The Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) and the Amhara Democratic Party (ADP), two of the four political parties forming the ruling coalition, the Ethiopian Peoples’ Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), are entangled in a heated word exchange, where they blamed each other for recent or past political narratives leading to the current crisis in the country. The Central Committee (CC) of the TPLF, which conducted its urgent meeting to assess the current political development and the ups and downs in the country, has described the condition regarding the survival of the country, in a statement it released on Wednesday July 10, 2019, as transformation from bad to worst.

The reason for these deteriorating political conditions in the country, according to the CC of the TPLF is that groups who were perpetrators of the country and working against the dignity of the country in the past were invited to engage in the politics of the country in the name of change, which has intensified Debretsion Gebremichael (PhD) Demeke Mekonnen

By Dawit Endeshaw and Neamin Ashenafi

One of the biggest tests of the administration of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) since coming to power in April last year was the question of Sidama, a zonal administration under the Southern Regional State which is opting for establishing itself as a separate regional state.

Having proceeded with the proper legal procedure – first getting the question approved by the zonal council, exactly about a year ago, and submitting a formal request for the regional council to conduct a referendum – the question of Sidama seceding from the Southern Regional State and forming a self-administrative region has reached the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) for a referendum. SEE THE FULL STORY ON PAGE 12

SIDAMA UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT: WHAT’S NEXT?
Absence of principles engenders state collapse!

Lately Ethiopia’s political landscape has been roiled by troubling developments, exacerbating the already tense atmosphere. Politicians and activists of all stripes are engaged in shouting matches that have boiled over into open conflict. The distrust between them is running deeper, engendering extreme polarization; resorting to violence to achieve a political goal is the new normal; the truth is becoming a casualty of the contradictory information disclosed by the public as well as the intentional lies spread by elements masquerading as its defenders; integrity is being sacrificed on the altar of political expediency. There is one and only one reason behind all this—a blind lust for power that is driving the act of putting the interest of a select few individuals or groups above the nation’s and its people. The unfolding of these developments has reshaped the political scene to such an extent that allies which act out together to bring about the change underway in Ethiopia are presently operating on opposite sides of the fence. Though this rift was gradual, it now threatens to squander the country’s opportunities and push it over the edge. This is what happens when the virtue of standing for a principle goes out of the window. Ethiopians need to reject political opportunism in no uncertain terms and fight it resolutely.

The primary obligation of any government is to protect the safety and security of citizens. Failure to carry out this duty consistent with the appropriate moral and constitutional principles is bound to get it on the bad side of the public. Prior to taking someone into custody on suspicion of participating in a crime it’s of the essence to determine that there is a compelling reason for his arrest. Given that not everyone arrested will be convicted of a crime, their due process rights, including the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty, must be upheld while they are detained and undergoing trial. Any violation of such rights is simply unacceptable and liable to rob the government of its credibility. Who can forget the untold suffering citizens were subjected to due to the widespread infringement of these liberties? Therefore, it’s incumbent on all compatriots who genuinely have the national interest at heart to urge the government and other stakeholders to rectify mistakes and clear up doubts within the shortest possible time and to do everything in full compliance with the law. Needless to say this should be done out in the open instead of gossiping about it. Otherwise, they would be guilty of opportunism.

Although the investigation into the assassination of senior government officials and military commanders on June 22, 2019 in Bahir Dar and Addis Ababa could lead to a consensus on the underlying cause of the heinous act if it is conducted in an impartial manner, the way it’s being handled does not seem to inspire confidence in the process. It is entirely normal to arrest persons in connection with the murder. Nevertheless, questions have been raised as to whether the suspects are able to enjoy their rights to treatments respecting their human dignity; to be presumed innocent until proven guilty, and communicate with; and to be visited by, their spouses or partners, close relatives, friends, religious councilors, medical doctors and their legal counsel. Each and every party involved in the process has to see to it that the investigation and the subsequent trial are free of material defects and justice is seen to be served. Apart from that trotting out conspiracy theories, peddling venemous rhetoric intended to sow conflicts or spoiling for a fight is not only destructive and irrational, but also a hallmark of lack of principles.

One of the alarming trends presently taking place in Ethiopia is the proliferation of extreme views undermining Ethiopianess. The ethnocentrism at display in the wake of the assassination of civilian and military officials a fortnight ago is appalling to say the least. Painting their killing as an attack solely directed at the ethnic group they belonged to as though they are not Ethiopians is illustrative of the depth their “defenders” have sunk to; playing the ethnic card at this moment of grief is sick and a disonor to the dead. The people of Ethiopia though were not driven by ethnic consideration in their heartfelt sorrow on the death of citizens who had served the country and its people well. If Ethiopians do not condemn tribalism as we honor compatriots who pass on having contributed a great deal for the nation, it means we are devoid of a fundamental principle we ought to stand by. The burgeoning of parochial elements which paradoxically swear in the name of Ethiopia demonstrates the severity of the problem. The mushrooming of bigots motivated by hatred at a time they should have been vastly outnumbered by those whose principle in life is to create a country where everyone coexists in harmony renders scary the times we are living in. When the courage to stand for principles diminishes, it should not come as a surprise that a nation’s very survival is imperiled. The important thing is to avert the prospect of such a calamity. There is no growth or prosperity without principles.

It’s prudent to examine who stands to benefit from the rancorous division within the forces who claim to be the architects or supporters of the ongoing change. Failure to heed lessons from the tempestuous political dynamics which played out in Ethiopia for the past several decades is certain to hasten one’s downfall. So will the inability to be mindful of the detrimental impact on Ethiopia of letting the numerous good opportunities that had come its way to slip through its fingers. Refusing to acknowledge that its children are to blame for ruining the opportunities will result in bobbing around like an unsuored ship. Now more than ever Ethiopia needs to be united for a common purpose by learning from past mistakes and accurding to politics. The people of Ethiopia may enjoy freedom, equality and justice insofar as they exert a concerted effort towards the establishment of a democratic order. If Ethiopians cannot extricate ourselves from a zero-sum politics, we would be committing a crime history will never forgive by making the country the epitome of lawlessness and tyranny.

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Cement factories contemplate replacing coal with biomass

By Kaleyeseus Bekele

Local cement factories are planning to replace imported coal with locally produced biomass that would enable them to reduce foreign currency and carbon emission.

The Chemical and Construction Inputs Industry Development Institute has undertaken a study on the use of bio mass as source of fuel for local cement industries. Cement factories use imported coal mostly from South Africa to burn the lime stone, a major raw material in cement production. There are about 17 cement factories in Ethiopia which in aggregate spend 220 million dollars on coal imports.

State minister of Trade and Industry Yohannes Dinkayehu, told The Reporter that cement industries release carbon when they burn lime stone. Yohannes said the cement factories spend a huge foreign currency on coal which takes a long time and resource to import. With the view of reducing the cumbersome foreign currency expenditure and carbon emission the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and the Chemicals and Construction Inputs Industry Development Institute are working with the leading cement factories on ways that they can replace the coal with locally produced biomass.

Yohannes said the use of bio mass would save foreign currency, reduce carbon emission and open employment opportunities for the youth. “This is part of the government’s initiative to reduce carbon emission by 2052.”

Yohannes said a feasibility study has been undertaken adding that a series of consultation has been made with the cement industry. “It will require a huge investment and vast land. We are looking at weather the cement factories themselves would invest on the biomass production or other investors would venture into the business,” he added.

Samuel Halala, director general of the Chemicals and Construction Inputs Industry Development Institute, told The Reporter that a weed widely grown in the Afar region will be used to make a biomass blocks that will utilised as source of fuel by cement industries. “We have conducted a feasibility study with the support of the Global Climate Fund and the European Union which turned out to be successful. The Minister of Trade and Industry Fetelework Gebreigzabher is closely working with the Afar Regional State,” Samuel said.

According to Samuel the wild weed called prophecies Newfara which is threatening the livelihood of the Afar pastoralists would be processed into a biomass block.

Samuel said the local cement factories spend 220 million dollars on coal imports. “If we can replace 40 percent of the coal with the biomass we can save up to 88 million dollars per year,” he said.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Chemicals and Construction Inputs Industry Development Institute are also encouraging the local cement industries to use locally mined coal until the biomass project becomes fully operational.

Dangote Cement and Habesha cement factories took the initiative in using biomass and locally mined coal, according to Yohannes.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Chemicals and Construction Inputs Industry Development Institute in collaboration with Dangote Cement and Mugher Cement factories on Thursday launched a tree planting campaign in West Shewa Zone, Adaberga Wereda near Mugher town. The employees planted 15,000 trees around the cement factories.
AARTI STEEL PLC

COLD ROLLED BLACK STEEL COILS

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COLOR ROOF TILES

COLOR ROOF TILES

“A step ahead in quality”

Square steel hollow sections

Square steel hollow sections
120x12mm (0.5, 0.6, 0.8, 1.0mm)
150x15mm (0.5, 0.6, 0.8, 1.0mm)
200x20mm (0.5, 0.6, 0.8, 1.0mm)
250x25mm (0.6, 0.8, 1.0mm)
300x30mm (0.5, 0.6, 0.8, 1.0mm)

Circular steel hollow sections

Circular steel hollow sections
03A (0.5-1.6mm)
03B (0.5-1.6mm)
03C (0.5-1.6mm)
03D (0.5-1.6mm)
0120 (1.2-4.0mm)
0127x0.5mm (1.5-4.0mm)

Rectangular steel hollow sections

Rectangular steel hollow sections
20x50mm (0.5-1.2mm)
30x60mm (0.5-1.2mm)
40x50mm (0.5-1.2mm)
50x100mm (0.8-4.0mm)
60x120mm (1.2-4.0mm)
70x150mm (1.2-4.0mm)
80x140mm (1.2-4.0mm)
100x200mm (1.2-4.0mm)

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Gelani City, Kora Rod Kebele Tula Guracho Oromia, Ethiopia
The Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy announced that the Genale Dawa III Hydro Power Plant and the Aisha Wind Power Plant will soon join the national power grid.

The Minister stated that the Genale Dawa III hydro power plant, which has an installed generation capacity of 254 MW, will start generation in August 2019. Sileshi said work on the Genale hydro power project has been completed adding that it is under testing and commission work.

The Minister stated that the Genale Dawa area has two rainy seasons which will help the hydro power plant have a better energy output. “We can use the turbines efficiently. The hydro power plant can operate with 72 percent efficiency,” he said. Genale Dawa will generate additional 1620 GWH.

The Genale Dawa III hydro power project is located in southeastern Ethiopia and is currently being built by China Gezhouba Group at a cost of around USD 450 billion. It is set to generate more than 235 MW upon completion. It is also projected to raise the country’s electricity installed generating capacity to 4,541 MW.

Sileshi said that the Aisha wind power plant, which has an installed generation capacity of 125 MW, will be joining the national grid in January 2020. The Chinese electric company, Dongfang Electric Corporation Limited (DECL), is developing the wind farm project in Aisha area of Somali State, Ethiopia. The wind farm located 20 km distance from Ethio-Djibouti border was projected to cost USD 257 million.

The wind farm will have 80 turbines each having the capacity to generate 1.5 megawatt. “These two projects would ease the current power shortage,” the minister said. The minister disclosed that work is underway to develop solar, wind and geothermal power projects by independent power producers. According to him, six solar power projects with an aggregate generation capacity of 800 MW is in the bidding process.

Sileshi mentioned that the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) will start generation in 2021. Ethiopian Electric Power, the state power company, which currently has a total installed generation capacity of 4,284 MW of electricity is building power plants with a total generation capacity of 8,775 MW.

Sileshi told The Reporter that negotiations are underway to sign implementation agreements for the Corbetti and Tulu Moye geothermal projects. Independent power producers, Corbetti Geothermal and Tulu Moye Geothermal, have signed power purchasing agreements with EEPCo to develop 1000 MW of geothermal power plants in the Oromia Regional State West Arsi Zone with an estimated capital of four billion dollars.

