Journalistic accolade

Mulatu Teshome (PhD), president of Ethiopia, and Amare Aregawi, general manager of Media and Communications Center, publisher of The Reporter, conversing at the ceremony at Hilton Addis where the latter and the late Kifle Wodajo were recognized for their contribution to the media sector in Ethiopia. SEE FULL STORY AT PAGE 7

INSA to integrate national payment systems

Developing local operating system, core banking and ERP platforms

By Aarat Seyoum

The Information Network Security Agency (INSA) is ready to roll out a national payment platform that will interface all the payment systems and the associated payment terminals in the country including customs duties, utility bills, bank payment systems and any and all government billing systems starting from the upcoming Ethiopian fiscal year. The new platform will provide an integrated one national platform or interface into which all payment related systems such as mobile payment systems, all utility and other billing systems including customs duties payment system will fit in to. INSA to... page 33

Ethiopian, Airports Enterprise merger on the horizon

By Kaleyesus Bekele

The Ethiopian government is on the verge of merging Ethiopian Airlines, the national flag carrier, and Ethiopian Airports Enterprise (EAE), the sole government body responsible for the construction and administration of airports in Ethiopia.

Sources told The Reporter that since the Ethiopian Airports Enterprise could not cope with the fast growth of the national airline it has been proposed by the airline that Ethiopian and the Enterprise be under the same management. Sources said executives of Ethiopian Airlines have been complaining about the poor airport infrastructure and airport service that affects the operations of the airline.

“The executive management of the airline proposed the merger and they have got a positive response from the government,” sources said.

According to sources, the draft law will soon be submitted to the Council of Ministers for endorsement.

CEO of EAE, Tewodros Davit, Ethiopian, Airports... page 32

INSIDE

Matching quality with quantity
Erosion of public trust in government spells trouble for nation!

The erosion of public trust in the government gives rise to the kind of bloody unrest that roiled Ethiopia for the best part of 2016. The government’s abject failure to listen to the public, which it admits to be the ultimate repository of power, has thoroughly eroded its tenure and subjected the country to a horrifying destruction. Though relative peace is prevailing following the imposition in October 2016 of a state of emergency in the wake of the death of hundreds, several developments which threaten to undo this stability are unfolding. The practices making life an ordeal for the Ethiopian people always keep on resurfacing in various forms; they have never been dealt with in a manner fostering consensus. As the new 2009-2010 fiscal year gets underway the nation and its people can no longer afford to countenance problems that have been rolling over for decades and continue to constitute testing challenges. Let’s discuss some of the more important examples that illustrate why the public’s trust in the government has eroded.

Presently the single critical need of city dwellers that remains unmet is housing. As explained time and again in this editorial housing shortage is a major source of loss of public confidence in the government. The number of city residents suffering from spiraling rents owing to the government’s inability to keep its promise to build and hand over affordable condominium housing is at an all-time high. Close to a half million citizens who registered for the housing development program in Addis Ababa some thirteen years ago and began to make the minimum deposit mandated by the city administration beginning 2003 along with hundreds of thousands of more who enrolled for the program then have no idea when they will receive the keys to the houses they were promised. Meanwhile, individuals who had effected full payment for the 40/60 scheme (a scheme whereby applicants are expected to save 40 percent of the cost of the condominium to qualify for a mortgage by which the remaining 60 percent is financed) were greeted with frustrating news. On the eve of the date on which the lottery by which the lucky few are to be selected to receive the keys would take place it was announced that the 40/60 scheme had been suspended. The people were left with no idea as to when the program would restart. Meanwhile, thousands of more who enrolled for the program then have no idea when they will receive the keys to the houses they were promised. The government was on the verge of losing its inimitable advantage of housing the people, but this was not the last time that the government was to lose its advantage when it was to construct separate houses or acquiring them from real estate companies for this purpose. The news led to confusion and resentment in equal measure. Consequently the public is fast losing confidence in the government as it is no longer possible to instill in the people the sense of confidence that was there before when they were promised that they would be delivered to a third party, and that the government was rescuing the condominiums and delivering them to the people.

The government’s abject failure to listen to the public, which it admits to be the ultimate repository of power, has thoroughly eroded its tenure and subjected the country to a horrifying destruction. Though relative peace is prevailing following the imposition in October 2016 of a state of emergency in the wake of the death of hundreds, several developments which threaten to undo this stability are unfolding. The practices making life an ordeal for the Ethiopian people always keep on resurfacing in various forms; they have never been dealt with in a manner fostering consensus. As the new 2009-2010 fiscal year gets underway, the nation and its people can no longer afford to countenance problems that have been rolling over for decades and continue to constitute testing challenges. Let’s discuss some of the more important examples that illustrate why the public’s trust in the government has eroded.

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The government is at loggerheads with the people for the patently clear reason that it is loath to listen to what they have to say. The death and destruction that took place last year when the youth, frustrated by the lack of economic opportunities and violation of rights, took to the streets to vent their anger, are the clearest indication yet of the perils of shutting the public out. It’s inconceivable why the government cannot grasp the fact that it cannot govern effectively if it does not engage the public in seeking solutions and is apt to steer itself on a collision course with the people if it is bent on advancing its agenda alone. If the rule of law is to prevail and the right of citizens to equality before the law is to be respected the government has to submit to the will of the people. Otherwise, the government cannot expect to receive the confidence that it craves. The government is at loggerheads with the people for the patently clear reason that it is loath to listen to what they have to say. The death and destruction that took place last year when the youth, frustrated by the lack of economic opportunities and violation of rights, took to the streets to vent their anger, are the clearest indication yet of the perils of shutting the public out. It’s inconceivable why the government cannot grasp the fact that it cannot govern effectively if it does not engage the public in seeking solutions and is apt to steer itself on a collision course with the people if it is bent on advancing its agenda alone. If the rule of law is to prevail and the right of citizens to equality before the law is to be respected the government has to submit to the will of the people. Otherwise, the government cannot expect to receive the confidence that it craves. The government is at loggerheads with the people for the patently clear reason that it is loath to listen to what they have to say. The death and destruction that took place last year when the youth, frustrated by the lack of economic opportunities and violation of rights, took to the streets to vent their anger, are the clearest indication yet of the perils of shutting the public out. It’s inconceivable why the government cannot grasp the fact that it cannot govern effectively if it does not engage the public in seeking solutions and is apt to steer itself on a collision course with the people if it is bent on advancing its agenda alone. If the rule of law is to prevail and the right of citizens to equality before the law is to be respected the government has to submit to the will of the people. Otherwise, the government cannot expect to receive the confidence that it craves.
Investors yet to be lured to industrial parks

Gov. spent USD 650 m to build four parks

By Birhanu Fikade

Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn over the weekend inaugurated two industrial parks, which are yet to attract potential investors.

Siay Geche, chief executive officer (CEO) of the Industrial Parks Development Corporation (IPDC), told The Reporter that the government has so far built four industrial parks, namely Bole Lemi, Hawassa, Kombolcha and Mekelle Industrial Parks, with the last two added over the weekend. According to Siay, the government has so far spent USD 650 million on industrial parks.

He mentioned that Bole Lemi in its first phase of construction has eaten up USD 110 million. The Hawassa Industrial Park is planned to be operational by the end of this year.

Ministry to re-institute case against Horizon

By Dawit Endeshaw

Following the failure by Horizon Plantation PLC to pay up close to 1.3 billion birr on time, the Ministry of Public Enterprises is to re-institute legal proceedings against the company.

This payment is part of an unsettled 1.4 billion birr the company owes the government following the former’s purchase of business entities.

It is to be recalled that the then Privatization and Public Enterprises Supervising Agency sold off entities such as the Limu Coffee Plantation Development Enterprise (Limu), the Coffee Processing and Warehouse Enterprise, Horizon Addis Tyre and

Circular clarifies confusion on using bank statement for tax estimation

By Dawit Endeshaw

Responding to an overdue complaint from the business community over the use of bank statements as a source of information in assessment, levying and collecting of income tax, the tax authority has issued a new circular clarifying how bank statements should be interpreted to avoid overestimation of the taxable income.

For the past three years, during the tenure of Beker Shale, former Director General of Ethiopian Revenues & Customs Authority (ERCA), those in the business circle have been complaining about the use of bank statements in tax assessment.

The confusion came from businesses using both bank accounts for both private use as well as business transactions. The use of their bank statement finally resulted in a wrong estimation of the taxable portion of their business income.

This has pushed businesses to relay more on personal cash safe boxes instead of bank accounts.

So a number of complaints from the business community have forced the Tax Authority to look into the matter. Finally, a study was conducted over the issue and presented to the Prime Minister’s Office and the Council of Ministers.

The assessment has found out that there is a lack of uniform procedures in dealing with bank statements for tax assessments.

Moreover, bank transactions indicating collection of informal loans, Equbs (social scheme for forced saving), personal moneys transfer transactions have been considered as revenue from sales, according to the study.

