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West refuses to denounce terrorist TPLF's latest aggression

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

ADDIS ABABA- Although the terrorist TPLF clique has been waging a new round of offensive to Amhara and Afar states and obstructing humanitarian access to Tigray, the West has not yet dared to condemn the group's belligerence, Ethiopia's Ambassador to the United States said.

In a press conference he gave recently, Ambassador Fitsum Arega stated that TPLF capitalized on the decision of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) and allied forces not to advance to Tigray and expanded the conflict into the two neighboring states. Apart from committing heinous crimes against civilian population in Amhara and Afar, the terrorist enterprise also blocked operational land route and hampering the delivery of humanitarian aid to Tigray.

"The West, particularly the U.S., UK, WFP, and others have turned blind eye and deaf ear to TPLF's aggression and are not willing to denounce it despite the fact that they have ample evidence of the raid."

It is evident that from the beginning, the TPLF has been hindering the delivery of



Ambassador Fitsum Arega

humanitarian assistance by kidnapping aid trucks entering Tigray and looting warehouses.

Ambassador Fitsum further noted that if the

West was really concerned about human rights, they would not have chosen to remain silent in the face of such abuses. The

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Ethiopia calls on Diasporas to support peace, dev't

ADDIS ABABA(ENA) - Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen called on Ethiopians in the Diaspora to support peace and development efforts besides resisting undue external pressure.

See Ethiopia calls... Page 3

Star Alliance named Airline Alliance 2022

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA- Star Alliance has been named Airline Alliance of the Year at the Air Transport Awards for the fourth consecutive time.

The Air Transport Awards recognize excellence and innovation in various

See Star Alliance... Page 3

Economists accentuate int'l experience to post-war recovery

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA- Lessons should be drawn from the success various countries that were centerpieces of the Second World War have registered in building the economy through a determined effort of people to rehabilitate Ethiopia's war affected economy, experts in the field said.

Speaking to The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), senior researcher at the Ethiopian Economics Association (EEA), Arega Shumetie (PhD) stated that sharing the experiences of Germany and Japan, which had been severely damaged by WWII, would give a great importance to rebuilding Ethiopia's economy. Several countries are overcoming similar challenges through mobilizing the public's potential and Ethiopia should take lessons from it.

The expert further noted that the Ethiopian economy has also been challenged by soaring inflation, high level of unemployment, forex crunch, debt burden and lack of sustainable growth and other macroeconomic gaps. Ensuring peace and stability is a prerequisite to address these



challenges and the Ethiopian government has to make maximum efforts to this end.

"Sustainable peace avoids threats, motivates investors to invest in various fields, galvanized development, and the like. Therefore, standing together for the common goal, preparing a strategic plan, and inviting charity organizations to actively engage in the issue will bring significant change especially in the rehabilitation

process."

Another economist Negussie Semie (PhD) said for his part that Ethiopia should learn how European countries managed to revive economies in their own efforts in the aftermath of WWII. For example, the U.S. had the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) which supported the reconstruction and development process in 1944. Directing the economy with strong

control and regulation of the government would also bring desirable outcomes.

Encouraging foreign direct investment (FDI), expanding industrial parks and maximizing productivity as well as enhancing the Diaspora's economic involvement constitute major aspects in reviving Ethiopia's war affected economy which is also hard hit by the COVID-19, Negussie remarked.

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News

Campaign begins to reconstruct hotel, tourism destinations

BY TEWODROS KASSA

ADDIS ABABA—Campaign has been started to re-establish hotels and tourism destinations affected by the devilish terrorist TPLF war against the motherland in the northern and northeast part of the country.

Briefing journalists in connection with the campaign, Ethiopian Hotel and related Service Providers Employers' Association President Fitih Woldesenbet (PhD) said that preparations has been finalized to assist and reconstruct the hotels and tourism destinations that are demolished by the terrorist TPLF remnants in the northern part of the country.

As to him, the terrorist group damaged various infrastructures including electricity, telecom, roads, and historical heritages, among others.

“Ethiopian hotel and tourism professionals will march to the areas where the hotel



and tourism destinations are affected by the terrorist group and provide unreserved support to resume services in the short

run. Various stakeholders' engagement is fundamental to re-build the tourism sector's service providers towards harnessing tourism potentials.”

Accordingly, the tourism sector creates numerous jobs to youths and women in the country.

The sector also contributes tangible roles in generating huge foreign currency and supporting the national economy, he said.

Ambassador Hotel CEO and Hotel Consultant Ashenafi Mulugeta for his part said that numerous hotel service experts has shown commitment to provide professional and materials supports in the efforts to reconstruct the damaged hotels and tourism destinations.

So far, more than 280 hotels and tourism experts and 80 hotel managers have already joined the campaign to rehabilitate hotels and tourism destinations, according to him.

Nation not reaping tourism sector benefit as expected: Scholars

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA—Scholars stated that Ethiopia could hardly garner the benefit it should have secured out of myriads of tourism resources tapping the extensive natural and man-made tourist attractions as a result of the north instability.

Addis Ababa University Archeology and Heritage Administration Lecturer Mengistu Gobeze (PhD) said that if Ethiopia can use its domestic tourism, it will be able to create an income-generating capacity equal to that of other oil-producing countries. However, Ethiopia has not yet benefited much out of its numerous tourist attractions and tourism resources.

The experience of other countries is that when a country is in trouble for various reasons, domestic tourism serves as a way out of the problem, but Ethiopia has not done it yet as this approach is not acculturated, as local media reported.

“Tourism has many stakeholders. It needs to create common forums to enable the



Desalegn Mitiku

government, the local community, tour companies and other investors to work together. Besides, it will be possible to earn the expected revenue out of the tourism sector if citizens work hard, Mengistu noted.

Owner of Travel Enterprise Desalegn Mitiku said: “As there are challenges with regard to domestic tourism, we have been discussing them for a long time. However, lasting solution has not yet devised.”

Currently the government is expected to pay



Mengistu Gobeze (PhD)

attention to domestic tourism as it could be used for revitalizing the sector when international tourism slows down. As to him, people have to develop culture of tour in each school, association, and various organizations revitalize the domestic tourism sector and citizens have to be encouraged to know Ethiopia via strengthening clubs.

Desalegn further said that if the existing challenges revolving around the tourism sector are well addressed, it will be possible to reinvigorate the domestic tourism.

Cooperative unions crucial to remedy inflation, job creation

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA—Various Cooperative Unions stated that they have been devising possible solutions to the inflation as they have contributing a lot to bridge consumers with producers, providing farmers with quality life as well as creating conducive market environment.

Oromia Coffee Growers Cooperative Union Head Dejenie Dadi told The Ethiopian Press Agency(EPA) that co-operative unions have been playing a significant role in avoiding brokers and ensuring farmers and consumers' sustainable benefit as reasonable price.

According to the Head, the main aim of their union is to search for a market to help producers and help them supply produces for sale a reasonable price. Besides, they have been playing dual role: exporting the farmers coffee and enabling the nation to generate foreign currency thereby supporting the national economy.

He further added that farmers have been benefiting out of the foreign currency via purchasing corrugated sheets of iron, grinding mill, and other necessary household equipment.

“The union has accomplished some 338 different projects in Oromia state after having a legal personality. The major projects completed in the state include schools, roads, grinding mills, warehouses, health centers,” Dejenie stated.

DamotaWolayeta Farmers' Cooperative Union General Manager, DasenaWana on his part said that their union engages in growing coffee, soya bean, maize, wheat, teff, and the likes with which it provides local community as well as exporting the various items to different countries. Besides, the union is engaged in other social service actions like constructing as well as reconstruction houses for the elderly.

The General Manager said, “The union has a capital of 85 million birr and over 50 permanent employees are making a living working for it at present. It has also annually hired more than 3,000 employees on temporal basis. Simply, the unions are playing a decisive role in creating a number of job opportunities for many citizens and getting unemployed fellow citizens engaged.”

IPDC attracts 104 mln. USD from export

BY MULATU BELACHEW

ADDIS ABABA— Industrial Parks Development Corporation (IPDC) disclosed that it has generated 104 million USD from export operating at Industrial Parks.

Briefing journalist yesterday about its six month performance, IPDC Marketing and Communication Department Head Henok Asrat said that the corporation has achieved 80.7 million USD (3.7 billion birr) just in six month of the budget year regarding import substituting items and a range of manufacturing products.

This year import substitution has surpassed that of the previous year same period by 60

million USD (33 percent), and has surpassed by 20 million USD revenue wise.

As indicated in the performance report, some 33 thousand job opportunities were created in six months of this budget year he said adding that the created job opportunity has shown 52 percent growth compared with last year's the same period.

The IPDC has achieved 23 million USD marketing in six month performance of this budget year through creating market linkages with small and medium manufacturing enterprises as well as helping farmers link with 5 enterprises operating at Industrial parks.

