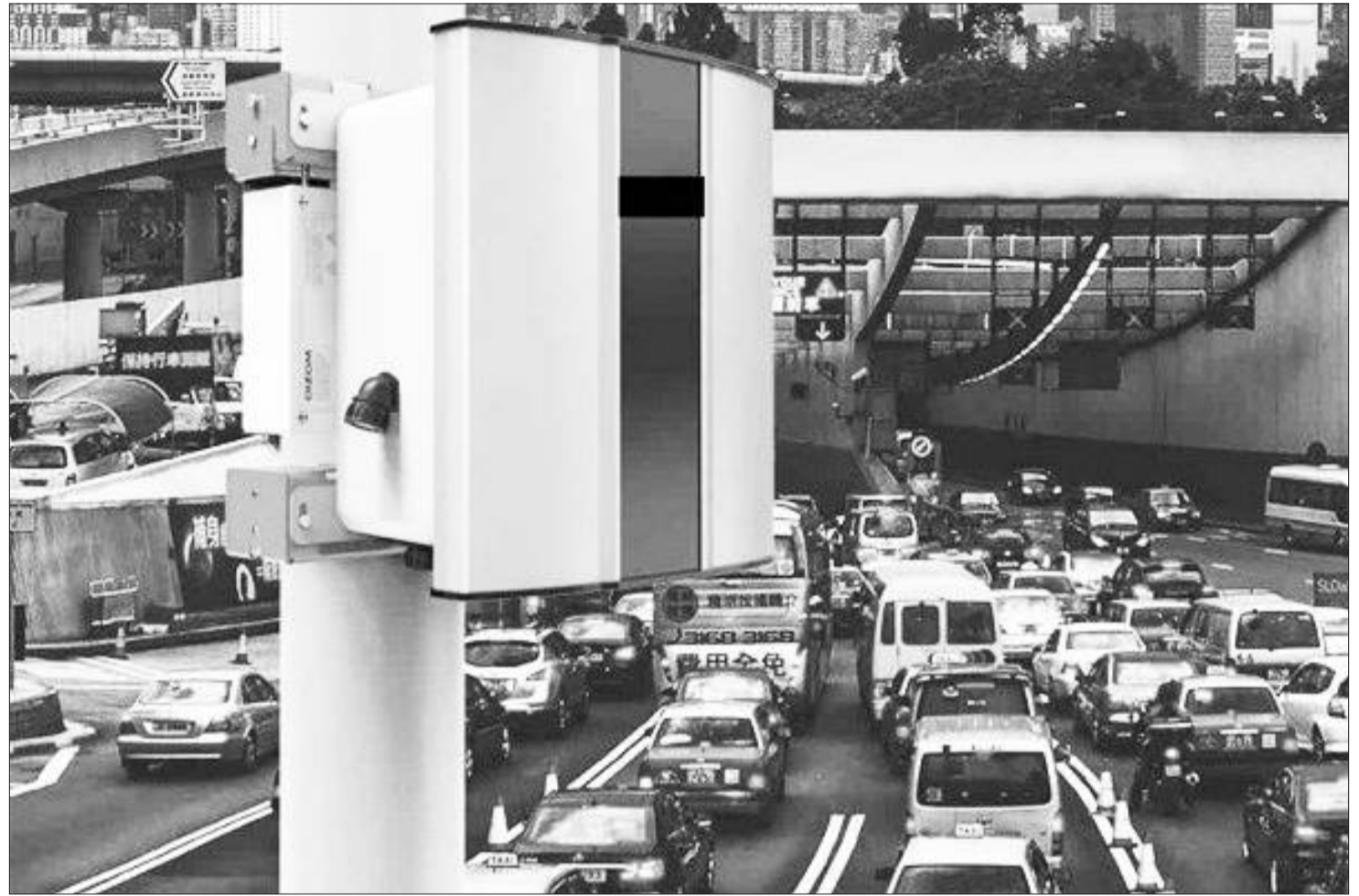
Despite numerous global summits and conferences held over the years, a universally accepted solution to the climate crisis remains elusive. As a result, vulnerable countries are struggling to address this daunting challenge, resorting to various actions and initiatives to combat the problem.

One significant contributor to the issues of climate change is air pollution. Rapid urbanization and population growth in many countries have accelerated environmental degradation. Deteriorating air quality is one of the most pressing concerns, affecting the health and well-being of urban inhabitants and hindering sustainable urban development.

With bustling streets, industrial activities, and increasing vehicular traffic, cities have experienced a surge in air pollution levels. Emissions from various sources, such as exhaust fumes, industrial emissions, and the burning of biomass and solid fuels for cooking and heating have contributed to this decline in air quality.

This air pollution leads to severe health consequences for city residents, including respiratory problems like asthma, lung cancer, cardiovascular diseases, and other chronic health conditions, ultimately reducing life expectancy.

To address the impacts of climate change, it's crucial to monitor air pollution levels and related issues. Countries need to develop technological solutions that provide alerts about air quality before severe climate-



related issues arise.

A year ago, the Environmental Protection Authority of Addis Ababa recalled the installation of five new air pollution measuring devices, with four additional machines being repaired and serviced.

On his stay with the Ethiopian Press Agency, Solomon Melese, the Team Leader for Greenhouse Gas Measurement, Reduction and green technology expansion at the Authority, highlighted the installation of nine air pollution measurement machines in the city, though it concerned that only three of these devices are currently operational, the remaining six devices are out of service within one year, the authority prompting plans to replace them with new modern air pollution measuring instruments.