The new circular issued last week made it clear that previous tax assessment as well as collections has been done uniformly and were not fair.

In this respect, the circular ordered the re-visit of those tax estimations done before June, 2017 using bank statements. Those who paid more than they should because of the wrong assessment mechanisms before the issuance of this circular and have already filed their complaints at the Authority will have their cases revised and the taxes they paid. The circular also orders taxes to be refunded if they it was found to be based on wrong assessment of bank statements. This will be made after it was checked by an auditor, circular states.

However, if the tax they have paid before is found to be less than what they should have paid, they will have to pay the difference.

However, going forward, the tax authority will not be considering
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The management and staff of Media and Communications Center (MCC), the publisher of the Amharic-language newspaper Reporter and the English-language newspaper The Reporter, congratulate Amare Aregawi, the long-serving editor-in-chief of the newspapers and currently the general manager of MCC, on receiving a prestigious recognition for his extraordinary two-decade-plus contribution to the development of the private press in Ethiopia as well as his passionate defense of press freedom in the country. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.
South Korean diplomat accused of sexual assault in Ethiopia

By Samuel Getachew

South Korea has summoned one of its senior diplomats in Ethiopia over allegations of rape by a female staff member. The high-ranking diplomat was ordered to return to Seoul immediately.

The government has promised a full investigation and the diplomat is expected to face “a no tolerance policy in mind, of heavy punishment and even a case to the prosecution for criminal investigations if the allegations are confirmed.”

“Bowing low, the ministry offers the most sincere apology to the people, holding itself deeply responsible for the sex crime committed by a diplomat in Ethiopia,” South Korean foreign ministry spokesman, Cho June-Hyuck said in a statement.

The diplomat, “Mr. Lee” (full name), was the political director at the embassy and is said to have several full names. He was not able to get information on his most recent one. The diplomat’s residence, alerted her mother immediately and was treated at the Korean Hospital and flew home in mere days.

The diplomat, “Mr. Lee” (The Reporter was not able to get information on his full name), was the political director at the embassy and is said to have several people working under his supervision. He was ordered to return to Seoul immediately.

Corruption vs. Housing: HQ debacle continues

By Dawit Endeshaw

Following the decision of the Office of the Prime Minister ordering the Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission to leave its current headquarters, the Commission is given a one month ultimatum to vacate the building by the committee established to facilitate the office move.

“Bowing low, the ministry offers the most sincere apology to the people, holding itself deeply responsible for the sex crime committed by a diplomat in Ethiopia,” South Korean foreign ministry spokesman, Cho June-Hyuck said in a statement.

The decision by the PM’s office was not welcomed by officials as well as staff members of the commission,” said the source.

South Korea... page 30

Beverage companies in hot water

By Dawit Endeshaw

The Ethiopian Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Authority over the week sued Ambo Mineral Water PLC and the East African Bottling Company for undergoing an illegal merger without its knowledge. The authority demanded that the two companies pay a penalty fee that would make the duo incur a loss amounting to 16 percent of their annual income.

The suit, filed with the authority’s administrative tribunal, reads that the two companies are charged with participating in unfair trade practices as well as with being involved in an unlawful merger that had a negative impact on fair trade practices.

The proclamation on trade practices and consumer protection states that any dishonest, misleading or deceptive act or practice carried out in the course of trade, and that harms or would likely harm the business interests of a competitor, shall be deemed to be an act of unfair competition, and is thus prohibited.

In cases when a business entity is found in violation of the proclamation, it would be liable to a fine amounting to 10 percent of its annual income.

In those instances when it is difficult to determine the annual income of a business entity, the fine would be in the range of 300,000 to 600,000 birr. In addition, a guilty party could face a prison term of up to 5 years, according to the proclamation.

It is to be recalled that three years ago,

Beverage companies... page 37
Press community recognizes Kifle Wodajo, Amare Aregawi

By Neamin Ashenafi

The Ethiopian Media Council and Wabi Private Press Publishers Association has recognized the late Kiffe Wodajo, ardent advocate of the abolition of censorship in Ethiopia, posthumously, together with Amare Aregawi, founder, former editor-in-chief and current general manager of Media and Communications Center, publisher of The Reporter (English) and Reporter (Amharic) newspapers for their outstanding contribution for the enhancement and strengthening of the media sector in Ethiopia.

The recognition ceremony was held at Hilton Addis on Thursday in the presence of President of Ethiopia, Mulatu Teshome (PhD).

Seasoned journalists and editors attended the recognition ceremony. Members of the business community, veteran politicians and other invited guests were also in the attendance.

Among the known personalities, Maeregu Bazieh, a renowned journalist and former editor-in-chief of the state daily Addis Zemen, veteran insurer Eyeweserku Zafi, renowned politician Bulcha Demeksa, veteran figure of the armed struggle and founding member of the Tigrean People’s Liberation Front/ Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front (TPLF/ EPRDF), Sebhat Nega, recognized media commentator and lecturer Costantinos Berhe (PhD) were in attendance.

During the ceremony, many of the attendants unanimously agreed that the recognition for their own that has been bestowed upon the individuals is both quite deserving and long overdue.

In her opening remark, deputy chairwoman of the Ethiopian Media Council, Meaza Birru, founder and co-owner of Sheger Radio, said that the gathering commemorates the 25th year of the proclamation that nullified censorship in Ethiopia and recognizes champions of the media in the country.

In this regard, Meaza stated that Kiffe Wodajo, one of the architects of both the transitional charter and the constitution is recognized posthumously for his enormous contribution for the incorporation of articles associated with freedom of speech, abolition of censorship and other basic human rights related articles both in the transitional charter and the constitution supporting the reemergence of the media in Ethiopia.

Kiffe was a prominent individual engaged in different activities and serving the nation at different capacities. Meaza quoted Andrias Eshete (Prof.), another household name and a scholar in Ethiopia, as saying: “Kiffe was the translator of our identity like...” “We really miss him,” Meaza said.

Concerning Amare Aregawi, Meaza stated: “Amare played a pivotal role in the establishment and leadership of the Ethiopian Media Council contributing to the strength of the media.”

Apart from that, she listed his achievements while he was head of the public broadcaster, the then Ethiopian Television (ETV) and for starting entertaining TV programs like 120 in the early 1990s.

According to Meaza, Bile Guday, a highly acclaimed television drama of its time, and 120, a Sunday entertainment program, are both examples of his contribution in the public media apart from establishment of The Reporter, a bilingual newspaper publisher published three times a week.

Zerihun Teshome of Zami Radio on his part revisited some of the predicaments of the times a week.

Meaza Birru (L) Tamrat Gabregiorgis and Zerihun Teshome

Photo By: Daniel Getachew/The Reporter

Coffee fetches record revenues

By Birhanu Fikade

During the concluded Ethiopian Fiscal Year, the coffee export performance has shown substantial rise both in terms of volume and value, fetching USD 880 million; owing much to the volume exported, The Reporter has learnt.

According to the latest information, The Reporter has obtained from the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Development and Marketing Authority, last fiscal year’s targets were set at 240,000 metric tons (Mts) in volumes and the values at USD 941 million. Now that the fiscal year has ended, 50 percent of the targets have been achieved.

Hence, 225.5 thousand Mts has been shipped out to bring home USD 881 million. The corresponding changes both in volume and value, which compared to last year stood at 27.000Mts and USD 158.6 million, respectively.

The figures from last year show that, USD 722 million was secured from the export of 198,000 Mts of coffee. Coffee has been achieving below target in the past couple of years due to decline in international prices. Since, 2010/11, coffee has registered an annual decline of three percent.

In addition to the export promotion and marketing of coffee, the Authority oversees the export of tea and spices. Spiced have fetched USD 17.8 million

Coffee fetches... page 35

Thousands flee as army marches on South Sudan rebel stronghold

A South Sudanese army offensive on a rebel stronghold has forced about 3,000 civilians to seek shelter in neighboring Ethiopia, adding to the world’s fastest-growing refugee crisis, a United Nations official said.

The people have fled their homes since about July 2 as troopers advance toward Pagak town in the country’s northeastern Upper Nile region, David Shearer, head of the UN mission in South Sudan, told reporters Wednesday in the capital, Juba. He reported heavy fighting north of Pagak in the past week and said the offensive “is not in the spirit” of a unilateral cease-fire declared by the government in May.

The civil war that began in the world’s newest nation in December 2013 has claimed tens of thousands of lives and uprooted more than 3.5 million people, many of them to neighboring Uganda, Ethiopia and Sudan.

Deputy army spokesman Santo Domic said by phone he had no information and is looking into the reports. (Bloomberg)

Turkey’s leading firm begins canbebe diapers production in Ethiopia

Ontex, Turkey’s leading international producer of personal hygiene solutions for babies, women and adults, has begun producing canbebe diapers at Hawassa Industrial Park in Ethiopia.

