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FAO recognizes Premier's extraordinary success in food security

• Says Ethiopia's achievement model for Africa

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's (PhD) food self-sufficiency initiative would confirm the existence of an African solution to Africa's food security problems,

the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said.

For his meticulous leadership that enabled Ethiopia to register significant progress in food sovereignty, Premier Abiy received on Sunday in Rome the Agricola Medal from FAO.

FAO stated that the Abiy was awarded the medal for his extraordinary leadership that empowers the country to significantly ensure food self-sufficiency and increase agricultural productivity.

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Ethiopia's Islamabad Embassy ushers vibrant diplomacy

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopia's opening of its Embassy in Islamabad has been playing a pivotal role to strengthen the two countries diplomatic relations within a short time, according to the Ethiopian Ambassador to Pakistan.

In an exclusive interview with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Ambassador Jemal Beker said that the opening of the Embassy demonstrates the strength of the two sides' bilateral relations.

Pakistan has significant technological and economic prowess and it needs to forge strong political relations with Ethiopia and vice versa. The political cooperation between the

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中国·河南 海外春晚 非洲行
Henan (China) Spring Festival Overseas Gala: Africa Tour

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Dragons soar in prosperous era, world shares the splendor of China.

爱连五洲华夏情
Love connects continents, blood ties unite Chinese people's hearts.

载歌载舞 畅叙中非友谊
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四海同春 恭贺中国新年
With spring embracing all with grace, to China's New Year we warmly congratulate.

2024年1月23-26日 埃塞俄比亚国家剧院
January 23-26, 2024 Ethiopian National Theatre

Addis hosts Chinese New Year festival

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Ethio-Somaliland port deal diplomatic win, unloads multilayered benefits

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopia's recent port deal with Somaliland is not only a historical and diplomatic victory for the former, but it could also bring about multifaceted benefits, a renowned politician said.

Given the geographical location of Somaliland, the port accord gives Ethiopia multilayered benefits, the veteran Politician LenchoLetta told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA). "Not only Ethiopia has the right to seek sovereign access to seaports, but the self-governing Somaliland also has the right to decide on its economic and political matters."

Somaliland's geostrategic position has given the nation leverage in the global economic, political and social movements. Besides the economic outcomes, Ethiopia's direct port access would allow the volatile region that is highly affected by terrorist and militant

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News

IGAD aspires benefiting pastoralists, ensuring integration

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA – Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) said it is working to benefit pastoralists and utilize their potential for regional integration.

IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) announced that it is coordinating projects designed to benefit pastoralists thereby deepening ties among member countries.

ICPALD Director Dereje Wakjira (PhD) said that the center promotes regional policy framework and coordinates projects intended to improve the life of the pastoral community in a sustainable manner.

The center is enabling pastoralists to have better infrastructures through coordinating various programs, he said, adding IGAD has been implementing drought resistance program in collaboration with donors to construct roads and schools in the last ten years.

Through the help of Horn of Africa Initiatives, the expansion of roads and other infrastructures that the organization has undertaken in cooperation with partners have interconnected member nations and facilitate trade exchange in border areas, the Director noted.

Accordingly, he noted, there is a significant change in infrastructure development but a lot remains to be done to bring tangible result in improving the life of pastoralists.



The Center provides pastoralists with livestock vaccination to protect diseases together, helps to store fodder on time, and encourages livestock trade exchanges among member nations, he said.

According to Dereje, 70 percent of aforesaid nations of the areas are arid and semi-arid which are not suitable for crop production.

During rainy seasons, pastoralists move from country to another crossing borders of member states in search of grazing land, the Director stated, adding that this movement creates integration and interaction.

Moreover, center is working in averting conflict in border areas among the pastoralist community by bringing elders

for round table to make peace, he noted.

“Agreement has been reached among nations to develop infrastructure together along major border posts where pastoralists move in or out,” he said.

Since 2011 extensive researches has been carrying out among member nations on water distribution, school and road access, according to Dereje.

Metropolitan allures more visitors: Bureau

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- Addis Ababa has become among the most preferable tourist destinations for developing and refurbishing sightseeing resources, so said City Culture, Art and Tourism Bureau.

Bureau’s Tourism Destination Development and Domestic Tourism Expansion Director Samson Aynachew told the Ethiopian Press Agency(EPA) that the development of visitor attractions including parks and museums has made the city best tourist destination.

He further highlighted the continuous tourism development activities that the city administration undertook to attract both local and international tourists thereby enhance the sector’s economic benefit.

The development activities include huge investment on refurbishing, modernizing and expanding tourist destinations, he said, adding that these activities are crucial to enhance the capacity of the city to attract and host tourists.

On the other hand, he noted, the recently inaugurated tourist sites such as Unity, Friendship and Entoto parks, science museum, as well as Addis Ababa Park enable the tourists to have the modern touch as well.

Besides being the source of income for the nation, the tourist attraction sites that have been recently built become the beauty of the city



Samson Aynachew

which also allowed elongating tourists’length of stay, he added.

According to Samson, the city is old and compounded with ancient churches and residents give alternative for tourists to experience the historical vibe.

Apart from contributing to reduction of unemployment and poverty, the tourism destinations such as Adwa zero km project, have huge role in socioeconomic aspects, he added.

Moreover, the Bureau has also given due emphasis for health and hygiene protocol in hotels, restaurants and tourist sites. In return, he stated that, it has made the city major hub for tourism, business and recreation.

Efforts have been exerted in building standard hotels, recreational centers, different halls and malls that could host international forums and trade fairs to attract foreigners in various sectors, he elaborated.

Addis hosts Chinese New Year festival

BY TEWODROS KASSA

ADDIS ABABA-The Chinese traditional art performance presented to numerous spectators at the Ethiopian National Theatre on the occasion of the Chinese New Year.

Opening the art performance, the Chinese Embassy DCM Shen Qinmin said that Ethiopia and China share ancient civilizations.

As to him, Henan is the main birthplace of Chinese civilization.

“I believe that artists from Henan will present the most authentic and traditional Chinese culture. Ethiopia and China are both countries with ancient civilizations.”

“On behalf of the Chinese Embassy in Ethiopia, I would like to warmly welcome and thank the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of Henan Province for bringing us a performance of Chinese traditional art on the occasion of the Year of the Dragon,” he said.

He further said that wonderful performances by local Ethiopian artists are also part of the traditional art performance at the National Theatre.

“We will also be honored to enjoy In China’s Global Civilization Initiative, President Xi Jinping advocates people-to-people exchanges and cooperation to promote mutual understanding and friendship among people of all countries and jointly advance the progress of human civilizations.”

He further said that artists from our two



countries performing on the same stage is a good practice of the Global Civilization Initiative and will promote exchanges and mutual learning between our two ancient civilizations and the exchanges between the two peoples.

On his part, Ethiopian National Theatre General Manager Manyazewal Endeshaw said the two countries could elevate their ties via the art sector.

Art contributes a significant role towards interconnecting people across the world, he added.

Hundreds of Ethiopian and Chinese spectators attended the ceremony at the Ethiopian National Theatre.

News

Funding gaps hinder climate change initiatives: ECA

BY FIKADU BELAY

ADDIS ABABA- Insufficient financial assistance hinders African countries' efforts to fight climate change, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has announced.

ECA Technology, Climate Change, and Natural Resource Management Division Director Nassim Oulmane (PhD) in his stay with *The Ethiopian Herald* expressed the urgent need for African nations to build climate resilience and integrate climate change into their national development visions.

In Ethiopia's Green Legacy program on nature-based solutions to combat climate change, he praised Ethiopia's efforts in utilizing its vast natural resources, including river basins and forests, to build resilience and achieve sustainable development goals.

