



# The Ethiopian Herald

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## Abbay Dam construction reaches 97.6% completion

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

**ADDIS ABABA** - The construction of the Abbay Dam, Ethiopia's flagship hydroelectric project, has reached a significant milestone, with civil work now 97.6% complete, according to the Dam Construction Coordination Office.

In an interview with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), the Office Director-General Aregawi Berhe (PhD) stated that while the majority of the civil engineering work is finished, the remaining electromechanical work is crucial for the project's full operational capacity. He emphasized the importance of the

four turbines currently generating power, highlighting that this achievement signifies a crucial step forward not only for Ethiopia but also for its neighboring countries.

The Director-General acknowledged the challenges faced during the project's

*See Abbay Dam ... page 3*



### Haile Hotels expand footprint with 10th resort in Jimma

• Emphasizes infrastructure needs

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**JIMMA**-Haile Hotels & Resorts Group has announced plans to continue expanding its presence across major tourist destinations in Ethiopia. The Group yesterday inaugurated its 10th resort in Jimma, following the opening of another resort just 11 months prior.

During the inauguration ceremony of the Jimma-Haile Resort, Haile Gebreselassie, CEO of Haile and Alem International Plc., the parent company of Haile Hotels & Resorts, emphasized the company's continued commitment to hotel investment.

"Upgrading existing resorts and developing new ones are key priorities for our company," Haile, the legendary athlete turned business mogul stated. "We are achieving these

*See Haile Hotels expand ... page 3*

## Foreign bank entry key to stimulate economy

BY HAILE DEMEKE

The government of Ethiopia has been undertaking bold macroeconomic reforms aimed at ensuring sustainable economic growth. As part of these reforms, the House of Peoples' Representatives (HoPR) has recently approved the proclamation of the National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) that allows foreign banks to operate within the country's financial sector.

In its 11th regular session, the HoPR unanimously passed the proclamation, which is expected to drive a modernized banking and financial system, thereby stabilizing and strengthening the country's economy.

NBE Governor Mamo Mihretu said that the government has accomplished an impressive progress in recent years creating healthy and competitive financial sector. The sector is progressively improving each year and fostering a robust economy. In addition to opening the door for foreign

*See Foreign bank ... page 3*

## China leads Ethiopia's FDI inflows: EIC

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA**- China has steadily ranked among the top five nations in a row for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows into Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC) announced.

Ethiopian Investment Commission in collaboration with the Chinese Chamber of Commerce and the Embassy of People's Republic of China, has held a consultation meeting yesterday aimed at enhancing the performance of existing Chinese investors within the Ethiopian economy.

During the discussion EIC Commissioner Zeleke Temesgen (PhD) stated that China has constantly ranked among the top five countries for FDI inflows into Ethiopia in the last five consecutive years.

Chinese investors have represented over 50% of all new investment projects registered in Ethiopia, he noted, underscoring their significant role to the country's economic development.

Ethiopia stands out as one of only four nations worldwide and the sole



African nation to have established an all-weather strategic partnership with the government of China, he indicated.

This meeting is focused on improving the

business environment to attract more Chinese investment into Ethiopia, Zeleke said.

"This consultation as a preliminary *See China leads Ethiopia's ... page 3*

# News

## Addis rolls out modern system amid traffic management

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA** – Africa’s diplomatic hub, Addis Ababa, has launched a technology supported Automatic Enforcement and Management System (AEMS), designed to transform traffic management and modernize traffic law enforcement.

Addis Ababa Traffic Management Authority has launched technology supported Automatic Enforcement and Management System (AEMS) yesterday, which helps to modernize traffic law enforcement and transform traffic management.

Transport and Logistics, State Minister Bareo Hassen during the launching program said that the AEMS plays a huge role in transport flow and transforming traffic management.

The new software helps to control the traffic flow online and contributes to a healthy transport system, he added.

The AEMS will modernize traffic law enforcement by providing real time data processing, faster response time and greater control over traffic management, he noted.

Addis Ababa Public Service Bureau, Deputy Mayor Jemalu Jenber (PhD) expressed that the advanced software will improve traffic flow, which is compatible with the corridor development in the capital.

The Traffic Management System software



Photo: Gebabo Gebrie

is being modernized to reduce passenger inconvenience and infrastructure accidents, saving time and energy. It will also contribute to economic growth, but diligent work is needed to ensure its effectiveness, he said.

Addis Ababa Traffic Management Authority Director Kibebew Mideksa elaborated that the upgraded software provides information on transport services and parking fees, solves road traffic flow problems, and saves the community time and money.

The AEMS is a cutting-edge solution designed to transform traffic management and law enforcement in Ethiopia. Leveraging advanced images recognition

technology, the system will enhance vehicle identification and monitoring, automate fine collection processes and improve the efficiency of crime investigations and traffic management, Director said.

The authority, according to Kibebew, has collaborated with Infra Tech to introduce a software development program to improve road traffic flow efficiency.

Working in coordination with driver and vehicle licensing authorities, Ethio Telecom, and banks, the server, application, software, and devices are fully operational and ready for use, he stated.

Advanced software calculates traffic fines and parking fees, supporting country’s and city’s traffic management efforts. The system saves over 17 million Birr annually on traffic fine printing, reduces hassle of returning license plates, and addresses issues in parking service payment, Kibebew noted.

The Director urged traffic police and control experts to utilize the recently amended traffic law and management system to effectively manage traffic flow and prevent accidents.

Addis Ababa, the seat of the African Union and other international organizations, is implementing traffic management system software as part of its efforts to improve road infrastructure and Smart Street standards.

## Ethiopia secures 31.5mln USD exporting electricity

• Eyes expansion to South Sudan, Somalia

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDIS ABABA**-Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP) has reported earning over 31.5 million USD from electricity exports to neighboring countries in the first quarter of the current fiscal year.

EEP CEO Ashebir Balcha emphasized the institution’s commitment to fulfilling growing regional demand for electricity exports. He also mentioned ongoing efforts to enhance power development, accessibility, and regional cooperation.

Ethiopia currently supplies electricity to Sudan, Djibouti, and Kenya. Recently, the country commenced electricity exports to Tanzania via Kenya, with an initial agreement to supply 100 megawatts. While domestic consumption accounts for 90% of Ethiopia’s electricity generation, the country is actively expanding its electricity exports.

Furthermore, the CEO indicated that South Sudan and Somalia have also requested electricity supply from Ethiopia. He stated that Ethiopia will respond to these requests once feasibility studies are completed and the necessary infrastructure is developed.

Ethiopia recently commenced power supply trials between Kenya and Tanzania as part of the East Africa Electric Highway Project. This milestone follows the successful completion of the Ethiopia-Kenya power transmission line, facilitated by an advanced power supply network.

Reports indicate that the project is expected to provide reliable and cost-effective electricity while significantly boosting Ethiopia’s renewable energy exports. Initial power trading is projected to generate approximately 200 million USD annually, solidifying Ethiopia’s position as a key player in the regional green energy market.

## Women’s engagement in water diplomacy crucial: Experts

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDIS ABABA** - Water professionals are emphasizing the critical role women can play in water diplomacy at continental and international levels through enhanced engagement.

Speaking with local media, a former Water Negotiator Adanech Yared (PhD) highlighted that women’s participation in water diplomacy has been limited by various factors at different levels. Globally, women have had minimal involvement in water diplomacy, which has negatively impacted their access to education, economic opportunities, and decision-making roles.