The plant commenced production with 60 percent of its capacity and will soon start with its full capacity, it was noted.

Speaking at an event organized to celebrate the plant’s commencement of production, Arkebe Öquşay (PhD), Board Chairperson of the Industrial Parks Development Corporation, said Ontex would contribute a lot for Ethiopia’s ongoing economic growth.

According to him, the company would produce diapers worth 400 million Euros by 2020. The company would supply 60 percent of its product to foreign markets, mainly to Kenya, while the remaining 40 percent will be sold at local markets.

Cherles Aztiz, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Ontex, thanked the government of Ethiopia for creating fertile ground for his company to come to Ethiopia and build the first of its kind diapers plant in the African soil. (FBC)

www.thereporterethiopia.com
New Zealand defuse USD 1 mln Addis embassy property expenditure

By Samuel Getachew

The New Zealand Embassy in Ethiopia is attempting to defuse criticism coming its way for spending more than USD 1 million for the residence of its ambassador in the Bole area. It is also refusing to speak on the need to rent several suites as its embassy within Hilton Addis.

“It is extremely difficult to get property that provides a level of amenity and security sufficient to enable the official residence to operate effectively,” the Foreign Ministry and Trade of New Zealand said in a statement. “Because of that, the sum included the upgrade of the property to ensure it was compliant and provided a safe and secure standard of accommodation.”

According to an account received via the official Information Act of New Zealand, USD 100,000 was spent on the maintenance of the mansion of the ambassador in the capital while USD 695,000 was spent on rent, security and utilities for the last three years, one of the most expensive diplomatic spending by New Zealand, comparable to the most expensive cities in the world such as London.

Sources told The Reporter that the rent paid for the property, which is located in the affluent Bole area, is USD 8,000 per month or USD 96 thousand a year.

The Reporter enquired about its rental of suites in the Hilton, expanded and refurbished to meet a luxury standard and the cost breakdown at the official residence, but Ambassador Bruce Sheppard has refused to speak to the media.

New Zealand, which describes Addis Ababa, the diplomatic capital of Africa, as “high security risk due to the threat of terrorism,” has agreed to an additional USD 639 million for humanitarian crisis, including USD 1.8 billion has been contributed to the four countries:

- Yemen
- Nigeria
- Somalia
- South Sudan

The US government has announced that it is committing an additional aid of USD 639 million for humanitarian crisis in Somalia, South Sudan, Yemen and Nigeria. So far, USD 1.8 billion has been contributed to the four countries.

US commits USD 639 mln to int. humanitarian crisis

Ethiopia not beneficiary as crisis viewed less dire

By Birhanu Fikade

The US government has announced that it has committed an additional aid of USD 639 million for humanitarian crisis happening in Somalia, South Sudan, Yemen and Nigeria. So far, USD 1.8 billion has been contributed to the four famine stricken nations by the same country.

In a telephonic press conference which was held early this week, Robert Jenkins, acting assistant administrator for the US Agency for International Development’s Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance, told reporters that the additional fund is committed to help ease the deteriorated humanitarian condition and food shortages in those countries.

Despite the fact that Ethiopia has been facing critical humanitarian crisis due to the recurrent drought which left some 7.8 million people in need of emergency food assistance, the newly announced US assistance package will benefit the country. Specifically asked by The Reporter as to why the new US commitment has omitted Ethiopia and why a country with some seven million people in need of emergency food aid is not considered, Jenkins responded by saying: “the situation in southern Ethiopia is deteriorating, and it might be catastrophic without additional interventions. The UN is warning that emergency food supplies and nutrition supplements in Ethiopia are running dry, with both the World Food Program and the Ethiopia government anticipating partial pipeline breaks [stoppage of assistance to country] beginning by the end of June, or perhaps complete breaks by September.” And, this assistance package does not include Ethiopia. “This does not mean we are forgetting about Ethiopia and [that we] are not deeply concerned with Ethiopia and what is happening there,” Jenkins said.

This year alone, the US has extended a USD 225 million to the ongoing food emergency in Ethiopia, Jenkins noted. Acknowledging the situation and what is happening, Jenkins said that the US has implemented and will continue to implement the necessary assistance to the country.

By Samuel Getachew

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Global bodies to join hands to tackle pest

By Yonas Abiye

With concern growing on the fast spreading of fall army worm (FAW) in Ethiopia and elsewhere in the continent, international stakeholders gathered Friday at Harmony Hotel here calling for more action to contain the rapid invasion of the crop-ravaging pest.

The workshop, organized by partner organizations, including the IPM Innovation Lab Virginia Tech and USAID, along with the International Center for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), aims at fostering more participation and dialogue among various stakeholders locally as well as at regional level.

Fasika Kebede, an advisor with the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MoANR), remarked that Ethiopia has been trying to deal with the problem since early February. However, it is hardly possible to contain the spread of the pest without collaborative efforts, both regionally as well as globally.

“Ethiopia deserves to have similar services available. Phenomenon due to companies like Uber and Lyft,” said the duo said.

The award winning company, honored at regional level.

Director General of the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR), Fantahun Mengesku, warned that Ethiopia would be more vulnerable than any other country unless all stakeholders join hands against the ravaging pest.

He also stressed the need to put in place a central coordination mechanism.

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ETTA taxi hailing app around the corner

By Samuel Getachew

ETTA (Ethiopia Taxi), a local company is gearing up to launch an app this upcoming week to help modernize the use of taxis in the capital.

Founded in 2016 and independently owned by young entrepreneurs - Tsemagen Gebrhiwot and Ambaye Mihael Tesfay – in 2016 the company has developed an app and has now transitioned into a fully-fledged taxi company.

Operating via a taxi hotline that is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling 8707 from any landline or cell phone, the company is set to launch an app that will let customers several ways access to the closest taxi to come to where they are, giving them the convenience that comes with the new technology.

The award winning company, honored with the Innovation Award at Addis Ababa ICT Exhibition and Accelerated Urban Development 2016, has spent the past year and a half preparing them to be a one-stop solution for taxi transport in Addis Ababa. Their taxi call center recently surpassed 5,000 requests accommodated, and this has left them excited about increasing their capacity to serve customers.

“Ridesharing has become a worldwide phenomenon due to companies like Uber and Lyft; and we believe Ethiopia also deserves to have similar services available. But, the formula is slightly different in Ethiopia,” the duo said.

“We refer to our industry as the ‘taxi hailing’ industry because we think the inevitable Uber comparisons are a bit inaccurate. Yes, Uber may be the largest company in the industry we are aiming to create, but that’s where our similarities end. To serve a country like Ethiopia, we need more than just an app.”

For them, that requires a company that has multiple booking platforms such as an app, hotline, website and SMS-based system for accessing a cab. As well as a fully prepared customer service department that works 24 hours to fix any problems, fill any gaps. And that’s what we are working tirelessly towards becoming.

“Here at ETTA, we believe that we have a responsibility to accommodate our drivers just as much as we do our customers. We have customer service departments on both ends that make sure our drivers and customers are getting the best service they can get.”

Earlier this month, they gave all their top rated drivers brand new smartphones so that they will be online at all times, as they roll the app. They work with professional unions like Addis Meter Taxi and were able to provide rides to thousands of satisfied customers.

“Understand, that for us, Addis Ababa has the potential to be a regional transportation hub, and we believe the application of technology will further facilitate that dream. Which is why we are ambidextrously working with all stakeholders and involved parties to advance Ethiopia’s overall transportation system.

Late last year, the company was selected by Federal Transport Authority as one of the agencies to conduct research regarding the pricing of meter taxis.

Even though we are a private sector company, we believe in working with the government in policy making, and we are constantly collecting data to help improve how our country’s transportation works.”

It was also the only one with a corporate and personal prepaid top up card with the aid of Fettan Technologies, giving corporations

The dangerous pest kept spreading to the southern part of the continent, including South Africa, in late 2016 and by early 2017, swarms of it was sighted in East Africa.

The pest invasion was first reported in southern Ethiopia in May. Since then, it has spread far and wide – Oromia, Amhara, Gambella, Benishangul Gumuz and Tigray have all been affected. According to available information, out of 1.1 million hectares of land covered with maize, about 141,700 hectares have been infested with fall army worm.

The fall armyworm attacks more than 80 different plant species, including maize, a staple in sub-Saharan Africa. If not effectively controlled, it is expected to cause USD 3 billion loss to farmers in Africa, along with a serious food-security situation for the following year.

Rapid action, immense awareness creation, technological innovation along with national, regional, and international collaboration is required to tackle the menace of the fall armyworm. Failure in doing that would likely result in heavy economic loss for smallholder farmers across Africa.

The two-day workshop has brought together stakeholders and experts from the United States, India, Ethiopia, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria and Tanzania to share their experiences and challenges in dealing with the fall armyworm.