The Green Legacy Initiative, particularly in the Afar, Amhara, Oromia, and Somali regional states, serves as a showcase for addressing the challenges of drought in the region, he said.

The director recommended that the country also to start additional activities aimed at improving community health through

the fabrication and distribution of clean cookstoves, which reduce exposure to indoor particulate pollution.

The lack of sufficient financial assistance from developed countries to underdeveloped poses significant obstacles for African countries that endeavor to combat climate change, impeding their progress and hampering their ability to implement effective solutions.

In the COP28 meeting, several encouraging promises and projects were made public. However, without quickly offering fresh, substantial, regular, and accessible funding, many of these plans will remain unfulfilled, he added.

"The country faces significant funding: nearly 5.9 trillion USD will be required for the implementation of nationally determined contributions by 2030, while 215 to 387 billion USD will be required annually for adaptation, and 4.3 trillion USD will be required for clean-energy investment. These are huge amounts of money that are not readily available from existing public funds."

Also, the need for accessible, predictable, and new financing to bridge the financing gap required for implementing climate change initiatives.



Non-state actors, including civil society organizations, are playing a significant role in creating awareness of climate issues and advocating for climate justice in Africa. These efforts have given vulnerable groups, such as women, farmers, and the youth, a voice in shaping climate policies that directly impact their livelihoods, he added.

Oulmane further emphasized the significance of building climate resilience, integrating climate information into decision-making

processes, and securing adequate financial support from developed nations. The Ethiopian Green Legacy initiative was also recognized for its positive impact on combating climate change and fostering sustainable development.

ECA will continue to support African experts working on a global goal for adaptation of the Paris Agreement and develop metrics for measuring the progress, he remarked.

FAO recognizes Premier's extraordinary ...

FAO's Director General Kiu Dongyun stated at the award giving ceremony that Ethiopia has been registering remarkable achievements in food security under PM Abiy's leadership during the past five consecutive years. "What makes this success special is it comes in the middle of national, regional, and global challenges."

The director general also indicated Ethiopian government's achievement in transforming the agricultural sector and its engagement to achieve food self-sufficiency is serving as a great inspiration for the rest of Africa. He invited Abiy to share Ethiopia's experience and best practices to fellow African colleagues.

"This award is given to Prime Minister

Abiy for his achievements in ensuring food security and reducing poverty. In this regard, the Premier is able to attain noble success in summer wheat cultivation under the iconic Green Legacy initiative."

Dongyun further appreciated Abiy's leadership commitment towards food self-sufficiency and the latter's efforts to increase wheat productivity in Ethiopia.

In his acceptance tweet, Premier Abiy said, "I express my gratitude to FAO for bestowing the prestigious Agricola Medal for our efforts towards the attainment of food security. Our focus on high value and industrial crops is yielding promising results and we are committed to our food sovereignty path."

Ethio-Somaliland port deal diplomatic...

groups to have an enduring peace.

According to Lencho, the Ethiopian Government needs to withstand the unfounded opposition of some interest groups and undertake a meticulous diplomatic engagement to make the people of both countries have the say on their issues.

He further highlighted the need to consider that the port access would also curtail the ill attempts of Ethiopia's historical enemies. "Nonetheless, any sacrifice that may pose in Ethiopia's accession to port access would not be compared with the sacrifice that it has so far paid to be landlocked. To this end, Ethiopia should continue building

good relationships with Arab countries like the one maintained with the United Arab Emirates."

Sharing the above rationale, Addis Ababa University Africa and Asia Studies Department Assistant Professor SamuelTefera(PhD) said that Somaliland's strategic location would contribute to regional economic integration.

Noting Ethiopia's noble contribution in the peacekeeping mission to Somalia, the scholar also mentioned that the port deal would be vital in stabilizing the region from Al Shabaab and other armed groups.

Ethiopia's Islamabad Embassy ...

two countries could have a significant role in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, he added.

Ambassador Jemal also said that Ethiopia's diplomatic mission in Islamabad has held periodic discussions with the Prime Minister and the President of Pakistan and exchanged political views on matters of mutual significance. Due to the consultation, the two sides reached consensus to make the political consultation at a higher level. "Accordingly, we reached an agreement on the establishment of the joint commission for the high level consultation."

He added, "Practically, we have enjoyed strong political diplomacy having capitalized on Pakistan's firm desire

to engage with African countries. In consideration of this, we suggested them to utilize Ethiopia as the gateway to Africa and they are now giving our country a priority in their foreign policy."

The Ambassador further highlighted the Ethiopian government's desire to pursue an inclusive diplomacy. On the other hand, Pakistan is a country with a growing influence in the global politics that Ethiopia needs to capitalize on. So, the opening of the embassy helps to facilitate a condition that will ensure two countries mutual benefit.

"The future diplomatic tasks will be on image building and revealing economic

opportunities."

If Ethiopia secures a sovereign access to sea through the Gulf of Aden, the two countries' commercial trade ties would be invigorated as Pakistan situated in the Arabian Sea which is located very close to the Gulf of Aden. And, it will be a way to get Ethiopian products to the central Asian market.

In the investment frontier, Pakistan could also utilize Ethiopia's untapped opportunities. "Pakistani businesspersons visited Ethiopia and witnessed its promising market last year. We hope they will have more engagement in future," Ambassador Jemal remarked.



Ambassador Jemal Beker

Photo: Gebabo Gebre

Opinion

Resolving the paradox in African education systems

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

The 37 Ordinary Regular Session of the African Heads of State and Government will convene here in Addis Ababa from the 17th of February to 18th 2024. Reports coming out of the headquarters of the organization indicate that the AU Summit will pay a special attention to education and training with the theme “Educate an African fit for the 21st century: Building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality and relevant learning in Africa.”

H.E. Faki underscored that success in the education sector will have significant knock-on effects on sectors such as security, control of population growth, the empowerment of women and girls, agriculture, digitalization, and migration, among others. “Properly conducted and implemented in an orderly manner, educational reforms will reverse the trend towards poverty and enhance the attractiveness of Africa, in terms of investment and therefore, the creation of prosperity. Our theme for the Year 2024 is devoted to pondering over an in-depth reform of education in Africa, with the prospect of training young people endowed with intellectual, scientific and ethical capacities to serve the transformation of our continent to make it a comfortable and productive living space.”

Recent reviews of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) and Education 2030 Framework for Action, the AU-UNESCO continental report of the CESA and SDG4 and a joint AU-UNICEF report on Transforming Education in Africa, point to the fact that over the past ten years, African governments have undertaken a wide range of programs and policy-level efforts to ensure that no child is left behind in access to education. There have been substantial efforts on the continent to ensure access, completion, and quality of basic education for all.

AU notes that overall, the proportion of out-of-school children had decreased until around 2010. The completion rates had improved in primary and lower secondary education, as well as the access to and the participation in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). There was also noticeable progress in the access to pre-primary education and in adult literacy and lifelong learning. With regards to school feeding, low-income countries have doubled their national budget expenditures to Home Grown School Feeding (HGSF) from 17 percent to 33 percent between 2013 and 2020. In lower middle-income countries, national budgets now account for 88% of school meals financing, up from 55% in 2013.

However, despite efforts and progress made, three main indicators ring a warning bell:

Acceding to the AU, although the out of school rate, i.e. the “proportion of children and young people in the official age range for the given level of education who are not enrolled in pre- primary, primary, secondary or higher levels of education” keeps steadily decreasing, especially for the primary level, the absolute number has reached the alarming global estimate of 98 million in Africa.

The learning poverty rate, i.e. “the share of children who cannot read a simple text with comprehension by age 10 was the highest in sub-Saharan Africa before the COVID-19 pandemic, at 86%. This rate is likely to have worsened after the pandemic, estimated now at 90%. This means that nine out of ten children cannot read a simple text with comprehension by age 10.

