



# The Ethiopian Herald

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## Ethiopia, Somalia thawing ties

• *Commit to swiftly implement Ankara Declaration*

BY HAILE DEMEKE

**ADDIS ABABA** - Ethiopia and Somalia have expressed staunch commitment to the swift implementation of Ankara Declaration that they signed in Türkiye on December 11, 2024, in a move to strengthen long-standing ties.

Recently, Ethiopia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) State Minister Ambassador Mesganu Arga held talks with Somalia's Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation State Minister Ali Mohamed Omar on a range of issues that further elevate ties.

Amb. Mesganu emphasized that the peoples of Ethiopia and Somalia share inseparable opportunities for mutual prosperity, stressing the importance of the two countries working collaboratively to address challenges and seeking solutions through dialogue and cooperation.

Acknowledging Ethiopia's considerable sacrifices to ensure peace in Somalia, he reaffirmed Ethiopia's commitment to the implementation of the Ankara Declaration. He emphasized the importance of strengthening the partnership between the two countries which is essential for ensuring long-term peace, stability, and development in the region.

State Minister Ali Mohamed Omar, for his part, reiterated Somalia's commitment to the swift implementation of the Ankara Declaration. He noted that his presence in

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## Breaking Glass Ceiling: Ethiopia's push for gender parity

BY YESUF ENDRIS

In recent years, the Ethiopian government has taken political commitments to address the significant gender disparity in political and administrative leadership. The government has introduced human resource adjustments across public offices, but persistent gaps call for enhanced efforts.

Recognizing the issue, institutions such as the African Leadership Excellence Academy (AFLEX), the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, and the Global Center for Gender Equality have launched projects to provide training for senior government officials, aiming to reshape leadership attitudes and practices.

Globally, gender equality remains a pressing challenge, and the issue is more pronounced



in Africa. According to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa's report released last November, women's representation in leadership roles was just

24.4% in 2023, not far different this time. The Africa Gender Index 2023 Analytical Report emphasizes the need for targeted actions to

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## Nation pushing towards sustainable forestry

• *Proclamation to bolster green dev't*

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA** - Ethiopian Forestry Development (EFD) announced that the country is exerting an all-out effort to achieve sustainable forestry by 2030.

EFD's Director General, Kebede Yimam briefed journalists yesterday on the proclamation for the establishment and administration of the Green Legacy initiative and degraded land rehabilitation special fund No. 1361/2017, which was approved on Tuesday.

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## Gov't eyeing private sector project implementation capacity enhancement

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA** - The Ministry of Urban and Infrastructure has expressed concern over the construction sector's limited financial and technological capacity despite significant government funding.

This concern was highlighted during a discussion with construction companies yesterday, where the focus was on industry opportunities and challenges.

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# Addis to launch mass cervical cancer vaccination

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA** - The Addis Ababa City Administration Health Bureau announced plans to vaccinate over 177,900 girls aged 9-14 against cervical cancer.

Health Bureau Head Yohans Chala (MD) and Education Bureau Head Zelalem Mulatu (PhD) jointly addressed the media yesterday to discuss the upcoming vaccination campaign.

Yohans revealed that 177,933 girls within this age group are targeted to receive the vaccine. He further stated that all necessary resources have been allocated to district health centers, and 381 vaccination teams are prepared to reach girls both in and out of school.

The vaccination campaign will be conducted from December 30, 2024, to January 3, 2025, administering the vaccine to girls aged 9 to 14.

Yohans emphasized the crucial role of vaccinating girls within this age group, both in and out of school, at designated health centers, and at temporary vaccination sites in preventing cervical cancer. He urged all sectors to collaborate to ensure the campaign's success and facilitate effective community outreach and information



dissemination.

He highlighted that cervical cancer, primarily caused by the Human Papillomavirus (HPV), poses a significant health threat in Ethiopia, ranking second only to breast cancer in terms of prevalence and mortality.

Zelalem Mulatu, Head of the Addis Ababa City Administration Education Bureau, indicated that this vaccination campaign will be conducted in all 737 schools in Addis Ababa for girls aged 9-14 years. He called upon education sector leaders, school communities, teachers, parents, media institutions, and all relevant stakeholders to provide their full cooperation.

Cervical cancer poses a significant public health burden, causing substantial morbidity and mortality among women. In Ethiopia, it ranks as the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths among women, following breast cancer. Annually, over 7,000 women are diagnosed with this disease, and tragically, more than 5,000 succumb to it.

Zelalem stressed that protecting the health of students is paramount for the development and future well-being of the nation.

Since the introduction of the cervical cancer vaccine in Ethiopia and Addis Ababa in 2019, over 145,000 girls have benefited from this life-saving intervention.

## MoE focuses on research, workforce in public universities

• Sign performance contracts with 47 univs

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA**- The core mission of public universities lies in producing high-quality research and a well-qualified workforce, the Ministry of Education (MoE) said.

Yesterday, the MoE signed performance-contracting agreements with 47 public universities to enhance accountability and responsibility within the higher education sector.

During the signing ceremony, Education Minister Prof. Birhanu Nega stressed the critical need for education sector reforms that prioritize quality, integrity, accountability, research, and other relevant aspects. He indicated that universities should ultimately play a pivotal role in supporting national development initiatives by advancing human knowledge.

Furthermore, the primary objective of universities is to improve the lives of citizens by addressing critical issues that align with the nation's ambitious development goals. The signing of these performance contracting agreements is a crucial step within a broader education sector reform initiative aimed at overcoming existing challenges, the Minister elaborated.

Prof. Birhanu reiterated that the core mission of public universities is to produce high-quality research and a highly qualified workforce.

He further announced that the MoE plans to categorize universities based on their performance starting next year. In the future, budget allocations will be determined based on the merit of their performance in fulfilling the agreed-upon objectives. This approach will incentivize excellence by allocating larger budgets to top-performing institutions.

The Minister emphasized that the ultimate goal of higher education sector reforms is to create autonomous universities. According to him, the signing of these agreements will significantly contribute to achieving this objective.

Prof. Birhanu further stressed that the continued existence of universities should not be taken for granted. Institutions that fail to perform adequately will not receive further budgetary support and may be re-evaluated for their continued operation as universities.

Kora Tushune (PhD), State Minister for Higher Education at the MoE, explained that the introduction of performance contracts aims to enhance transparency and accountability within the higher education sector.

These agreements mark the beginning of a new era in university partnerships, fostering innovation and technological advancement in the long term. Tushune acknowledged the ongoing challenges facing the education sector and emphasized the crucial role of this initiative in addressing them.

# Ministry creates 1.5 mln jobs amid overseas employment rises

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

**ADDIS ABABA** – Ethiopia has created 1.5 million domestic jobs over the past five months of the current Fiscal Year, the Ministry of Labor and Skills (MoLS) said, seeing a significant improvement for overseas employment.

MoLS Minister Muferihat Kamil told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that the country has managed to create about 1.5 million jobs nationally out of the total drawn up plans to create about 4.9 million jobs during the same stated period above.

She emphasized that the ministry along with regional stakeholders has been working on rigorous activities employing visible initiatives nationwide to address unemployment issues.

“Subsequent monthly virtual and other annual deliberations have been undertaken along with practitioners drawn from federal to local levels aiming to trickle down all the practices and initiatives meaningfully,” she remarked.

She said that they have been providing skill-oriented trainings, innovative developments to equip the workforce with the required know-how that meet employers' standards and improve productivity.

To date, the government and private sectors



Muferihat Kamil

are providing loans, streamlined household and community business engagements are well underway to fully utilize the immense resource potential in their respective communities.

“Public service reform activities are also on the way to be implemented to provide innovative, fast and reliable services at all levels.”

Moreover, 5 million coders initiative, which is part of digital Ethiopia 2025 goal, has brought a significant opportunity for the youth to develop their innovative ideals, digital skills and their collective future.

Pledging continued support on creating an enabling environment, she urged the youth to change the challenges into opportunities and enable them to contribute to their country.

She said, “Now, there are about 80,000 work orders on the list from 10 companies, however most of them are not yet utilized.”

Ministry's State Minister Solomon Soka also highlighted that they are expanding efforts dealing with various ideal destination countries to safeguard citizens' rights, lead dignified life and ensure beneficiaries while sending for overseas employment.

Solomon said: “Over 162,000 Ethiopians secured overseas jobs during the past five months.” Also, it requires concerted efforts, strong partnership and collaboration among the various actors and stakeholders in the area.

Indeed, skill development and peaceful industrial connections are taking place thereby registering promising results on job creation; however, there are still remaining activities towards addressing unemployment.

## Shaggar pushes for growth putting infrastructure, agriculture forefront

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**ADDIS ABABA** - The Shaggar City Administration has announced a range of initiatives, including infrastructure development and agricultural modernization, aimed at improving the livelihoods of its residents.

Speaking to The Ethiopian Herald, Deputy Mayor and Economic Cluster Coordinator, Guyo Geligelo, mentioned various efforts undertaken over the past two years to enhance community welfare, address public interests, and expand infrastructure.

One of the city's key projects includes the establishment of a Science and Technology Center of Excellence in Koye Feche Sub-city, supported by a multi-billion Birr allocation. Additionally, the administration has prioritized education, allocating over 5 billion Birr in this fiscal year alone to



Guyo Geligelo

construct 100 standard schools. Eight such schools were completed in the previous fiscal year.

To improve healthcare access, the city is constructing hospitals in the Sebeta and Burayu clusters, aimed at providing quality medical services to residents and

surrounding areas.

On the employment front, the administration has been proactive, creating over 120,000 jobs during the second quarter of this fiscal year, with a goal to generate 300,000 jobs by the end of the current Ethiopian budget year. "Over 475 million Birr has been provided as loans, with an additional 10 million Birr mobilized to support the financial sector," Guyo added.