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Matching quality with quantity

Dereje Lemi, 27, graduated from Wello University as a textile engineer two years ago. Luckily, he and dozens of graduates from the university were sent to China to take six-month training on how the textile industry in more advanced countries like China operates.

They took their training at Wuxi Province, a province mostly recognized for its success in the manufacturing sector, specifically textile industry. Historically, the province is considered as a textile hub.

“Our training has given us an immense experience to be more familiar with advanced machineries and knowhow,” Dereje says.

While he was at Wello University he spent most of his time in dealing with theoretical knowledge. Moreover, his three-month practical training in garment and textile factories in Ethiopia could not help him have confidence as well as the required skillset.

“We know about the simple and old spinning machines in some of the old factories in Ethiopia,” he said.

Then after graduation Dereje was selected by JP Textile, a Chinese company based in Hawassa Industrial Park. However, before joining the company, he and his friends had to pass through an extensive skill development.

“When we came to Ethiopia we realized that the textile industry was not that much advanced. The skills were not there,” a consultant at JP Textile told The Reporter.

“So we knew that we had to invest on developing the skills of our employees,” he said.

Currently, JP Textile, which is now under a trail production, has close to 253 employees. From this, close to 53 are experts from China. These experts are now assisting and working with the Ethiopian employees. These experts are expected to leave once the skills of Ethiopian employees have developed.

According to Yang Nan, board chairman of Wuxi Jimiao Limited Company, a company that oversees JP Textile and C and H Textile, an Ethiopian university graduate has to have up to six-month training to reach the 40 percent efficiency level of a Chinese textile worker. Moreover, it took almost two years on job training to reach the 80 percent efficiency level of the same Chinese worker.

Dereje is now assigned as a supervisor, and works as a bridge between the Ethiopians and the Chinese. In addition to skills, he and his friends are also given language training to communicate in Mandarin.

Dereje, originally from Jimma, is now supervising ten Ethiopians under him. These ten individuals are from different backgrounds, which include college and university graduates.

He describes them to be under skilled as far as textile is concerned.

“You cannot expect the graduates to come up with jobs just because you said so.”

“When they first join JP, they are not acquainted with basic terms in the textile industry including yarn,” he said. “So we work with them so that they are up to par,” Dereje said.

The ambitious plan of Ethiopia, which is becoming the hub for textile manufacturing in Africa, has attracted a number of world-known textile companies including PVH Corp, which has more than a century of experience. In addition, there are around 14 other companies from all over the world: Raymond and Arvind from India; Hydramani from Sri Lanka; Chargeurs and Ontex from Europe; TAL, EPIC and MUST from Hong Kong; and Busana from Indonesia.

These companies work with PVH, as an anchor company with in the industrial park. PVH owns iconic brands like Calvin Klein, Tommy Hilfiger and Phillips Van Heusen among others.

The Hawassa Industrial Park is expected to create job opportunities for over 60,000 Ethiopians. Just this week, the government has also inaugurated two more parks in Mekelle and Kombolcha.

Over the coming couple of years, Ethiopia has planned to construct close to 13 industrial parks which would, as some say, transform the country into the second Bangladesh as far as textile and garment sector is concerned.

Millions of Ethiopians are expected to benefit from job creation and many more foreign as well local companies are expected to join the sector over the
The country plans to significantly increase this number with the growing number of higher education centers across the country. Just 17 years back, the country only had two universities, since then around 33 universities have been built. Moreover, in the coming years, the country plans to build 11 more universities.

In recent times, in response to a series of criticism that the government is not providing jobs to new graduates, the government has contended that the graduates need to create jobs for themselves rather than expecting the government to provide every job. The expert said, “You cannot expect the graduates to come up with jobs just because you said so. Unless you first avoid the constraints on job creation and establish institutional operations, the job cannot be created.” He also observes that the inputs and processes in the higher learning institutions are not enabling the graduates to be innovative in the job creation front. “The students entering into higher learning institutions have serious deficiencies. Surprisingly, the instructors entrusted to shape them have their own deficiencies. The teaching-learning process is way below the standard. So, how can we expect them to create jobs by their own?” he asked.

The Minister of Education, Shiferaw Teklemariam (PhD), while arguing that the education system is trying its best to produce graduates capable of creating jobs for themselves; he indicates that the government is reevaluating its approach on self-employment so as to fill the identified gaps.

For Dagnachew Asseda (PhD), philosopher and renowned political commentator with keen interest on the education sector, the education system has much more problems than producing graduates capable of creating jobs for themselves. “Expanding access to education is a very important progress. However, I am well aware that the government is expanding the sector for political gains. The institutions do not have the minimum autonomy. The top leadership mainly consists of political cadres. The focus of the system is development at the expense of everything else. So how can we produce graduates confident enough to create jobs for their own?” he asks.

The recent World Bank report entitled “Country Partnership Framework for the FDR6 for the period FY18-FY22” notes that Ethiopia’s demographic transition has been more rapid than elsewhere in the continent as fertility rates fell from seven children per woman in 1985 to 4.8 in 2016. The working-age population remained constant at around 50.5 percent from 1985-2010 and is projected to peak at 67.5 percent in 2055. “While this demographic transition can have huge benefits for enhanced growth, it also poses the daunting challenge of finding employment for new entrants into the labor market.

Ethiopia’s labor force is projected to grow by two million a year over the coming 10 years, while the number of young workers (age 15-29) will increase by 8.5 million by 2025. Persistently low education levels of rural youth (in 2013, 84 percent of rural youth had not completed primary school), combined with increasing sizable gender gaps (employment ratio for women age 15- is 72 percent, versus 86 percent for men), and increasing land shortages, make it increasingly challenging to productively employ a rapidly growing and largely unskilled youth population,” it elaborates.

The same report indicates that the government of Ethiopia plans to employ 100,000 migrants in the coming years.
Ethiopia, a long-term US partner in peace and security

Chargé d’Affaires of the US Embassy in Addis Ababa, Peter Vrooman, is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service. He began his career in 1991. His most recent posting was as the Spokesperson for the US Embassy in New Delhi. Prior to that assignment, Peter worked as a Director for Iraq on the staff of the National Security Council. He was Deputy Political Counselor in Tel Aviv and at the US Mission to the United Nations, where he also served as an Advisor on the Middle East. Peter has also worked at the US embassies in Beirut, Baghdad, and Djibouti as well as the US Liaison Office in Mogadishu, Somalia. In Washington, Peter was a Watch Officer in the Department of State’s Operations Center and the Desk Officer for Algeria in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs. A native of New York State, Peter graduated from Harvard College with an AB in Social Studies and then from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, now known as the Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Peter worked as the special assistant to the prime minister of the American University in Cairo. Yonas Abiyeworked as a Director for Iraq on the staff of the National Security Council in April. At that time, Foreign Minister Workneh had an opportunity to meet Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. So I thought that was brilliant. And he participated in that meeting, and also in the one at the Oval Office, where he articulated some of Africa’s interests and concerns regarding peace and security as well as development and diplomacy. I still think that was a good opportunity for a senior Ethiopian diplomat to meet the US president.

At the same time in the month of April, Foreign Minister Workneh Gebeysahu went to New York to attend a ministerial meeting on the DPRK (Democratic People’s Republic of Korea - North Korea) that Ambassador Haley held at the very end of her presidency of the Security Council in April. At that time, Foreign Minister Workneh had an opportunity to meet Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. So these were opportunities for them to have an opportunity among senior leaders to establish relations.

Similarly, Secretary of State Tillerson has spoken with your prime minister, and the prime minister was able to participate with several other African leaders in Sicily at the G-7. So there have been a number of interactions that, at least in the beginning days of the administration, I think are important.

As you know, the positions in the administration have been filled on African policy even though the Trump administration has appointed one deputy assistant secretary in the African Bureau who’s already on board and engaged in many issues.

You have been here at the embassy for a few years, and now that your tour of duty as charge d’affaires is coming to an end, would you be able to tell us a little something about the incoming ambassador?

Yes, that is one key thing I should note of course. I was talking about appointments, and that not all the positions have been filled. But significantly, President Trump has nominated a new ambassador to Ethiopia. He’s nominated a career ambassador who’s been ambassador to Benin and deputy ambassador to Afghanistan, who’s served in six or seven African nations, including in the Horn of Africa to Djibouti, which is where I also spent two years as well. So I think it’s important that among his first nominees includes the ambassador to Ethiopia. So I can relinquish my charge-ship if he is confirmed by the US Senate. That’s a critical step for an incoming ambassador. But he has been given agreement by the government of Ethiopia as well. If his nomination is to be confirmed by the Senate, he will be one of the first of the new administration’s ambassadors to the continent.

As we know, the US is one of the largest partners of Ethiopia in terms of aid, development assistance as well as military cooperation, especially as regards regional security. Ethiopia has also been one of the top aid recipients from the US in the continent. But following the Trump administration’s announcement of cuts to foreign aid, there is some concern and speculation that African countries, including Ethiopia, would likely face reduction of aid from the US. Would you mind explaining that in some detail?