“It is not enough that we are generating electricity. The government is facing a power shortage face to face every day. There is a gap when the country is facing a power crisis,” he said. However, Sileshi rebuffs the critic. “We can not rush to sign the implementation agreements as there are some issues that we should agree on. The implementation agreement could be so expensive that we cannot afford,” he said.

Ethiopian Electric Utility which started power rationing last March revealed that it has stopped the rationing as of Monday July 8 as the power levels in the hydro power dams have improved.

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PM remains defiant over foreign debt stress
By Yonas Abiye

The House of People’s Representatives (HPR) ended its fourth year of the current parliamentary term by endorsing the proposed federal government’s budget worth 386,954,965,289 birr (over USD 13.8 billion) for the fiscal year 2012 E.C (2019-20 GC).

However, despite the growing concerns from various sides, the Prime Minister insisted that the country is not in a dangerous situation regarding the accumulation of external debts amounting to USD 27 billion.

In the same session, the House has also heard the House Speaker’s report before MP’s went on a three-month long recess.

Accordingly, the House has approved unanimously over 386,954 billion Birr for the upcoming Ethiopian fiscal year. This year’s budget was raised by 12 percent than the preceding year amounting to 40 billion birr.

Based on the endorsed budget, over 160.469 billion Birr is allocated for regular budget, while more than 130.710 billion Birr is raised by 12 percent than the previous fiscal year, we have saved around USD 400 million, Abiy stated that the external debt has reached the country’s current foreign exchange reserve has increased to USD 2.1 billion, has created hard currency shortages.

“Because of this successful debt restructuring negotiation that we have had during the previous fiscal year, we have saved around USD 400 million, which was expected to be paid every year.” Abiy stated that the external accumulated debt has reached 30 percent. He, however, argued that the sated debt accumulation “is very little, even when compared to developed countries that are 100 percent in debt.” He further went on to explain that by correcting the approach to external borrowing, the country has already changed 47 percent of the commercial loan into concessional loan from China alone.

“This is a big step that should be counted as a great achievement,” he told the legislators.

The overall unemployment rate in Ethiopia has reached 11 million, PM Abiy disclosed, adding his government is foreseeing to create three million new jobs next year to curb the increasing trend.

As part of the holistic approach, the government plans to send some people overseas, particularly to the Middle East. He pointed out that Ethiopia has recently reached an agreement with the government of United Arab Emirates (UAE) to displace 50,000 Ethiopian professionals to Dubai next year.

Ethiopia, US to conduct Justified Accord (JA) 2019

In a statement sent to The Reporter on Wednesday, the US embassy announced Militaries from Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Djibouti, France, Germany, Italy, Kenya, Netherlands, Rwanda, Somalia, Uganda, UK and participating international organizations such as the UN offices, AU, USAID, the US Institute of Peace and the International Committee of the Red Cross will participate in the training.

JA19 is an exercise designed to enhance the capacity and capability of participating staff and forces in peacekeeping operations in support of the African Union Mission in Somalia. Approximately 1,100 military and government personnel will participate in the annual, combined, joint military exercise, the statement said.

Ethiopia, a significant contributor of peacekeeping troops to UN and AU peacekeeping missions, previously hosted Justified Accord in 2017. The exercise will include headquarters staff training, land force maneuvers and culminate with a platoon-level demonstration.

Ethiopian connects Chongqing with freight corridors of the world
Ethiopian Cargo and Logistics Services have connected Chongqing, the largest municipality in Southwest China, with Africa and South America via a weekly cargo flight as of end of June. Ethiopian said on Wednesday, Chongqing, located in Southwestern China adjacent to Hunan, serves as a node of China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) linking the country to its western neighbors.

The route that passes through Shanghai connects Asia, Latin America and North America, the main destinations of the three continents which cover a population of more than 3 billion people, it was indicated.

Ethiopian Group CEO, Tewolde Gebremariam said that Ethiopian was among the veteran carriers that started serving China back in the early 1970’s. “A longstanding and multi-faceted tie which has translated into a flourishing trade and investment, cultural and bilateral cooperation between Africa and China,” Tewolde indicated.

He noted that the new cargo service augments the development of China-Africa bilateral trade and while supporting the strategic initiatives to expand Ethiopian Airlines global cargo operations.

(NewsWire)

www.thereporterethiopia.com
President Sahlework, PM Abiy to share palace compound

By Yonas Abiye

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) has revealed both the FDRE President and the Prime Minister will be housed in the same compound as the current residence a.k.a. the National Palace is set to be a public museum.

PM Abiy, addressing the House of People’s Representatives final parliamentary day on Monday, announced that several projects will be carried out in Addis Ababa and the country, in the new fiscal year of 2012 (2019/20 G.C.)

According to Abiy, currently, comprehensive maintenance and additional construction activities are underway to restore both palaces eventually turning them to leading tourist attraction sites.

The Menelik Palace, also known as the Imperial Palace, is a palatial compound in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. For years known as the Gebi, was the seat of the power of Ethiopia’s emperors. Within its confines are several residences, halls, chapels, and working buildings. Today, it contains the offices and residence of the Prime Minister of Ethiopia.

The palace grounds contain different churches which are historical including Ta’eka Negest (Resting Place of Kings) Ba’eta Le Mariam Monastery.

In addition to the Menelik Palace, according to the premier, the National Palace where President Sahlework lives will also be opened to the public partially. The PM believes would make the city’s top tourist destination spot that will eventually fetch huge earnings for the government.

The National Palace of Ethiopia was built in 1865 to mark Emperor Haile Selassie’s Silver Jubilee and was called the Jubilee Palace. The palace was expanded and doubled in size between 1966 and 1967. The palace was also the site where the Derg dethroned Emperor Haile Selassie I in September 1974.

The Derg renamed the palace the “National Palace,” which still bears the name today. With the fall of the Derg, and the proclamation of the Federal Republic, the Jubilee Palace became the official residence of the President of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

While explaining the plan to re-develop the palace, Abiy told MPs it has untapped resources in it and should be turned into a more advanced level of wealth to benefit the country.

“Haile-Selassie I was a collector of various brands of luxury cars. We have these cars until today including Cadillac vehicles. We should unlock them and keep them accessible to the public. By doing so, we can create significant jobs from such kinds of resources that we have not been unable exploit for decades.”

It can be recalled that the Ethiopian Government announced its intention to build a new official presidential residence, however, the PM did not mention anything about the recently built presidential housing at a cost of more than 170 million birr inside the famous Prince Mekonnen compound, around Sisiat Kilo.

The Reporter attempted to learn about the current status and the fate of the newly built palace from officials of Palace Administration. However, it was not successful despite repeated phone calls and emailed requests.

The design of the building was reportedly done by Ultimate Consultants, and the new palace was constructed by Zamra Construction. It is to be recalled that the building of Prince Mekonnen was also rehabilitated without making changes to its original architectural beauty. Similarly, the new building was recently completed in the ancient premise with similar architectural design to the old building.

In a related development, the PM further indicated that the country’s largest public library and park would be opened in the budget year in front of the current parliamentary facility. “The construction of the library, Adwa Park and other projects has already been launched at a cost of 10 billion birr in Addis Ababa,” he told legislators.

According to the PM, the would-be library and park will lay on a huge plot of land stretching from the area in front of the current plot, to the fence of Ministry Foreign Affairs. Most parts of this plot of land was planned for Sheraton Addis second phase expansion project.

The current Addis Ababa City Administration has repossessed huge plots of land from other investors as well. It is to be recalled that the administration reportedly took the action for the reasons these investors failed to re-develop the areas in accordance with the intended purpose.

Skill initiative program for youth launched in Ethiopia

The Skill Initiative for Africa-Ethiopia Program that aims to support occupational prospects of young people in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) was launched on Wednesday.

The Skill Initiative for Africa (SIFA) is an initiative of the African Union Commission (AUC), supported by the German Government, to strengthen occupational prospects of young people in Africa.

Ethiopia is among the 8 pilot countries where the Skill Initiative for Africa-Ethiopia Program will be implemented, it was learned.

The program provides for funding on a competitive basis for the implementation of innovative and sustainable skills development initiatives.

Government and private technical and vocational schools will compete in this program and the winner gets 3 million Euros in the first phase.

Opening the program, Science and Higher Education Minister Hirut Woldemariam said TVET is expected to have a greater contribution and important role pertaining to the strategic goal of the country’s development endeavors. However, the sector is not adequately supported by the main actors.

(ENA)
Chinese corporate leaders strengthen ties, trade relations

By Samuel Getachew

A large delegation of Chinese corporate leaders from the Shandong region has visited Ethiopia this week. Headed by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade of Shandong Sub-Council, the delegates met with their counterparts in Ethiopia and held a Shandong Ethiopia Business Forum in the capital.

Shandong, a coastal province located in the Eastern part of China, is known for its booming economy that is highly dependent on agriculture and manufacturing. It has an impressive GDP of USD 1.1 trillion and a growing export volume of almost USD two billion.

Ashalew Tadesse, the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Promotion at the Ethiopian Investment Commission said that “Ethiopia is one of China’s strategic partners under the ‘Belt and Road’ initiative.” “Investors from China account for a significant share of foreign investment in Ethiopia and the majority are engaged in manufacturing and construction.”

The delegates have met with senior government officials and visited the Adama Industrial Park.

“China and Ethiopia have developed a multi-dimensional relation, with people-to-people business and business-to-business and government-to-government relations as the cornerstones of our relationship. China is currently Ethiopia’s top trading partner. Over the last decade, the total turnover between the two has increased from USD 1.76 billion in 2008 to USD 5.14 billion in 2017. A jump of 192 percent growth,” said Endalkachew Sime, the Secretary General of the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Association (ECCSA).

Among the Chinese corporate leaders who visited Ethiopia were municipal leaders including, Ma Li Hong, the Deputy Mayor of the Liaocheng Municipal People’s Government and Liu Guangtao, the Deputy District Mayor of the District of Liaocheng City and Jia Lianyong, the Deputy County Mayor of the Dong’E County of Liaocheng Municipality.

### BID FOR SALE OF USED OFFICE VEHICLES

The International Organization for Migration Special Liaison Office (IOM/SLO) – The UN Migration Agency would like to sell the following different type used office vehicles on competitive bidding. Interested bidders are therefore invited to submit their bids as per the following instructions:

1. Interested bidders must register & collect the bid documents from IOM Head Office for FREE at Cazanchis, Kirkos Sub City, Woreda 8. YeMez Building, located behind Iqoqo Complex building, IOM Reception Office, Addis Ababa – Ethiopia.
2. Prospective Bidders can view and inspect the vehicles from 9:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m. in Addis Ababa, Bole: Woreda 3, Youth Center behind Millennium hall or in front of Ambassador Hotel. Starting from 15 July 2019 to 19 July 2019 within specified hours/days only.
3. The last bid submission date is Tuesday, 23 July 2019 at 10:30 a.m. Bid offers shall be submitted with CPO bid bond of ETB 5,000.00 (Five Thousand Birr). CPOs will be returned to unsuccessful bidders.
4. Bid winners are required to pay the full amount of the winning price within five working days from auction results notification or award of bid.
5. CPO’s will be forfeited by IOM if bid winners fail to deposit the bid amount within the time limit given.
6. Vehicle shall be picked up by the buyer within 10 working days after the ownership title is transferred & received by the buyer.
7. IOM reserves the right to appropriate bid securities, if unsuccessful bidders fail to collect their bid securities within three months after notification of bid result.
8. Bid winners are responsible to settle any custom duties/taxes as may be applicable before receipt of the vehicles & transfer of ownership.
9. IOM’s liability shall cease at soon as the asset is sold and the Deed of Sale is signed by the buyer.
10. IOM reserves the right to accept or reject any bids, and to cancel the auction process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of sale.