From 177 factory shades some 158 have

been occupied by investors he said adding 158 shades occupied by investors and also 98 shades are entered into operation and manufacturing activities.

IPDC has attracted two investors namely: Elauto Engineering, which manufactures vehicles and DimitriosKampouris over the last six months. Elauto Engineering and DimitriosKampouris have rented 11,000 square meters and 1.89 hectares for factory shades respectively with a view to engaging in investment, it was learnt.

Industrial parks operating in the country including the six month performance have attracted 850 million USD since they went operational.

News

Board to deliver certified accounting, audit service

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDISABABA - Accounting and Auditing Board of Ethiopia (AABE) disclosed its readiness to deliver certified accounting and audit service.

The Board will deliver the service through the Ethiopian Institute of Certified Public Accountants that it will establish soon.

Yesterday, the AABE held its First National Accounting Day Conference to boost awareness, networking and collaboration among stakeholders.

AABE Director-General Hikmet Abdella said on the occasion that the development of accountancy as a profession is a key driver for infrastructure development progress

and enabler for accountability, transparency and sustainable economic growth.

To address shortage of accountants and auditors and to build the capacity of AABE, the board has prepared to set up Ethiopian Institute of Certified Public Accountants. To this end, the board has fulfilled the necessary infrastructure preparation and requirements to launch certified service.

Establishing the institute will enhance professional capacity to commence well certified service in the sector. Also, as the shortage of certified professionals has been challenging the business, adopting certified standards and establishing the institute will improve the service delivery, she elaborated.

National Bank of Ethiopia's Financial

• Holds first Nat'l Accounting Day Conference

Institutions Supervision Vice Governor Solomon Desta said for his part that the proper implementation of accounting and auditing can realize sustainable, fair, and equitable economic development that the country aims to create. To create job opportunities for the growing population and lay the foundation for prosperity, accountants are among the key stakeholders with an irreplaceable role in making the goals of home grown economic reform a reality.

The vice governor further highlighted that accountants are spearheading forces in making homegrown economic plans a reality by creating a sustainable economic environment predictable, easily understandable, and free from unethical

activities and is always accountable to the public.

For the Ministry of Revenues Tax Audit Director, Birhanu Abebe, examining the curriculum system with the current reality of the country will enable it to have ethical and certified accounting and auditing experts. Periodic evaluation of professionals as per a standard would help the professionals build competence to perform standard financial statements.

Moreover, updating the standards, identifying the gaps and equipping professionals is vital to strengthen professional associations and key actors like AABE thereby keeping the growth of the economy in the business dynamism world, Berhanu noted.

Star Alliance named...

categories of the global aviation sector. A panel of aviation industry experts selected Star Alliance in recognition of its exceptional contribution to the future of air travel in a ceremony held on February 10 in Ekali, Greece.

Accepting the accolade, Jeffrey Goh CEO Star Alliance said "StarAlliance is truly honored to be a repeat winner of the prestigious Air TransportAward. Continued recognition of this nature is testament to our innovative spiritand our shared commitment in improving the customer experience. This award encourages us as we collectively emerge from the deepest crisis our industry has ever encountered."

Established in 2012, Air Transport Awards are the only international prizes that

award all the main categories of the air transport industry.

Dr. Kostas Iatrou, President of the Air Transport Awards on his part said "this year we award Star Alliance as the Alliance of the Year for its unwavering commitment to make flight travel a truly customer friendly experience on all levels and phases by adopting innovation, sustainability and working to provide constantly improving digital easy-to-use services. Star Alliance members have once more proven their commitment to the well-being of their passengers by adopting the highest Diamond Health Safety level in Apex Health Safety."

The Star Alliance network was established in 1997 as the first global airline alliance, based on a customer value proposition of global

reach, worldwide recognition and seamless service. Since inception, it has offered the largest and most comprehensive airline network, with a focus on improving customer experience across the Alliance journey.

The member airlines are Aegean Airlines, Air Canada, Air China, Air India, Air New Zealand, ANA, Asiana Airlines, Austrian, Avianca, Brussels Airlines, Copa Airlines, Croatia Airlines, Egypt Air, Ethiopian Airlines, EVA Air, LOT Polish Airlines, Lufthansa, Scandinavian Airlines, Shenzhen Airlines, Singapore Airlines, South African Airways, Swiss, TAP Air Portugal, THAI, Turkish Airlines, and United. Overall, the Star Alliance network currently offers more than 12,000 daily flights to almost 1,300 airports in 197 countries.

West refuses to denounce...

criminal faction is still falsely accusing the Ethiopian government and trying to gain the attention of the international community. "False allegations are part of TPLF's longstanding deceiving propaganda."

Despite all these challenges, the federal government is still trying to deliver aid to the Tigray state, he emphasized.

Ethiopia calls on Diasporas...

Demeke made the call during his meeting with members of the U.S based 'Peace and Unity Taskforce' yesterday in his office, according to Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Peace and Unity Taskforce is a group that contributed a lot to coordinating and leading the #NoMore movement across North America.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister said solidarity among Ethiopians is crucial to ensure lasting peace and development in Ethiopia.

He recalled how some corners in the international community had colluded with destabilizes at the home front, threatening the peace and stability of the country.

However, he said Ethiopians, people of Ethiopian origin, and friends of Ethiopia played pivotal roles in curbing such attempts and resisting undue external pressures gathered under the umbrella of the #NoMore Movement.



Demeke underlined the immediate and long-lasting benefits of creating solidarity among Ethiopians in defending the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country.

In this regard, he appreciated all the efforts of Ethiopians in the Diaspora, including the Taskforce, exerted to protect the interests of Ethiopia.

He finally underscored the need to support the ongoing efforts of the Ethiopian government in building lasting peace and development in the country.

Opinion

Geo-Parks and Geo-Tourism

BY GETACHEW MINAS

In Ethiopia, one of the tourist attractions is the Danakil Depression which is located in the northern part of the Afar crevice or crack. It is a unique geothermal system which is currently receiving attention by researchers. Despite its extreme climate, it is now being visited by tourists due to the recent improvement of infrastructure by the Ethiopian government. Previous studies focused on the general geological description, the economic exploitation of potash reserves and interpretation of the complex hydrothermal processes. Continuing monitoring of geothermal activity has not yet been carried out, and the value of local geo-heritage has not accompanied the increased interest of tourists. Studies revealed the unique geological environment and geo-heritage significance of Dallol and Danakil.

A remote sensing campaign has been done to provide information on improving the resilience of visitors through interpreted monthly hazard maps and on following up the changes of geothermal activity. The first geo-heritage assessment of the region was carried out along with a comparative analysis of the geo-touristic development potential of the area. With the input of the assessment, a preliminary geo-heritage management plan was created for practical consideration by stakeholders. A geo-conservation and geo-tourism development, as well as a resilience system of this peculiar area has inspired tourism.

Volcanically active areas are often powerful tourist attractions. When studying these sites for geo-heritage and geo-tourism, natural “risks” should be carefully considered. Lesson should be learnt from the tourist disasters in other parts of the world. It is cautioned that volcanoes and hydrothermal systems should “only” be visited with extreme care and with a high degree of advanced planning. In Ethiopia, a holistic approach is useful to determine in advance about the geo-heritage and geo-hazard resilience at Dallol and other sites. As a first step, studies should identify and monitor hazards, then move on to inventorying and assessment of geo-sites. Finally, researchers take into account resilience to geo-hazards and the global importance of the geo-heritage.

Following the assessment of the geothermal activity at Dallol, the next step is to study the adjacent Black Mountain, where geo-heritage features change frequently. Studies show satellite images that give a pattern of periodic activities, from which a series of hazard maps could be made. These images could be used to improve the “resilience” of visitors to the area by providing more up-to-date information and increasing awareness of risks.

Following these methods, the first preliminary geo-site assessment of northern Danakil has been made. These helped to measure the touristic potential

of the sites. Moreover, combining this potential, the geo-heritage assessment and a management plan could be adopted and modified to protect the site and the visitors thereby contributing to sustainable development of the area.

Geo-heritage and geo-conservation is a multi-disciplinary approach and a new domain in geosciences, which has been evolving continuously. Historical records indicate that there have been early initiatives traceable back to the nineteenth century that gave recognition to the Danakil depression. International recognition was widely fostered by the formation of the “geo-parks” movement that gave recognition to the area. However, the area is still lagging behind in biodiversity and cultural heritage management, and the terms used in geo-heritage are scarcely mentioned in key documents. The area remains resilient to hazards that occurred repeatedly.

Resilience is the ability of an area or community or society to resist hazards and absorb, accommodate to and recover from its effects in a timely and efficient manner. This includes the preservation and restoration of the basic and essential structures and functions.