Shaggar City is also making strides in food security, with over 5,000 agricultural sheds established to promote poultry, animal breeding, and beekeeping. Furthermore, 65,000 hectares of land have been cultivated and 2,000 skill development programs have been conducted in the cottage industry.

These multi-faceted efforts underline Shaggar City's commitment to becoming a hub of innovation and sustainable growth, ensuring its residents benefit from improved livelihoods and economic opportunities, it was stated.

## Nation pushing towards...

During the press conference, Kebede indicated that the government has been working hard to realize forest development and rehabilitation over the past five years.

He believed that the effort is promising to enable the nation to reduce carbon emission by 68.8 % in 2030. The government has pledged to the international community to restore 22 million hectares of barren land in the aforestated period.

Ethiopia possesses some 54 million hectares of degraded land, of which, the 11 million hectares require immediate recovery response, Kebede mentioned.

"In the past five decades, climate change has become the world's pressing issue and Ethiopia began responding to the problem via its green legacy initiative" he added.

Moreover, the Director General stated that the proclamation No. 1361/2017 stipulates the allocation of 0.5 % to 1 % of the total annual gross domestic product (GDP) to the rehabilitation of degraded land, the green legacy initiative, and forest development activities.

The budget allocation shows the government's commitment to combating climate change in the one hand and to

becoming trustworthy among development partners on the other, he indicated.

During the Haileselassie regime, Ethiopia has lost 800,000 hectares of land due to deforestation although the rehabilitation works that were done during the Derg and EPRDF governments decreased this number to 27,000 hectares. Accordingly, the degree of deforestation has been decreasing overtime in parallel with the growing attention to reforestation and afforestation activities. Currently, Ethiopia's total forest coverage has reached 23.3 % following a number of activities that have been carried out in the past few years.

## Ethiopia, Somalia thawing...

Addis Ababa underscores Somalia's readiness to uphold the agreement, emphasizing the Somali government's commitment to strengthening peace and promoting mutual development through partnership with Ethiopia.

Echoing the above sentiment, Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA), African Affairs Researcher Miftah Mohammed said that the arrival of senior officials from Somalia in Ethiopia shortly after the Ankara declaration carries significant diplomatic implications and values, as both countries are dedicated to uphold and implement the

Ankara declaration and enhancing their existing relationship to the highest degree. This indicates normalization between the two nations, he stated.

"We must integrate the two countries in areas such as infrastructure, development, education, health, energy, and more to further reinforce the bilateral relationship. Similarly, we should initiate cross-border projects, whether through the development of ports or other initiatives, to further strengthen the bilateral relationship," he remarked.

Historian Prof. Adam Kamil also pointed out

that the presence of the Somalia delegation in Ethiopia is a strong indication of the normalization of relations between the two nations. Both countries and relevant parties must play due roles in implementing the declaration to ensure its realization. "Peace is a collective endeavor, and we must support one another. We need to take advantage of our mutual benefits," he emphasized.

In a joint press briefing following the talks, the two state ministers affirmed their resolves to continue the ongoing dialogue, and work more closely on bilateral and regional issues of common interest.

## Gov't eyeing private sector project...

Urban and Infrastructure Development State Minister Fenta Dejene emphasized the need for the private sector to improve efficiency and meet national development goals. While acknowledging the sector's growth potential, he pointed to deficiencies in financial, technological, and human capital.

"Amid growing competition from foreign firms, the private sector must prioritize policies that support local businesses," Dejene stated.

The construction sector is a major

economic driver, consuming over 60% of the capital budget and contributing 20-22% to GDP. However, reliance on imported construction materials significantly impacts the sector's costs. Developing domestic manufacturing and financial capabilities is crucial to address this challenge.

Yetim Asrat, also a State Minister at the Ministry, highlighted the government's efforts to empower the local private sector through training and financial incentives.

The Ethiopian Construction Authority Director Mesfin Negewo emphasized the

private sector's responsibility for improving industry performance, which currently faces cost overruns and delays. He noted that Ethiopia's young population and government policies favoring privatization and technological advancements offer significant opportunities for both local and foreign construction companies.

The government has consistently prioritized the construction sector through substantial budget allocations and by making essential minerals and natural resources readily available to domestic manufacturing industries.

## Breaking Glass...

bridge gender gaps across political, social, and economic spheres.

In Ethiopia, though gender quotas have been introduced, societal norms and institutional biases continue to hinder progress. Scholars and civil society organizations have been called for more strong policies to address these issues.

AFLEX President Zadig Abreha believed that Ethiopia needs to achieve sustainable gender equality and bring transformative changes in social and institutional norms. "Recruiting more women leaders is not just about representation, it's about creating a model society where gender-related crimes and injustices are minimized," he remarked.

Zadig emphasized the broader societal implications of gender equality, noting that Ethiopia's population is predominantly female, with women comprising an estimated 53-54 percent. Despite this demographic reality, historical male dominance in political and administrative roles has prolonged systemic inequalities, hindering the country's overall development. Addressing these disparities, he argued, is critical not just for justice but for societal progress.

To this end, the Global Center for Gender Equality (GCfGE), in partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs, has introduced the Public Leadership for Gender Equality (PL4GE) program. This initiative aims to equip senior public leaders with the tool and guidance to apply transformative leadership practices that promote gender equity. By fostering dialogue and creating actionable frameworks, the program seeks to empower leaders to challenge traditional norms and create inclusive work environments.

GCfGE Director Alex Munive highlighted the importance of collaboration in addressing gender disparities. The PL4GE program provides a platform for Ethiopian leaders to engage in meaningful dialogue and develop solutions tailored to the country's unique challenges, he noted. "Transforming attitudes and fostering equitable leadership practices is crucial for Ethiopia's journey toward gender equality," he stated.

Ethiopia's efforts to address gender inequality have shown promise, but challenges remain in need of more initiatives. The country's historical male-dominated political structure requires more than surface-level adjustments. Strong enforcement of gender quotas, combined with educational campaigns to challenge harmful norms is essential, he added.

Furthermore, government and civil society must work together to create an environment where women are empowered to participate fully in leadership roles. Gender equality is not solely a women's issue. It is a societal imperative that affects every aspect of development, it was stated during the launching of the project.

# Opinion

## AU's contribution for continent's all inclusive development

BY GETACHEW MINAS

### Part I

The AU and the UN held a meeting in Cairo, Egypt on 16 October, 2023 under the theme of “Enhanced Cooperation and Collaboration in Peace and Security. The meeting focused on the AU and UN perspectives on the prevailing and emerging peace, security and governance as well as on challenges on the continent of Africa. The meeting also stressed the concrete strengthening, collaboration and cooperation across all peace and security measures including conflict prevention, post-conflict reconstruction and development.

Both the AU and UN stressed on improving collaboration and modalities of operation among various institutions. Participants at the meeting recalled the joint AU-UN framework for enhanced partnership in peace and security signed on April 19, 2017. This framework underscored the determination of both organizations to promote critical partnership in areas of common interest including the prevention, mediation and resolution of conflict along with giving due emphasis for sustaining peace. They also focused on addressing the root causes of conflict for devising realistic and relevant solutions. These include “partnership review” and enhancement of peace.

During the meeting, the AU and UN further recalled the importance of the framework for the implementation of AU Agenda 2063. They also underlined the importance of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development signed on January 2018. The agenda also focused on the peace, security and development links that provided the momentum for structured, systematic, results-oriented collaboration between the two. It also provided for an institutionalized cooperation between the AU and the UN, transforming these commitments into practical engagement.

Other issues considered were climate change impacts, terrorism and violent extremism. They emphasized the need for sustained interaction and engagement between the two organizations towards addressing the structural causes and forces of violent conflicts on the African continent. They also emphasized the importance of African ownership and leadership in addressing issues and threats to peace and security. They also focused on the need to confront the challenges in Africa, learning lessons and best practices from successes in peace and nation building initiatives in Africa.

The AU and UN were committed to take initiatives aimed at building effective institutions and promoting inclusive governance in member states. They were committed to the engagement and empowerment of women and youth in decision-making processes on matters that affect them, including peace, security and sustainable development in Africa. They agreed to engage in the alignment of actions on complex political measures that contribute to the implementation of

**Both the AU and UN wanted to institutionalize and regularize the holding of joint meetings as platform for strengthening the sharing of information**

decisions taken by both organizations. They also promised to explore ways and means to fully support the enhancement of democratic governance in Africa.

The AU and UN reaffirmed their commitment for enhancing joint conflict prevention and mediation initiatives. These measures included joint field visits, thereby realizing the value of streamlining responses and acts to conflicts. They also reaffirmed the major contributions of AU operations in maintaining regional and African peace and security. They also underlined the need for predictable, sustainable and flexible financing. This is based on UN assessment of contributions related to each and every aspect of maintaining peace and security.

Emphasis was given to the need to ensure effective and transparent governance of the natural resources of the continent. This is to be based on equitable and fair distribution as resources, including natural wealth and production that contributes to the sustainable

development of Africa.

They also underlined the need to reform the international financial institutions based on equity, solidarity and universality. This is to be anchored in the principles of the AU Constitutive Act and the UN Charter, to address global inequalities and unequal progress and development. They also expressed their concern about the problems of multilateralism, at the same time recognizing the value of the AU-UN partnership. This is considered to be a model of international cooperation in other parts of the world. In the meantime, the two organizations renewed their commitment to strengthening collaboration among the African states and other concerned institutions and relevant stakeholders. All these are important for the implementation of the AU master plan of practical measures “silence the guns” among African countries by 2030.

Both the AU and UN wanted to institutionalize and regularize the holding of joint meetings as platform for strengthening the sharing of information. It is strongly believed that this would enhance a common understanding the challenges of peace and security in the continent. Examining and arriving at the true sources of information is critical in addressing challenges faced by the African countries. Both organizations expressed their appreciation to the various institutions addressing various issues in the continent.

