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Prosperity Party stands as strong African force: Premier

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA--Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD), also the President of the ruling Prosperity Party, revealed that the party now boasts 15.7 million members, making it one of Africa's largest political parties.

Speaking at the Prosperity Party's 5th Anniversary National Commemorative Ceremony at the Adwa Memorial Museum yesterday, Abiy emphasized the pivotal role of the party's broad membership in driving Ethiopia's development and addressing national challenges. Since its founding, the party has made significant strides, achieving notable successes and fostering transformation across various sectors.

PM Abiy described the Prosperity Party as embodying the core values of truth,

knowledge, and wisdom, steadfast in its commitment to transforming Ethiopia into a prosperous nation. He underscored that this vision can only be realized through the collective efforts of the 15.7 million party members and the broader Ethiopian populace.

The Prosperity Party remains firmly focused on national prosperity, with a clear emphasis on eradicating poverty and fostering inclusive growth. Guided by these principles, the party aims to elevate Ethiopia to the highest levels of development and prosperity.

"The strength of the Prosperity Party lies in the unity of its 15.7 million members, who have worked tirelessly to secure notable achievements in diplomacy, the economy, agriculture, technology, and other sectors over the past five years," Abiy remarked.

He further emphasized that ensuring *See Prosperity Party ... page 4*

Photo: Dange Abera



Breaking new ground: Ethiopia's revamped rural dev't policy

BY YESUF ENDRIS

Ethiopia's rural development policies, which have undergone decades of reforms, have struggled to modernize the agricultural sector and address production inefficiencies. While efforts like equitable land distribution, particularly through the land tenure policy, were designed to promote fairness, they have inadvertently hindered mechanization and commercialization. This criticism has led to a significant policy shift, prompting the current government to reform land administration as part of a broader update to the rural development framework.

A few months after its adoption, the policy was tabled for further discussion. The most recent expression of optimism came during the annual conference of the Agricultural Economics Society of Ethiopia. The new policy, which focuses on improving farmers' access to financial resources, is expected to empower smallholder farmers to invest in modern agricultural inputs and technologies.

In an exclusive interview with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Senior Advisor at the



Ministry of Agriculture Getachew Diriba (PhD) described previous reforms as relatively fair in terms of land distribution. However, he noted that these reforms failed to lift farmers out of poverty due to their inability to modernize farming practices.

Ethiopia is losing up to 20 percent of its agricultural production due to post-harvest losses, primarily caused by outdated harvesting technologies. For decades,

traditional farming systems and fragmented land holdings have undermined the country's agricultural potential. Agriculture, which accounts for 70% of employment and the largest share of GDP, has been severely impacted, according to experts.

Inadequate policies have prevented farmers from using land as collateral for credit or implementing consolidation schemes for more efficient farming.

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Ethiopia, South Africa pull weight in science, innovation for Africa

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA--South African Minister of Science, Technology, and Innovation, Prof. Blade Nzimande, has called on Africa to prioritize science, technology, innovation, and indigenous knowledge systems to achieve meaningful development.

Speaking to *The Ethiopian Herald*, Prof. Nzimande emphasized that Africa cannot rely on mere hopes

See Ethiopia, South Africa ... page 4



Wolayta's inspirational wildlife rescue park

Experts push for tourism policy overhaul

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA—Experts in the tourism sector are urging a comprehensive policy overhaul to strengthen Ethiopia's global competitiveness, create more jobs, and improve the country's international image.

Yezihalem Sisay, PhD, Policy Analyst at the Ministry of Tourism, told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that updating the tourism policy is vital to align with ongoing economic reforms, development strategies, and the evolving nature of the sector. He emphasized that the revision is key to improving hospitality quality, embracing digital technology, and restructuring the tourism industry to meet modern demands.

Yezihalem further explained that the policy should promote integrated tourism, as there remain significant gaps in hospitality standardization, skilled workforce development, tourism infrastructure, and other related areas. He also highlighted the importance of addressing global challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, economic volatility, and geopolitical factors, which further underscore the need for an updated policy.

The Tourism Training Institute Deputy Director General, Yetaseb Seyoum, added



that recent significant changes in both local and global tourism dynamics make policy revision both timely and essential. He stressed that an updated policy would help improve hospitality quality and promote sector development.

Yetaseb further noted that, historically, the tourism sector was closely tied to other industries and not operated independently. He emphasized that the revised policy is a crucial step toward establishing tourism as an autonomous business sector.

Previously, tourism was heavily reliant on the social sector, but with Ethiopia's transition from an agriculture-based economy to a multi-sector one, tourism

has emerged as a key driver of economic growth. This shift has been a major factor motivating the call for a revised tourism policy.

The updated tourism policy will incorporate cutting-edge technologies, improve hospitality standards, and leverage tools like virtual reality (VR), reflecting global trends in the sector. As visitors' needs continue to evolve, the revised policy emphasizes safety, nutrition, and overall comfort, with a strong focus on quality, he remarked.

These changes are expected to enhance Ethiopia's global competitiveness and elevate the country's hospitality sector in the years ahead.

Metropolis grants investment worth 2.93 bln Birr in Q1

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA—The Addis Ababa Investment Commission has issued investment licenses to 612 investors with a registered capital of 2.93 billion Birr in the first quarter of this fiscal year, marking a significant improvement in investment performance.

The Commission's Communication Director, Meseret Woldemariam, told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that investment activities in the first quarter of the current year were 13% higher than those in the same period last year. Most of the licensed investors are engaged in the service and manufacturing sectors.

The service sector includes industries such as hotels, tourism, and information technology, while the manufacturing sector encompasses electrical products, metals, woodworks, and textiles.

In addition to the capital influx, the Director noted that 8,707 permanent and temporary job opportunities were created during the first quarter. Specifically, investors who registered more than two billion Birr in capital generated 490 temporary and 770 permanent jobs.

Meseret further highlighted that the commission will conduct field monitoring to ensure newly licensed investors join the workforce promptly. "If any issues are identified during monitoring, they will be addressed immediately, allowing investors to commence operations without delays," she assured.

Foreign exchange shortages remain one of the most significant challenges for investors, but the Director noted that this issue has shown signs of improvement thanks to recent macroeconomic reforms.

Another common concern raised by investors is access to workspaces. Since this issue falls outside the commission's jurisdiction, it is referred to the Mayor's Office, where additional support is provided for rental and working conditions. Other infrastructure challenges that are within the commission's scope are being addressed in collaboration with relevant departments.

Meseret emphasized that ongoing corridor developments in Addis Ababa will further attract investment, with the city's cleanliness and stability playing a crucial role in fostering a conducive environment.

The Commission is also working to streamline processes for investors by adopting digital technology. This initiative will enable investors to obtain permits and access services remotely, saving time and improving efficiency.

Addis Ababa's improved investment performance showcases the government's commitment to fostering economic growth and creating jobs through effective reforms and investor-friendly initiatives.

IMF reaches significant milestone with Ethiopia

• Ethiopia to access additional 251 Million USD

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

ADDIS ABABA - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced a significant milestone in its partnership with Ethiopia, concluding a staff-level agreement for the second review of the four-year Extended Credit Facility (ECF) arrangement.

With the second review approaching formal approval, Ethiopia is set to access an additional 251 million USD, in which the funds are expected to stabilize the economy and foster a conducive environment to sustainable growth.

According to IMF, the agreement highlights the progress Ethiopia is making in its homegrown economic reform program, offering hope for continued growth and stability.

The deal may pave the way for a strategic partnership focused on economic reforms. IMF staff, led by Álvaro Piris, engaged in extensive discussions with Ethiopian officials, including Finance Minister Ahmed Shide and National Bank Governor MamoMihretu, during a mission from November 12 to 26, 2024.

The financial agency stated that its delegation also consulted key stakeholders from the banking and business sectors to evaluate the progress and priorities of Ethiopia's economic program.

Piris expressed gratitude for the dedication



and proactive measures taken by Ethiopian authorities in implementing the economic reform agenda.

He praised the constructive dialogue with officials and stakeholders, which has been vital for advancing the reform initiatives.

The next steps involve pending approval of the agreement by the IMF management and Executive Board in the coming weeks. Future reviews of the ECF arrangement will be conducted every six months to ensure Ethiopia remains on track with its progress.

According to the IMF's press release, one of the notable successes of Ethiopia's reform program has been the shift to a market-determined exchange rate. This policy

change has significantly alleviated foreign exchange shortages, a long-standing issue for the Ethiopian economy. The narrowing gap between official and parallel exchange rates—now below 10%—underscores the positive impact of these reforms.

As Ethiopia continues its economic transformation journey, its collaboration with the IMF stands as a testament to the country's commitment to reform and resilience. With improved foreign exchange conditions, controlled inflation, and a strong focus on sustainable growth, Ethiopia is laying a solid foundation for a more prosperous future. It is worth noting that in July 2024, the IMF approved a 3.4 billion USD ECF arrangement to support

Editorial

PP's laudable laurels in socioeconomic and political spheres

Wisdom accumulated from a wealth of experience shows that the bold move of surging forward to hit envisaged goals presupposes circumventing hurdles punctuating the arduous road ahead. Congratulating one over achievements and mending missteps not leaving the door ajar for complacency is sagacity. For half a decade, the Prosperity Party's (PP) move has fallen in line with this direction

Established in December 2018, the PP has emerged as a significant force in the country's political landscape. It succeeded the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) and aims to unify various ethnic groups under a single national framework. The PP's influence extends beyond politics, significantly impacting Ethiopia's socioeconomic conditions.

One of the PP's most notable achievements has been its commitment to political reform. The party has emphasized inclusivity and national unity, striving to move beyond the ethnic federalism that characterized its predecessor. This shift aims to promote a sense of national identity over ethnic divisions, which have historically fueled conflict in Ethiopia.