She emphasized that averting water disputes

through strong women’s diplomatic engagement is crucial due to the significant socioeconomic and geopolitical impacts.

Similarly, Hawassa University Water Sector Lecturer Tizita Girma underscored that natural resources, particularly water, have been a major source of conflict. This has led to increased diplomatic activity at national and continental levels.

Despite Ethiopia’s abundant water resources, she noted that 60% of its population still lacks access to electricity. Women disproportionately bear the burden of household chores, often using traditional methods that pose health challenges during pregnancy and postpartum. These challenges, coupled with economic constraints, further

limit their opportunities.

While acknowledging the limited contributions of women water professionals in some regions like Sudan and Asia, Tizita emphasized that greater engagement could significantly enhance their impact on the sector.

Adanech further indicated that the Ethiopian Women Water Professionals Association, established two years ago, aims to empower women professionals in water engineering by providing training on negotiation, leadership, and other relevant areas. She believes this association will play a crucial role in bringing women professionals to the forefront and enhancing their contributions to water diplomacy.

## EIPA aims to be African IP exemplar

BY MESERET BEHAILU

**BISHOFTU** – The Ethiopian Intellectual Property Authority (EIPA) has revealed plans to become a leading example in Intellectual Property (IP) development in Africa within the next five years.

To enhance public awareness and foster national interest in IP exploitation, EIPA organized a one-day training program for journalists and editors.

During the opening speech, EIPA Deputy Director General Endalew Mosesa emphasized the authority’s commitment to sustainably protecting IP across Ethiopia. He highlighted key focus areas,

including research, legal protection, and IP development.

“Despite EIPA’s efforts to align IP protection and development with national interests and the needs of creative owners, inadequate awareness remains a significant challenge,” he acknowledged.

Endalew further explained that EIPA is collaborating closely with nationwide science and technology bureaus in Bahir Dar, Jimma, and Hawassa, as well as with the Amhara, Oromia, and Sidama states, to advance IP development. The authority is also providing short training programs and working with universities to strengthen IP protection.

EIPA’s Patent and Technology Transfer



Endalew Mosesa

Lead Executive Getachew Tafa underscored the significant economic benefits reaped by developed countries through strong IP sectors. He cited the United States, which allocates 3% of its annual GDP to research

and development related to patent rights, and China, which allocates 4.7%.

Getachew noted that 197 countries are members of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), which administers 29 international treaties. He emphasized that intellectual property plays a crucial role in boosting agriculture, fair trade, creativity, technology, and other sectors.

The training program covered key IP protection areas, including trademarks, copyrights, and patents.

It is worth noting that Ethiopia joined WIPO in 2003, and the country is actively working to enhance its international competitiveness and participation in the global IP landscape.

## Foreign bank entry key ...

banks to operate in the country's financial sector, the move is a pivotal step toward liberalizing Ethiopia's banking industry and attracting foreign investors.

"The proclamation will gradually establish a robust banking sector, laying the foundation for strong domestic financial institutions. It sets the stage for the development of powerful banks that will further strengthen the nation's economy," Mamo stated.

Ethiopian Economics Association (EEA), Senior Researcher Abule Mehari (PhD) said that the entry of foreign banks fosters a competitive environment, prompting local banks to concentrate on a market-driven economy and to reach the unbanked population. Additionally, it encourages local banks to invest more in technology to improve accessibility.

He stated that many local banks operating within the country are relatively financially weak and lack advanced technology for

their operations. Likewise, the accessibility of digital financing offered by these banks is also underdeveloped and lagging behind compared to that of neighboring countries.

Commending Telebirr app, a mobile payment service launched by Ethio Telecom, he expressed that the app is transacting trillions of Birr within short periods of time, playing crucial role in facilitating digital money transfers in the country. Now the app offers a wide range of services and has become a favorite among millions of customers. Accordingly, it is important to work more on digital financial accessibility and strengthening the capacity of local banks operation and equipping them with modern technology, Abule suggested.

Banking and Finance Consultant Tilahun Girma said that the banking system must be stronger than ever to enhance competitiveness. There are numerous banks functioning in the country, and if they share



Abule Mehari (PhD)

similar operational systems, organizational philosophies, and other similar characteristics, they should voluntarily merge to form a robust and competitive bank since they need to be prepared for strong competition, he added.

Tilahun believed that the presence of foreign



Tilahun Girma

banks will play a crucial role in stimulating the economy, as these international banks possess more advanced technology than the local ones. "Although we may lack modern technology, we have the capability to compete with these international banks," he noted.



## Abbay Dam construction...

development, including external pressures and internal obstacles. However, he credited the unwavering leadership and the strong support of the Ethiopian people for the project's continued progress.

"Beyond empowering 80% of rural communities with access to electricity," he stated, "this expansion will facilitate the diversification of light and heavy industries, leading to increased trade, job creation, and accelerated economic development."

Upon completion, the dam is expected to generate 5,500 megawatts of power, sufficient to drive the country's economic growth and support electricity exports.

"This project will not only contribute to foreign exchange earnings but also foster cooperation and mutual development among neighboring countries," he added.

Recognizing the trans-boundary nature of the rivers, Aregawi reiterated Ethiopia's commitment to continued cooperation with its neighbors to achieve shared development goals.

As the final stages of the project require substantial financial investment, he urged the general public and the Ethiopian Diaspora to continue their unwavering financial and other forms of support to ensure the successful completion of this mega-dam.

## China leads Ethiopia's...

step to a larger government-led dialogue with all foreign investors to creating a smoother, more efficient investment environment to attract more Chinese investment into Ethiopia," he explained.

The Ethiopian government is actively working on reforms to increase foreign investment, especially in sectors previously reserved for domestic investors, such as trade, banking, and logistics, and transport, commissioner said.

This collaboration between the Ethiopian Investment Commission and the Chinese Chamber of Commerce aims to strengthen the foundation for future Chinese investments, ensuring Ethiopia remains an attractive destination for them and promoting mutual economic growth.

Chinese Ambassador to Ethiopia, Chen Hai on his part said that over the past years, Chinese investors have made significant contributions to the Ethiopia's industrialization, agriculture and infrastructure development.

Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Ethiopia has also playing active role in serving its member companies promoting China-Ethiopia economic and trade cooperation and contributing the development of both nations, he added.

The past year has been a fruitful year and the New Year is full of hope and Ethiopia is advancing financial reforms striving to create a favorable business environment, the ambassador mentioned.

Ethiopia is the only strategic partner of China in Africa, he said, adding that the East African country is a gateway to the belt and road initiative."Via several dialogues, we have identified several issues in the business environment that require attention," he said.

Over the past three decades, more than 3,300 Chinese investment projects have received permits, collectively contributing over 8.5 billion USD to various sectors of the economy, including manufacturing, construction, and real estate and created job for over 325,470 Ethiopians.

## Haile Hotels expand...

goals while navigating challenges such as security threats."

Haile further highlighted the crucial role of government support in facilitating the expansion of his hotel and resort ventures. He emphasized the need for improved infrastructure, particularly road networks connecting towns and major cities.