Africa will need 17 million additional teachers in order to achieve universal primary and secondary education by 2030.

At the global level, and within the Global Education Coordination Mechanism framework, led by UNESCO, the African Union has been a key player in the regional coordination of CESA and SDG4 support for and cooperation among countries. This is through convening Member States and partners and making critical contributions to promoting evidence use, priority setting, peer learning and monitoring mechanism.

Similarly, at the African Union’s Specialized Technical Committee on Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (STC-EST4) held on 1st and 2nd September 2022, Ministers, in their declaration on Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, requested the AU Commission to facilitate the adoption by the AU of an education related theme for the year for 2024, to address the burden and disruptions caused by COVID-19 on education systems, promote the systematic implementation of transforming education in Africa and for accelerated implementation of CESA 2016-2025 and SDG 4.

Progress in education has a far-reaching impact on all the other aspects of human capital development. The large population of young people in Africa is a powerful source of economic growth and progress, provided it receives quality education and skills for the 21st century job opportunities. Investing in education is thus, the most effective investment in the fight against poverty, reducing gender inequalities, enabling people to survive and thrive, and helping to improve socio-economic development. Education is also associated with more peaceful communities, greater civic engagement, and stronger democracies.

Year 2024, dedicated to education in Africa, will be an opportunity for the African Union to re- galvanizes Member States towards the achievement of CESA and SDG4 targets. Importantly, this will

come as a follow-up to the STC-EST4, AU Declarations, the Urgent Call for Action by the SDG4 High-level Steering Committee and the UN Secretary General’s Vision Statement on Transforming Education. It will engage the AU Commission to mobilize governments and development partners to rethink the models of education and skill development needed for the Africa We Want in the 21st century.

What are the major or challenges inhibiting the growth and development of basic and higher level education both in Africa and Ethiopia? The author wishes to deliberate on some of these challenges faced by almost all African countries with the intention of suggesting some basic solutions.

Most African education systems are inherited from their colonial rulers and are therefore irrelevant to the development needs of the country and for producing highly qualified experts who can resolve problems based on the objective realities of their countries. Disregard to traditional sources of knowledge and low level of research on transfer of both modern and traditional skills in appropriate technology, westernization of social values and disregard to traditional heritages had forced many African countries to imitate the so called developed western countries in an unprecedented neo-colonial and manipulative “modernization” policies imported into Africa.

On the other hand climate change induced drought and flooding, ethnic based conflicts which had continued to result in the displacement of populations in these countries, political conflicts in countries like Sudan, South Sudan, Libya Equatorial Guinea, Somalia, and DRC resulted in destruction of schools and proliferation of IDPs across these countries.

It is to be recalled that the advent of COVID-19 and other types of pandemics have continued to disrupt normal and conducive educational environment in many African countries.

African educational systems also suffer from the disparity between theoretical and practical knowledge. African universities and institutes of higher learning stress on theoretical knowledge with less emphasis on problem solving practical knowledge.

Although the government of Ethiopia has made commendable efforts in promoting quality education throughout the country, over the last couple of years, internal ethnic based conflicts and the war in the northern part of the country had inflicted devastating damage on educational, health and social service infrastructures forcing millions of students to remain out of school.

African institutes of higher learning have so far done very little in sharing experience and other forms of resources like research

findings in many of these countries. There has not been any level of meaningful cooperation on sharing skills on child development, addressing the challenges of students with special needs, promotion of refugee education and designing special education system for pastoral societies across Africa.

What are some of the solutions that could be suggested for resolving the shortfalls in the African education systems? The author is of the opinion that pan African universities established across the continent need to be strengthened so that they can conduct researches on viable educational systems that are more relevant for Africa.

Although many African countries like Ethiopia have done a lot in promoting gender parity in education, there is still more to be desired in uplifting gender participation in education administration and enrollment in institutes of higher learning. This is critical because empowering women in Africa particularly in the education sector is a requirement to be fulfilled by African leaders.

Promoting relevant education system in Africa with a special emphasis on science and technology, agriculture and mining, engineering and digitalization of the economies and other sectors is important for enabling African countries to use and share their resources among themselves.

In addition, the AU should organize continental discussions on educational policies and their relevance, linking education with continental development needs in the context of Agenda 2063 and other regional educational strategies.

There needs to be a continental strategy on Africanization of education with necessary linkage with national educational and development priorities. It is wrong to totally reject the western education system as African educators can blend their best experiences from the west and blend them with their national priorities to help develop a new African intelligentsia that can help to uplift African countries from age long poverty.

On the other hand, African education needs to be used as a decisive tool to promote peace, peace education and coexistence. It is to be stressed that without stability, peace and tranquility, Africa cannot ensure quality education for the current and future generation of Africans.

Africans can ensure their practical unity when they support each other in developing national education policies and strategies which are relevant to their respective countries and the next AU Summit of Heads of State and Government can help to chart out the necessary strategies and plans of action relevant to the African education systems.

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

Editorial

FAO recognition mirrors the reality on the ground

Following his visionary leadership to end poverty, commitment to well ensure food security and nutrition and determination to come up with innovative solutions in wheat self-sufficiency in the context of fast-changing and challenging circumstances, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has been awarded the prestigious FAO Agricola Medal in a ceremony hosted by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome, Italy.

It has been well witnessed that Ethiopia's wheat production paves avenue to self-sufficiency through land area expansion, irrigation and other viable means taking advantage of the availability of the necessary resources such as land, water and abundant human power. For long, farmers and pastoralists in Ethiopia have depended on rain shower, but it is possible to develop available water resources and produce crops using irrigation and other scientific methods.

The government of Ethiopia has attached due emphasis to wheat production and productivity following the country's being the second largest wheat producer in Africa.

The Agricola Medal, which the Prime Minister received in the presence of high-level delegates of various countries, representatives of international organizations, diplomatic missions in Italy and private sector representatives, clearly portrays that Ethiopia is capable of defeating poverty and underdevelopment if it seriously capitalized on all sorts of resources at hand. It is also well comprehended that Ethiopia has been making critical investments in the agricultural sector and pursuing wheat self-sufficiency endeavors marking significant growth across major commodities over the years.

Such an impressive recognition would undoubtedly help the country make a difference in all aspects of economic growth and even be role model for other African countries.

The government of Ethiopia has had a clear vision and commitment to food security and nutrition, and it has been endeavoring to translate all its plans into practical actions. Basically, the Agricola Medal honors illustrious personalities for their commitment and support to the promotion of sustainable food production, world food security, and international cooperation. The Agricola Medal of FAO provides Ethiopia with the courage and further assurance for moving steps forward towards attaining food security.

Hence, it is a green signal for the country to work more on high-value and industrial crops to make the food sovereignty path all rosy. The award coming to the Horn of African nation amid challenges witnesses the presence of untapped potential to make its vision a reality, indeed!

The UNFAO prestigious Agricola Medal award is really a change engine that potentially fuels Ethiopia's commitment for additional change and remarkable growth.

The nation has to work hard at boosting the efficiency of wheat production as it is the right strategy to improve the well-being of smallholder farmers and build its capacity to successfully defeat poverty.

Here, policymakers, stakeholders, the farming community as well as development partners, be they are local or international ones, are expected to move in unison taking country's resources into account with a view to helping Ethiopia record remarkable change. True, wheat has now taken the lion's share to achieve national food self-sufficiency and reduce poverty. Certainly, both increasing wheat production by expanding cultivation area and improving the production capacity of smallholder farmers are better approaches to boost production.

