

Taking effect of CFA boon to Egypt, Sudan

BY YESUF ENDRIS

Following the accession of six Nile Basin countries to the Cooperation Framework Agreement (CFA), hopes rose for a lasting solution to the Abbay (Nile) River conflict. However, Egypt and Sudan have renewed their rejection of the CFA and are seeking to establish an alternative platform.

Ethiopia has repeatedly urged the remaining riparian countries to reconsider their opposition to the CFA, which promotes fairness and mutual development. Critics argue that this resistance reflects a reluctance to abandon colonial-era water-sharing agreements that granted Egypt and Sudan the lion's share of the Nile's resources.

Egypt's stance is driven by a mix of historical privilege and political necessity. Egyptian authorities claim Ethiopia's Abbay Dam threatens their water security, a position strongly rejected by Ethiopian officials.

Ethiopia's Water and Energy Minister, Habtamu Itefa (PhD-Eng.), emphasized that the CFA framework is designed not only to benefit Ethiopia but also to address regional water scarcity and agricultural challenges. He stressed that Ethiopia's approach to the Nile is based on fairness and mutual benefit.

"We care about the people of Sudan and Egypt like our own citizens," he said in a recent interview with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA). "All riparian countries, including Egypt and Sudan, should engage in dialogue. A lasting solution can only be reached through continuous, constructive dialogue, not by being in and out of negotiations."

Ethiopia has consistently advocated for the CFA as the only viable solution for equitable

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State supplies over 3,200 kg of gold to central bank

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - Oromia Mining Authority announced that the state has supplied over 3,200 kilograms of gold to the central bank over the past four months.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, the Authority's Geologist Alemayehu Oljiraa said that the gold production in the state has seen significant improvements in recent times that enabled the state to supply over 3,200 kilograms of gold to the National Bank of Ethiopia just in four months.

The recent macroeconomic See State supplies ... Page 3



Nefisa Almejadi

Ministry expects regional festival to foster public diplomacy

Ethiopia modernizing systems to promote cotton contract farming

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA – The Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) announced that it is streamlining systems in a bid to advance the country's cotton contract farming.

Ministry's Cotton Development Executive Officer Samson Assefa told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that Ethiopia is among the countries that have favorable agro ecology for cotton production notably in Gambella, Benishangul-Gumuz, Somali, Afar, Amhara and Oromia states among other rich areas.

He also noted that the ministry is currently undertaking a range of activities to stimulate



the sector by fostering direct linkages with the industry and bearing a profound achievement from the country's immense potentials.

Samson added that the conducted research findings revealed that the nation has about 3 million hectares of land which would be See Ethiopia modernizing ... Page 3

News



Simenew Keskes

MinT, INSA join forces to fortify Ethiopia against cyber threats

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA –The Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MinT) has teamed up with the Information and Network Security Agency (INSA) to tackle national-level cyber-attacks driven by the rapid expansion of digital services.

MinT Technology Advisor Simenew Keskes emphasized the importance of collaboration, stating that ensuring information security is beyond the capacity of a single organization. He mentioned ongoing efforts to strengthen infrastructure and enhance citizens' capacity to counter future cyber threats.

"In the digital world, cyber-attacks are becoming increasingly sophisticated and damaging. Addressing these threats requires awareness and preparedness at personal, institutional, and national levels," Simenew explained.

He likened the effort to securing a safe by locking its door, underscoring the need for proactive measures in the digital space. According to him, cyber-attacks have frequently targeted critical infrastructures such as financial and defense institutions, emphasizing the need for a skilled workforce to detect and respond effectively to these threats.

Simenew also stressed the importance of national-level coordination and collaboration, as no single institution can shoulder the responsibility of safeguarding information security alone.

MinT's five-year strategy, Digital 2025, is spearheading efforts to digitize government operations and services, aiming to create a paperless society. While progress has been made, particularly in digitizing health, education, and training sectors, Simenew acknowledged that Ethiopia still lags behind global advancements.

"We are encouraged by the results so far, but there is much more to achieve. Our focus remains on empowering and training citizens to prepare for the digital future," he concluded.

Commission prevents 730 mln Birr embezzlement in Q1

• Stresses youth involvement in combating corruption

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA-The Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission announced that it successfully prevented the embezzlement of 730 million Birr during the first quarter of this fiscal year.

In a press briefing held yesterday to mark the 21st International Anti-Corruption Day, the Commission outlined its efforts to safeguard government assets. It reported that the 730 million Birr was protected at the national level, stemming from corruption-related activities across various sectors.

During the briefing, Gezahagn Gashaw, the Lead Executive Officer of Emergency Corruption Prevention at the Commission, emphasized that the Commission's primary objective is to combat corruption through investigation, prosecution, and prevention on a national scale.

He further noted that in the first quarter of this fiscal year, the Commission conducted 203 emergency corruption prevention activities, resulting in the recovery of 730 million Birr. "Several officials have been held accountable," he added. "Moreover, urban and rural land valued at 4 million Birr was successfully protected from embezzlement."

The Commission is marking the 21st



International Anti-Corruption Day under the theme, "Youth-Centered Anti-Corruption Struggle, Building Tomorrow's Leaders," with a series of campaigns at both the federal and state levels.

Gezahagn also highlighted that Ethiopia is strengthening its international partnerships in the fight against corruption. By focusing efforts on preventing corruption and involving the youth in this struggle, the commission aims not only to enhance its anti-corruption initiatives but also to contribute to the development of a stronger, more resilient nation.

The Head of the Commissioner's Office, Tesfaye Shameru, stated that corruption is an international problem, not just a national issue. He emphasized the importance of youth participation in the fight against corruption, noting that corruption hinders

development and negatively impacts society and the economy. He urged that youth must cultivate strong ethical behavior. "Religious and educational institutions play a crucial role in combating corruption by helping to build a generation with good ethics," he added.

Tesfaye also mentioned that in the first quarter of this fiscal year, the Commission has been receiving reports of corrupt activities through its newly established digital reporting platform.

The closing ceremony for the 21st International Anti-Corruption Day in Ethiopia will be held on December 11, 2024.

Ethiopia signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption on December 10, 2003, and ratified it on November 26, 2007, reaffirming its commitment to preventing and combating corruption.

Forum highlights solutions to remove barriers in menstrual health

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDISABABA-The Menstrual Advancement Platform-Public-Private Dialogue (MAP-PPD) forum emphasized on addressing issues related to critical regulatory, financial, distribution and awareness challenges within Menstrual Health and Hygiene (MHH) sector.

The MAP-PPD is a collaborative initiative established to remove systematic barriers within MHH sector through structured dialogue between public and private sectors. Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA), and Ministry of Health together with Agence Francaise de Development (AFD) recently held public private dialogue.

Presenting the outcomes and action plans from EAGate, Sisay Duche mentioned that making standards mandatory, enhancing transparency in testing procedures as well as improving awareness on certification qualification is crucial to bring tangible change.

Moreover, improving collaboration with international partners and addressing taxing and pricing issues are fundamental. Likewise, he underlined that among the major points the forum highlighted are preparing guideline for manufacturers, and addressing systematic import hurdles and societal taboos.

Underlining the outcomes from PPD with regard to awareness and distribution, EAGate's Project Manager Anteneh Tesemma noted that improving distribution and accessibility is vital.



Integrating menstrual hygiene in education curriculum is essential to improve the awareness of students and communities thereby addressing societal taboos, he stated.

Besides addressing regulatory and financial challenges, Anteneh underlined that menstrual hygiene distribution needs to be linked with initiatives such as school feeding program to achieve better result.

In this regard, the forum will provide a foundation to address bottlenecks identified within MHH sector, reaffirm alignment on responsibilities, and prepare for the effective

implementation of action plans to alleviate period poverty in Ethiopia, he stressed.

According to MoWSA Minister, Ergogie Tesfaye (PhD), the Public-private dialogue on menstrual health demonstrates the power of collaboration in solving complex challenges.