AU and UN expressed their satisfaction in the convening of the meeting that paved the way toward convening the next retreat in 2024 on a mutually agreed date. The theme for the African Summit in 2024 is “Educate and Skill Africa for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” and it will be held at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa. The city has rich experience in welcoming the honorable African Heads of States and Governments who will attend the Summit.

Key transformational outcomes of Agenda 2063 will be assessed by the relevant African policy makers before the Summit. Agenda 2063 identifies several key benefits to Africans if the programs identified in the strategic development framework are initiated and implemented.

African countries are expected to show improved standards of living with transformed, inclusive and sustained economic growth and development. They are also expected to increase the levels of regional economic integration with the empowerment of women and youth. African societies are expected to be caring for with favorable protection for children.

Generally, African societies should be peaceful, with democratic values and good governance principles. These would contribute to the preservation and enhancement of African cultural identity anywhere. Economically speaking, improvement in living standards should be reflected in increased real per capita income. Simultaneously, the incidence of hunger, unemployment and diseases should be curtailed.

Job opportunities should be created to enhance the income of African youth. Also, children should be having access to kindergarten education and children of secondary school age who are without access to tertiary education should be enrolled in Technical and Vocational Training programs. Students should be free from malnutrition, hunger and diseases.

As much as possible, all people should have access to safe drinking water and sanitation. They should be provided with electricity supply and internet connectivity and cities will be modernized. To generate employment, African countries will focus on labor intensive manufacturing, with high value added to products and increasing the total industrial, agricultural and service sector productivity. In these sectors, businesses will be creative contributing in real terms the gross domestic product. These sectors will be assisted by the expansion of information technologies to raise gross domestic product.

In Africa, regional industrialization centers will be linked to the global value chains and commodity exchanges. In the integration process in Africa, there will be free movement of goods, services and capital between and among countries. People will be travelling to any member state and they would get the visa at the point of entry. This facilitates the increase in the volume of intra-African trade especially in agriculture, industry and services sectors. This process will be supported by the African Customs Union, an African Common Market and an African Monetary Union which will be operational in the near future.

The African Speed Train Network will be beyond the inception stage and it will be taking its first passengers between two connected cities. Regional electric power generation will increase and dams will be operational and will contribute to the powering of the industrial transformation of Africa.

To provide the required technical labor force, African Education Accreditation Agency and a common educational system will be in place. The African Youth will have the choice to study at any university and work anywhere on the African continent. All “obstacles” related to Women owing and inheriting property or business, signing a contract, owning or managing a bank account would be removed. They will have access to and control of productive assets.

Gender equality in control, representation, advancement will be the rule in all AU institutions. All forms of violence against women would be reduced or removed. Also, all harmful social practices and customs would be ended. Also, the African Youth will be mobile and some of the new business firms will be created by their ingenuity and talent thereby reducing youth unemployment. In the same fashion, child labor exploitation, marriages, trafficking and military recruitment are to be ended.

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

# Editorial

## Successful journey towards peaceful dialogue

The Oromo liberation Army (OLA) has recently agreed to drop down arms and pursue its goals through peaceful means round a table. This extraordinary move of the army is unique in that the members have already started to join centers of reform and rehabilitation which is part of the peaceful means as well as already attended the agenda setting gatherings organized by the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission.

This shows how seriously the Oromia state government and OLA had taken the initiative for peace and their later commitment for its realization. The endeavor can be taken as a unique incident that saved a lot of lives and property from damage. As experience in the many years of conflicts in the country show, insurgents usually heed to peaceful means after incurring irrecoverable loss. Indeed the number of lives lost and the amount of the property damaged in the past couples of years is not to be under estimated.

Yet the decision taken by OLA and the government are welcome as the saying goes “better late than never”. It is easy to imagine how severe loss the country would have suffered in the future had this peace deal not been stricken.

In addition to dropping off arms, the army should be acknowledged for its remarkable decision to join the country’s historical National Dialogue.

The National Dialogue brings together all stakeholders and engages them in a participatory inclusive and comprehensive dialogue in a bid to address the decades old political problems of the country through peaceful means.

Accordingly, political parties, religions institutions, community representatives and the like are allowed by the commission to actively engage in the dialogue. So far armed groups were by far the missing elements in most of the peace and justice efforts. Often the groups or their leaders consider it as a loss of their dignity to submit to calls for peace. Therefore, regardless of the peace initiatives they succumb to their ego or war like mentality and also, in some cases to the machinations of external forces that intend to use them for their own interest. But OLA’s decision to embrace peace and then to actively engage in National Dialogue has set a new trend on the overall political history of the country.

Breaking the old and bad habit of fighting to death no matter what comes at the end is a big progress. This who still are waging armed struggle in various parts of the country should also stop and think twice before going far in causing loss of life and damage of property and wastage of the meager resources of the nation.

As the commissions engagement with stakeholders including OLA continues it has become clearly evident that the possibility of conducting peaceful and effective National Dialogue would be a reality.

Both the government and the OLA have to take this opportunity to heal the wounds of the people through tolerance and consultation as it can set a new scenario to drug more other political actors in to the peaceful stage of addressing problems.

In conclusion, the recent agreement between the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) and the Oromia state government to pursue peace through dialogue marks a pivotal moment in Ethiopia’s quest for stability and reconciliation. This courageous shift from armed conflict to peaceful negotiation not only highlights the OLA’s commitment to addressing long-standing grievances but also sets a powerful precedent for other factions still engaged in violence. By participating in the National Dialogue, the OLA has demonstrated that dialogue can triumph over discord, fostering an environment where all stakeholders can contribute to a collective vision for the future. As this process unfolds, it is crucial for both the government and the OLA to remain steadfast in their dedication to healing the wounds of their communities, promoting tolerance, and engaging in constructive consultations. The potential for a new era of peace and collaboration is within reach, and it is imperative that all parties seize this opportunity to build a more harmonious and prosperous Ethiopia.

# Opinion

## Building collaborative framework for lasting peace through national dialogue

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

It is evident that the active collaboration of all sectors of society is vital for fashioning a nonviolent country. In view of the fact that national dialogue plays a huge role in resolving existing quandaries through round-table discussions, ensuring peace and tranquility in the length and breadth of the country will be as easy as falling off a log and stealing candy from a baby.

Considering the huge role the national dialogue plays, all pertinent bodies should do the whole kit and caboodle they can to materialize the intended target of the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC).

In point of fact, as peace is the backbone of all Ethiopians residing at home and overseas, all and sundry should bend over backward to pave the way for the national dialogue, which is going to take place down the road.

It goes without saying by taking part in the national dialogue every Tom, Dick, and Harry can assist the progress of fashioning a peaceful environment throughout the national territory. As far as this, ENDC has taken a diverse range of undertakings to set the scene for national dialogue. On the basis thereof, the country has been making progress and pointing forward in the right direction.

In view of the fact that a broad range of activities have been undertaken with the purpose of ensuring all-encompassing national dialogue, Ethiopia will set in motion making peace fully certain in every corner of the country in the near future. Following the promising strides of ENDC, various bodies every now and then have been tossing around their ideas, feelings and thoughts.

ENDC has urged all stakeholders to work harder in presenting agendas that could foster Nation-Building.

Professor Mesfin Araya, Chief Commissioner of ENDC, has emphasized the crucial role of stakeholders in the ongoing national consultation process and urged participants to present agendas specifically focused on strengthening and building the country.

Currently, a consultation forum is taking place in Adama, Oromia region, with over 1,700 stakeholders in attendance.

Notably, this includes former members of the Oromo Liberation Army forces who have recently returned to civilian life following agreements with Oromia Regional government.

The Chief Commissioner highlighted the commission’s commitment to resolving disputes and addressing issues through dialogue.

He emphasized the importance of public understanding of the commission’s mission and its neutral role in the process.

The achievement of National Dialogue is anticipated to breathe new life into the upcoming national dialogue. It appears clear that the national dialogue’s capability to resolve prolonged hurdles and lingering setbacks has been clearing the way for ensuring peace and tranquility on a national scale at the earliest possible moment. In point

of fact, the collaboration of quite a lot of partners is momentous in the country’s efforts to make lasting peace certain.

In the present circumstances, diverse bodies have been taking part in the ongoing consultation forums with a view to bringing about peace throughout the country.

As the population as a whole has comprehended the significance of standing in unison, they have been working hand in glove with ENDC with the purpose of attaining the intended objectives and accomplishing the goals.

Since engaging in the consultation process plays a fundamental role in making peace happen in all regions of the country by stopping feeling resentful on a national basis, people from all segments of society have been moving heaven and earth to fully partake in the consultation forum.

Given that ensuring peace in the absence of the active participation of all stakeholders is an impossible mission, each and every one regardless of gender, religion as well as educational background, and more of the same should make all possible efforts to materialize the dreams of ENDC.

In a related move, people from various socio-economic groups have been partaking in national consultation forums.

Senior leader of the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA), Segni Negassa, has urged armed forces to enter into a peace agreement and engage in the current national consultation forums taking place in Ethiopia, according to information obtained from a local media.

Stating that members of OLA have been participating at the ongoing consultation forums, he stressed the importance of dialogue to ensuring peace to citizens.

Segni, who has recently entered into a peace agreement with the Oromia Regional Government, underscored the significance of the consultation process and expressed that the Oromo people hold a firm conviction that this consultation will lead to peace.

He stated that the consultation will be complete once all citizens are engaged in the process, encouraging those, who are armed, to join this consultation forum by establishing a peace agreement similar to theirs.

Segni added that the national dialogue will be successful when we freely raise ideas, debate in a peaceful manner, and come up with ideas that are beneficial for the peace and security of all citizens.