"Jimma, for instance, offers exceptional tourist attractions," stated the world-famous athlete. "However, the current road conditions connecting the city to Addis Ababa and other destinations deter many potential visitors. Road reconstruction and renovation are essential to ensure convenient and accessible travel options for tourists beyond air transport."

The Jimma-Haile Resort, built at a cost



of 1.7 billion Birr and completed within two years, marks a significant milestone in Jimma's hospitality sector. "This resort

demonstrates our dedication to elevating Ethiopia's hospitality sector," stated Haile. Strategically located near iconic attractions

such as the Saka Waterfall and Aba Jiffar Palace, the resort features over 106 elegantly designed guest rooms and exclusive guest houses offering breathtaking views of the surrounding landscapes.

Jimma Zone Administrator Tujani Nasir reaffirmed the government's commitment to supporting investments in the tourism sector. "It is imperative that the government prioritize tourism development," said the Administrator.

Jimma's Mayor Taha Kemer congratulated the Group, stating, "The opening of this resort is a significant addition to the town's tourism landscape. I have long anticipated such a hotel investment here, and I am delighted to see it become a reality. This project serves as an inspiration for other investors to contribute to Jimma's growth."

# Opinion

## Ethiopia's demand for sea outlet bases on a win-win approach

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Ethiopia is the second most populous country in Africa, with more than 130 million. Its economy is one of the fastest growing in the world and the largest in the Horn of Africa. To keep on the economic growth momentum, more investment is needed. In addition, diversifying and increasing the volume of export is essential.

Economic growth increases the nation's importing demand such as capital goods and inputs to enhance production and distribution. Ethiopia needs very vital inputs used for agriculture, such as fertilizer, herb and pesticides and selected seeds. In addition, it has to import chemicals used in industries and iron and steel, finishing materials and others for construction, and to realize this, possessing a viable port is vital.

The growing volume of production and export also requires a viable logistics system, transportation and easy access to ports because they determine the export products competitive capacity in the world market.

Currently, most landlocked countries use railways and truck transportation systems for their import and export trade. Ethiopia also rendered great efforts to improve its logistics system to facilitate its import and export trade. The stretching of new electric-powered rail transport from Addis Ababa to Djibouti can be mentioned as the case in point.

Ethiopia transacts 90 percent of its import and export business through port of Djibouti and when congestion occurs in the port loading and unloading work, the Ethiopian trade transaction will be delayed and this brings negative consequences on the trade and the economy at large. As a sovereign country, Djibouti incurs additional port service price and when this happens Ethiopia's ability to compete in the world market face hardship.

The delay of the imported or exported goods due to congestion on the port incurs additional cost to the country and such circumstances have their own demerit on the nation's aspiration of tackling poverty.

Other exporting countries which have their own ports have an advantage in the world market competition because they do not pay any port service charges. The port-owning countries also can impose additional tariffs on import goods by imposing additional port service charges. This again forces the landlocked countries, such as Ethiopia, to import inflation, which destabilizes the local economy.

Ethiopia has experienced such economic havoc several times and paid a heavy price to that end. It also has its own impact on the purchasing power of the Birr because of the price hike of the imported commodities.

**C**ountries of the Horn should consider Ethiopia's demand for a sea outlet, which brings mutual benefit

According to some sources, due to the port congestion some exporters are hampered to export their products in the neighboring countries which inhibited them not to penetrate to the international market. Ethiopia's exported products are mainly obtained from agriculture and among others crops such as fruits and vegetables should reach to the importing countries timely but it is reported that the congestion in the port many times hampered the supply and some perished fruits were thrown away and such circumstances harmed the nation's economy.

Because of repeated port congestion, some exporters have been forced to use other trade routes by engaging in illegal trade for the sake of obtaining hard currency badly needed for their import business. It is imperative that landlocked countries are economically disadvantaged as compared to the port owner's countries and have 20 percent less growth potential than the port-owning countries.

Land locked countries pay additional tax and port services and these make them incompetent in the world market. In addition, they are less capable to attract foreign investment because of the heavy transaction cost when they are doing their import and export business. We can understand from this reality that one country's economic growth and development depends on the nations import and export volume. Whenever the country is integrated to the world economy obviously its imports and export volume will be increased which again push the nation in to economic shake vulnerability because of landlocked ness.

The ongoing war between Ukraine and Russia has critically shaken the world's

economy and poor African countries which are dependent on the importation of Ukraine wheat, fertilizer and edible oil suffer from the brunt of the economic shake. One of the factors which contribute for the price hike of the Ukraine products is the blockade of the ports due to the war and the transporting of goods with ships in a lengthy sea route from other ports located in far places. Land locked African countries suffered more than the countries which owned their own ports. Because the land locked countries pay additional port fee to their fellow African countries ports.

On the other hand, due to the outbreak of war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza is threatening vessels transporting oil from the Gulf countries towards Europe on the Red Sea route. Importing goods from Europe via the Red Sea route is interrupted. The Yemen-based Houthi rebels, in order to take revenge on the western countries which back Israel, attack ships transporting goods on the Red Sea route. It is proved that the poor African nations, including Ethiopia, felt the economic pain which occurs due to the vessel transport disruption on the Red Sea route because when the price of the transportation increases, the price of the port services too increases. The increment of fertilizer years ago attributed to this incident.

In fact, there are landlocked countries in Europe and Asia that have reached the level of economic advancement. Unlike Ethiopia and some other landlocked developing countries, they are industrialized and have huge and sophisticated air service, which enabled them to conduct their export-import business smoothly.

Austria and Switzerland though they are land locked but their being landlocked did not hamper them to reach to the level of economic development they own at this moment. As an affluent country, they have disposable income to pay for any air transport fee. For the poor country such as Ethiopia doing import-export business through air transportation is expensive and unaffordable. In fact, it is undeniable that the Ethiopian airline plays a pivotal role in exporting flower, fruit and vegetables through its cargo and contributes to the nation's foreign currency earning but it is impossible to export the bulk of the nation's export and import products through air transport. Therefore, it is a better option for Ethiopia that, in addition to using the neighboring countries ports, resorts to its own port through dialogue.

Now time is changed all the neighboring countries are attained sovereign status but they live as neighboring countries. They have cultural, religious and ethnic ties with Ethiopia. People move from one country to the other neighboring countries without visa.

They have also developed economic

relations through trade. Their trade relation is manifested by supply of energy and basic commodities. The supply of electric power and piped water to Djibouti from Ethiopia can be cited here. They have also created political bonds through regional organizations such as IGAD. Ethiopia also deployed its forces for peace keeping mission in Somalia and Sudan and pay sacrifice for ensuring stability of these countries. The neighboring countries such as Eritrea and Somalia have thousands kilometer of sea territories which Ethiopia is 60 kilometer away from red sea still did not get access to sea.

Therefore, cognizant of the established good relation, demanding sea outlet based on the win-win game is legitimate to Ethiopia. Recently the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that Ethiopia's request for access to the sea is based on a win-win approach and mutual economic benefit.

In an exclusive interview with the local media the official from the Ministry noted that the economic perspective should weigh much more than its political perspective in Ethiopia's legitimate demand for access to the sea.

The neighboring countries with access to sea should consider the country's request as economic benefit, not a threat. Ethiopia will of course benefit from access to sea to further accelerate its economic growth; but this will not only develop Ethiopia. Certainly, the per capita income of the other countries will also increase as a result.