"By integrating efforts of the ministries, private stakeholders and communities, we are setting the foundation for sustainable and economic equitable access to menstrual hygiene solutions in Ethiopia," she underscored.

AFDEthiopia Country Director Luis Antoine Souchet, indicated that finding solutions collectively among public and private stakeholders is the key to building sustainable value chain for MHH products in Ethiopia.

The public-private partnership is effective tool in this regard, the Director noted.

MoWSA's Women Mobilization and Participation Enhancement Director Seleshi Tadesse stated that absence of access to menstrual hygiene remained a challenge in the country.

As to him, the problem with inaccessibility, affordability and related issues are the major reasons for absenteeism and school dropout for many women and girls in the nation.

Thus, the forum will establish a foundational commitment and assessment framework to address bottlenecks identified within the menstrual health and hygiene (MHH), Seleshi noted.

News

Ministry expects regional festival to foster public diplomacy

BY NAOL GIRMA

ADDIS ABABA - Ministry of Culture and Sports announced that the upcoming East African Art and Culture Festival would promote public diplomacy in the region through enhancing intercultural dialogues and shared understandings.

During her meeting with ambassadors from different East African countries held yesterday, Culture and Sports State Minister Nefisa Almeahadi said that East Africa is a melting pot of ethnicities, languages and cultures, each contributing to the awakening of their common identity.

“Thus, the Festival not only highlights these diversities, but also paves the way for greater intercultural dialogues and understanding by strengthening ties between our people,” she noted.

She also called upon ambassadors to join hands in promoting the good causes of the Festival.

Djiboutian Deputy Ambassador to Ethiopia

Musa Jame, who participated in the discussion told *The Ethiopian Herald* that leveraging social media and international partnerships is mandatory to promote the Festival globally.

“This can be done through collaborating with tourism sector and travel agencies to create package deals for international visitors,” he said.

Kenyan Embassy in Addis Ababa Representative, Osman Hajji for his part said that cultural showcases are essential for highlighting the unique artistic expression of each country by featuring diverse range of art forms- be it traditional music, dance or visual arts.

“We can attract broader audience and deepen appreciation for our culture,” Hajji said.

The festival is expected to take place in Addis Ababa from 23rd to 26th January 2025, under the theme of “Promoting Collaboration through Art and Culture.” Cultural exchanges, cultural showcases, art exhibitions, and conferences are expected to take place throughout the festival.

Ethio-China film festival to bridge cultures, boost artistic exchange

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA - Stakeholders believe the upcoming Ethio-China Film and Television Festival, set to take place from December 20-23, 2024, will play a significant role in strengthening people-to-people connections between Ethiopia and China.

State Minister of Culture and Sports, Nefisa Almahdi, emphasized the importance of the art sector in fostering global integration by promoting political, social, and economic ties. “Ethiopia and China have strong socio-economic connections.

“Therefore, this film festival offers an ideal platform to diversify our partnerships and strengthen public diplomacy,” she said. Nefisa also highlighted that the festival will further enhance cultural exchange between the two countries.

She noted that the festival offers a unique opportunity for Ethiopian artists to showcase their works and gain insight into Chinese cinematography and art.

Zhang Yawei, the Cultural Counselor at the Chinese Embassy in Ethiopia, pointed out that both China and Ethiopia are ancient civilizations with rich, diverse cultural heritages and stunning natural landscapes. “These cultural and natural resources have laid a solid foundation for the development of the film and television industry,” she said.

Zhang also emphasized that the Ethio-China Film and Television Festival represents a new platform for cooperation between the film and television sectors of both nations. “This festival is a powerful tool to enhance mutual understanding and friendship between the peoples of Ethiopia and China, opening a new chapter of cultural cooperation and exchange,” she added.

The festival will feature a diverse range of Ethiopian and Chinese films, including the first Ethiopian film *Hirut Abatwa Manew*. In addition, the event will host panel discussions, workshops, and other programs aimed at motivating Ethiopia’s art sector and its practitioners.

Taking effect of CFA boon ...

water sharing. The agreement, now supported by six riparian countries, paves the way for the Nile Basin Commission, a multilateral body to oversee the river’s sustainable management.

“The recent Water Ministers’ council meeting in Entebbe, Uganda, showed progress toward this goal,” said Habtamu. “One key agenda was to persuade Egypt and Sudan to reconsider their rejection of the CFA. A committee has been formed to facilitate negotiations with the unsigned countries.” He added, “With sustained diplomatic efforts, the CFA can become a unifying framework for the region.”

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesperson Ambassador Nebiyat Getachew also stated, “The CFA is highly beneficial and offers lasting solutions.” He added that, with the cooperation of other riparian countries, Ethiopia is working to make the agreement a source of mutual development.

Despite Ethiopia’s efforts, challenges remain to the CFA’s implementation. Some interest groups resist the agreement, prioritizing equity in Abbay water usage, and use the Abbay Dam issue to gain domestic political

support.

By framing the Abay Dam as a threat, Egyptian leaders may gain political backing. However, this strategy could limit Egypt’s ability to engage with the growing cooperation of riparian countries, where the CFA is seen as a path to shared prosperity.

Meanwhile, Sudan aligns with Egypt, despite its own interests in equitable water sharing, which align more closely with Ethiopia’s. External pressures, however, seem to prevent Sudan from taking an independent stance.

Habtamu believes the CFA’s accession by six riparian countries marks a significant step toward ending inequitable water-sharing laws. Once fully operational, the Nile Basin Commission could provide a platform for dialogue and dispute resolution.

However, this vision depends on the willingness of all riparian states to participate. For Egypt and Sudan, the CFA requires recognizing that their long-term water security lies within an inclusive framework prioritizing shared development, the Minister concluded.

Ethiopia modernizing systems ...

cultivated both in rain-fed and irrigation schemes.

“To date, the cultivated amount is at its infant stage which is not exceeding 1,000 hectares,” he added.

Citing the limited number of engaging investors in the sector, the officer indicated that an average of 30 to 50 smallholder farmers are taking part in the sector on annual basis.

Mentioning the developing trends of the sector, Samson said that it enabled China, Brazil and USA to earn a large chunk of money annually, and create decent jobs for millions of citizens.

“Indeed, the ministry is exerting its utmost efforts to fully leverage the country’s endowments which in turn expediting its economic transformation,” he underscored.

Aside from expanding productivity, quality and competitive price, he emphasized the need to work collaboratively and fostering linkages between the industry and regions.

He also elaborated that the country is still investing a huge amount of money for

cotton importation to outreach the local manufacturing industries.

Moreover, Samson said his organization, in collaboration with various institutions, is striving to supply improved seeds, chemicals and technologies to boost productivity.

“The ministry is amplifying efforts to address challenges like irregularities in the market value chain that impact the sector’s growth, job creation and the overall seamless progress of the contract agricultural expansion contributing for land coverage.”

Ranges of activities are being carried out to create a playground for the existing and potential farming communities and investors to enhance production capacities to promote import substitution and export trade, he remarked.

Urging regional stakeholders to play their due role on going national interventions towards enhancing the yielding capacity, he emphasized the remaining homework that need special heed while capacitating the trading systems, input and financial provisions.

State supplies over 3,200 kg ...

measures have greatly benefited the state in controlling contraband activities, which was challenging the mining sector especially gold production, he stated.

So far, Alemayehu said that the Authority has issued over 2,000 small and large scale mining exploration and production licenses for domestic and foreign investors.

This Ethiopian fiscal year alone, it has issued some 200 new licenses for small and large scale producers. Currently, some 60 types of mines have been producing in the region, he said.

The Authority has been issuing licenses that have two, five and ten years of terms for domestic and foreign investors with the possibility of renewal or extension. There are also new gold discoveries in the state

that need further exploration, according to the Geologist.