In sum, as smallholder-oriented subsistence agriculture is not an effective way to ensure food security, the government is expected to devise potential and possible mechanisms to further enrich the sector. Besides, efficient utilization of the available resources has to be underlined. Ethiopia has initiated several projects to ensure food and wheat security, but it has not yet benefited as anticipated. As the sustainability of the current initiative relies on an efficient water management system, private sector engagement, sustainable input supply, well-established input and output marketing systems, and leadership commitment at all levels, the country has to embark on such approaches well. In doing so, many more awards can be garnered.

Opinion

Season's greetings from US Ambassador to Ethiopia

BY ERVIN J MASSINGA

To the People of Ethiopia,

Greetings and Happy New Year! As we celebrate 120 years of people-to-people relations between our two nations this year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on and share with you some of the successful initiatives over the past year that demonstrate our enduring partnership and the United States' commitment to you – the people of Ethiopia.

Over the past year, we have closely collaborated with Ethiopian communities to enact reforms ensuring that humanitarian assistance reaches those who need it most. This partnership has been instrumental in providing lifesaving medical supplies, food, and emergency shelter to millions of Ethiopians. But of course, our collaboration goes far beyond immediate relief. Last year, USAID launched 24 new programs valued at over \$484 million to promote democracy and governance, create economic opportunities for Ethiopian citizens, improve health outcomes, and strengthen resilience throughout Ethiopia. In 2023, USAID started a groundbreaking collaboration with the LEGO Foundation in Ethiopia. This initiative will expand play-based preschools, harnessing the transformative power of education as Ethiopia shapes the future generation. We have also facilitated the return of over 500,000 students to their classrooms and have supported the reopening of more than 1,000 schools in conflict-affected communities.

While the November 2, 2022, Cessation of Hostilities Agreement is still a work in progress, the guns are silenced in Tigray and many are now able to return to school and work. We continue to encourage full implementation of the COHA in order to secure peace dividends for the Ethiopian people. To help implement a credible, inclusive, and meaningful transitional justice process, the United States supported consultations throughout the country that enabled Ethiopians from all backgrounds to voice their priorities for accountability. We are particularly proud to have partnered with marginalized communities, such as women with disabilities, to empower their participation in this process.

Remembering a nation's history is as important as plotting its future development. This year, in partnership with World Monuments Fund, the U.S. Embassy finalized conservation efforts to restore the landmark 19th century "American Gibbi" building in downtown Addis Ababa. A symbol of American values and the United States' enduring friendship and support for Ethiopia, even in times of crisis, the "American Gibbi" served as the American legation building from 1935 – 1941. It was the site of a dramatic rescue during the 1937 Addis Ababa Massacre, when the U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia saved the lives of thousands of Ethiopians by sheltering them in the building from fascist forces.

I am proud the United States' private sector is also part of our people-to-people partnership. One example is the historic

relationship between Boeing and Ethiopian Airlines, which last year included strategic cooperation on critical areas like advanced aviation training, leadership development, and industrial development. And through investments in the Ethiopian private sector, the United States is aiding youth start-ups and small businesses and launching creative partnerships with existing firms, like our collaboration with Safaricom to distribute health information to women, especially expectant mothers. Our investment in the broader health care community greatly improved health services for all Ethiopians, reducing TB-related deaths, expanding women's access to pre- and post-birth health services, and shielding over 2.1 million people from the threat of malaria. We are also committed to accessibility for all Ethiopians. Deafness is one of the most prevalent disabilities in Ethiopia, but through a \$100,000 U.S. Embassy grant, Addis Ababa University's Center for Special Education developed the first digital Ethiopian Sign Language (EthSL) dictionary in four Ethiopian languages (Amharic, Afan Oromo, Somali, and Tigrinya) and English. The EthSL dictionary will lower language barriers, increase the inclusion of the deaf in social and economic activities, and spur economic growth and productivity.

As we look to our people-to-people engagement in the year ahead, there is much we can achieve together. We will continue advocating for peaceful resolution of conflict through dialogue and negotiation between all parties to secure the safety of all Ethiopians. Whether in Amhara, Oromia, Tigray, the south, or elsewhere, peace must prevail. Good friends are honest with each other, and a troubling human rights situation and shrinking civic space are areas where we hope to partner with Ethiopia to achieve marked improvement. To further these objectives, we will work to modernize the court system and facilitate justice reform to enhance Ethiopia's rule of law capacity to better serve its people. In 2024, as Ethiopia's public universities transform into autonomously governed institutions, the U.S. government is redoubling its efforts to help strengthen the quality of higher education and expand partnerships with U.S. universities, particularly in the leadership, management, and governance of the newly autonomous universities. Finally, continuing to partner with Ethiopia in its economic development so the people of Ethiopia can build a prosperous nation together is one of my top priorities. And I am confident that American companies will continue to play an important role in that development by investing in Ethiopia, creating jobs, and training the country's future business leaders. I am excited about what the future holds as we – the people of the United States and the people of Ethiopia – continue to build on our 120 years of collaboration, cooperation, and commitment as partners for peace, prosperity, and promise. Happy New Year!

Best Wishes for the New Year,

Ambassador Ervin J. Massinga

U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia

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The Ethiopian Herald

Business & Economy

A jump-start for renewable energy transition

BY MENGESHA AMARE

It is well recognized that these days unknowingly or calculatingly carried out human activities are seriously causing planetary scale changes on land, in oceans, in the atmosphere with of course dramatic and longstanding ramifications. What is happening in our country, Ethiopia, is not exceptional along this line.

Keeping this fact in mind, *The Ethiopian Herald* talked to Mohammed Musa, an environmental scientist graduated from Addis Ababa University in agro-economics, to have a professional expertise regarding the significance of expanding renewable energy as Ethiopia is endowed with a range of sources in that regard except lack of technology and financial aspects.

Mohammed said, “A robust supply of renewable energy components and raw materials is essential. Technology, capacity and funds for renewable energy transition exist, but there needs to be policies and processes in place to reduce market risk and enable and incentivize investments including through streamlining the planning, permitting and regulatory processes as well as preventing bottlenecks/red tapes.”

As to him, not only does shifting subsidies from fossil fuels to renewable energy cut emissions but it also contributes a lot to the sustainable economic growth, job creation, better public health and more equality, particularly for the poor and most vulnerable communities.

Obviously, he said, following the rapid evolution of urbanization and industrialization, economic growth is increasingly dependent on the energy consumption, and the relationship between energy consumption and economic growth has been fostering Ethiopia’s sustainable economic development. He further said that renewable energy is indeed an active player regarding energy supply security and the reduction of fossil fuel dependency and harmful emissions to the environment. True, energy products are having great importance in meeting an increasing demand in energy consumption.

He said that lack of access to energy impedes both economic and human development as well as affects the radical acceleration of the pace of scaling energy access to create a more resilient, equitable and sustainable future.

“The cardinal step that needs to be taken to reverse such a daunting challenge has to be ending reliance on energy generated from fossil fuels, which are the main cause of climate change and environmental degradation. Hence, the critical action Ethiopia and its counterparts of the world need to prioritize now is working to transform energy systems and speed up the shift to renewable energy as without them it can be deduced that no future at all,” said Mohammed.

Taking the diversification of energy system and a transition towards renewable energy into account, the country needs to be increasingly reliant on imported fossil fuels, affecting its national energy security and economic growth. Ethiopia can choose



Renewable energy is inevitably saving the environment from pollution

a different path by accelerating the shift to renewable energy. There are challenges, including enhancing grid and transmission infrastructure, as well as biomass collection and logistics. These challenges can be overcome through effective planning and by creating mechanisms that value the external benefits of renewable energy. “If Ethiopia acts decisively to increase the role of renewable in its energy system, it can significantly reduce the pollution of its environment, enhance its energy security, benefit its economy and play a leading role in mitigating climate change,” said Mohammed.