The PP introduced measures to increase political participation, allowing for a broader representation of voices in the political arena. This has included the release of political prisoners and the invitation of opposition parties to engage in dialogue. Such moves have been pivotal in fostering a more open political environment, although challenges remain, including to dos conflicts in some pockets.

On the economic front, the PP has initiated several programs aimed at revitalizing Ethiopia's economy. The party recognizes the importance of sustainable development and has focused on infrastructure development, job creation, and poverty alleviation. Notable projects include the construction of roads, schools, and hospitals, which are essential for improving access to services and enhancing the quality of life for citizens. Salient among which is catalyzing the actualization of the Grand Renaissance Dam.

The government has also placed a strong emphasis on agricultural development, which is crucial for a country where a significant portion of the population depends on farming for their livelihoods. Initiatives to modernize agriculture through the introduction of new technologies and practices have been implemented, aiming to increase productivity and food security. Salient among which is a bumper harvest in wheat.

The PP has prioritized social welfare programs to address the needs of vulnerable populations. This includes initiatives aimed at improving healthcare access, education, and housing. The establishment of free healthcare services and the expansion of educational opportunities are critical components of the party's agenda. By investing in human capital, the PP aims to lay the groundwork for sustainable economic growth and social stability.

In addition, the government has launched initiatives to empower women and youth, recognizing their vital roles in the nation's development. Programs that promote entrepreneurship among young people and support women in business have gained traction, contributing to a more equitable society. Salient among these is the incumbent role in the country's digital transformation.

Moreover, while the PP has made strides in economic development, the country still grapples with high levels of poverty and unemployment. There is a need for further resilient economic strategies that can withstand global shocks and sanctions.

Looking ahead, the PP must navigate these challenges while continuing to implement its vision for a prosperous Ethiopia. Strengthening national unity, enhancing economic resilience, and ensuring inclusive governance are critical for the party's future success. The commitment to reform and development will be closely watched, both domestically and internationally, as Ethiopia seeks to establish itself as a stable and prosperous nation.

The bottom line is, the PP has made significant strides in both the socioeconomic and political spheres. Through its focus on reform, development, and social welfare, the party aims to create a more unified and prosperous Ethiopia. However, addressing the ongoing challenges will be essential to achieving these goals and ensuring a stable future for all Ethiopians. The path forward will require continued dialogue, innovative solutions, and a commitment to inclusivity that recognizes the diverse fabric of Ethiopian society. The celebration of Ethiopia's Nations and Nationalities Day could serve an occasion to reiterate commitments.



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The Ethiopian Herald

Opinion

Spirits lost, spirits must revive

BY HENOK TIBEBU

This ancient nation Ethiopia currently in a sophisticated or complex socioeconomic and political development has spirits lost and spirits that must be resurfaced. The idea occurred to me after having the privilege to read an American historical document of a first Premier printing September 1960 published by "FANCET WORLD LIBRARY". It is a book of five volumes and I happen to get the chance to read "The making of a world power", the fourth volume.

From this volume I have preferred to pick one topic for my first opinion on the spirits our country has lost and the spirits it must revive "why they went to college was the title and it depicted how American youths of late eighteen, nineteen flocked to college even though several efforts were made to keep them back. Who wanted to keep them back and why was not explained by Henry Siedal Canby, whose argument was printed on this part of the book. But I also picked the subject because it is about time that new college students are ready to swarm their campuses.

He explained despite the challenges thousands up on mounting thousands swarmed campuses during that era, for the best of reasons. Some had looked into opportunities for new life experiences, romance and freedom of entertainment. However the majority as per Canby chose to join the colleges with ambitions of much more realistic. They had learned in the preparatory school that the college world was a career as well as a utopia and furthermore a career where the sharp one energetic might overcome handicap of birth, poverty or even of character wrote Canby.

According to him the careerist groups of college students were ambitious about social democracy and they were also well aware that the college climbing would lead to much more than a college success. This group of people knew how to join the right groups and go to the right club and make the best out of their future by themselves unaided by the power of money. The American college life of the period as per Canby educated specifically for the harsh competition of the capitalism for the successful and often unscrupulous pursuit by the individual of power for himself, for class superiority and for a success measure by the secure possession of the fruits of prosperity.

From historical books and novels of the generation in the sixties I have observed that even if contextually different, such spirits of college life have been witnessed in Ethiopia. The problem was that as many agree, the generation annihilated itself during the seventeen years of civil war. The remaining conscious youths of the generation were used as firewood during the worthless Ethio-Eritrea war. That was the time where the spirits which would have lifted the country out of poverty, illiteracy, bad health and agricultural systems and led it to a world standard prosperity were buried deep down in the nation's soil.

That was the time where the college spirits that held social justice and democracy so dearly started to decay and ethnic madness was planted in a few universities that the country has. A generation of new curriculum,

whom all the restraints of high grades with difficult national exam to keep the students back from college but for the sake of quality education of course was lifted for, would start swarming campuses like the American college students of the late eighteenth and nineteenth.

So many universities were built over the past three decades but were the spirits of career given more value than enjoying a college life experience? Has it been social Justice or ethnic madness, which has been embraced by the college society? Was it to graduate from college and win the world by oneself effort or holding documents in plastic binders and walking around the streets of Addis all day, searching for jobs that, dominated the youths mind? So many old scholars has criticized the generation for being Lazy and kept themselves out of accountability. The generation blamed the scholars for not sharing their best as college lecturers! Some blamed the curriculum.

As to me, the Country has to let the bygones be bygones, as a results of bad political trends and lazy curriculum and resurface the spirits of career, social justice, entrepreneurial skill, and the spirits of a generation who knows what to do about his country before anyone else comes to tell him.

The new college students who are going to your campuses must be aware that the college is a ladder to climb up for much more than a college success. You may enjoy romance and entertainments, but also remember that it is also an education for your future adult lives. In this case, I do not see any genuineness of graduate Students complaining about Professor Birhanu Nega's, Minister of education implementation of the exit exam. If a college graduate student fears exit exam, how does anyone expect the Prime Minister to transform such a big nation single handedly? If Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed is to keep up on the positive developmental reforms of the country the greater national assistance will be from a very conscious, careerist self-confident and knowledgeable college society.

I also argue that old scholars are to blame for creating a generation which is controlled by situations instead of creating a generation that controls situations. It's better to stop boasting of the whereabouts of their master or doctorate degrees and start sharing the knowledge of it. It's time the standards of education cleanse ethnic madness and embrace synergy for a prosperous future of society.

In terms of knowledge I have had many of teachers and lecturers who told me that it comes from too much reading. What I have been observing these days is little reading and too much argument or talking without referring evident documents. This is creating barriers of historical knowledge between the youth, which is one of the major factors that have been leading generations to the ethnic madness. Thus new college students are expected to indulge in reading than being mutants of worth nothing social platform videos.

One of the best things one could get from proper education is confidence. If you can pay someone to do your graduation paper, but complaining of exit exam as a graduate student after years of college life, is an insult for your own career life.

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

News



Economic reform advances forex, private sector investment

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

ADDIS ABABA: - The recent economic reform has registered tangible economic achievements including change in forex, fostering private sector investment in Ethiopia's economy, said Governor of the National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE).

The gap in exchange rate falls from nearly 100% to near 5%.

According to a press release sent to The Ethiopian Herald, the European Chamber in Ethiopia (EuroCham) recently organized its monthly CEO networking event.

During the event, NBE Governor Mamo Mihretu delivered his speech. He praised the business community for its unwavering partnership despite ongoing challenges, and its participation is crucial for fostering Ethiopia's effort to a more competitive economy.

Describing the reform as historic, the Governor added, "This is a reform that we take immense pride in as it modernized Ethiopia's monetary framework."

Furthermore, Mamo elucidated that the bank consolidated nearly 87 directives and regulations into a single FX directive that allows exporters to retain 50% of their FX earnings.

Elaborating the immediate impacts of the reform, Mamo noted that there is a sharp reduction in the parallel market premium, which fell from nearly 100% to near 5%.

"Remitters sending money from abroad now

receive bank rates that are as competitive as that offered by Hawala companies. FX transaction volumes have surged as banks purchase 500 million USD and sell 700 million USD in average per month over the past quarter. The reform has doubled the FX reserves in Ethiopia's banking system from 3.1 billion USD to 5.9 billion USD," he said.

As to the presser, the governor responded to the queries raised from the members of EuroCham, who hailed the reforms as a basis for a sustainable economy. He stated that it was necessary to replace an unsustainable system that constrained development.

Support is being provided to affected businesses via working capital loans. Franco Valuta is restricted for merchandise traders and wholesalers but now allowed. The central bank is developing specific banking regulations tailored for operations within the Free Trade Zone, he added.

Similarly, Ben Depraetere, Board Chair of the European Chamber in Ethiopia, on his part echoed EuroCham's commitment to collaborate with NBE and government Ministries to improve the business climate in Ethiopia.

He expressed that the chamber represents over 185 members from the European FDI communities who have invested in Ethiopia, adding: "Some of our members are among the top five taxpayers in Ethiopia, create thousands of jobs, substantially contribute to foreign currency generation and contribute to the government's tax collection targets."

Wolayta's inspirational wildlife rescue park

BY EYUEL KIFLU

WOLAYTA SODO - A remarkable initiative is taking shape in the heart of Wolayta Sodo, south Ethiopia, led by a passionate young entrepreneur Bereket Berhanu. As the founder and chairman of the Junior Youth Recreation Park Association, Bereket is transforming a barren land into a sanctuary for injured wild animals and a vibrant recreational space for the community.