The role of geo-heritage in the improvement of resilience and risk management is facilitated by raising awareness through educational and training activities. Areas of outstanding geo-heritage are often exposed to natural hazards, and visitors can be highly vulnerable to the area. Human activities such as tourism or exploitation of resources are also a hazard to geo-heritage areas. The potential risks of hazard and vulnerability call for the “integration” of risk management into geo-conservation strategies.

Mount Dallol is situated in the Danakil Depression, which is part of the East African Rift System, spanning from Mozambique to the Arabian Peninsula. The Afar Depression, also known as the Afar Triangle, is a globally renowned example of continental rifting, and the inception of oceanic crust formation, forming a triple junction at the intersection of the Gulf of Aden, the Red Sea and the Main Ethiopian Rift. The Danakil Depression itself could be considered the northern section of the Afar Depression, covering a roughly triangular shaped area.

Dallol is a complex, uplifted, volcanic dome structure, rising above the surrounding salt area. It has been regularly interpreted as a volcano due to its crater-like structure. The geothermal activity and the resulting landforms resemble volcanic features. A general consensus about the exact evolution and framework of the Dallol dome has not been reached yet. Its focal structure is like a bowl, surrounded by a rim higher than the deepest part of the bowl. The structure might, therefore, have been formed by the gentle flexing of salt strata. The floor is generally flat, and the salt layers suggest lake formation, with changing structures of geothermal ponds.

Physiological features of Dallol show salt

pinnacles of the canyon area. The site of the salt pillars is a circular manifestation of the acidic ponds or brine pool, water which is strongly impregnated with salt. There are structures that are presented in active or inactive form at Dallol; these are pillars, circular manifestations and acid lakes. The pillars can be several meters high and wide, often found in groups, and are most likely generated by boiling flows, at the top of the structure. Circular manifestations range from several meters to a hundred meters in diameter, also controlled by intense flows and deposits in circular forms. Acid lakes are controlled by the mixture of groundwater and geothermal flows. Their extent and water level could change frequently, and the drastic color changes from yellow to green- to red.

The Black Mountain, just south-southwest of Dallol, is an area of salt, geothermal manifestations and saline flows. The feature that gives its name to the site is a black dome, created by salt flows. It acquires its black color from the abundant salt. The central black dome is a constantly changing area with regular super-saline outflows which precipitate a magnesium-chloride mineral. Most of the geothermal features are concentrated at Dallol and Black Mountain.

The TPLF as a ruling junta had exploited the saline segment that was dominated by salt canyons and a series of pinnacles, showing salt, gypsum and clay. The salt and gypsum belt was a major source of income for the junta that had placed its functionaries to operate it. The junta had been attracted by the salt ditches observable in the zone that formed a series of ridges and depressions with rare basalts.

In spite of the extreme climate of the region, the Danakil Depression is inhabited, in part due to its economic potential. Its salt layers have been extracted by the local Afar people and the highlander Tigray people by traditional methods. They engaged in quarrying with sticks and axes, carving the rectangular tiles of salt before transporting them with camels and donkeys to the market.

In the last three decades, the TPLF junta had monopolized the whole Dallol zone to extract salt and market it. The junta had operated as a monopoly engaging its firms in the extraction, packing and transporting of salt to the different regions of Ethiopia. It had virtually excluded salt extracting operators from the area. As a local colonizer, the junta had just repeated what the Italian colonizers had done earlier. They had invaded the Dallol zone to exploit its natural resources.

In earlier times, Italy tried to colonize the Danakil Depression through a number of unsuccessful expeditions. It only succeeded along the Red Sea shoreline and the northern segment of Danakil. Europeans had economic interest in most of the depression, including Dallol. Studies show that the Italian firms had started the extraction of potash, first transporting it by camel and then along a newly constructed railway from Dallol to

the port. Studies report that following some intense mining, potash extraction ceased due to reduced demand and “political” tensions between Ethiopia and Italy. Based on a study, a commercial potash reserve was discovered, and preparations for industrial extraction were started. But after encountering numerous “flooding” events in the mine works, the operation ceased.

Remains of the blocks of Dallol salt are slowly falling apart. Extraction of materials at the site, and more widely in Danakil, was also significantly curtailed by socio-economic problems and political turbulence affecting Ethiopia. The constant clashes between Afar revolutionary movements and the TPLF authorities had affected the extraction process. The movement was against the unfair exploitation of resources by the junta. Political tensions, climatic extremes, and isolation in terms of infrastructure meant that the Danakil remains without sufficient attention. Moreover, despite the importance of the economic resources of potash, the number of research on Dallol and Danakil was very limited to a few key areas. Actual exploitation of the potash mines would require the reign of peace among interested parties.

Permanently installed instruments and facilities for long-term monitoring of gas and water or thermal changes, were absolutely necessary, but they had been missing at Dallol. Most of the studies have relied on “limited” field visits and reports of economic and geological reconnaissance. The TPLF junta had not encouraged basic monitoring of the Dallol geothermal activity and landscape changes. Its interest had only been extraction of available potash and other resources for sale. It could have engaged field-reconnaissance missions and measurements that could have provided a partial overview of long-term processes and changes. The junta, however, had been interested in the growing number of visitors from whom it could have secured foreign exchange. It had never cared about the potential vulnerability of tourists considering the hazard and risk in the area.

Geo-tourism is a major source of income for Ethiopia. Firms engaged in tourism sector, including the private tour operators, may generate employment and income for the unemployed youth and other job-seekers. But, geo-tourism requires the development of geo-parks and infrastructure. These parks have to be identified and developed with economic infrastructure including roads and hotels that are ready to serve tourists.

The origin of tourists could be both foreign and local that requires institutions for coordinating geo-parks and geo-tourism in the Danakil Depression. This may help generate employment and foreign exchange for the country.

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

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Editorial

“Seeing is believing,” call a spade a spade to stave off atavistic frenzy

“Seeing is believing,” goes the famous adage.

The aforementioned adage is a wisdom-encapsulated saying used to ram home when someone sees for oneself the truth of the occurrence of a quite strange thing one could no longer harbor doubt to voice one’s stance about the veracity of the case in point.

Because, armed with ample and tangible information one will have a firsthand knowledge not to sit on the horns of a dilemma. Dispelling doubt, one could be judgmental with a square shoulder either to expose or condemn say atrocities.

Armed with the truth, coming out from the confines of diplomatic niceties, one will be prodded by one’s conscience to lay bare the grim truth cognizant that “a justice delayed is a justice denied.” Withholding the truth one discovered is tantamount to condoning the offender and indirectly partaking in the crime.

If the offender or mourning-killer is a congenital liar born head-to-toe to indulge in a killing-and-looting spree and to scapegoat its felonies, condoning its crimes on the part of observers, for want of enough information or otherwise, helps it to work itself into a frenzy of atavism. Such crime by omission further exacerbates the plight of the victim.

Probably for hidden mutual benefit or diplomatic decorum, expressing the problem in equal tone while addressing the victim and the victimizer damages the moral of the victim and emboldens the perpetrator of the crime. The latter, who by evil luck evaded being labeled brutal, even go to the extent of plunging into unheard of misdemeanors.

Take for instance what Terrorist TPLF troops have been doing since they were dislodged from power by popular unrest shunned ruthless vampires. Contravening the rules of military engagement, TPLF was setting schools and universities ablaze with fire with a special focus on record offices, registrars and laboratories. It was reducing hospitals, health centers and pharmacies into rubbles after it looted hard-found medicaments, medical equipment and pharmaceuticals. It made garrison out of churches and mosques as its founders utter “We do not know God. It is God that knows us!” It pillaged UNESCO -recognized religious relics. Its troops raped elderly nuns to trample on sacred religious values. Child

girls suffered the same in front of family members, while wives before husbands by way of dealing a mental shock to the society. Its troops did so to execute the diktat of crazy leaders all-out to create moral decadence and to hack social fabrics thereby to promote submissiveness and individualism. Terrorist TPLF does everything to make disorder the order of the day. Even heads of cattle especially cows could not evade the hatred boon.

Genocide was top on TPLF’s destructive spree as largely witnessed in Maikadra. It was burying victims in residential houses to scare off other family members from their home and abode as such a thing is divorced from their traditions. Disgustingly its troops were leaving human refuse on plates and beds. Dismantling key machineries of industries TPLF was ferrying to Tigray not only to benefit itself but also to economically weaken the Amhara and Afar states. It did the same on harvests. It has openly declared that it would go even to hell to meet its objective of dismantling Ethiopia. That is why it is dovetailing with devil worshipers that facilitate to it dishonest media houses that in their turn worship money.

Citizens could not wrap their mind around how could such crimes unfold in time-old God-fearing and religious Ethiopia by the bird-brained that developed the sentiment of dissension, which was not there a century back trampling on the nationalist feeling of their forefathers as evidenced by the heroic Alula and King Yohannes IV.