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IOM Special Liaison Office, Kirkos Sub City, Woreda 8. YeMez Building (Behind Iqoqo Building).
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Government places emphasis on horticulture

By Samuel Getachew

With the Ethiopian Horticultural industry on the rise and becoming an important source of foreign exchange to the nation, the Ethiopian Horticultural Producer Exporters Association in collaboration with Addis Ababa University has held a timely research conference on agro-logistics inside the Intercontinental Hotel last weekend.

The level of agro-logistics in Ethiopia is characterized by inefficiency and inflated costs affecting the overall competitiveness of Ethiopian based agricultural exporters and producers.

Cognizant to the challenges, at the conference, a slew of agrologists presented their researches.

Credited for creating over 180,000 direct jobs to the Ethiopian economy, the sector has now become the fifth largest foreign revenue generator for the nation, according to Shiferaw Mitiku.

“This industry is important for Ethiopia and we want to see it nurtured and grow,” Dagmawit Moges, the Minister of Transport, the keynote speaker at the gathering said, adding, “That is why the government has placed much emphasis on it and why it recognizes it as an important component of its economy.”

Ethiopia has become a major exporter of fresh cut flowers in the region, worth USD 275 million, a far leap from where it was at a decade ago with USD 28.5 million. Much of the population is still significantly dependent on agriculture despite Ethiopia attempting to become a manufacturing hub and a middle incoming nation by 2025.

Ethiopia offers inclusive investment opportunities for international investors, including lands being provided for free for 30 years, ample electricity and ore-holes and paved roads for easy transport. There are now mega flower farms in many regions, including in Ziway, Koka, Bishoftu and Holeta.

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Ethiopia offers inclusive investment opportunities for international investors, including lands being provided for free for 30 years, ample electricity and ore-holes and paved roads for easy transport. There are now mega flower farms in many regions, including in Ziway, Koka, Bishoftu and Holeta.
A thriving city in central Japan, Kobe, has taken a daring move to offer what is called a startup visa program, a one-year visa package, for entreprenuing young business leaders wanting to setup shop in Japan, as the administration of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe tries to manage the fallout from another (national) program which offered a five-year Japanese visa for semi-skilled workers around world to curb the crippling labor shortage in the country.

Passed in the Japanese parliament at end of 2018, the new immigration bill has concocted a five-year stay visa program with a possibility of extension for one cycle to fill the gap in the unskilled and semi-skilled labor force Japan is experiencing in the past few years. Nevertheless, the new bill has sparked so much controversy in Japan that the fallout appears to be still visible in the unusually heightened political activism led by the rather less prominent opposition camp.

Hence, the stakeholders argue that Japan should clean up the existing TITP program before passing legislation to invite in another round of workers. This five-year visa provision is expected to attract 345,000 new semi-skilled workers into Japan filling gaps in the hospitality and elderly care industries, where labor shortages are said to be apparent.

Meanwhile, the city of Kobe with its new drive to make the city a hub of tech oriented, innovative industries, has issued the its new startup visa program staying in effect for non-renewable one year period. The aim is to attract innovative businesses into Kobe; and in doing so, the city recognizes the steep requirements of acquiring an ordinary Business Management Visa for startups, says Hassen Kedir Edriss, a Japan-educated Ethiopian working as Kobe city’s African liaison officer.

The Business Management Visa requires foreign companies to create two permanent employment opportunities for Japanese citizens/permanent residents or register a capital of 5 million Japanese Yen or USD 46296.29 (at current yen to dollar exchange rate). “This would be quite steep for new companies,” says Hassen adding; so what we want is for them to have a breathing room of one year so that in that time they can find prudent investors and be in sound financial standing to fulfill the Business Management Visa requirements by themselves.

By Asrat Seyoum,
Kobe, Japan
**Amin General Hospital inaugurates new project**

By Samuel Getachew

Amin General Hospital, one of the pioneer hospitals in Ethiopia, has inaugurated its newly built hospital as part of its expansion project in the nation. The new facility is to accommodate its temporary rental site, which was located near the Ethiopian Airlines Airport cargo terminal area that is set to close at the end of the month.

The new location located in Tor Hailoch, on Coca Cola Avenue, is to have 80 beds inside its seven-floor building and for the first time, will have full dental service and will try to slowdown the medical tourism that has been the norm for many residents.

“The situation is still fragile; there are still spoilers out there,” Tibor Nagy, US assistant secretary of state for African affairs, said in London. The deal was “absolutely a step forward,” he said on Thursday.

“Out of all the scenarios out there some of the outcomes could have been extremely negative. We could have had the Somalia [or] Libya model, which is the absolute last thing that either Egypt or Ethiopia needed,” he added.

Nagy had just returned from Sudan, where he met the political and military factions that unseated Omar al-Bashir in April after months of protest. Bashir had been in power for three decades. Sudanese officials and activists credit US pressure, along with Gulf countries and regional negotiators, with bringing the two sides to an agreement.

South Sudan court annuls marriage of teenage girl in historical ruling

A court in South Sudan has annulled a child marriage, in a rare legal case that activists say could signal a turning point for women’s rights in the conservative country.

The marriage of a 16-year-old girl, the daughter of a cattle herdsman, to a 28-year-old man was deemed illegal by a court in Kapoeta late last month, the southern state’s information minister Simon Karlo said this week.

According to the management of the hospital, it is attempting to acquire a plot of land at the back, to build condominiums for its staff members and build more floors on top of the building, to accommodate a teaching hospital and a slew of interns set to be trained within its premises.

The new location has officially commenced work on Monday, July 8.

The Government of Ethiopia (GoE) is working to strengthen the healthcare system to align it with the phased-out Millennium Development Goals and achieve Sustainable Development Goals. Ethiopia has a large, predominantly rural, and impoverished population with poor access to safe water, housing, sanitation, food and health service.

The new property is to have over 80 beds inside its seven-floor building

According to the 6th National Health Accounts (2013/14), health service in Ethiopia is primarily financed from four sources: the federal and regional governments; grants and loans from bilateral and multilateral donors; non-governmental organizations and private contributions. The total health expenditure per capita has increased from USD 4.5 per capita in 1995/1996 to 20.77 in 2010/11 and USD 28.65 per capita in 2013/14. The share of total health expenditure coming from domestic sources has increased from 50 percent in 2010/11 to 64 percent in 2013/14.

US backs Sudan transition deal for fear of state collapse

The US has thrown its weight behind the power-sharing deal struck between Sudan’s military leaders and civilian groups, fearing that the alternative was a descent into state failure and violence.

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While the constitution of the Federation states that referendums of such nature shall be conducted within one year and while the one-year ultimatum on the constitution has lapsed by unnoticed and with the silence either from the federal government and the NEBE, things have been reaching a boiling point in Sidama as well as other constituencies under the Southern Regional State.

By Brook Abdu

One of the biggest tests of the administration of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) since coming to power in April last year was the question of Sidama, a zonal administration under the Southern Regional State which is opting for establishing itself separate regional state.

Having proceeded with the proper legal procedure – first getting the question approved by the zonal council, exactly about a year ago, and submitting a formal request for the regional council to conduct a referendum – the question of Sidama seceding from the Southern Regional State and forming a self-administrative region has reached the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia (NEBE) for a referendum.

But the NEBE is excusing itself from conducting the referendum mentioning various reasons. These reasons can be summed up by institutional reform, creating the needed legal framework for the independence of the Board as well as ensure a free and fair election in 2020 and fulfilling the Board’s human resource needs.

While the constitution of the Federation states that referendums of such nature shall be conducted within one year and while the one-year ultimatum on the constitution has lapsed by unnoticed and with the silence either from the federal government and the NEBE, things have been reaching a boiling point in Sidama as well as other constituencies under the Southern Regional State.

Despite their enthusiasm about the fast-paced process until it reached and stalled at the NEBE, the people of Sidama staged two major rallies asking for a quickened response from the Board. The first rally called in all Sidamas and supporters of the cause from all walks of life and the second only involved the women who propagated the same kind of message – quickened response to their constitutional question. The heads of the zonal administration, Sidama cause activists residing both in Ethiopia and abroad and high-level officials from the regional administration backed these rallies and called for the same.

The quick movement of the question from Sidama which reached the NEBE with a letter signed by the regional council speaker a year ago triggered questions from almost a dozen
Following this warning by PM Abiy, the Eejjeto of Sidama, the youth, met in Hawassa city and issued a statement saying that they will never back down because of illegal and unconstitutional warnings from anyone.

“In the assurance of the concern from the government, during his address to the House of People’s Representatives (HPR), Prime Minister Abiy said, recognizing the constitutional right of forming own state for nations, nationalities or peoples, any such question should follow the due process of law and any move against this will be faced with the federal government’s intervention as was in the Somali Regional State.”

Abiy also called for patience from the requesting people from the Southern Regional State reasoning the NEBE’s efforts of reforming the institution and legal frameworks. And, he said, to answer such questions, the nation needs a strong institution to ensure that “answering a region’s questions won’t create another wound and infection apart from curing the intended disease.”

Abiy further went to say that the current request is analogous to
Lori Handrahan (PhD) is a noted human rights advocate focused on gender-based violence and for the end of child abuse. She has served as a gender expert during the Darfur genocide with the UNHCR and in Yemen and the Balkans with other noted organizations. In the midst of a conviction of a noted former United Nations official, Peter Daglish, with child abuse, she reflects with The Reporter’s Samuel Getachew on her career and activism, on why she feels the international community has been ignoring the issue for long and on how gender violence is still a neglected issue in the world. Excerpts:
The Reporter: You are quoted for saying: “Thorough research deftly illustrates how money, sex, and the exploitation of our children have fueled a fire that is ravaging our nation”. You have worked in many nations, in areas of conflicts advocating for human rights and against gender-based violence. Share with me some of the highlights?

Lori Handrahan (PhD): I wish I could think of a positive development that the international aid sector has undertaken to address humanitarian predators.

Sadly, the only “highlights” I can point to are: (1) a journalist, Sean O’Neill, of The Times of London, who had the courage to expose what was public knowledge in our sector—child sexual predators being employed, protected and passed around the globe from one humanitarian organization to another and (2) the resulting British Parliamentary report available online.

The organizations themselves remain entrenched in the “protect the institution” rather than protecting children and vulnerable adults preyed upon by the predators among our organizations.

You were the gender expert with UNHCR during the Darfur genocide. Knowing the abuse, the killings that have taken place, how was that like?

Yes, I was the first gender expert UNHCR ever deployed at the early-on set of a complex humanitarian emergency. I was one of the first on-the-ground in Chad along the Darfur border. It was a very difficult experience—not the least because my UNHCR supervisor Craig Sanders did not support my work, threatened me and destroyed my career with UNHCR when I attempted to do my job—stopping and reporting sexual abuse and exploitation of women and children in the refugee camps.

This month we saw, as Peter Dalglish, a former senior United Nations official became a convict of child abuse in Nepal and is expected to serve at least nine years in prison. You have highlighted how sexual abuse and exploitation is becoming widespread in Nepal among foreigners. How deep is the issue, do you think?

The recent guilty verdict and conviction in Nepal of Peter Dalglish, a Canadian and former high-level United Nations (UN) official, arrested in the Republic of Nepal on child sex trafficking charges in April 2018, provides an important predator profile for the humanitarian community to consider.

The international aid/humanitarian community is hosting many child sex predators like Peter Dalglish. The problem of predators within the aid sector is as large, or larger, than in the US Catholic Church, for example. Based on an understanding of how predators operate, there is substantial reason for concern regarding (most often) wealthy, Western white men, posing as humanitarians, exploiting vulnerable children not only in Nepal but around the world where humanitarians operate.

Operation Broken Heart, in the US, recently announced the arrest of some 1,700 predators. If the international aid sector were subject to a similar police action, hundreds, maybe thousands, of humanitarian predators would be arrested. Many would be in positions of power and authority. The creation of a Cyber-Crimes Humanitarian Sexual Exploitation Unit focused on the international aid sector is necessary to secure our workplace and protect vulnerable populations we are meant to be serving and protecting from exploitation and abuse.