At the park, visitors can encounter a variety of wildlife, including crocodiles, hyenas, monkeys, and rabbits. The centerpiece is an artificial lake that enriches the environment and supports local fish farming efforts. Bereket emphasizes the park's role in nurturing these animals, stating, "We rescue injured wildlife and provide them with the care they need."

What began as a barren landscape has flourished under the dedication of Bereket and his team over the past eight years. With a workforce of 22 local youths, the association has transformed the area by enriching the

soil and planting new seedlings. "We are proud to turn empty land into a thriving park," Bereket said and highlighted the dual benefit of the park in terms of job creation and environmental restoration.

The park serves not only as a wildlife sanctuary but also as an educational platform for students. It offers invaluable opportunities for research and exploration, fostering a deeper understanding of nature. "Our goal is to make this park a place where people can learn about and appreciate wildlife," he explained.

Bereket envisions developing the park into a lodge and introducing exciting features like a ropeway over the lake and cozy cafes for visitors. Bereket emphasized the importance of community support in achieving these dreams. "Caring for our wildlife is a national responsibility, and we need help to continue this vital work," he said.

In a world where nature needs protection, the Junior Youth Recreation Park Association stands as a beacon of hope, showcasing the power of youth-led initiatives in conserving wildlife and enriching local communities.

Ethiopia, South Africa...

for progress but must pursue relentless and tangible efforts in these areas. He underscored the need to transform indigenous knowledge into marketable products, which can significantly contribute to the bio-economy and bolster economic prospects across the continent.

"The bio-economy has immense potential to drive sustainable growth in Africa by utilizing biological resources effectively," he said.

Highlighting the strategic importance of bilateral relations with Ethiopia, Prof. Nzimande stated, "Our collaboration in science, innovation, and technology is vital not only for Ethiopia and South Africa but also within the broader context of regional development goals across Africa."

During his recent visit to the Ethiopian Biotechnology and Emerging Technology Institute (BETin), the Minister and his delegation explored ongoing research and innovation efforts. Reflecting on the visit, he said, "We had meaningful exchanges with Ethiopia's Ministry of Innovation and Technology. The discussions emphasized the need

to transform agreements into practical outcomes."

The visit aimed to evaluate progress on the bilateral memorandum of understanding signed between Ethiopia and South Africa years ago. Prof. Nzimande noted some achievements, including promising research projects and commercialization opportunities. However, he cautioned against agreements remaining theoretical. "Collaboration must move beyond paper and result in concrete outcomes," he stressed.

The Minister expressed optimism about future joint efforts, saying, "BETin's research products demonstrate the potential of our collaboration. We are committed to further strengthening these efforts." He also extended an invitation to the Ethiopian Minister of Innovation and Technology to visit South Africa in the first half of next year to assess ongoing collaborations and identify new opportunities.

Prof. Nzimande concluded by reiterating Africa's need to prioritize science, innovation, and indigenous knowledge to unlock its full economic potential.

Breaking new ground:...

This has left farmers reliant on outdated methods, such as ox-drawn ploughs, limiting productivity.

However, Getachew believes recent policies are key to maximizing production through mechanization, which helps minimize post-harvest losses. "Farmers can now access better financing, enabling them to invest in agricultural inputs and technologies, thereby improving resource utilization," he said.

Recent innovations, such as cluster farming, have demonstrated the potential of mechanization. According to the Ministry of Agriculture, wheat farmers in Arsi Zone have doubled their production by using modern machinery and inputs under the clustered farming system.

Agricultural economist Prof. Woyesa Garede expressed that Ethiopia's agricultural progress and prospects still depend heavily on smallholder farming. "The commercialization and mechanization of smallholder farming are key to transitioning from subsistence agriculture. The government has incorporated this into its reform agendas," he emphasized.

Woyesa believes that if the government's reforms are fully implemented, farmers will be empowered to engage in specialized production, which could, in turn, help

commercialize the sector. He also proposed the liberalization of rural land to encourage agricultural investment and mechanization by the private sector.

Supporting this recommendation, Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA) Deputy Director General Frew Tegegn (PhD) stressed the urgent need for modernized land administration and professional expertise to support the transformation agenda. "A reformed policy must be backed by educated farmers and sector experts," he said, emphasizing the importance of addressing fragmentation and professional gaps.

The Agriculture Economics Society of Ethiopia President Endeshaw Habtie (PhD) acknowledged that land policies over the past 50 years have shaped Ethiopia's socio-economic landscape but have hindered the shift toward a commercialized and mechanized agricultural framework. While food security remains a priority, he noted that competing demands for land—such as for infrastructure, manufacturing, and ecosystem services—pose new challenges. "Implementing the new rural land development policy requires modern land administration, which is crucial to transforming the food system," he said, calling for a balanced approach to resource management.

Prosperity Party...

prosperity is a shared goal for all Ethiopians, aligning with the nation's broader commitment to overcoming poverty. Over the last five years, the party has successfully turned challenges into victories, guided by the values of fraternity, truth, knowledge, and wisdom. These achievements in the political,

economic, and social sectors have had a tangible, positive impact on the people.

Looking ahead, Premier Abiy stated that the focus for the next five years will be to continue building a resilient nation—one that not only thrives but also inspires others by achieving new milestones.

Opinion

Nexus between economic reform, development in Ethiopia

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Economic growth is over and over again linked to economic reform, which can involve deregulation, dipping the size of administration, or other policy changes. Besides, the latter can help to remove distortions caused by regulations or the government, and can create opportunities for private sector growth.

Most recently, Ethiopia, a country located on the geospatially strategic site in East Africa, has recognized entrepreneurship as one of the key driving forces of sustained economic development and is accordingly making many efforts to encourage and facilitate entrepreneurial activities.

Keeping this in mind, *The Ethiopian Herald* conducted an interview with Dereje Bekele, an economist graduated from Addis Ababa University, to seek some sorts of information about the association between economic reform and economic growth, the positive aspects the reform has come up with and the factors affecting the reform process.

He said, “The Ethiopian government has implemented a number of reforms to improve and develop the financial sector; these include the liberalization of foreign exchange, loosening restrictions on interest rates, and the development of new financial instruments and institutions. The loosening of restrictions on interest rates is a very important reform because, until now, interest rates were set by the government and were not allowed to fluctuate freely in response to market conditions.”

As to him, the previous constraints made conditions difficult for banks to operate profitably and for businesses to access finance. But after these restrictions have been lifted, banks are now able to set their own interest rates, which flow freely according to market forces. The foreign exchange market in the past was also highly regulated and inefficient. It was difficult for businesses to access foreign currency, and this limited the flow of foreign investments into the country. The reform has seen to it that exchange rates are allowed to flow more freely, and the market has become more open and competitive.

The implementation of these economic reforms has been critical to the country’s transformation journey. Without these reforms, the country wouldn’t have experienced the level of economic growth and development it has attained. They have helped to increase access to finance, attract foreign investments, promote financial inclusion, and improve the efficiency of the financial system, boosting economic growth, creating jobs, and reducing poverty in Ethiopia, he opined.

According to Dereje, economic reform, also known as microeconomic reform, is a set of policies aiming at improving economic efficiency via employing deregulation—reducing or eliminating distortions caused by regulations, tax policy—implementing simple, transparent, and inviting tax policies, social services—spending efficiently and targeting basic social services and safety nets, labor market—removing rigidities in the labor market as well as private sector—adopting a strategy that is led by the private sector and is outward-oriented.



According to Dereje, economic reform can have many positive aspects and advantages like increasing competition, lower inflation, coming up with improved business environment, attracting foreign investment, securing improved environmental quality, having reduced public debt risks, owning improved public institutions, aspiring long-term growth, improved access to basic needs, ensuring increased economic efficiency, having increased private investment and ensuring better governance.

True, he added, economic reform can help sustain high economic growth and employment, and improve social sector indicators. To mention the examples of economic reform in Ethiopia but a few, increasing private investment, liberalizing sectors like energy, logistics, and telecommunications, improving governance and accountability of public enterprises, strengthening public finances, gradually moving towards a flexible exchange rate regime and developing capital markets and enhancing financial sector development.

According to Dereje, economic reform is important for long-term economic growth, employment, and social sector improvements. It can also help to restructure the economy and enterprises to achieve these goals. It includes macro-financial reforms, which aim at stabilizing the macro economy by reducing public debt risks, inflation, and external vulnerabilities.

“They can also improve growth, investment, and exports, structural reforms, which in turn aim at easing constraints to doing business, such as tariffs and non-tariff barriers to international trade. They can also improve the efficiency of public institutions and services like electricity, telecom, and logistics. Besides, it entails sectoral reforms, which include developing legal frameworks to enhance land use, improving the productivity of small-holder farmers, and modernizing livestock production,” he underlined.

He further explicate that economic reform entails numerous aspects, among others, efficient and well-targeted expenditures on basic social services and safety nets, removal of labor market and investment rigidities, and an outward-oriented, private-sector-led strategy.

On the other hand, there are some limitations that need to be addressed in due course of implementing the economic reform as to Dereje. These include the government may reintroduce tight control over foreign exchange if there is a drop in foreign currency reserves or a decline in prices for a key commodity. Besides, it may change the policies of the previous government, time gaps are observed. Obviously, there may be a delay between the implementation of economic reform and the desired outcome and international pressure as global influence can impact the success of economic reform.

According to Dereje, factors such as lack of access to finance, lack of infrastructure, and a lack of a culture of innovation contribute immensely to it. It would require a coordinated approach from the government and private sector to address these factors. These challenges can be addressed using alternative financing mechanisms. Venture capital and angel investment are two ways of financing businesses, and they would be effective in Ethiopia. Venture capital firms provide funding for startups and early-stage businesses, while angel investors are individuals who invest their own money in businesses. These two options would provide the type of large-scale financing that is needed to grow businesses.