As you know in our system, our constitutional system, the president submits a budget, but the committees and the Congress have to review it and decide what they appropriate for it.

The Reporter: As historical accounts have it, Ethiopia and the US have maintained more than a century-old relationship. This partnership has been growing in political, diplomatic and economic spheres. However, there are now concerns and speculations that there might be shifts in policy with the new US administration. What shape does the relationship currently have? Will there be changes in policy from Barack Obama’s or George W. Bush’s?

Peter Vrooman: Well, the way I look at that question is that two things happened. You know that we have a new administration, a new president. And Ethiopia joined the UN Security Council in January. I think in terms of things that are new, and I worked at the US Mission to the United Nations for five years earlier, from 2000 to 2005. This was one of the first times, I am not sure if it’s the first time ever though, when a U.S. president invited the entire Security Council membership to the White House in the spring or in the month of April. I thought that was brilliant. And because Ethiopia’s ambassador to the UN, Ambassador Tekeda Alemu, is one of the most senior diplomats in New York, he participated in that meeting, and also in the one at the Oval Office, where he articulated some of Africa’s interests and concerns regarding peace and security as well as development and diplomacy. I still think that was a good opportunity for a senior Ethiopian diplomat to meet the US president.

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As you know in our system, our constitutional system, the president submits a budget, but the committees and the Congress have to review it and decide what they appropriate for it.
The drought has also affected some of the lowland areas of Ethiopia. And we have been, so far, the largest donor into this administration for that drought relief and for resilience activities in the Somali region, the Borana region and other parts, different pockets of priority in every wereda affected by drought.

So the budget appropriation for fiscal year 2017, which continues through the end of September, is on track with what it was proposed and approved by the Congress. So there hasn’t been any immediate change. But the president and his Office of Management and Budget have proposed cuts to some elements of foreign affairs, including development and diplomacy. So it remains to be seen what those cuts are and how significant they will be.

That said, he’s also, when the president was in the Vatican earlier this spring, he did recommit the US to support famine relief. That was sort of lost in the headlines. But there’s continuing bipartisan support for that type of humanitarian intervention, preventing famine. And as you know, in South Sudan there was some reports of famine earlier this year. The drought has affected Somalia significantly; conflict areas in northern Nigeria affected by Boko Haram face that threat too. And across the Red Sea in Yemen, there the conflict has also resulted in potential famine.

These are some of the significant areas. The drought has also affected some of the lowland areas of Ethiopia. And we have been, so far, the largest donor into this administration for that drought relief and for resilience activities in the Somali Regional State, the Borana area and other parts, different pockets of priority in every wereda affected by drought.

So in that sense, we still remain the largest humanitarian donor, and one of the largest, if not the largest development partner for Ethiopia. But going forward, some of that will be determined as the budget negotiations take shape at the end of this fiscal year, going into our next fiscal year which begins on October 1st.

You have been involved in humanitarian response. You are also in working in partnership with other multinational organizations engaged in relief activities. Similarly, there are also other local organizations, CSOs and NGOs whose financial resources depend on US government’s assistance mostly through USAID. Have these relief agencies and NGOs approached the embassy due to the reported budget cuts?

You know, I think, yes, to some degree. And certainly, you know, there were reports in the month of June and even at the end of May that the food pipeline for responding to the humanitarian needs of people, places I visited such as in the Dolo zone, and those areas, the tip of the Ogaden area where people have really been hit hard by the drought, and where NGOs like, everyone from Mercy Corps and UN organizations like WFP are critical. And where some of our Office of Disaster Assistance Support has been important. Some of our CDC (Centers for Disease Control) support on public health issues has been critical.

There is worry that those needs across a very broad geographic expanse might not be met if the US doesn’t play a lead role.

As I said earlier, into this administration, we are still playing the lead role. We are putting far more resources than any other partner and even in terms of government resources.

Now I’ve been reassured by statements made by Mitiku Kassa who is the government’s response coordinator who works with Demeke Mekonnen, the deputy prime minister, that the government will step up and if there are any breaks in the general food delivery, that the government will continue to fund that, supply that. And to the extent that we can get more information about how and when and what sort of pipeline expectations they have, that will help us in our planning, and it will help the UN in their planning and other partners.
Standing at six feet with his short-bob dread hairstyle tied up and one of the biggest smiles, Daniel “Danny” Haileleul ex-student-turned head/assistant coach to Coach Carlos was standing by the entrance. He was greeting every child with a high five and a conversation. He was straight away recognizable as he has always been the young man who played basketball all his life in his neighborhood and many believed he was destined to the big league. To those who have watched him grow into the man he is today, one thing is for sure, you can always count on the ringing of the basketball hoops with one player below it, Daniel, writes Mary Mulugeta Asseratte.

At a young age Daniel Haileleul (known to everyone as “Danny”) watched his brother Dawit, whom he calls a major inspiration in his life, play basketball in the backyard of their compound. At age six he was fascinated by the game and found himself playing with his brother competing with other kids from around the compound and he soon realized that the shoot-the-ball-in-the-hoop game could be more than just a hobby.

Danny decided to try out for his schools, Greek Community School, elementary basketball team and by sixth grade his talents were undeniable. His coach noticed his fast pace movements and skills that were years above his age and drafted him for the junior team in which the players were from the eighth and ninth grade. The next summer Danny decided to join the famous Coach Carlos’s summer basketball camp. The star player of the camp, he was voted MVP (most valuable player) and Coach Carlos decided to give him a place on his professional team where the players from this team were in their 20s and 30s (Danny was just beginning ninth grade). Danny credits Coach Carlos for being one of the biggest impacts in his basketball career, of course second to his older brother Dawit.

In 10th grade, which Danny says was his “best and last year in Addis” after playing in both Addis Ababa’s U-21 and Coach Carlos’s professional team, Danny was chosen to represent Ethiopia in two major league games, one being in Nairobi, Kenya in which the sponsor was worldwide company Sprite and the other being in Johannesburg, South Africa sponsored by the league Danny hoped to join, the NBA. When describing his experience, he says, “It was the biggest and scariest thing I had ever done. Everyone was bigger, stronger, faster and older than me. If basketball was a culture then I’d definitely call it a culture shock.” However, he credits it as being the best experience of his life, as it made him hungrier and determined to be like the players he played against. This would ultimately be the decision that would lead him to follow his siblings and move to America.

Attending a small mainly all white boarding school in Kentucky, Danny describes his time there as simple. He did well in his studies and excelled in basketball but this was due to “their being no competition which meant there was no improvement in terms of my skills.” This lead him to leave his boarding school after a year and move to Dallas, which was for him “a bigger city, bigger school and meant more black people which equaled more competition.”

His whole reasoning for moving states was so he “could play basketball and be drafted by colleges” but Danny was hit with the biggest devastation when after making the team and practicing for the first game, he was told he would not be allowed to play for the schools team due to “transfers only being allowed to play in the second year of their transfer.” This was an old ancient rule made up by the district school board to stop students from transferring schools purely for basketball, a rule that must have been made up by what could be referred to as ‘hardcore English football hooligans on the school board’.

Not one to take no for an answer, Danny appealed against this sit in the naughty
started he made sure to make the team. Once the new school year with no time for basketball he found was working and studying full time, Within the year of the 'red shirt' Danny was given five years to play from high school to college and out of those five years you are only able to take one year

Playing only three games of the season “wounded his chances of being picked up by colleges” so Danny decided to attend a prep school in Florida, which “allowed him the chance to get looked at by different schools.” He describes this year as one of his “most successful years” as he was able to solely focus on basketball. The establishment however was new which meant “it was not very well organized.” Nevertheless, Danny was scouted (something that is lacking in Ethiopia which Danny would like to see changed) by a coach from the University of Maine.

The basketball coach at
the University made many trips to see Danny play and to also speak to him and as far as they were concerned this was a done deal, plot twist. The coach at the prep school he was attending was also the director and had a few issues with the owner of the training camp where the players would train, the issues got so big that he was slapped with a restraining order, meaning he was not allowed to step foot inside the training camp, leaving the players without a coach. After that day Danny never heard from his Director or from the Coach at the University of Maine.

With all his siblings now residing in Washington DC, Danny decided to move closer to home and ‘Red Shirt’ for a year. Danny explains that in basketball you are given five years to play from high school to college and out of those five years you are only able to take one year out of the season, football fans would call this a red card and basketball fans a red shirt.

Basketball season does not start until November so Danny had a good two months to train and get himself mentally prepared for the new season, which also happens to be the shortest season running from November-December. After making a major comeback in his first month Danny was hit with what he calls “the last straw.” At the end of November he had found out that he had failed one class, which meant that he was unable to play the next semester, December-March, which yet again meant he was unable to play in the play offs.