The humanitarian community has proven it is incapable and unwilling to police itself. These are crimes, just as they are in the Catholic Church, and must not be “handled internally” but be reported to, and monitored by, competent international law enforcement for criminal investigation and prosecution. As the case of Peter Dalglish illustrates.

Is the UN, as well as noted charitable organizations giving the issue the seriousness it deserves?

The humanitarian community (non-profits, bi-lateral and multi-lateral organizations) is not addressing the issue. Although there is a great deal of chatter with the #EndSGBVo movement, conferences, workshops and reports—these are, on the whole, public relations efforts rather necessary authentic, structural change.

For example, in addition to Peter Dalglish’s arrest, for example, the humanitarian community suffered another high-level arrest that has been almost totally ignored. Joel Davis was arrested in New York last June (and indicted on all counts in September 2018), making plans to rape children of a “father” trafficking eight-year-old daughter and his girlfriend’s toddler. The “father” was an undercover investigator and bragged about his infant and toddler child pornography collection, saying his preferred “age-range” was “0—newborns and older. Davis also boasted of raping a nine-month old, a six-year-old girl and a seven-year-old boy.

Davis was appointed Campaign Director of Stop Rape in Conflict, a global coalition of 5,000 members who, reportedly, unanimously voted in 2017, to restructure under the “leadership” of Youth to End Sexual Violence—Davis’s non-profit. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) revoked Youth to End Sexual Violence’s tax-status in 2017, for failing the test for three consecutive years. In addition to not being legal, the “organisation” was an obvious husk—housing little more than insipid blogs largely copied from other publications.

Top humanitarians, such as Zainab Bangula, former United Nations (UN) Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict and current Co-Chair of Oxxfam’s Independent Commission on Sexual Misconduct, embraced and championed Davis. In May the Norwegian government hosted a major conference #EndSGBVo50 where many of the humanitarians who supported and enabled Joel Davis’ career, were presented. No one spoke about Davis or the predators in our sector. No invitation was extended to me to speak about my publications on Davis or the partial media, #EndSGBV movement has not mentioned Joel Davis. At all.

No one, to my knowledge, in a position of accountable and authority, has even issued a statement on Joel Davis—let alone taken responsibility for Davis’ inexplicable prestige and access in the humanitarian community.

If the community of professionals engaged in SGBV/GBV – even less to be the courage to address Joel Davis—what indication is there that the humanitarian community is seriously addressing the issue of humanitarian predators?

In the last decades you have been involved in the issue. What has been some of the positive changes that have taken place to safeguard and protect the vulnerable populations from being victims to gender violence?

Very few, if any.
ONE-STOP SHOP FOR HEALTH NEEDS
For many Ethiopians, medical tourism might have been a luxury a decade ago, but it has now become a reality for thousands. With scarce forex resources to spend it in the midst of an often vulnerable and broken medical care at home, many people continue to venture outside of the nation, to places such as India and Thailand looking for private medical care that is often a lofty dream within Ethiopia.

In the last few years, Thailand has become the favorite of many, forcing Ethiopian Airlines to accommodate the growing demands and many agents opening shop within the capital to take advantage of the new phenomena.

Some Thailand based hospitals are now building an advertisement strategy to lure more local customers to their premises as the Asian nation decides to relax the visa requirements of Ethiopian citizens who travel to the country for a slew of issues, including medical tourism, business and as a tourist.

“We send dozens of patients weekly, and we can help them book with all kinds of medical centers, hotels, taxis and translators,” an agent, who asked to remain anonymous, told The Reporter. “The ones who travel to Thailand seem to have more resources to spend than those heading to India. However, the cost of Thailand continues to rise and the interests of patients to travel there have only grown accordingly.”

Within Bangkok, Bumrungrad International Hospital is located inside luxury-like hotel buildings with international restaurants of Japanese and Indian cuisines and Ethiopians nearby. It is also noted for offering personalized care. It has been expanding since it started almost 50 years ago and now has multilingual interpreters of many languages, including Amharic, Oromiffa and Tigrinya and Ethiopian nurses.

That personal touch has made it the most desired but costly hospital for those coming from Ethiopia.

“This place is a miracle, it has saved my mother’s life and the medical doctors are second-to-none,” said Henok Teferi as he sipped a latte purchased from Starbucks. He was accompanying his mother from Addis Ababa. “I have also done my own medical check-up and while the price has significantly gone up, I take to heart the fact that, it’s a private business, not the subsidized medical care, we are otherwise not entitled to (in Thailand)”.

His father is also adamant that the hospital and Thailand in general has been a great experience for the family.

“Thailand is a wonderful society. It is safe and the hospitals are exceptionally wonderful and the staff is equally good. It has given us better health and I will continue to sing its praises,” he said.

“I have made many of my friends try it and we have all become a passionate ambassador of Thailand’s success as a medical success story in the world,” he added.

With newfound fame among international patients, the hospital has almost doubled its fees in the last few years. For instance, the price for basic medical check-up has increased two-folds but that has not stopped anyone from coming to it.

Along with its sizable African clientele, Thailand also hosts growing patients from the Gulf nations and most companies offer generous insurance policy for its employees and have come to choose Thailand’s many hospitals for their medical care and needs.

According to the Ministry of Public Health in Thailand, there are now 2.5 million medical tourists to the nation, topping India, which was for long the most favorite destination.

For Negus Alemu, who has been suffering from all kinds of health setbacks, including stomach cancer, he has been constantly traveling to Thailand. With ample hospitality that are affordable and few Ethiopian restaurants nearby, for him, the Thailand hospital has been rewarding.

“I have been coming here for two years and since then, I am forced to come every three month and while the financial cost has been a burden to me and my family, it’s a blessing in disguise,” he said.

Within Thailand, beside Bumrungrad Hospital, which is the biggest hospital in Southeast Asia and perhaps its busiest, there are other choices with multiple standards, including Bangkok, Samitivej and Phayathai hospitals, catering to those looking for affordable medical care. Most offer good quality care which is per-standard of the medical care that is afforded to the locals free of charge, however, many of the Thai people complain of long waiting lineups that they are forced to endure, unlike the private hospitals.

At Bangkok hospital, an equivalent of a 200 birr ride from Bumrungrad, is an equally active hospital with ample international clientele. It’s more diverse and has many, from the East African nations, including those from Ethiopia, Kenya and Somaliland.

Muftafa Ahmed is from Dire Dawa and he also came looking for a miracle for his illness, including life-long diabetes and others.

Within Ethiopia, he was prescribed a slew of medicines and saw many doctors but each finding contradicted each other and was advised to head to Thailand from a friend, whose family has been coming here for on.

“I am not a man of wealth; I have little resources but I sold much so I could come here. I am happy I did. While my visit has not concluded, I am confident, I am receiving the best medical care there is.”

Like many of the Ethiopian patients, he has been able to secure affordable and clean accommodations nearby, according to his budget and ample choice of food that is rock bottom cheap.

“I have been in Thailand for a week and excluding my plane ticket, I have paid just over USD 2000. While that might be out of reach for many people (in Ethiopia), it has given me hope that I will be cured and head back home a happy man. Thailand has given many of us to hope, in its medical breakthrough and I am a testament to that hope.”

Many of the people The Reporter spoke to complained about the lack of forex afforded to them in Ethiopia and many are even forced to hide their hard-earned money they bought at an exaggerated rate in the black market at Bole International Airport from being confiscated as authorities sees it as an illegal act.

“That is a very unnecessary burden and a catch-22 for many. If there is no adequate medical facility (in Ethiopia), the government should take note of that and relax that unfair harassment. If there were good medical care at home, we would not be spending our resources elsewhere. We are just ordinary people facing extraordinary circumstances. We have no choice, but to go elsewhere,” Mustafa concluded.
Why palm oil harmful

By Abebe Hailu

Everyone is used to the popular saying: “Health is wealth!” Going back in time, ancient humans have depended on oil, especially palm oil, for cooking food. Very little or nothing is known about palm oil and the danger it poses as one of the main ingredients of food.

In recent times, the emergence of a newly-established factory called Tewhay Union Edible Oil Manufacturing – made possible by the concerted efforts of concerned farmers in Gondar, Ethiopia – brought a new routine in the education of people about the dangers of saturated oils. In the past, the government was depending on the importation of unsaturated oil for consumption, which made it a little less expensive for an ordinary consumer to purchase.

The establishment of the oil factory literally made access more robust and consumption became more economical. The costs associated with these locally produced oils are low, contributing to the growth of the economy by making use of locally made products. Tewhay Union became the first of its kind. What made it more admirable is the large capacity of production that they’ll be able to churn out on a daily basis.

The negative implication of the use of saturated oils led to this great feat, championed by the concerns of various farmers. Health concerns became the driving force, especially the danger posed by palm oil and the like.

Palm oil is very common, especially in Western African countries where it is produced and consumed in large quantities. Some of the uses of palm oil, apart from food, includes but not limited to production of soap, remedy for cough, an antidote for poison, healing of open wound etc. Many African homes are used to these alternatives as it is practiced in rural settlements.

Behind the usefulness of this “essential commodity” is the blind-spot of harm that is most often ignored out of ignorance. The health hazard of palm oil consumption is more expensive than the healthy alternative there are.

Palm oil, like coconut oil and butter, constitute a very high percentage of saturated fat. This accounts for more than 50 percent of saturated fat, lower than only butter (80 percent) and coconut oil (95 percent), according to a study.

According to a paper published by Wolf Hamm (2013), the solid fat content of palm oil rises as the temperature of the room becomes cooler. For instance, palm oil at room temperature is 15°C Celsius, the solid fat of palm oil rises to around 40 percent. If the temperature goes as low as 5°C Celsius, the saturation or solid fat of palm oil rises to a life-threatening 70 percent.

In essence, the risk factor of some kinds of oil is evident in their chemical components and their formation processes. Research shows that coconut oil is the most unsafe oil to consume as its saturated fat is as high as 91 percent.

According to Harvard Medical School’s Harvard Heart Letter, March 2019 edition, all fat “contains a mixture of different fatty acids,” which are “the basic building blocks of fats,” it said, “however, butter, lard, palm and coconut oil contain mostly saturated fatty acids.” Most plant-based oils on the other hand, consist predominantly of unsaturated fatty acids, which include both monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fatty acids.

Saturated fat has no double bonds between the carbon atoms in the fatty acid chains. Animal fats are highly saturated – e.g. Butter.

Monounsaturated fat has a single double bond in their fatty acid chains.

Polyunsaturated fats have two or more double bonds in their fatty acid chains.

Trans Fats are partly hydrogenated to produce fewer double bonds.

The presence of fat in foods make the body susceptible to heart-related diseases and the end result could be as dangerous as death in some cases. According to Harvard School of Public Health: “all fats have a similar chemical structure – a chain of carbon atoms bonded to hydrogen atoms,” it said “what makes one fat different from another is the length and shape of carbon chain and the number of hydrogen atoms connected to the carbon chains.”

It is important to note that fatty acids are the building blocks of Triglycerides. Components of fatty acids includes: long hydrocarbon chain – forming a range of 4 to 30 carbons (12 – 24 being the most common). The chain is linear and it contains even number of carbons. The second component is carboxylic acid group.

Between 2000 and 2002, the...
Japan is preparing to host two major events in the coming few months: the seventh edition of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) and the much bigger Summer Olympic Games. Ahead of it; six African journalists were invited to visit the country and offered the chance to talk to prominent personalities, government officials and business enterprises. Professor Kenichi Ohno is a renowned Japanese scholar at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies. He has authored more than 27 books and papers. He has advised several government leaders, including former Ethiopian leaders Meles Zenawi and Hailemariam Desalegn. This is an excerpt from his discussion in Tokyo, Japan with journalists that includes freelance writer Elias Meseret.