He said, “Limiting regulatory burdens, improving bankruptcy legislations, implementing excise taxes, applying excise taxes to petroleum products, alcohol, and tobacco at the point of production or import, limiting import tariffs, improving personal and corporate income taxes as well as improving incentives for instance revising profit sharing or bonus arrangements for workers and managers can improve incentives need to be applied to make the reform workable.”

In addition to venture capital and cherub investors, access to finance can be addressed by the creation of government-backed loan guarantee schemes, the expansion of mobile banking and other financial technologies, the development of innovative products such as savings and loan associations and village banking, and the promotion of finance literacy and education. These would help to address the issue of lack of access to finance,

helping startups and early-stage businesses grow and thrive, increasing the financial capacity of entrepreneurs, and contributing to the financial growth of the nation he said adding that the challenges, though unique and complex, are not insurmountable; they can be addressed through conscious efforts by the government and the private sector.

True, he added, high public investments in infrastructure and human capital development fueled the country’s growth. These investments narrowed fundamental gaps in transport and energy infrastructure and human capital developments, there by laying the foundation for a sustained growth. However, the public investment led growth model had its shortcomings.

He said, “The reform agenda builds on the achievements of the past decade in infrastructure and human capital developments. The primary objective of the reform is to sustain the economic growth through creating an economic environment supportive of higher private investment and structural transformation. Macro-financial reforms aim to reduce the risks associated with public debt, lower external vulnerabilities, arrest inflation, and enhance growth, investment, and exports. These reforms include strengthening public finances including through improving the efficiency of the private sector and privatization, gradually moving towards a flexible exchange rate regime to address external imbalances, strengthening the monetary policy framework with the objective to stabilize prices and support economic growth, and enhancing financial sector development and developing capital markets.”

The structural reforms aim to address bottlenecks inhibiting private sector growth through stepping up reforms to ease the constraints to doing business, easing tariff and non-tariff barriers to international trade, improving the efficiency of public institutions, and improving services such as logistics, telecom, and electricity, he underscored.

For Ethiopia, he said, the industries in which it excels are often lousy stepping-stones for further diversification, meaning that, they require capabilities that are not easily redeployed towards other industries.

As to him, the jobs of the future will be in these new industries directly and in the multiplier effect in the rest of the economy that these industries will have by demanding inputs from others or through the local spending of the incomes that they generate.

In sum, it is important to apply some recommended aspects to make the reform lucrative and push it into fruition. The need for streamlined regulations has to be well underlined. This means simplify and make transparent the process for permits and licenses to encourage new firms to enter the market. Reducing state-owned enterprises is also important. This in turn helps improve the governance of state-owned enterprises while reducing their scope. Basically, economic reform is a process that can help a country sustain economic growth, create jobs, and improve social sectors.

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

Business & Economy



One of the modern aircraft in the world—Ethiopian

A Landmark for African Aviation—*Ethiopian*

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

It has long been well recognized and the reality on the ground has even revealed that *Ethiopian* is keeping on as emerging beacon of excellence in African aviation, notably known for its setting industry standards and fostering economic growth across the continent. Established in 1945, the airline has grown from a small local carrier into Africa's largest and most successful airline via playing a crucial role in connecting the continent to the world.

According to CEO, Mesfin Tasew, Ethiopian Airlines has consistently embraced innovation and modernization. It has been one of the first airlines in Africa to utilize jet aircraft, and it has continually updated its fleet with the latest models, including the Boeing 787 Dreamliner and the Airbus A350. Not only does this commitment to modernizing its fleet enhance passenger comfort but it has also improved fuel efficiency and operational sustainability.

It is recurrently heralded that Ethiopian Airlines has boomed an extensive network spanning over 125 destinations worldwide, including more than 60 destinations within Africa. This expansive reach positions the airline as a vital connector, facilitating trade, tourism, and cultural exchange across the continent and beyond. The airline has also established strategic partnerships and code-sharing agreements with other international carriers, and such a bold move has helped it further enhance its global connectivity. Ethiopian Airlines plays a pivotal role in blossoming the Ethiopian economy. As a state-owned enterprise, it contributes significantly to job creation and economic development, too. The airline directly employs thousands of people and indirectly supports many more in related sectors, such as tourism and hospitality.

By providing reliable air travel options, Ethiopian Airlines has significantly boosted tourism in Ethiopia and other African countries. The airline's hub in Addis Ababa serves as a gateway for tourists exploring Ethiopia's rich cultural heritage, including the historical sites of Lalibela and Aksum, as well as its stunning natural landscapes situated in different parts of the country.

Recognizing the importance of environmental sustainability, Ethiopian Airlines is actively working to reduce its carbon footprint. The airline has implemented various initiatives, such as investing in fuel-efficient aircraft and exploring sustainable aviation fuels.

True, it aims at leading the way in promoting sustainable travel within the region.

Ethiopian Airlines is also committed to developing the next generation of aviation professionals. The airline operates one of the largest aviation academies in Africa, which has been providing pilots, engineers, and other aviation specialists with effective training and skill developing endeavors. This investment in human capital not only supports the airline's growth but also contributes to the overall development of the aviation sector in Africa.

Despite its successes, Ethiopian Airlines was facing challenges, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, which severely impacted global travel. However, the airline demonstrated resilience by adapting its operations and focusing on cargo services during the downturn. This agility has allowed it to recover more quickly than many competitors.

Ethiopian Airlines marked a historic milestone by welcoming its first Airbus A350-1000 into its fleet, which can potentially make it the first African carrier to operate this advanced aircraft. This new addition is not just an achievement for the airline but also a significant step in Ethiopian's ambitious Vision 2035 strategy, which has aimed at expanding its fleet, destinations, passenger numbers, and revenue. The A350-1000, named "Ethiopia Land of Origins" and registered as ET-BAW, has already begun making its mark with flights across Africa, Europe, and the Middle East.

The inaugural flight for ET-BAW took place on November 7, 2024, from Addis Ababa to Lagos, Nigeria. After receiving a grand water cannon salute upon arrival at Lagos' Murtala Mohammed International Airport, the aircraft's onboard experience received high praise from passengers. Following its return to Addis Ababa, ET-BAW continued its travels, heading to Dubai, Accra, and Paris, demonstrating its versatility across key routes. On November 10, it added Tanzania's Kilimanjaro and Zanzibar to its destinations, marking Dubai as its first intercontinental stop over plot.

Ethiopian Airlines has big plans for its new A350-1000 fleet ET-BAW is currently dedicated to promotional flights, with plans to deploy it on long-haul routes once the second A350-1000 arrives in December. High-profile routes, such as Washington-Dulles, are next in line to benefit from this new fleet, signaling the airline's commitment to

enhancing passenger comfort and expanding intercontinental connections.

Ethiopian Airlines has consistently set the pace for African aviation. As Africa's largest airline by fleet size and destinations, *Ethiopian* has pioneered significant achievements, including being the first African airline to operate the Boeing 787 and now the A350-1000. In July 2022, the airline ordered four A350-1000s, with the remaining three expected to arrive by early 2025. Mesfin emphasized the airline's pride in adopting the A350-1000, highlighting its state-of-the-art technology, superior fuel efficiency, and minimal environmental impact.

"We are thrilled to welcome the Airbus A350-1000 to our fleet, solidifying our position as leaders in aviation technology. This aircraft embodies cutting-edge advancements, offering superior passenger comfort, enhanced fuel efficiency, and reduced environmental impact. Together, we are pioneering a sustainable future for aviation in Africa," said Mesafin.

The A350-1000 is designed with passenger experience at its core. Equipped with 46 business class seats with direct aisle access and 349 economy seats, the aircraft provides comfort across all classes. Its Rolls-Royce Trent XWB-97 engines enhance fuel efficiency, and passengers can enjoy the Thales AVANT up in flight entertainment system, ensuring a premium journey experience.

Since receiving its first A350-900 in 2016, Ethiopian Airlines has steadily grown its A350 fleet, which now includes 21 aircraft with 14 more on the way. The smaller A350-900 variant, seating 30 business and 313 economy passengers, serves a range of destinations, from London and Frankfurt to Johannesburg and Toronto, underscoring the airline's extensive international reach.

With its A350-1000 fleet, Ethiopian Airlines is well-positioned to lead Africa into a new era of aviation. As the airline connects more cities across continents; besides it continues to elevate the continent's global presence in aviation. The arrival of the A350-1000 is more than a fleet expansion as it has confidently become a testament to Ethiopian Airlines' dedication to innovation, sustainability, and exceptional service.

Ethiopian Airlines stands as a landmark in African aviation showcasing the potential for growth and excellence within the continent. Through its commitment to innovation, economic development, sustainability, and training, the airline continues to lead the way

in transforming African air travel. As it looks to the future, Ethiopian Airlines remains dedicated to connecting Africa to the world and setting new benchmarks for the aviation industry. Meanwhile, recently, the Ethiopian Airlines Group has announced plan to significantly expand its global reach by adding five new international flight destinations to its network during the current fiscal year.

As to the CEO, the airline's ambitious growth strategy has aimed at augmenting passenger traffic and revenue. Ethiopian Airlines, a leading African aviation company, is committed to achieving annual revenue of 25 billion USD and transporting approximately 67 million passengers by 2035. To support this goal, the airline is investing in new aircraft and expanding its international network. Following the successful launch of five new international routes in the previous fiscal year, Ethiopian Airlines plans to add destinations including Amsterdam, Netherlands; Monrovia, Liberia; Port Sudan; and Dhaka, Bangladesh this year, Mesfin revealed.

