



# The Ethiopian Herald

Vol. LXXXI No 100 4 JANUARY 2025 - Tahisas 26, 2017

Saturday

Price Birr 34.50

**AGI** CONSTRUCTING THE FUTURE AFRICA  
Abyssinia Group of Industries

Manufacturer of Rebars, Angles, Channels, Flat Bars & Round Bars. Introducing cut & bend service for rebars.

**Contact & Address**  
Tel: +251 116 63 97 55/ 251 116 63 51 22/25  
Mob.: +251 962 009 072/ +251 949 440 868  
+251 911 45 9790  
E-mail: sales@agiethiopia.com  
4th Floor, Dabi Building, Bole road Addis Ababa Ethiopia

**Siingee**

**DOWNLOAD SIINGEE BANK MOBILE BANKING APP**  
from play store & start your transaction now

www.siingeebank.com



Photo: Dagne Abera

Ambassador Avraham Niguse (PhD)

## Premier inaugurates Gode irrigation infrastructure project

BY STAFF REPORTER

**ADDIS ABABA**—Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) inaugurated the Gode Irrigation Infrastructure Project yesterday in Somali State.

“I came to Gode two years ago, and it is

encouraging to see the progress taking place since then,” the Premier wrote on social media pages.

“Our focus must remain steadfast on development—the path that unlocks opportunities, improves livelihoods, and transforms communities,” he added.

The premier said that he is particularly pleased with the success of the West Gode Irrigation Project. “What was once barren land is now being cultivated, with promising potential for producing sesame, wheat, corn, and a variety of horticultural crops.”

## Ethiopia-Israel ties: Partnership of shared growth

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

**ADDIS ABABA**—The partnership between Ethiopia and Israel continues to grow as a cornerstone for the development of both nations, stated Avraham Niguse (PhD) Ambassador of Israel to Ethiopia.

See Ethiopia- Israel... Page 3

## Ethiopia affirms commitment to regional peace, stability: MoFA

BY HAILE DEMEKE

**ADDIS ABABA** – The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) expressed that Ethiopia leaves no stone unturned to enhance cooperation with neighboring countries and commits to regional peace and stability.

In his press briefing, the Ministry’s Spokesperson Ambassador Nebiat Getachew said that Ethiopia has long been serving as an anchor of peace and stability in East Africa and continues its role to unlock tranquility in the region.

See Ethiopia affirms... Page 3

## Ethiopia, Somalia agree to enhance bilateral ties

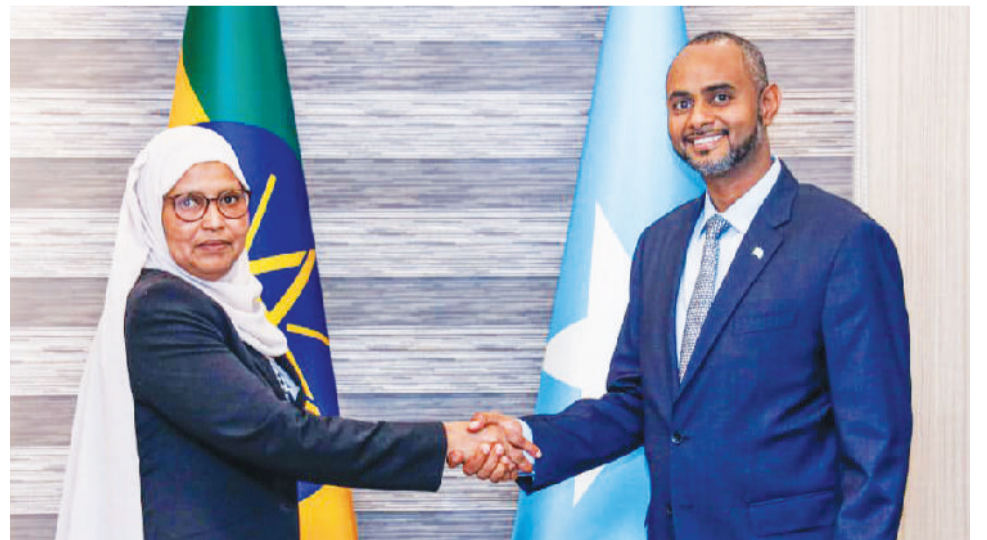
BY STAFF REPORTER

**ADDIS ABABA** — A high-level Ethiopian delegation led by Minister of Defense, Engineer Aisha Mohammed made an official working visit to Somalia.

During the visit, the delegation held fruitful discussions with the President of Somalia, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, and delivered a message from Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) to the Somali President.

The discussions reaffirmed the commitment of both countries to work together to ensure peace and stability in Somalia and the region, the Ethiopian foreign ministry reported on its social media page this morning.

The two countries agreed to collaborate on the AUSSOM mission and strengthen bilateral relations. They also agreed



to enhance exchanges of visits and discussions, with senior Somali officials expected to visit Addis Ababa soon.

The Somali Minister of Defense,

Abdulkadir Mohamed Nur Jama, expressed his appreciation and gratitude for the Ethiopian Defense Forces’ sacrifices and contributions to ensuring peace in Somalia.

See Ethiopia, Somalia... Page 3

# News

## Ethiopia develops strategy to drive streamlined carbon market

- Sets to reduce carbon emission to 68.8% by 2030

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

**ADDIS ABABA** – Ethiopia aims to develop national carbon market strategy to effectuate emerging and domestic carbon landscape, Ministry of Planning and Development said, revealing plans to reduce emissions to 68.8% by 2030. Speaking at the inception workshop yesterday, Ministry's Multilateral Environmental Negotiation and Strategic Coordination Lead Executive Officer Mensur Dessie stated that the country has traditionally been a leader regarding the alignment of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) targets and measures with the landmark development and climate strategies.

"This strategy will build on the green legacy initiatives, development plans, climate resilient green economy and sectoral policies, national electrification programs, among many national initiatives," he said.

Accordingly, he expressed that these efforts will position the country to achieve its determined contribution and long term low emission development strategy targets. Besides, the country pledges to participate in international and domestic carbon markets as a strategic and innovative financing tool to generate revenue from exporting high quality carbon credits.

In tandem with the Paris Agreement, he emphasized that the country is making strides to streamline carbon market systems in various sectors such as energy, forest development, livestock, waste and green mobilization to promote its developmental aspirations.

"The legal frameworks which are established will contribute to the successful development of the carbon market administration, which fosters carbon reduction, sustainable development with green growth and societal benefits," he added.

Also, in line with the global market strategy, the country has been engaging with the front line to ensure beneficiaries both domestically and internationally, he remarked.

Strategy Implementation Project Managing Director Stephan Hoch highlighted the need to institute carbon credit standardization, environmental reliability, ensuring social integrity, and other initiatives to properly manage carbon market risks.

He has also suggested aligning the strategy with carbon market laws, capital capacities, access to finances, strengthening national expertise, facilitating partnerships for telling strategic implementation complying with rules.

Ethiopia has embarked on readiness preparations, which is also ideal to strengthen national expertise and human capacity on government institutions, implementers, industry representatives, service providers in coordination with development partners for better market access. According to him, fostering the country's carbon market activities in international carbon market conferences and networks, leveraging bilateral relationships and regional diplomatic institutions would help realize the ambitions.

"Legal and regulatory frameworks such as carbon market law and sectoral regulations help develop the carbon market strategy," he noted.

During the event, sector representatives, private sector stakeholders, financial institutions, CSOs were in attendance to ensure inclusive engagements. The event also featured interactive discussions and activities which help develop the strategic development process.



## Ministry equips states with modern diagnostic devices

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

**ADDIS ABABA** - The Ministry of Health provided health bureaus with laboratory equipment and motorcycles worth over 7.6 million USD, intended to improve diagnostic capabilities and providing better services to the public.

The Ministry of Health and Ethiopian Public Health Institute have handed over laboratory equipment and motorcycles to almost all states' health bureaus and the two city administrations yesterday.

During handover ceremony, Health Minister Mekdes Daba (MD) said that the medical apparatus and the motorcycles gained through WB's investment financing

project are significant resources to equip healthcare facilities to reach more patients in remote areas.

The Minister added that medical appliances help to maintain quality of health nationwide and the goal is to build efficient health institutes equipped with sophisticated devices vital for diagnosis and treatment.

"We have been working with WB to scale up and strengthen the regional laboratory services for the patients and our responsibility is strengthening regional health in collaboration with Ethiopian Public Health Institute," Mekdes said.

Through an integrated effort with the African CDC and WB, Ethiopia has built 13 regional laboratories recently to reach remote areas while additional 14 laboratories

were constructed in collaboration with WB to reach regional areas, she stated.

Developing human resources, improving laboratories and referral services require to mitigate and control the transmission of communicable diseases, Ethiopian Public Health Institute Director General Mesay Hailu (MD) said at the event.

He stressed that advanced laboratories are needed in border areas of the nation to control communicable diseases side by side with the capacitating of health institutions.

The supports come from WB and Ethiopian government are paramount to strengthen health related projects being undertaken in Ethiopia to boost the regional health laboratory to diagnose diseases in an advanced manner in the community.

## Foundation urges community support for cancer patients

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA** – The Alemfre Pink House Cancer Foundation (APCF) has issued a plea to the community to support cancer patients and enhance access to critical care.

During a press conference yesterday, Board Member and the Foundation's Founder Tsedaletsige Alayu emphasized the urgent need for public assistance in alleviating the burden on cancer sufferers.

For 13 years, APCF has been dedicated to providing vital support to cancer patients, including food, shelter, transportation, and medication. The foundation also plays a crucial role in raising awareness about cancer prevention and empowering Ethiopian women, both at home and abroad, to overcome financial barriers and access essential treatment for breast, cervical, and other gynecological cancers.

Despite its impactful work, APCF relies entirely on volunteer support from both within Ethiopia and the international community.