Worst of all, displacing and bleeding dry victims, terrorist TPLF was clamoring for help as if it itself was the victim. What have you?

Those who came here for the 35th African Summit and visited victims have expressed their concern. UN Deputy Secretary General Amina Mohammed said “the biggest losers of this conflict are the women and children.” There has to be an immediate end to sexual and gender-based violence, among other atrocities, and cited the need for comprehensive physical and mental health support. “It takes a lifetime to rebuild the trust” and “society’s fabric”, to make up for the losses which have been sustained. **Dr. Annette Weber, European Union Special Representative for the Horn of Africa** and **Mr. Obasanjo** expressed the same feelings.

It is high time to call a spade a spade.

Opinion

Unity, multilateralism diplomacy to benefit from the international system

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Many agree that the Berlin Conference, which was held in 1885, has shaped and affected Africa’s politics, socio economy and geography. Further, it has had a meaningful impact in the continents’ diplomacy in the post-colonial period.

The conference was also believed to be a form of multilateral diplomacy. European colonial powers, in the conference, had articulated their interest to establish the rules for the conquest and partition of Africa.

Since then, in international interstate relations, multilateralism refers to an alliance of multiple countries pursuing a common goal. It is also a process of organizing relations between groups of three or more states. Multilateral diplomacy requires collaboration on issues such as economic development, international security, global health, human rights, and environmental issues.

Hence, multilateral diplomacy is imperative, as the practice of involving more than two nations or parties in achieving diplomatic solutions to supranational problems, and used to loosen the constant political stresses and tensions that run through bilateral diplomacy.

Taking the importance of multilateralism relations into account, currently, Africa is requiring multilateral diplomacy to benefit from the international political, economic, and social aspects. This has been briefly observed during the 35th Ordinary Session of the African Union (AU) meeting last week.

The incoming African Union (AU)

Chairperson and Senegalese President Macky Sall said that the continent is open to forging a mutually-beneficial partnership that respects its development ambition and choice of the people with the rest of the world.

This is because Africa will not allow others to benefit at the expense of its people. Hence, ensuring the development and economic prosperity of Africa has to be the main priorities of the continent.

Moreover, applying for the reformation of the international economic and financial regime, alleviating poor financing system, addressing incompetency of investments, and building partnerships to modernize Africa’s financial system is a key area to be advocated, Sall noted.

As to him, Africa needs the real practice of multilateralism which ensures the transparency and accountability of the world political and economic systems to make sure the development of the continent.

Despite the political and economic challenges, identifying major priority areas and working for the realization of the objectives are central aspects of multilateral diplomacy. Articulating the objectives not only gives road maps to AU member states, but also paves the way to fight any external pressures which were observed during the anti-colonialism movements.

The outgoing AU Chair and Congolese President Felix Tshisekedi said that there have been external pressures last year. Nevertheless, efforts that have been made to prevent external interference by member states were fruitful and needed to be consolidated in the future.

Along with Multilateral diplomacy, in fact, unity is very essential to be heard in the international world stages and fora since the application of multilateralism diplomacy highly requires unity and commitment. Ethiopian Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed in his part noted that “our Union has committed to undertake ambitious plans designed to transform our continent and create the Africa We Want. We want a prosperous Africa based on sustainable and equitable development.”

Additionally, “we want a politically united continent that aspires to fulfill the ideals of Pan Africanism and the vision of an African Renaissance. Africa’s voice on the world stage needs to be heard loud and clear. Africa must also be represented on important international bodies, he added.

Studies have shown that Africa has diversified identities, cultures, languages, ways of living, and so on. They also preach to the world the difficulties of unity and togetherness of Africans. The solidarity and unity, as a group or class that produces or, is based on shared of interests, objectives, and standards, has been disseminated as a challenging task in the continent which always is not true.

According to Ethiopian Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed, “The greatest lesson that Ethiopia has learned over the past year is that, without the solidarity of African brothers and sisters, our existence as a nation would have been at great risk. This affirms the wisdom of our forefathers and foremothers in their dream of Pan Africanism. The old saying is true. United we stand, divided we fall. Today, we stand proud and tall as Africans in the

shadow of those who struggled to liberate and unite Africa. Our steadfast unity is the anchor and foundation of our Agenda 2063”.

Africa needs togetherness and multilateralism for the fundamental and vital issues to the life of the Africans to ensure both inside and outside objectives and goals. As stated by Sall, Africa needs unity to ensure intra-trade relations, funding development and infrastructures, medical and pharmaceutical sovereignty, financing the organ, energy transformation which could help industrialization and universal access to electricity.

“Focusing on unity and multilateralism diplomacy, therefore, will support Africa to strengthen and renew the ever-existing relations, with the China-Africa, Turkey-Africa, Africa with EU, Japan, Russia, the Arab world, the USA, and so on, in a win-win situation for the development of the continent”, he explained.

Currently, just like the Berlin conference, Africans have understood the value of solidarity and multilateralism diplomacy to echo continental needs that bring sustainability in international relations, especially international economic relations, the peaceful coexistence of all members of the international community, equal partnerships, and the equitable sharing of benefits and burdens.

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

Art & Culture

How lockdown paves way for string artist, diaspora home coming conjoin with exposures

BY HAFTU GEBREZGABIER

Kalkidan Moges, the preparatory completed emerging String Artist was born and raised up some 347 kilometers (216 miles) far from the capital Addis Ababa in the eastern part of the country, in the City Government of Dire Dawa.

“I came here to the heart of Addis Ababa representing my town,” Kalkidan said during an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald* at the Sheger Square here in Addis Ababa when she was showcasing her art works, her painting and art products coined in a beautiful color in a pavilion adjacent to the VIPs seat including the guest of honor’s, Minister of the Culture and Sports Kejella Mardassa, regional culture and tourism bureau heads, representatives of regional states and other dignitaries.

In Dire Dawa, I had no or very limited access and small stages to showcase art works and products. However, even in very small gatherings and in collaboration with the Dire Dawa Culture and Tourism Bureau, I have been reaching the community through my art works to the limited extent.

I have been working in house and I have been in school at the same time so far. My art work is called string art, which is most recent kind of art in our nation and it is not among the most common branches of art. It is an art using the thread and wood products or can be put at a wall. It is amazing art for decorating home furniture, walls, and other products.

Currently, my work has been transferred to a wall decor level. I started this kind of art work during the corona virus lock down at home. The stay at home and lock down paved me to boost my art works from painting, to an art on the wood up the current level of becoming ideal string artist,



said Kalkidan.

Kalkidan, a young student waiting to join university or college level education is dreaming to be a well-known string artist. When I cast to put the universal features of rainbow in to something visible art work, the powerful feeling with regard to the power of cross upon the Christian faithful up to the beauty of peacock and the Ethiopian map adding Kalkidan, she went further on to explain that such kinds of abstracts can be all put in to such an attractive string art. That is what I did and presented to our Diaspora communities during the grand home coming art, culture and sports exhibition inside the Sheger Park.

Explaining about the illustrations concerning the Ethiopian map, she rose up the product that has been put on the wooden string art work. During the interview, Kalkidan stated that it (her string art work) stands for the message that Ethiopian time, prosperity, brightness and happiness is coming soon.

For my art works, I am using the MDF wood. It is a bit expensive wood product. In addition there are nails, thread and color/ink. I am selling the art works for a price that I thought is very fair which is Birr 1500 (approximately \$ 31).

Confident and optimist about the growing potential of the sector, Kalkidan noted that stages and programs like that of the grand home coming of the diaspora and the



Left to right; Minster Kejela Mardassa, Ambassador Mesfin Chernet and other dignataries attending the reent culture and sports festival at sheger Square

following art, culture and sports festival at the Sheger Square are promising efforts by the pertinent bodies to support junior artists like her to get access to the larger community and to increase exposures.

Another participant of the festival from the town of Adama, Addisu Geremew for his part has been selling both traditional and modern clothes imported from different parts of the world and mostly from China. However, Addisu has currently turned his face towards entirely investing in the manufacturing and distribution of the Ethiopian cultural and traditional closes for different purposes.

According to Addisu, the locally produced closes are preferable for a very clear reason. They fit for various national and international events and they look attractive as they are made purposefully for such events in order to represent not only beauty but also cultural values. They are also affordable compared to their counterparts imported from abroad.

Participating in such a grand event is important for at least two things, according to Addisu, the first one is cultural exchange. “I am looking at the various cultural delegates drawn from all nations and nationalities in the country. This is a great opportunity for me to share my cultural values and know several cultures and traditions from fellow brothers and sisters who are taking part in the festival. We are sharing addresses so that



Photo:- Eyob Tefferi

Emerging string Artist Kalkidan Moges

we can work in partnership. This is a great opportunity for me to realize my dream in the sector and expand my business through reaching out all the values, cultures and traditions in Ethiopia.”