At the time of installation, the authority stated that these machines were considered advanced and it's also not only used to indicate the level of the city's air pollution but also one of the exemplary cities in Africa for fighting climate change impact. Moreover, it showcases the country's urban developments.

However, the installed measurement devices no longer meet the country's needs; the authority is preparing to install ten new air quality measuring devices to enhance monitoring efforts. He noted that the previously installed machines, once considered modern, are now outdated, contributing to their ineffectiveness.

These machines, installed last year at considerable expense, were intended to provide crucial data on air quality. In this sense, the authority's replacement was initially scheduled for last year, budget constraints delayed the process and due to high costs of the machines, this initiative has been postponed to the current fiscal year, with plans for the auctioning of the old machines soon.

In addition to the machines installed by the authority, Solomon highlighted that devices set up by Addis Ababa University and the American Embassy in Ethiopia are currently in use for air quality monitoring.

Looking ahead, Solomon confirmed that the installation of new equipment is a priority for the government, with a substantial budget allocated for this purpose. So, the authority should be working with well-trained trained to install any devices that are used to fight the impacts of climate change.

He expressed optimism that the new devices will significantly enhance the city's ability to monitor air quality effectively. Furthermore, these devices aid in policy decision-making, research, early warning, and identifying the highest pollution sources in the city, as well as alerting users about air quality levels to enable preventive actions.

The installation of new devices is expected to provide a clearer picture of the air pollution levels in the city, allowing for more informed decision-making regarding public health. He emphasized the seriousness of the air pollution issue, noting that the rise in pollution levels has prompted the development of a guide for managing emissions from older fuel vehicles.

As the city grapples with rising pollution levels, the commitment to improving air quality monitoring reflects a broader effort to safeguard public health and environmental standards in the capital.

On the other hand, he stated that the authority aimed to cut emissions by 250,000 tons target, but it achieved a reduction of 255,000 tons in the previous year. He also mentioned that during the current fiscal year, the authority planned to reduce 300,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions.

The authority data indicated that the greenhouse gas emissions in the city rose from seven million metric tons in 2012

to 7.5 million metric tons in 2014/15 E.C. The primary causes remain outdated vehicles, which contribute significantly to the city's air pollution. Solomon noted that old vehicles remain the primary source of these emissions and that the increase of over 500,000 metric tons in just a few years poses serious health risks to residents.

To address these issues, the authority plans to enforce regulations on older vehicles that exceed pollution standards. Additionally, efforts are underway to establish guidelines for the proper disposal of construction waste, which also contributes to air quality degradation.

The Authority is actively collaborating with various industry associations to enhance recycling initiatives and waste management practices, particularly focusing on reducing the volume of solid waste sent to Reppie Sanitary Landfill that promotes the initiatives to compost fertilizer and recycle organic materials effectively, he noted.

Solomon further emphasized the need to promote the significance of transitioning to electric vehicle usage and encourage public transportation through city buses to alleviate air pollution. He noted that proactive awareness about potential health problems linked to pollution is spirited for fostering community engagement in environmental protection efforts.

Looking ahead, the authority has set a visionary goal of achieving a pollution-free city by 2050. Early signs of progress are evident with the increase in electric vehicle usage, road expansions, and a growing fleet of city buses, he mentioned.

To monitor progress, the level of greenhouse gas emissions in the city will be measured every two years. The collective efforts of the government, stakeholders, and communities are crucial for making significant strides toward a cleaner, healthier environment for residents, he revealed.

Art & Culture

Urban tourism in Africa, the need for creativity and diversification

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

Urban tourism in African cities may be a relatively new concept that has not yet gained widespread recognition. According to available information, “Urban tourism in African cities can be a way to experience the urban life of the region, but it faces some challenges. Among the challenges are unplanned urban growth and poor governance of the sustainable tourism policy development initiative.” Tourism is not only about culture. It is also about identity, tradition, and history. In this sense, urban tourism in Africa also has positive features because “cities offer the advantage of allowing diverse tourist attractions to be visited in specific locations without the need to travel long distances.”

Urban tourism has, of course, diverse opportunities and potentials for visitors, both local and expatriates. According to available information, there are different activities carried out by city tourists, among them the visit to buildings within a city such as museums and art galleries, religious temples, skyscrapers, and buildings with some historical interests, monuments and memorials, and cemeteries. On the other hand, urban tourism destinations offer a broad and heterogeneous range of cultural, architectural, technological, social, and natural experiences and products for leisure and business.

Africa’s potential for tourism development is huge indeed. This is a continent whose natural, cultural, and historical resources still remain largely untouched. What is unsettling is that tourism is still given marginal importance in the development strategies of many African countries. The theory and practice of industry-led economic development strategy is still the dominant thinking in the minds of African planners and policymakers. While tourism is a safer, less capital-intensive, and high-return industry, priority is often given to big industrial project development, which is claiming resources that could be used for the tourism sector that are cost-effective, environmentally friendly, and a source of hard currency.

Africa’s tourism potential is not only confined to historical places, ancient relics, churches, mosques, and other heritages that often attract the attention of foreign tourists in particular. Many African countries are managing their tourism in the same old way, giving top priority to the same old destinations. What the sector lacks is imagination, diversification, and creativity, as a result of which the sector has become long stagnant while modernization has never been on top of the agenda of tourism management, exploration, and development.