Frustrated at both himself and the game he devoted his whole life to Danny decided it was time to give up on the NBA dream and decided to leave the team, a decision no one agreed/agrees with.

Once School was over for the summer Danny decided to come back home to Addis Ababa, a place he has not stepped foot in for the past three years, for what he thought would be a chill-all-day kind of summer. This did not sit very well with his father, Haileleul, who used the line “not under my roof” (a line every Ethiopian child has heard) and urged (forced) him to either find a job or an internship. Within a few days Danny found himself standing in the same camp he attended eight years ago as a 14-year-old player, however this time as a 22-year-old head coach, assisting his beloved Coach Carlos.

It is clear from the way the children at the camp approach him and converse with him that Danny is more than a head coach to them, he is the ‘kid that followed his dreams’ even if it meant that his dreams did not quite follow him. However, no hope has been given up on Danny, especially from the people that watched him play as a kid.

Whilst observing the way Danny coached and mentored the children The Reporter came across a man by the name of “Z”, which is short for a name that every Ethiopian child has heard and urged (forced) him to either find a job or an internship. He has been playing football in the same camp Danny played basketball. When asked about Danny, he spoke of him as if he had been put together piece by piece solely for the purpose of playing basketball, he said, “I used to be very amazed when Danny would play, he was so small and young playing with much older and bigger people, however, he would be doing things I had never seen be done in this country. Before him I never really knew basketball but from him I learnt what basketball could be. Even from what I saw the other day I was very surprised at the level of play he was at.” He added that he is mad because Danny is no longer

Daniel Haileleul... page 35

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Save me from meetings

He was a practical guy, this friend of mine. He does his job and keeps the waters around him calm. What more could anybody want from him! As long as he does his job and others did theirs, everybody lives happily ever after. There is only one problem; the world doesn’t work that way. Innocent souls thinking of life as a walk in the park on a sunny day need nerves of steel. The disappointment would have a tsunami effect. Simply, the rules of the game have changed.

One dreary morning several weeks back I ran into this friend. Before even offering him proper greetings I sensed something was wrong. His face looked like someone has vacuum-cleaned a congested warehouse with it.

“What’s the matter?”

“Nothing…” he mumbles.

It couldn’t be ‘nothing,’ not with a face like that! He certainly is not George Clooney. But his face that morning wasn’t one you wanted for company.

“What is the matter?” I insisted, ready for one of those dreary stories you hear so often these days.

Maybe, his wife read him the riot act in the dead of the night; you hear so often these days. “What is the matter?” I insisted, even offering him proper greetings. His face looked like someone like that! He certainly is not a practical guy, this friend of mine. He does his job and keeps the waters around him calm. What more could anybody want from him! As long as he does his job and others did theirs, everybody lives happily ever after. There is only one problem; the world doesn’t work that way.

A low level clerk he barely recognized singles him out calling him an arrogant man who even doesn’t greet people properly and also looked down on other coworkers. Him arrogant! Him looking down on others! No, this wasn’t happening! Unfortunately, it was.

The accuser sprinkles his denunciations with tired political jargons playing the patriotic card and gesturing to his handlers, “Aha! One more meeting where I’m doing my homework with passion!” The fellow goes on to say, “He isn’t playing his role in our organization’s development efforts;” What? What the hell was that all about? What that was about is the decision has probably been made to put our model employee on the chopping block. His accuser wasn’t some employee with chicken brain acting on his own; no, this was carefully planned strategy to force him play second fiddle to the powers that were. He has failed to go with flow, and it was time to teach him “conformity 101.” The battle lines, so to say, were drawn.

Confirmation came when a few others echoed the same accusations and by the time they finished his name, his reputation, and his sense of well being were carpet bombed to bits. Their vocabulary became so rude theyittered on the verge of personal insults; it was as if each one of them was trying to prove who threw the hardest punch. On the receiving end was a guy who didn’t deserve any of this. Yes, the order must have come from some leather-bound chair, “Clip his wings, and let’s see how high he flies.”

Though a bitter pill to swallow the tsunami effect. Simply, the rules of the game have changed. The vultures were swooping down and next time around their claws would lock on his throat. They might even accuse him of having a soft spot for this or that political entity. After all, by his silence he has refused to play along. There is so much negativity in the air these days. Many meetings are not about what the colorful banners claim them to be. They have become a sort of free-for-all where personal grudges claim them to be. They are not counted as part of this thirty-day period, nor is the day on which summons was served; and

One wonders what purpose is served by character assassination and the annihilation of someone’s reputation just because he/she refused to be one more pawn on the chessboard!

My friend is already talking of resigning. If he had to go he wanted to go his own way, walking tall and proud. Marching orders on the table would horribly deface his self confidence and sense of independence. The vultures were swooping down and next time around their claws would lock on his throat. They might even accuse him of having a soft spot for this or that political entity. After all, by his silence he has refused to play along. There is so much negativity in the air these days. Many meetings are not about what the colorful banners claim them to be. They have become a sort of free-for-all where personal grudges claim them to be. They are not counted as part of this thirty-day period, nor is the day on which summons was served; and

b. Notify the Plaintiff or its legal practitioners, in writing, at the address given below, of appearance to defend. You must give the Plaintiff or the legal practitioner an address for service within five kilometers of the court specified above together with a postal address.

If you do not enter an appearance to defend, the Plaintiff’s claim will be heard and dealt with by the High Court without further notice to you.

Dated at Harare this 16th day of August, 2016

The Plaintiff’s address for service is

NGARAVA MOYO GCHIKONO

1st Floor, Fidelity Life Tower

Raleigh Street,

Harare

Zimbabwe

(DM/mc )
To call China a colonial power is to diminish the true horrors that were faced by colonized communities. But that does not mean that African countries can be compliant as Chinese actors continue to deepen their economic engagement with the continent, writes Hannah Ryder.

VIEWPOINT

Unlocking girls’ potential

I recently visited a “girls club” – a safe space where adolescent girls come together in Rajasthan, India. As I arrived, I was greeted by a group of teenage girls bouncing along the road, so full of energy and laughter that I couldn’t help but smile, too. Just imagine, I thought, the potential of 600 million such girls.

History’s largest generation of girls aged 10-19 is here, ready to make its mark on the world. Governments, development organizations, and private institutions are eager to help them translate that youthful potential into an engine of creativity, economic growth, and social progress. But, on the path to such a future, girls continue to face major obstacles.

Some 170 million girls – almost one third of girls worldwide – are not enrolled in school. This is a major missed opportunity: for every year of forgone schooling, a girl’s potential income drops 10-20 percent. Yet there are major barriers to boosting school enrollment – beginning with the persistence of child marriage.

Every year, 15 million girls are married before they reach the age of 18 – one every two seconds – with early or forced child marriage affecting about a quarter of girls worldwide. Beyond increasing the probability that a girl will suffer violence, early marriage boosts girls’ chances of early pregnancy by 90 percent. The likely result is a larger family that demands more unpaid childcare, thereby undermining educational attainment and reinforcing the gender pay gap.

Girls who are married before age 18 also face a severe reduction in mobility, though they are not alone. A study in South Africa showed that, overall, girls face a drastic reduction in access to the public sphere – with spatial access falling from an area of 6.3 square miles to just 2.6 – when they reach puberty. Spatial access for boys, by contrast, more than doubles, from 3.8 square miles to 7.8, when they are seen as becoming men. Reduced mobility for girls puts them at risk of social isolation and limits their opportunities to build social capital.

As a result of these and other factors, only 47 percent of women in low- and middle-income countries are now in the labor force, compared to 79 of men. My research team estimates that if we cut the labor-force participation gap by just half – from 22 percentage points to 16 percent – GDP in the affected countries would increase by 15 percent in the first year alone, adding four trillion dollars to global GDP.

Giving girls the skills and knowledge they need to become productive women who can participate in the twenty-first-century economy empowers them in all aspects of their lives, enabling them to contribute to their families, communities, and economies in ways they choose. It is the right thing to do for global development – and for girls and women themselves.

A growing number of governments, foundations, companies, and communities recognize this, and are now investing in girls’ health, education, and wellbeing. But considerable resources are being channeled toward ineffective approaches or – worse – programs that have been proved not to work. And too many well-meaning development actors regard girls as victims to be saved, rather than as the innovative, energetic game changers they are.

So how can we best expand opportunities for girls? We know, for example, that educating girls may be the most cost-effective investment for promoting economic development. We also know that girls, including those with children of their own, benefit considerably when they gain access to sexual and reproductive information and services, which enable them to choose the size of their families.
Wild lion adopts leopard cub, an unprecedented sight

A wild lioness has been observed suckling a leopard cub in Tanzania’s Ngorongoro Conservation Area, in the first ever observed instance of such animal behavior. Although certain cats like lions have been observed taking in and nursing the young of others of their own species—usually kin of their relatives—this sighting of cross-species adoption is unprecedented.