“PRIME MINISTER ABIY IS VERY DYNAMIC, BUT HE HAS SOME RISKS TOO”

Professor Kenichi Ohno

Japan is preparing to host two major events in the coming few months: the seventh edition of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) and the much bigger Summer Olympic Games. Ahead of it; six African journalists were invited to visit the country and offered the chance to talk to prominent personalities, government officials and business enterprises. Professor Kenichi Ohno is a renowned Japanese scholar at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies. He has authored more than 27 books and papers. He has advised several government leaders, including former Ethiopian leaders Meles Zenawi and Hailemariam Desalegn. This is an excerpt from his discussion in Tokyo, Japan with journalists that includes freelance writer Elias Meseret.

Question: What do you exactly do at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies?

Professor Kenichi Ohno: What I do is...I talk to high government officials including Presidents and Prime Ministers i.e. if they are interested to know how Japan and Asia grew. Then we start a dialogue. I’ve been doing it for many, many years now. As such; I’ve been to Ethiopia, Egypt, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ghana, Zambia, South Africa, Djibouti, Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia, Myanmar, India, Mauritius and so forth. I’m not purely academically interested. I’m interested on why some countries develop fast and why others get stuck in the low- or middle-income trap.

How did you begin your engagement with Ethiopia and expand a little bit on what the process looks like?

There was this conference organized by JICA in July 2008 and it was held in Addis Ababa. I was invited to this event and found out that Meles Zenawi was there. I was very surprised that for two days Meles was sitting there. I have never heard leaders staying in conferences for two days. Usually, they make a five minutes speech and then leave. He was participating in the discussions in an intelligent way. We gave him a book that we compiled. It was about how Asia developed fast. Chapter 7 of that book details how JICA supported Tunisia with a Kaizen project. One week later, he called us and asked us if we can replicate in Ethiopia the same thing that was done in Tunisia. He also asked if he can have a regular discussion with our university. That’s how it started.

Then what does your engagement in Ethiopia looks like?

I went to Ethiopia four times a year in the first phase. Meles was there to receive us. We had a one hour and a half or a two-hour discussion; it was an intense discussion. We didn’t want to discuss just academics, but what Japan can do and what Ethiopia can actually implement. In phase two, Hailemariam Desalegn came and he was basically the same. Both Prime Ministers were interested in Kaizen and its philosophy. We usually discuss export promotion, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and various things. I discuss whatever they want to discuss. Some of our recommendations were incorporated into GTP 2.

Do you also engage with Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD)? And how do you see his approach?

I think Prime Minister Abiy has a different style and I think it’s a normal style. But I wasn’t able to talk to him because he’s in a higher rank. Actually, in many countries Presidents and Prime Ministers are difficult to get and talk to. Abiy is very dynamic and young so in the first year I was very impressed. But he has some risks too...I can tell. I know he came because Hailiemariam wasn’t able to handle the domestic instability. Prime Minister Abiy is always calling for unity and harmony but there is a risk that some people could take advantage of that and disturb the nation. That is exactly what’s happening now. It is nice to release prisoners and call for unity...I think Meles wouldn’t have done it that way. I guess he would do it little by little. I see risks and also hopes.

So, you are not talking to anyone within the Prime Minister Abiy’s administration?

No. We are talking to the Prime Minister’s economic team including Mamo Mhiret, Eyob Tekalign (PhD) and Abebe Abebayehu. These are our counterparts now.

Which Japanese companies are interested to do business in Ethiopia? There were reports of Toyota eyeing to enter the Ethiopian market.

We are talking about the automotive industry. We are asking Toyota to invest in the country. ISUZU already has its assembly plant but it is having a difficulty due to the foreign exchange problem. They are stuck. Some seven thousand cars are sold [in Ethiopia] but used cars also coming in the parallel market. Others countries sell from 200,000 to 300,000 cars. Kenya’s automotive industry policy is better. ISUZU is doing better in Kenya. We are discussing with the Ethiopian government to make some changes in their policy. Ethiopia is in a very low level of development so knock-down production is very easy. I had a lot of discussion with Toyota and ISUZU already and we will continue to talk to them. Ethiopia has to learn from Kenya and Egypt.

What other things are concerning for Japanese companies?

The foreign exchange issue is a concern. There is also this political turbulence that is becoming a concern. Besides, some policies also need to be addressed before these Japanese companies invest.
## External Vacancy Announcement

Ethio telecom is an integrated telecommunications solutions provider operating the whole Ethiopia. We are currently looking for experienced, energetic, creative and innovative expertise for Ericsson Core Network CS Expert, Ericsson Core Network PS Expert, Ericsson Network NMS (Network Management System) Expert, Ericsson RAN Network (2G, 3G) Expert, Ericsson Network NMS/Network Management System Expert.

Hence, young, interested and qualified applicants to work in the ever-growing telecom industry are invited to apply for the below job openings before the closing date.

### Application Tips:
- **Term of employment**: Contract
- **Salary**: Negotiable.
- **How to apply**: Interested applicants shall send their application letter along with CV and related documents to the email address; apply@ethiotelecom.et
- **For more information you can call tel. No. 251 115504491 or 251 11 554 0024**

### Application Date: As of 19 July 2019

### Application Deadline: 28 July 2019

Only short-listed candidates will be communicated

Female applicants are encouraged to apply

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<td>Ericsson Core Network CS Expert</td>
<td>Re-I EVA-Cont-NW-HQ 057-2019</td>
<td>Masters degree in Electrical Engineering, Communication Engineering or any other related field of study.</td>
<td>At least 5 years of experience in telecom sector out of which 3 years in Ericsson CS (Circuit Switching) core network such as hardware and software operation &amp; maintenance, Optimization, dimensioning, design &amp; architecture, performance monitoring &amp; analysis, integration, configuration, software updating &amp; upgrading, etc. Successfully completed Ericsson Advanced level core network training is expected.</td>
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<td>Ericsson Core Network CS Expert</td>
<td>Re-I EVA-Cont-NW-HQ 058-2019</td>
<td>Masters degree in Electrical Engineering, Communication Engineering or any other related field of study.</td>
<td>At least 7 years of experience in telecom sector out of which 3 years in Ericsson CS (Circuit Switching) core network such as hardware and software operation &amp; maintenance, Optimization, dimensioning, design &amp; architecture, performance monitoring &amp; analysis, integration, configuration, software updating &amp; upgrading, etc. Successfully completed Ericsson Advanced level core network training is expected.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ericsson Network NMS/Network Management System Expert</td>
<td>Re-I EVA-Cont-NW-HQ 059-2019</td>
<td>Masters degree in Electrical Engineering, Communication Engineering or any other related field of study.</td>
<td>At least 5 years of experience in telecom sector out of which 3 years in Ericsson network NMS (CSC, SO-ME, IPNMS, NetOP), Operation &amp; maintenance, Optimization, dimensioning, reporting, software updating &amp; Hardware upgrading, integration with North and South bounds and capable to manage Ericsson network EMS/NMS server (DB, application software and OS) etc. Successfully completed Ericsson OSS/NMS training is expected.</td>
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<td>Ericsson RAN Network (2G, 3G) Expert</td>
<td>EVA-Cont-NW-HQ 002-2019</td>
<td>Masters degree in Electrical Engineering, Communication Engineering or any other related field of study.</td>
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**Wooden sculptures made from pieces found on beaches**

Wooden sculptures are not something new. However, this artist, Jeffro Uitto, who goes by the name "Knock on Wood" on social media, manages to bend wood to his imagination in such a unique way that it does not even begin to compare to others. Using various pieces of wood, mostly found on the beaches in Washington State, US, Uitto creatively transforms them into sculptures that most often depict animals - horses, eagles, rhinos, lions, among many others.

"On the Washington coast, there's a place where nature's leftovers get a second chance at stardom. The place is Knock on Wood, and [I am] the artist making the magic happen," Uitto wrote on his website.

When starting a sculpture, Uitto has an initial idea of what will be done but adapts as the work progresses. He never knows exactly what will result from his work. Uitto says that ever since he was a child, he liked collecting wood, especially driftwood that had patterns beaten into them by the waves. Although driftwood is hard, it is almost as if it has emotions of its own that bring inspiration to the artist. Through his driftwood creations, the artist wants to emphasize that each object has its own 'life'. A life that can be conveyed as a piece of art.

Most of Uitto's tools are handmade by the artist himself, which is often surprising for visitors that stumble across his shop near the historic Tokeland Hotel.

(Adapted from The Verge)

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**Google takes another run at social networking with Shoelace**

Google's in-house incubator, Area 120, is working on a new social networking app called Shoelace which is aimed at organizing local events and activities. You use it by listing your interests in the app, allowing it to recommend a series of "hand-picked" local activities which it calls "Loops." You can also organize your own events, and there's a map interface to view and RSVP to other people's Loops.

Shoelace's soft-launch comes just months after Google shut down Google+, its most prominent attempt at building a social media platform. However, rather than trying to create a new all-encompassing social network to rival the likes of Facebook, Shoelace seems to have much more modest ambitions that take aim at Facebook's ubiquitous Events functionality.

Android Police notes that Shoelace bears a striking similarity to Schemer, another experimental event organizing app from Google that launched in 2011. Unfortunately, the app was shut down just three years later in 2014 with few mourning its passing.

Shoelace is currently in an invite-only testing phase on iOS and Android. However, you can sign up by filling out this form if you'd like to get involved. You need to have a Google account to sign in. Unfortunately, it's also only available in New York City at the moment; the team says it's hoping to expand to more cities across the US soon.

(The Verge)
Canon is crowdfunding a tiny clippable camera that connects to your phone

Canon is turning to Indiegogo to crowdfund the Ivy Rec, a tiny outdoor camera built into a keychain carabiner. It’s about the size of a USB flash drive, and it wirelessly connects via Wi-Fi or Bluetooth to the companion CanonMini Cam App to show a live preview on your phone. The empty square space of the clip doubles as a viewfinder, and there’s a single dial on the back that lets you switch between modes.

The Ivy Rec has a 13-megapixel 1/3-inch CMOS sensor that can record 1080p / 60 fps video, and it’s waterproof up to 30 minutes for depths of up to three feet. At its retail price of $130, it’s slightly more expensive than hoped, but could still be a good option for parents looking to get their kids a starter camera. Canon says the camera is shockproof and great for the outdoors, so it could be useful if you clip it onto your backpack while you ride a bike. Or maybe clip it onto your dog or cat’s collar so you can see the world from your pet’s POV? (I mean, GoPros are already a thing.)

DPReview cites a previous interview to speculate why Canon is going the crowdfunding route for its latest camera, in which the company revealed that it’s looking to capture as many new customers as it can, particularly casual photographers.

The Canon Ivy Rec is available for pre-order now at $120, and it’s expected to ship October 2019.

Microsoft is making Windows 10 passwordless

Microsoft is planning to make Windows 10 PCs work without passwords. While the company has been working on removing passwords from Windows 10 and its Microsoft Accounts for a number of months now, the next major update to Windows 10 next year will go one step further. You’ll soon be able to enable a passwordless sign-in for Microsoft accounts on a Windows 10 device. This means PCs will use Windows Hello face authentication, fingerprints, or a PIN code. The password option will simply disappear from the login screen, if you decide to opt in to this new “make your device passwordless” feature.

So why does Microsoft want people to stop using passwords to log into Windows 10 PCs? It’s really simple: passwords suck. People love to reuse them across every website and on their personal devices, and although we have a number of two-factor authentication methods available, it’s still difficult to convince people to use them.

Microsoft argues that a PIN code is far more secure than a password, even if it seems simpler to use a four-digit code. This is thanks to unknown variables and the fact that the code is stored on a device and not shared online. Windows 10 stores your private key on a device with a Trusted Platform Module (TPM), which is a secure chip that keeps a PIN local to your device only. Servers can be compromised and passwords stolen, but a Windows Hello PIN wouldn’t be affected.
NATIONAL AVIATION COLLEGE
WHERE YOUR CAREER TAKES OFF

CALL FOR APPLICATION: Change your passion into profession with US!!!

National Aviation College is inviting potential applicants for the following undergraduate and postgraduate programs, which shall be administered at 22 campus of the College.