"The Airlines is also actively working to establish flights to Australia within the next two years with a view to expanding its global coverage to all continents. To meet the growing demand for air travel, it is not only purchasing new aircraft but also exploring leasing and other options to provide comfortable and extensive flight services. As capital intensive enterprise, it surpassed the income generation capacity of other producing sectors utilizing huge labor forces."

Ethiopia is a land locked country and is heavily dependent on the neighboring countries ports. The situation is not reliable in building self-sustaining innovative economy. Most airline companies in Africa has low performance record as compared to the Ethiopian, this implies that Ethiopian has high market potential which boost its income.

Because the cost of port services of the neighboring countries often is changing and whenever they face economic hardship they incur additional price on the port services which is unbearable to our country and until Ethiopia secure its own port even though transporting freights by flight is expensive Ethiopian can play crucial role in filling the gap. Currently fresh agricultural products are exported to the foreign markets through the Ethiopian airline and in this regard the company plays pivotal role in boosting foreign currency earnings. Therefore, to enhance its travel destiny, rigorous efforts should be exerted.

Planet Earth



Ethio-Green Mobility exhibition proves Ethiopia's commitment to climate change mitigation

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

The Ethio-Green Mobility 2024 Exhibition and Symposium highlights sustainable transportation solutions, electric vehicles, and green technologies in Ethiopia. Such occasions often bring together industry leaders, policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders to discuss innovations, share knowledge, and form collaborations to promote environmentally friendly mobility solutions.

For a variety of reasons, environmentally sustainable modes of transportation are critical in Ethiopia. It improves air quality in Ethiopia's urban areas. For example, automobile emissions cause severe air pollution in Addis Ababa. The transition to electric vehicles (EVs) and other sustainable modes of transportation can improve air quality and reduce pollution-related health hazards. Furthermore, expanding ecologically friendly transportation options helps to minimize climate change. Ethiopia is extremely sensitive to the effects of climate change, such as droughts and floods. Hence, green mobility solutions can help the government reach its climate objectives while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions and contributing to global efforts to combat climate change.

Furthermore, implementing green mobility solutions is important to ensure energy independence. Many vehicles now rely on fossil fuels, which are volatile in price and quantity. Ethiopia can improve its energy independence and security by investing in electric vehicles and renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power.

Encouraging green mobility contributes to the country's economic development by creating jobs in production, maintenance, and infrastructure development. It can also promote innovation and investment in clean technology. Furthermore, as urbanization increases, cities must create sustainable transportation systems to reduce congestion and maintain efficient mobility.

Environmentally friendly transportation options can improve people's lives. Climate change causes not only recurring droughts but also public health problems. This, in turn, necessitates a reduction in reliance on fossil fuel-powered cars, which can lead to



decreased incidence of respiratory diseases and other health problems related to air pollution. This can enhance public health outcomes and lower healthcare costs.

According to reports, Ethiopia has a diverse range of biodiversity and unique ecosystems. As a result, sustainable transportation solutions can help to reduce biodiversity loss and pollution, as well as safeguard natural resources for future generations.

Taking these and other challenges into account, the Ministry of Transport and Logistics organized the Ethio-Green Mobility 2024 Exhibition and Symposium from November 22 to 29, 2024. The conference and exhibition were hosted in Addis Ababa's Huanjan Industrial Park and were attended by a large number of individuals, including heads of numerous ministries and institutions, local and regional officials, and international institutions that are key stakeholders in electric vehicles and infrastructure.

The Ethiopian Environmental Protection Authority was among the attendees at the expo. The Authority's varied activities include coordinating and assisting in the execution of the country's green economy policy through research and technology transfer assignments. Here, how green mobility solutions help to mitigate climate change and safeguard the environment is the most essential question that needs to be asked.

According to Ethiopian Environmental

Protection Authority Director General Lelise Neme, climate change, and environmental pollution pose greater hazards to human life and lifestyle than ever before. Although the crisis affects the entire world, countries with low economic development are more vulnerable and affected. To lessen their susceptibility, countries are developing policies and measures. As a result, they are all working to solve the world's climate change challenges.

Ethiopia, as a part of the world and a developing country, is extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Recognizing this, the country has been working to develop and implement a green economy strategy that can withstand the effects of climate change, she stated.

She remarked that the development of green transportation and logistics infrastructure at the national level is important for maintaining a sustainable green economy that can withstand the effects of climate change and pollution. As a country, Ethiopia is doing a lot to avert climate change. Among other things, encouraging and supporting green transportation is worth noting. As a result, the transportation and logistics industry is making success by utilizing power and encouraging non-motorized transportation. Accordingly, the exhibition demonstrates Ethiopia's realistic response to climate change by encouraging and supporting green transportation.

She added that using electric vehicles, which are presented in the exhibition, may greatly

reduce carbon emissions, improve traffic flow in cities, and promote a healthy lifestyle for the community. Ethiopia's attempts to promote green transportation services by harnessing its renewable energy potential highlight the country's commitment to tackling climate change.

More importantly, visitors to the exhibition will see modern, new works developed by the automobile sector in the fields of green transportation, charging devices, and related technology items. This is critical because it allows the general public, government, corporate groups, legislators, and others to better grasp the country's potential for electric vehicle production and charging. She emphasized the importance of inspiring individuals to participate in the area.

Furthermore, the usage of electric vehicles has an important role in reducing air pollution, which is harmful to the environment, particularly in developing countries. As a result, what is given in the exhibition and symposiums on ecologically friendly solutions can serve as a model for other African countries seeking to minimize climate change, she stated.

She also added that the cycle lanes built in conjunction with the corridor development present an excellent chance to promote the sector and environmentally friendly mobility transportation solutions. It also demonstrates Ethiopia's potential for renewable energy generation and the expansion of ecologically friendly mobility solutions.

In general, ecologically friendly transportation solutions are critical to Ethiopia's health sector, economic growth, environmental sustainability, and resilience to climate change. Ethiopia's efforts to reduce reliance on nonrenewable energy in the transportation sector by utilizing its abundant renewable energy resources are prominently displayed in the exhibition, which is important for supporting the transition to green mobility, particularly in the transport and logistics sectors. It also demonstrates Ethiopia's commitment to transitioning to green transportation by effectively utilizing its renewable energy resources to address climate change problems. Furthermore, the exhibition is expected to provide a chance to highlight Ethiopia's commitment to sustainable mobility and efforts to develop a climate-resilient green economy.

Art & Culture

Marking unity in diversity

BY ULIAH MELA

Ancient Ethiopia is marked for unity in diversity a decisive ingredient for fostering peace and mutual growth. In cognizance of this fact the country has devoted a special day for Marking Nations and Nationalities day to reiterate its commitment towards that end.

Ethiopian Nations and Nationalities Day, celebrated annually on December 26, is a significant occasion that recognizes and honors the rich tapestry of ethnic groups that make up Ethiopia. This day serves as a reminder of the country's commitment to its diverse cultures, languages, and traditions, fostering a sense of unity amid diversity.

The celebration of Nations and Nationalities Day traces its roots back to Ethiopia's federal system established in the 1990s. This system was designed to empower various ethnic groups and grant them self-determination within a unified framework. The day highlights the importance of acknowledging the historical struggles and contributions of different nationalities in shaping the Ethiopian state.

Ethiopia's ethnic federalism has been instrumental in recognizing the rights of various nationalities. Each ethnic group has its own regional state, allowing for a degree of autonomy in governance. This framework aims to promote local cultures and languages, making Nations and Nationalities Day a celebration of this federal identity.

On Nations and Nationalities Day, various cultural events take place, showcasing the unique traditions of Ethiopia's ethnic groups. From music and dance to art and cuisine, the day highlights the vibrant cultural diversity that exists within the nation. This celebration encourages people to learn about and appreciate the customs of their neighbors.

While the day celebrates diversity, it also emphasizes the importance of unity among Ethiopia's nationalities. The theme of coexistence resonates throughout the celebrations, reminding citizens that despite their differences, they share a common destiny as Ethiopians. This unity is crucial for national stability and progress.

Educational programs are often organized around Nations and Nationalities Day. Schools and universities conduct activities that promote awareness of Ethiopia's diverse cultures and histories. Such initiatives help to instill a sense of pride in students regarding their ethnic backgrounds while fostering respect for others.

Nations and Nationalities Day also serves as an opportunity to address the challenges faced by various ethnic groups. Issues such as marginalization, resource allocation, and political representation are discussed openly. This dialogue is essential for finding solutions that promote equity and justice among all nationalities.

Grassroots organizations play a crucial role in the celebrations. Many local communities organize their own events, emphasizing the importance of local customs and traditions. These grassroots efforts are vital for fostering a sense of belonging and ownership among the diverse populations of Ethiopia.

The Ethiopian government actively supports Nations and Nationalities Day through various initiatives. Official ceremonies,



speeches by leaders, and cultural programs are organized to honor the contributions of different ethnic groups. Government involvement underscores the significance of the day in the national consciousness.

Nations and Nationalities Day is also a time to celebrate the achievements of various ethnic groups within Ethiopia. Whether in arts, sports, or academia, the contributions of diverse communities are highlighted, showcasing how their unique talents enrich Ethiopian society.

The day has gained international recognition, with various organizations and embassies celebrating Ethiopia's commitment to diversity. This recognition helps to promote a positive image of Ethiopia on the global stage, showcasing its rich cultural heritage and the resilience of its people.

Media plays a vital role in promoting Nations and Nationalities Day. Coverage of the events, stories of cultural significance and discussions about ethnic identity help to raise awareness about the importance of coexistence. Positive media representation can foster a greater understanding of Ethiopia's diversity.

As Ethiopia continues to navigate its complex social landscape, Nations and Nationalities Day serves as a reminder of the aspirations for a more inclusive society. The future lies in embracing diversity and ensuring that every ethnic group feels valued and heard within the national narrative.