The main drivers for this shift are the increasing cost-competitiveness of renewable energy technologies and other benefits such as improved energy security and decreased air pollution. Since renewable energy’s economic effects have been hotly debated as it is a promising energy source, Ethiopia has to well embark on the energy under discussion, he said.

Without a shadow of doubt, non-fossil energy sources, such as wind, solar, hydro, and geothermal energy, are all examples of renewable energy, and it is a sustainable form of energy. It is also crucial component of Ethiopia’s multi-wheel drive energy supply system though a lot remains to be done in that regard. It is also a non-polluting and low-carbon scheme.

As to him, developing energy infrastructure, conserving the environment, dealing with climate change, and achieving sustainable economic and social growth can be accelerated via utilizing renewable energy, indeed!

According to Mohammed, Ethiopia’s renewable energy needs to be significantly expanded to provide the population with a pollution free energy sources.

It is found that said Mohammed the effect of renewable energy consumption on economic growth is inevitable, and the direct and positive effect of renewable energy consumption on economic growth can be well verified. Specifically, renewable energy consumption indirectly affects economic growth via the mediators of gross capital formation, the labor force, trade openness, research and development expenditure, and foreign direct investment.

It is also obvious that environmental deterioration has resulted from an over-

reliance on fossil-fuel usage to develop economies. Therefore, renewable energy consumption has become the goal of the Ethiopian government.

He further elucidated that the paths are renewable energy consumption → gross capital formation → economic growth, renewable energy consumption → labor force → economic growth, renewable energy consumption → trade openness → economic growth, renewable energy consumption → research and development expenditure → economic growth, and renewable energy consumption → foreign direct investment → economic growth. This portrays that renewable energy is everywhere in economic transaction.

As the positive economic effects of renewable energy consumption are vivid ones, the government should accelerate renewable energy to replace non-renewable energy, which would help economic growth and improve environmental quality, Mohammed said.

“It is also well comprehended that Ethiopia’s conventional economic development strategy has been based on fossil fuels. Wind farms and solar power plants have also been installed in some Ethiopian localities and provinces. Low-carbon power transition will have a positive economic and employment effect to promote inclusive growth,” he added.

According to Mohammed, the low-carbon power transition will also have a great impact on the economy and society, and the renewable energy development overall, has a positive effect on the economy and employment. “Power transition matters the entire industrial chain, enterprises, and employees of the enterprise. When formulating transition plans, the government needs to consider supporting policies for these sectors and establish a comprehensive and just transition policy system.”

At national level, there are noticeable differences in resource endowments among regional states in Ethiopia, and there is a flow of factors between regions and industries. While promoting the national economy and employment, it is necessary to adopt policies tailored to local conditions for different regional states in the country.

He further elucidated that in the future, the influence of social and economic should

factors also be taken into account when making the power transition planning from fossil fuels to renewable energy utilization.

The most significant economic benefit of renewable energy technologies is perhaps the cost of the electricity that they generate. Of course, he said, renewable energy investment has been an important economic engine in Ethiopia and will play an even more significant role in boosting the economy than before. Renewable investments in the country will also contribute to rising energy output from the sector, as well as offering the potential to boost domestic and regional as well as continental economic growth, by driving down wind and solar cost and by creating economic opportunities in terms of manufacturing and deployment.

From the outset of the entry into the market of renewable energy, the government should take the lead in demonstrating renewable energy utilization in Ethiopia. Besides, the government facilities can incorporate renewable energy facilities of all types including biomass fueled cogeneration at appropriate sites. Such a bold move plays an important role in stimulating greater renewable energy use in the country. Examples include using non-grid connected renewable energy generation to provide core services in remote areas such as potable water, health facilities, schools and community meeting centers.

Rapid industrialization and urbanization have led to environmental degradation in developing countries like ours, including excessive energy consumption, soil contamination, and water pollution. In this regard, the Ethiopian government is trying hard to shift toward green energy sources and frame a scheme to bolster homegrown economy. Here, policymakers are expected to do all their part and try to develop innovative concepts or introduce new technology to reduce environmental loss while sustainable ecological measures. Unequivocally, since the intensive use of green energy sources such as solar and wind will help increase the involvement of renewable energy, lessen pollution, and improve the air quality in urban areas thereby making a substantial contribution to building sustainable anticipations of energy systems in the nation, it is high time to work hard on renewable energy expansion and enhancement.

In the Sphere of Diplomacy

Ethio-Somaliland deal: A hallmark for regional cooperation

BY EYUEL KIFLU

The Horn of Africa is one of the most contested regions due to its strategic geopolitical location. It is home to numerous military bases established by countries from afar. However, regional nations are not taking advantage of the strategic location. Additionally, the region faces challenges such as terrorism, drought, trans-border crime, and other destabilizing factors posing a present and imminent threat to the regional countries.

The people living in this region face numerous challenges and often prefer to migrate to other countries, relying on human traffickers to navigate treacherous sea routes or endure long and arduous journeys through desert areas on foot. Nonetheless, countries like Ethiopia are striving to improve the well-being and economic development of their people and the region as a whole. Ethiopia, in particular, has emerged as the fastest-growing economy in Africa, despite dealing with numerous internal and external challenges. The country is also striving to expand its economic growth throughout the region.

On February 19, 2023, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, during his visit to the Bale Zone, stated, "We have fulfilled our promises to our people and turned Ethiopia's dream of exporting wheat into a reality. This serves as a testament to our ability to dream big; articulate our dreams, follow through with our actions day and night, and demonstrate our achievements."

Moreover, securing sea access has become a crucial objective for Ethiopia to enhance its prosperity and facilitate regional development. Prime Minister Abiy emphasized the existential importance of accessing the sea for Ethiopia's economic growth. This access is not only beneficial to Ethiopia but also contributes to regional economic growth. The country has proposed a give-and-take mechanism to access sea port from countries in the region. In January first, Ethiopia achieved a significant milestone by signing a memorandum of understanding with Somaliland to secure sea access for it.

However, following this historic pact, certain bloc and entities have launched smear campaigns. Ethiopia's historical adversaries have used these campaigns to deceive the international community through their customary disinformation

Sea access has become a crucial objective for Ethiopia to enhance its prosperity and facilitate regional development. Prime Minister Abiy emphasized the existential importance of accessing the sea for Ethiopia's economic growth

practices. It is worth noting that these countries attempt to link their geopolitical crises with the pact, issuing statements that are not accepted by the Ethiopian and Somaliland people and governments.

In an interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, Ethiopian Ambassador to Tanzania, Shibru Mamo, stated that efforts by certain entities to impede Ethiopia's sea access are deemed unacceptable. He commended the agreement as a mutually beneficial arrangement for the signatories. The ambassador emphasized that any attempts to undermine the accord would hinder progress and demonstrates a lack of readiness for Agenda 2063. He pointed out that other countries have obtained port access through contractual agreements without significant opposition, and Ethiopia should not face objections in this regard.

Ethiopia has proposed a give-and-take mechanism that benefits both parties in its pursuit of sea access. The agreement with Somaliland is a result of Ethiopia's diplomatic efforts and its commitment to mutual development.

Additionally, Ethiopia's claim to sea access is supported by Article 125, Paragraph 1 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which states, "Landlocked states shall have the right of access to and from the sea for the purpose of exercising the rights provided for in this Convention, including those relating to the freedom of the high seas and the common heritage of mankind. To this end, landlocked states shall enjoy freedom of transit through the territory of transit states by all means of transport."