Since, the state has untapped potential to be exploited in the future, the sector has created ample job opportunities and generated foreign exchange earnings. In the future, the Authority has planned to attract potential investors to support country’s economic development, he expressed.

“Now, we are in the phase of identification or mapping as the mapping in mining has not been completed. Testing technologies and knowledge gaps are challenging,” he noted.

Alemayehu mentioned that the authority has been working with different universities and other stakeholders to effectively utilize the sector to support country’s economic growth.

Opinion

High time for nurturing priceless social asset—peace

BY MENGESHA AMARE

The culture of living in harmony, through sense of fraternity, social cohesion is of paramount importance in having a productive generation, be it the existing one of the posterity to come. Yes, getting the reign of peace prettily proliferated has to be the prime thematic area in Ethiopia to create a stable and prosperous nation. The government of Ethiopia is doing all its best along this line.

Unambiguously, a peace deal is important because it can stop violence and address several disagreements, grudges, contentions, rivalries, as well as the underlying causes of conflict. Cognizant of the fact that working for peace helps promote understanding, the Ethiopian government has been inviting groups warring here and there in the nation so as to enable the nation and its citizens to come together and promote understanding. It has also been working towards creating mechanisms for non-violent conflict resolution since the northern conflict two years ago.

Ideally, peace deals should create or revive mechanisms for resolving conflicts without violence, and it is also of significantly useful in addressing other related issues such as formalizing borders, establishing processes for resolving future disputes, apportioning resources, addressing the negative repercussions of war, among others.

An example of a peace deal is the Ethiopia–Tigray peace agreement, also known as the Pretoria Agreement or the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA). This agreement was signed in 2022 between the government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF).

Yes, peace agreements are contracts intended to end a violent conflict, or to significantly transform a conflict, so that it can be more constructively addressed. There are various types of agreements that can be reached during a peace process, indeed! Without a shadow of a doubt, bringing the reign of peace in the skies of Ethiopia is the number one priority of the reform government. It has been devising all possible mechanisms to ensure peace and security since long back cognizant of the fact that peace is the underpinning of very fruitful activity.

The effort of the government for calling on all parties to resort to peaceful struggle through a round table discussions and close talks started from the outset of the ongoing reform undertakings. Since then, innumerable parties that previously opted for violence as a means to achieve political goals pay attention to the call and put down their arms, and have become committed to present their respective queries to the

concerned body. Such an affirmative pace has started bearing fruits as the stability of the nation has been well restored though there are minor irregularities here and there.

Despite the two-year war that was meant to uphold the rule of law and the subsequent loss of lives from both sides, a reign of peace has been achieved on the heels of the signing of the Pretoria agreement that was signed two years plus ago.

Of late, the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) representatives signed a peace deal with the Oromia State government, and the news has filled the air with hope and optimism in Ethiopia. That is not the only case, the group that calls itself ‘*Kimant*’ has also been paving the boulevard to come to the right track as these factions agreed to voice their respective concerns in a peaceful means.

It is well recognized that a peace agreement would help stop violence, address the roots of conflict and revive mechanisms for non-violent resolution of conflicts.

Cognizant of the fact that successful peace deal creates an environment supportive of self-sustaining, attracts durable peace, prevents conflict from restarting, integrates general public, and addresses underlying structural and societal issues, the Ethiopian government has been working from dawn to dusk towards this end.

Unequivocally, the government is duty bound to provide citizens with stable, serene and calm living area. That is why it is taking the lion’s share in inviting those who are warring here and there residing in the jungles. Yes, nothing is much more exciting than helping citizens breathe a sigh of relief. As the Pretoria Peace Agreement has enhanced a new culture of putting an end to conflicts by soliciting political solutions through round table discussions and close talks, the same fashion has been applied these days towards creating a stable and lively nation. This bold move amplifies the importance of a mature and resolute decision of the government to prevent future generations from inheriting a birthright of winners and losers characterized by loathing and ill will.

In sum, the positive strides inaugurated to instill the reign of peace have to be well duplicate and put widely into practice to help Ethiopians have a well intertwined harmonious way of living. The government has also been diligently working towards hugging brothers and sisters in the bush to root an everlasting peaceful culture. The country has thus taken remarkable swift action in restoring peace and tranquility across the nation with a view to coming up with a stable, productive and lively scenario.

Let Ethiopia learn from past scenarios and fetch cardinal lessons out of it in a bid to bring about a new generation who are

fond of collaboration over confrontation, amity over enmity, embracing over pushing apart so long as well all have one beloved country—Ethiopia. Yes, the aforesaid agreement of state government with armed forces would open wider doors to peace and confidently help Ethiopia address the long-heaped troubles.

Discussion forums, dialogs and close talk sessions have to be prepared to discuss important and leading ideas that will elevate peace and prosperity in various states in particular and across the nation in general. As the government has played a significant role in the process of peacekeeping both at the continental and global levels, it would be easy for it to address peace challenges and societal hurdles via fostering peace deals and proper accords.

No doubt, Ethiopia has made substantial contributions to the freedom, peace, and good governance in Africa. Hence, the peace deals have to be designed to ensure regional, national and even continental peace and prosperity. The aforesaid deal further aims at fostering dialogue and collaboration among Ethiopians so as to address the challenges and opportunities related to peace and prosperity in regional states like Oromia and Amhara in particular.

The deal is also expected to contribute to enhancing the efforts to create a more integrated, strong and prosperous regional states by strengthening cooperation and unity among/between themselves. Furthermore, the peace deal intends to utilize diversity as a source of strength that enhances people-to-people relations, socioeconomic cohesion, and common goals targeting at creating a peaceful and prosperous Ethiopia.

Basically, concluding peace deals is considered a milestone in the peace goal that Ethiopia has set for itself in due course of ensuring peace and security. In clear terms, the various peace and security issues in the nation are linked to development issues, social harmony, fraternity and sense of belongingness. Thus, promoting peace, security and stability has to be a prime agenda for all Ethiopians and a prerequisite for the implementation of development and integration agenda. Yes, buttressing such a positive move is of paramount importance in having a stable nation.

That is why the government all the time urges different parties including those fighting in the bush to come to the right track son as to build a peaceful country together. Basically, the major challenge for the peace, security and development nexus is the persistent divide among parties, warring factions and the community residing in the Diaspora. However, it is easy to solve all disparities if everyone is working for Ethiopia’s prosperity.

All bodies have to focus on the joint strategy that integrates the peace and security and development instead of working against the peace of the country. Deals like the above ones require a joint forum of peace and security and close talks, parties had better enjoy discussing and solving problems together.

The peace deal is expected to be well expanded to get many participants actively engaged in sharing insights from different perspectives. In this respect issues that may be highlighted have to be well put into practical action.

Since the country and its government are working for peaceful and harmonious way of living, every citizens has to collaborate the government in terms of preventing conflict as this step can help reduce human suffering and economic costs, helping people feel they have a voice in decisions that affect their lives and supporting peace advocates and follow reliable news sources.

If truth be told, putting the peace deal into practice and helping different actors could hardly be fruitful following the sole effort of the government. Hence, the effort needs to be well backed by the international community. As the Ethiopian government is willing to open doors for close talks and dialogs, all rounded undertakings have to be recognized and acknowledged with a view to ensuring peace and security across the nation. It is of course recurrently heralded that no one benefits out of conflict, disagreement and sense of rivalry. Cognizant of this fact, the Ethiopian government has called on parties fighting against it so as to make a peaceful nation.

In sum, the peace deal that is entertained applied by the government with a view to promoting stability in the nation, facilitating economic activities and reinvigorating the smooth flow of every aspect of life in the country. Such an invaluable step would definitely lead the nation to a more apt social, economic, cultural, and even political trajectory whereby Ethiopia would be in a position to bring about real change in all aspects.