A volunteer ambassador for the foundation, Artist Eskindir Lake highlighted the devastating impact of cancer, emphasizing the immense financial strain it places on patients, particularly those from rural areas, who face significant costs for medical treatment, transportation, and accommodation.

"We all have a responsibility to contribute, whether it's through financial support, sharing our knowledge, offering valuable ideas, or providing other resources," stated Eskindir. "Cancer can affect any of us at any time, making prevention and awareness crucial. If women neglect timely health checkups and fail to undergo necessary

screenings, they face a significantly higher risk of late-stage cancer, leading to severe suffering and increased mortality rates. It is imperative for mothers, sisters, and all individuals to prioritize regular health examinations and self-care."

She also urged all Ethiopians to demonstrate compassion and support those battling cancer, emphasizing the importance of viewing the challenges faced by others as their own.

Thomas Tilahun, the foundation's Marketing and Fundraising Expert, announced plans to recruit new volunteers to support APCF's mission through various channels.

# News

## Addis constructs standard libraries to nurture reading culture

### • Organizes City-Wide Reading Festival

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA** - The Addis Ababa Culture, Arts and Tourism Bureau said that the city administration has built standard libraries across sub cities to nurture reading culture.

The Addis Ababa Culture, Arts and Tourism Bureau on Thursday launched a city-wide reading festival or week under the theme of 'Reading for Peace Building' to nurture reading culture of citizens, especially children.

Speaking at the occasion, the Bureau Head Hirut Kassaw (PhD) said that the city administration built standard libraries across Addis to motivate and nurture reading culture. Nurturing reading culture needs fulfilling essential materials and inputs. As a result, the country built the first huge reading hub (Abrehot Library) in Africa to further encourage the reading culture of citizens.

This will enable citizens to create a strong link with reading culture. Building a country requires boosting the culture of reading. The government has given special emphasis to nurture reading culture to build present and future generations, she said.



So far, the Administration has constructed fully fledged libraries in all sub-cities in the capital to nurture reading culture. Using technologies, citizens can access reading places anywhere. Standard schools and reading parks are constructed to play their role to increase reading culture across the city, she added.

However, parents should support the government's efforts via monitoring mechanisms and others. Furthermore, it requires encouraging children to practice to develop a culture of reading.

According to the Bureau head, the reader community can build a nation, fill gaps,

understand communal, local and global issues as well as it simply catches communities, national and other cultures and practices.

The Bureau has been organizing reading festivals for weeks to create opportunities for families and students to let them get different reading materials, she noted.

### Ethiopia affirms commitment...

As part of the country's commitment to solidify its ties and ensure regional peace and stability, this week the delegation led by Foreign Affairs Minister, Gedion Timothewos (PhD) discussed with Djiboutian counterparts.

During the discussion, the minister emphasized Ethiopia's commitment to maintaining peace and stability in the region and its unwavering determination to combat Al-Shabaab. The longstanding ties between the two brotherly nations serve as a model for fostering regional cooperation.

Likewise, Nebiat mentioned that a delegation led by Defense Minister Eng. Aisha Mohammed, visited Somalia so as to further elevate ties. The discussions between Ethiopia and Somalia reaffirmed the commitment of both countries to work together to ensure peace and stability in Somalia and the region. The two countries agreed to collaborate on achieving the mission of the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM) and strengthening bilateral relations.

Ethiopia underlined the need to address security challenges promptly and focus

on economic development by enhancing cooperation between the two nations. They also agreed to enhance exchanges of visits and discussions, with senior Somali officials expected to visit Addis Ababa soon, according to Nebiat.

These high-level visits to neighboring countries demonstrate Ethiopia's commitment to working closely with neighboring countries to strengthen economic integration and ensure lasting peace and in the region, according to the Spokesperson.

The visits have significant roles in strengthening relations on bilateral and regional issues in political and economic diplomacy, as well as enhancing people-to-people ties. They are also crucial for ensuring regional peace and security by jointly combatting the terrorist group, Al-Shabaab, he added.

On the other hand, Ethiopia is finalizing all the necessary preparations for the upcoming Ordinary Sessions of the 38th Assembly of the Heads of State and Government, and the 46th Executive Council of the African Union due to be held between 12 and 16 February 2025 at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa.

### Ethiopia, Somalia agree...

In her remarks, Minister of Defense, Aisha Mohammed, emphasized Ethiopia's commitment to contributing to peace and stability in Somalia.

She also highlighted that combating terrorism is a key area of cooperation between the two nations.

State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Mesganu Arga, emphasized the shared significance of peace in both Ethiopia and Somalia and underscored the importance of ensuring that conflicts do not

hinder the development agendas of the two countries.

Ambassador Mesganu further underlined the need to address security challenges promptly and focus on development by enhancing cooperation between the two nations.

It is to be recalled that last week, a Somali delegation led by State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ali Mohamed Omar, visited Ethiopia and held discussions with Ambassador Mesganu Arga, reinforcing the ongoing cooperation between the two countries.

### Ethiopia-Israel ties: ...

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, the ambassador highlighted the multi-faceted nature of the Ethiopia-Israel relationship, which spans government collaborations, humanitarian initiatives, and private sector investments. Recent initiatives have prioritized innovation and technology, with Israeli experts working closely with Ethiopian counterparts to drive progress.

"Through joint efforts with international organizations like the United Nations, both countries are leveraging knowledge, experience, and financial resources for mutual benefit," the ambassador remarked. "These collaborative approaches have yielded successes in projects like avocado cultivation and capacity building."

Ambassador Avraham noted that Israeli companies' involvement in Ethiopia's mining sector further underscores the partnership's potential for economic growth. "By exchanging knowledge and experiences, we are creating opportunities across various sectors, which strengthens our partnership," he said.

Ethiopia's abundant natural resources—sunshine, atmosphere, climate, fertile lands, and human capital—offer untapped opportunities for collaboration. "My dream is to bring Israeli technology, which excels in greening deserts, to Ethiopia's fertile lands," the ambassador expressed. "By combining Israeli expertise with Ethiopian resources, we can envision increased production not just for Ethiopia but for all of Africa. This process has already begun, and with the enthusiasm of both governments, I

am confident this dream will become a reality."

Avraham also highlighted the deep cultural ties between the two nations. Ethiopian Orthodox Church materials bear Judaic influences, while over 170,000 Ethiopian Jews residing in Israel enrich the cultural exchange between the countries. "The Ethiopian Jews in Israel serve as ambassadors of Ethiopian culture, fostering relationships and investing in both countries," he added.

The robust aviation relationship between the two nations, led by Ethiopian Airlines, is another key area of collaboration. The airline operates frequent flights between Ethiopia and Israel, maintaining operations even during conflicts, underscoring the deep connection between the people of both nations. "This relationship goes beyond mere interests, touching the hearts of both Ethiopians and Israelis," the ambassador stated.

The Ethiopia-Israel relationship is rooted in unique historical and biblical ties. Even after Israel's re-establishment as a modern state in 1948, Ethiopia played a crucial role in supporting its independence. Today, these connections continue to strengthen through shared values, collaboration, and mutual aspirations.

Ambassador Avraham concluded by emphasizing that this ongoing collaboration between Ethiopia and Israel is vital for the sustained growth and development of both nations. "By sharing expertise and resources, we are building a future where both countries can thrive together."



## Ethiopia serves as a model of multiculturalism and coexistence to the world

Dr. Avraham Niguse  
Ambassador of Israel to Ethiopia

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

*Only a small number of nations worldwide have diplomatic relations that date back to the time of the First Temple in Jerusalem. Ethiopia and Israel have maintained a relationship that extends beyond the typical diplomatic interactions of the twenty-first century, originating during the reign of King Solomon. The bond between the two countries is built on mutual respect and shared goals, rooted in a common past and looking towards a future of collaborative development.*

*Today's guest in the Ethiopian Herald is Dr. Avraham Niguse, the Ambassador of Israel to Ethiopia. During a brief interview with the newly appointed Ambassador, the Ethiopian Herald discussed a variety of political, socioeconomic, and people-to-people connections that will strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries. Enjoy the read!*

**Israel has expressed its interest in strengthening its cooperation with Ethiopia in agriculture and technological development. How would you explain the bilateral relations of the two countries?**

I appreciate your visit to our Embassy for this interview, and I would like to extend a warm welcome. Israel and Ethiopia share a unique relationship unlike any other. This relationship has deep historical roots dating back to biblical times.

Even after Israel was re-established as a modern state in 1948, Ethiopia played a crucial role in supporting the independence of the Jewish state in the land of Israel. This historical connection dates back to biblical times, with the first diplomat being the Queen of Sheba, who visited King Solomon in Jerusalem. This relationship continued into modern times, with Emperor Haile Selassie I in the 1950s, leading to the establishment of the Embassy in 1956 during his regime.

As a newly established state, Israel fostered a unique connection with Ethiopia. Israeli architects, engineers, and construction companies like Solomon Bonnet came to Ethiopia to assist in various projects. This included training Capacity Builders and MASHAV, the Israeli International Agency for Development and Cooperation, in agriculture, military, education, and healthcare projects.

The strong relationship between the two countries continued until 1973 when Israel cut diplomatic ties under pressure from the African Union and Arab states after the Yom Kippur War. Despite this, the people-to-people relationship remained strong between the Ethiopian and Israeli people.

In 1986, diplomatic ties were re-established, leading to resurgence in cooperation, particularly in agriculture. Israel's expertise in modern technological agriculture, such as the drip irrigation system, has been shared with Ethiopia, helping to transform agricultural practices in the country.

This cooperation extends beyond agriculture into other areas like healthcare. Israeli delegations have been actively involved in various medical projects in Ethiopia, focusing on areas like pediatric cardiology, cardio surgery, and trauma treatment. Israeli companies have also invested in agro-processing in Ethiopia, contributing to

economic growth.