The direction set is on a win-win basis and through mutual economic benefit of all the countries. This option should be taken as a priority rather than a threat. Access to the sea is important for Ethiopia not only for now but also for the future, and these countries can benefit economically more than Ethiopia.

According to Economists, Ethiopia's GDP has been doubling within a short time, and countries that provide port services (for the country) should consider it as a blessing because the countries can get economic benefits which they cannot achieve by their own.

Possessing a port also advances peace and sustainable economic development based on fair mutual benefit. The maritime experts refuted that the Red Sea coastline has the potential to adequately accommodate ports for 40 countries, and the issue then should be taken as ensuring mutual benefit through a win-win game. Therefore, countries of the Horn should consider Ethiopia's demand for a sea outlet, which brings mutual benefit.

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

# Editorial

# Opinion

## Ethiopia, Turkey: Strengthening diplomatic ties for strategic benefits

With Turkey's growing influence in the Horn region, cooperation between Ethiopia and Turkey is morphing into strategic relations.

Perhaps the most striking recent example of Ethio-Turkey cooperation is Turkey's pivotal role in mediating the agreement between Ethiopia and Somalia. As observed in the Ankara declaration, Turkey has been proving a key and all-weather ally.

The declaration signed under the auspices of Turkey changed tensions into reconciliation. It helped change the narrative of animosity into amicability although the agreement could not have been made possible without the good faith and genuine positions of both neighboring nations.

The Ethio-Somalia agreement reflects Turkey's growing role as a mediator in the region. It showcases how Ankara's diplomatic approach, grounded in mutual respect and pragmatic problem-solving, can help resolve long-standing disputes.

With its big diplomatic clout and mammoth standing in the troubled region is becoming a powerful ally for powerful nations. Particularly, the last couple of years have picked up a strong boost in the cooperation between the two sides expanding their partnerships into various spheres.

Today, as the world grapples with complex diplomatic, economic, and security challenges, the partnership between these two nations is evolving into a multifaceted cooperation model that addresses regional and global concerns.

Ethiopia and Turkey share a historic friendship rooted in centuries of people-to-people relations, cultural exchanges, and mutual respect.

Speaking to local media recently, Turkish Ambassador to Ethiopia, Berk Baran, recently articulated the essence of this relationship, emphasizing its grounding in universal diplomatic values and its focus on trade, investment, technology transfer, health, culture, and public-to-public relations. These areas are not merely theoretical aspirations; they are practical avenues through which the two nations are fostering development and peace.

Ambassador Baran highlighted the Ankara agreement as a testament to the power of diplomacy in resolving regional disputes. This agreement has not only ensured peace and stability between Ethiopia and Somalia but has also set a precedent for addressing other regional issues through dialogue.

One of the pillars of the Ethio-Turkey relationship is trade and investment. Turkey's burgeoning economic ties with Ethiopia have opened new avenues for collaboration in industries such as construction, manufacturing, and energy. Turkish companies operating in Ethiopia contribute significantly to job creation, skill development, and infrastructure projects, which are vital for Ethiopia's economic transformation.

Turkey's consistent engagement with Ethiopia, whether through trade, culture, or regional mediation, showcases a holistic approach to international relations. People-to-people relations further solidify this bond. Educational exchanges, tourism and collaborative projects between civil societies in both countries have created lasting connections. These grassroots interactions ensure that the friendship between Ethiopia and Turkey transcends governmental policies and takes root among the citizens of both nations.

The cultural ties between the nations are another cornerstone of their relationship. Centuries-old interactions between their peoples have fostered a mutual understanding that serves as a strong foundation for their diplomatic endeavors. Recent discussions between the Ethio-Turkey Friendship Group highlighted the importance of deepening these cultural exchanges. Such initiatives promote not only mutual respect but also a shared commitment to global peace and stability.

The Ethio-Turkey relationship is a shining example of how historical ties can evolve into modern, multifaceted partnerships.

## Bridging divides with Ankara Declaration between Ethiopia, Somalia

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

There is no doubt that the Ankara Declaration becomes involved in resolving misconceptions and disagreements between Ethiopia and Somalia at the earliest possible time. Apart from taking the Horn of Africa to new frontiers and heights, the declaration is anticipated without a shred of a doubt to ensure peace, growth, and affluence in every square inch of the region.

In a similar vein, the declaration hinges on a favorable outcome for all with a focus on bringing about peace and sustainability in the Horn of Africa almost immediately. No matter what the cost may be, the two nations should continue to stand in unison with the purpose of ensuring sustainable growth in the region in the shortest possible time.

It is common knowledge that this significant milestone plays a paramount role in foiling regional anti-peace elements' conspiracies and ensuring sustainable peace in the left, right and center of the region in a little while.

Notwithstanding the fact that some groups have been bending over backwards to smudge the positive moves of the Ankara declaration coming up with various trumped-up stories, realizing their desired goal is turning out to be a wild goose chase.

It is a well-known fact that though some doomsayers at various points in time have been working around the clock to back the Horn of Africa into a corner, all their endeavors have been getting off the track. By any means whatsoever, scaremongers cannot turn into a reality their evil deeds going behind closed doors. To cut a long story short, they cannot bring to fruition their objectives and fulfill their aspiration.

The recent Ankara Declaration between Ethiopia and Somalia has been hailed by scholars as a significant step towards thwarting regional anti-peace elements' conspiracies and advancing Ethiopia's pursuit of a sea outlet.

Speaking to ENA, scholar commended the declaration as a vital move towards fostering lasting peace in the region.

They emphasized that the agreement plays a crucial role in countering the disruptive actions of peace-opposing elements, while also advancing Ethiopia's goal of securing a sea outlet through peaceful and diplomatic means. Moreover, the declaration reflects the commitment of both countries to regional peace, with scholars noting that Ethiopia's access to a sea outlet would bring sustained benefits not only to Ethiopia but also to its neighbors and the broader region.

Professor Ahmed Zekaria, Culture and History Researcher, has expressed optimism about the growing collaboration between Ethiopia and Somalia to resolve issues peacefully, underlining that the cooperation significantly contributes to ongoing peace and development efforts in the region.

The Ankara Declaration is critical for peace as it underscores the importance of communication and moving away from

conflict and Ethiopia's diplomatic policy, which prioritizes relationships with its neighbors, emphasizes the necessity of fostering peace.

Adem Kamil, another history researcher, has echoed similar sentiments, emphasizing Ethiopia's strong foundation in truth and justice, safeguarding its national interests while respecting those of others.

The increasing cooperation and increasing engagement between Ethiopia and Somalia will make the people of the Horn of Africa embark on leading a meaningful life at the earliest possible moment.

With its large number of populations and vast territory, the region has the potential for regional development. Taking the aforementioned reality into account neighboring nations should make the most of this potential through the lens of a comprehensive approach to growth and development. In doing so, they can take the region to new opportunities and new horizons.

As taking the region to new possibilities is an unachievable mission in the absence of ensuring sustainable peace in the Horn of Africa, people from all segments of society and every walk of life should join hands to ensure the pursued objective at the earliest possible juncture.

It is worth mentioning that the Ankara declaration signed between Ethiopia and Somalia in black and white demonstrates the fact that the two nations can resolve their disagreement through round table discussion.