In the current climate, people from all sectors of society should play a paramount role in smoothing the path of the national consultation forums on the grounds that it is likely to resolve backlogs of predicaments in the shortest possible period.

If the general populations stand in unison and with one accord by actively partaking in the upcoming national dialogue devoid of batting an eye, peace will prevail in every corner of the country. By taking the aforesaid reality on the ground into consideration, Ethiopians can turn the dreams of the ENDC into a reality at the earliest possible moment.

**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

# Business & Economy

## Augmenting entrepreneurship for minifying dependence on imported goods and services, booming economic growth

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Ethiopia is experiencing unprecedented economic growth over the past few years with the expectation to further accelerate. Hundreds of thousands of companies in Ethiopia have been creating jobs by developing the potential of many different sectors. It is also Ethiopian businesses that train and use local talent and a growing number of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the nation in a sustainable manner by considerably using natural resources, local assets and economic local labor force.

Having this in mind, *The Ethiopian Herald* conducted a short interview with Mohammed Abdella, an economist graduated from Civil Service University and working for a company as an economic consultant and offering trainings regarding entrepreneurship.

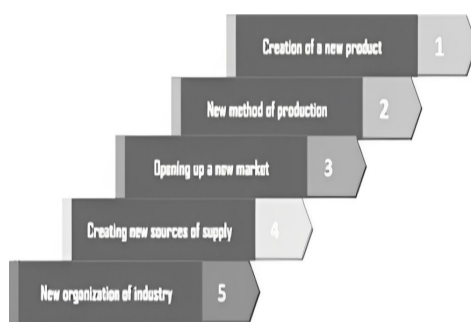
He said, “There is a fundamental change of Ethiopians and/or Africans’ thinking in recent years. The future of economic growth, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, is closely associated with the private sector. Governments outside and on the continent understand the crucial role of private companies in generating more business and creating thousands of millions of job opportunities.”

According to Mohammed, the role of entrepreneurship in economic development is substantial. After all, entrepreneurs do not just build businesses and grow their personal wealth; they also impact the economy by creating new jobs and opportunities, driving innovation, and developing new markets, products, and services.

Obviously, entrepreneurship refers to the process of starting and launching a business and includes the willingness and ability to take on that business risk. As a reward for taking on the risk, the entrepreneur gets to enjoy the majority of profits generated from the enterprise, he added.

As far as the significance of entrepreneurship is concerned, it drives the growth and diversification of the economy and contributes to the creation of wealth. Before getting into the specifics of the role of entrepreneurship in economic development, it is quite advisable to briefly encapsulate its significance. “Entrepreneurship drives economic growth and creates new job, encourages innovation by bringing new ideas, products, and services to the market, contributes to social change by developing products or services that reduce people’s dependence on outdated technologies, addresses social and economic problems by creating solutions that meet the needs of society and enables competition which improves business efficiency and lowers prices for consumers,” he elaborates.

It is recurrently heralded that entrepreneurship is a key driver for



prosperity and economic growth as it is of paramount importance in increasing the market value of goods and services creates jobs, and balanced economic development diminishes poverty and boosts state revenues.

Yes, said Mohammed, multinational companies are often global leaders only in selected industries; innovative small and medium-sized enterprises are an important success factor in both industrialized and developing economies. SMEs often represent the vast majority of businesses and produce substantial taxable turnover.

“Producing modern technologies such as renewable energies, electrical engineering or precision engineered components, SMEs are main drivers for successful economies. In many countries, innovative small and medium-sized companies engaged in the export economy have a higher growth rate or are even at the heart of the social market economy’s growth model. Here, Ethiopia had better draw important lessons from such a telling stride,” he underscored.

Unambiguously, entrepreneurship is also driven by foreign trade activity. Opening up to trade impacts long-run growth through several channels, in particular, by affecting the return to capital accumulation, and through its effects on the incentive to innovate as well as the institutional frameworks in a globalized world, Mohammed stated.

What matters is the effect of trade on market size, competition and knowledge spillovers. In addition, trade liberalization often goes hand in hand with the adoption of external commitments. Many countries have prospered by establishing competitive export industries, and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth helped to generate

economic resources needed to improve people’s living conditions such as access to healthcare, education and housing, he added.

“A significant role of entrepreneurship in economic development is that it can greatly enhance the standard of living for individuals and communities by setting up industries and creating wealth and new positions. Entrepreneurship not only provides large-scale employment and ways to generate income, it also has the potential to improve the quality of individual life by developing products and services that are affordable, safe to use, and add value to their lives. It also introduces new products and services that remove the scarcity of essential commodities,” said Mohammed.

As to him, entrepreneurship can be a path to economic independence for both the country and the entrepreneur. It reduces the nation’s dependence on imported goods and services and promotes self-reliance. The manufactured goods and services can also be exported to foreign markets, leading to expansion, self-reliance, currency inflow, and economic independence. Similarly, entrepreneurs get complete control over their financial future. Through their hard work and innovation, they generate income and create wealth, allowing them to achieve economic independence and financial security.

According to Mohammed, entrepreneurs identify market needs and develop solutions through their products and services to begin their business venture. By starting new firms and businesses, entrepreneurs play a key role in shaping the economy and creating a more dynamic and diverse business landscape. They also promote innovation and competition, leading to new and improved products and services that contribute to economic growth and development.

Equally importantly, entrepreneurship is, Mohammed stated, a pivotal driver of job creation. Running the operations of new businesses and meeting the requirements of customers’ results in new work opportunities. Entrepreneurship also drives innovation and competition that encourages other entrepreneurs and investments, creating

new jobs in a wide range of industries, from manufacturing and construction to service and technology sectors.

Capital formation is also the process of accumulating resources, such as savings and investments, to fund new business ventures and support economic growth. Entrepreneurship can encourage capital formation by attracting investment. In addition, the creation of new businesses and the growth of existing firms can also contribute to the development of a more diverse and dynamic economy that encourages capital formation and opens the door to a wide range of investment opportunities, he added.

Not only is entrepreneurship significantly useful in providing citizens and the country with the aforesaid benefits but it is also a potential tool to lift people out of poverty by generating employment and stimulating economic activity. It also contributes a lot to the development of local economies and helps improve the overall standard of living, he underscores.

“Entrepreneurship promotes economic growth, provides access to goods and services, and improves the overall standard of living, too. Many entrepreneurs also make a positive impact on their communities and improve their well-being by catering to underserved areas and developing environment-friendly products. Their work can help build stronger, more vibrant communities and promote social and economic development,” he added.

As to Mohammed, the other use of entrepreneurship is it can help identify market opportunities and allocate resources in the most effective way possible. Entrepreneurs also play a key role in developing innovative products and services that meet the needs of customers while optimizing the use of available resources.

In sum, the dynamic growth of world trade over the past decades was only made possible by a rapid expansion in trade finance. Hence, the government of Ethiopia needs to give due emphasis to entrepreneurship and entrepreneurs as this move helps the nation achieve a range of targets in relation to economic, social, business, trade and even other related aspects. Besides, as entrepreneurship is the process of creating, launching, and running new businesses that offer innovative products or services to the market, the sub-sector has to be well focused on. Entrepreneurship is vital for economic growth, job creation, innovation, and social change. However, entrepreneurship also faces many challenges and barriers, such as access to finance, skills, markets, regulations, and infrastructure. Therefore, the federal government, state administrators, policymakers, educators, and other stakeholders are expected to support and encourage entrepreneurship across the nation via devising all possible lucrative strategies for promoting entrepreneurship in Ethiopia.

# Art & Culture

## The Battle of Mychew, Ethiopian Army's valor

(Book Review)

*Book: Red lion (Key Anbessa)*

*Author Colonel Alhendro Del Baye*

*Translator: Tesfaye Mekonen Bayleygn*

*Number of pages: 317*

*Published in 1936*

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Forty years after Italy's defeat in 1896 at the Battle of Adwa, Italian Fascist leader Mussolini sought revenge on Ethiopia by invading in 1936. This time, unlike during the Adwa era, the fascist army was equipped with warplanes, tanks, armored vehicles, artillery, and modern communication apparatus, giving them the upper hand on the battlefield. The ill-fed, ill-clothed, and ill-armed Ethiopian army, similar to the Adwa era, marched towards the battlefield on foot, carrying their traditional logistics on animal backs.

The author of the book, a volunteer fighter who came from Europe to fight alongside the Ethiopian army, details the challenges the Ethiopian army faced in the battlefield, the unbalanced war between the Ethiopian and Fascist forces in terms of weapons, logistics, and military leadership, and the ultimate fate of the Ethiopian fighters.

According to the book, in the eve of the war in 1936, a Cuban citizen, Captain Del Baye, who was in London, observed an announcement posted with a picture of the then Ethiopian Ambassador in London, Hakim Workineh Eshete, which explained that "volunteer foreign military officers interested in combatting fascists alongside the Ethiopian army could register."

He then went to the Ethiopian Embassy, contacted Ambassador Hakim Workineh, discussed the matter with him, obtained his consent, signed an agreement to fight for Ethiopia, and prepared himself to come to Ethiopia.

Days later, he embarked on a ship to Djibouti via the Mediterranean Sea and Suez Canal.

In Djibouti, he contacted the Ethiopian Consulate General and, after a short stay, left for Addis Ababa.

According to the book, weeks later, Del Baye appeared before the court of Emperor Haile Selassie I and spoke with him. The emperor asked Del Baye why he showed interest in fighting alongside the Ethiopian army and in which combat unit he wanted to fight. He responded to the questions, expressed his desire to join the infantry division, and agreed to march towards the war front with the Army chief, Ras Mulugeta. Despite the Italians' aggressive preparations for war against Ethiopia, as a member of the League of Nations and considering the collective security measures mandated by the league, Emperor Haile Selassie I paid little attention to resisting the invaders through military means.