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<tr>
<th>UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS</th>
<th>POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMS</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. BSc in Aviation Management</td>
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<td>2. BA in Accounting and Finance</td>
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<td>3. BA in Hotel Management</td>
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<td>4. BA in Marketing Management</td>
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<td>1. MBA in Strategic Management</td>
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<td>2. MBA in Business Leadership</td>
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<td>3. MBA in Banking and Finance</td>
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<td>4. MBA in Risk and Insurance</td>
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<td>5. MSC in International Trade and Economics</td>
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Interested and eligible applicants are invited to apply for admission by filling the application form available on the College’s admission desk. Here it is worth to mention that the College has full accreditation in all of the aforementioned fields of study.

- **APPLICATION PERIOD:** From June 20, 2019 to September 30, 2019
- **ENTRANCE EXAM** (for the postgraduate programs): will be administered in the first week of October 2019.
- **COURSE START DATE:** Second week of October, 2019
- **MODE OF DELIVERY:** Regular (This mode of delivery includes both Daytime and Evening sessions.)
- **ADDRESS:** Approximately 150m from 22 Square in front of Gollagul Tower on the way to Shola Gebeya.

If you have any query, please don’t hesitate to contact us on the address stated below. We appreciate if you can visit us.

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Addis Ababa

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNWOMEN), is seeking to hire below mentioned positions

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<th>Job Post</th>
<th>Contact Type</th>
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<td>1.</td>
<td>Communications Specialist</td>
<td>NO-C</td>
<td>24516</td>
<td><a href="https://jobs.partneragencies.net/erecruitjobs.html?JobOpeningId=24516&amp;hs_job_pst_seq=15&amp;hs_site_id=2">Link</a></td>
<td>18 July 2019</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Communication for Development Analyst</td>
<td>NO-B</td>
<td>24512</td>
<td><a href="https://jobs.partneragencies.net/erecruitjobs.html?JobOpeningId=24512&amp;hs_job_pst_seq=15&amp;hs_site_id=2">Link</a></td>
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<td>4.</td>
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<td>24523</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Programme Specialist- Women Economic Empowerment</td>
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**Important information on UNWOMEN modalities:**

The use of UN Women’s name and logo without UN Women’s consent is inappropriate. UN Women strongly recommends that people who receive solicitations to apply for positions exercised caution to endure authenticity. UN Women advises the public that:

- UN Women does not charge a fee at any stage of its recruitment process. All information related to these processes is published on the national or global websites.
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www.thereporterethiopia.com
By Asrat Seyoum,  
Tsukuba, Japan

Imagine some of the oldest agricultural equipment such as tractors and combine harvesters finally being able to perform their task without the active involvement of farmers. Just think about a tractor ploughing an agricultural field in precise manner without needing a driver to steer the wheels. Or an agricultural machine which is capable of applying fertilizer or plant seeds in standardized way, free of any human involvement; all the while gathering real-time information about the soil nature, fertility, moisture and nutrient content; and analyzing it. Not only analyze but make real-time decisions to guide its action.

Also imagine farmers having critical support they need to perform rather routine but important tasks such as watering, applying the right amount of fertilizer, planting seeds and detecting pest and other problems.

You probably think this is something out of a science fiction movie; perhaps, very futuristic and something that cannot exist today, not at least until another century or so. Well, folks at ISEKI and & CO, LTD, the third century or so. Well, folks at today, not at least until another manufacturer in Japan, are here and something that cannot exist movie; perhaps, very futuristic.

You probably think this is one of the least cultivated than you think.

In fact, they have you believe that some of these machineries are already available in the Japanese market, although on a limited, on-demand basis. Better yet, step into their showroom located in Tsukuba, Ibaraki prefecture (Japanese equivalent of a district), they will show you self-driven tractors rumbling through the compound and test-sites.

Within short distance from this futuristic company is the Japanese International Cooperation Agency-run training facility featuring a group of agricultural experts and practitioners from around the world, toiling in the rice fields under the blistering sun, trying to figure out the most basic mysteries of nature. Bayissa Gedeta, an agricultural researcher from Ethiopia who is an agricultural economist by training, has come a long way to be in JICA’s Tsukuba Agricultural Training Center. And he is here to figure out one thing and one thing only: how to better cultivate rice in his home country and maximize the yields on small holder farms. Well, knowing that rice, which is referred to as the “Millennium Crop” in his home country, and where the dominate staple and cash crops are teff and coffee, you might think he also is a dreamer: an imaginative who has got a long way to go.

Bayissa had a short window to learn what he needs to in the seventh month practical training program in Japan. But, he feels that he has already absorbed a lot in his short stay. He says the training is unique in some that morning theoretical sessions are always complemented by practical demonstration and field work in the afternoons: while still maintaining focus on his rice conundrum back home.

Introduced to Ethiopian farmers three decades ago, rice is one of the least cultivated major crops in Ethiopia. Mainly concentrated in the Fiquera area of the Amhara Regional State, rice cultivation is, however, showing strong growth in recent years. Estimated to have over 30 million hectares suitable for rice cultivation, Ethiopia exploited only the 1.7 million so far, according to Bayissa, and almost all of it is done through the so-called upland rice cultivation method, using either rein or irrigation.

Traditionally, the rice crop is typical of flooded lowland areas dubbed paddy fields. This, however, does not mean that highland rain-fed agriculture is not suited for the crop, Bayissa discusses. This is being exhibited in the recent uptake of the rice cropping in three Woredas in Oromia Regional State, where Bayissa’s research institute, Bako Agricultural Research Center, is largely active.

According to Bayissa, with slight improvement rice has the tendency to be productive crop in Ethiopia. Nevertheless, at the moment, the local productivity is 2.8 tons per hectare, far below the global average of 5.8 tons/ hectare; and still lower than maize’s 3.9 tons/hectare yields in Ethiopia.

In fact, rice is currently staple food for close to half the world population. According to Ricetopia, an online repository of relevant information on the crop, rice is by far the most important food crop for people in low- and lower-middle-income countries, with majority of human consumption featuring rice in different formats. “Ethiopian farmers too are seeing the value of rice,” according to Bayissa, and his endeavor is to aide this new dynamism. Surely, there is long way to go before rice takes over the well-established staples of Ethiopia like teff and maize: “The most traditional food item commonly featured in the table of Ethiopians for breakfast, lunch and dinner is injera, which is made from teff. However, nowadays, there appears to be a change occurring and not only in the extent of injera consumption, but also in its composition,” he argues.

“There are a number of recipes for injera, but the most common use flour made either purely from teff, or by combining teff, rice and/or maize flour,” says.
Federation of nation states: The only viable option for Ethiopia

By Mersea Kidan

In a recent panel discussion held recently in Addis Ababa, one of the most prominent scholars in intergovernmental and intragovernmental relations in Horn of African countries, Professor Medhanie Taddesse, recommended loosening the federal system in Ethiopia as a way out of the predicament the country is in. He declared it as the only way to save Ethiopia as a country. I cannot agree more. As many scholars in Ethiopian politics explain, Ethiopian politics has been a field of competition between the centrifugal forces at the periphery and the centripetal forces at the center.

Since the formation of modern Ethiopia, the central forces have been trying to create a homogeneous Ethiopia along the cultural and political lines of the Amhara nation. Many prominent Amhara scholars and community leaders like Professor Mesfin Woldeyes and Professor Medhanie Taddesse have been arguing that Amhara is not an ethnic group but rather an idea of forming an assimilated homogeneous nation called Ethiopia. Anyone who accepts the Judeo-Christian culture and speaks the Amharic language is Amhara regardless of the individual’s ethnicity declares one of the top proponents of this thought, Nebu’ed Ermias Kebede in his Amharic book titled “Ethiopia Ye Alemu Mefareja”. He argues that the terms “Amhara” and “Ethiopia” are synonymous and that if one is Ethiopian then he/she is Amhara.

But it is not only the Amhara elite who tried to create an assimilated homogeneous nation. There were other efforts to replace the Amhara in the domination. Notable among those are, the conquest of Ahmed Ibrahim Ehe Al Ghazi a.k.a. Giragun Ahmed (Ahmed the Left-handed) to form an Islamic caliphate all over Ethiopia in the 16th century and the expansion of the Oromo Kingdom. All these futile efforts to form a unified homogeneous nation have cost a lot of human lives.

There is no need to spend words to show that the effort of the central forces to create an assimilated homogeneous Ethiopia has failed. While many ethnic groups like Gafat, Yifar, Timuga and Bulga have been assimilated and swallowed under the Judeo-Christian culture, most of the larger ethnic groups like Oromo, Tigray, Somali, Sidama, Wolaita and so on remain intact.

In modern Ethiopia, the centrifugal forces in the periphery have been fighting for self-determination of the nations they represent. Most notable among the peripheral forces are the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF), Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) and Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF). These forces paid a lot of sacrifice to defend preservation of their nations against domination by the central forces. They were able to topple the unitary government in 1991 and formed a federation divided along ethnic lines (nations and nationalities). Even though the new constitution of the federation gave right to nations and nationalities to self-govern, the fact on the ground was that the central government led by the Ethiopian Peoples’ Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) had a structural control over all the states. This rendered Ethiopia to be a dwarf empire that is neither a fully unified empire nor a federation of nation states. Neither the member nations have become self-governing states, nor the central government was able to unify all the peoples as one nation.

If Ethiopia is to survive as a country, both the central and peripheral forces need to face the reality and find a middle ground that can accommodate both the need of nations to self-govern and the need of the central forces to keep the country together. PM Abiy’s effort to appeal the central forces with rhetorical promises of unifying the country as one national entity, these peripheral forces are gaining momentum is a dangerous slippery slope. His promise of a unified nation is just a myth. Ethiopia as a country has passed the tipping point towards not only disintegration but even states and there is no possibility of returning to a unified homogeneous nation.

The central forces need to accept this reality and prepare themselves to engage in a federation of nation states. But at the same time the peripheral forces need to face the reality that seceding from a country and Federation of nation . . . page 30

We need a radical shift in thinking: inclusion is essential to our survival

By Amina Mohammed


Our world is at a decisive moment. After decades of relative stability, we are navigating uncertain and even unstable times. Global cooperation is in decline; economic growth rates are down. Some countries and regions are responding by looking inwards, emphasizing division and exclusion; but such short-term thinking will only deepen the global challenges we face.

Many of these challenges are rooted in the economic and social frameworks that we have built over centuries and even millennia, based on exclusion and discrimination. From colonialism to the climate crisis, we are living the consequences of exclusion, intolerance, and a lack of respect for difference—and it’s killing us.

Inequality is high and rising. By 2030, the richest one percent of people could control two thirds of the planet’s wealth. The rights of minorities and marginalized people, particularly refugees and migrants, are routinely disregarded. Violence is used to enforce patriarchy and millions of women and girls face insecurity and violations of their human rights every day. Military spending is rising even as societies fail to provide basic services for their people.

Climate change is wreaking havoc on some of the most vulnerable countries and regions, while others continue to increase greenhouse gas emissions. Deforestation, overfishing and pollution are causing unprecedented damage. Short-term profits for a few are prioritized over the rights and interests of all.

We have lost sight of our shared humanity and interdependence—on each other, and on the planet that gives us life. These principles are shared across all major faiths and traditions, but we have lost touch with them.

Four years ago, all countries came together and agreed unanimously on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, our transformational roadmap for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships. The Agenda is centered on inclusion, pluralism and the rights of all. It is rooted in evidence that greater diversity and inclusion, particularly of women, is correlated with sustainable economic growth and better prospects for peace and stability. It calls for a fundamental reorganization of our economic, political and social systems so that we can reap the benefits of inclusion, through stronger and more resilient communities and societies based on human rights and human dignity for all.

Such ambitious efforts can work, when they are backed by political will. Thanks to multilateral action, today life expectancy is higher, extreme poverty is declining, literacy is at historically high levels and we are mending the hole in the ozone layer. The Millennium Development Goals, precursors to the 2030 Agenda, helped to lift more than a billion people out of extreme poverty, to make inroads against hunger, and to get more girls into school than ever before.