Let us take one example to make this point. Tourism gurus across the continent may not be aware of the vast potentials African cities offer for developing and exploiting what we may call urban tourism. They are still fixated

Africa’s tourism potential is not only confined to historical places, ancient relics, churches, mosques, and other heritages that often attract the attention of foreign tourists in particular

on the same old remotely located destinations that do not need modernization or creatively so that they could grow in such a way as to promote diversification and attraction. The failure to develop urban tourism is one of the features of this retardation in tourism development. As indicated above, cities as urban centers are tourist destinations that have attractive attributes for tourists such as museums, cultural monuments, cultural institutions, sports complexes, areas of historical architecture, events, etc.

Urban tourism in Africa is also suffering from lack of imagination, creativity and invention so to say. African cities are largely endowed with the traditional cultural and social practices of rural immigrants who come to the cities together with their lifestyles, preferences, food habits and beverage preferences. More developed countries have already developed what they call, ‘culinary tourism’, which is also known as food tourism, which is a type of travel where the main focus is on experiencing the food and drink of a region

or a country. It can involve guided tours or independent exploration and can include agricultural tourism experiences. With a little imagination, virtually all African urban centers have the potentials to develop their specific culinary tourism inputs.

In recent article for this newspaper, I wrote that culinary tourism or food tourism and sometimes called gastronomy tourism is perhaps the least known or least practiced type of tourism. Culinary tourism is defined as “the exploration of food as the purpose of tourism. It is considered a vital component of the tourism experience dining out is common among tourists and “food is believed to rank alongside climate, accommodation and scenery in importance to tourists.” Culinary tourism is a relatively recent phenomenon in the tourism business which was only launched as recently as 2001.

Culinary tourism is almost unknown or so far neglected in Ethiopia although foreign tourists are usually appreciative of Ethiopia’s cultural heritages some of which are globally known and appreciated as many of them are registered as world heritage sites and practices. Culinary tourism is considered “a subset of cultural tourism” because cuisine is a manifestation of culture and therefore relatively easier to be embraced and practiced as it is part and parcel of cultural tourism and that Ethiopia has a high standing in international cultural tourism.

Culinary tourism should not however be regarded simply tourists coming to a country to explore the taste, color, composition or preparation of foods that they never tasted. On the contrary, food tourism is a more diverse, extensive and more structured activity. The contrary, “Food tourism includes activities such as taking cooking classes, going on food or drink tours, attending food and drink festivals, participating in specially dining experiences shopping at specialty retail spaces, and visiting farms, markets and producers.”

Food tourism is also a very important component of tourism in general, and its economic turnover is also considerable compared to the other sectors of tourism. According to the World Food Travel Association, food and beverage expenses account for 15% to 35% of all tourism spending, depending on the affordability of the destination. “There are many food tourism benefits including more visitors, more sales, more media attention, increased tax revenue and greater community pride.”

Ethiopia’s diverse food cultures obviously provide opportunities to explore culinary tourism as a serious business venture not only for its annual turnover but also for its potential for creating job opportunities for thousands of young people who can take the business diversity of tourism to a new level.

Ethiopia’s food culture is fast changing in ways that can be exploited as a new branch

of tourism. Not only that. The diversity of Ethiopia’s food culture has always been appreciated by foreign tourists who are often fascinated by the varieties and tastes of the foods in different parts of the country. We can even say that Ethiopia is not having only more than eighty different ethnic groups living in different climatic and geographic zones that have allowed them to generate amazingly varied foods and drinks. They are also varied in terms of the seasons specific food are more popular than others during fasting seasons.

If culinary tourism is such a big deal with potential attractions and as tourism diversification, why not try “beverage tourism” with particular reference to the beverage specialties of the country in general and the urban centers in particular? There is actually a new coffee drinking culture that is gaining prominence in most urban areas of Ethiopia, where the concept of “Nu buna tetu,” or “come and drink coffee,” has become rampant and increasingly attracting the attention of the public. Moreover, Ethiopia is the origin of coffee and one of the largest coffee exporters in Africa. The coffee drinking and coffee serving culture in Ethiopia is as diverse as the number of ethnic groups. There are more than eighty ethnic groups in the country, and the coffee culture of these groups is varied depending on their history, traditions, preferences, and other factors.

With a little imagination, we can perhaps develop the local coffee shops into big coffee drinking centers in many cities. Thus, the capital Addis Ababa can serve as a showcase of the country’s coffee cultures by constructing a permanent coffee exhibition and marketing and consumption centers, especially catering for local and foreign tourists in particular. These centers can be built at strategic places in the capital that are often frequented by tourists. There is also the possibility of organizing annual “coffee festivals” for tourists who will have the opportunity to sip many coffee varieties and enjoy the coffee ceremonies that go with them.

China is not a well-known coffee producing country, but the Chinese often organize coffee festivals for local coffee lovers as a strategy of coffee marketing promotion. The Japanese have their famous tea-drinking ceremonies that they have developed for centuries and have now become cultural fixtures of the Japanese people. I am not sure whether they organize annual tea drinking or tasting ceremonies. Africans are endowed with a variety of popular beverages specific to their cultures with the potential to develop them into large-scale annual events both to popularize their cultures and promote business interest among visitors. Urban tourism is thus a broader concept that is still awaiting serious exploration and diversification. Who is going to take the initiative in this particular area? I have no answer.