The partnership between Israel and Ethiopia is multi-faceted, involving government-to-government collaborations, humanitarian organizations providing free services, and private investors seeking business opportunities. Recent initiatives have focused on innovation and technology, with Israeli experts collaborating with Ethiopian partners to drive progress in these areas.

Through joint efforts with international organizations like the United Nations, the two countries are working together to leverage knowledge, experience, and financial resources for mutual benefit. This collaborative approach has been particularly successful in projects like avocado cultivation and capacity building.

The involvement of Israeli companies in the mining sector highlights the potential for economic growth in Ethiopia. By exchanging knowledge and experiences, both countries are able to create new opportunities and strengthen their partnership across various sectors. This ongoing collaboration is essential for the continued growth and development of both nations.

**Earlier, aside from the culture and people-to-people ties, you vividly discussed the bilateral relations between the two countries. Could you elaborate on that?**

So, you covered areas such as trade, investment, and more of the same. Now, let us focus on the culture and people-to-people ties between the two countries. Okay. Maybe before I answer that, I would like to add to the previous question. I want to emphasize that Ethiopia is blessed with natural resources. The sunshine, atmosphere, climate, fertile lands, and human capital in Ethiopia are all valuable resources.

My plan and dream are to bring Israeli technology, which excels in greening deserts, to Ethiopia's fertile lands. By combining Israeli expertise with Ethiopian resources, we can envision increased production not just for Ethiopia, but for all of Africa. This is an ongoing process and I am confident we can achieve it. The Ethiopian government is eager to cooperate, and the Israeli government is also motivated. I believe we can turn this dream into a reality.

Now, turning to your question about the relationship between people, it is a cultural



Photo: Dagne Abera

**Israeli delegations have been actively involved in various medical projects in Ethiopia, focusing on areas like pediatric cardiology, cardio surgery, and trauma treatment**

strength. The people of Ethiopia and Israel have a deep connection that is evident in historical narratives. Throughout the Bible, Ethiopia and Israel are intertwined, from mentions of Ethiopian figures to interactions between the two peoples. This shared history extends to the King's history, with stories of King Solomon and Menelik in Ethiopia's chronicles.

The cultural ties are also visible in religious practices, as Ethiopian Orthodox Church materials have Judaic backgrounds. This unique relationship has grown stronger in modern times, particularly with over 170,000 Ethiopian Jews residing in Israel. Their presence has enriched the cultural exchange between the two countries, with elements of Ethiopian culture visible in Israel and vice versa.

The Ethiopian community in Israel

maintains strong cultural connections, with Ethiopian food, music, and traditions being celebrated. Ethiopian artists like Mahmoud Ahmed have shared their talent in Israel, further strengthening the cultural bond. The Ethiopian Jews in Israel serve as ambassadors of Ethiopian culture, fostering relationships and investing in both countries.

The aviation relationship between Ethiopia and Israel is robust, with Ethiopian Airlines operating frequent flights between the two countries. Even during times of conflict, Ethiopian Airlines has continued its operations, highlighting the deep connection between the two nations. This relationship goes beyond mere interests, touching the hearts of both Ethiopian and Israeli people.

*Continued to page 13*

# Editorial

# Opinion

## GERD: A foundation of green resilient economy

Ethiopia has made monumental strides in its ambitious pursuit of a green and resilient economy, with the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) standing as the crown jewel of this vision. With the GERD construction now nearing completion, it has emerged not just as a national symbol but also as a catalyst for economic transformation in Ethiopia and the wider Horn of Africa region. This project highlights Ethiopia's commitment to sustainable development while making significant contributions to regional integration and green energy goals.

According to recent updates from the office of the coordinating director of the GERD, the dam's construction has reached an impressive 97.6 percent completion. The civil engineering works have been fully completed, and the remaining focus is on the installation of electrical and mechanical components. Notably, four of the planned turbines have already been installed and are operational, providing electricity not only to Ethiopia but also to neighboring countries. As the remaining nine turbines are installed, the GERD is poised to significantly enhance Ethiopia's power generation capacity, transforming it into an energy powerhouse for the region.

The GERD's completion is a triumph for Ethiopia, a country that has faced numerous challenges on its journey to economic development. The dam, once considered an ambitious dream, has now become a reality, symbolizing Ethiopia's determination to shape its own future. The dam is not just an engineering marvel but also a key player in Ethiopia's larger plan to embrace green energy and reduce its reliance on fossil fuels. The GERD represents a critical component of Ethiopia's investment in green infrastructure, positioning the country as a leader in sustainable development.

Ethiopia's commitment to green energy is reflected in its long-term strategy to build a resilient economy. The GERD, with its renewable energy capacity, plays a crucial role in supporting this strategy. By harnessing the power of the Abbay River, the dam will generate clean, renewable hydroelectric power, contributing to the reduction of carbon emissions both locally and regionally. As the world grapples with the urgent need to combat climate change, Ethiopia's focus on green energy provides a model for other developing nations, showing that large-scale investments in renewable resources can be a path toward both economic growth and environmental sustainability.

The impact of the GERD extends beyond Ethiopia's borders. Once fully operational, the dam will serve as a major source of electricity for the Horn of Africa, fostering greater economic integration and cooperation between Ethiopia and its neighbors. By providing a stable and reliable power supply, the GERD will enable neighboring countries like Sudan and Djibouti to benefit from affordable electricity, contributing to their own economic development. This power-sharing arrangement has the potential to strengthen political and economic ties in the region, encouraging collaboration on other regional infrastructure projects and trade initiatives.

The GERD also has significant implications for Ethiopia's economy. The generation of electricity will support industrialization efforts, create job opportunities, and provide access to affordable energy for millions of Ethiopians. Additionally, the electricity generated by the dam will fuel the growth of new sectors, including manufacturing, agriculture, and technology, contributing to a diversified and resilient economy. The revenue generated from electricity exports will provide Ethiopia with a sustainable source of income, supporting the government's ongoing efforts to reduce poverty and improve public services.

As the GERD nears completion, it stands as a testament to Ethiopia's perseverance and vision. The dam's construction has not only been a remarkable engineering achievement but also a critical step in Ethiopia's broader green economy agenda. Through its commitment to renewable energy, the GERD positions Ethiopia as a regional leader in sustainability and resilience.

In sum, the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam is far more than just an infrastructural project—it is a beacon of Ethiopia's aspirations for a sustainable, green, and economically integrated future. With its near-completion, the GERD has already begun to deliver tangible benefits for Ethiopia and its neighbors, and its full operational capacity will undoubtedly accelerate the country's efforts to build a greener, more resilient economy for future generations.

## Leveraging the power of the Second-Generation Ethiopian Diaspora for Effective Public Diplomacy, National Development

BY HERMELA MEKONNEN SHIFERAW

In the wake of the Derg regime's rise in the 1970s, political unrest in Ethiopia forced many to flee their homeland in search of safety and opportunities. Thousands sought refuge in countries such as the United States, Canada, and European nations, as well as neighboring countries like Kenya and Sudan. Today, the Ethiopian Diaspora is estimated to be around three million strong, with over 340,000 individuals residing in the United States alone. This growing community has become an essential part of Ethiopia's broader social and economic fabric, playing key roles in the countries where they now live. But as the world has become increasingly interconnected, Ethiopia has realized the importance of reconnecting with its second-generation Diaspora, those born and raised abroad, who are uniquely positioned to help bridge the gap between their host countries and their ancestral homeland.

A recent initiative led by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed aims to engage this generation, tapping into their multicultural experiences and diverse backgrounds to strengthen Ethiopia's global standing. By fostering a sense of connection to Ethiopia's history and culture, the initiative seeks to empower these individuals to contribute meaningfully to their country's growth. This effort has the potential to bring significant benefits, from driving economic innovation to expanding Ethiopia's social and diplomatic influence on the world stage.

### Public Diplomacy: Building Bridges for Growth and Cooperation

Public diplomacy, though a familiar term in the political sphere, remains unclear to many. In simple terms, it is the practice of engaging with foreign audiences to build trust, promote understanding, and strengthen diplomatic ties. By encouraging the second-generation Ethiopian diaspora to reconnect with their roots, Ethiopia has an opportunity to cultivate a sense of mutual respect and shared goals with the countries where these individuals reside. In doing so, both Ethiopia and the host countries can benefit from deeper cooperation, ranging from business partnerships to cultural exchanges and social development.

The second-generation diaspora occupies a unique and powerful position. These individuals are raised with a blend of Ethiopian heritage and the cultures of their host countries, providing them with a unique understanding of both worlds. Many are multilingual, highly educated, and well-versed in diverse values and systems. Their ability to act as cultural ambassadors between Ethiopia and their host countries positions them as key players in the effort to foster deeper connections. They have

the capacity to shape perceptions of Ethiopia, promote its interests abroad, and act as influential advocates for social and economic cooperation.

### Opportunities for Economic Growth and Investment

One of the most significant avenues for collaboration between Ethiopia and its Diaspora is through investment. The Ethiopian government has made strides in creating opportunities for its Diaspora community to engage in the country's development. The launch of the Ethiopian Diaspora Trust Fund (EDTF) is a prime example. The EDTF works to mobilize resources, form global partnerships, and promote innovation through investments in education, healthcare, and other critical sectors. This initiative has proven to be a vital source of funding and expertise, enabling Ethiopia to tackle some of its most pressing challenges.

The growth of Ethiopia's tech sector has further opened doors for Diaspora investment. With the increasing importance of technology in driving economic growth, the Ethiopian Diaspora can contribute to local startups, providing early-stage capital, knowledge transfer, and access to global networks. These investments not only benefit Ethiopia's economy but also create opportunities for the Diaspora to exchange foreign currency legally and ensure its effective utilization within the country. As the global economy becomes more digitized, the Diaspora's expertise in technology, entrepreneurship, and innovation is crucial to Ethiopia's modernization efforts.