Nevertheless, traders continued to smuggle

armaments through caravan routes from the port of Djibouti and Berbera in Somaliland to Harar and Dire Dawa. Most of the weapons were manufactured in France, Belgium, Australia, and Czechoslovakia. Volunteer fighters armed themselves by exchanging their old weapons for new ones. Although rumors circulated that the Fascists would use Mustard gas, which is prohibited by international law, the emperor hesitated to prepare the army to withstand the chemical weapon. He believed that the mountainous landscape of the country would deter the Italians from using fighter planes. However, according to the book, the use of Mustard gas and warplanes played a pivotal role in changing the course of the war.

Unlike the era of Adwa, the Fascists intended to invade Ethiopia not only from the north but also from the east and southern parts, from Italian Somaliland. They had constructed roads to cross the borders for the final invasion. The emperor's unresponsive stance caused public frustration. Soon, news spread that Fascist planes had begun bombing Adwa.

Days after receiving this information, Del Baye, also known as the Red Lion, met with Ras Mulugeta, the chief commander of the army. At that time, the commander had 96,000 troops under his command. The Ethiopian fighters had high morale and were awaiting orders from the commander to march to the war front.

Later, the emperor met Del Baye and informed him that he would march to the war front and fight for the cause.

In September, the march to the northern front began under the command of Ras Mulugeta. The army was composed of various ethnic groups gathered from different regions.

The army used animals to transport logistics, and women supported the army by preparing food and traditional liquor. After 15 days of marching on foot and on animals' backs, the imperial army led by Ras Mulugeta reached Dessie town and settled 20 miles away from the town. The number of residents was estimated to be 10,000. Days later, the army left Dessie and settled again 80 kilometers away from the town in the north direction. According to the book, from the capital city to Dessie and Kobo, the geographical landscape was mountainous, stretching under the Shewa plateau with similar vegetation cover.

A week later, a message arrived from Ras Kassa and Ras Seyoum, urging the imperial army to come to them as much as possible to halt the rushing enemy troops that had crossed the Ethiopian border from Eritrea. When the army reached Lake Jakinear,

a Fascist reconnaissance plane flew over the sky in the northwest direction at approximately 1,000 feet.

The plane was flying at 150 miles per hour. At that moment, Captain Del Baye, also known as the Red Lion, fired five anti-aircraft bullets consecutively, and the plane was shot down.

Three Fascist troops who had dived out of the plane while in the air were killed by the troops on the ground. For his courageous actions, Captain Del Baye won the respect of Ras Mulugeta.

When the army reached Kobo, about 3,000 armed Tigrian forces joined the army, and they marched to the Tigray region by crossing Mount Alamata. Upon reaching Mychew, they received a second message from Ras Kassa and Seyoum to reach them as soon as possible. Meanwhile, on their way, they encountered ambushes by local rebels fighting against the emperor, resulting in many army members being killed.

While marching northward, the Fascist warplanes were observed flying overhead. Anticipating the negative consequences of the enemy's intentions, Captain Del Baye frequently advised Ras Mulugeta to halt the army's movement during the daytime. However, Ras Mulugeta rejected his appeal, stating, "I do not fear the enemy; I will accept whatever happens." Later, when the army was marching up the mountain, twelve airplanes flew over the army and began bombing. According to the book, the disastrous consequences were severe, with seven hundred men and many pack animals losing their lives.

The Ras Kassa army, numbering 15,000, was deployed 25 kilometers south of Mekele Town.

When Ras Mulugeta left with four kilometers to reach the Ras Kassa army, his army settled in a fortified place. In the morning, Ras Mulugeta, accompanied by Captain Del Baye, went to Ras Kassa's court and met with him and Ras Seyoum to discuss how to repel the enemy forces. Ras Seyoum was angered by the Italians' actions and was eager to counter-offend the enemy. "The emperor made a mistake. He showed reluctance when the enemy army marched towards Mekele and captured the town. They invaded us without firing a single bullet," said Ras Seyoum.

Defending the emperor's actions, Captain Del Baye asserted that the emperor had his own war strategy, similar to other country leaders. "Such measures enable us to detract the enemy's attention so that we can take countermeasure actions," Captain Del Baye stated. Ras Kassa also supported this idea by nodding his head.

Later, the three Rasases agreed to counter the enemy from three directions and take vital positions for their operations. Ras Mulugeta's forces occupied the Ambaradom Mountain south of Mekele, as well as the small towns of Hintalo and Melkt. Ras Kassa was assigned to occupy Tenben town, and Ras Seyoum was tasked with occupying the mountainous place of Gerata. Compared to the others, Ras Seyoum effectively accomplished his mission.

One morning, bad news was heard. Dejazmach Haile Selassie Gugsu, who had married one of the daughters of Emperor Haile Selassie I and had 3,000 soldiers, defected and surrendered to the enemy. In order to fulfill their mission, the army led by Ras Mulugeta marched towards the enemy's position. Once again, Captain Del Baye advised that it would be better to move at night to avoid being targeted by enemy airplanes. However, Ras Mulugeta adamantly rejected this advice.

Similar to the previous day, the army encountered enemy plane bombardments, resulting in many casualties.

When the army approached the enemy trench, they faced artillery and automatic machine gun fire, and were unable to withstand the attack. The fighting was unbalanced in terms of manpower, weapons, and logistics. The enemy had also recruited thousands of Eritreans familiar with the battlefield's geographical terrain, boosting their morale. The death of Ras Mulugeta further weakened the army's fighting morale.

Throughout their movement from Shewa, the imperial army faced various challenges, including combatting local rebels, enemy plane bombardments, a decline in the army's numbers, food and water shortages, and fading morale. The utilization of the enemy's fighter planes and mustard gas changed the course of the war and forced the army to retreat.

The book also reveals that while the army was marching southward, the enemy warplanes continuously bombarded their position, resulting in many casualties. A week later, Captain Del Baye met Emperor Haile Selassie I at his trench in Korem, and in the presence of some war officials, he was promoted to the rank of Colonel.

Days later, while the army continued to fight the enemy, the emperor left the country with his family for Europe. Weeks later, the enemy occupied the capital. Readers can draw lessons from the book: while some local people served the enemy by defecting from their country, foreigners like Colonel Del Baye fought against injustice and chauvinism.

# Indepth

## Africa's debt crisis needs a bold new approach: Expert outlines a way forward

It hasn't been easy for African states to finance their developmental and environmental policy objectives over the past few years.

Recent events suggest that the situation may be improving. For the first time in two years, three African states have been able to access international financial markets, albeit at high interest rates. Kenya, for example, is now paying over 10% compared to about 7% in 2014.

Many African countries continue to face challenging sovereign debt situations.

Total external debts as a share of Africa's export earnings increased from 74.5% in 2010 to 140% in 2022. In 2022, African governments had to allocate about 12% of their revenues to servicing their debt. Between 2019 and 2022, 25 African governments allocated more resources to servicing their total debts than to the health of their citizens. And in late 2023 the International Monetary Fund estimated that over half the low income African countries were either potentially or actually experiencing difficulties paying their debts.

This suggests that it will be very difficult for Africa to raise the US\$1.6 trillion that the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development estimates it needs to reach the sustainable development goals by 2030.

One of the lessons of the COVID pandemic and the climate negotiations is that Africa can't count on the global community to provide it with sufficient new funds or with debt relief to deal with either its development needs or the consequences of crises such as pandemics or extreme weather events.

Its official bilateral creditors appear more focused on their own needs and on other parts of the world than on Africa. Commercial creditors are happy to provide financing when conditions are favorable and African debt can help them satisfy their investment mandates. But they are less forthcoming when the going gets tough and the risks associated with the transaction – and for which they have been compensated – actually materialize.

This suggests that Africa needs to advocate more aggressively for its own interests.

This year offers some good opportunities to promote a more effective approach to African debt.

### Careful planning needed

There are two international conferences where global economic governance will be on the agenda. This is also the first year that the African Union participates as a full member in the G20. In addition, South Africa, the G20 chair in 2025, currently serves on the troika that manages the G20 process.



Debt and development finance will be an important topic in all these forums. African representatives can use their participation to advocate for a new approach to sovereign debt that is more responsive to African needs and concerns. They can also lobby other participating states and non-state actors for their support.

But African states will need to plan carefully. Their starting point should be the well-recognized fact that the current sovereign debt restructuring process is not working for anyone. The G20 agreed a Common Framework that was supposed to help resolve the sovereign debt crises in low income countries. Four African countries applied to have their debts restructured through the framework. Despite years of negotiations, it has failed to fully resolve the debt crisis in three of them.

Countries outside the Common Framework, such as Sri Lanka, have not managed to fully resolve their debt crises either. This is costly for both debtors and creditors. It is therefore in everyone's interest to look for a new approach.

This requires all parties to be willing to entertain new ideas and to experiment with new approaches to old problems. African states should offer their own innovative proposals. They should also state that they are willing to take on new responsibilities if their creditors are willing to do the same.

They can remind their creditors that these experiments would not be taking place in a vacuum. They can be guided by the many existing, but underutilized, international norms and standards applicable to responsible sovereign debt transactions, for example the Unctad principles on responsible sovereign debt transactions. Some of these relate to the conduct of sovereign borrowers. Others focus on responsible lending behavior and are often cited by creditors in their own policies dealing with environmental and social

issues, social responsibility or human rights.

By basing any new approach on these international norms and standards, both debtors and creditors will merely be agreeing to implement principles that they have already accepted.

Working from this starting point, African states should make three specific proposals.

### Concrete proposals

First, they should commit to making both the process for incurring debts and the terms of all their public debt transactions transparent.