Ethiopian Nations and Nationalities Day is a powerful celebration of the country's rich diversity and unity. It serves as a platform for dialogue, understanding, and appreciation of the various cultures that contribute to the Ethiopian identity. By honoring this diversity, Ethiopia can continue to build a more harmonious and prosperous future for all its citizens.

Ethiopia, a nation rich in history, culture, and ethnic diversity, stands at a critical juncture in its quest for lasting peace and unity. With over 80 distinct ethnic groups, each with its unique languages, traditions, and identities, the country embodies a tapestry of cultures. However, this diversity has also been a source of tension and conflict. To navigate these challenges and foster a harmonious society, Ethiopia can leverage its rich diversity as a

strength, promoting unity while respecting individual identities.

Ethiopia's ethnic mosaic is a result of centuries of migration, intermarriage, and cultural exchange. The major ethnic groups—Amhara, Oromo, Tigray, Somali, and others—each contribute to the country's cultural richness. However, historical grievances, political marginalization, and competition for resources have often led to conflicts. In recent years, ethnic tensions have escalated, culminating in violence and displacement. Recognizing that such diversity can be a unifying force rather than a divisive one is essential for Ethiopia's future.

To harness unity in diversity, Ethiopia must cultivate an inclusive national identity that celebrates its various ethnic backgrounds while fostering a sense of belonging among all citizens. This can be achieved through educational reforms that emphasize the importance of multiculturalism. By incorporating the histories and contributions of different ethnic groups into the national curriculum, young Ethiopians can develop a broader understanding and appreciation for their fellow citizens.

Moreover, national symbols, holidays, and events that reflect the country's diversity can help create a shared sense of identity. Celebrating festivals that honor various cultural practices can promote mutual respect and understanding, allowing different communities to come together in celebration rather than division.

Open dialogue is crucial in addressing historical grievances and misunderstandings among different ethnic groups. The establishment of community forums where individuals from various backgrounds can share their stories and perspectives can foster empathy and build trust. Such initiatives can be supported by local governments, NGOs, and community leaders who can facilitate discussions and mediate conflicts.

Reconciliation processes, including truth and reconciliation commissions, can also play a vital role in addressing past injustices. By acknowledging historical wrongs and promoting healing, Ethiopia can pave the way for a more cohesive society. These processes should involve all stakeholders, ensuring that marginalized voices are heard

and considered in the journey toward unity.

Economic cooperation can serve as a powerful tool for promoting unity in diversity. By encouraging collaboration among different ethnic communities in economic ventures, Ethiopia can create interdependencies that foster peace. Initiatives such as cooperative farming, joint business ventures, and regional trade agreements can bring diverse groups together, highlighting their shared interests and goals.

Investment in infrastructure projects that connect different regions can also facilitate economic integration. Improved transportation and communication networks can enhance trade, create job opportunities, and reduce economic disparities among ethnic groups. When communities see the tangible benefits of working together, the incentive for cooperation and peaceful coexistence increases.

Ensuring fair political representation for all ethnic groups is essential for fostering unity. Ethiopia's political landscape has historically been dominated by certain groups, leading to feelings of alienation among others. Adopting an inclusive political framework that represents diverse interests can help mitigate tensions. This could involve establishing federal structures that allow for greater autonomy while ensuring that all groups have a voice in national governance.

Moreover, political leaders must promote a culture of inclusivity and respect for diversity within their parties and constituencies. By championing policies that prioritize equity and justice, they can contribute to a political environment that values all citizens, regardless of their ethnic background.

Cultural exchanges can play a vital role in strengthening social cohesion. Art, music, and literature that reflect Ethiopia's diverse heritage can serve as bridges between communities. Supporting cultural initiatives that bring together artists from various backgrounds can foster collaboration and mutual respect. This not only enriches the national culture but also promotes dialogue and understanding among different groups.

Youth engagement in cultural activities is particularly important. Programs that encourage young people to participate in intercultural exchanges, workshops, and collaborative projects can instill values of tolerance and cooperation from an early age. By empowering the next generation to embrace diversity, Ethiopia can build a more peaceful and unified future.

Ethiopia's path toward peace and unity lies in its ability to embrace and celebrate its diversity. By promoting an inclusive national identity, fostering dialogue, encouraging economic cooperation, ensuring political representation, and strengthening cultural ties, the nation can transform its ethnic diversity from a source of conflict into a pillar of strength. The journey will require commitment, patience, and collaboration from all sectors of society, but the potential rewards—a peaceful, unified, and prosperous Ethiopia—are well worth the effort. In recognizing that unity in diversity is not just an ideal but a practical necessity, Ethiopia can pave the way for a brighter future for all its citizens.

The bottom line is let us mark the day colorfully with heartfelt conviction

Society

Women's participation in socio-economic progress

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Investing in women can help Ethiopia reduce poverty and; supporting their participation in the economy enables the nation to improve overall family health for they have all the time come to the forefront in the societal strata. Besides, assisting women's participation in the economy is instrumental in slowing down population growth rates. Since women in Ethiopia have faced many barriers to full and equitable economic participation, including unemployment, low access to resources, and limited admittance to productive capital resources, these challenges have to be well done away with. True, dealing with the major determinants and challenges of women's participation in income-generating activities needs to be well-focused as they have been considered housewives, and only husbands are expected to participate in high income-generating activities due to the local customs.

Having all these concepts in mind, *The Ethiopian Herald* approached Yewubdar Teshome, an economist and gender specialist who graduated from Addis Ababa University, to garner professional comments and standpoints regarding women's contribution to the socio-economic development in Ethiopia.

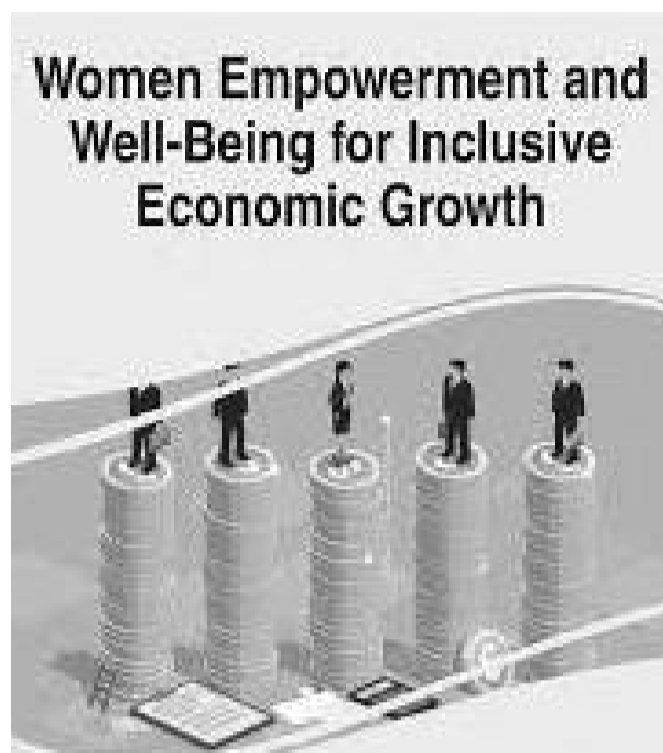
She said, "Women who are more than half of the population in Ethiopia have not yet benefited out of various socio-economic activities as they have not received due emphasis to do so. However, their role in making a significant contribution to the overall socioeconomic change in the country is really untold."

"Even though both women and men play different roles and perform different responsibilities concerning the livelihood of their households and socio-economic routines, men have the primary responsibility for income-earning and women have the primary responsibility for the utilization of food and home management in rural households. This is because, in rural areas of the nation, women's participation in income generating activities is low due to limited access to productive resources like education, health, and training and employment opportunities."

With limited participation in low-income generating activities, of course, they prioritize their income to cover family expenses, particularly on food items. However, in the twenty-first century, the role of women is not just limited to domestic activities rather they are playing an entrepreneurial role too. In line with this, the access of women to entrepreneurial ventures has widened in most countries which previously conquered by men.

The role of women in income-generating activities is of paramount importance to the economic development of their households. In Ethiopia, however, women are not economically free, especially in rural areas. It is a very rare case that women walk against their male's decision because they are dependent on their husband's income. Such a discouraging fashion has to be well altered and women have to be given discretion to undertake a range of activities, she added.

As to Yewubdar, consequently, recognizing



the challenges of women and supporting them is crucial and vital for the development or growth of women and the fulfillment of their economic potential. While they are often hidden, silent and not appreciated, rural women represent probably the world's most powerful untapped natural capital.

Most of the activities in which women engaged in their livelihood strategies are not defined as economically active employment in national account systems, yet are crucial to the well-being of household members.

In Ethiopia, women often face seclusion and exclusion based on the socio-cultural norms of the patriarchy that ultimately limit their access to development and empowerment. Being deprived of the basic legal rights of participation in economic activities, restriction on work outside the home, lack of education and skills, the honor associated with women's sexuality, domestic workloads, and the lack of awareness about the market make them dependent on their male counterparts.

Under strict patriarchy, only men are considered responsible for fulfilling all the basic needs of their family, and women are supposed to stay inside the houses as primary caretakers for the family's health and nutrition, bearing and raising children, household management, fetching water and fodder, and fuel wood collection.

In Ethiopia, except for some improvement with the current leading government, the varied and important roles played by women have not always been recognized. The discriminatory political, economic, and social rules and regulations that prevail in Ethiopia have barred women from enjoying the fruits of their labor. The gender aspect in the country is characterized by women having a lower social status compared to men. As a result of the negative effect of culture and tradition, husbands do not permit women to go out and work; if not, they will be considered as turning aside from the norm, she added.