Thus, Ethiopia has a strong legal basis for pursuing sea access to facilitate its development and ensure its security. Furthermore, Ethiopia's re-established naval force is a valuable contribution to the region, given that the Horn of Africa is a hub for terrorism and piracy. This initiative demonstrates Ethiopia's willingness to contribute to the region's peace and security. Despite making sacrifices for its neighboring countries and regional stability, Ethiopia has not received proportionate benefits.

Samuel Tefera (Ph.D.), a researcher at Addis Ababa University's Center for Asian and African Studies, highlighted Ethiopia's significant contribution to peace and stability in the region. He specifically mentioned Ethiopia's substantial role in preventing the terrorist group Al-Shabaab.

Regarding Somaliland, some unfounded claims suggest that it is not a separate country from Somalia but an independent nation. When Somaliland gained independence from British colonial rule in 1960, it was recognized by more than 35 countries worldwide. Presently, 20 countries recognize its passport and provide necessary services to its citizens. This recognition indicates that Somaliland is indeed an independent country. It is important to note that Somaliland willingly joined Somalia to form Greater Somalia, but later separated from Somalia in 1991 when this union failed, Samuel elaborated.

Furthermore, it should be noted that Somaliland has entered into a naval agreement with the United Arab Emirates and is preparing to establish a similar agreement with the United States. It has also collaborated with Ethiopia in various ways, he added.

Therefore, the smears and objections coming from distant sources do not hinder the Ethiopia-Somaliland sea access pact also they are not considering the former's contribution to the region. The Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is actively engaged in diplomatic efforts to clarify Ethiopia's sea access objectives. It is crucial to undertake further diplomatic work to explain Ethiopia's contributions to the region and emphasize that the agreement signed between the two parties does not harm any nation.

Anteneh Getachew, a researcher specializing in Asia and the Pacific at the Institute of Foreign Affairs, also stated that opposition from distant geopolitical regions regarding the Ethio-Somaliland sea access deal is unacceptable.

"It is evident that obtaining a sea outlet is of existential significance to Ethiopia, and achieving this objective requires diplomatic negotiations, trust-building, and engagement with neighboring countries. The researcher emphasized the importance of organized international public relations efforts to counter objections and doubts raised by certain foreign entities."

Overall, the country's journey to access the sea is a win-win approach and useful for the region's economic development, not threats to the region, as some smears are saying. Ethiopia's government is also working to clarify what is ongoing between Ethiopia and Somaliland through its diplomatic center.

Law & Politics



The government of Ethiopia has proven itself that the country is always ready to resolve any matter in peaceful manner

A savvy leadership for a basin-wide cause

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

For long, despite being a shared resource, Abbay River has been solely serving the downstream countries, Sudan and Egypt. Under the auspices of colonial powers, the two nations have been proclaimed as the sole proprietors for the world's longest river while other riparian countries include Ethiopia the origin and 85 percent contributor of the river have been living in darkness due to absence of electricity.

Over the years, Ethiopia's courageous leadership has been bringing a great turnaround in terms of cultivating regional cooperation and paving the way for sharing the resource equally and reasonably. From the ratification of the Comprehensive Framework Agreement to the signing of Declaration of Principles, Ethiopia has been spreading efforts to ensure equal utilization of the shared resource.

The country's stance to rally basin nations to come up with a genuine and common approach to have an equitable and reasonable utilization of the river is ascribable to its age-old virtues based on mutual benefit and regional partnerships.

In what could be a solid indicator of its unflinching stance, since the laying the foundation stone of the Abbay Dam project, the country consistently shows its unbending position to tap the resource without inflicting harm to the lower riparian countries. For those even minded countries, Ethiopia's colossal dam is a text book example of regional integration for it would connect other nations to the power grid as well. In contrast to misinformation campaign, the country's project will have a positive domino impact in the basin.

While extending an olive branch and following amicable diplomacy, the country has opened itself for any discussion on the

Nile and believes that every Nile Basin country deserves the right to use their natural resources like the Nile to uplift their economic, political, and social power. In this regard, Ethiopia was the first nation to show its interest to accept and sign the first Declaration of Principles (DoP) with Sudan and Egypt in 2015.

In a similar vein, the government of Ethiopia has proven itself that the country is always ready to resolve any matter in peaceful manner. Not only that, Ethiopia has a firm stance in solving African problems with African solutions. This kind of stand wards off the unnecessary involvement of some blocs like the Arab League to be involved in the matter.

Ethiopia has actively engaged in further agreements to resolve issues. The Nile basin countries have a common intention to promote sustainable development, and equal utilization of the resources. That is one of the many reasons to force the Nile Basin nations to ratify the Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA).

According to documents, the CFA outlines principles, rights and obligations for cooperative management and development of the Nile Basin water resources. "Rather than quantifying 'equitable rights' or water use allocations, the Treaty intends to establish a framework to "promote integrated management, sustainable development, and harmonious utilization of the water resources of the Basin, as well as their conservation and protection for the benefit of present and future generations".

Again, to step forward, five countries namely Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda and Burundi have signed the opened CFA in Entebbe, Uganda in May 2010. The other two countries: Kenya and Burundi signed the CFA in their respective countries. Accordingly, Ethiopia was the first nation

to ratify the CFA by its parliament in 2013. Ethiopia believes that other Nile basin countries will surely follow its step and ratify the agreement.

The government of Ethiopia is promoting the fair and equitable utilization of the Nile water resources among the responsible nations without neglecting the other. It is obvious that leaders will know the importance and the benefit of ratifying the agreement aligned with their national interest to create a harmonious regional cooperation through a win-win approach. Though the lower riparian nations refused to be the part of the agreement, Ethiopia has not lost its faith in them because the agreement will bring the sought after goal of every discussion among the member states.

Increasing the number of nations that ratify the agreement, some Nile basin countries have started considering taking the agreement to their parliaments for ratification. There are only two nations from the upper riparian nations, Kenya and South Sudan that have not ratified the agreement yet. Ethiopia is playing an important role to facilitate things related to the Nile and regional partnerships. Recently, the government of South Sudan showed its interest to follow the path.

In an exclusive interview with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) Ethiopian Ambassador to South Sudan Nebil Mahdi said that the South Sudanese legislative organ is expected to incorporate the CFA as part of the country's law soon.

South Sudan and Kenya are the only upstream countries that have not yet adopted the CFA as their domestic laws. If either of the two countries' parliaments ratifies the framework, it will irreversibly correct the age-long unjust utilization of the Nile water, Ambassador Nebil elaborated.

Though South Sudan's ministerial

council adopted the CFA some five years ago, the accord needs to be ratified by the country's parliament. While South Sudanese lawmakers heard the details of the framework once in a formal parliament session, the Ethiopian Embassy in Juba has also been organizing awareness creation programs to promote the pact's significance to various stakeholders.

"We have discussed with 160 South Sudanese parliamentarians about the possible benefits of the CFA and to make the framework clear for them. The standing committee of parliament has also discussed the accord with us twice and an understanding was created that no one will lose benefit as a result of the framework adoption. The national interest of South Sudan has been accommodated in the drafted law and the framework is also protecting the national interest of other Nile Basin countries."

According to him, Burundi has submitted a unilateral ratification of the framework recently. Now, Kenya and South Sudan are most needed countries for the full ratification of the framework at regional level and the government of South Sudan on its part shows a green light into this.

The diplomat further highlighted that the Ethiopian Embassy has also created the link with academicians and academic institutions of South Sudan. "To almost all faculties in Juba University, we clarified the aim of the CFA and held workshops."

Ethiopia's agenda on CFA adoption is just to make 'reasonable and equitable use' as a legal framework, Ambassador Nebil emphasized.

The annual session of the South Sudanese parliament will be opened next month and the ratification of CFA is expected to have priority immediately after the opening of the session, *The Ethiopian Herald* learned.