But multilateralism may be a victim of its own success. We have started taking it for granted, rather than treating it as an evolving challenge to be nurtured, promoted and reinvigorated. Without multilateral support and buy-in, we are doomed to lose-lose economics, widening inequality and climate catastrophe.

The solutions we need to meet the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda are centered on dignity, well-being and opportunity for all, without discrimination. While these qualities are not measured under Gross Domestic Product, they are critical measures of successful governance.

We need a radical . . . page 31
**Making the most of the malaria vaccine**

By Heanyi M. Nsofor

A new malaria vaccine now being piloted in Sub-Saharan Africa, where 90 percent of malaria cases occur and could be a game changer in global health. But, if the new vaccine is to fulfill its potential, health ministries will need to make some important changes.

Each year, malaria kills one million people worldwide, the majority of whom are children under five years of age. The economic costs of the disease in Africa – treatment expenses, absenteeism from work, foregone education, decreased productivity, and loss of investment and tourism – are estimated to reach USD 12 billion annually.

The new RTS,S/AS01 (RTS,S) vaccine was developed by GlaxoSmithKline over 32 years at a cost of more than USD 700 million, could go a long way toward changing that. In clinical trials among children aged 5-17 months who received four doses, the vaccine prevented approximately four in ten (39 percent) cases of malaria over four years of follow-up, and about three in ten (29 percent) cases of severe malaria, with significant reductions in hospital admissions. The need for blood transfusions in severe cases was cut by 29 percent.

The first vaccine shown to provide partial protection against malaria in young children, RTS,S is now being made available through routine immunization programs in selected areas in Ghana, Kenya, and Malawi. While an estimated 380,000 children are expected to receive RTS,S each year, those programs – and the health systems in which they operate – have serious weaknesses.

One weakness lies in the storage and delivery of vaccines. The potency of a vaccine dose depends on whether it has remained in a well-functioning “cold chain” – a system for storing and transporting vaccines at recommended temperatures – from the point of manufacture to the point of use. To fulfill the purpose of childhood vaccinations, the cold chains leading to children everywhere – including in remote areas – must be safeguarded and, where necessary, strengthened.

This means investing in reliable equipment for vaccine storage and transport, adequate maintenance of that equipment, personnel to manage vaccine distribution, and effective monitoring of the whole system. It also means investing in infrastructure (such as roads) and, where and when possible, to drive up the costs of such investment, in innovative delivery mechanisms.

Zipline, a Rwandan tech firm, has pioneered the use of drones to deliver blood, vaccines, medications, and other essential health-care goods. The company, which has so far given 13 million people access to urgent treatments, recently expanded its drone delivery services to Ghana. Another tech-based solution that should be considered is the use of mobile phones to manage vaccine stocks and prevent shortages at primary health-care facilities.

Yet another imperative for countries across Asia and Africa is to reduce their dependence on Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, for funding vaccination programs. In 2019, Gavi has disbursed USD 881 million to Pakistan, USD 560 million to Nigeria, and USD 223 million to Afghanistan, to name three examples.

Rather than continue to depend on external donors – and risk suffering the consequences of donor fatigue – countries need to take control of their vaccination programs. One way to do that is by introducing publicly funded universal health coverage.

As it stands, millions of people in Asia and Africa lack access to adequate, affordable, and reliable health care. Many are forced to forego life-saving health interventions, simply because they cannot cover the astronomical out-of-pocket costs.

In line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, countries should be working on making education accessible in rural areas, something Afghanistan has also prioritized to encourage girls to go to school with strong improvements in enrolment as a result as well. Since 2009/10, Ethiopia has built almost 6500 elementary schools and seen enrolment rates increase from eight percent to 98 percent.

Its focus on tackling inequalities is also visible in the range of policies it has introduced to encourage girls to enroll in school. One of its biggest targets was to reduce the number of children enrolling late. This increased the chances of girls completing primary education before they reached puberty, when issues of marriage and pregnancy can compete with schooling. And it had huge success doing this, going from
a woman who could not bear a child but got to have one after one year.

“If she wants to have her baby by the third month because of her waiting for 10 years, it won’t work. One can’t change the course of nature because of their yearning,” Abiy said to the giggling of members of the HPR.

The intensification of the question and discussions surrounding the questions of forming a separate region in the Southern Regional State, especially that of Sidama, is finishing the one-year frame put by article 47 of the constitution. There are discussions that the Sidama could announce their statehood on July 18, 2019 (11/11/11 in the Ethiopian Calendar).

A discussion organized by NEBE on Wednesday at Ghion Hotel, Addis Ababa on the question of Sidama saw none from the invitees of Sidama including the opposition. Even a specific discussion paper dealing with the question of Sidama was not presented because of the tensions and the gathering only discussed international experiences of dealing with such questions, the legal context of such questions and how Ethiopia could deal with it.

Disgruntled by this discussion organized by the NEBE, three opposition groups from Sidama issued a statement on the same day calling for the halting of the discussion because “the Sidama did not raise any question to be answered by discussion and studies by scholars; it is rather a constitutional question one.” They even urged the NEBE to announce the date of the referendum within five days from the issuance of the statement.

A prominent scholar, who has studied the Ethiopian political sphere for about two decades, seems to be concerned by such heating and polarized opinions and thoughts around the question of statehood, especially those around the question of Sidama. For such questions to get answered, there needs to be fulfillment of three conditions: the right of the questioning nation, nationality or people, members of the society whose rights could be affected because of the decision like the residents of Hawassa city and the question of Hawassa in which the region as the whole invested to its development.

“Although the question of Sidama has been overdue for the past 20 plus years, it needs to be carried out in a manner of respect to the rights of other interest groups and the multi-identity society of the city of Hawassa,” he recommends.

He is also concerned that issues of border demarcation with the Oromia Regional State and the bordering Wolaita Zone should be dealt with seriously. While he believes that the NEBE should have held the referendum within the one year since the question reached its office, he advises that sitting and counting the dates cannot bring a lasting solution and the concerned bodies should discuss their issues and understand each other.

“But if the Sidama proceed with the self-declaration of the 11/11/11 date, what would happen is Armageddon; none will win but there will be an unparalleled destruction,” he warns.

A Constitutional Law professor from Mettu University, Muluken Kassahun, says that lack of any specific legal framework governing such processes coupled with the Constitution’s lack of putting remedies if the referendum is not held within a year has created a problem in its part. One has to go to Proclamation 251/2001, Consolidation of the House of the Federation and the Definition of its Powers and Responsibilities Proclamation, to find the answer to the question ‘what if?’

The Proclamation in its article 18 (3) states that “any party claiming that the question of state formation has not been executed within the time specified [One-year period]. Or alleges to have dissatisfaction with the decision, may appeal to the House. The right [of state formation] shall be presented to the House in writing by the Council of the Nation, Nationality, or People that claimed for the formation of State [and] The House shall make a final decision within two years on issues presented to it in such a procedure.”

This is done when the claiming nation, nationality or people, in this case, Sidama, collect petitions from five percent of the population and appeal to the House of the Federation (HoF), Muluken says. But there is no further legally prescribed process if the HoF fails to answer their questions within the stipulated period. The solutions will only be political rather than a legal one.

“According to this, they cannot proclaim statehood by themselves,” he states. “And if they do so, other consequences might follow.”

The HoF, Muluken says, as is the congregation of representatives of nations, nationalities, and peoples, which are the highest body of power in the country.
it will look into solutions for the questions but this will involve a referendum which might happen by an order to the NEBE.

But a referendum conducted does not mean an immediate secession, he observes. There needs to be clearance, the formation of the regional structure as well as asset division, the later again having no legal framework in the country.

“There will be a division of both movable and immovable assets, border demarcation issues, and adjustment of the federal government to fit the situation as a new state is being added to the federation,” Muluken observes. “The federal government needs to adjust itself because it is going to make budget allocations and get the newly formed region a representation at the central power.”

Hence, there needs to be negotiations on various issues both with the regional government and the federal government. Although the NEBE is presenting viable reasons for not conducting the referendum, it is not legally accountable for doing so and those unsatisfied or affected by such inaction have the only alternative of appealing to the HoF.

But come 11/11/11 and there are attempts to self-proclaim statehood, Muluken says they are going against the constitutional provision of article 9 which provides, “all citizens, organs of state, political organizations, other institutions as well as their officials have the duty to ensure observance of the Constitution and to obey it.”

“As the secession of Hawassa also is set to determine the fate of the Southern Regional State, there are various interests including Hawassa as it is unlikely to think that it will continue to serve as the seat of the regional state,” he indicates. “Although they make formal declarations, they cannot continue to work with the region they seceding from as well as the federal government. Rather, it is better to think of how a referendum can be held.”

If the declaration happens, the federal government could intervene with force and there can happen further security issues as those who feel attacked by other forces could inflict attacks on other minorities living in the vicinity.

“It might also bring about criminal investigations as the criminal code’s 238 and 241 provide for criminal accountability of forces that stand against the constitutional provision and disrupt the regional structure,” Muluken says.

Muluken admits that there is a problem arising from lack of a legally bound procedure to govern such acts and advises the federal government too to open itself for discussions rather than wait for the time to take action. The nation should also take lessons out of it as this is the first request to form a separate state since the formation of the federation in 1990.

While experts take more of the sides of the legal perspective, the issue of statehood in the Southern Regional State has taken the interests of the politicians both in the ruling party and the opposition camp.

After holding a meeting on July 9, 2019, the Central Committee of the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF), one of the four-member parties of the incumbent Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), issued a statement calling for the constitutional solutions to the questions.

“Apart from this, any effort to quash public interests by use of force is not acceptable,” TPLF said in its statement.

The Central Committee of the SEPDM is holding a meeting for a week now mainly being haunted by the questions of statehood in the region it administers.

A newly formed party Wolaita National Movement (WNM) from Wolaita Zone, one of the regions that have approved statehood at their zonal council, issued a statement calling for any efforts to stop the process of a referendum for their zone’s question to for a separate state which they say is an act undermining the peoples’ rights to be equal before the law.

For Abiy, these questions coupled with the border demarcation issues arise from the love to the federalism system, not the other way around.

“There is no region that has not changed its zonal and woreda structures since formation,” Abiy says. “We do not have such practice at the national level and what is becoming more dangerous is linking and giving possession of regions to ethnic groups; there is a confusion between regional administration with belongingness.”

He further says that, if there is anything to improve and correct the current federalism, it is important to amend and improve whenever necessary.
Summertime with voluntarism

Summertime is here, and school is over. For most of us, I believe that this is the childhood time that remains in our memories as we get older. School stress is on a halt, at least for a while, and playing and hanging out with our friends become high on the agenda. For some of us, summer may not have really been a break-time. I remember enrolling in summer classes to support my academic performances in the coming academic year or as a preparation for coming-up national exams. Although I like the fact that children use part of their breaks as preparation of the coming school year, I am not really fond of the fact that the only time for breaks is used up for an additional school time and more stress.

The recent move by the Ethiopian government to promote voluntarism among Ethiopians is one to be commended. I believe this is one good way of spending your summertime vacation, especially for youngsters and children. I believe voluntarism benefits a nation and a society at large.

The benefits for the recipient of voluntarism is the obvious one. Youngsters and children who account for 70 percent of the population in the HoA, are younger than 30 years of age. It is estimated that by 2050, one million people will be living there. Roughly calculated, the 330 of the 440 million will be the youth living in the HoA today.

Yet, just like Girma, these young people may not have the feel of voluntarism. They are thought to be erratic, violent and conflict-prone. Their views on the legitimacy of governments matter, however. Girma might have not been on the streets marching, yet so many of his fellow citizens were. They brought Ethiopia to a standstill and at the precipice of a disaster. Could all this be due to the fact that they feel misunderstood. They feel their leaders treated them unfairly and their concerns in a legitimate manner?