Most importantly, each type of peace deal has a distinct purpose and serves a value in itself towards building positive momentum for a final settlement. As not all types of deals or agreements are needed for each conflict, some processes like what was concluded between the government and OLA can have step-by-step conformity that lead towards a comprehensive and absolute settlement and stability statue.

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

Editorial

Ethiopia: The rising investment destination

As the country's economy is witnessing remarkable growth, various foreign companies from different countries across the globe are showing interest to invest in Ethiopia.

While briefing the media recently, Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nebiyat Getachew raised current issues that include nation's economic activity and why foreign investors are lured to the country. Among others, he mentioned the full implementation of the macroeconomic reform of the country as a bed of roses for investment.

Truly, the credit goes to the implementation of the comprehensive macroeconomic reforms for the fact that working appetite of local and foreign investors has risen and showed interest to be part of the extraordinarily growing economy of the country.

The country has made significant progress in economic diplomacy over the past week as of the spokesperson. He recalled the discussion Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed held with President of Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank, Jin Liqun, focusing on strengthening partnership between Ethiopia and the Bank on green energy, aviation and infrastructure.

As a result, successful engagements have been made with the President and representatives from nearly 20 firms based in China, India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Israel, which have contributed to advancing tangible partnerships.

Ethiopia's potential in various sectors of economic activity is vividly clear so that investors from all corners of the world are attracted. Investment sectors that companies expressed their interest to engage particularly include agriculture, manufacturing, ICT, tourism and mining which the country considers as pillars of its national economy.

In addition to a package of incentives that encourage investors to come to Ethiopia like customs duty exemptions, income tax exemptions, easily accessible and efficient one – stop- shop services at Ethiopian Investment Commission and industrial parks, concerted efforts are underway from the government side to create enabling environment for investors.

The country's economy is now the largest in East Africa followed closely by Kenya, and is the fourth largest in sub- Saharan Africa that opens golden opportunity for investors. Alike its diplomatic relations, Ethiopia has smooth economic relation with many countries across the globe which gives it opportunity to expand economic integration. Investors, thus, can plan to engage in export oriented businesses.

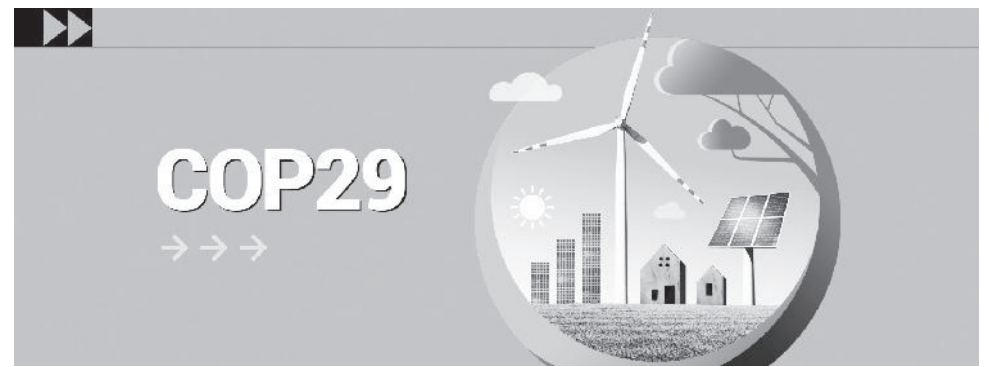
The country has ever advancing economic relations and business agreements with many countries throughout the world that lessen investors' effort to get reliable destination for their products. Besides, as the country is the second largest populous in Africa, with more than 120 million population, it can create massive local market for the investors, especially those focused on import substitution.

More opportunities that attract investors to Ethiopia include its convenient climate appropriate for any kind of investment throughout the year; easily trainable and affordable labor; reliable power supply and other infrastructures conducive for better economic connectivity.

The government is diligently working on enhancing peace as it is the basic component for smooth economic activity. Except in few areas, government's effort is bearing fruit in this regard for the fact that some combatants are getting in peace with the government prioritizing peaceful struggle than armed movement for the wellbeing of their people. This move, for sure, will awaken the rest who are still in the destructive way to come to their mind and act accordingly.

In sum, there are ample of reasons to invest in Ethiopia so that investors from all corners of the world are invited to come to Ethiopia to be part of the ever growing economy and reap the yield of their effort thereby benefit the country.

Opinion



COP29 Outcomes: Urgent call to action for the world's most vulnerable nation

BY RABAB FATIMA

Loss and Damage: From promises to reality

The conclusion of the 29th Conference of Parties (COP29) brings with it a blend of urgency, frustration, and a glimmer of hope for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

These nations, responsible for only a fraction of global greenhouse gas emissions, suffer disproportionately from the devastating impacts of climate change.

Yet, for these vulnerable countries, the outcomes of COP29 fell short. While there was progress in certain areas, the agreements reached do not match the scale of the challenges. As the UN Secretary-General António Guterres rightly underlined, COP29 provides a foundation, but it demands urgent and ambitious action to build upon it.

Climate Finance: The Lifeline for vulnerable nations

One of the COP29's pivotal outcomes was the agreement to achieve a global climate finance goal of at least USD 300 billion annually by 2035. While this amount does not address the needs of the most vulnerable nations, we must ensure it is delivered in full.

While COP29 left ambiguity in the exact source of these funds, between now and 2035, we should seek to establish aspirational targets for amounts flowing from the established financial instruments under the UNFCCC-such as the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund, and the Special Climate Change Fund.

We must also closely track the amounts for adaptation, and to the extent possible ensure that these finance flows are from public sources, and grant-based resources or highly concessional means.

While COP29 did not set targets for the most vulnerable nations, systematic reporting will be critical to ensuring that resources reach those who need them most.

The formulation and implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) are critical for LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS to respond to escalating climate threats. COP29's establishment of a support programme for NAP implementation in LDCs is a positive step. However, swift and efficient operationalization is essential.

Progress on the Loss and Damage Fund was a key highlight of COP29. Turning pledges into tangible contributions is now the priority. Stepping up capitalization and rapid and effective operationalization of this Fund are critical to addressing irreversible losses in lives and livelihoods caused by climate change.

Mitigation and Energy Transition

While COP29's mitigation outcomes were modest, the urgency for emissions reductions cannot be overstated. According to the 2024 UNEP Emissions Gap Report, emissions must fall by 42 percent by 2030 compared to 2019 levels to stay on track for the 1.5°C target.

For LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS, achieving this requires unprecedented support to ensure access to renewable energy and investments in sustainable energy. A just energy transition is integral not only for climate goals but also for economic growth and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

A Call to Action

COP29's results remind us that incremental steps are insufficient. The world's most vulnerable countries are facing a climate emergency that demands bold and immediate actions. This includes:

- ◆ Ensuring timely and adequate climate finance flows to LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS.
- ◆ Enhancing support for adaptation, particularly through public grant and highly concessional means.
- ◆ Full and effective operationalization of the Loss and Damage Fund.
- ◆ Empowering LDCs and SIDS to fully participate in the Article 6* market mechanisms.
- ◆ Supporting sustainable energy transitions aligned with global climate goals.

The survival of LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS is not just a litmus test for global climate commitments -it is a matter of justice, not charity.

As we look toward COP30 and beyond, let COP29 be a catalyst for greater ambition and unity. The time for half-hearted measures is over; the world must deliver on its promises to secure a just and sustainable future for all.

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



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The Ethiopian Herald

Art & Culture



Literature to deepen social cohesion

BY MEKDES TAYE (PhD)

When I was a PhD candidate at Addis Ababa University, I was highly interested in reading Zimbabwean novels. One novel in particular, “Bones” by Chenjerai Hove, stood out to me, and a particular character within the book always stayed in my mind. At times, I even felt like I had seen and known the character in my own conscious thoughts.

Her name is Marita, the protagonist who was created with a personal and mental setup that represents various aspects of colonialism and African identity. She was a mother to a son who left her to join the freedom fight.