Such a discriminatory circumstance has precluded women from participating in various socio-economic as well as political trends as per their capacity and initiation. The tradition itself has to be modified so as to open rooms for women's active participation

in all aspects.

From a young age, for instance, autonomy is promoted among boys, while girls are not given any independence. In their childhood, girls are trained by their families to be more obedient and dependent, focusing on household chores such as cooking, in preparation for marriage and caring for their households. Besides, due to cultural norms, religious prescriptions, and practices identified for women, their status and role differ which enormously restricts the accessibility of opportunities to women. One of the major reasons that women, or young girls, are not empowered through higher levels of education is the issue of early marriages.

Most importantly, she said, income-generating activity which is one of the mechanisms that can be used to empower women has the potential to uplift them through economic decision-making, increasing their mobility, increasing their access to resources, and control over resources, has to be well embarked on. "Empowering women through income generating activities enhances economic development of their families, society and country, too. Unequivocally, women empowerment and economic development are closely related: in one direction, development alone can play a major role in driving down inequality between men and women; in the other direction, empowering women may benefit development and growth itself," he opined.

According to Yewubdar, the participation of women in income-generating activities has tremendous potential to empower them. It is a driving force for economic development, job creation, personal development, and self-empowerment.

According to Yewubdar, the participation of women in income-generating activity is a key route to bringing women's empowerment through increasing their economic development as their economic empowerment is the most important factor that contributes to equality between women and men. True, women's economic empowerment can be achieved through equal access to and control over critical economic resources and opportunities, and the elimination of structural gender inequalities in the labor



market, including a better sharing of unpaid care work.

Here, she further elucidated, that education must come first as it increases women's understanding and awareness of the situation in which they live and their cognitive and psychological realm of empowerment.

"Definitely, education is a powerful tool to facilitate entry in the business activities, which can enhance the managerial ability of the individual, and hence increase the propensity to participate in income generating activities. Education is a powerful tool to place women in a better position to perceive the potential benefits of adopting new innovations like participation in income generating activities. Educated women are ready to accept every innovation to engage in business activities than the illiterate ones which show education determines women's empowerment and participation in economic activities."

Furthermore, access to appropriate financial services is a fundamental condition for poverty reduction, job creation, income security and social protection, she said.

She said, "It is believed that women entrepreneurs perform better in their businesses when they have financial accessibility. This means that women-owned enterprises with access to finance have a chance to maximize profit than credit-constrained women-owned enterprises. Obviously, access to credit can help women participate in different income-generating activities by using it as initial capital. Therefore, there would be a positive relationship between access to credit and women's participation in income-generating activities thereby prettily backing the economic growth of the nation."

She wrapped up her idea saying that no doubt, women contribute to economic growth and well-being, and they have to be well supported to make a difference via addressing the potential barriers to participation in the economy through: expanding entrepreneurship, widening access to resources, facilitating conditions to help them extensively use formal banking systems, among others. In so doing, promoting the socio-economic growth in which women can actively partake would be quite fruitful and easy.

Law & Politics

Setting a benchmark for Africa's policing works

BY EYUEL KIFLU

Ethiopia recently held a significant continental peace conference, bringing together representatives from numerous African countries, the United Nations, the African Union, and various stakeholders. This landmark event provided a platform for participants to discuss African peace initiatives and explore strategies for overcoming challenges through unity.

Recognizing the critical role of robust security institutions in maintaining continental security and ensuring peace, it is known that the need to establish such institutions across Africa is important.

Following the conference, participants, including ministers from South Africa and Liberia, as well as the Police Commissioner of Tanzania, visited the Ethiopian Federal Police Commission (EFPC) headquarters and the Ethiopian Police University. They praised the EFPC's efforts in leveraging advanced technologies and scientific methods for law enforcement and crime investigation.

The positive feedback highlighted the importance of technological advancements in crime prevention and investigation, showcasing Ethiopia's commitment to enhancing security measures on the continent.

Angelina Motshekga, South Africa's Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, commended Ethiopia for its innovative use of information and communication technology (ICT) in law enforcement during her visit. "You have done an outstanding job in integrating ICT into the police institution," she remarked, emphasizing the importance of training young people in these technologies. "The integration of modern infrastructure into policing is impressive."

Francis Sakila Nyumalin, Liberia's Minister of Internal Affairs, echoed Angelina's sentiments, stating, "Ethiopia is demonstrating that what is achieved in the West is possible in Africa. This is a significant hope for the continent." He highlighted the technological advancements at the EFPC and the Police University as clear examples of Ethiopia's capabilities in African policing.

Renata Mzingu, Commissioner of the Tanzania Police, also praised Ethiopia's Federal Police for its advanced technological integration to enhance peace and security. "During my visit in 2022, I witnessed remarkable progress within

noting that peaceful nations can collectively contribute to the continent's economic and social well-being

two years," she noted. Renata expressed interest in sending Tanzanian officers to learn from Ethiopia's experience at the Police University and Forensic Centre.

The ministers collectively underscored the necessity of improving police institutions across Africa and enhancing collaboration to combat cross-border crimes, particularly human and drug trafficking.

Also, Angelina highlighted the importance of the conference aimed at fostering dialogue on peace in Africa. She stressed the need for unity in addressing the continent's conflicts. "We must engage in discussions to manage these challenges and promote peace," she stated.

Francis acknowledged Ethiopia's ongoing efforts toward a peaceful and developed Africa, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to attend the conference. "Ethiopia has proven to be a pivotal choice for Africa, particularly as the headquarters of the African Union," he concluded.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald* Sheikh S. S. Kamara, Executive Director of the Liberia Peace building Office says that the tour of the university showcased impressive facilities, including state-of-the-art forensic instruments, which Sheikh noted could serve as a model for other African nations.

He emphasized the importance of learning from Ethiopia's experiences, highlighting it may a plans for Liberia's Inspector General of Police to visit Ethiopia to identify areas for improvement. "We are keen to send personnel for training opportunities here," Sheikh added, reflecting his enthusiasm about the collaboration.

Sheikh praised not only the university's infrastructure but also the cleanliness and beauty of Addis Ababa city. He underscored the critical link between peace in Ethiopia and the broader stability of neighboring countries, noting that peaceful nations can collectively contribute to the continent's economic and social well-being.

Regarding African conflict management, Sheikh acknowledged that conflict is an inherent part of global existence but emphasized the need for effective management strategies. He advocated for regular engagements to share experiences and strategies, rather than waiting for conflicts to arise before convening summits. "We must utilize the African Union headquarters here in Ethiopia for on-going discussions on peace initiatives," he suggested.

Sheikh reinforced the idea that African nations have unique cultural contexts and traditional methods for conflict resolution. "We don't need to rely solely on Western approaches; our diverse cultures and traditions provide us with the tools for peace," he explained. He called for a collaborative effort to create a roadmap for peace, recognizing the diversity within Africa as strength rather than a barrier.

Sheikh expressed admiration for Ethiopia's advancements, stating that the country has set a benchmark for integrating Africa and fostering stability. "Ethiopia has done well, and we can depend on it to take the lead in making Africa united and peaceful," he remarked.

Deputy Commissioner General Mesfin Abebe, President of the Ethiopian Police University, announced the establishment of the Forensic Investigation and Research Excellence Centre, designed to enhance the country's investigative capabilities. Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency, he emphasized that the centre will play a crucial role in combating organized crime and supporting the justice system.

General Mesfin highlighted that the centre is equipped with modern technologies essential for contemporary forensic investigations. It aims to tackle pressing issues such as illegal drug trafficking, boasting capabilities for DNA testing that previously required sending samples abroad.

The centre is poised to serve not only regional and federal governments but also neighbouring countries, fostering collaboration in crime prevention across borders. "If crime cannot be prevented together, criminals will not be limited to national borders," he stated, underscoring the centre's mission to support a unified approach to law enforcement.

In addition to its investigative role, the Police University is committed to providing forensic and investigative education. The institution is actively training qualified professionals through various programs, ensuring that its experts are well-prepared to meet evolving challenges.

Looking ahead, General Mesfin mentioned plans to enhance the centre's resources and capabilities, including the introduction of new technologies and personnel, as well as expanding its branches to better serve the community and region.

It is known that the centre inaugurated by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) recently, and showcases Ethiopia's commitment to enhancing forensic capabilities across the continent.

BY EPHREM ENDALE

Between you & me

Hunger for Facts!

Recently there was this social media post on facts and how the world was turning its back on facts. Though not a masterpiece of a post it raises points which touch many of us when it comes to facts and the way we treat them. It says perhaps we have lost the concept of what actually is a 'fact' and maybe it is high time we start looking for a better meaning inclusive of all the things that are happening in this world of practical confusion. I personally feel that might sound like going a little over the edge though he had all the reasons to suggest as such. But it is astounding that we are in an age where facts are sacrificed and even mauled by all sides as long as they don't help in furthering our opinions and attitudes.

Fact:

A thing that is known or proved to be true.

There you have it as one online dictionary puts it.

You would have thought that those who own the facts would own the narratives. After all they have the facts and facts should be what should be running this world. Facts, sweet or bitter, should have been the cornerstones of everything and anything in life. Hmm... nicely said, isn't it? Well it doesn't work that way. I'm not sure if it ever did way down the ages; but just for the sake of amplifying the sorry state this world of ours is in it might better and a little soothing to think that there were better days when it comes to searching for the facts, finding them and also sticking to them. Had that been the case this world would have been a less chaotic place than it currently is. (Why do I feel in many

parts of the word things aren't looking at all good and some unexpected things might happen anytime? No, this not about End Times narrative. But the level and intensity of antagonism in many places leaves you seeking for answers as to why all this was happening. With everyone flexing their muscles, and with the threats coming from many corners you wonder what the hell was wrong with humanity as a whole!)