Society

Utilizing indigenous conflict resolution to maintain peace, security

BY STAFF REPORTER

Ethiopia is home to over 80 distinct ethnic groups. As in any diverse country, these ethnic groups have developed their own unique languages, norms, and cultural and religious values that reflect their identity and entertain them in their day-to-day activities.

One of the many successful indigenous practices that are well-established and effectively exercised by the different ethnic groups is the dispute resolution mechanism.

These ethnic groups, in a manner contextualizing their norms, traditions, social, cultural, political, economic, and religious values, practice the mechanisms to deal with conflicts that may arise between and among themselves, thereby maintaining peace and stability by averting disputes.

Shemgilena, the *Gadaa System*, *Siera (Bobenie)*, and *Abala* are among the customary conflict resolution mechanisms that are practiced among the peoples of Amhara, Oromo, Halaba, and Afar communities, respectively, to deal with disputes and settle conflicts.

These customary dispute resolution methods are more effective and acceptable for resolving disputes between individuals and groups because they are established based on the consensus and goodwill of society.

Most importantly, because the system incorporates community elders and religious leaders, among others, and the punishments enforced on individual disputants take into consideration the reality on the ground, they are more



effective to settle disputes and sustain peace.

Owing to this, their role in effectively managing and addressing conflicts is irreplaceable. However, these days, the systems are eroded due to various factors, which call for more attention.

Following this, recently, a training that aimed to build the capacity of stakeholders drawn from different sections of the community on indigenous conflict resolution systems was organized by the Women and Children Sector of the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs.

The training was organized in collaboration with the UN Women under the topic “Traditional Conflict Resolution Mechanisms in Ethiopia.”

Speaking on the occasion, Women and Children Affairs State Minister Hikma Kayredin emphasized the need to use the wisdom of traditional conflict resolution mechanisms and pass it on to the generation to come.

The State Minister said that whenever a conflict arises, it affects all citizens. However, women, children, the elderly, and the disabled are more vulnerable. It also causes greater damage to the country.

“In our teachings, both cultural and religious, conflict is an unacceptable and unnecessary matter. Thus, everyone should play their part in the national efforts exerted to build lasting and sustainable peace,” she underscored.

According to her, even if the conflict is natural, unavoidable, and can occur for various reasons, it is necessary to resolve disputes peacefully by using the longstanding traditional conflict resolution methods to save the generations.

Mentioning the greater role that indigenous conflict resolution systems play in sustaining peace, she said: “however these days the system is being eroded from time to time due to emerging foreign cultures. We are losing our important traditional and cultural norms and values.”

Therefore, the efforts that started as a

country to maintain and exploit the good values of indigenous wisdom should be further strengthened to sustain peace and build a peaceful country. “We are also expected to utilize these traditional conflict resolution skills effectively and pass them on to the next generation,” she remarked.

In this regard, the training will help to upgrade understanding with respect to indigenous conflict resolution mechanisms, enhancing the role of stakeholders to put the knowledge they have gained into practice. She also urged participants to apply the knowledge they have grasped at the training.

The training conducted for three consecutive days was attended by religious leaders, elders, *Haadha Siinqee*, women peace ambassadors, judges of the cultural courts, representatives of women and youth organizations, and representatives of women’s development unions drawn from Tigray, Oromia, Afar, Gambella, Benishangul, and Central Ethiopia states and deliberated on a range of topics, the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs reported.

Empowering women through maximizing job opportunities

BY MUSSA MUHAMMED

With an effort made to detach women from the cycle of poverty and make them reliant economically, various works are being done by various development partners and stakeholders, concurrent to the activities carried out by the government. As a result, it was possible to capacitate women with the needed knowledge and skills and engage them in income-generating activities. However, due to the scope and depth of the problem, there are still gaps in terms of solving the problem in a sustainable way and making them stand on their own two feet. To this end, various governmental and nongovernmental organizations are exerting utmost effort to accelerate women’s empowerment and improve their livelihood through devising different mechanisms.

Recently, a project dubbed ‘Visit Lalibela’ and aimed at empowering women through technical support in essential sectors was introduced by the Center for Accelerated Women’s Economic Empowerment (CAWEE) in partnership with the German Development Cooperation (GIZ).

As it was stated, the project would be implemented in sectors such as tourism and agriculture to build the capacity of young females in Lalibela Town and empower them economically by creating job opportunities.

The initiative provides marketable skills and market linkage support, focusing on four key sectors: hand-weaving, pottery, female tour guiding, and beeswax extraction. As part of the project activity, an assessment of the current honey potential in Lalibela was conducted by Apinec TVET Training Center, where a workshop was organized to validate the findings.

Accordingly, “Visit Lalibela,” a validation workshop entitled “Assessment of the Existing Honey Potential in Lalibela: Identifying Honey and Beeswax Products,” was held here in Addis Ababa by CAWEE in the presence of stakeholders, pertinent bodies, and partners from GIZ, the Ministry of Agriculture, CAWEE Men Goodwill Ambassadors, and government representatives from Lalibela and Bahir Dar town, among others.

Speaking on the occasion, CAWEE Founder and Executive Director Nigest Haile (PhD)

said that the initiative focuses on equipping women with skills in high-demand areas, including hand-weaving, pottery, beeswax extraction, and tour guiding.