The second advantage according to Addisu is benefiting in terms of business from selling the products he has, to the participants coming from the diaspora and other parts of the country.

String art is a technique used by artists for the creation of abstracted images which are composed of straight lines of strings tensioned between pins distributed on a frame. Together the strings fuse to a perceptible image. Traditionally, artists craft such images manually in a highly sophisticated and tedious design process. Also This branch of art is also known as thread art. The origins of string art go back to the 19th c, when English woman, Mary Everest Boole used a form of string art called “curve stitching” to help teach children mathematics, according to literatures.

Hurry Up!

BY MENGESHA AMARE

For too many years,
You have been padding,
Alluvial loam,
From highlands, upper site,
Let me leave the issue,
Whether you are wrong or right?
Why did you make your home dark?
Others affluent, confident and bright,
Hurry up! Thank you!
You are opening your sight,
And feeling your mother’s,
A century plus fight,
Always remember,
The journey you have been trekking,
Leaving your beloved enjoy crying,
Rudimentarily lyric reciting,
Country’s gift, benediction,
Coupled with rhythms and songs of mere friction,
As a boon, not bane and at last fine,
With no benefit, devoid of gain,
Hoping time to come,
To burglarize pitfalls, to subvert the jam,
Yes, seconds, minutes, hours and day,
Counting September, January...to June or May,
You made us all step brothers, step sisters,

Being envy of others,
Getting changed, developed skyrocketed,
Using your bounties,
Out of the 86% plus graciousness,
In the form of run off, in terms of floods,
Who told you about that wrong deed?
To take sacred way,
And change your mind,
Hurry Up! It’s pretty good,
Thanks to time,
Thanks to leadership,
A committed, responsible one,
Amalgamating the flesh,
With the bone,
You have been readied,
To compensate,
The degraded moral, tattered psychology,
The lost asset,
Ethiopia can breathe, speak louder,
With a renewed, lung, kidney and bladder,
To equate itself with counterparts,
Even beyond,
As it has taken lucrative Boulevard,
Because of you, who resides at Guba,
Originated from Sekela,
To help hop from shabby hut to modern villa,
Determined to declare Ethiopia’s freedom,

Seeing off shackles, opening bright fate over gloom,
#No More dependency, bye imposition,
My mother has taken the right position,
Again No more impoverishment,
Chao deprivation,
Substituted with yield, satisfying production,
Roaring out of the blue,
Has been made history as you become,
Emblem of independence, firm public glue,
Started to be eternal source of pride,
Well accredited bright guide,
Most of your sons and daughters,
Have been in a state of grievance,
Since they could hardly observe you,
Keeping your words, your promise,
Some have regarded you their blood drop,
When it comes to us they see it as trivial rope,
Incredible! Who made this so,
Enough! Enough!
Ethiopians have cried over it,
As they lacked light and heat,
It has been roaring at vicinity,
Not knowing it is guilty,
Mothers being muffed with smoke,
Perceived it flatter at them,
Even sometimes mock,
Singers have sung about it,

Out of the blue saluted it,
But time helped them change their tone,
As if they have worn a throne,
Yes, time has been a true judge,
Ethiopia started to leave the grudge,
If you are operational in full swing,
The nation would add global cling,
Economically, politically rises,
And benefit all riparian zones,
Hurry Up! Hurry Up!
Above all the marginalized start to benefit,
As they can convert darkness into light,
Know that this is just, fair and right,
As a person won’t beg being affluent,
Hurry up! Hurry up!
Time is running ahead of us,
Go! Go! And embrace,
Those who would like cooperation and peace,
Grow around industrial parks as tree,
Make your mother poverty free,
And again make history,
Acknowledging impact of time, peace,
As it always judges!
You yourself along with all Ethiopians,
Congratulation!
Let’s meet at inauguration!
Hurry Up! All the time go up!

Law & Politics

Accepting the unvarnished truth surfacing in Afar: Call of urgency

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

Notwithstanding the fact that the government of Ethiopia has been pulling out all the stops to restore peace in the northern part of the country in a peaceful atmosphere, the terrorist TPLF group has continued perpetrating atrocities with impunity in the Afar region. As the group is not ready for peace and has never drawn lessons from past mistakes, it has been playing a part in extreme looting, property destruction, and what have you.

Apart from killing thousands of innocent civilians, the terrorist group has ended up displacing thousands of people in the Afar region. As a matter of fact, the invasion of the terrorist group has been accompanied by extreme looting and property destruction. On the basis thereof, this has been creating a manmade humanitarian crisis mainly disregarded by the inappropriately named media outlets and other stakeholders.

Following the Ethiopian government's unilateral ceasefire decision, the terrorist TPLF group has been mystifying the broader international community as if it is determined to a non-violent resolution. However, the group has been launching an intensified offensive in various parts of the Afar region and making an incalculable harm happen. Disappointedly, as a consequence of the unrelenting atrocities of the terrorist group, the number of displaced people in the Afar region has dramatically been on the way up.

Despite the terrorist TPLF group's evil deeds, the international community has been giving the cold shoulder to the unvarnished truth surfacing in the region. By choosing silence, the groups have proven their discrimination and unfairness.

In a similar vein, the terrorist TPLF group has been sending civilian fighters into Afar region with the purpose of assaulting and ransacking the possessions of the community. As a matter of fact, since the onset of the law enforcement operation, the so-called international media outlets, have been taking sides with the terrorist TPLF group turning a deaf ear to the existing reality on the ground in Ethiopia. This is a clear manifestation of their partisan stance.

As usual, some media outlets move heaven and earth to put the terrorist group into power and camouflage the carnages, plundering, and other actions in violations of law.

In recent times, on the subject of the issue, Afar People Party head Mussa Adem, stated that the terrorist TPLF has continued blocking humanitarian aid routes, attacking innocent civilians in the Afar region using heavy artillery.

In a telephone conversation with local media, Afar People Party Head said the terrorist group has reinvaded Megale, Abala, and its environs, blocked humanitarian aid routes towards Tigray state merely to employ hunger and social chaos as war.

He went on noting that the terrorist TPLF group remnants have been seriously



one of the severe destructions caused by the terrorist group

attacking innocent civilians in Afar, Abala, and others making use of heavy firearms. On top of that, the terrorist TPLF group is highly waging war in Afar and Amhara states merely to make Ethiopia weak and hold its journey towards development and prosperity.

He said, "The people of Tigray and Afar regions have had long-lasting relations, fraternity, and inestimable neighborhood. However, the terrorist group is simply running to quench its power thirst and hit the ill-intended mission it has developed for years, which is impossible and unacceptable at all."

"As the terrorist leftovers have blocked the route to Tigray at Afar border, the humanitarian aid is not right now delivered to northern Afar let alone to Tigray region. This is a clear exhibition of the Terrorist group's irresponsibility and deep-rooted hostility against its people," he added.

The international media have even witnessed what is really happening in the country by perpetrated the terrorist group, and start denouncing its evil deeds. For instance, citing regional administration's serious complaint over TPLF's wrong deed, TRTWORLD recently stated that more than 300,000 people have been displaced by warfare in Ethiopia's Afar region since December.

In an article titled, "Ethiopia blames TPLF for Afar region 'massacres', 300,000 displacements, Tigray rebels massacred innocent people, looted and destroyed various institutions," Afar administration says, while the UN calls for end to fighting which it says is blocking aid to neighboring Tigray region.

Officials in the Afar region further said in a certain statement that the Tigray People's Liberation Front (or TPLF) had intensively invaded the region.

"The terrorist group has massacred innocent people, looted and destroyed various institutions, and displaced more than 300,000 innocent people," the statement cited.

As learnt from the statement, Tigrayan rebels were advancing towards a checkpoint at Serdo, on the highway that links landlocked Ethiopia to Djibouti, the region's main port. Fighting was raging in five districts and in the town of Abala.

The United Nations has said that the fighting in Afar was blocking the delivery of food to neighboring Tigray region, where several hundred thousand people are living in famine conditions.

"People are fleeing in absolute fear in all directions," said an aid worker in Afar, who asked not to be named. The aid worker told that one of her colleagues had been killed in the fighting and two were missing.

In the present climate, the evil deeds of the terrorist TPLF group have been coming to light on the grounds that a number of people have been paying homage to the conflict affected areas. Bringing the evil deeds of the terrorist group into the light helps the international community to know more about the destruction, and stand by the side of the victims at the earliest possible time.

Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy-Secretary General of the United Nations (UN) is one among many that managed to pay a visit to the widespread destruction that took place in the war torn states such as Afar.

In a media briefing, the deputy secretary-general said, "I was in the field visiting with the AU special envoy to see the effect of the war in the war-torn states. I have seen the tragedy of the conflict and the problem in Ethiopia has been causing a serious humanitarian crisis, particularly to women, and children.