Anyway when facts determine the directions of discussions, debates, arguments and the like the reasons for going off the rails would have dwindled and everyone would have gone happy and smiling for their next cup of coffee. That dear readers, currently sounds like some writing prompt for a fantasy piece! There is so much of the wrong noise hanging heavily in the air probably because many of our life material is either not based on the facts nor does it acknowledge the existing facts.

"Now I know that I had things all wrong, and thanks for making me aware of the facts." You could feel the power in such innocent words; the power of admitting we were in the wrong and pledging to embrace the facts as they are. Unfortunately these days the facts in almost all fields and realities of daily life are abused, ignored, defaced and what have you. By some turn of things facts seem to have become subjective we seem to be drifting farther apart as a species which was provided with everything it needs and yet fails to make the best of the! The concept of the final and nominally binding facts seems to be no more as even the very term 'fact'

seems to be heard with far lesser frequency. Though we haven't yet brought it up into the open 'fact' these days is what the person says it is. Case closed! But wait a minute, in that case how would we ever come closer together for rewarding discussions and subsequent agreements.

How is it that you can claim, "They have been lying to us all through; the earth is flat and they are deliberately hiding it from us the statement unscathed or even unchallenged? Why is that the urge to counter such a person with something like, "Look, if you have any concrete evidence to back your argument than let's hear it."

"Did you know the guy could read a 700-page book in a single night?" someone tries to tell you. The real picture is that there are many who believed such narratives and spread it whenever they got the chance. About the 700-page-a-night guy it wouldn't be long before you discover the guy never read a full book in his life! But the narrative spreads so fast and wide it becomes an undeniable one too. Don't you even try to place a question or two or you'd be taken for that jealous person whose eyes turn red at the successes of others. The guy's 700-page-a-night bravado is a fact and don't even think of wearing a frown! So either feed on that menu everyone is digging into or just get the hell out of the dining room! You're not welcome!

There is this common opener, "The fact is..." it comes as something to let the matter to rest as the FACT is there for all to see.

"The fact is he is a good for nothing..." Well for the person who makes the statement that is 'the fact.' Then another person says, "The fact is he is the most humble of persons..." Would it be fair to say that in this case the very concept of 'the fact' has been rendered worthless as pure personal favoritisms and prejudices are taken as facts? Maybe, maybe not!

I think one of our more crucial mistakes is that we mix facts with opinions. Many times than not we want, even demand, our opinions to be taken as facts. No question asked! Maybe that's the reason behind much of our failure to talk to each other in the civilized manner that we're supposed to.

The fact most time is supposed to be the truth. (Maybe there are instances where facts might not be the truth, the only thing is nothing comes to me. Not yet, at least.) Well the sad part is that it is said facts don't necessarily change our minds as long as they are not tailor made to satisfy our own opinions.

A social media post has this to say; "A person who avoids facts may be a denialist, or someone who chooses to deny reality to avoid an uncomfortable truth. Denialism can be a way for people to express and conceal their feelings." Well, well, well! Doesn't that sound familiar? It could prove to be some piece of adventure to try to guess how many of us fall into the 'denialist,' category!

Hunger for real facts in a world of utter confusion might be the mindset that would steer us back to full sanity!

The Bosses & The Hammer!

A year or so back this guy I know decides to change jobs. He stated case to a decade at the place he was in. In fact he didn't even tell his spouse of his plans as her probably would be pushback.

"What do you mean you're leaving the job you've now while tens of thousands highly trained and skilled are going months even years without landing any job. And you're leaving your secure job! You must be out of your mind." Of course he had his reasons and legitimate ones too. It wasn't about dissatisfaction with the pay though like most he believes he's underpaid in more ways than one. Isn't that some universal feeling! It'd be rare to hear people say, "Well, they pay me quite well and I've nothing to complain about." especially these days the three-grand-a-month fellow and the fifty-grand-a-month both complain loudly and with equal passion.

The real reason was that he had this fallout with the brass who for reasons they know have ganged up on him. His initial spat was with a newly arrived immediate boss who acted like the entire world was falling over each other to employ him for any sum he asks. Well, though saying this might weigh down hard on the vocal chords such people are usually the opposite of whatever they say they are or what they actually feel about themselves. It didn't take long for this guy to be exposed as a complete unskilled and undedicated dude and the rumor soon began making the rounds that he was employed

because of his relationship with some VIP out there, a VIP who with the snap of his fingers could do anything, anytime, anywhere. Don't ask me who the rumors were referring to. In such cases seldom do you hear names or titles motioned. They, (the 'invisible they!') are one big lot and talking about one would be talking about every single one of them.

Anyway this freshly arrived mid-level boss and our guy find it hard to talk on the same wavelength. Our guy though not confrontational in any way real way usually takes time to try to explain his points over any matter when the other party fails to grasp what he is saying, especially at his work place. And he does this in the most cordial way careful not to fall into that confrontational pit where once one ends up, it would be difficult to spring back. This new boss gives him seem assignment which our guy finds so bizarre and beyond the realm of the office he decides to break things in detail to the guy. So one morning he adjusts his vocal chords to that very cordial and friendly tone and tells the boss how it was impossible to accomplish what he has ordered with the real reasons. Now with a real boss confident of himself and his managerial skills the explanations would have gotten our guy the passionate pats on the back. That never happened. This fresh boss wasn't going to take no for an answer. In fact he takes offense to the extent that he orders our guy to leave the office. Our guy remembers he was shaken like he was

never shaken before! The very next day our guy gets a letter of reprimand accusing of not obeying the boss's order and the letter ended that this was the last time he would be given any warnings and next time he refuses to take orders the management would take the ultimate measure; Of course, meaning they will kick him out. It was too much to take lying down for our guy and he decides to take up things with the higher ups. Never did he suspect it would be the wrong move. The department head in fact warns him that they have been watching his every move and he better watch out. What every move!

As rumors make the rounds he hears something which nobody yet told him! There was talk that the brass at headquarters have decided to give him the department head position! Where in the world did such rumors sprung from no one knew. He didn't have to think twice just because of these unverifiable rumors his days at the place were numbered. So he decides to resign and hands in his letter of resignation to the shock of everyone. The brass probably happy that he was running scared had yet another punch left. They write him a letter of release so which was nothing less than wounding him with some lethal weapon. The letter which was unusually long for a release letter goes on to state that the persona was very unmotivated and irresponsible refusing to take orders from his bosses and at odds with all the workers. Luckily his new employers have made some research about him, learned about how the bosses treated they needed no

release paper.

Now the fact was that he was one of the most respected and honored staff who was in the best of terms with much of the workforce. As to his work performance he was simply the best. He was also always ready to help anyone who asks him to give them a hand. These were the facts not lost on anybody. A family man and father of two about a decade so of his best work performance going down the drain wasn't anywhere near to nice a memory. But what can he do about it? Since there are bosses around who are in the wrong places, insecure and always looking out for the enemy within and without! With the hammer in their hands there are no ifs and buts and it's really hard to try to perform as best as your abilities and skills allow you to.

By the way the staff were shaken to the core at the news of the contents of the release letter. For one thing that was what was awaiting them when they have to leave by themselves or the bosses want them out. The other more important point was that they knew a guy like him didn't deserve such abuse and a couple of them even tried to gather support to protest. But no sooner have they uttered their plans they were summoned to the office of the man in the big chair and warned to stop what they were doing or else they would be sent packing.

As long as the hammer is in the wrong hands it would be hard to accomplish anything meaningful; wouldn't you say so!

In Pictures

Ethiopian Air Force commemorates its 89th anniversary

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

PM Abiy praises Ethiopian Air Force’s significant achievements



While announcing the Ethiopian Air Force-made aircraft, “Tsehay 2.0” as part of the 89th anniversary of the Air Force, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) praised the Air Force’s milestone achievements. As the Ethiopian Air Force celebrates its 89th anniversary, it has achieved a significant milestone with the successful readiness for flight of an aircraft named Tsehay 2.0, developed in-house. Equipped with advanced technology to carry out its missions effectively, this achievement underscores the Air Force’s progress toward realizing its vision of becoming the largest air force in Africa by 2030. The Ethiopian Air Force celebrates 89th founding anniversary



The 89th anniversary of the Ethiopian Air Force was marked this week under the theme, “Sovereign Nation, Invisible Air Force,” at its base in Bishoftu town. During the closing ceremony this Friday, the anniversary was attended by Chief of Staff of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces, Field Marshal Berhanu Jula, Chief Commander of the National Air Force Lieutenant General Yilma Merdasa, along with African air force commanders, Addis Ababa-based military attachés of various countries and other guests.

“Tsehay 2.0”, Ethiopian Air Force-made aircraft displayed at 89th anniversary



On Thursday, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) announced the Ethiopian Air Force-made ready-for-flight aircraft, named “Thehay 20”. While celebrating its 89th anniversary, the Ethiopian Air Force has displayed a lot of modern military equipment and drones, including “Tsehay 2.0” aircraft, a flight-ready aircraft produced by the Air Force.

The second African Air Force Forum was held in Bishoftu town



The second Africa Air Force Forum was held on Friday at the Ethiopian Air Force base in Bishoftu town. The forum was attended by air force commanders from various African countries. During the forum, Ethiopian Air Force Commander Lt. Gen. Yilma Merdasa said that the Ethiopian Air Force is ready to play a pivotal role in strengthening African Air forces cooperation. Air Force Commanders from Morocco, Uganda, Tanzania, Mali, Kenya, Rwanda, Djibouti, Nigeria, Congo Brazzaville, and Niger attended the second African Air Force Forum. Ethiopian Air Force graduates’ new trainees