She emphasized that the project’s role is to complement governmental efforts and revitalize the tourism industry while economically empowering local women there in Ethiopia.

The workshop’s significance lies in facilitating the promotion of traditional Ethiopian hand-woven outfits and pottery produced by women. It also aspires to create market connections and validate research on honey production in Lalibela, aiming to involve more women in beeswax-related products like candles and beauty creams.

Out of 100 marginalized young women selected by the Lalibela City Administration, 15 have received training in hand weaving, 15 in pottery, and 20 in tour guiding, allowing them to begin their careers in these sectors, according to Nigest (PhD).

In addition to activities in Ethiopia, CAWEE has established an office in Kenya, Nairobi, and it is in the process of launching satellite

offices in Lomé, Togo; Kinshasa, DRC; and Accra, Ghana, to maximize the potential of African women that promote products created by Ethiopian women.

The Head of the Heritage Conservation and Tourism Development Division at the Lalibela Culture and Tourism Office, Mandefro Tadesse, stated on his part the practical significance of the initiative in terms of supporting the tourism sector in the area and enabling the local community to generate income.

According to him, the trained women in tour guiding and traditional craft businesses have already begun their ventures in Lalibela Town.

The Chairman of the Association of Tour Guides in Lalibela Town, Estalu Kelemu, also highlighted the importance of women’s participation in the tourism sector.

Estalu said that the sector is noting its potential benefits for both the local economy and the broader socio-economic landscape of the country.

CAWEE has been operational in Ethiopia since 2004 and celebrated its 20th anniversary this year.

Law & Politics

The major highlights of the premier's day in parliament

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed was present among the members of the House of Representatives on Thursday, October 31, 2024, to present his explanations that refer to the yearly opening address delivered by the President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Ambassador Taye Atske Selassie, to the joint session of the House of Peoples' Representatives and the House of the Federation. The address was a quick overview of the blueprint of what the government would be doing during the current fiscal year and what future plans it may have. The premier was present among the members of parliament not only to give explanations on the president's blueprint but also to entertain queries about what the MPs say need his substantiation.

Various issues and topics were raised by the MPs, and very detailed questions were also presented to the prime minister. The major issues raised were first and foremost related to the economic situation of the country, the challenges that people face because of the cost of living and inflation, the issue of employment, and the efforts of the government to address this critical problem that is the risk of creating despair and distrust among citizens.

The MPs also raised issues of peace and security in the nation, particularly referring to the situation in certain notorious areas and pockets where citizens have the perception or belief that the control of the government forces seems to struggle, creating anxiety among peaceful citizens.

Issues of law and order and controversies among certain ethnic and identity issues, the challenges the nation is facing due to the government's declared ambition and stance on seeking access to the sea, and the diplomatic rows that followed Ethiopia's signing of an MOU with Somaliland were also raised and discussed.

The allegations that Ethiopia is encroaching on the sovereignty of a neighboring country and the alarm that has been falsely spread by forces that do not have any sympathy for Ethiopia and are not necessarily friends or allies were dismissed as baseless. The premier was asked to shed some light on the latest developments in this area. The premier was also asked to substantiate what exactly were the motives behind the Corridor Development Projects that many have heard complaining that their lives and livelihoods have been negatively affected in earnest due to the demolition of their residences, albeit modestly.

The premier took a long time to address all these major issues on which clear explanation of principles and policies were needed so that there were no ambiguities nor blurred stances on what the government has planned to do going forward in the year and years to come as a fundamental ambition of its efforts. He went on to explain stressing that the international community and

countries that have a stake in these issues need to be well-informed about dismissing false allegations and propaganda against Ethiopia.

In particular, many of the MPs presented questions to the premier on what the policies of his government were to fight against the currently high inflation rate successfully in the wake of the decision of the government to float the Ethiopian Birr and by weakening the value of the Ethiopian birr against the hard currencies with the implementation of the second phase of the Home Grown Economic Reforms as desired and advised by the IMF and the World Bank.

Furthermore, the MPs asked about how the government was engaging itself in its efforts to secure the peace that is lacking in particularly certain areas, such as the Amhara regional state and Oromia, and forcing citizens to endure all sorts of uncertainty and suffering that have resulted from the perceived insecurity and instability. They claimed that citizens were complaining about what they face being forced to endure the extremely dire conditions they are living in.

Questions were also posed regarding the problems relating to certain neighboring countries about the desire of Ethiopia to have some sort of access to the sea on the Red Sea peacefully and diplomatically, as was signed between Ethiopia and Somaliland last January. Some of the government's diplomatic moves were also put into discussion by the MPs wanting to know the exact position or stance of the government on the emerging developments following the stance of the Republic of Somalia on the MOU signed between Somaliland and Ethiopia.

The premier presented a flurry of statistical data to the MPs and the Ethiopian people about what the exact picture of the economy was justifying that the numbers did not lie and that the country is on the right track to come out of dependency and debt-ridden economy to a new beginning that would transform the nation. He started by explaining that the issue of inflation was a huge international challenge that did not spare even the most advanced and developed economies rich with various policy options that do not necessarily apply to the poorer or growing economies such as Ethiopia. He stated that Ethiopia could decrease the rate of inflation to significant levels only by increasing production and employing the workforce of the nation to contribute to growth.