### A Platform for Storytelling and Advocacy

In addition to economic contributions, the second-generation Diaspora can play an instrumental role in reshaping Ethiopia's narrative on the global stage. By leveraging media and technology platforms, these individuals can help amplify Ethiopia's story, showcasing its cultural richness, resilience, and progress. Their personal stories, shaped by the experiences of living abroad, also have the potential to highlight the challenges faced by Diaspora communities while underscoring their deep connection to Ethiopia. These narratives can help build bridges between Ethiopia and the broader world, fostering greater understanding and solidarity.

The rise of social media and digital platforms offers new avenues for second-generation Ethiopians to engage with their homeland. Whether through blogs, podcasts, or videos, the Diaspora can share their personal experiences, challenges, and successes, offering a unique perspective that can resonate with a global audience. These platforms can serve as a powerful tool for advocacy, pushing for positive change in

See *Leveraging the power ... Page 14*

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



## The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays  
By The Ethiopian Press Agency

### Office of the CEO

Tel. 011-126-42-22  
Fax. 251-011-156-98-62  
email- epa@press.et

### Advertisement and Dist. Department

email: etpresspromotion@gmail.com  
Tel. 011-156-98-73/011-811-13-15  
Telegram :- 0976084707 - press  
Editor-in-Chief: Worku Belachew  
email- workubelachew@press.et  
Address- Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-city  
Woreda - 05, House No----  
Tel- +251 111 26 41 98

Managing Editor: Wakuman Kudama  
Email: wakuma220@gmail.com

### Deputy Editors-in-Chief:

Alem Hailu  
Elizabeth Mengistu  
Zekarias Woldemariam  
Desta Geberehiwot  
Daniel Beyene

Website: www.press.et  
email: ethiopianherald@press.et  
Fb//Ethiopian Press Agency/  
The Ethiopian Herald

# Opinion

## Charting new horizons with Ethiopia's strategic entry into BRICS

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

It cannot be denied that joining BRICS would lay the foundations for protecting its interest in forming an all-inclusive new world order and fast-tracking Ethiopia's economy at the earliest possible juncture. In more concert terms, Ethiopia's inclusion in BRICS, without question, can assist in fashioning strong international cooperation and diplomatic reinforcement.

It appears clear that Ethiopia's membership in the BRICS is a significant milestone for the country on the grounds that it plays a huge role in taking it to the next level of accomplishment as soon as possible and at the earliest opportunity.

It is abundantly clear that since the joining of BRICS, Ethiopians residing at home and overseas have expressed their infinite satisfaction as it plays a central role in taking the country to a further stage and new phase in the shortest possible time.

It is certain that Ethiopia's BRICS membership serves as a springboard to the development of Ethiopia's economy and prepares the way for boosting remarkable systems with fellow member nations. What is more, this momentous development and historic accomplishment will bring considerable benefits to the country breathing new life into the import and export trade undertakings of the country.

It becomes evident that collaboration among the various nations of BRICS members gets involved in oiling the wheels of trade, investment, and other related aspects. As Ethiopia has jumpstarted moving forward and making progress in the right direction, some groups have been making an effort to badmouth the encouraging moves and positive achievements of the country.

In spite of the fact that numerous negative things have been said concerning the valuable initiative of joining the bloc, Ethiopia has sustained bolstering its move and heading in the right direction proving naysayers that have been working at all hours of the day and night wrong. To everyone's dismay, they leave no stone unturned to drag through the mud the positive strides surfacing in the left, right and center of the country.

As long as joining BRICS plays a paramount role in smoothing the path of the country's economy and charting new horizons, all pertinent bodies should go to the ends of the earth for its realization and implementation forming an alliance.

In the same way, as a member, the country can benefit a lot from the bloc working hand in glove with various member nations. In doing so, Ethiopia can fully get itself involved constructively in promoting a multilateralism that assists developed and developing nations on the basis of the building block of equity.

There is no gainsaying the fact that trade, investment, and tourism can burst into



flames economic growth that not only assists member states but also helps as a model for alliance and harmony in tackling global challenges. The other important thing that one needs to take into consideration is the various benefits Ethiopia will secure out of joining the BRICS for the most part in spurring the country's economic advancement.

Following the joining of BRICS, people from all sectors of society in the present climate have been verbalizing their infinite happiness by virtue of the fact that it takes the country to new frontiers and opportunities through the passage of time.

To the surprise of everyone, subsequent to passing through a broad range of encounters, Ethiopia ended up accomplishing the sought-after possession. In point of fact, the voyage was not as easy as shooting fish in a barrel and taking candy from a baby. To cut a long story short, the whole lot was not a bed of roses.

Ethiopia's membership in BRICS is regarded as a historical development that marks a highly significant move in the continent of Africa and beyond.

Given that Ethiopia has been playing a leading role in the Horn of Africa in a number of ways, joining BRICS would assist the country in shielding its interest and creating an all-embracing world order as well as accelerating the country's economy at the earliest possible juncture.

It is important to highlight that by becoming a member of BRICS, Ethiopia can gain access to a diverse range of economic sustainability from various members of the bloc. It is worth mentioning that Ethiopia could make the most of BRICS membership with the purpose of spurring economic advancement.

It should be borne in mind that Ethiopia has officially become a member of the BRICS group of countries encompassing Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

At the BRICS summit in Russia in 2024, new paper money for the BRICS member nations was projected given that it helps member nations to possess their prominent currency for trading among themselves.

Apart from opening the door for member nations' economies, paper money will play a huge role in creating a wide spectrum of advantages for the country and other nations.

As paper money is a convenient alternative hard currency to USD, EURO, and other currencies, member nations can minimize the negative impacts of the dollar, promote the national interests of member nations, and enhance trade among themselves in less no time.

Reasoning from this fact, Ethiopia can accelerate importing and exporting from member nations making use of the new currency by minimizing transaction costs and other related aspects.

If all member nations join hands with a focus on realizing their objectives turning a blind eye and a deaf ear to worrywarts' barefaced lies, turning their dreams into a reality will be as easy as falling off a log and shelling peas.

In practical terms, Ethiopia's joining of BRICS will provide the nation with ample opportunities to spur its comprehensive development and grant a confident gesture to amicably cement its bilateral, trilateral, and even multilateral relations with member nations and beyond.

It is important to highlight that the country can gain access to a diverse range of economic sustainability from various members of the bloc. It is worth mentioning that Ethiopia could make the most of BRICS membership to spur economic advancement in the length and breadth of Ethiopia, the Horn of Africa region, and beyond.

As long as Ethiopia is working around the clock to expedite its economic growth more than ever before, the bloc will assist the progress of taking the country to the next level of success. Apart from creating a broad range of job opportunities in every square inch of the country, BRICS will make the country turn its dream become a reality.

It is common knowledge that Ethiopia has been working around the clock with the purpose of bolstering diplomatic relations with various nations worldwide. Against this backdrop, the country's endeavors have

been yielding results in various aspects of development. Other than that Ethiopia has sustained undertaking a great range of multifaceted and bilateral diplomatic undertakings on matters of international and regional concern.

Through its diplomatic acceptance, Ethiopia has pushed forward working hard with the intention of ensuring Africa's interest in multilateral landscapes. A case in point in this regard is Ethiopia's peacekeeping troops have been smoothing the path of peace and tranquility in the Horn of Africa and beyond.

Similarly, it is crystal clear that Ethiopia's membership to the BRICS bloc would serve the country to ensure its national and Africa's interests as a whole in the near future.

As Ethiopia possesses long years of strong diplomatic voyages and is a founding member of a wide spectrum of worldwide organizations, its membership would smooth the path of forming the new world mode hierarchy and serve the nation in catapulting to new frontiers and heights.

In a similar way, joining the BRICS would function in stimulating peace, cooperation, and amicable resolution among nations in various stages with no trouble. Generally, BRICS, as a viable global bloc, will make a difference in all aspects if all member states are firmly committed to carrying out all that is expected of them in all circumstances.

Equally, in the era of globalization and tough competition with regard to social, economic, cultural, political, and business scenarios, taking the lead in amalgamating all possible capacities should come to the forefront.

To this end, all member states need to move in unison keeping their promises intact and running myriads of activities as per the binding parameters set to guide them. More to the point, as nothing shall be impossible if all member nations combine efforts shorn of hesitation, realizing the goal will be an easily accomplished task.

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

# Law & Politics

## A renewed cooperation for regional security

BY EYUEL KIFLU

Some unwarranted action to exclusion of certain countries in the Horn of Africa from peacekeeping missions raises significant concerns about the effectiveness and success of these operations. When a nation requests peacekeeping forces to restore stability, it is crucial to select troops that understand the local topography, demographics, and cultural dynamics. This knowledge is essential for effective troop deployment and can greatly enhance the chances of mission success.

Security concerns also arise when countries deploy peacekeepers from distant locations, as such arrangements may not adequately address the unique challenges faced in the region. This is particularly relevant for the Horn of Africa, where the recent conclusion of the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) has paved the way for the newly announced African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM).