Marita worked on a farm owned by a white man, showing affection and care to a girl who worked alongside her. Despite her kindness, the white man abused Marita demanding that she bring back her son and stops him from fighting against the system. She endured repeated physical and psychological violence, nearly dying from his mistreatment.

One day, while searching for her son in the city, Marita encountered his friends who questioned her about the white man’s behavior towards her and other workers. Initially, she defended him, but when the girl on the farm confronted her, Marita explained that she didn’t want to be responsible for sending another woman’s son to his death.

This conversation taught me valuable lessons about humanity and femininity.

It reminded me that women should not contribute to each other’s suffering. I admire Marita for her strength and integrity in difficult circumstances.

I am grateful to Hove for teaching me about humanity, sympathy, love, honesty, and intelligence through Marita’s character. Despite our different cultural and political backgrounds, the universal themes in the story resonate with me. By placing myself in Marita’s shoes, I learned to consider the perspectives of others and the importance of empathy. Marita’s decision to withhold the truth out of empathy for the white man’s mother was a powerful example of compassion and understanding.

Scholars and artists argue that art, culture, and literature are meant to nourish the soul of mankind, playing a significant role in sparking global conversations about humanistic issues and reshaping perspectives. Renowned author Elif Shafak expressed her belief that literature and art allow us to understand different opinions, fostering empathy and enabling us to see the world from another’s point of view. This ability to step into someone else’s shoes is essential for social cohesion, as sociologists emphasize the importance of tolerance and understanding in their research. Literature provides a platform for fostering these qualities.

The role of writers and artists is to bring forth controversial issues that touch on the essence of humanity, transcending cultural and historical boundaries. Elif Shafak argues that writers should pose difficult questions and create spaces for diverse opinions to be heard, allowing readers to form their own

conclusions. Through artistic expression, readers are encouraged to reflect on and engage with challenging topics, fostering empathy and critical thinking.

Literature has the power to bring people together and address common issues in a way that other mediums cannot. Fiction, in particular, has played a significant role in shedding light on injustices and human experiences, leading to greater empathy and understanding. By portraying the complexities of human reality, literature can challenge biases, highlight injustices, and ultimately contribute to a more cohesive society.

In the novel “Fikir Eske Mekabir,” the author explores the exploitation of feudalism within a community, showcasing how this oppressive system affects individuals and families. By depicting the struggles of characters like Seblewongel, readers from diverse backgrounds can empathize with her story and reflect on the broader implications of systemic injustice. This shared experience allows readers to connect with the characters and themes on a deeper level, prompting discussions and actions in support of victims like Seblewongel.

Cultural diversity is a natural aspect of human existence, offering a rich tapestry of stories and experiences for writers and artists to draw inspiration from. Embracing multiple cultures and perspectives allows for the creation of bridges between communities, fostering understanding and appreciation for humanity’s varied expressions. By celebrating diversity, writers and artists can enrich their work

and contribute to a more inclusive and harmonious society.

Creating social cohesion does not require uniformity or the erasure of cultural differences. Instead, it involves building mutual understanding and cooperation around fundamental issues that promote harmonious coexistence. Sociologist Ulrich Beck emphasizes the importance of acknowledging and respecting diverse identities while fostering connections and bridges between individuals, groups, and cultures. In a world characterized by uncertainty, embracing diversity and uniqueness can lead to a more equitable and inclusive society.

Throughout history, writers have used their pens to echo the issues of society, shed light on causes, and propose possible solutions. This trend has brought about significant changes globally. In the quest for social cohesion, which is essential for a nation to progress harmoniously, various forms of literature such as short stories, novels, prose, poems, and fiction can play a vital role.

Through their artistic and skillful presentation of societal issues, these works can help readers understand different cultures, values, and practices, fostering tolerance and unity. By peacefully and artistically addressing common issues, people from diverse cultures can come together in solidarity. The beauty of cultural diversity lies in the unity that arises from variety and collective action. Therefore, writers have a crucial role in building bridges that connect societies charmingly, promoting solidarity and unity.

Law & Politics

Efficient resource management for sustainable peace

BY FIKADU BELAY

East African countries face an uncountable number of conflicts and challenges that threaten regional stability and development. Significant portions of East Africa's zone conflict and instability are focused near border areas, pose a major risk of spillover, and feature powerful cross-border drivers, interests, and actors.

The causes of conflict over Transboundary resources in the region are multifaceted. For instance, as populations grow and economies develop, water and arable land demand intensifies, exacerbating tensions among countries that rely on the same resources. Furthermore, varying levels of governance and institutional capacity can lead to unequal access and exploitation, fueling resentment and conflict.

In recent years, regional governments have made a much greater effort to police their borders, and their renewed commitment to address trans-border conflict issues constitutes an important window of opportunity. However, few regional states have the capacity to effectively administer their remote, expansive border areas.

Addressing these challenges requires a collaborative and integrated approach to resource management among the neighboring countries of the region. These collaborative approaches are essential, predominantly through the implementation of a win-win strategy. It not only seeks to address the immediate issues but also fosters long-term cooperation among neighboring nations.

Some significant areas where collaboration can be favorable are in the sharing of resources, particularly access to ports. For instance, countries like Ethiopia and Uganda, which are landlocked, rely heavily on their neighbors for maritime access.

By fostering the win-win agreements that allow Ethiopia, Uganda, and other land-locking countries to use ports in countries such as Eritrea or Kenya, all parties can benefit. These agreements not only enhance trade opportunities for landlocked nations but also increase port revenues for coastal countries, creating a mutually beneficial scenario.

Additionally, effective dialogue and cooperation among the regional nations are essential to developing equitable agreements that recognize the rights and needs of all stakeholders. By fostering regional partnerships and implementing sustainable practices, countries can mitigate conflicts and

promote shared prosperity.

In this sense, Ethiopia's pursuit of access to seaport facilities is a vital aspect of its national interests, a strategy that is intricately linked to the country's broader goals for regional stability and economic development. Ethiopia continues to advocate for diversified trade routes and enhanced regional ties, it reinforces its role as a stabilizing force in the Horn of Africa, committed to a future where collective success is prioritized. It not only serves Ethiopia's national interests but also contributes to a more peaceful and prosperous region, emphasizing the importance of collaboration in addressing shared challenges.

In a recent interview with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Ambassador Dina Mufti, who is a member of the House of People's Representative Foreign Relations and Peace Affairs Standing Committee, emphasized that Ethiopia's approach to seaport access is not merely a matter of logistics but is rooted in a "win-win" approach that benefits both Ethiopia and its neighboring nations.

At the heart of Ethiopia's quest for alternative seaport access is its rapidly growing economy, which has led to increased demands for trade. Historically, Ethiopia has been reliant on Djibouti for its maritime trade, a dependency that has become increasingly unsustainable as the nation's economic ambitions expand.

Ambassador Dina noted that diversification of trade routes are essential, given Ethiopia's economic growth path. The interconnectedness of Ethiopia with other countries in the Horn of Africa (HoA) in terms of economics, culture, and politics demands a reevaluation of its trade strategies to ensure sustainable development.

The ambassador pointed out that the destinies of the nations within the HoA are closely linked. As such, Ethiopia's pursuit of additional seaport options aligns with its national interests while also fostering mutual benefits for its neighbors. This approach is indicative of Ethiopia's broader foreign policy framework, which prioritizes peace, cooperation, and regional integration, he said. The idea is that by enhancing its own economic capabilities through diversified trade routes, Ethiopia can contribute to a more stable and prosperous region.

Ambassador Dina further elaborated on Ethiopia's significant contributions to regional peace and stability, highlighting the country's leadership role in several key initiatives. For instance, Ethiopia played a pivotal part in the establishment of the Intergovernmental Authority

on Development (IGAD), a regional organization focused on promoting peace and development in the HoA.