When there are gaps between demand and supply it is natural that prices rise very high and things become unaffordable for people who live on fixed pay such as civil servants who do not have any manners of facing the price hikes the premier noted. The fact that Ethiopia imports many goods from abroad such as particularly fuel, fertilizers, pharmaceutical products, and electronic gadgets contributes to the big imbalance of trade and this presents a challenge to the

capacity of the economy to pay for the gap according to the premier.

The premier noted that among the measures taken to address this economic issue was one of earmarking a huge fund or budget to subsidize many imported goods that could otherwise become very burdensome to particularly low-income citizens. In this regard, he said the earmarked amount is equivalent to the entire budget of the country a few years ago. He cited safety net programs that are meant to help poor communities come out of their predicament due to price hikes that are unaffordable to them.

The premier insisted that most of the measures that are now being taken by his government were long overdue and should have been devised and implemented before things were allowed to reach present-day levels. His government has decided to take certain harsh measures to face the challenge with resolve and put a halt to what would happen otherwise if things were allowed to continue with the old policies that were unfit to address the fundamental problems of the growing economy. At a certain point, we are all forced to swallow bitter pills but the positive results will come in due time he pointed out.

Pretending that problems did not exist or dismissing reality would not help us continue with the current trajectory of our country. In this regard, the country's trade deficit is also a major stumbling block for smooth growth because this presents a lack of foreign currency to pay for the imports which are critically needed in the country. Not everything can be substituted by homemade goods as some of these goods cannot now be produced at home. That is why the country needs a lot of foreign currency that could be earned through foreign direct investment in the country by foreign governments and companies and other forms of income such as the export of goods from Ethiopia such as gold, coffee being among the most valuable ones for export. There are also others which are now being added to the list. Soon wheat, tea, oil seeds, fruits, and horticulture as well as services that Ethiopia exports will have a huge contribution to filling certain gaps in our economy.

Ethiopia will also increase its hydropower to be exported to neighboring countries in exchange for foreign currency, the expansion of the tourism sector in particular conference tourism.

The premier said that there has been significant growth in all these sectors and more is planned for the coming years but a lot more needs to be done without complacency, he added. A lot has been said about Ethiopia's immense potential to attract tourists but certain preconditions need to be fulfilled, there is ground to increase the remittance by the diaspora but they should be convinced that the government is making the best out of it and not squander it to only enlarge its political base.

On the issue of good governance and corruption, the premier said that the state is not involved in any form of corruption but this does not mean that humans are totally free of certain malpractices, particularly in delivering well what is expected of them by citizens and that certain forms of illegalities such as nepotism were totally eliminated. However, the government the premier said, was committed to do all in its capacity to address similar hiccups. Investments can thrive only if the manner of doing business in the country is assisted by efficient and well-to-do bureaucrats and skilled manpower.

Regarding the case of employment, the premier said that there are plans to engage more than four million people in the current year, and about twenty percent of it is composed of employment abroad, not only in the Middle East but also in Europe, with skilled manpower to be legally recruited with the fulfillment of all the preconditions. The issue of cost of living and inflation is not simple to address fully and successfully, but the trends in the last couple of years are very encouraging, the premier remarked. Inflation does exist and continues to grow, but at a decreasing pace, and through time, our plan of keeping it within single digits could be realized if we work hard.

Part of the issue of economic growth and the plague of inflation is also addressed through the Corridor Development Project that is being executed not only in Addis Ababa, which by the way has attracted the admiration and appreciation of many, but also in several other regional cities such as Bahir Dar, Gondar, Jimma, Harar, etc. Changing cities and urban areas with the principles of what is being implemented in Addis Ababa will eventually change the way people live and hence make their lives better and prepare them to experience growth, prosperity, and a more decent life.

The premier said that prosperity could be attained by beginning to urbanize well, availing citizens' decent housing and the entire necessary infrastructure to raise kids in a clean and healthy environment, and keeping the country green with the Green Legacy Initiative and its application. Already progress is being experienced in this regard, the premier told parliament, and more is in the pipeline, but the indispensable element in all this is the issue of peace, and he has again urged all armed forces who are trying to have their way through the use of force, and that could not be realized with how things stand now, he warned.

Abiy pointed out that our mentality of how to be involved in politics must be totally changed because the use of force cannot deliver what we want to achieve. These are outmoded ways of trying to address political issues, and the premier reiterated that only having discussions seated around a table would resolve all our outstanding issues of any kind, and in this regard, the formation of the National Dialogue Commission must be taken more seriously by all stakeholders from whichever political ideology or belief.

BY EPHREM ENDALE

Between you & me

The people voted...and then!

Finally the day of reckoning, or maybe the day of reflecting, is here; Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

Take that comedian's reference of Puerto Rico at the Madison Square Garden trump rally mentioning the place as "a floating island of garbage" or something like that. Yes even for us who are so far away physically and perhaps mostly not so well attached mentally with people over there it was difficult to find the joke any humorous. But they say the guy was always like that and there was no reason to make so hot an issue out of it. Yes, it didn't go well with many. But this one of the most off-the-mark and highly charged election of all time and every word was up for the closest scrutiny.

Look I personally think that all those of us around this part of the globe ought to do is follow what all sides say and just keep up with the flow of the whole thing without being judgmental. Because there probably is much more that is not being said in spite of all the stuff out in the open. However nice we can be we couldn't say that there aren't any behind the curtain things in all this. Time for taking a stand here! There definitely are. Politics has taken so many turns and twists, even in the American elections there appears to be some subtle foreign meddling, attempted or set in motion. And even within the members of the two political parties' blood what is running is probably not only over what we're hearing and watching even American voters aren't expected to know.