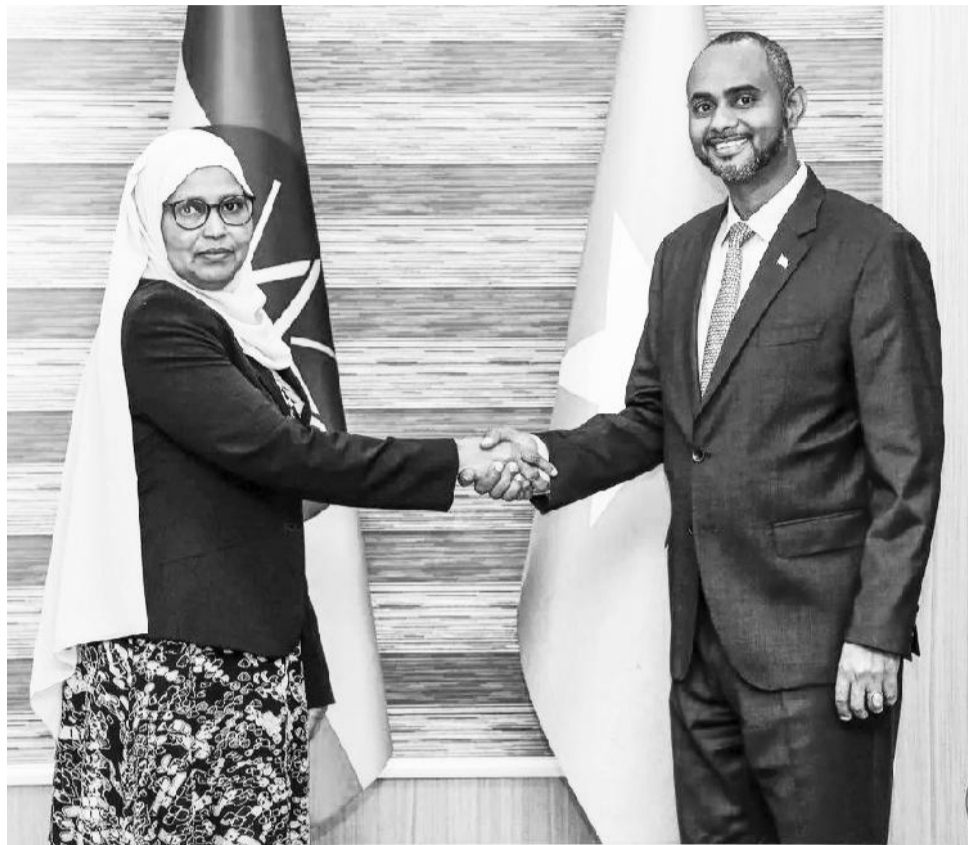
The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) recently adopted Resolution 2767 (2024), officially endorsing the new AUSSOM initiative. This resolution authorizes African Union member states to take all necessary measures for the next twelve months, starting January 1, 2025. The mission aims to support the Federal Government of Somalia in combating the Al-Shabaab militant group and affiliates associated with the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), also known as Da'esh.

In light of ATMIS's withdrawal, Egypt has expressed a desire to participate in the new AUSSOM mission. However, trying to exclusion of neighboring countries, particularly Ethiopia whose peacekeeping forces have a deep understanding of the region could undermine the mission's effectiveness. Ethiopia's familiarity with local communities and dynamics is invaluable for fostering a sustainable peace in Somalia. Ignoring their participation not only jeopardizes the stability of Somalia but also raises security concerns for the broader region.

Following the UNSC's announcement, Egypt has shown readiness to engage, potentially using the situation to advance its own political interests. Meanwhile, the Ethiopian government is actively engaging with Somali officials to discuss the deployment of the new mission and explore avenues to strengthen bilateral relations.

Following a period of strained relations stemming from the Ethiopia-Somaliland maritime access agreement, Ethiopia and Somalia have taken significant steps towards reconciliation and renewed cooperation.

Despite these challenges, a breakthrough occurred after the Ankara pact, which led officials from both countries to engage in constructive dialogue aimed at resolving their differences and fostering



**Both countries agreed to collaborate closely on the AUSSOM mission, reflecting a shared goal of enhancing bilateral relations. The discussions also included plans to increase the frequency of official visits, with senior Somali officials expected to travel to Addis Ababa in the near future**

collaboration. Following this agreement, high-level discussions took place, emphasizing the commitment of both nations to work together for the stability of the region.

According to Ethiopia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs a notable event was the official working visit to Somalia by a high-level Ethiopian delegation led by Minister of Defense Engineer Aisha Mohammed. During this visit, the delegation met with Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and conveyed a message from Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. The discussions were characterized as fruitful, reaffirming the mutual commitment to ensuring peace and stability in Somalia and the wider region.

Both countries agreed to collaborate closely on the AUSSOM mission, reflecting a shared goal of enhancing bilateral relations. The discussions also included plans to increase the frequency of official visits, with senior Somali officials expected to travel to Addis Ababa in the near future.

Somali Minister of Defense Abdulkadir Mohamed Nur Jama expressed gratitude for the sacrifices made by the Ethiopian Defense Forces in their efforts to maintain peace in Somalia. His acknowledgment highlights the importance of international collaboration in addressing security challenges.

In her remarks, Minister Aisha reiterated Ethiopia's dedication to contributing to peace and stability in Somalia, emphasizing the critical area of combating terrorism as a focal point for cooperation between the two nations.

Furthermore, State Minister of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Mesganu Arga underscored the shared significance of peace for both Ethiopia and Somalia. He stressed that the two countries must ensure that conflicts do not obstruct

their development agendas. Ambassador Mesganu called for prompt action to address security challenges while enhancing cooperative efforts to foster development.

This renewed spirit of collaboration is evident in the recent visit by a Somali delegation led by State Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Mohamed Omar to Ethiopia. This delegation met with Ambassador Mesganu Arga, reinforcing the ongoing cooperation and dialogue between the two nations.

As Ethiopia and Somalia continue to navigate their relationship, the recent agreements and discussions signal a hopeful path toward greater collaboration and mutual understanding, with the aim of achieving lasting peace and stability in the region.

In this regard for robust regional stability, Ethiopia and its neighboring countries are adopting a collaborative approach aimed at pacifying the Horn of Africa and fostering lasting peace in Somalia. This strategy not only addresses immediate security concerns but also mitigates the risk of a security vacuum in the region situation that diplomats have previously warned could arise if Ethiopia were excluded from new peacekeeping mission in Somalia.

Ethiopia's eagerness to participate in these initiatives underscores its commitment to regional peace and security. The recent diplomatic activities highlight a concerted effort to strengthen ties and enhance cooperation among nations in the region.

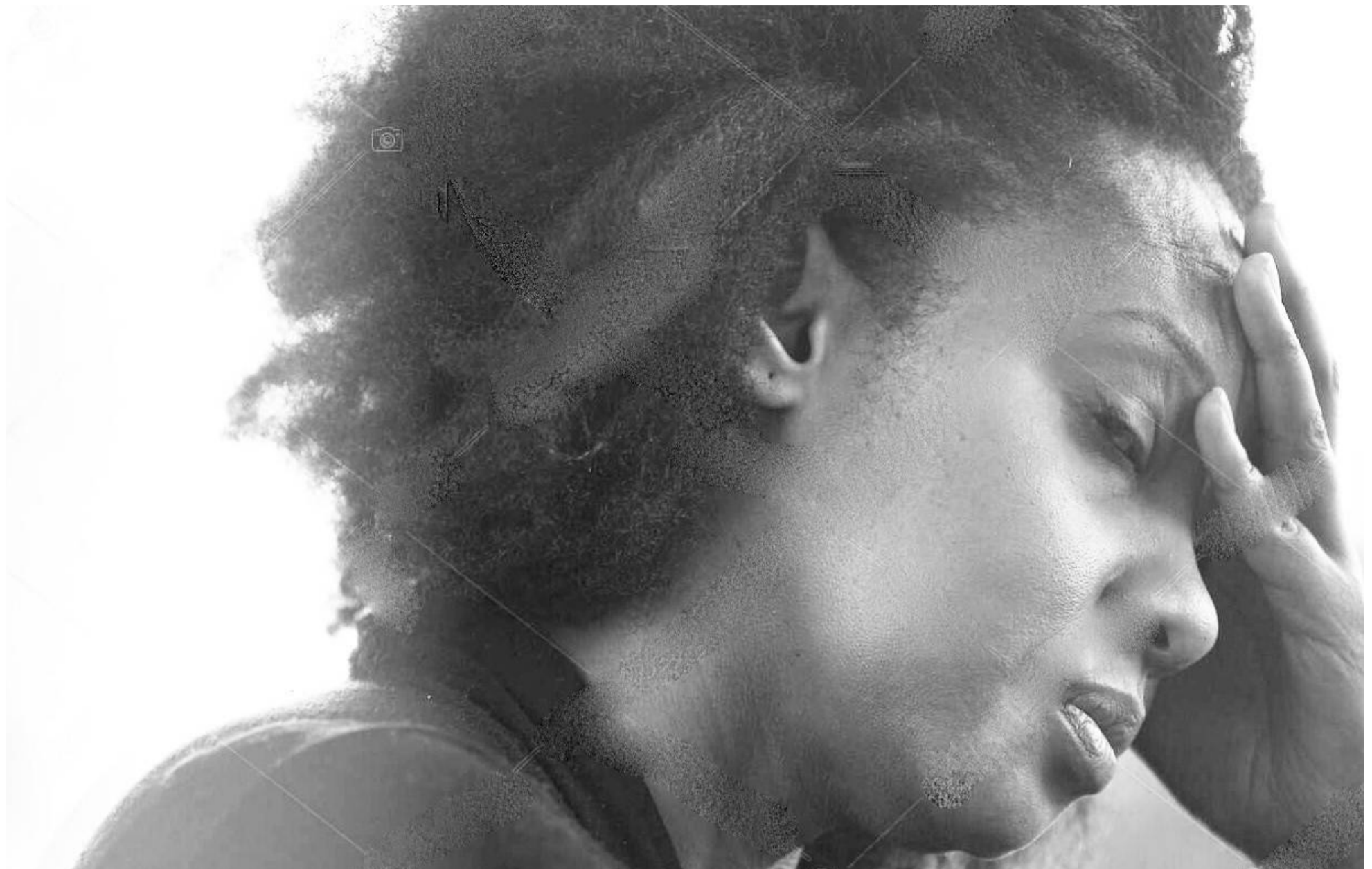
In a press briefing on current regional and global issues, Ambassador Nebiat Getachew, the Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, elaborated on Ethiopia's proactive role. He revealed that a delegation comprised of senior Ethiopian officials had recently engaged in visits to neighboring countries, reinforcing Ethiopia's dedication to collaboration.