The commitment to regional harmony is crucial, as Ethiopia has consistently engaged in peace-building efforts, demonstrating its understanding that economic growth cannot occur in a vacuum, but must occur in a stable and peaceful environment.

Additionally, the ambassador underscored Ethiopia's ongoing support for Somalia, viewing the stability of its neighbor as intrinsically linked to its own national security. "Somalia's peace is Ethiopia's peace too," he stated, reinforcing the idea that peace is a collective endeavor requiring collaboration among nations.

The approach is reflected in Ethiopia's active participation in peacekeeping missions across the African continent, including operations in Congo, Liberia, Burundi, Rwanda, and Somalia. Through these efforts, Ethiopia has reaffirmed its commitment not only to regional but also to continental stability, positioning itself as a leader in peacekeeping and conflict resolution.

In light of recent discussions regarding Ethiopia's exclusion from certain peacekeeping missions, Dina echoed the country's unwavering contributions to international peace efforts. He emphasized that Ethiopia continues to play a vital role in peacekeeping, particularly in Somalia, where its involvement remains crucial. This ongoing engagement highlights Ethiopia's dedication to stability in the HoA, which in turn supports its broader economic and diplomatic objectives.

Ethiopia's strategic quest for seaport access is not simply about securing trade routes; it also reflects a vision for comprehensive growth that encompasses economic integration and regional cooperation. By prioritizing peace and stability, Ethiopia is positioning itself as a key player in enhancing prosperity not only for itself but also for its neighbors in the HoA and beyond.

The ambassador's remarks underline a vital tenet of Ethiopia's foreign policy: a commitment to unity and shared success among neighboring nations. Its focus on collective progress is particularly significant in a region often marred by conflict and instability. By advancing its interests in seaport access through a framework of regional collaboration, Ethiopia aims to foster an environment conducive to mutual growth. Particularly, it's important in the situation of the HoA, where historical tensions and rivalries can complicate diplomatic efforts.

By fostering regional partnerships and implementing sustainable practices, countries can mitigate conflicts and promote shared prosperity



Africa can build a stronger, more unified front that can address issues on a global scale

- Amin Elhag

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

Today's guest, Amin Elhag, was born and raised in Sudan. After high school, he traveled to the Middle East and stayed in the Gulf area for almost 25 years before deciding to return to Sudan, which unfortunately did not work out as planned.

He then left for the USA and has been living in New York for almost 25 years. He graduated from City University of New York, Brooklyn College with a degree in digital media production. He is a film director, working in both film and theater.

After the revolution in Sudan in December, he wanted to make a difference in his home country. He started some companies and organizations there, but they were all stopped when the old regime returned to power. They were involved in the same businesses he was trying to establish, such as digital and wireless phone companies and agricultural ventures. It felt like they were back to square one after the revolution.

He returned to New York and began working to support Sudan in reclaiming their revolution. Now, with war raging, he is in Addis Ababa and trying to do what he can to stop the conflict, establish a new transitional government based on freedom, peace, and justice.

During his stay with The Ethiopian Herald, Amin Elhag has raised a range of issues, including ways to ensure lasting peace in Sudan and all over Africa by strengthening continental unity and togetherness. Have a nice read!

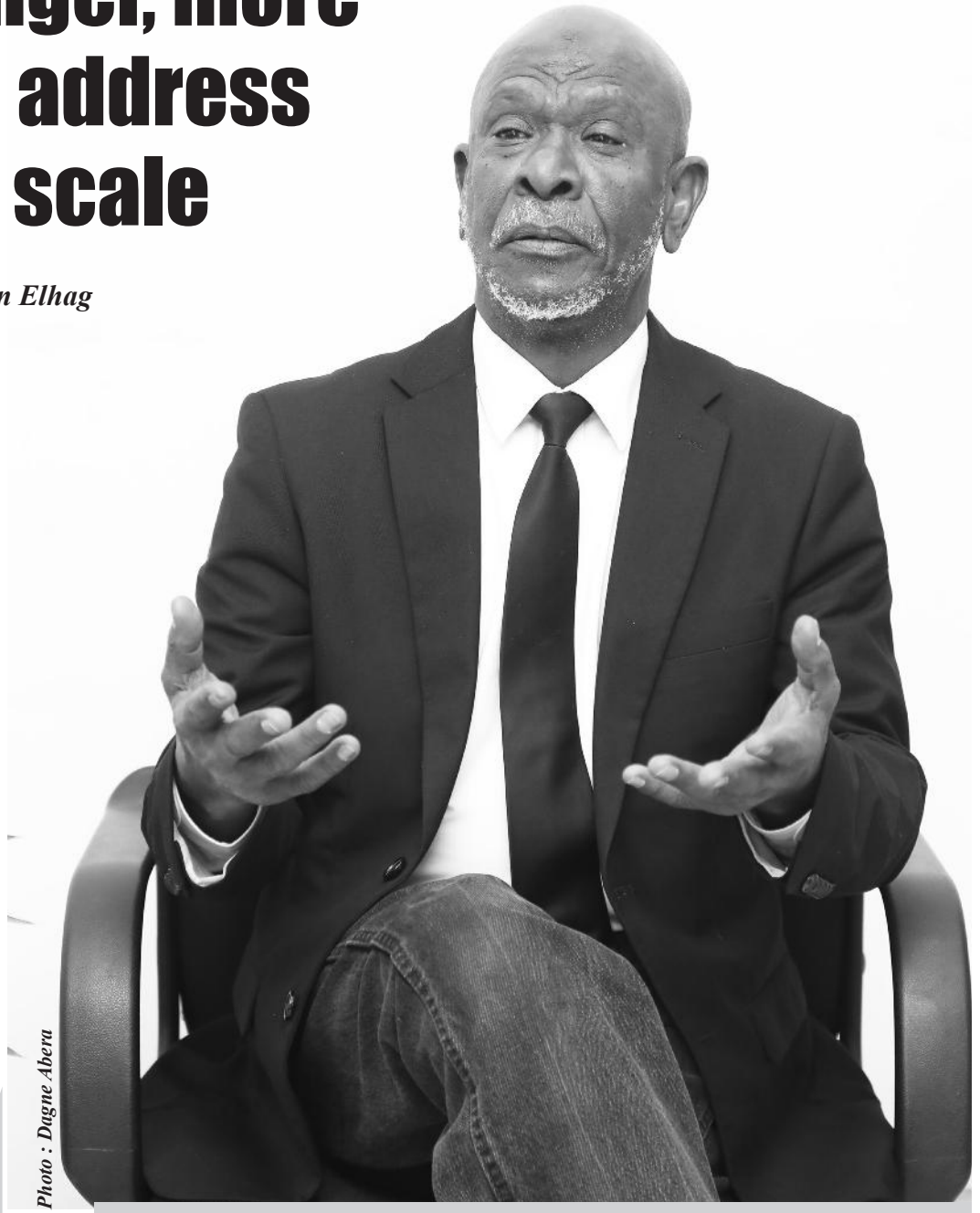


Photo : Dagne Abera

How do you understand the current situation in Sudan?

The current situation in Sudan is dire, with a significant involvement of outsiders from neighboring countries and the region. Each of them has a vested interest in benefiting from Sudan, perpetuating the ongoing conflict. This situation will persist unless we take a decisive stand. Sudan's appeal lies in its abundant resources such as land, rain, rivers, and wildlife, along with valuable commodities like gold. This has attracted the attention of surrounding nations, fueling the conflict as everyone seeks to exploit Sudan for their gain.

The absence of a functioning government has left borders porous, allowing anyone to enter, exploit resources, and depart without repercussions. I am here to advocate for Sudan, establish a stable government, secure our borders, and ensure that we reap the benefits of our natural wealth. In the past, under al-Bashir's regime, other countries have exploited our resources, claiming them as their own. It is imperative that we rebuild Sudan and create a new future for our nation.