In a similar vein, the declaration resolved the disagreements between the two nations and ended up pouring cold water on the efforts of worrywarts who have been working at all hours of the day and night to move the region into uncharted waters.

For the sake of truth, the agreement will catapult the overall economic undertakings of the Horn of Africa in the timeliest manner possible.

Speaking to a local media, IGAD Head of Mission to Ethiopia, Abebaw Bihonegn recently said Ankara Declaration is not just a bilateral agreement between Ethiopia and Somalia rather it symbolizes a broader vision for peace and integration in the region.

The declaration represents a commitment between the two nations for peace and to collaborate on various fronts, including security, economic development, and social cohesion, he added.

He noted that such partnerships are vital to fostering stability not only between Ethiopia and Somalia but also across the broader East African region, emphasized the importance of this agreement in addressing peace and security in the region.

As nothing makes worrywarts happier than dragging through the mud the promising strides of the Ankara declaration, all pertinent bodies should join hands and put a damper on the efforts of the wrongdoers that strongly hate to see a prosperous region.

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



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# Business & Economy

## Capitalizing on fishery for economic progress

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Poverty alleviation is the overall objective of rural development of Ethiopia. In this way, the poor and the disadvantaged, who remain scattered in the economy, could be integrated into the mainstream of the national economy. Emphasis is placed on the integration of decentralized participatory micro-economic with macro-economic planning. Of the myriads of subdivisions in the country, the fishery sector in Ethiopia is characterized by a labor force which is excessive in relation to the limited fishery resources potential.

Keeping this in mind, *The Ethiopian Herald* had a stay with Melkamu Demena, an agro economist graduated from Dilla University and working as a consultant.

He said, "As population growth is projected high, the prospects for increasing the fishermen's income through higher labor productivity, has to be well focused on. Socioeconomic constraints arise from over population of the nation, low incomes, low social, educational and economic status of the fishermen, lack of alternative employment opportunities, and low environmental awareness."

The socioeconomic factors affecting land and related resource use are complex and exert increasing pressures on the resources. Ethiopia, like most of Africa, suffers from malnutrition, poverty, and economic stagnation, and environmentally unsustainable practices. Improving fisheries will contribute to poverty alleviation, economic growth, proper nutrition, and ecological growth, he added.

He said, "Ethiopia's livestock and fisheries sector holds immense potential for economic growth and development. With the largest livestock population in Africa and ranking fifth in the world, the sector accounts for nearly 20 percent of the country's GDP and employs a significant portion of the labor force. Furthermore, Ethiopia has untapped opportunities in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. Recognizing this potential, the Ethiopian government along with development partners has been working for developing the sector."

Not only are young Ethiopians creating employment opportunities for themselves, but they are also contributing a lot to the overall economic growth of the country. Their dedication and enthusiasm serve as a testament to the potential of the fishery subsector to promote job creation and youth empowerment, he stated.

Melkamu said, "The development activity revolving around this is enhancing the productivity and efficiency of the livestock and fisheries sector, which leads to increased availability and accessibility of nutritious food sources. This, in turn, improves the nutritional status of families and individuals, especially in rural areas where access to diverse and nutritious food can be limited. Improved nutrition has a direct impact on human capital as it enhances physical and cognitive development, leading to better health outcomes and improved productivity."

According to Melkamu, extensive aquaculture in the form of stocking and



*Fish farming in Ethiopia*

enhancing artificial lakes, reservoirs and small water bodies has been practiced since long back. Aquaculture is recognized as an alternative means of achieving food security and poverty reduction in the rural area, and is now considered an integral part of rural and agricultural development policies and strategies.

He further elucidated that though Ethiopians are traditionally meat eaters, eating habits have been shifting in favor of fish in areas and communities where there is regular and sufficient supply. Aquaculture prospects on an extensive scale seem considerable when viewed in the light of the high priority given to water harvesting, and from the physical suitability of the country for the best known cultured species. In addition, availability of agricultural residues and industrial by-products for feed seems to support small-scale commercial aquaculture.

Plus to that, he said, commercial aquaculture for export seems promising. Looking at these possibilities, the government of Ethiopia has tried to attach due emphasis to boost the subsector.

"Fish is one of the known aquatic animals used for human consumption as food. Aquatic animals in general do contain a high level of protein with an amino acid profile, similar to that of the meat of land animals. The flesh of a fish is also readily digestible and immediately utilizable by the

human body, which makes it suitable for complementing the high carbohydrate diets. Compared with land animals, with some exceptions, such as shellfish, aquatic animals have a high percentage of edible flesh, and there is little wastage. Aquatic animals are a source of minerals such as calcium, iron and phosphorus as well as trace elements and vitamins. Marine species are particularly rich in iodine. The fatty acid content is high in poly unsaturated and particularly those which are attributed to reduce blood cholesterol," he said.

As to him, there are also some indications that certain fatty acids in fish may provide protection against renal disease. Increasing the per capita consumption of fish and shellfish in any country can benefit health standards. Fish properly preserved, prepared and presented in the right form is popular in most households, particularly in towns and cities like Addis Ababa.

Ethiopia's fisheries are entirely fresh water, in its many lakes, rivers and reservoirs, as it has no marine coastline. Although per capita consumption of fish is very low in Ethiopia, there is steady growth in demand reflecting population increase, rising incomes and a shift in preferences. The main areas of consumption are Addis Ababa and the populations and towns close to the main production areas, Melkamu opined.

Fisheries management in Ethiopia would have

great contribution to the economy. This is because fisheries provide employment, food and income and it makes possible evaluation of overexploitation of the fisheries, he added.

As to Melkamu, since fishery production is overexploited due to inappropriate fishing practice the potential of fish was underdeveloped and the management rule and regulation at federal level and regional level to control the devastation was very poor.

Artisanal fisheries are mainly community-based and tend to be organizationally weak and have poor access to information. They are also often in debt to money-lenders since they can offer little collateral. This may pressurize them into over-fishing and in an open-access situation; communities and interlopers scramble competitively for dwindling resources with damaging results on the stocks. Structured ownership or right of access by communities is crucial particularly where government institutions are weak. However, water bodies are often large and fish are very mobile so there is a limit to the extent a single community or administrative district can manage and control its own resources. Estimates of the impact of fishing on the stock are the most important piece of information communities need in conducting their own management. This is also typically absent from traditional management systems so far investigated. It is generally the case that it is at the institutional level of the community that information, in the appropriate format, is least available.

In general, mechanisms for community management are less understood in fisheries than in other sectors such as forestry or wildlife. The Code of Conduct has guidelines that are as applicable to artisanal communities as to high seas fisheries, and also highlights the institutional support required from development partners. It also underlines the fact that access to a fishery gives a responsibility for its management which underpins equally the basis of community management. Besides, it is possible to summarize some of the key points to be taken into account for the proper inclusion of fisheries into development policy. One way of doing the legal and right fishery process is by strengthening flows of relevant information. The management of fish stocks needs regular feedback of relevant information, otherwise rational decisions on stocks under pressure cannot be taken. Most fishermen have access to considerable information collecting and analytical capacity and this is used to some extent to run the business legally. But the supply of information to each level is critical in assisting decision-makers. Regional management of fisheries must have an element of information sharing: this is another crucial issue given that waters extend over the boundaries of more than one country and many fish species are migratory. The support to regional fishery hubs like in Sothern part or those which have water bodies to be fished as they comprise water bodies like lakes, rivers and other related water bodies have to be taken into account as they pay a paramount role in supporting the economy of the nation though sometimes they are undertaken informally.