Ambassador Nebiat noted that the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Gedion Timothewos, led a delegation to Djibouti and Kenya, while the Minister of Defense, Engineer Aisha Mohammed, visited Somalia. These high-level visits are seen as vital steps in bolstering both political and economic diplomacy, as well as enhancing people-to-people connections across borders.

"The series of visits signify Ethiopia's commitment to working closely with its neighbors to strengthen economic integration and ensure lasting peace and stability in the region," stated Ambassador Nebiat. He emphasized that these discussions are crucial in the collective fight against the terrorist group Al-Shabaab, which poses a significant threat to security in the area.

As Ethiopia and its neighbors take decisive steps towards unity and cooperation, the prospects for a peaceful and secure Horn of Africa appear increasingly attainable. The ongoing dialogues and partnerships reflect a shared vision for a stable future, where the nations work hand in hand to combat common challenges and create a prosperous environment for their citizens.

# Art & Culture



## Nostalgic journey to early memories, before it's too late

BY MEKDES TAYE (PhD)

It was the summer season, with the sun shining softly, amidst my early childhood adventures. It felt like a nostalgic journey back in time, where time passed by slowly and nature demanded our attention. On a rainy and gloomy day, perfect for planting crops and arranging mini canals in the compound, I, as the eldest child in my family, took on huge responsibilities.

One day, while the whole family was busy with planting and other duties away from home, we worked tirelessly without eating or resting, to keep my younger siblings occupied and not missing our mother.

It was the year 1993 in the Ethiopian calendar, during the war between Ethiopia and Eritrea. Our mother, a nurse at a nearby clinic, was well-known and respected in the community for her expertise and dedication to helping the needy.

When the government announced that health experts were needed to provide care for soldiers and the needy in war-torn areas, our mother was called to duty. Despite my efforts to convince her to stay, she had to leave us and join the battle. Left alone, we tried to keep ourselves busy to avoid dwelling on her absence.

Upon returning home after nightfall, guided by our aunt Zebenay, we sat down at the dining table for dinner. With only a culturally made lamp called “Kuraz” for light, my younger brother and I argued over its positioning, adding a bit of

normalcy to our disrupted lives.

“Put it here.” “No, it should be placed here.” Our aunt was initially joking, but the argument escalated. We began slashing at each other and I firmly grabbed his neck. Zebenay began to cry, her first time crying in front of anyone. We were shocked and begged for her forgiveness, but she continued to cry. Her tears slowly ran down her cheeks and fell like snowflakes on her clasped hands. It seemed like a flood had suddenly burst through its dam, the quantity increasing with each passing second. Her face turned red, but she silently wiped away the tears. However, there was no change in her expression as she shed tears that looked like blood. It seemed as though she was increasing the amount by bowing her head. We followed suit. The food seemed to be joining the challenge as well, the hot and appetizing dish turning cool and calm, losing its freshness in the process.

Everything fell silent as untold stories were whispered through the tears. Tears took center stage, extending the conversation through prolonged silence. Zebenay broke the tension by clearing her throat. She wiped her face and said, “My children, let us settle this. Dagim, apologize to him!” Her bloodshot eyes stared at me. “Sorry!” I said, also showing my remorse. He smiled and hugged me tightly. “Now, let’s have dinner. Then I will tell you my story,” she said with a serious look. We were happy, finishing our plates quickly and urging her to start talking.

She lay on her mud-made bed, staring at

the ceiling, and began her story.

“In my family, I was the only one with black skin and considered less attractive. My mother was the only one who welcomed this aspect of me. Other family members, knowingly or unknowingly, degraded me. I was often called ‘barich,’ meaning black, which they thought was funny but it hurt me. This treatment worsened as I grew older. My elder sister, in particular, paid me the least attention and preferred to spend time with our neighbor’s daughter. I longed for her companionship, but she was never there for me. This unknowingly built up resentment and a desire for revenge in me.

“One day, while my mother was at the market and my father and brothers were in the fields, my sister and I was left to do household chores together. I saw this as an opportunity to bond and play together. I eagerly did all the chores, even the difficult and ridiculous ones she gave me. I finished everything enthusiastically, hoping we could spend time playing afterwards. I asked her to play hide and seek or any game she liked, but she refused. ‘Me play with you? How absurd! Go call Emuye!’ Emuye was a girl next door, the same age as me.” Zebenay’s expression changed as she recalled this memory. “From that day on, she became my enemy. I vowed to seek revenge for all the ways she mistreated me.”

She paused, took a deep breath, and continued. “One day, elders known for arranging marriages visited our home. Before their arrival, I heard that a wealthy

man from the city was interested in marrying my sister. I devised a plan to stop this from happening. I woke up early that morning, knowing the elders would arrive early as per tradition. I waited for them and one of them struck up a conversation with me. ‘Hello, are you Zufan’s sister?’ he asked. I saw this as an opportunity to tarnish my sister’s reputation. I told them she was cruel, treated the family poorly, and couldn’t do anything, claiming I did all the cooking. They left, shocked by what they heard. My mother eagerly awaited their return, but they never came. When she took the issue to my father, he assured her they would come the next morning.”

She took another breath and continued. “That day, my father was invited to celebrate the elders’ visit. He was certain his daughter would marry the man they had in mind. The next morning, everything was prepared for the elders’ visit, but they never showed up. My mother and father were distraught, fearing the humiliation and gossip that would follow. My mother collapsed in despair, and my father, in his anguish, cried out as she took her last breath. My mother, who had always been there for me, was gone because of me. I couldn’t bear to face my family and left that day, running away. I ended up at a church, where I lived, crying and regretting my actions. It was there that your mother found me and brought me here. My child, I hope you don’t hate me. I shared this story to teach you a lesson. Love each other before it’s too late!” A lesson learned from a place I never expected!



# Society

## Harnessing digital technology to drive innovation, prepare students for future

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

These days, educational institutions are expected to be more competitive and fully qualified than ever before, keeping pace with global standards. To achieve this, it is essential for them to integrate digital technology into their operations. The comprehensive implementation of digital technology can resolve many of the challenges faced by these institutions.

For instance, adopting and implementing the latest technology can lead to a reduction in resource wastage, streamline processes, and enhance practical knowledge. This not only boosts competitiveness but also helps realize the principle of “education for all.” Furthermore, it paves the way for the establishment of smart schools on a large scale, which can serve as role models for others.

In this fast-paced technological era, an educational society that leverages digital technology is crucial as the landscape of education is changing, and it is becoming increasingly imperative for the educational community to adapt. Without providing the required support for the young people to engage with digital education, the risk of widening gaps in opportunity grows alarmingly.

Failure to provide suitable education can lead to significant losses for the country. Recognizing this, the government is working determinedly to expand opportunities for youth through digital education. As part of this effort and to support this transition, various initiatives are ongoing throughout the country, especially by Oromia State Education Office.

According to the Deputy Head of the Oromia State Education Bureau Kasahun Gelana (PhD), the primary goal of digital education is to ensure that students can access the education they deserve, mainly by expanding access and simplifying procedures. Digital education transcends traditional classroom settings, offering flexible learning options through audio, video, and reading materials. This flexibility allows students to study from anywhere, whether at home or abroad, enhancing educational accessibility.

The benefits of digital education extend beyond students and teachers and also yield significant advantages. Digital tools equip teachers to be more effective and help them adapt to modern teaching and learning environments. This awareness of new practices allows educators to stay up to the minute and be innovative in their teaching methods.

Digitalization fosters creativity and agility among citizens, encouraging the development of essential knowledge and skills in science and technology. By improving the quality of the workforce, it supports the industrial and manufacturing sectors, contributing to economic growth, at



### Digital education plays a critical role in expanding access to education and creating a conducive environment for innovative teaching methods

the end of the day contributing meaningfully to country's economic growth.

As digital payments become a commonplace trend, businesses are becoming increasingly reliant on technology, making it essential for citizens to be equipped with digital skills to avoid potential losses. Thus, a national initiative to implement digital education across schools is underway, with a focus on improving electricity and network access.

Dr. Kasahun highlighted that changes are taking place even in areas lacking network service, as students can still access pre-loaded educational materials. Video lessons and diverse teaching methods have resulted in improved student performance and encouraged teachers to modify their approaches.

Despite challenges, the Oromia State is making strides in integrating digital

education into schools. Currently, 317 schools have access to digital content, with one-third of secondary schools implementing digital learning. While progress is evident, there are still more activities to be done.

The State aims to enable schools to effectively benefit from digital education, with initiatives connecting over 320 districts to enhance digital skills among students, teachers, and administrative staff. Plans are in place to establish computer parks with over 20 computers in each district, providing youth with opportunities to develop their digital skills.

This initiative not only broadens access to digital education but also promotes the use of educational content through various mediums, including PowerPoints and online resources. Additionally, the social media platform is increasingly being utilized as an educational tool, offering a wealth of learning opportunities.

Digital education enables students to revisit course content, utilizing multimedia resources that enhance understanding and retention. This approach fosters better communication with the outside world and offers insights into international teaching methods.

Overall, digital education plays a critical role in expanding access to education and creating a conducive environment for innovative teaching methods. The ongoing efforts in the Oromia State illustrate the potential for growth and improvement in educational outcomes.

Dr. Kasahun emphasized the importance of significant investment in the education sector. He said that substantial investment is required for digital infrastructure, and the Oromia State Education Bureau is actively working to digitize education. This encompasses creating smart schools and enhancing computer lab facilities.

The State is also advancing internet infrastructure to support e-learning, particularly in special and boarding schools. However, as the number of such schools is on the rise, challenges remain due to overlapping educational facilities.

According to him, smart classes enable students to learn directly without taking notes, using technology to facilitate their studies. This innovative approach allows for consistent educational quality across different learning environments.

Collaboration with Ethio Telecom is critical in this endeavor, as the installation of technological resources is underway. The gradual establishment of smart classes is contingent on schools having the necessary infrastructure.