As ENA reported earlier attributing the Deputy-Secretary General of the United Nations (UN), Amina J. Mohammed, the UN will provide the necessary humanitarian support to people displaced in Afar region of Ethiopia.

During the occasion, the UN Deputy Secretary-General said the problem

in Ethiopia has been causing serious humanitarian crisis, particularly claiming the lives of women, children and elders. She has also affirmed UN's readiness to provide the necessary humanitarian support to the people displaced due to the conflict and other related challenges.

President Sahlework Zewde, on her part said that the conflict had claimed the lives of several innocent people including women and children appreciating the people of Afar for the courage they demonstrated to defend the sovereignty of Ethiopia.

The Chief Administrator of Afar Region, Awol Arba said the existing partnership with the UN has been contributing a lot to the development and expansion of social infrastructures in the region. However, he pointed out that the livelihood of the people in the region has now been worsening due to the invasion of the terrorist TPLF as the group is engaged in killing and attacking innocent people and animals.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Demeke Mekonnen, received in his office the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Amina J. Mohammed, and discussed the current situation in the country. She said her recent visits to the Amhara and Tigray regions helped her see the cost of the conflict on human lives and property, according to information obtained from MoFA.

Underlining the need to give proper attention to rehabilitation efforts in areas affected by the conflict, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations further appreciated the ongoing peace initiatives in the country. She has also appreciated the Ethiopian government's commitment to engage with the United Nations while passing through difficult times.

Generally, the international community is expected to stretch helping hands well comprehending the reality on the ground in Ethiopia in general and in Afar state in particular as acting accordingly is a call of urgency, indeed.

Ethiopia is a mosaic of culture

- Artist Girma Bulti

BY GIRMACHEW GASHAW

Artist Girma Bulti was born and raised in Abomssa, a town in the Arsi Zone of Oromia State. After completing primary school at his home town he attended secondary school at Abiyot Kirs High school in Addis Ababa. Girma joined the school of fine arts at Addis Ababa University and received a Bachelor of Arts. He also studied Musicology and earned a second degree from the same institution.

Right after graduation, Girma served his country in different positions. To list some, art, design and audiovisual department at the Municipality Office, audiovisual team leader at Information Office of Addis Ababa, culture researcher and supervisor at Addis Ababa Culture and Tourism Bureau, design and audiovisual department head at Children and Youth Theater.

Currently, Girma is working in the Ethiopia National Museum as an Art Curator. Apart from toiling various creative artworks, he is also known for writing and publishing biographies of Young and Elderly artists.

He has displayed art exhibitions individually and in a group with other artists. The artworks of Girma predominantly focus on the culture and history of Ethiopia. He is now due to display his 32nd art exhibition in Addis Ababa.

Previously, he demonstrated his works on local and international platforms. The Ethiopia Herald had a short stay with Artist Girma Bulti and discussed a range of issues directly or indirectly connected with the painting and its socioeconomic impact. Have a nice read.

Could you tell me about your style of painting? Do you adhere to the Ethiopian traditional painting style and technique, a modern one or a combination of the two? What is your contribution to perpetuating Ethiopia's traditional painting techniques?

Ethiopia has its own traditions with regard to art, especially paintings. The country is known for its two-dimensional painting techniques. When Gonder served as the capital of Ethiopia, the two-dimensional painting technique reached its peak. This clearly stipulated that we have had our own painting techniques since ancient times. During that time the two-dimensional paintings, which are not related to forms but focused on messages, were done by Ethiopian artists alone. As it is based on the bible history and shows a message without following various techniques such as background, foreground forms, distance, perspective, brightness, shadow, boldness etc. The message was done by mixing a range of colours. These colours are presented preserving their tone and holding messages.

When we come up with modern art, Ethiopia's trade exchange with various countries including that of the Portuguese was a cause for painters to enter Ethiopia. This window of opportunity paved the way for local and international painters to work in unison. Through time, our painters learnt some and were able to transform themselves from the two-dimensional to the three-dimensional painting technique. Then, -ism was introduced to our country.

Afterwards, Realism came into being. Realism in the arts is generally the attempt to represent subject matter truthfully, without artificiality and avoiding speculative fiction and supernatural elements. In fact, this is progress. When we transform from traditional to modern art, there are such sorts of paintings and subsequent photography. Following the modern time,

offering training is believed to bestow for those who have a talent and tendency to grow the genre.

The return of Ethiopian painters who drew lessons from abroad was a window of opportunity to open up a school of fine arts. This is leapfrogging the modern paintings. Modern painting (professionalism) was introduced at that time even though some artists tried their best to apply modern technology on their own.

The cornerstone of painting is realistic art next to drawing. After graduation, one can develop his own -ism. Following my talent, I received training in the School of Fine Arts and searched my own within modern painting techniques. Even if I have no -ism, as per my feeling and following Ethiopian colour, I tried to apply a combination of what I learnt from art school adding my own creativity. My painting techniques are neither abstract nor realistic but play in the middle of the two.

Neocolonialism is a present challenge for the African continent. Would you say something about the contribution of painters in promoting pan-Africanism?

Painting is equivalent to literature. There is a way of expressing neocolonialism showing how the white people oppressed even sold the black people like any commodity. The sacrifices the black people paid for centuries were clearly registered in literature. When we come to our profession, neocolonialism sentiment has been expressed in painting, sculpture, and modern paintings as well. The African continent has suitable climatic conditions for paintings. Most of the time



painters who are born in colourful countries can explain their environs better than the ones residing in colourless states. If you go to icy countries, like Russia, you cannot find a variety of colours. Inversely, when you come to Africa, you encounter a number of colours. What makes our tradition peculiar is, there are African mask techniques. These are paintings done together with accessories and installation. This mixed art makes African painting unique.

Presently African art is directly connected with a freedom that defies neocolonialism sentiment. Such sorts of tasks are boldly observed in visual arts and grab the attention of the audience. Even white people have a desire to admire and buy such artwork. Gebre Kristos Desta, Afework Tekle, Lemma Guya are among the famous Ethiopian painters who have left their fingerprinting in this regard. Therefore, painting expresses culture and history this way.

Why do you think that African art including painting is not developed as

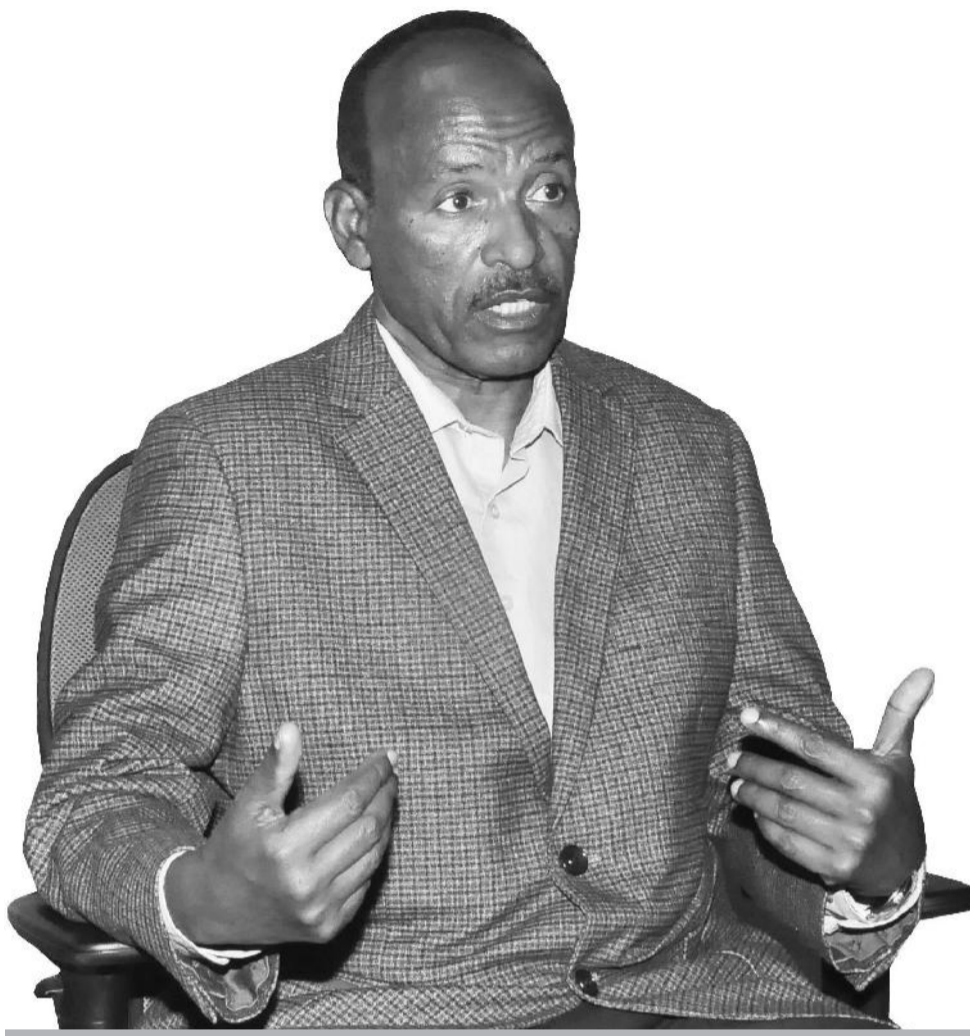
per the level it required? What do you suggest as a professional?