This will ensure that their own citizens understand what obligations their governments are assuming on their behalf. It will encourage governments to adopt responsible borrowing and debt management practices. They should also agree that they can be held accountable for their failure to comply with these transparent and responsible sovereign debt practices and procedures.

Second, African states should point out that there is a fundamental problem with a sovereign debt restructuring process that only focuses on the contractual obligations that the debtor state owes its creditors. This focus means, in effect, that servicing its debt obligations will trump the debtor state's efforts to deal with the country's vulnerability to climate change and the loss of biodiversity, and with its poverty, inequality and unemployment challenges. This follows from the fact that their creditors can use the restructuring process to force sovereign borrowers in difficulty, unlike corporations in bankruptcy, to pay those who lend them money without regard, for example, to the impact on their obligations to pensioners, public sector employees or the welfare of their citizens.

This exclusive focus on debt contracts is inconsistent with the international community's interest in addressing global challenges like climate and inequality.

This problem can be resolved if both creditors and debtors agree that they will adopt an approach to debt negotiations that incorporates the financial, economic, social, environmental, human rights and governance dimensions of sovereign debt crises.

Third, African states should propose that their creditors publicly commit to base the new approach to sovereign debt on an agreed list of international norms and standards relevant to responsible international financial practices. These will include those dealing with transparency, climate and environmental issues, and social matters, including human rights.

**The G20 agreed a Common Framework that was supposed to help resolve the sovereign debt crises in low income countries. Four African countries applied to have their debts restructured through the framework**



## Law & Politics

# Capitalizing on Ankara declaration

BY STAFF REPORTER

On December 11, 2024, Ethiopia and Somalia signed the historic Ankara Declaration in the Turkish capital, Ankara, under the mediation of Turkey. This agreement marked a pivotal moment in the relationship between the two East African neighbors, fostering collaboration to address mutual challenges, promote economic cooperation, and ensure regional stability. The Horn of Africa has long been a region of geopolitical significance, with Ethiopia and Somalia sharing a complex history. Disputes over territorial integrity, access to the sea, and maritime agreements have fueled tensions between the two countries for decades. Ethiopia's landlocked status has further intensified its need for reliable and sovereign access to the sea, while Somalia has sought to maintain its territorial sovereignty and address domestic challenges, including the threat of terrorism from Al-Shabaab.

Recognizing the need for sustainable peace and development, Ethiopia and Somalia, with Turkey's facilitation, engaged in months of negotiations culminating in the signing of the Ankara Declaration. The Declaration recognizes Ethiopia's need for access to maritime routes for trade and economic growth. Somalia has agreed to facilitate Ethiopia's access to its ports under mutually beneficial terms while ensuring respect for Somali sovereignty. Ethiopia's previous agreements with Somaliland, particularly regarding the establishment of a naval base, had strained relations with Somalia, which considers Somaliland part of its territory. The Declaration commits both nations to engage in dialogue to address such disputes, fostering cooperation rather than unilateral actions.

Both nations reaffirmed their commitment to combat shared threats, particularly the menace posed by Al-Shabaab. They agreed to enhance intelligence sharing, joint operations, and capacity-building to curb terrorism in the region. The Declaration promotes increased trade and infrastructure projects, including joint investments in ports, roads, and energy. Somalia's extensive coastline and Ethiopia's vast market are seen as complementary assets for regional development. To ensure the effective implementation of the Declaration, a Joint High-Level Committee will oversee initiatives and address challenges in areas such as security, trade, and cultural exchange.

The Ankara Declaration is a landmark agreement with implications far beyond Ethiopia and Somalia. It signals a shift toward diplomacy and collaboration in a region often marked by conflict and external interference. By addressing contentious issues like maritime access and territorial disputes, the Declaration sets a precedent for peaceful negotiations in the Horn of Africa. Additionally, the



commitment to joint counter-terrorism efforts strengthens the regional fight against extremist groups, ensuring a safer environment for economic growth and social development. The Declaration has been welcomed by the international community, with organizations such as the United Nations and the African Union praising it as a model for conflict resolution. Turkey's role as a mediator has also been lauded, reflecting its growing influence in African geopolitics.

While the Ankara Declaration marks significant progress, its success depends on the commitment of both nations to uphold the agreement. Historical mistrust, ongoing security threats, and potential political changes in either country could pose challenges to its implementation. The Ankara Declaration represents a bold step toward a new era of cooperation between Ethiopia and Somalia. By prioritizing dialogue, mutual respect, and shared development goals, the agreement holds the promise of transforming the Horn of Africa into a region of stability and prosperity. As both nations work to implement its provisions, the international community will watch closely, hopeful that this landmark accord will deliver lasting peace and progress.

This week, the security institutions of Ethiopia and Somalia have engaged in discussions to address challenges that hinder the full implementation of the Ankara Agreement. Ambassador Redwan Hussien, Director General of Ethiopia's National Intelligence and Security

Service (NISS), along with key leaders of the institution, held extensive talks with Abdullahi Mohamed Ali, Director of Somalia's National Intelligence and Security Agency, during an official visit to Addis Ababa.

In a press release issued by NISS to the Ethiopian News Agency, it was revealed that the discussions focused on current affairs and regional issues of mutual concern. Both sides conducted in-depth deliberations on areas of cooperation and partnership essential for realizing the objectives of the Ankara Agreement. The intelligence and security agencies of the two countries reached a consensus on their roles in overcoming obstacles to the agreement's implementation, emphasizing their longstanding interconnected development and centuries-old unity despite occasional efforts to disrupt their relations.

Recognizing the persistent threat posed by Al-Shabaab to the East African region, Ethiopian and Somali officials reaffirmed their commitment to combating terrorism. They agreed to leverage their previous experiences and develop enhanced mechanisms for cooperation and partnership to address security challenges effectively. The discussions highlighted the importance of collaboration and consultation in tackling shared threats to ensure regional stability and prosperity.

Somalia's State Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ali Omar, underscored the continued commitment of both nations to achieving shared development and peace. This reaffirmation came as a Somali delegation, led by State Minister Omar, concluded a working visit to Ethiopia, focusing on bolstering bilateral ties in the context of the Ankara Agreement. During the visit, discussions were held with Ethiopia's State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Misganu Arga, marking the first high-level engagement since the agreement's signing. Ambassador Misganu reiterated Ethiopia's steadfast commitment to the Ankara Declaration, while State Minister Omar described the discussions as "fruitful," highlighting the need to look forward and overcome historical challenges to pave the way for progress.

State Minister Omar emphasized the significant potential for economic cooperation between the two nations, stating that Somalia has the longest coastal area and Ethiopia has the biggest market. Somalia expressed its willingness to provide commercial access to Ethiopia at any moment and in any location they desire. The visit and subsequent discussions have laid the groundwork for translating the Ankara Agreement into concrete actions, fostering stronger bilateral relations and regional development. This collaborative effort represents a significant step toward ensuring peace, stability, and mutual prosperity in the Horn of Africa.

## The Ankara Declaration represents a bold step toward a new era of cooperation between Ethiopia and Somalia

## Women in Focus

# Promoting HPV vaccine, eliminating cervical cancer

BY STAFF REPORTER

Cervical cancer remains a major health issue among low-and middle-income countries because of its high morbidity and mortality rates among women. The primary cause of cervical cancer is a virus known as, Human papillomavirus (HPV), and its prevalence in Africa is high.

However, initiatives between and among various actors including MSD and Gavi, the Vaccine manufacturers and working to improving global health security by supporting health systems, together with the efforts of health ministries, may significantly reduce the burden of this preventable disease.

According to documents, HPV is the most prevalent sexually transmitted infection worldwide that affects both sexes. In Africa, the virus has a prevalence of about 24 percent, which corresponds with the high rates of cervical cancer in the region. Gavi, in partnership with MSD, has ambitions to vaccinate millions of young girls in a bid to provide the vital preventive measure. Historical data also show that HPV vaccination has proved to be more than 90 percent effective in preventing cervical cancer, which makes the vaccine more critical in improving public health initiatives.

The World Health Organization (WHO) indicates that Africa bears a disproportionate share of the global cervical cancer burden. In 2020, it accounted for 21 percent of cervical cancer deaths in the world. If timely action is not taken, deaths from cervical cancer could increase to 400,000 by 2030, with an increasing share from Africa. Therefore, vaccination combined with effective screening and early detection is the most viable approach to turn the tide on this trend.

During a recent program where cervical cancer prevention was launched, Health Minister, Mekdes Daba (MD), reassured those attending the program that her Ministry is working committedly toward reducing the incidence of cervical cancer through systematic vaccination and early detection. Mekdes said that in Ethiopia, more than 8,000 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer every year, while over 5,000 die due to late-stage diagnosis. She reiterated the Ministry's commitment to eradicating preventable deaths from treatable diseases.

Targeted vaccination programs for girls under the age of 15 were launched by the Ministry of Health, and the primary goal is to reach 86 million adolescent girls with the HPV vaccine by 2025. The awareness-raising activities are paramount however;

they require the willingness and support of community stakeholders such as religious leaders, parents, educators, and the like to aid in persuading people to get inoculated.

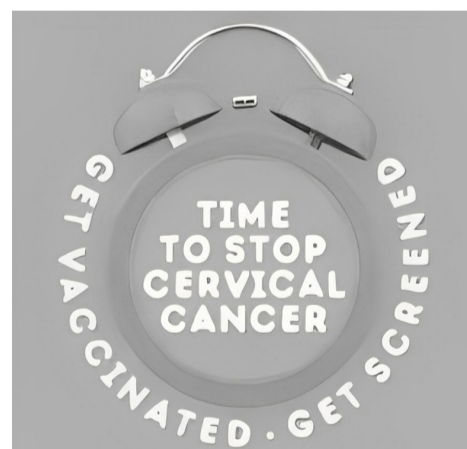
Assistant Prof. of Clinical Oncology Abraham Adamu (MD) also expressed his insights regarding screening and treatment in the fight against cervical cancer. "Screening is for people with no signs or symptoms of the disease. Treatment is for those with obvious signs and symptoms that can be attributed to cervical cancer," he explained. Dr. Adamu also clarified that treatment can be offered at any age once one has been diagnosed with the case, whether the patient is between 30 and 45 years old or even younger.