In addition to enhancing students' skills, digital education promotes creativity and collaboration among peers. Various training programs are being implemented to prepare students for future global competitions.

In general, the imperative for digital education in today's world is clear: it equips individuals to be competent and competitive across various fields, addressing economic challenges and fostering job creation.

Ultimately, harnessing digital technology is essential for progress. By focusing on and effectively utilizing human resources effectively, strengthening education systems, and engaging youth and experts, the country can create an environment ripe with opportunity. Improving laboratory standards and expanding digital parks are vital steps in ensuring active participation in this digital transformation.

Such initiatives will not only enhance innovation but also provide the infrastructure necessary for driving economic growth and fostering a more competent and competitive workforce.



## Ethiopia serves as a model of multiculturalism ...

### What does Israel think about the Beta Israel people in Gondar, if any?

I do not know their current status. We have people from the Ethiopian Jewish community waiting to immigrate to Israel. There are communities in Gondar and Addis Ababa. According to the organization supporting and preparing them for life in Israel, there are about 13,000 individuals - 10,000 in Gondar and 3,000 in Addis Ababa.

They are registered and waiting due to the war situation in Israel. Israel has yet to decide on budget allocation, which is a government decision. We are ready to implement instructions once received at the embassy. There are also single families in the processing stage.

### Israel supports efforts to build lasting peace in Ethiopia, in addition to development cooperation. Is this support increasing as the scope of cooperation expands?

Israel always wishes the best for Ethiopia in all aspects. When Israel faced trouble, Ethiopian airlines continued to operate unlike other airlines. This demonstrates the genuine care and support of the Ethiopian people for Israel.

Similarly, Israelis aim to see Ethiopia thrive and prosper in all areas, including development and unity. Ethiopia serves as a model of multiculturalism and coexistence to the world, showcasing how differences in religion, language, etc., can peacefully coexist.

Israel, too, is a diverse society with people from over 100 countries coming together to create a multicultural society. This shared experience of coexistence is desired by all nations, especially Ethiopia. Israel can offer its expertise in technology, agriculture, medicine, innovation, and technology, as well as its experience in coexisting peacefully with a diverse society.

Dialogue is essential for resolving differences and achieving prosperity and peace, which is exemplified in both Israeli and Ethiopian societies. Israel has experience in renewable energy, electricity, water management, and wastewater recycling, which can be shared with Ethiopia. Meeting with the Ministry of Energy and Water, discussions were held on how to combine Israeli and Ethiopian experiences in water management, particularly focusing on utilizing renewable energy for irrigation systems.

Ethiopia, blessed with natural resources like water, has the potential to harness renewable energy for agricultural purposes, such as irrigation systems powered by solar energy. Collaborations between Israeli companies and Ethiopian universities are already underway to provide training and implement these systems. By utilizing renewable energy, Ethiopia can maximize its agricultural productivity and ensure sustainable water management practices.

**Aviation is a key area of cooperation between the two countries. How do you assess the activities carried out with Ethiopian Airlines? You mentioned some points earlier, but feel free to elaborate further.**



Ethiopian Airlines is renowned as the best airline in Africa and globally. It is known for its skilled pilots and exceptional service. Flying three times a day to Tel Aviv, Ethiopian Airlines plays a crucial role for both Israelis and Ethiopians, especially for Israeli-Ethiopians who appreciate service in Amharic, their native language. The direct flight is a significant improvement, as previously flights had to pass through other countries.

Ethiopia serves as a hub for Ethiopian Airlines, with Addis Ababa being a central point for travelers heading to various destinations in the Eastern world such as India, China, Japan, and other African countries. This transit point benefits both economically and socially.

Israel's assistance in converting passenger planes to cargo planes has had a positive impact on trade and import-export activities. This project has streamlined the process, reducing travel time and costs significantly.

Israel has been importing Ethiopian products, with coffee being the top item followed by tea and salad. In return, Ethiopia imports technological, industrial, and agricultural goods from Israel. This mutually beneficial trade relationship has garnered recognition, as seen in the prize received from a Deputy Prime Minister.

The ongoing project of converting passenger planes to cargo planes is expected to further boost trade between the two countries. This initiative has sparked interest from investors, such as an Israeli individual looking to import meat from Ethiopia to Israel.

Various initiatives led by Ethiopian-Israelis are shaping the business landscape in the region, reflecting a growing partnership between the two nations.

**During Ethiopian holidays, such as Christmas and Epiphany, both Israeli and Ethiopian tourists visit each other's countries to participate in these events. What is your perspective on it?**

It is very important. Tourism is crucial, not just from an economic perspective, but also

in connecting people. This is especially vital for the younger generation. They should understand the history and realities in Israel, just as Israeli youth should visit Ethiopia to experience its beautiful landscapes and the hospitality of its people. This cultural exchange goes beyond economic benefits, fostering mutual understanding.

Increasing awareness on both sides strengthens relationships. When people know each other, their bonds deepen. This is why we encourage Ethiopians to visit Israel during Christmas, Easter, and other times, and vice versa. Even during times of conflict, visitors from both countries continue to come and show support.

We have seen Israelis showing great concern for Ethiopia, with delegations visiting despite challenging circumstances. This mutual love and support should be further nurtured through tourism. By coordinating events that involve food and music experiences, we aim to enhance cultural exchange. Ethiopians should learn about Israeli traditional food, and vice versa. These activities will help foster love and affection between our peoples, strengthening our relationship.

**Historical sites like Deir es-Sultan strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries. It has been reported that these heritages are facing challenges and are at risk of destruction. Are there any efforts being made to preserve these heritages?**

As I mentioned, the existence of these heritages, such as Deir es-Sultan and seven other sites in Israel, are Ethiopian Orthodox sites, churches, and monasteries. These sites are preserved in Israel, showcasing the shared connection between the two countries and peoples in tradition, religion, and culture.

The Israeli government plays a crucial role in maintaining these holy sites for all religions. For example, the conflict between the Egyptian Coptic Church and the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church over the ownership of Dei res-Sultan in Jerusalem is managed through a status quo

policy that ensures the preservation of all holy sites for different denominations and churches.

Jerusalem's history has been influenced by various empires, from the Babylonians to the Ottomans, with each leaving behind documents that establish ownership. Any claims of ownership over these sites must be supported by legal evidence in Israel's robust legal system. The conflict between the Egyptian Coptic Church and the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church is a legal matter that will be resolved through this system, rather than by political means.

Both churches are allowed to use and worship in the area, with the Israeli government maintaining a status quo policy to prevent any disputes. The safety and preservation of the buildings are also a priority, with past efforts to renew aging structures. The monk's and priest's safety should not be compromised, and any disputes over ownership must be resolved through legal channels.

During my time as a Member of Parliament, we addressed concerns about the condition of these sites to the Prime Minister's office. While I am unsure of the current situation, it is essential to uphold the status quo policy and ensure the safety and preservation of these historical and holy sites for all religions.

**Could you provide an overview of the effort to protect Ethiopian refugees in Israel?**

As far as my knowledge goes, Israel is providing human dignity to Ethiopian refugees in a way that differs from what we hear about other countries' treatment of refugees. In Israel, the legal system does not have an immigration component, but rather a Jewish immigration legal system known as the Law of Return. This law grants the right to return to Israel to anyone with Jewish blood or ethnicity.

In cases where an individual is not eligible under the Law of Return, there is the option of family reunification, referred to as the Law of Entry. Despite the absence of a formal immigration law, Israel has seen immigrants from Eritrea, South Sudan during the Darfur War and Ethiopia cross the border from Egypt into the country.

There is a United Nations agency for refugees in Jerusalem that coordinates with the Israeli government to facilitate the return of those who wish to go back to their home countries. For those who choose to stay, each case is evaluated on an individual basis rather than through a general decision-making process. Many individuals from Ethiopia, Nigeria, and other countries remain in Israel.

The legal system in Israel prioritizes individuals who are ethnically Jewish, but the country also upholds a tradition of supporting and helping strangers, as outlined in the books of Moses. This tradition is still practiced in modern Israel.

**Thank you, ambassador, for addressing the questions I had prepared for you today.**

**Thank you so much.**

# South Africa's air pollution crisis: Contributing factors and solutions

African cities are growing rapidly, with over 65 percent of the continent's population expected to live in urban areas by 2060. However, while increased urbanization can create many economic and social benefits, it also comes with downsides. For instance, a recent report by Greenpeace revealed that South Africa is among the top air polluters on the continent.

Air pollution occurs when harmful pollutants are released into the air, posing serious risks to both human health and the environment. It remains a top global environmental health concern, particularly in densely populated urban areas. In South Africa, air pollution is the second largest health risk, responsible for 25,800 early deaths in 2019. Urban air pollution harms individual health, and places additional strain on South Africa's already overburdened healthcare system, reducing productivity while also discouraging tourism and foreign investment.

## Contributing factors

Ranked as the 12th-largest emitter of greenhouse gases globally, South Africa's emission crisis is primarily driven by its energy sector. The country hosts six of the world's 10 largest nitrogen dioxide emission hotspots and nine of Africa's 10 largest nitrogen dioxide point sources.

South Africa is also home to two of the world's largest sulfur dioxide emission hotspots and four significant sulfur dioxide point sources. In the southern African region, emissions of nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and volatile organic compounds (such as industrial solvents) are predominantly linked to the energy sector. Meanwhile, residential fuel combustion for heating and cooking is the primary contributor to black carbon emissions, also known as soot, which can cause immediate health impacts.

Nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide, produced from the high-temperature combustion of fossil fuels, are major pollutants with well-documented public

health risks. Prolonged or acute exposure to these gases poses serious health concerns. Nitrogen dioxide has been linked to long-term asthma risks and the exacerbation of respiratory conditions, while sulfur dioxide is primarily associated with asthma-related hospital admissions.