It is difficult to conclude that African art has developed to the extent it should. We still have to do a lot of jobs ahead. For this to happen, first, there should be a line that assists Africans to know each other. An artist in one corner of the continent should meet others so as to create huge artistic works. There are few artists who tried to communicate with others individually. This may lay a cornerstone to uphold African art. Compared with performing art, painters have not been given the chance to travel abroad and promote their works. At present, we have seen a ray of hope to encourage artists in general and painters in particular. However, much is expected from government and private institutions in order to make the profession competitive in the world arena considering that it has its own contribution to building the image of the country.

You have received a medal from the hands of the premier, what was your feeling during the acknowledgement



Herald Guest



ceremony?

One of the highest recognition pillars is receiving an award. Receiving a high-level medal from the hands of the prime minister by itself is a very exciting thing. It gives me great pleasure and enhances my morale to do more artistic works than ever. I have received a medal which I have never been thinking about. The government has given space for the art sector and this makes me more optimistic. The upcoming generation would also perform well if they gain due support. Frankly, it is very impressive.

Africa is endowed with various mineral resources. Have you ever seen the stride to produce paints?

Yes, there are. Each profession has its own genre. It is a chemist that produces paints. There are some people who have talent and others who develop it by studying the subject matter. However, the job of the painter is to draw pictures by mixing various paints. However, an Ethiopian man who graduated in chemical engineering is now producing acrylic paints and supplying for the market considering the shortage of imported ones. Many of us bought and used it. This is a good jump start and others need to follow suit. In order to solve the shortage of paints, we artists must stand together and echo our voices so as to solve the problems of imported paints.

Painting has its own market abroad. However, it is uncommon to see the trend in Ethiopia. If it does not make money, it is likely to discourage the artist. What is your comment in this regard?

With regard to the market of paintings, there are discouraging and encouraging factors. There are artists who can sell and change their livelihood with the money they earned from paintings. However, others are leaving the profession let alone gaining benefits out of it. Selling a single art means

an encouraging factor to the artist to do the next artwork as the money can be used for buying inputs or paying studio rents ... etc. On the other hand, at times when an artist sells his works, he is promoting himself not only for Ethiopians but also for outsiders. In this regard, we have been facing two challenges. One is our society has limited awareness towards paintings.

The economic capacity of the country has also constrained our activities. People's level of the economy has its own impact as ordinary citizens cannot afford to spend 10,000-20,000 birr for a single artwork. However, every citizen needs to develop a culture of hanging up paintings at home, hotel, office etc as they (the paintings) have the power to create immense pleasure. Nevertheless, this is not possible unless we are doing awareness-raising tasks. The newly opened hotels are now developing a culture of hanging paintings in their hotels which is a good trend that should further be strengthened.

What is more, it is imperative to take policy measures. Every house constructor has to leave some space for paintings as it bestows relief both for the owner and its guests. These are some points that we need to figure out to solve the inequitable benefit of artists.

The communication barrier is the other factor for painters to efficiently promote their works in the international arena and benefit from it. Dealers and the media need to assist artists via promoting their artworks for the people at large.

Do you have a gallery or studio where people can visit your works? What is your plan for the near future?

I have a studio in my house. I will assume a holistic private museum at the State or City level. Together with investors, I planned to open a museum that represents the culture

of Ethiopian society in paintings. Gallery has dual purposes - one is to earn income from visitors in the form of entrance fees and sell paintings. It is also a workplace for the artist.

What is the parameter for abstract paintings? Does anybody stand up and do abstract works? Do you have any advice for the young generation?

Abstract art does not attempt to represent an accurate depiction of a visual reality but instead uses shapes, colours, forms and gestural marks to achieve its effect. There are no parameters and limitations for abstract painting. An artist can express his concept freely. The purpose of abstract painting is to bestow freedom for viewers without limiting their outlook as everything in it is not figurative. However, the viewers create an image in their mind and perceive it. Abstract painting is helpful to discover what is within a single artwork.

A painter does not begin the artwork by doing abstract paintings. The centrepiece for painting is realistic art. After passing many steps, one can reach abstract painting which is one of creative art. However, abstract painting has never been a startup point for beginners. Even if it is a creative art, colours need to have their own harmony, balance and composition. If any one of these is missing, the audience may be angry at the artwork. Thus, it should keep all the legal grounds.

Could you tell us the effort that you made to promote the image of Ethiopia for the rest of the world?

As I told you earlier, I focus on the culture and history of Ethiopia. Ethiopia is a mosaic of cultures that one can never come across in other parts of the world. Ethiopia has unique costumes, dressing, food, climatic condition, colours. All these help me to reflect on the hidden culture of Ethiopia to the rest of the world. Incidentally, through my artistic works, I can raise awareness of people residing in one corner of the country with the others. If we take Oromia State, for instance, there are wonderful cultures of dressing, marriage, mourning, and so on. I can do a lot of work relying on these cultures which were never done by any of our elders.

I have never seen an artwork done on the Geda system, Irreecha (Thanksgiving Day), Guma (culture of Mediation), Senque (Oromo's women rights conforming culture). However, I can do a lot of artwork by conducting a study on cultures of nations and nationalities at the grassroots level. In doing so, I can contribute a little to promote the image of Ethiopia to the rest of the world. Even if I rely on Oromos culture, I did many artworks in connection with the culture of other nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia.

What is the salient objective of your painting? Is it art for art's sake or used art to convey a social message?

I make artworks for a dual purpose as the saying goes "art is a beauty and a reality" I used to work on various paintings maintaining their artistic value, beauty and showing the reality on the ground in order to win the confidence of locals and international audiences. I, for instance,

come up with an issue that many people talk about in theory but not expressed in paintings. Typical examples for this are the Gudfecha, Mogassa, Hamechissa and Sinque systems of the Oromo people. I am the first to come up with a painting that reflects those cultures of the Oromo society together with their meanings.

There is a saying, "A picture paints a thousand words." Again most artists agree that a picture is valueless if there is no idea in it. What is your comment?

True, a picture is an idea. The startup point of any kind of picture is an idea. How can you paint in the absence of an idea? If you don't have an idea, you could not do anything, let alone paint. The idea can be good or bad. An artist has the right to do any conceptual art. A given painter's internal perception is reflected in its pictures. By and large, it is unthinkable to do any picture without an idea. Most of the time pictures have their own power. I care not to do paintings that instigate conflict between two or more groups. Instead, my paintings are pushing people to strengthen solidarity and live in harmony rather than magnifying differences. I am satisfied with drawing pictures that help people to be optimistic.

I am now preparing to show an exhibition entitled *Patriotism*. It reflects how people pay sacrifices and ensures the sustainability of the country standing as one. I came across two paintings. One is the patriotism of Ethiopians shown in the Battle of Adwa. How the unity of people helped them to defeat intruders and neo-colonialism sentiment from the land of Africa. The other picture shows a culture of patriotism in which each and every person in Ethiopia is ready to sacrifice for the common good of the country. More than 20 artists are expected to participate in the exhibition.

What do you suggest for African painters in terms of promoting African culture to the rest of the world society?

Ethiopia's art should be promoted and enlarged throughout Africa. For this to happen, artists should work hand and glove. The Africa Painters Association should be established. There are many painters associations in Ethiopia and they should stand in unison to better hold International art symposiums which will be going on this month. Extended support is also required from the Culture and Sports Ministry in terms of exploiting such a platform as a window of opportunity to promote Ethiopia creating an environment suitable for international artists.

Some activities have been undertaken to establish the African Painters Association with the objective of correlating countries with one another through exchanging cultures and history. It also lays the foundation to build their capacity in political, economic and social aspects and play an imperative role to drag the continent from the existing natural and artificial troubles. Ethiopian artists are working harder to make the country a founding member of the association. So far, artists drawn from 23 countries are showing a good gesture to be a member of the association.

I thank you very much.

It is my pleasure.

Society

Coming together and working together is a success

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

Following the attack stirred up by the terrorist Tigray People Liberation Front (TPLF) on the adjacent areas of the Amhara and Afar States, thousands of innocent civilians massacred unjustifiably, several women, children and elder people tortured, gang raped and millions of people displaced from their neighborhoods ; and compelled to become IDPs. Public and private facilities looted, burnt and damaged with deliberate attack to make them nonfunctional.