However we back here trying to make sense of the whole thing couldn't keep ourselves from asking questions. Yes, the narratives sound like maybe these people know the final

hour has arrived and make to make their marks in ways they want before it's too late. Why are they calling it the most consequential election of all time? Is it because of the two candidates and those behind them or is it because of the issues?

The personal attacks, the accusations, the assumptions, the conspiracy theories and the like are ... like in most elections. But this time things have gone over many edges so much so that man rescue efforts don't seem to make any impact. Take for example the recent allegations of President Joe Biden calling Trump's supporters "Garbage." Marco Rubio performed some of the most interesting reality show when he jumps while the former president was addressing a rally and telling the audience that Joe Biden has just called them garbage. But Biden's supports weren't to take that sitting down. They immediately go into counterattack mode and that is where the narrative of the apostrophe came. Though it sounds the only out it was one good defensive tactic. Kamala played the perfect politician here when she refrained from denouncing her boss's comments that she was going to be president for all Americans whether they voted for her or not.

But why is the democratic candidate fixated on the name Donald Trump? "Was it a campaign strategy formulated by her advisers or does she just have so much hate and lodging for the man and couldn't ...her emotions. In almost every speech the name Donald Trump seems to be taking much of the time. Indeed her narratives concerning Trump are filled with so much negativity her claim of working o bring Americans together seems to be largely falling on the wayside.

Even the target of her one-man carpet bombing says that she talks of unity and in the next sentence she calls him a fascist. But then she wouldn't have done t for nothing unless it was part of the strategy to scare the hell out of everybody forcing them to imagine what a 'fascist' trump would do to the once he gets the presidency.

We have mentioned the American media few times before. And while we've no research on anything to support the claim there was a time when the true face of the American media was revealed as clearly as it is. Even for us 'spectators' of the whole drama take CNN and Fox News. They sounded as if they were the communication and propaganda departments of the two parties! I'm not exaggerating. They don't even give the benefit of the doubt where due and just go on blasting the other side. One thing is sure many of the journalist in these two places and scores of other media outlets don't seem to have no deeper than skin-deep knowledge of the whole thing. At times they sound so foolishly bizarre!

I had these repeated lengthy discussions with a relative of mine over there who having gone there almost two decades back was the supporter of one party. But this time he tells me he is confused how to vote. He wraps the whole thing with, "What I'm having it hard to understand is that how America ended up with these two candidates?"

Then comes the issue of Donald Trump first as fascist and then upping it to "Hitler!" And I texted a fellow I know residing in the Big Apple asking him what were the practical examples enough to convince people that he was really a fascist. He says, "None!" And he'd vote for Harris if only to stay loyal to his

long-time party.

A Glen Beck latest video is titled, "Why You Must Prepare for the Left's CHAOS If Trump Wins." The implication seems to be if you have to fear anyone, fear the democrats.

One report says "A refusal by Trump to accept a victory by Democratic rival Kamala Harris could throw the United States into political instability at a time when the country is already deeply divided." Another one goes, "Discussion of violence among right-wing extremists has already spiked online, and unlike Vice President Kamala Harris, Trump has refused to say that he would concede." By the way it's the vice president herself who would have to certify the results."

The civil disobedience fear comes from trumps supporters. To be fair there hasn't been much talk of violence from the Harris fans. They say a recent poll was taken on the issue and 69% of those polled said Trump wouldn't concede defeat while 73% said Kamala Harris would concede. Donald Trump himself is quoted as having said back in September, "If I lose - I'll tell you what, it's possible; because they cheat. That's the only way we're gonna lose, because they cheat." One flag waving elderly trump supporter was asked if there'll be a January 6 again in the event of Trump defeat. She says, "No. There'd be civil war." In another video a burly giant of a man says that they were armed and if Trump loses there would be a revolution. My friend says that was the one thing he was really worried about. He says," After Election Day Americans forget everything about the whole thing and life continues. I don't think that would be the case this time around."

The 'Bill' & The 'Tyson punch!'

A few of us sat with a friend of ours who was visiting after quite a lot of time. The treatment wasn't anywhere close to what you wanted it to be. The place having stayed in business for quite a long time you'd have expected a gold-medal treatment. No, that wasn't the case. And we have a visitor who has been away for much longer than a decade and we wanted him to have a real good time. In the first time it took them some time before anybody came to take our orders. Once our orders were given it took them so long that one of us has to bang the table. A rather short heavysset woman comes and before she could even ask what was the case this guy showers with a barrage of words practically cutting her to her size for the way they treated us. This time it seems we really got their attention. She goes rushes to the kitchen and when she returned a few minutes later she was in the most cordial mood splashing her apologies literally all over our table. She says some problem happened in the kitchen and delayed the chefs and our orders would arrive in a few minutes. With that she leaves and several heartbeats later our orders arrive. Aha! Now we at least would do justice to our screaming just summarized it with, none of us could go as far as a quarter of our dish. It was that bad. Without much more fuss we practically fled the place.