# Art & Culture

## Exploring Ethiopia's Art and Culture through traditional music, dance

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

Ethiopia, a land steeped in history and diversity, is a vibrant tapestry of cultures and traditions that express its rich identity through music and dance. This cultural wealth is often showcased in its numerous artistic expressions, which have fascinated both locals and international visitors alike. Among the many venues that celebrate Ethiopian heritage, Fendika stands out as a premier location, not only for its delicious Ethiopian cuisine but also for its dedication to preserving and promoting traditional music and dance.

At the center of Fendika's cultural offerings is its founder, Melaku Belay, an accomplished artist and cultural ambassador. Melaku's journey into the world of art began in his childhood, where he found himself enthralled by the rhythmic sounds of traditional Ethiopian instruments and the captivating movements of local dance. Growing up immersed in this diverse musical landscape, he developed a deep appreciation for the unique artistic expressions of Ethiopia's various ethnic groups. This early passion solidified his path as one of the leading representatives of Ethiopian folklore on both local and global stages.

Fendika was founded as Melaku's dream to create an intimate space where people could connect with Ethiopian culture. It has quickly gained recognition as a cultural institution, showcasing a vibrant array of live performances that invite both locals and tourists to engage with Ethiopia's artistic heritage. The venue features an eclectic mix of traditional music and dance, offering guests a sensory experience that highlights the true essence of Ethiopian culture. Under Melaku's leadership, Fendika has transformed from a simple performance space into a flourishing cultural hub, where the vibrancy of Ethiopian art is celebrated and shared with the world.

Recent events have seen Melaku raise the profile of Ethiopian culture, performing at notable venues such as Hayat Regency in Addis Ababa. His participation in such prestigious events signifies a significant milestone in his career and provides an invaluable platform for cultural exchange.



During a recent press conference, Melaku expressed his enthusiasm for the opportunity, describing the performance as not merely an entertainment showcase but rather as a profound statement about cultural appreciation and exchange. He views these events as vital for fostering greater understanding between diverse cultures, illustrating how art pushes beyond borders to connect people.

Performances at Fendika have included a dynamic blend of traditional Ethiopian dance styles such as Eskista and Bahel, alongside other regional dances that showcase the vibrant movements and intricate rhythms typical of Ethiopian music. Melaku's performances are marked by his infectious energy, captivating audiences and transporting them into the heart of Ethiopia through storytelling and artistic expression. Each dance narrates a rich history, revealing layers of cultural significance and heritage that resonate deeply with viewers.

In an age marked by globalization, Melaku emphasizes the importance of preserving

*As Melaku continues his journey to share the beauty of Ethiopian culture, he demonstrates that creativity can indeed serve as a bridge, uniting us through our shared humanity and diverse expressions of life*

traditional Ethiopian art forms. The rise of modern influences poses a risk to these time-honored traditions, making it essential for artists like him to strike a balance between innovation and authenticity. By incorporating traditional instruments such as the krar and masenqo into contemporary performances, Melaku ensures that the cultural richness of Ethiopian music remains relevant and accessible to younger generations, fostering a renewed interest in

their heritage.

The impact of Melaku's recent performance at Hayat Regency was overwhelmingly positive, with audience members expressing immense appreciation for the depth and authenticity of Ethiopian culture. The event sparked conversations and connections among attendees, serving as a powerful reminder of art's ability to bridge cultural gaps and foster mutual understanding.

In conclusion, Melaku Belay is a living embodiment of Ethiopian artistry and cultural preservation. Through his work at Fendika and performances around the globe, he invites the world to engage with Ethiopia's vibrant heritage. His unwavering commitment to showcasing traditional music and dance not only celebrates Ethiopia's rich cultural identity but also highlights the importance of maintaining these traditions in an ever-changing world. As Melaku continues his journey to share the beauty of Ethiopian culture, he demonstrates that creativity can indeed serve as a bridge, uniting us through our shared humanity and diverse expressions of life.

## The incident I never forget

BY ALEM HAILU

To get a fresh air  
A night stroll would be fair,  
I thought  
And switching the TV  
I got up from my chair.  
On the pavement  
Of a nearby apartment  
A lovely girl by accident  
I met,  
Who looks timid and decent.

On my part a wink  
On hers a response quick  
Lovers soon we begin to click  
And engaged in a kissing spree  
On the street  
Our arms locked behind  
Our waist  
To passers by  
Completely indifferent.

'My dear

Your lips  
Are meant non-stop  
To kiss! '

'I was willing except  
For time constraint.  
You see, home  
I have to report! '

Thus we were forced to part  
Fixing an appointment.

Resulting in a great sorrow  
It dawned on me on the morrow  
She was a pickpocket  
When I couldn't get the wallet,  
I shoved into my back pocket!

From that day on wards  
At night whenever I meet girls  
And exchange greetings  
I check my hands  
For fear even  
A finger could run amiss.

# Science & Technology



(Staff of Ethiopian Artificial Intelligence Institute recondition program of first round 5 million coders' certification)

## Empowering Ethiopia: The vision behind 5 million coders initiative

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

Federal government institutions are mobilizing their employees to take the training, and all employees of some institutions are fully participating. In this regard, the entire staff of Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MInT) and the Ethiopian Artificial Intelligence Institute (EAI) are taking the training.

On Tuesday, the Ethiopian Artificial Intelligence Institute organized an institutional program to acknowledge the officials and staff of the institute who completed the first round of training of the five million Ethiopian Coders' Initiative. According to information from EAI, the entire staff of the institute is undergoing the training and has received their first round of certificates.

During his opening remarks at the program, EAI Director General Worku Gachena (PhD) said that the courses included in the five Million Ethio Coders program have a direct linkage with the major objectives of the institute. Worku stated that courses like AI, web programming, data science, and Android development are crucial to realizing the institute's goals. He emphasized the importance of the national initiative in developing digital literacy and skills for the younger generation, stating that these courses are essential for all staff members to enhance their skills while working at institutions like EAI.

In addition to the officials and staff members of the institute, Worku mentioned that students who are members of AI Clubs established by the institute are also participating in the training with the support and follow-up of EAI. By taking the training, all staff members of the institute have gained valuable skills in the digital sector, which is crucial for fulfilling their institutional tasks and personal activities. Worku encouraged other institutions to mobilize their staff members to participate in the training, as the digital sector is



(MInT Minister Belete Molla and other senior officials while establishing a national taskforce, last week)

becoming increasingly important across all sectors.

Head of the Prime Minister's Office and Cabinet Affairs Minister, Alemtsehay Pawlos, attended the EAI program and stated that the five million Ethio Coders initiative will play a significant role in creating internationally competitive and skilled human resources in the digital sector. She mentioned that the Ethiopian Government is working towards realizing the Digital Ethiopia 2025 vision by investing in skilled human resource development and digital literacy. The 5 million coders' initiative is a national program aimed at achieving these visions, and as the training is freely available to everyone, the younger generation should take advantage of it.

Alemtsehay appreciated the initiative being implemented by EAI and encouraged all staff members to participate in the training, calling on other institutions to follow this exemplary initiative.