The photos were taken Tuesday by a guest at Ndutu Lodge in Tanzania. The leopard cub is estimated to be about 3 weeks old, and the lioness is 5. She bears a GPS collar and is monitored for scientific purposes by KopeLion, a Tanzanian conservation organization supported by Panthera.

It’s unknown how the leopard cub ended up with Nosikitok. But the lioness is “awash in maternal hormones,” and likely took the leopard cub to be one of her own, Hunter says. At the time of the photo, the cubs were stashed back at her den site.

What will become of this interspecies adoption? Since it’s an unprecedented sighting, nobody knows for sure. Luke Hunter, a lion expert and president of Panthera explains that even for lion cubs, early youth is difficult, and only half of these animals make it to 1 year of age. As lions grow out of being cubs, they go through a transitional period where they are recognized and taken in by the pride. But it seems unlikely that other lions wouldn’t recognize the leopard as being different, Hunter says. (Time)

Google launches a new Backup and Sync desktop app for uploading files and photos to the cloud

As promised last month, Google has this week launched its new “Backup and Sync from Google” tool, which aims to help users more easily back up the files and photos on their computer. The utility is meant to replace the older Google Photos desktop app, as well as the Google Drive client applications for both Mac and PC.

Essentially, it’s combining the older apps’ functionality into one experience, so you don’t have to use two different software programs for the very similar purpose of getting files off your computer and into Google’s cloud.

The new tool offers a simple user interface, where you’ll first sign into your Google account, then select the folders you want Google to continually back up to Google Drive. Because it’s replacing current users’ existing Google Drive installations, the tool will respect any current settings you’ve already specified on Mac and PC. Google explained last month, when it announced the tool was in the works.

In addition to backing up files on your desktop computer, the new software also can be used to back up photos from USB-connected devices, like cameras, as well as SD cards. After the backup is complete, your files can be accessed in Google Drive from any device — including your computer, phone or tablet. Your photos and videos, meanwhile, will be available in Google Photos.

Both products’ websites are currently hosting the updated software, which is a free download for consumers. (TechCrunch)
WordPress.com gives you more options to share your posts on social networks

WordPress.com is slowly but surely replacing all those clunky social sharing plugins that you use. With this week’s update, you can now schedule tweets, Facebook posts or LinkedIn updates in WordPress.com’s admin interface.

WordPress.com has had social sharing features for years, but it used to be very basic. You could connect your Facebook or Twitter accounts with your WordPress.com account so that it would tweet and share your articles right after you published something. There was no way to configure the message, share multiple times or schedule a social post.

More recently, WordPress.com introduced a brand new sharing section below each post in the WordPress.com admin interface (not the good old WordPress dashboard, the recent WordPress.com website). This way, you could manually share your posts after publishing them.

Now, you can also schedule your social posts and preview those posts to see what they’re going to look like on Twitter, Facebook, etc. Think about it as a sort of Buffer for your WordPress posts.

Scheduling is a key feature if you want to be serious about your social accounts. The key advantage is that you can schedule multiple social posts at once so that it feels like there’s always something going on on your Facebook page or Twitter account.

And now that WordPress.com provides this feature natively, you don’t need to connect to your Facebook page, Twitter account or LinkedIn profile to manually enter and share the same message on all platforms. (TechCrunch)

BMW to include Skype for Business in-car via iDrive

BMW is doing more with partner Microsoft to bring productivity to its vehicles. After adding Office 365 communications features to its BMW 5 series late last year, it’s now also bringing Skype for Business to its infotainment features, making it possible for users to connect to Skype meetings in the car.

BMW is doing more with partner Microsoft to bring productivity to its vehicles. After adding Office 365 communications features to its BMW 5 series late last year, it’s now also bringing Skype for Business to its infotainment features, making it possible for users to connect to Skype meetings in the car.

The Skype integration is going to be integrated into BMW’s iDrive system, and will allow users to join online meetings directly, as well as receive alerts about upcoming meetings, get alerts when meetings are changed, and start meetings automatically without requiring a driver to do any manual dialing in. Exchange customers will also be able to integrate their calendars, to-do tasks and contacts with vehicle voice and navigation services, Microsoft said.

To begin with, the services are going to roll out in Germany, France and the UK, and BMW will then look to expand it to other markets. It’s a prime example of the delicate balance automakers and connected service providers need to tread when satisfying customer demand for more smart vehicle features, but also focusing on keeping distractions to a minimum.

This partnership also lays the groundwork for long-term collaboration on in-car experiences that could become much more far-reaching when autonomous vehicles become commonplace. Audi already announced it would be bringing Level 3 autonomy to production vehicles next year, which means they’ll be times during driving when a driver can focus on other tasks – including productivity.

Expect more partnerships to emerge like this one that lay the groundwork for deeper integrations in a self-driving future. (TechCrunch)

On July 10, 1991 Boris Yeltsin took the oath of office, becoming the first popularly elected president in Russia’s thousand-year history.
Ilona Daniel is a well-known chef from Prince Edward Island, Canada. She received a surprise invitation from Canadian ambassador in Ethiopia, Philip Baker, to come to Ethiopia and showcase the best of Canada at a celebration marking the 150th anniversary of Canada. She was glad she accepted as it became a “life changing” experience for her. She reflects with Samuel Getachew of The Reporter on her Canadian citizenship, her impressions of Ethiopia, what she thought of the cuisines of Ethiopia and she is quick to explain why her province (state) is a worthy place to visit for Ethiopian travelers looking to experience unique cultures. Excerpts:

The Reporter: You were recently in Ethiopia to celebrate the 150th year of confederation. How was the experience like?
Ilona Daniel: It was a whirlwind experience, as I was only in Ethiopia for eight days, but I made the most of every moment! I definitely slept a lot on my flight back to Canada!! It was a beautiful experience, and I feel so grateful for the opportunity to share my love of my homeland, Canada in such an incredibly unique way.

You wanted to represent Canada with pride and showcase your Canadian citizenry. In reflection of a milestone year for Canada and its role in the world, what does being Canadian mean to you?
To me, whenever I’m asked to describe what it means to be Canadian, I am filled with such emotion! I have lectured at universities in China, and my students are always curious to know what it means to be Canadian. Being Canadian means we celebrate all the cultures which compose the make-up of our population. We have deep foundations from our First Nations communities. They have shown us the importance of loving the earth we walk upon, and their folklore is full of incredible teachings. The continuous waves of immigrants have also brought such beauty to the tapestry of Canadian culture.

The Canadian quality of life is an excellent one: we have community supports to help care for one another. It is ever my hope; we continue to keep building upon these foundations.

In Ethiopia, you exposed hundreds of people to unique Canadian cuisines.
and ingredients from the prairies. What were some of these unique Canadian cuisines and ingredients that you brought and how was the reaction like?

We brought lobster, beef, maple syrup and Pacific salmon. We had a wonderful time working with the ingredients in the kitchens, and the guests of the Canadian Ambassador were excited to experience a different perspective on cuisine. I would say the PEI style Lobster Rolls were the most popular items of the night!

Were you able to sample Ethiopian cuisine?

Oh yes! I definitely had the chance to enjoy some Ethiopian cuisine while I was in Addis. I really enjoyed some Ethiopian cuisine while I was there. I ate lots of injera and as much fresh mango as I could get my hands on. It was mango season when I was there, and I had the chance to enjoy it at the peak of ripeness. My favorite has to be the coffee! I'm half Armenian, and the way coffee is prepared and enjoyed in Ethiopia is very similar to the way my dad makes it for the family; we drink a lot of coffee in my household.

What impressed you most about the country?

I was most taken by the people of Ethiopia. I travel a lot, and there are two ways I find I can best get to the heart of understanding a nation: the food and people in everyday life. I met so many people from all walks of life, and I always found myself sharing stories and laughs with people wherever I went. Ethiopians are a very kind, and warm people. I especially enjoyed having conversations with some of the elders; their expressions, and turns of phrases felt so familiar to me. It brought me much happiness.

You interacted with women and children while you were in Ethiopia, teach culinary techniques and share your experiences. Share with me some of the highlights.

Making meatballs with a Coca Cola and Maple Syrup BBQ sauce was probably one of my favorite teaching times. While in Ethiopia, I came to learn Ethiopians typically do not lean towards sweet foods, where as in Canada, we are celebrated sweet-tooths! As we stirred all of the ingredients into the pot, I could see the questioning glances, wondering was this Canadian chef crazy? We worked together around a big stainless steel table shaping meatballs, browning them as we waited for the sauce to thicken. I shared stories of my adventures, and found out lots about Ethiopian culture as we passed the time. Once the sauce was ready, I invited my crew to grab a spoon, and take a taste. I think they were a little bit nervous, I know I am when I’m trying something for the first time! Everyone’s eyes widened, accompanied with some big smiles; success! I’ll always remember the little twinkle in their eyes at the pleasure of such simple, sweet discovery.