This issue extends beyond Sudan; it is a larger African concern. The entire continent is fractured and vulnerable to exploitation by external forces. It is time

for us to take a unified stand and put an end to this exploitation.

How did you come to this decision on your own?

After spending several years in New York engaging with members of the United Nations, including ambassadors and consuls, I realized that while they understood our challenges, they were limited in their ability to effect change. They expressed their constraints as employees bound by their government's policies. This realization prompted me to return home and contemplate a solution.

I recognized that the power to effect change lies within us, as Africans, if we unite. I decided that Addis Ababa, with the African Union headquarters and representation from all African countries, was the ideal platform for collaboration and collective action.

How can we solve African problems with African solutions using this principle?

The issue is that the AU is currently dysfunctional and unable to resolve anything. For instance, the war in Sudan has been ongoing for two years without any resolution. This lack of action is not only limited to Sudan but also extends to Somalia and other countries. To tackle the issues in Sudan and across Africa, we

must first reform the AU.

The AU has the potential to be effective, but it needs to be restructured to become more objective and powerful. Merely issuing statements of condemnation or regret is not sufficient. Action is necessary to make progress.

To kick start change, I intend to visit Addis Ababa to meet with His Excellency, the Prime Minister, Abiy Ahmed (PhD). I have already submitted a request to his office and am awaiting a response. I believe that he has the capability to lead the path towards peace in Africa, as demonstrated by his recent involvement in a peace conference.

In order to take action, we must reform the AU and address the issues afflicting Africa, starting with Sudan. By standing together as 54 countries, we have the potential to put an end to conflicts and establish new nations. This process will entail new regulations and laws to guide our actions.

The ultimate objective is to create a unified nation that transcends borders and encompasses all nations, not just those in Africa. However, certain conditions must be met to join this new organization, including being a free and civilian-led country.

By working together and investing in our own land and resources, we can create a better future for all Africans and show the world the power of unity and collaboration

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Africa can build a stronger, more unified ...

Continued from page 8

Once a country becomes a part of this new nation, they commit to collaborating in all aspects of governance, including military, economic, political, and social matters. This unity will ensure that member nations support each other during times of crisis, preventing military coups and other disruptions to stability.

By uniting in this manner, we can build a stronger, more unified front that can address issues on a global scale. The key to success lies in meeting the requirements for membership and embracing a shared vision of unity and cooperation.

AU is undergoing reform. What is the reflection you have in that?

With regards to AU reform, I believe it is currently underway. Many people are discussing it, but so far, no action has been taken. Meetings are still ongoing, and individuals are constantly traveling to and from these meetings. This lack of progress is frustrating, and we need to see tangible actions being taken towards reform.

Why are we waiting? The conflict in Sudan has been going on for two years, and nothing has been done. It's time to take action and shake up the AU. The current system is not working, and it is broken due to the existing laws. We need to simplify and unite in order to make progress.

If we come together as one, any issue affecting one country will not impact us all. We are like one big house, with each country living in a room. If something happens in one room, it will affect the entire house. We cannot afford to wait for problems to come to us; we must address them collectively.

When a problem arises in Sudan or Somalia, we should all come together to find a solution. However, if we continue to remain divided and only focus on meetings and travel, conflicts will continue to spread across Africa. We need to speak with one voice as 54 united countries in order to demand change and reclaim our heritage and history.

There is a story that illustrates this point well. An old man gave each of his sons a stick and asked them to break it, which they did easily. Then he gave them a bundle of sticks and asked them to break it together, which they could not. He explained that if they stayed united, they would be unbreakable.

It is time for us to follow this example and work together as one cohesive unit. Let's stop waiting and start taking action towards reforming the AU.

Let's revisit the issue of Sudan. I believe that individuals, like you, can contribute to ensuring peace in Sudan, correct? So, what advice do you have for people in general?

People like me, there are many. I am just a simple man. While there is a lot of effort being made, each person has their own



way, which is not easy. It's challenging because the people are now at the forefront, fighting. Individuals scattered around the world have their reasons and voices.

Some fight through writing, some through street demonstrations, and some by organizing aid for displaced individuals. Each person has their own tools. My tools are different. I feel the need to take direct action and make a change, to try to do something. People like me, millions scattered around the world, are trying to assist their own people who have been displaced from their homes, including the sick and children. Some people like me are sick and in need of help, services, doctors, and medicines. In some places, people like me find it difficult to raise their voices.

Everyone has their reasons, and of course, you can only see those who are actively fighting and have all the tools to go to the media and represent themselves. These individuals currently in the spotlight, in the media, are discussing resolving the problem, but they are not the right ones to do so because they are the ones who destroyed Sudan.

Anyone who destroys their country will never be able to rebuild it. Never! Those individuals are killing Sudan, demolishing Sudan. They cannot rebuild Sudan. Sudan will be rebuilt by the simple people who are all around, who have no allegiance to any party. This is not the time for parties. No. Our December revolution is being undermined because they lack the proper plan on how to proceed, and the entrenched regime in the government is succeeding in returning and taking over. Those other individuals currently in the spotlight are irrelevant. The new Sudan will be built by the people, simple people

who are displaced, living outside Sudan, and the simple people who love Sudan.

If you love your country, you will not destroy it. If I have an issue with you, I do not have to resort to violence. Unfortunately, this is happening because they disagree with each other; they kill each other. This is not the democratic way. If you have your opinion, I have mine. We sit down at the table and discuss. We are different, yes, but that is democracy. We must embrace our differences; we cannot all agree. You have your own view; I have mine that is democracy. We sit down and talk, but what they are doing is killing each other.

Therefore, they are irrelevant. The honest Sudanese people all around initiated this transitional civilian government to lift Sudan from the ground and begin rebuilding everything that has been destroyed, including hospitals, schools, government institutions, and everything else.

We need to reconstruct the system; we lack a system, laws, or constitution to build upon. All of this must be established, and then, elections will follow. Of course, there is no democracy without elections, without political parties, but not now. This is the time to reconstruct the new Sudan, and the new Sudan will be different. We are going to change the name.

I propose calling it the United States of Sudan, and hopefully, everyone will agree with me. It will be the United States of Sudan because our issues were all centered in Khartoum, neglecting the other states. Now, we will delegate power to the states, allowing each state to govern itself with a small government. The government in

Khartoum will have limited authority, which is a common issue in many African countries where everything is centralized in the capital.

It will resemble a federal system with states, and each state will have its own government. I will not need to worry about what streets to build in Khartoum for Sudan. The people in Sudan know best, so when we have a government in each state, they can handle their affairs, and I will oversee matters from the central government in Khartoum. This will be the United States of Sudan, Inshallah. We will return power to the states to govern and build as they see fit. This is not just for Sudan; this is my wish for all of Africa, to be developed with freedom, peace, and justice.

As someone from an art background or a filmmaker, how can art play a significant role in ensuring peace in Sudan and elsewhere in Africa?

For Sudan, art or filmmaking is something that always makes you dream about how to make a change, but it takes time. As a filmmaker, I want everything in Sudan to be okay, but it takes time because filmmaking, for me now, is a kind of luxury. This is not the time to make films; it's the time to lay the foundation so that in the future, we can make films.

Filmmaking requires a lot of resources, and we don't have them. We don't even have enough food to eat, so I cannot make a film. I need safety, food, education, resources, and infrastructure to make a film. Without these things, how can I make a film? So, for now, I focus on how to rebuild Sudan and help Africa.

My film aims to make a change in the world, and the tools to do so are simple. If we stand together, we can make a change. The UN and AU are not doing enough, so we must stand up as Africa and take action. It's time to create a new organization that is not hindered by vetoes and can truly make a difference.

To join this new organization, countries must be free and willing to share resources and help each other. By working together as one nation, we can solve any problem and create a better future for all of Africa. This is why I have come to Addis Ababa, to unite with other African countries and leaders like Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed to work towards peace and reform.