Society

Shared narratives for unity, sustainable peace

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

Shared grand narratives have inimitable power in unifying people and bringing them closer. In a multiethnic country like Ethiopia where several diverse ethnic groups with different social, cultural, religious and historical backgrounds are coexisting, promoting shared narratives is of greater importance to strengthen togetherness and solidify fraternity and unity among all.

Dispersing divisive narrations and capitalizing on rhetoric that only magnify a single group or fabricating false rhetoric can cause unnecessary inconveniences among ethnic groups and yield devastating impacts.

To curb such cases and cement fraternity and togetherness among different groups, the role of scholars is incalculable in shaping the perspectives of the society towards shared values and narratives.

Recently, at a discussion forum held in Dessie Town between the Eastern Amhara Command Post and scholars drawn from Wollo, Mekdela Amba and Woldia universities, the role scholars can play in ensuring sustainable peace and togetherness was highlighted.

As it was indicated, sustainable peace needs shared responsibility of every individual.

Speaking on the occasion, Command Post Chairperson and Commander of the Northeastern Command Lt. Gen. Asefa Chekol, said that sustainable peace, togetherness and unity needs the active involvement of every citizen at all level, ENA reported.

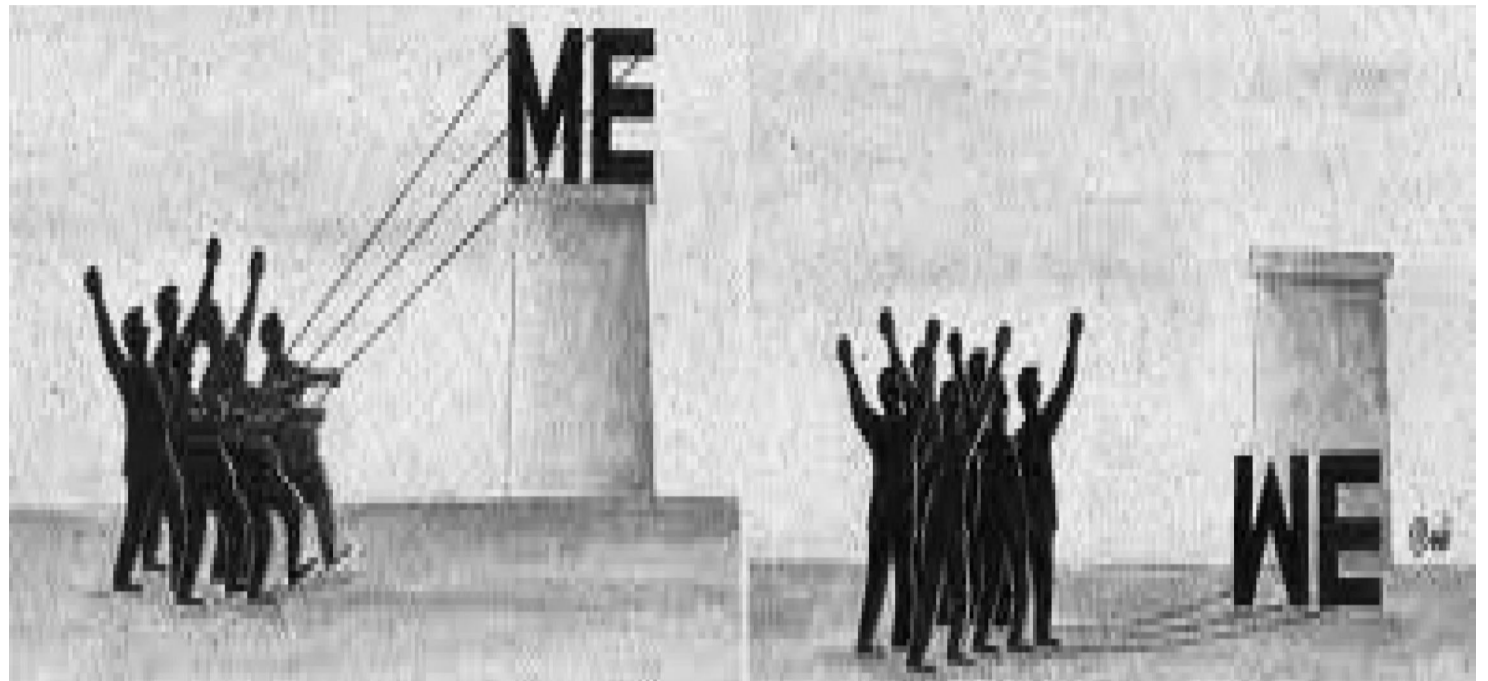
Especially, academics from higher education institutions are duty bound in magnifying shared narratives and shaping the generation through inculcating the deeds of Ethiopian heroes so as to build responsible generation. They have to endeavor to nurture peace and unity through inculcating common stories that can reinforce unity and peace to Ethiopia in their teachings.

Mentioning that the community is working unwaveringly in cooperation with the Defense Force to defend and uphold their peace, he urged them to continue this support.

Chairperson of the Command Post of the South Wollo Zone and Dessie Town Administration Brig. Gen. Zewdu Setargie on his part said that scholars should focus on teaching regarding Ethiopia's unity, togetherness, common narratives and be a spearhead to foster Ethiopia's unity.

By conducting researches, identifying problems and proposing solutions, they should contribute to Ethiopia's all rounded development, he added.

According to him, issues concerning good governance, development and similar matters should be entertained through peaceful dialogue addressed through discussion. In this regard, everyone is



SHARED NARRATIVES

responsible and should contribute share.

Wollo University President, Mengesha Ayene (PhD) also said that the forum is organized to give an opportunity for scholars to understand the current situation of the State and generate idea for peace. "We will work to find lasting peace and revive the economy through conducting research and identifying problems."

According to him, during the consultation meeting scholars drawn from Mekdela Amba, Woldia and Wollo universities, the South Wollo Zone and Dessie Town administrators as well as stakeholders took part.

The role common narratives can play in unifying Ethiopia cannot be underestimated. It is because of shared narratives Ethiopians have successfully defeated their common enemies. It is because of shared narratives Ethiopia has still kept its glory in the global politics. It is because of its shared narratives the country has been overcoming hard times that have the potential to disintegrate the country and overrun its sovereignty.

As witnessed from its previous experiences, shared narratives and collective stories have historically played a significant role in fostering Ethiopia's unity and a sense of belonging.

Common narratives that revolve around the cultural heritage, historical events and shared institutions have incalculable rewards in unifying the people and transcending ethnic, linguistic and regional differences.

As mentioned by documents, emphasizing the richness and diversity of Ethiopia's cultural tapestry while highlighting the common threads that bind its people can contribute to a sense of national unity.

It is crystal clear that common narratives should center on shared national aspirations: progress, peace and prosperity for all Ethiopians. Articulating a vision for the coming generation that resonates with diverse segments of society can serve as a unifying force, inspiring collective action and a sense of common purpose.

As it witnessed from Ethiopia's experiences recognizing common narratives and promote them bridge divisions and foster unity. This in turn enables the nation to capitalize its efforts on diverse cultural, historical, and social tapestry to build a more cohesive and inclusive national identity and speed up economic prosperity.

Indeed, as repeatedly indicated by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD), shared narratives are the one options Ethiopians have to preserve its century old glory and ensure its progress.

Shared historical narratives: the Victory of Adwa, the struggle to preserve Ethiopia's unity, fighting by the side of the UN Peace Keeping Force for the sake of regional and global security and stability, fighting to ensure African countries' freedom and others can provide a sense of collective identity and pride Ethiopians shared.

Here, it must be noted that by acknowledging and respecting the diversity within the nation, while emphasizing shared values and aspiration, a more inclusive and unifying grand narrative can be crafted. While speaking about the power of grand narratives in unifying the people, the role of scholars, particularly those in higher education, has a key role in nurturing responsible citizens whose mind is not corrupted by narratives that magnify a single group at the expense of others.