When they make you feel you don't really count, no pain could be more acute! Through their actions they're telling you "You're inconsequential; you're no one!" But then when you experience much more than your fair of such mistreatments, and when push

goes to shove, injustices you tend to try to fit in. Fit in! Yes fit in. Meaning that you just try to act as if nothing happened when you order and they serve you something which looks like the blackest of coffees in the business.

"What's this?"

"I beg your pardon!" A waitress who answers using a complete sentence! That's not bad.

"What the hell is this? I ordered tea and not this...this, whatever it is!"

"But that's tea!" That's one surprised waitress, isn't she? She's not surprised that you're served something so unsightly in place of tea complaining for being served the place's favorite tea!

I mean, they're here to serve as well as we expect to be served. And it gives you the worst kind of shivers when they try to treat you as if you were somewhere you're wanted and the only thing you'd be doing creating problems say maybe beg for alms! ("Beg for alms!" Did I just say that! Yes, I did. Especially if you're dressed in the most casual way meaning those cheaper clothes of the Sunday markets you'd be subject to those evil, and conspiratorial side glances. One very sad thing about our society is that if you're too casually dressed it means you are carrying around the thinnest of wallets in your pockets. And there is no part which makes it your obligation to play ball with this group or that.

Lunch having been a nonevent we sat for coffee at another place where our discussions

went into what our experience at the dinning place. The two of us locals tried to shrug it off with, "What the hell can you do while such things happen to be the norm in many places. It seemed we've already thrown the towel into the ring when it comes to treatment not only the service and entertainment industry but also in our more serious official dealings too.

Our table-banging friend was having none of it. While he never set a single foot out of Addis let alone the country he says, "We are tax payers; and it's because of us they get their salaries." Wow! (I'm not fond of that term as it has been misused so brutally around here it has lost whatever color it had!) Now this guy is playful and he enjoyed spicing up our more serious discussions or even the most nonsense of talks some humor. This time humor was the last thing on his mind. He goes into some impassioned narrative saying the public should have had enough of such mistreatment and gone into action. And what does he mean by that? Well, he says we just should boycott such places and put them out of business. Well, you could call that a meaningful suggestion. But what about the unintended results like thousands who regularly dine out! So it might be easy to make such suggestions when you're not forced to dine outside and the hot dish is on the table before you even go through your front door. There are bachelor and bachelorettes who couldn't even fry a single egg let alone a whole dinner.

Our visiting friend was so excited that he gave a high five to our table-banger. "I didn't know

people have started using that in this country! You people are catching up fast." Oh that's what you think? The other friend starts telling him that wasn't the case and our table-banger friend was the exception. Even he never uses it in the places he should. He asks our visiting friend if he heard the guy using that phrase in that dining place.

"So what!" Our visiting friend wasn't letting us go that easily. "The most important thing was the realization that it is the only way you can stand up to mistreatments. You've to know it is indeed with your tax money the millions of service givers are paid their salaries and you should be more confrontational to ensure your rights are respected."

But that is in America and it doesn't work here."

Why doesn't it work! Did the society really try?"

It was turning into an argument which we couldn't fully understand, win or even make any sense of. He goes to tell us that across the oceans the phrase "I'm a tax payer;" was a very lethal weapon with which you make sure your rights are respected. But does it mean what works over there could work here as well. It could; why not! But changing attitudes is a lifelong process even if it sounds a self-defeating attitude the fact is that being what we're now it'd take us quite a while to come anywhere close to that. The irony of it all that you're mistreated in certain places and when the bill comes a Tyson furious punch wouldn't have been so painful!

In Pictures

Strengthening multilateral, bilateral diplomacy

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

President Taye attends COMESA Summit in Burundi



President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Taye Atske-Selassie arrived in Bujumbura, Burundi on Wednesday to attend the 23rd of COMESA Heads of States and Government Summit, taking place on 31st of October 2024.

Upon President Taye and his delegation's arrival at the international airport, President Ebariste Ndayishimiye and other high-ranking officials of Burundi welcomed president Taye and his delegation.

This year's COMESA Summit theme is "Accelerating Regional Integration through the Development of Regional Value Chains in Climate Resilient Agriculture, Mining, and Tourism."

FM Gedion welcomed by staff ahead of new tenure



The former Justice Minister, Gedion Timothewos (PhD) was appointed a week ago by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) as new Minister of Foreign Affairs. His appointment was approved by the House of Peoples Representatives this week.

Following the approval of his position, the leadership and staff of the ministry welcomed the new FM this week and wished his a successful tenure.

After inaugurating the opening of the new embassy, FM Gedion and Slovenia's DPM and FM, Tanja Fajino discussed on strengthening diplomatic relations of their nations. Fajino reaffirmed her country's commitment to enhancing diplomatic relations with Ethiopia.

FM Gedion said for his part that the opening of the embassy will play significant role in deepening ties between Ethiopia and Slovenia and bolsters collaboration within the European and African communities.



Slovenia opens embassy in Ethiopia

With the aim of strengthening its relations with Ethiopia, Slovenia officially opens its Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on Friday 01 November 2024.

Ethiopia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Gedion Timothewos (PhD) and Slovenia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Tanja Fajino opened the inauguration of the embassy.



Premier Abiy discusses with South Sudan President's Special Envoy

On Friday, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) received Martin Elia Lemuro (PhD), Special Envoy of President Salva Kiir of South Sudan. The Special Envoy came to Ethiopia to deliver a message of President Salva Kiir to PM Abiy.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed on bilateral and regional issues.