Following its occupation of Kombolcha town one of the industrial hubs, the terrorist group has caused massive destruction for Kombolcha Polytechnic and Vocational Training College and mass burial was identified in compound of the college.

Even these days, the rebels, in their renewed invasions in Afar State, they are disrupting the peace and security of the State and are killing and displacing hundreds of thousands of civilians, mainly children and women.

Recently, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Amina J Mohammed visited areas affected by the terrorist TPLF enterprise; and witnessed the undeniable bitter fact the insurgents committed on innocent civilians in times they had controlled the towns for a short period of time.

The Deputy Secretary-General has observed vandalized and damaged public and private facilities, witnessed mass burial committed



by fighters of the terrorist group in Afar and Amhara states; particularly in Kombolcha and South Wollo Zone of Amhara State, reported FBC.

South Wollo Zone Chief Administrator Abdu Hussein briefed the Deputy Secretary-General on the destruction and looting of the town, including Kombolcha Polytechnic and Vocational Training College and Kombolcha Industrial Park as well as the massacre of innocent people and mass graves committed by the TPLF invading forces.

The Deputy Secretary-General also discussed with authorities, women and children on various issues.

Subsequent to her visit, she had held discus-

sion with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke Mekonnen.

Amina, while talking about the visit she had made in the states, she said that her recent visits have helped her to witness the cost of the conflict on human lives and private and public properties. She also underlined the need to give proper attention to rehabilitation efforts in areas affected by the conflict. She also said that her visit to the Somali region opened her eyes to the severity of the drought, which needs all-rounded support.

She also appreciated the Ethiopian government's commitment to engage with the United Nations while passing through difficult times.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Demeke on his part said that the successive

meetings of the UN over Ethiopia put unnecessary pressure on the government that was fighting anti-peace elements at home.

He said, despite all the external and internal pressures, the Ethiopian government managed to control the situations and relatively pacify the country, which even led to hosting the AU annual meetings in the capital Addis Ababa in person.

The lifting of the State of Emergency, the proposed national dialogue, the restraints of the government from engaging in conflicts, and the unfettered access allowed to humanitarian aid in conflict-affected areas are testaments to the government's commitment to lasting peace in the country, he said.

Despite all these efforts for peace, the terrorist TPLF has continued provoking war against the adjacent areas of Amhara and Afar states, further obstructing humanitarian support to the Tigray State.

Detailing the effects of the conflict and drought in some parts of the country, Deputy Prime Minister Demeke called on the international community to accelerate support for humanitarian aid and rehabilitation efforts.

He finally underlined Ethiopia's commitment to engage with relevant international bodies to highlight the reality on the ground in Ethiopia.

The UN Deputy Secretary also visited Somali region, which is affected by drought; and survivors who are currently receiving treatment in Dubti Hospital, Afar State.



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AMU's first-round support to Woldia University

BY KFLEYESUS KEBEDE

Arba Minch University (AMU) has provided its first-round in-kind assistance to enhance the teaching and learning process at Woldia University which was severely damaged by the terrorist Tigray People Liberation Front (TPLF).

The material support that was delivered by the AMU includes laptops, strips of paper, envelopes, pens, chalk, office and classrooms' chairs, desks, utensils for students' cafeteria, plastic

water storage tanks, ovens, mattresses, wheelbarrows, etc. These materials were estimated to have a monetary value of 2.5 million Birr.

Arba Minch University Community Service Directorate Director and Chairperson of the Supports Transfer Committee TekluWegayehu (PhD) said that Woldia University is among the higher educational institutions that were severely damaged due to the war in the northern part of the country. The university's internal structure was totally

damaged, according to him.

Hence, Arba Minch University is one of the nine universities that have been requested to provide necessary support in order to rehabilitate Woldia University.

The Arba Minch University delegation has recently visited the current condition of Woldia University and found that the laboratories, workshops, and power lines have completely become out of use, according to Teklu.

Particularly, the interior of the building

needs to be repaired. Hence, AMU and other universities should continue their supports until the intended teaching and learning process is restored, Teklu added.

Arba Minch, Addis Ababa Science and Technology, Wolayita Sodo, Haromaya, and Mizan-Tepi Universities are among the nine clustered universities that were identified to provide support for war-torn educational institutions including Woldia University. Communication Affairs Directorate

Verbatim and Caption

Need for Pan-African media

“Africa’s voice on the world stage needs to be heard loud and clear. Africa is often portrayed in the internal media negatively. The endless representation as a continent troubled by civil wars, hunger, corruption, greed, disease and poverty is demeaning and dehumanizing and likely driven by a calculated strategy and agenda. The stereotypical and negative media representation of Africa not only disinform the rest of the world about our continent, but it also shapes the way we see ourselves as Africans. Telling our own stories and shaping our own narratives must be our top priority.” Abiy Ahmed (PhD) – Prime Minister



“We need to be able to build our own discourse about Africa by ourselves. We have to build our own narratives. So, we need to have the tools, we need to have the media that will be able to effectively convey the appropriate information about Africa. I strongly support the idea of establishing a pan-African media that will be the biggest media house in the world and able to broadcast 24 hours to convey information about Africa to the rest of the world.”

Macky Sall – President of Senegal and Chairperson of African Union



“We have a unique opportunity to be the generation of Africans and leaders that to actualize economic success with integration and change the African narrative once and for all. We must consider unacceptable the narrative of war, the narrative of instability, corruption and poverty that has characterized our continent for far too long. This is unacceptable. It must not continue. We must change it and we have the capacity to change this definition of our continent. It is time to embrace a new paradigm let us be anchored by trade, investment, of course partnerships.”

Hakainde Hichilema – President of Zambia



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BU’s activities on humanitarian assistances

BY KFLEYESUS KEBEDE

Bonga Univeristy (BU) is performing activities that would solve major problems that are affecting people’s livelihood.

Medical Equipment Donations

To begin with, it is contributing share for prevention of people from COVID- 19 pandemic that is troubling the world and our country by the loss of lives and leaving children and the elderly without helper.

The seriousness of the matter is if 85 percent of Ethiopian population, who is a farmer, is affected by the disease the situation would bring drastic consequences of socio economic and political crisis.

Subsequently, with this in mind, BU has been supporting efforts of prevention by donating no touch handwashing and santizers. It also donated medical uniform known as “scrubs” and Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) coronavirus testing machines for three hospitals found in the zone.

The PCR machines each worth 4 million 119 thousand and 270 birr meaning the univeristy totally spent 12 million 375, 810 birr to give a machine to each hospitals.

In addition to these, the university also distributed 238, 700 plastic gowns sourced



University’s president donating blood to National Defense

from foreign donors to 13 hospitals and 123 health centers found in five zones and one special woreda of the South West State.

Supports to internally Displaced people

Since 2018, our country has been in a challenging situation that people in different areas are forced to flee from their houses by conspiracy and attacks of anti peace elements. Hence, the university witnessed the condition of displaced people and with the spirit of “reaching out to fellow people” it has purchased and distributed cereals and other foods items, cloths and other basic materials that sustains their life.

Accordingly, it provided 30 quintals of teff, 30 quintals of rice, 10 quintals of sugar, 200 tin

roofs and 3,000 bars of soap to people who are displaced by conflict in Bench Sheka Zone Gura Fereda district.

Besides, it has extended its hand to displaced people in Dessie. Two thousand litres of liquid soaps, 1000 bath soap bars, 2000 kitchen soaps, fifty blankets and 200 mattresses are the items BU donated.

As well, BU has donated fifty quintals of teff flour, forty quintals of rice, five quintals of sugar, 1000 bath soap bars and 1000 kitchen soap bars to the people displaced in Afar.

Supporting Ethiopian National Army

Following the inconceivable, traitorous act of TPLF on the Northern Command of Ethiopian

army, government is giving a deserving response over the terrorist group.

BU discharged its responsibility by giving 15 oxen in the first round and 30 oxen worth of 1.2 million birr and 15 million birr in cash to the army in the second round

Equally, Bonga Univeristy has donated 600,000 Birr and materials like 200 mattresses, 100 sleeping bags and wheel chairs in support of Debarq Hospital to enhance it provide quality service to the men in uniform.

On the otherhand, the university community also gave different kinds of supports dubbing the mobilization: “We live when our country is at peace, otherwise we can’t live. So, it is our duty to support our brave national army and help realize stable and prosperous nation and pass to posterity.”

They made a commitment to give their monthly salary in a year’s time. They also donated blood.

BU has also facilitated for students to extend support. Students said: “ We will cut from our expenses including food expenditure to support the army through the Students Union.” They vowed to give financial support through the students union. They also promised to donate blood.

Medical equipment Support to National Defense force