In low- and middle-income countries, approximately 85 percent of particulate matter originates from biomass combustion. This is particularly relevant in South Africa, where about 70 percent of low-income households depend on polluting fuels, such as wood, paraffin, and coal, for domestic energy needs like cooking and space heating. This reliance contributes significantly to household air pollution (HAP).

HAP increases the risk of stroke, ischaemic heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and lung cancer, with women and children being most vulnerable due to prolonged indoor exposure. Specific fuels determine health outcomes; biomass smoke is linked to chronic bronchitis and COPD, while coal smoke elevates lung cancer risk. Even paraffin, considered cleaner, impairs lung function and worsens asthma. In South Africa, HAP remains a critical public health issue.

Additionally, transportation is another major contributor to pollution in South Africa, with over five million cars on the roads in Johannesburg alone, each releasing harmful gases into the air. Many vehicles rely on outdated technologies, and refueling systems are often not modernized. Also, heavy dependence on personal vehicles, along with significant use of buses and trucks, results in high levels of traffic-related emissions.

As reported by the Daily Maverick, another key source of air pollution is industrial hubs near urban centers, such as the Mpumalanga Highveld and the Vaal Triangle, which are major sources of pollutants like PM2.5 and sulfur dioxide due to coal mining and coal-fired power stations. In 2022, the South

African High Court ruled that the poor air quality in the Highveld Priority Area (HPA) violates citizens' constitutional right to an environment that is safe for their health and well-being.

The country's growing energy demands, industrial activities, and transportation needs driven by urban growth make rapid urbanization a significant contributor to increasing air pollution in South Africa. Johannesburg, for example, is on track to become a megacity by 2030. Its rapid expansion intensifies emissions from sectors like electricity generation, which heavily relies on fossil fuels, as well as the transport and metals industries. These activities release harmful pollutants such as particulate matter (PM2.5), nitrous oxides, and sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), which exceed World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines for safe air quality.

According to a 2015 research conducted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), South Africa has Minimum Emissions Standards (MES) for industries, but enforcement is inconsistent, and air quality monitoring is unevenly distributed. Approximately 40 percent of the population lacks access to air quality monitoring within a 25 kilometer (15.53 mile) radius, hindering effective evidence-based interventions.

## Solutions

Potential solutions to South Africa's air pollution problem include expanding renewable energy sources and reducing reliance on coal, which could significantly improve air quality. Enhancing public transport infrastructure to reduce the number of vehicles on the road, implementing green building standards, and creating urban green spaces can help mitigate pollution and its effects. Additionally, strengthening regulations under the Air Quality Act of 2004 and promoting cleaner industrial practices are crucial for achieving long-term improvements.

South African officials are working with organizations like the Clean Air

Fund and UNEP through campaigns, policy recommendations, and partnerships with local governments and communities. These collaborations aim to address systemic challenges and promote sustainable urban growth.

For example, in 2023, the Clean Air Fund began its air pollution initiatives in South Africa, building on its broader work across African cities in partnership with C40 Cities. As noted in this report, Johannesburg joined the Breathe Cities initiative, receiving technical support, capacity building, and community engagement to implement clean air measures that could save 2,800 lives and USD 640 million (ZAR 12 billion) by 2040.

In Cape Town, the UrbanBetter Citizens for Clean Air Campaign empowered young runners to collect air quality data and advocate for clean air policies. Additionally, a collaboration with Climate Visuals produced a free photo collection spotlighting communities most affected by air pollution in Johannesburg and the Highveld. By engaging local leaders, community groups, and academic institutions, Clean Fund aims to advance sustainable, locally-led solutions and address the widespread impact of air pollution across South Africa.

Air pollution in South African cities highlights the urgent need for coordinated efforts in policy reform, public awareness, and sustainable urban development to balance rapid urbanization with environmental protection. Addressing this challenge requires collective action from policymakers, businesses, and citizens to tackle root causes, support regulatory measures, and implement solutions like cleaner energy and better urban planning. By coming together to demand change and take concrete steps, South Africa has a vital opportunity to curb air pollution and safeguard public health and the environment.

*Source: Global Voices*

## Leveraging the power of the Second-Generation...

### continued from page 5

Ethiopia while also giving voice to the Diaspora's struggles, successes, and contributions to their host countries.

### Connecting with Policymakers, Business Leaders, and Academics

Another critical opportunity for the second-generation Diaspora lies in their potential to engage directly with Ethiopian policymakers, business leaders, and academics. Collaborations with government institutions can create a space for knowledge exchange, innovation, and the development of policies that reflect both the needs of the Diaspora and the realities of Ethiopia's development goals. These engagements could take place through conferences, cultural events, and networking opportunities, creating a two-way flow of ideas between those in Ethiopia and those abroad.

Through these initiatives, the Diaspora can

offer insights into global trends, economic practices, and technological advancements that could inform policy making in Ethiopia. Conversely, Ethiopians at home can benefit from the perspectives of diaspora individuals who have worked and studied abroad, gaining a better understanding of the global landscape. This exchange of intellectual and professional ideas fosters greater collaboration, helping Ethiopia to shape its future while acknowledging the experiences and talents of its diaspora.

### Cultural and Networking Events: Building Unity Across Generations

To maximize the potential of the second-generation Diaspora, cultural and networking events are crucial. These events could take the form of art exhibitions, music festivals, and business conferences that bring together Ethiopians from all walks of life, both at home and abroad. By creating spaces where the diaspora can connect with Ethiopians

living in their homeland, such initiatives not only foster cultural exchange but also provide an opportunity for collaboration in business, education, and policy.

While these events could be hosted both in Ethiopia and abroad, ensuring that both audiences can participate would be key to bridging generational and cultural gaps. Through these platforms, Ethiopia can strengthen its global identity, celebrate its diverse heritage, and foster a sense of unity among its people, regardless of where they live. While challenges such as identity conflicts, political divisions, and generational gaps may arise, pushing beyond these barriers can lead to a deeper connection and an interesting and productive alliance between Ethiopia and its Diaspora.

### Conclusion: A Stronger Future Through Diaspora Engagement

As Ethiopia looks to the future, the involvement of its second-generation

Diaspora in shaping the nation's trajectory will be crucial. These individuals, with their dual understanding of Ethiopia and their host countries, are poised to be key players in fostering global cooperation, economic growth, and cultural exchange. Through initiatives such as public diplomacy, investment in technology and innovation, and direct engagement with policymakers, Ethiopia has the opportunity to harness the talents and resources of its Diaspora, driving the nation toward a brighter, more interconnected future.

Ultimately, the success of Ethiopia's efforts to reconnect with its Diaspora will depend on creating avenues for dialogue, understanding, and collaboration—opportunities that not only benefit the nation but also empower its people, both at home and abroad, to shape a shared and prosperous future.

*The author is a graduate of Florida International University BA in Economics*

# Verbatim and Caption

## Renovation of the National Palace is a beacon of creativity, cooperation: *DPM Temesgen*

*The renovated National Palace, which houses over six decades of Ethiopian history, stands as not just a relic of the past, but also a beacon of creativity, cooperation, and shared purpose.*

*It is more than a museum for Ethiopians; it is a canvas of our collective journey and a reminder that the purpose of history is to guide us towards unity, not division.*

*The true strength of a nation lies in stories that heal, unite, and inspire pride, and the National Palace embodies all of these identities.*

*Temesgen Tiruneh, Deputy Prime Minister of Ethiopia while visiting the palace with artists and scholars*



## Inflation falls to 16.9 percent: *NBE Governor*

*The comprehensive macroeconomic reform in Ethiopia has brought about fundamental changes and has resulted in tangible outcomes for the economy.*

*As part of this reform, the recently implemented monetary policy has helped to significantly reduce inflation. Prior to the monetary policy reform, Ethiopia was experiencing rising inflation rates. However, following the reform, inflation decreased from 30 % to 16.9 %.*

*Furthermore, the reform has successfully alleviated foreign currency shortages, with foreign currency reserves now exceeding 200 % following the implementation of the reform.*



*Mamo Mihretu, Governor of the National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE)*



## Preparations underway to host international irrigation conference: *MILs Minister*

*Ethiopia will host the inaugural international conference on irrigation and climate resilience from February 12-14, 2025, at the Adwa Victory Memorial Museum. The conference aims to address the challenges facing the irrigation sector.*

*The theme of the conference, "Cultivating Resilience: Global Perspectives on Irrigation Development and Climate Adaptation," will showcase and share overall developments in irrigation as well as global best practices.*

*Experts, policymakers, practitioners, and other stakeholders from across Africa and the globe will gather in Addis Ababa to attend the international conference on irrigation from February 12-14, 2025.*

*Abraham Belay (PhD) Minister, Ministry of Irrigation and Lowlands (MILLS)*



## Revenue from gold exports showing a promising increase: *MoTRI*

*During the past five months of this budget year, Ethiopia has earned over one billion USD from gold exports. This revenue represents a significant development following the recent macroeconomic reform.*

*Ethiopia's total revenue from gold exports during the last budget year was 300 million USD, while the earnings from the last five months alone exceed one billion USD. This unexpected increase in export earnings from gold this year is a direct result of the national macroeconomic reform.*

*Kassahun Gofe (PhD), Minister, Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration (MoTRI)*

## Telebirr transacts over 3.3 trillion birr: *Ethio Telecom CEO*

*Since its launch in May 2021, Telebirr, Ethio Telecom's mobile money platform, has facilitated transactions totaling over 3.3 trillion birr. In just three years, the Telebirr app has gained approximately 51.92 million subscribers. Additionally, the app has provided loans totaling 17 billion birr to seven million users, while 2.7 million customers have saved over 17 billion birr using the app.*

*To enhance the accessibility of Telebirr, Ethio Telecom is collaborating with over 261 thousand agents and 28 banks. Ethio Telecom boasts a subscriber base of over 80.8 million, with more than 78 million voice users and over 43 million internet users.*

*Firehiwot Tamiru, CEO, Ethio Telecom*