According to him, the treatment would depend on various factors including the patient's general condition, the state of the disease, and even logistical issues. In most cases, however, he noted, the disease is often diagnosed at an advanced stage, so treatment options commonly involve chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and possible

# STOP CERVICAL CANCER!



## Promote HPV Vaccine for all 10-year-old girls



**By serving the community's needs, overcoming misinformation, and making vaccination and screening accessible on equal terms, the burden of cervical cancer can be significantly reduced**

surgery. "These treatments are expensive," he emphasized, highlighting the need for early screening and treatment. He also uttered that vaccination is the best way to prevent most cases from developing.

Emily Kobayashi of Gavi spoke very passionately about the critical importance of protecting young girls and women from HPV through vaccination. She said that cervical cancer is an avoidable, but a killer disease, however, Gavi has so far protected over 40 million people across the world. The current estimated percentage for HPV vaccination in Africa is approximately 32 percent. Owing to this, there is an urgent need for outreach and education.

In connection with this, Kobayashi said: "Reaching the ambitious goal to vaccinate 86 million girls by 2025 requires partnerships at all levels- religious leaders, parents, educators, and community organizations. Only together can we envision a future where cervical cancer will cease to be a threat to our adolescent girls."

She also spoke about the various myths associated with vaccination against HPV, saying, "We must dispel the fears surrounding vaccination. Gavi ensures that the HPV vaccine will be safe and effective through rigorous testing and WHO support. Education holds the key to showing the communities that the benefits far outweigh the myths."

Gavi has played a pivotal role in distributing HPV vaccines across various African nations. With more than 40 million individuals vaccinated globally, Gavi aims to achieve a 90 percent immunization rate to combat cervical cancer.

Currently, only around 32 percent of girls in Africa have received the HPV vaccine, suggesting substantial opportunity for growth.

Addressing vaccine hesitancy is very crucial for HPV vaccination efforts. Dr. Emily Kobayashi emphasized reassurance regarding the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine, as evidenced by extensive WHO reviews. "Education to dispel the myths about HPV and its vaccine will be important in gaining trust by the public and promoting vaccination," she reiterated.

Cervical cancer is a serious public health problem; however, this cooperation among MSD, Gavi, and health authorities at the local level marks a form of prevention. By serving the community's needs, overcoming misinformation, and making vaccination and screening accessible on equal terms, the burden of cervical cancer can be significantly reduced. By doing so, we can ensure that no girl will have to suffer from a disease that is almost totally preventable.

# Society

## Women: Significant contributors to cultural preservation, harmony

BY MENGESHA AMARE

It is well recognized that women are widely attributable to contributing towards creating a more cohesive community as they have almost all the time spent, no mandatory of course, with the new generation, the next posterity, and their sympathetic gesture is accredited to the path in creating civic-minded and peace-loving citizens.

Keeping this in mind, *The Ethiopian Herald* approached Meskerem Balcha, a gender specialist, graduated from Addis Ababa University in Gender studies and works for an organization as a gender consultant.

She said, “The role of women in boosting the development of Ethiopia should never be underestimated. They are indispensable in the national development and integration of any issue. National cohesion and integration in the country is an enabling process to all citizens to have a feeling that they are members of the same nation engaged in a common enterprise, facing shared challenges and opportunities.”

However, she said women are often excluded from decision-making processes, and their perspectives have not yet always been taken into account. There is a need for greater recognition of women’s roles in promoting social cohesion, peace, and conflict resolution, and for their full participation in decision-making processes.

According to Meskerem, women can play a great role in promoting national cohesion and integration for sustainable development in Ethiopia. While some women benefit from emerging opportunities nationally, Ethiopia with traditional gender roles suffers from increased burdens and stress, and hence their efforts towards nation-building should not be curtailed. Women also need to partner with key allies in order to spearhead debates on the removal of retrogressive cultural practices and norms that hinder them from achieving their national agenda.

“In peace building and national integration initiatives, women need not be excluded. Since women’s level of contribution in peace processes remains one of the most unfulfilled aspects, they have to be well promoted via making their unreserved contribution to the effort geared towards peace and tranquility. Women participation in different roles in cultural promotion, generational nurturing, and peace-building at the household, community, and national levels is really immense. Their substantial contributions to peace, family and social unity, as well as community survival are not necessarily recognized at the political level,” she said.

While improvements have been made, women remain underrepresented in public offices, at the negotiating table she said adding that the needs and perspectives of women are often overlooked in post conflict disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration, as well as in security sector reform, rehabilitation of justice, and the rule of law.

Many conflicts have been marked by widespread sexual and gender-based



violence, which often continues in the aftermath of war and is typically accompanied by impunity of the perpetrators, she added.

There is a need to coordinate and focus on mechanisms of preventing full-scale violent conflicts by closely watching and reading the signs of conflicts. By so doing, women need to capitalize on their networks as well as the capacity to stop violent conflicts even before they happen, start peace-building before violence erupts, and use their numbers to transform situations of conflict. It is important to pay particular attention and involve young people and women in issues of social justice and especially conflict resolution mechanisms for the sake of boosting social cohesion, she opined.

As to her, it is important to equip women with the necessary skills to get involved in conflict resolution mechanisms such as negotiation, mediation, and arbitration. There is also a need for greater women’s participation in decision-making processes by providing ethical leadership that takes into consideration the social justice realities of the nation. There is additionally a need to form well-coordinated and mutually enriching networks within the women organizations of regional states and Ethiopia as a whole and strengthen the regional movement and make far-reaching contributions to the global network of women, making marks in social cohesion, amity, reconciliation, justice and peace paradigms.

Yes, women frequently incorporate new forms and techniques with the traditional to preserve and pass on these kinds of intangible culture, so renewing culture Meskerem said adding women’s creativity is also necessary for the survival and revitalization of intangible cultural manifestations.

As learnt from Meskerem, women have a crucial role in the global preservation and vitality of cultural diversity and history. Their responsibilities in connection to intangible heritage are particularly important because they contain what may be called core regions and representations of cultural heritage, which are usually necessary for the maintenance of cultural identity.

Women have been one of the priority groups of cultural preservation. They renew and modify culture through preserving and passing on intangible culture to future generations. Furthermore, the involvement of women in the preservation of intangible assets, particularly in local cultural contexts, is critical to the preservation of cultural variety, she added.

Honestly speaking, women make up around half of the population of any given country. They have played significant roles in the evolution of civilization in developing countries like ours. As wives, women are responsible for the well-being of the whole home, including extended family members.

Women often decline to do what they could do to follow the ideas of culture and tradition. They should not be subjected to gender-specific limitations in cultural sites. Women’s contributions to the transfer of intangible cultural heritages and posterity building are critical in today’s reality. Intangible heritage, also known as immaterial legacy, refers to components of citizens’ lives that are critical to the continuation and expression of cultural identity among the generation, Meskerem underscored.

She further stated that essential areas of culture, as well as those that are frequently necessary in preserving familial and cohesive social relationships, are examples of these spheres. Many of these key kinds of intangible heritage are transmitted and renewed intergeneration allies in most cultures via the raising of children.

“Gender inequality is prevalent in many cultures; hence the topic of women’s empowerment and gender equality is high on everyone’s mind. Women are also caretakers of intangible cultural legacy, which includes the performing arts, such as music, art and handicrafts, weaving, textiles, and the know-how for the construction of material culture, among other things. Women frequently incorporate new forms and techniques with the traditional to preserve and pass on these kinds of intangible culture, so renewing culture,” said Meskerem.

According to Meskerem, women’s creativity is also necessary for the survival and revitalization of intangible cultural

manifestations. Many female artists produce works of traditional value while combining modern aspects in performance, such as theatre and dance. This is a valuable contribution that should be recognized. Women transmit intangible legacy in ways that are adaptable to modern situations, inclusive of change, and improve cultural representations via their passion for their work.

Women embark on agricultural activities for a variety of reasons, too. They have personal interests, they earn financial resources and it is the family tradition.

The involvement of women in agriculture in Ethiopia has attracted greater attention in recent years. The reasons for their involvement are numerous and diverse. In some areas of Ethiopia, women have virtually taken on in the production and processing of arable crops, being responsible for as much as 60 percent of the staple food production, she added. If given the opportunity, women can effectively participate in policy-making and governance especially as it affects their cultural heritage. Women have an important role to play in ensuring the enjoyment of rights in a violence-free environment for women and girls. Decision-making by women in the family and community context is usually respected and supported by various cultural values and practices.

Cultural institutions need to re-educate their constituencies about the existence and significance of the positive cultural values, norms, and practices, as identified by this project.

Obviously, said Meskerem, in the country, women are active agents in the arena of food and rituals keeping alive modes of worship, fasts and festivals and rules governing concerns of purity and pollution. Although these reinforce and reproduce the boundaries of caste and class they also provide avenues of self-worth and expression through the command of the repertoire of rules and of innovation and subversion.

Although these sometimes elicit ambivalent responses on the part of state and religious authorities, they nonetheless exhibit tremendous resilience. Many areas of women’s knowledge and practice, which are at the heart of intangible cultural heritage, risk becoming marginalized with increasing globalization of production, exchange and the transmission of knowledge. It is therefore an urgent priority to document women’s existing roles in the transmission of cultural heritage and to explore areas of both conflict and synergy with increasing globalization, Meskerem opined.