Girma, legitimacy and nurturing peace trends

Governments and leaders in the region need to build more legitimacy and amenability with Girma and his peers. With the power they have, they can do it by forcing their authority on their citizens. This might seem like the obvious and easy choice. History has shown that this is not a sustainable strategy and the opposite is true. One example recent example is the Arab spring, in which a series of anti-government protests spread across the Middle East. It all began in response to oppressive regimes and low standards of living. Another example was just last year and closer to home. Protest dating back to 2015 all through early last year forced the Ethiopian government to call two states of emergencies, with the final one forcing Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn to resign in February 2018; ushering in the reformist Abiy Ahmed. The protests were also in response to the regime's repression and low standards of living.

Renowned author and public speaker, Malcolm Gladwell, asserts: “Leaders have to understand that true authority and obedience comes with the expression of legitimacy.” He believes that leaders need to build a better relationship between the citizen and the Government. Not through oppression. He further reiterates that there are three principles leaders can apply to be more legitimate.

Respect: Leaders in the HoA need to build and respect and Girma will feel like he is being listened to and that his voice is understood. That when he has a problem that he will be heard.

Fairness: They have to show fairness, by showing that Girma's neighbor is not being treated better than he is. That he is being treated equally and the same as everyone else. That the law applies equally to all.

Trustworthiness: Girma has to feel that his leaders and their institutions are trustworthy. He has to feel like there is trust behind the system and it won't change overnight; and that there is no arbitrary element to the way authority is expressed.

There can be no... The Reporter. He can be reached at amanuel.grunder@gmail.com.

Federation of nation...

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average oil production from major food crops shows that palm oil is second only after Soybean, with a production of 23,962,660mt as against the likes of Sesame Seed oil and Safflower oil which accounted for 977,836mt and 156,747mt, respectively.

This shows that the consumption level of palm oil and other highly saturated oils are high at 81% as against the case with Sesame seed oil and Safflower oil, despite the risks in its consumption.

In essence, there are good and bad fats which every household should know and choose appropriately.

Unsaturated fats are highly beneficial to the body, as they can help improve “cholesterol levels,” heart rhythm stabilization, inflammation control etc. This good fat can be found in natural fruits like avocados, olive, canola oils. Some nuts also share in the certification of “good fat” these include almonds, hazelnuts, and pecans, not forgetting fish oil.

The dangers associated with saturated fats can never be quantified. This is so because the higher the saturated fat content, the more solid the fat becomes at higher temperatures. This shows that the consumption of Sesame Seed oil and Safflower oil is you are suffering from insomnia.

It improves heart health. Because it improves cholesterol levels, it is better and more beneficial than other vegetable oils and it has high levels of omega-3 fatty acids and linoleic acid. Its anti-inflammatory properties help to reduce proper inflammation and stabilize the circadian rhythm. This reduces the risk of infections in the body as it serves as a guard against internal infections.

The revelation of the Niger seed oil is a blessing to anybody who considers it as an alternative to saturated fats.

Niger seed oil should be considered in our diet. It boosts the immune system and prevents infections in the body.

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The CC of TPLF also called on the defense force of the country to strengthen its unity like never before and to protect the country. Moreover, the party also expressed its willingness and commitment to work with any likeminded political groups so as to protect the constitution and the federal political system. Apart from this, TPLF further requested that the questions in the Southern Regional State be addressed according to the constitution and the application of any other mechanism to address the issue is not acceptable.

In what seems like a response to TPLF, Amhara Democratic Party (ADP) following its one-day extraordinary meeting, released a strong worded statement trashing the TPLF’s earlier statement. In its statement, which was released on July 11, 2019, ADP blamed its sister party and said, “TPLF is responsible for the current political crisis in the country.”

“The statement from the TPLF has exposed its age-old characteristics, which are devious and full of favoritism,” said ADP. ADP, which is chaired by Demeke Mekonnen, also accuses TPLF for being “anti-change” and said “it is working to discredit the current changes that are being experienced in the country.”

“TPLF is behind the anti-reforms forces and was giving them instructions,” ADP stated. The party further blamed TPLF for sheltering individuals suspected of human rights violations and “robbing the people and the country.” TPLF’s statement also exposed its hypocrisy.

“TPLF has no moral or practical ground to consider itself as the only guardian of Ethiopia,” reads the statement from ADP. ADP said: “TPLF in its political manifesto back in 1975 labeled Amharas as their enemy.”

Referring to June 22’s assassination in Bahir Dar and Addis Ababa and the coup attempt, ADP said that “the fact that TPLF issued a statement where we were told to apologize is a historic mistake.”
****Bits & Pieces****

The power of reading

I have been very busy lately and cannot seem to find time to do things that I enjoy doing. Whenever work gets very demanding, I usually drop everything and work. I stop doing the things that usually help me relax and take a distance to look at things from a different perspective.

It is particularly hard to keep up such habits when a lot of traveling is involved. I usually pack workout clothing and although a gym is usually available in the hotels or other accommodations I stay in, I very rarely follow through and work out. I try and make up for it by walking to and from the meeting places.

But working out is not the only thing I slack on, my favorite thing to do whenever I go to a new destination is to buy books. However the books keep piling and collecting dust in my room. I started forcing myself to take forced breaks to read and it really changed my perspective.

What usually happens when I do not take these very necessary breaks is that my work suffers. I begin to doubt my output, my vision and everything. I lose my sense of confidence which is what really drives my entrepreneur journey. I was invited to talk at an event recently to discuss what makes a global leader. The panel was filled with a lot of highly accomplishment entrepreneurs in Ethiopia from different industries. Everyone had sent very practical guidelines for what character traits are necessary for one to make it to a leadership level at a global stage, such as knowing your craft very well. Knowledge of the substantive matter and clarity of your vision is very important and cannot be replaced, you can hire people to do technical work however you cannot hire them to come up with visions for you.

One of the speakers asked an important question what is global? What culture is global? This the same matter that the CEO of a world renowned global company stated at a closed door meeting I attended this week. He said there is no such thing as a global culture, there are countries where the company has activities and the culture of the company is pursuant to the country. Understanding the culture of the country of operation is let to succeeding. When it came to my contribution to the panel, the points I raised are two, first is related to understanding that we are cultural translators of our countries and that we carry that culture and figure out a way of communicating it to others. The second is having a trait of over-confidence which borders on arrogance.

Both these traits are very much related to my experience of reading a book. There is a certain sense of accomplishment that one feels when finishing a book. But reading a book is like delving into someone else’s mind, world and life experience both as an insider and outsider. What they are in essence doing is delving into someone else’s mind, world and life experience both as an insider and outsider. What they are doing is raising that experience to our minds.

I was invited to talk at an event recently to discuss what really drives my entrepreneur journey. I usually drop everything and work. I stop doing the things that I enjoy doing. Whenever work gets very demanding, I usually drop everything and work. I stop doing the things that usually help me relax and take a distance to look at things from a different perspective. In short, take a break from work, read a book from a culture that you don’t know just so you remind yourself that the book you are reading is just as great!
LIBRARY INAUGURATED

A library building of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Ababa University (AAU), which was built at a cost of 116 million birr, donated by Sheik Mohammed Al Amoudi was inaugurated on Thursday June 11, 2019. The official ceremony was conducted in the presence of Hirut Woldemariam (Prof.), the Minister of Science and Higher Education, Tassew Woldehanna (Prof.), the President of AAU, the CEO of Midroc Ethiopia Technology Group, Arega Yirdaw (PhD) and other dignitaries.
Floor Tiles Product
Size: 300x300 400x400 500x500 600x600

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JAPAN: A PLACE...

Bayissa expressing his hope for rice to become a primary item on the menu of Ethiopians. “Actually, I am not saying rice will fully substitute Ethiopian self-injury, but nowadays, I have been seeing many Ethiopians mixing flour of self with rice to make delicious injur and local brewery,” he asserts. The implication being, according to the young researcher, that rice production and consumption trend in Ethiopia is showing a marked increased from time to time.

Although he believes that this uptake in rice cultivation is due to more expenses for the farmers, who have dared to venture into the rice business, are still using very rudimentary, hand-held implements like sickles for ploughing. On the flip side, one of the top-line agricultural machineries for ISEKI this year is the so-called Rice-transplanter. This highly automated machinery uses GNSS satellite guided systems to plant rice seeds in precise distance and depth so that the yield is highly maximized for a particular cropping cycle.

Bayissa argues in his project paper, the lack of resources, in this case, is confirmed by researchers at the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Science (JIRCAS), located in Tsukuba, Ibaraki prefecture. According to their view, rice production around the world is affected various transboundary diseases like Rice Blast and if the farm lands covered with rice, Bayissa is convinced even marginal improvement in the use of simple agricultural machineries would have huge payback. For now, the limited groups of farmers, who have dared to venture into the rice business, are still using very rudimentary, hand-held implements like sickles for ploughing.

Waste is a big social problem in Ethiopia especially in urban areas, Mehlet says. “I was part of the society I face a lot of problems caused by waste when I live in Addis Ababa. Once I’m in Japan, I noticed how clean the city is, how the society takes care of the environment and how waste is disposed of if it is managed and organized properly.”

All in all, Mehlet asserts that waste management is about three major things: attitude, resource and infrastructure. “So, I am designing a system to support the waste collection process using mobile technology. I also want to do some applications which will be implemented in schools to gradually change the attitude of the young generation towards waste management,” he explains.

Months away from finishing her training and her innovative project involving ICT solutions to address health issues, Mahlet Shewa is another dreamer attempting to tackle one of the most deep-rooted problems in Ethiopia: stigma and misconception surrounding mental and developmental health disorders. Her project seeks to devise ICT-based solution to early detection of autism symptoms in children and providing the proper care.

The stigma surrounding mental health issues in Ethiopia and the misconceptions about the causes of the disorder is really appalling. "Many regarded Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to have supernatural causes precipitated by angered ancestors, evil spirits, or wrongdoing predominantly by the mother, or the action of the devil," says Mahlet; and that is why she has set out to work on an ICT-solution that can easily be implemented. “So, I want to fill the gap and proved ICT solutions (ASD Screening tools) that can easily operate by a nurse.”

Both Meklit and Mahlet are highly confident of the training they are receiving from KIC. They say, “Science City” is a place where a process of learning through solving social problems. “We taught the KIC training program from an ordinary postgraduate training, according to Mahlet, “KIC trains students how to use ICT to solve social problems; and how to design a business model for one’s project? Whereas other postgraduate trainings focus more on technical aspects,” says Mahlet.

The Japanese seems to be going to a different direction when it comes to formal education and training sort of like the third way in education. Largely driven by interactive, practical problem solving education, the Japanese public education system is of the highest quality. Implementing an educational philosophy, dubbed “TOKKATSU” at elementary and junior high levels, which entails the full education of the mind (knowledge), the soul (morality and societal value) and the body (physical). The Japanese public education system appears to be among the highest-rated in the world. And they want to share that with world, particularly Africa.

So far, from Africa, Egypt appears to be interested and has built 50 elementary schools fully guided by “TOKKATSU” system. For the rest, for the time being, Japan’s short and long-term international training programs appear to be attracting a number of professionals.
The 2018/19 EPL Season review

The 2018/19 EPL season witnessed Defenders, Dedebit and South Police battle it out to avoid the drop but ended up being relegated. Unexpectedly, Addis Ababa clubs participating in the EPL are now only down to two clubs after the army side was relegated. Welkite City, Hadjira Hoessa and Sebeta City have already showed their interest through supporting the change of the league format. The current format allows all regional clubs to compete at a regional level and the champion of each region will compete at a national level to identify the overall champion that represent at the CAF club tournaments.

Nonetheless, several football experts also argued that the current EPL format should continue. However, according to various sources, the EPL is holding discussions with experts to totally change the name of the clubs named after the regions and directly linked with political views. It is to be recalled that the absence of those capital city clubs will play a great role to decide the future.

The 2018/19 EPL season officially ends this Saturday.