The media in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, must also stand up and take action to support this cause. Together, we can make a change and lead the AU to become a unified force for good in Africa and beyond. By working together and investing in our own land and resources, we can create a better future for all Africans and show the world the power of unity and collaboration.

Thank you very much. These are the question prepared for you for today.

It is my pleasure.

Society

Eliminating HIV/AIDS as a public health threat by 2030

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Ethiopia has made significant progress in combating the spread of HIV/AIDS and is determined to eliminate it as a public health threat by 2030. To this end, the country has implemented various strategies and programs to increase awareness, improve access to treatment and reduce new infections.

The country has also implemented various prevention programs to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS. These include promoting HIV/AIDS tests among the society, providing access to condoms and increasing education and awareness about the virus. The government has also focused on reaching key populations, such as sex workers.

Moreover, community engagement plays a crucial role in Ethiopia's efforts to eliminate HIV/AIDS. The government has worked closely with local communities and organizations to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and improve access to treatment and care. This approach has helped to break down barriers and ensure that those people living with HIV feel supported and empowered.

Recently, Health State Minister Dereje Deguma (MD) revealed that Ethiopia has been remarkably mitigating the prevalence of HIV/AIDS through time with concerted efforts of both local and international pertinent bodies.

In connection with the commemoration of this year's World AIDS Day, the Ministry of Health and Ethiopian Health Institute jointly briefed the media.

On the occasion, Health State Minister Dereje Deguma (MD) said the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia has remarkably declined.

Commending all pertinent bodies for their respective contribution in the effort to curb the predicaments of this health problem, he stressed the need to intensify concerted efforts in order to achieve the goal set to make the disease not a problem by the 2030.

World AIDS Day, observed every year on the first of December, stands as a global initiative uniting people worldwide to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and demonstrate international solidarity in the face of the epidemic.

The Day serves as a poignant reminder of the ongoing challenges posed by HIV/AIDS and underscores the need for sustained collective action.

So far, Ethiopia is intensifying its efforts to eliminate HIV/AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

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

The State Minister stated that despite a



Ethiopia has made significant strides in combating HIV/AIDS and is well on its way to achieving its goal of eliminating it as a public health threat by 2030

decline in the national HIV infection rate compared to previous years, HIV/AIDS remains a significant public health threat.

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

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

According to a 2024 study conducted by the Ethiopian Public Health Institute, the

national HIV prevalence rate has declined to 0.87 percent, with 7,428 new infections annually. Approximately 605,238 people are currently living with HIV/AIDS in the country, and around 10,065 die from the disease each year.

Addis Ababa has the highest prevalence rate at 3.25 percent, followed by Gambella State at 3.24 percent.

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

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

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

Ethiopian Public Health Institute Director-General Mesay Hailu (MD) on his part said HIV/AIDS is one of the health problems that the Institute has given attention to mitigating it particularly through research.

According to him, over 800 health institutions continuously are conducting surveys on the prevalence of the various and analysis is made that will be leveraged as an input to design strategy towards tackling the disease.

Meanwhile, UNAIDS has commended Ethiopia in achieving progress towards providing stigma-free HIV services while attributing the success to the strong commitment of the government.

In a press release published in line with the World AIDS Day, UNAIDS Ethiopia stated that Ethiopia's government is working on offering HIV care that is stigma-free and grounded on human rights.

"We applaud Ethiopia's progress and the government's commitment to delivering stigma-free HIV services for people living

with HIV, grounded in a human rights-based approach. This year's World AIDS Day reminds us that human rights must be at the heart of the HIV response," UNAIDS Ethiopia, Country Director Tina Boonto said.

"Protecting health starts with protecting rights. To end HIV as a public health threat by 2030, we must ensure everyone without exception can access HIV treatment and care services free from stigma and discrimination. The time to act is now," Boonto stressed.

In the statement, AHF Ethiopia, Country Program Director Mengistu Gebre Michael (MD) also underlined the urgent need to enhance HIV prevention efforts, particularly for young women and adolescent girls between the ages of 15-24, who are at significant risk, with around 37 new HIV infections recorded each week.

Moreover, increased funding, support for community-led initiatives, and policies to combat stigma and discrimination are essential to expanding access to prevention and treatment, particularly for at-risk populations. "Together, these efforts are critical in the fight to end AIDS in Ethiopia and globally," he said.

Dr. Mengistu emphasized that the need for increased accessibility of innovative HIV prevention tools like Dapivirine vaginal ring, Lenacapavir, and Cabotegravir injectable PrEP, along with promoting their use as a proven prevention method.

The press release underscored the need for continuous strategy updates in HIV prevention and control, aligning with evolving needs, and ensuring universal access to HIV treatment and care services by 2030.

Ethiopia faces HIV-related estimates and projections, with 91,248 out of 605,238 people lacking life-saving treatments.

Young women and girls aged 15-24 are four times more likely to acquire HIV than men, the release mentioned, suggesting that collaboration among key stakeholders, including governments, civil society, and international partners is necessary for a successful HIV response, as demonstrated by Ethiopia's community-level monitoring initiative.

In sum, Ethiopia has made significant strides in combating HIV/AIDS and is well on its way to achieving its goal of eliminating it as a public health threat by 2030. Through innovative strategies, community engagement, and a focus on prevention, the country is making a tangible difference in the lives of people living with HIV. With continued dedication and support, Ethiopia is poised to succeed in this important mission.

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

Verbatim and Caption



Ethiopia registers 120% economic growth in a decade: President Putin

Ethiopia's economic growth over the past decade serves as evidence of emerging economies surpassing the growth rates of developed countries.

The country has achieved an impressive 120 percent economic growth during this time period, making its recent economic growth truly remarkable and unparalleled.

Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation at the 15th "VTB RUSSIA CALLING! Investment Forum" in Moscow



Agenda gathering will begin on December 12th in Oromia: ENDC

The Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) has finalized the agenda gathering and participant identification process in nine states.

Now, ENDC is preparing to begin agenda gathering in Oromia state on December 12th. This process in Oromia state will involve over 350 districts and more than 7,700 participants.

Efforts are also underway to initiate the process in Amhara and Tigray states.

Professor Mesfin Araya, Chief Commissioner, Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC)

Addis Ababa is home for 137 foreign embassies: MoFA Spokesperson

Addis Ababa is increasingly becoming a prominent diplomatic hub, playing a growing role as a stabilizing force and influential nation in the region. Ethiopia's consistent contribution to regional and global peace and stability has led to its position attracting more countries to open their embassies in Addis Ababa.

Currently, Colombia and Slovenia are finalizing plans to open embassies in Addis Ababa, bringing the total number of foreign embassies in the city to 137. Addis Ababa is rapidly emerging as a key hub for regional and international diplomatic activities.

Ambassador Nebiat Getachew, Spokesperson, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia



ADB has financed 213 projects in Ethiopia since 1975: MoF State Minister

Celebrating its 60th anniversary, the African Development Bank (AfDB) has played a vital role in transforming lives, uplifting communities, and revitalizing the continent's economy by financing key development projects across Africa.

For example, since 1975, the AfDB has financed 213 projects in Ethiopia, including 39 in transportation, 28 in energy, and 66 in agriculture. Programs like the Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAT) have reached 1.8 million Ethiopian farmers.

Semereta Sewasew, State Minister of Finance said on the occasion of ADB 60th anniversary here in Addis Ababa



Ethiopian Airlines expands global flight destination to 141: ECAA

Ethiopia has bilateral aviation agreements with 114 countries, and Ethiopian Airlines' global flight destinations have reached 141. Internally, Ethiopia has 23 airports, four of which are equipped with up-to-date international standards.

Ethiopian Airlines transports approximately 17 million passengers and 750,000 tons of cargo annually.

The Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority (ECAA), in accordance with its power and duty, has certified over 6,000 pilots and more than 8,000 technicians to date.

Getachew Mengiste, Director General, Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority (ECAA)