Women’s networks are frequently multi-functional and may involve self-help, ritual, and artistic forms of expression. They involve elements of innovation as well as the transmission of local cultural practices to the next generation. They may also mobilize local cultural forms and resources in their search for greater equality. Intangible cultural heritage may act not only as a resource for development but also for the empowerment of women.

# INTERNATIONAL

## Kenya welcomes 2.5mn tourists in 2024, eyes 7mn by 2027

The growth in arrivals has been attributed to government strategies aimed at boosting tourism.

In the first half of the year, the sector generated Sh142.5 billion in revenue, an increase from \$1.06 billion in the same period last year, according to the Kenya Tourism Board (KTB).

Speaking during a church service at the Africa Inland Church (AIC) Kipkorgot in Uasin Gishu County, President Ruto reiterated his commitment to transforming the country.

In his remarks, Ruto emphasized his administration's focus on enhancing Kenya's global appeal as a top tourist destination while ensuring the benefits of tourism are felt across the nation.

Source: capital



NAIROBI, Kenya, Dec 23 – Kenya has recorded 2.5 million tourist arrivals in 2024, up from 1.9 million last year, with the government targeting 7 million visitors by 2027, President William Ruto has announced.

## Africa's critical mineral resources, a boon for intra-African trade and regional integration

Addis Ababa, 22 December 2024 (ECA) - Africa - rich in critical minerals - will accelerate intra-continental trade and harness its natural resources for sustainable development by rolling out effective trade policies, to benefit from the global rush for green energy transition.

With approximately 30% of the world's mineral reserves, including cobalt, lithium, and nickel, which are considered essential for the green transition, African countries need to exploit these resources to drive its development, particularly trade and industrialization, experts say.

An Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Africa's Critical Minerals in the Context of Trade Policy hosted by the African Trade Policy Centre (ATPC) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) on December 16–17, 2024 in Addis highlighted that Africa already has the right strategies and policies in place to harness its mineral resources. However, what is missing is deliberate action to realise this potential as the continent risks losing the full benefits of these critical minerals to global investors.

Speaking at the opening of the EGM, ECA Deputy Executive Secretary, Antonio Pedro, stressed it was time for Africa to leverage its political and economic integration for development. The continent already has policies to promote the development of its mineral resources.

“There is no reason why we should have a repeat of the scramble for Africa, especially at a time when greater political and economic integration has also taken place at the regional and continental levels,” Mr. Pedro said, pointing that supportive continent-wide policies such as the African Mining Vision (AMV), the African Commodity Strategy and now the African Green Minerals Strategy have been adopted across Africa.

Research by the ECA shows that demand for critical minerals will drive the quest to decarbonize economies and to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. It is estimated that the transition from fossil fuels to clean energy will create demand for 3 billion tons of minerals and metals to deploy solar, wind, and geothermal energy by 2050. For example, the Democratic Republic of Congo alone supplies about 70 percent of the global cobalt market, a mineral critical in electric vehicle battery production.

Critical minerals, sought after for just energy transition, could power Africa's development and sustainable future, according to United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) which has identified critical minerals as a key revenue generator for governments to finance development and lift millions of Africans out of poverty.

Africa could be the go to industrialization destination by adding value to the critical minerals on the continent, argued Mr. Pedro. The value addition of critical minerals could boost e-mobility in Africa, while creating decent jobs and make Africa a competitive hub for green industrialization.

Africa is home to significant reserves of critical energy transition minerals such as 55% of cobalt, 47.65% of manganese, 21.6% of natural graphite, 5.9% of copper, 5.6% of nickel, 1% of lithium, and 0.6% of iron ore globally, according to UNCTAD.

Research shows that Africa is yet to fully realise the potential of its mineral resources as it estimated that African countries generate only about 40% of the revenue they could potentially collect from these resources.

The meeting noted that the growing global demand for critical minerals, in an opportunity for Africa to maximise its revenues from mineral exploitation,

value addition and the development of minerals-based regional value chains to spur industrialisation. This can be done through leveraging Africa's trade and integration programme, including its Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

The AfCFTA represents a market of 1.3 billion people and a combined GDP of over US\$3.4 trillion but intra-African trade accounts for only 15% of the continent's total trade.

The EGM considered the current demand for critical minerals in the broader historical and intellectual context of commodity dependence, examined Africa's recent experiences dealing with commodities, and explored the role of Africa's trade and integration policy to safeguard Africa's interests internally and boost its negotiating power in its dealings with external partners.

The EGM which featured panels led by prominent experts and researchers from the African Union Commission, United Nations agencies, regional development banks, think tanks, and the private sector, drew a number of recommendations for action. It recommended that Africa's commitment to trade-led economic integration should be leveraged to support the development of minerals-based regional and continental value chains and economic diversification.

Furthermore, the meeting called for further research to inform actionable policy recommendations. A recommendation was agreed to conduct a baseline study to understand how African minerals are used and traded today and what lessons Africa can learn from its own experiences dealing with commodity-booms and busts in the past.

Source: UNECA

## UNGA adopts milestone treaty against cybercrime

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 25 (Xinhua) The UN General Assembly on Tuesday adopted the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime, a landmark global treaty in bolstering international cooperation in the fight against such crimes.

It has been the first international criminal justice treaty negotiated among UN member states in over 20 years.

The legally binding convention acknowledges the significant risks posed by the misuse of information and communications technologies, which enable criminal activities on an unprecedented scale, speed, and scope.

It highlights the adverse impacts such crimes can have on states, enterprises, and the well-being of individuals and society, and focuses on protecting them from offenses such as terrorism, human trafficking, drug smuggling and online financial crimes.

The document also recognizes the growing impact of cybercrime on victims and prioritises justice, especially for vulnerable groups. It underscores the need for technical assistance, capacity-building and collaboration among states and other stakeholders.

According to a UN press release, the convention will open for signature at a formal ceremony to be hosted in Hanoi, Vietnam, next year, and enter into force 90 days after being ratified by the 40th signatory.

Source: Xinhua



## Published Weekly in Collaboration with Haramaya University

### HU's problem-solving research: A catalyst for international collaboration

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Haramaya University (HU) has become globally competitive through its problem-solving research in medicine and agriculture, as stated by the House of People Representatives.

The House's Public Expenditure Administration and Control Affairs Standing Committee met with the University's top management to discuss overall performance and other issues.

During the discussion, Standing Committee Chair Yeshiembet Demise (Dr.) stated that HU is a public institution that strives to resolve numerous academic and societal challenges through multidisciplinary studies and research. She emphasized the University's efforts to restore Lake Haramaya, which is promising and should be further strengthened to ensure its sustainability through long-term conservation tasks. Collaborating with local authorities and the community is essential to protect the lake from pollution and secure its



continued existence.

In addition to its dedication to research and efforts to restore the lake, HU has made the issue a national agenda that requires everyone's attention. Poor waste management contributed to the lake drying up, so HU should work with relevant organizations to prevent pollution and other threats.

HU also provides medical care to patients from nearby nations, highlighting the need to further develop health diplomacy

efforts and ties with neighboring countries, according to Demise.

She also stressed the importance of advancing local traditional remedies, improving waste management, preserving natural resources, empowering women, and enhancing public relations efforts.

HU President Dr. Jemal Yousuf explained that the university supports the community through problem-solving research initiatives, benefiting the local population with improved technologies, plant species,

and products. Additionally, the university trains farmers in modern farming methods, soil and water conservation, and animal husbandry, leading to increased agricultural production and productivity in the community.

Dr. Yousuf further highlighted the interconnectedness of HU's research in agriculture, health, and food security with the government's development objectives and initiatives including the Yelemat Tirufat (the Bounty of Basket). He mentioned programs like the green legacy initiative, the irrigated summer wheat program, and climate-smart urban developments, emphasizing the university's role in supporting the country's food security and climate change mitigation policies.

Despite HU's capacity for national and international problem-solving research, Dr. Yousuf noted that financial constraints, procurement issues, and limited laboratory space are significant obstacles to conducting more effective studies and research.



## Published Weekly in Cooperation with Dambi Dollo University

### DaDU pig farming role in economic development, food security

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Dambi Dollo University (DaDU) has achieved considerable strides in pig breeding and is actively pursuing its defined educational and community service goals. It also encourages economic growth and improves food security.

DaDU Integrated Agricultural Research Center Director Assistant Professor Soressa Shuma said that although Pig farming is well recognized as a traditional practice in developed countries, it has recently received substantial interest in Ethiopia due to the country's suitable climate and environment.

DaDU, taking these facts into account, is implementing pig farming initiatives via its Center for the surrounding community. Hence, the university is making substantial progress in pig farming aiming to enhance the recognition of pig production farming within the local community and to disseminate knowledge and experience related to this practice among farmers. It also becomes



instrumental in fostering economic growth and improving food security through multiple avenues.

Besides, the pig farming center provides significant revenue for farmers and rural areas, leading to job creation and revitalizing local economies. It also boosts demand for related

sectors such as feed production, logistics, and meat processing, he explained.

He further mentioned that it is particularly important in the agriculture sector as it is a vital source of high-quality protein and a balanced diet. Their efficient management and consistent meat supply allow for pig farming tasks in a

variety of environments.

He remembered that eight months ago, the Center had acquired four pigs for breeding, which were then moved to the agricultural research facility. He noted that the breeding population has now surpassed over 70 in an exceptionally short time. This demonstrates that pig farming is simple and successful in all environments.

Pig breeding is beneficial to the community because it is efficient and simple to manage in the agricultural sector. Furthermore, pigs are resilient to a variety of climatic circumstances and can breed twice to three times each year, with each sow capable of producing offspring on more than ten occasions.

Apart from the surrounding communities, pig farming is now providing major benefits to university students engaged in extensive agricultural research. The university provides pig breeding trainings to help farmers in the district and surrounding districts better understand and implement pig breeding procedures, he added.



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