**By taking the training, all staff members of the institute have gained valuable skills in the digital sector, which is crucial for fulfilling their institutional tasks and personal activities**

Following the launch of the five million Ethio Coders initiative, Ethiopia is investing in creating awareness to inform the public about the program and encourage the younger generation to take part in the training. According to a report from the Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MInT) last week, more than 422,842 people have registered and are currently undergoing online training. In order to

mobilize the youth and support regional states in participating in the training, MInT has established a national taskforce, bringing together stakeholders from various federal institutions, as reported last week by the ministry.

During the launch of the national taskforce, Minister of Innovation and Technology, Belete Molla (PhD), stated that over 422,842 individuals are currently participating in coding training nationwide. To further encourage youth participation, especially in regional states and city administrations, the establishment of a federal-level taskforce is necessary.

This taskforce will work with stakeholders from federal institutions and support the activities of regional states in training five million coders. It will also assess the performance of regional states and city administrations in implementing the program, identifying any major obstacles they may face.

The taskforce aims to address these obstacles by bringing them to the attention of the ministry for solutions. Minister Belete emphasized the importance of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's direction, noting the significant number of individuals across the country participating in training on artificial intelligence (AI), web programming, android development, and data science.

While over 422,842 citizens are registered for training nationally, 104,460 have already completed their training and received certificates. Employees of federal and private institutions in the capital have shown strong performance, prompting the ministry to work on extending this success to regional states.

The minister expressed satisfaction with the progress at the national level, emphasizing the need for collaborative efforts from all stakeholders at federal and regional levels to achieve the goal of training over five million Ethiopians by 2026.



# Society

## Women involvement beyond socio-economic spheres

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Despite comprising more than 50 percent of the world's population, Ethiopia is no exception of course, women continue to lack access to political leadership opportunities and resources at all levels of government. It is also well recognized that women have constituted more than half of the population.

Women's participation in politics is relevant for all aspects of multidimensional poverty and it is linked to all other areas of gender equality.

Taking this fact into account, *The Ethiopian Herald* had a short stay with Mihret Mekonnen, a gender specialist graduated from Addis Ababa University, to have a piece of information about the role of women in political participation in Ethiopia though it is not that much magnified as their contribution in socio-economic and cultural spheres.

She said, "True, women's engagement in political and economic institutions by participating in bureaucracies, policy-making bodies, and representative organizations is of paramount importance in helping the nation making a difference in all aspects."

As to Mihret, women's political participation is a key issue for development cooperation as it is both a question of human rights, and a requirement for maintainable growth. Besides, women's participation in politics is directly linked to all other aspects of promoting gender equality, combating gender-based violence, boosting women's economic empowerment, women's and girls' human rights, sexual and reproductive health and rights and so forth. For example, economies with greater female representation in national legislative bodies are more likely to pass laws in areas that may hinder women's economic empowerment and inclusion, including laws on sexual harassment, rape, divorce and domestic violence.

She further elucidated that a more equal distribution of unpaid care work may be both a condition and an outcome of women's participation in politics. It is a fact that, by most measures, women's political participation has expanded dramatically over the past years.

"Women's rights organizations and other civil society actors argue that a broad understanding of women's political participation is necessary. Women's participation, leadership in and influence in all areas of society must be taken into consideration, and feminist activism and organizing are core when understanding and taking action to improve women's political participation," Mihret said.

Today, as democracy and human rights in general, and women's and girls' rights in particular, are under threat in many developing countries like ours and democratic structures are used to strengthen authoritarian regimes, this broad context is even more important to take into consideration.

According to Mihret, the concept women's

participation in politics is used to mark a big focus. However, women's participation in politics must be understood in the context of and enforced through women's participation, leadership and influence in all areas of society.

A focus on formal political institutions incorporates the importance of informal institutions and practices, as well as of civil society organizations or social movements. In development practice, efforts to improve women's participation in politics is not limited to formal politics but must also include support to actors in a society that makes women's participation in politics possible, including for example women's rights organizations, she added.

Gender equality reforms and women's increased participation may, of course, make a difference for women and societies even in authoritarian settings. Even so, however, critical evaluation and caution is necessary. The increase in women's political participation over the past years is remarkable, Mihret opined.

True, she said, women's participation in politics – across gender, age, caste, class, disabilities, religion, ethnicity, age and sexual orientation, is both a matter of human rights and a prerequisite for sustainable development. It matters for the eradication of all aspects of poverty—a national pride, indeed!

Strengthening women in politics throughout their lifespan, from young to old, through education and networks and increase access to family planning, sexuality education, and equal care in the world of work, in order for more women to have time and energy for political engagement at all levels, is definitely a viable weapon to come up with a difference in all aspects.

"Efforts to improve women's participation in politics, and change underlying hindrances such as discriminatory norms and practices, is not limited to formal politics but also includes support to actors that makes this participation possible, such as women's rights organizations," she added.

"Besides, identifying and using men allies and up standers for women's participation in politics at all levels—from husbands, partners, brothers, fathers and friends to ministers and political party leaders. Acknowledging gender quotas is also as important as tools for change towards gender equal participation in politics, and it is quite important as it has long been a good indicator for a democratic move."

However, it is undoubtedly taken into account that the way they are designed and used, and be aware that they do not always lead to substantial change and cannot be considered a final solution. It is quite significant to be aware that resistance against progress takes many shapes and forms and adjust to context, and recognize and persistently address intimidation, harassment and gendered violence in politics. Yes, she said women are therefore



*Since women empowerment is not sufficient, activating them has to be embarked on*

underrepresented in the representative authorities.

She said, "Ethiopia has to motivate political parties to ensure the gender balance during elections by providing additional financial support to those parties that have won seats in parliament and met the gender quota. Political parties that have met the gender quota need to receive additional funds from the budget to finance their statutory activities, and thus are encouraged to involve women."

She said, "Frankly speaking, intra-party quotas demonstrate the important role of political parties in involving women in politics at various stages. Conducting a gender audit in a party can reveal opportunities for growth in managing branches, as well as show how diversity and the involvement of women can help the party in the political arena. Parties, among other things, can also set up various funds to support women who have children and need help with looking after their children when they are doing party work."

One should also pay attention to various training and leadership programs for women – for those who are already in office and those who are only planning their political activities. These programs not only teach women how to understand the budget or draft decisions, they also help them create communities, become self-confident, learn the mechanisms of self-defense against oppression, and be more confident and determined, thus playing an important role in the making of women politicians.

To the surprise of everyone said Mihret, "As gender specialists wrote, countries with more gender balance among their politicians often fare better than those dominated by men. And we have to think of how we achieve genuine gender equality in politics."

Parliaments have a fundamental role in ensuring that their representative,

lawmaking, and scrutiny functions work for the benefit of all. Gender equality constitutes by definition an integral part of any society that wishes to respond meaningfully to the challenges ahead, and of any parliament that claims to represent all the people.

Unequivocally, gender equality in politics, as to Mihret, is not only about numbers and equal parliamentary representation but it is also of a decisive step in true gender-sensitive policymaking. The positions that women occupy in parliaments are also indicative of their influence in decision-making and their ability to set the direction of parliamentary work.

"Not only women's equal participation in decision-making is a demand for simple justice or democracy, but also a necessary pre-condition for women's interests to be taken into account. Ascendancy structures which do not result in the equal participation of men and women, or their equal enjoyment of benefits from state interventions are by definition neither inclusive nor democratic," she opined.