As witnessed from the history of the world, both the first and second world wars erupted directly or indirectly, due to the chauvinistic thoughts of leaders and false narratives developed to destroy others for the sake of one's interest. What is more, as it is mentioned on several literatures, most civil wars that were erupted on the soil of Africa had been resulted from false narratives that were well articulated by some groups who were instruments of certain political groups or individuals.

In this regard, debunking false narratives which have an adverse effect on Ethiopia's peace and unity, is the responsibility of every Ethiopian scholars. Using their experience and expertise, they should analyze and disprove false narratives by proving evidence based researches. Using their knowledge, scholars can identify misinformation and disinformation to sensitize the mass.

What is more, scholars can also educate the public and policy makers about the dangers of false narratives and the importance of critical thinking. This is especially true in fighting all forms of misinformation circulated via social media.

As indicated by South Wollo Zone and Dessie Town Administration Command Post Chairperson, Brig. Gen. Zewdu, scholarly researches and studies have key roles in identifying root causes of false narratives as well as refuting them with research based outcomes. What is more, scholarly dialogues and discussion that promote understanding, empathy and tolerance among different groups should be encouraged.

Planet Earth

Addis installing mobile air pollution monitoring stations to combat impacts of climate change

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Air pollution in cities is a serious environmental and public health hazard. Emissions from cars, industrial operations, electricity generation, and other human activities mostly generate it. The concentration of pollutants such as particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, ozone, and volatile organic compounds can reach high levels in metropolitan areas, resulting in a range of health concerns and environmental consequences.

Air pollution may harm human health by causing respiratory ailments, cardiovascular difficulties, and exacerbating pre-existing disorders like asthma. Furthermore, air pollution can harm the environment, causing damage to flora, ecosystems, and structures. It also contributes to climate change through the emission of greenhouse gases.

As a result, cities are implementing a variety of steps to combat air pollution, such as establishing low-emission zones, boosting public transit and cycling, supporting the use of renewable energy sources, and enforcing automobile emission limits. In addition, urban planners are creating cities with green spaces and pedestrian-friendly places to minimize pollution and enhance air quality.

More significantly, cities establish mobile air pollution monitoring stations to manage and address the sources of air pollution, since the stations are a key instrument for analyzing air quality in diverse areas. The stations are also crucial equipment that may be deployed at various locations to collect real-time data on air pollutants, giving information on the quantities of dangerous compounds in the atmosphere.

The stations offer several benefits. They are adaptable since they may be relocated, enabling thorough air quality monitoring in a variety of settings. This adaptability is especially helpful for evaluating air pollution in locations like urban centers, building sites, and industrial zones where emissions fluctuate.

They are also essential for gathering data in real-time. To detect pollutants including particulate matter (PM), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), these stations are outfitted with sensors and equipment. Real-time transmission of the gathered data allows for quick analysis and action if any problems with air quality are discovered.

Besides, they pinpoint areas of high pollution. By relocating air pollution monitoring stations, the relevant agencies or authorities can pinpoint emission sources and hotspots for pollution. This data is useful for putting specific pollution reduction and public health protection

initiatives in Ethiopia to combat air pollution and improve air quality have gained traction in recent years. The government, in collaboration with international organizations and non-governmental groups, has been trying to build and expand air quality monitoring projects, such as the deployment of mobile air pollution monitoring stations

strategies into action.

Some industrialized and technologically advanced countries use these stations to monitor occurrences. They can be used during events or activities that may cause air pollution, such as festivals, building projects, or traffic congestion. This enables the assessment of transitory increases in pollution levels and the application of mitigating measures as needed.

Recognizing the necessity of monitoring and managing air quality concerns, several industrialized countries have installed mobile air pollution monitoring stations. These stations are vital for raising public awareness. Station data can help to

raise public awareness about air quality concerns and educate people about the possible health risks of pollution. This may lead to more community involvement in initiatives to improve air quality.

Cities in underdeveloped countries are unable to install them, unlike those in wealthy nations. Because the availability and deployment of these stations might vary greatly depending on financing, technical skill, and government goals. In addition, insufficient resources may make it difficult to create and maintain a complete network of monitoring stations in some developing nations. Furthermore, conflicting objectives for infrastructure development and public services may influence the allocation of resources to environmental monitoring efforts.

Despite these challenges, there is a rising realization of the necessity of combating air pollution in Ethiopia, especially in Addis Ababa. Initiatives are underway to enhance air quality monitoring and management. International organizations, non-governmental organizations, and public-private partnerships frequently promote the establishment of air quality monitoring programs in the city.

Ethiopian Meteorology Institute Deputy Director General Kife Hailemariam said that 10 mobile air pollution monitoring stations will be installed in Addis Ababa in the next six months. These stations will help the institute to increase its data collection and analysis capabilities.

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital city, confronts air pollution concerns, mostly as a result of fast urbanization, industrial activity, and an increasing number of automobiles. To solve this issue, the city might benefit from deploying mobile air pollution monitoring stations.

Mobile air pollution monitoring stations are outfitted with sensors and devices that detect particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, ozone, and volatile organic compounds. These devices may be strategically placed across the city to measure air quality in real-time and identify pollution hotspots, he noted.

Additionally, he said that policymakers and local officials might benefit from the data gathered from these mobile monitoring stations in understanding how air contaminants are distributed around Addis Ababa. For the purpose of creating focused plans to reduce air pollution and safeguard public health, this information is essential.

By using mobile monitoring stations, Addis Ababa can gain insights into the sources of pollution, assess the effectiveness of existing pollution control measures, and make informed decisions about urban planning, transportation policies, and industrial regulations.

Furthermore, the data acquired from these monitoring stations may be utilized to

enhance public awareness of air quality concerns and encourage community participation in pollution reduction activities. Integrating mobile air pollution monitoring stations into Addis Ababa's environmental management strategy can help to create a healthier and more sustainable urban environment for its citizens.

Indeed, as knowledge of the health and environmental implications of air pollution continues to expand, there is increasing motivation for cities in developing nations to invest in mobile air pollution monitoring stations as part of larger initiatives to promote public health and environmental sustainability.

As a result, initiatives in Ethiopia to combat air pollution and improve air quality have gained traction in recent years. The government, in collaboration with international organizations and non-governmental groups, has been trying to build and expand air quality monitoring projects, such as the deployment of mobile air pollution monitoring stations.

According to Kife, the Institute has focused on developing technologies that improve the quality and timeliness of weather forecast data. The institution has concentrated on technology that will improve its data collecting and processing capabilities. Hence, the stations are essential for producing high-quality work.

Hence, the institute has designed and implemented projects in collaboration with various stakeholders including international organizations. He said that it is carrying out concrete activities by improving the level of data collection tools, increasing their number, and increasing their effectiveness. In particular, he mentioned that ten air pollution monitoring stations will help not only to combat air pollution but also to raise the level of the city in international forums, he stated.

Accordingly, the institution, in partnership with a range of stakeholders, including foreign organizations, has carried out projects. It is executing tangible tasks by raising the caliber, quantity, and efficacy of data collection instruments. Specifically, he said, "the ten air pollution monitoring stations will help raise the city's profile in international forums in addition to helping combat air pollution."

In general, Ethiopia needs more and more mobile air pollution monitoring stations since they are an invaluable tool for identifying and resolving issues with the quality of the local air and for assisting with initiatives to lessen the negative effects of air pollution on the environment and public health. Therefore, everyone, including stakeholders, should support the installation of mobile air pollution monitoring stations as it is essential to help Addis Ababa mitigate the impacts of climate change.