According to Mihret, attracting women into the party to get the number of votes needed to have influence in party decision making or policy forums is also a vital step and a women's branch can be a more comfortable place for women entering politics for the first time. However it is crucial to integrate women's branch into the structure of the party and define its role, or it will run the risk of being marginalized and powerless. Political parties can also adopt policies and special measures that provide women candidates' financial assistance during campaigns, and when hold public office. Definitely, as to Mihret, women's leadership in political spheres is shown to be socially, economically, culturally and psychologically beneficial, and is categorically a matter of women's right to equal opportunity and access.



# This is Ethiopia

## National Palace Museum: Exciting tourist attraction in Addis Ababa

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Addis Ababa is a melting pot of cultures, traditions, and history. From bustling markets to serene parks, this city offers a unique blend of old-world charm and modern sophistication. With its breathtaking age-old and new destinations, the capital allures the attention of its local and international tourists. The opening of new tourist projects in the city and around its environs offers international visitors to discover the city's rich history and culture.

Unity Park, located within the expansive grounds of Emperor Menelik Palace, offers an exceptional opportunity to explore Ethiopia's history and culture in a beautifully landscaped setting. This newly renovated park features historical buildings, lush gardens, and museums showcasing the country's diverse traditions.

For breathtaking panoramic views of Addis Ababa, head to Entoto Mountain, situated on the outskirts of the city. One can take a hike up the mountain or visit the Entoto Maryam Church to soak in the serene atmosphere and enjoy the stunning vistas of the surrounding landscape.

What is more, Meskel Square, located in the heart of Addis Ababa, is a bustling gathering place, where locals and visitors come together to celebrate festivals, concerts, and cultural events. The Square surrounded by vibrant markets, cafes, and street vendors offers a taste of authentic Ethiopian cuisine.

Recently, one of the must-visit attractions in the city, the National Palace, was opened for visitors to explore and admire. The National Palace, also known as the Jubilee Palace, is a historical building located in the heart of Addis Ababa. It was built in the 1950s to mark the Silver Jubilee of Emperor Haile Selassie. The palace served as the official residence of the Emperor until the overthrow of the monarchy in 1974. Today, it is used by the Ethiopian government for official functions and ceremonies.

The National Palace holds great cultural and historical significance for the people of Ethiopia. It is a symbol of the country's rich heritage and royal history. The palace is also a testament to the architectural prowess of the time, with its grandeur and intricate designs reflecting the opulence of the Ethiopian monarchy.

During a visit, guests will have the opportunity to explore the various rooms and halls that make up this magnificent building. The Palace is adorned with beautiful artwork, elegant furniture, and intricate decorations that will transport you back in time to the days of the Ethiopian monarchy.

One of the highlights of the visit is the chance to see the grand throne room, where



Emperor Haile Selassie held court and received dignitaries from around the world. You will also be able to visit the various galleries and museums within the palace, which showcase the history and culture of Ethiopia.

The restored National Palace was inaugurated last week in the presence of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and high level government officials.

The restoration of the Palace is a significant step in preserving Ethiopia's history and cultural legacy, Office of the Prime Minister stated in social media post.

The restoration efforts, initiated by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, began with the renovation of the Grand Palace—now Unity Park—has continued with the revitalization of this iconic landmark.

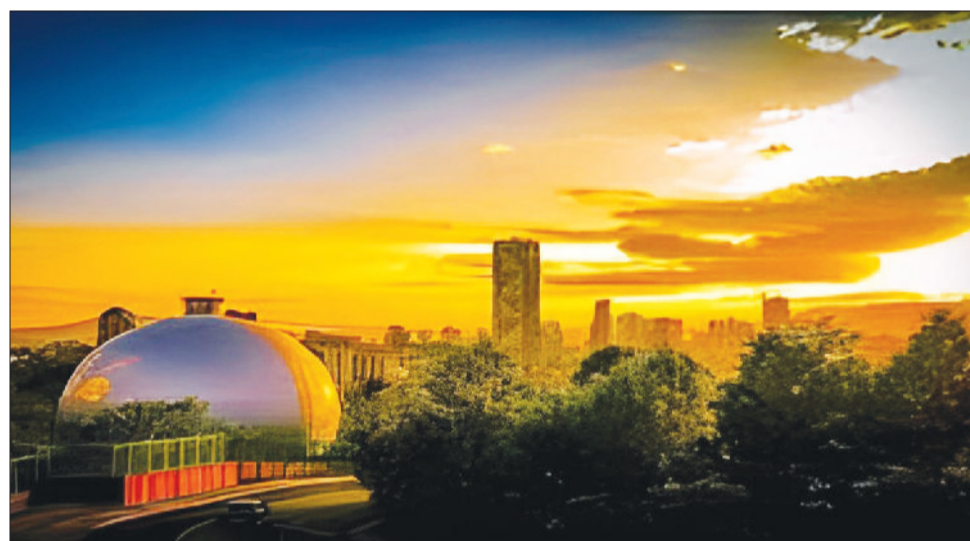
“The National Palace now stands as a testament to our nation's journey, embodying the resilience, artistry, and vision of our people. By restoring it to its former glory, we honor our past and create a lasting symbol of pride and inspiration for future generations.”

The Office of the Prime Minister revealed that the Palace Museum has now become a site for everyone.

More importantly, the restoration of the Grand Palace in Ethiopia is a significant step in preserving our history and cultural legacy, the Office of the Prime Minister stated.

The Office also revealed in a social media post that the Palace Museum has now become a site for everyone.

Meanwhile, the ongoing transformation of Addis Ababa is poised to transform the feature of the capital and increase its appeal



to tourists and investors, foreign visitors remarked.

These visitors have observed that the changes in Addis Ababa create numerous favorable conditions for potential investment.

Chintuu Jonah from Uganda, who visited Ethiopia during the Christmas festivities, shared his experiences of exploring various regions, including Jinka, Gondar, and Axum. He described Ethiopia as the most stunning destination he has ever encountered.

Jhishan Ahimed from India expressed his admiration for the warm hospitality of the Ethiopian people and the richness of their culture, while also noting significant infrastructure improvements across the country.

Addelle Avzalhan, another visitor from India, expressed his appreciation for the urban development initiatives in Addis Ababa, highlighting the helpful and supportive nature of the Ethiopian populace.

Over the past six years Ethiopia has been extensively working on expanding its

tourism attractions by building the necessary facilities and renovating the existing destinations in a bid to harness the sector's potential for the country's development.

In sum, initiatives such as the Dine for Sheger, Dine for Nation, and Dine for Generation projects spearheaded by the Premier are clear manifestations of the country's commitment to fully exploit its tourism potentials, leveraging the sector as one of the accelerators of Ethiopia's inclusive economic growth ambitions.

Accordingly, Addis Ababa is a city teeming with new and exciting tourist attractions waiting to be explored. From historical museums and cultural landmarks to bustling markets and vibrant theaters, there is something for everyone to discover in this dynamic African capital. Visiting the National Palace in Addis Ababa is a unique and enriching experience that will give you a deeper insight into the rich cultural heritage of Ethiopia. From its grand architecture to its historical significance, the palace is a must-visit attraction for anyone exploring the vibrant city of Addis Ababa.