You recently described your trip to Ethiopia as “an unexpected blessing that has changed” your life. As a noted chef that has traveled many places throughout your career, why was the Ethiopian experience unique among the places you have experienced?

I think Ethiopia is such an ancient place, with such a mystical culture. There are so many layers of wisdom found in plain sight that I think many who are not native to the country can often miss it in its simple forms. I constantly seek out what might often be missed. I have read, and watched so many documentaries/history books, and am constantly attempting to find deeper understanding. China is like this in some ways too. Canada is a baby as a nation compared to Ethiopia, and having the opportunity to breathe in the air, admire the embroidery work, the traditional jewelry, and the incredible food, it is impossible to ever imagine my life without those experiences. I know I’ve visited a special land, when I almost immediately begin thinking about what I’d like to do on my next visit! Ethiopians often travel to Canada to known provinces such as Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia but not PEI. Why do you think PEI is a worthy province worthy of a visit to tourists looking for the unique experience you experienced in Ethiopia?

PEI has been declared one of the most beautiful Islands in the world to visit by various media outlets including CNN. We have beautiful, clean, red sand beaches. Our landscape is breathtaking at any time of year, and much like in Ethiopia, you will find our people to be warm, funny, and ready to tell a story at any time. We are blessed with fantastic agricultural, as well as aquacultural products. PEI is a place out a gentle dream, where you can create your own adventures.

PEI is the birthplace of Canadian Confederation, and as such there is much historical importance of Canada’s smallest province. Our food scene is bursting with so much to explore. If any Ethiopians plan a visit to PEI, I’d be happy to get them started on where to look for the best of what we have to offer!
How healthy is the global financial system?

In recent weeks, policymakers on both sides of the Atlantic have affirmed that the financial system is sound and stable. The US Federal Reserve announced in June that all US banks passed its latest annual stress test. And Fed Chair Janet Yellen has now suggested that we might not experience another financial crisis “in our lifetimes.”

At the same time, the Financial Stability Board (FSB) – which monitors regulatory practices around the world to ensure that they meet globally-agreed standards – has declared, in a letter to G20 leaders, that “toxic forms of shadow banking” are being eliminated.

In short, ongoing measures to buttress the global financial system have undoubtedly paid off, especially when it comes to strengthening capital cushions and cleaning up balance sheets in important parts of the banking system. The latest assurances from policymakers are comforting to those of us who worry that not enough has been done to reduce systemic financial risk and to ensure that banks serve the real economy, rather than threaten its wellbeing.

Yet it is too soon to give the financial system a clean bill of health. Efforts to shore up the banking sector in some parts of Europe are still lagging far behind. And, more important, financial risks have continued to migrate to non-bank activities. After irresponsible risk-taking almost tipped the global economy into a multi-year depression in 2007-2008, regulators and central banks in advanced economies launched a major effort to strengthen their financial systems. To that end, they focused initially on banks, which have since helter-skelter their risk-absorbing capital cushions, cleansed murky balance sheets, increased liquidity, enhanced transparency, narrowed the scope of high-risk activities, and partly realigned internal incentives to discourage reckless behavior. Moreover, the process for resolving failing and failed banks has been improved.

In addition to strengthening the banking sector, policymakers have also made progress toward standardizing derivative markets and making them more robust and transparent, which also reduces the risk of future taxpayer bailouts for irresponsible institutions. Moreover, the system for payments and settlement has been made safer, thereby lowering the threat of a “sudden stop” in economic activity, like the one that occurred in the fourth quarter of 2008. It has been encouraging to watch national authorities coordinate their efforts under the auspices of the FSB. Better coordination has reduced the risk of regulatory arbitrage, and address the threat that banks will be, as former Bank of England Governor Mervyn King memorably put it, “international in life but national in death,” writes Mohamed A. El-Erian.

The health costs of environmental change

In recent years, the world has become increasingly preoccupied with the catastrophic potential of global warming and other human-induced environmental changes, and rightly so. But one of the most serious risks has been all but ignored: the threat to human health.

To be sure, concerns about what a rise in global temperatures above pre-industrial levels could mean for the planet are entirely justified. And many are understandably perturbed that the world’s poorest suffer disproportionately, while the United States, the planet’s second-largest emitter of carbon dioxide, seems to be shirking its responsibilities.

But the health implications of human-induced environmental change are largely being overlooked as global warming is characterized by future generations’ quality of life being mortgaged for economic gain. Nowhere are these implications more visible than in the emerging markets of Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Europe.

Rapid growth and rising incomes have led to unprecedented improvements in nutrition, education, and social mobility. Over the last 35 years, countries such as Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, and Turkey have all made extraordinary gains in human development.

But this progress has often been pursued with little regard for the stability of natural systems. The contamination of roughly half of the world’s fresh water supply, the disappearance of more than 1.4 million square miles (2.3 million square kilometers) of forests since 2000, solid waste mismanagement, and widespread species loss, habitat destruction, and overfishing are destroying the very resources we need to survive.

Humans are changing the natural environment so dramatically, and to our own detriment, that scientists believe we have entered a new neogeologic epoch – the “Anthropocene” – which began around 1950 and is characterized by unprecedented planetary pollution, writes Shaukat Aziz.
Why build financially inclusive economies?

The lack of access to even the most basic financial services makes it difficult for an estimated two billion people to save money and effectively participate in the global economy. When G20 leaders meet in Germany this week, digital financial inclusion must remain at the top of the agenda, writes Mark Suzman.

The theme of the latest G20 summit in Hamburg, Germany, was “shaping an interconnected world,” and when leaders got down to business, many of the highest-profile topics – climate change, counter-terrorism, trade – took center stage. But the attention received by a less well-known agenda item will be no less critical to ensuring global prosperity: digital financial inclusion.

Today, some two billion adults still lack access to even the most basic financial services. Digital financial inclusion is about broadening access to the formal economy by making electronic financial tools – like debit accounts that people can access on their mobile phones affordable and available on a large scale. When the poor start using these services, two things happen. First, they manage money more effectively – with new ways to save, make payments, access credit, or obtain insurance. Second, they spend less time taking care of simple financial transactions and more on productive work or running a small business of their own. Moreover, additional earnings and savings boost poor people’s resilience against financial shocks resulting from, say, an unexpected medical expense or a seasonal crop failure.

There is no shortage of evidence for the transformative effect of digital financial inclusion on economies. In Kenya, for example, “mobile money,” which allows users to transfer funds by text message, has helped an estimated 194,000 households escape extreme poverty.

The breakthrough there was driven by changes in savings behavior and greater occupational choice, especially for women. As more countries experience gains like these, the prospects for lasting economic growth improve dramatically. One recent study projected that broadening access to digital finance tools could increase developing countries’ GDP by an estimated USD 3.7 trillion by 2025.

But, in order to capitalize on the transformative nature of greater financial inclusion, effective policies are needed at the national level. Last year, the G20 published “High-Level Principles for Digital Financial Inclusion,” which focuses on eight of the most successful strategies adopted by national governments around the world. A new G20 report published this spring probes those strategies further, and shows how to turn principles into action.

China has been a leader in this regard, demonstrating how to strike a balance between innovation and risk. When online payment services, like Alibaba’s Alipay, first emerged, regulators were faced with an entirely new category of financial provider. Rather than impose a battery of rules up front, they watched and learned to see what types of regulations were needed. This gave providers a chance to find their footing and evolve. That approach helped Alipay to become the world’s largest online payment platform.

Regulatory innovations elsewhere are solving another key challenge: the lack of personal identification for new account holders. This is a common problem in many developing countries, and has prevented hundreds of millions of people from signing up for financial services. To overcome this hurdle, Tanzania and Mexico implemented systems that require nothing more than a phone number to sign up for the most basic accounts. Programs in both countries have been successful; in Mexico, for example, more than nine million new accounts were opened in the first two years.

India, meanwhile, is launching a massive digital identification program that collects fingerprints and other biometric data. More than one billion digital profiles have been created since the program began six years ago, more than one-third of those profiles are linked to bank accounts.

Yet the most recent G20 report also highlights some challenges. For example, “interoperability” – the ability of customers to transact with one another even if they are using different platforms – is the norm in only a few markets today. Government action to address this would help increase customer convenience and lower operating costs for providers. Users with little or no experience navigating online payment systems would also benefit from the adoption of policies that improve financial literacy.

OPINION +

The first anniversary of the great victory of our democracy

The Turkish nation proved to the world that democracy is not a cheap victory but is precious enough to die for its sake. Our primary duty is to take necessary measures to prevent what happened a year ago from happening again. We are making efforts to manage this challenging process within the constitutional order.

Binali Yıldırım.

It has been a year since we thwarted the bloodiest terrorist attack in the history of the Republic of Turkey. Turkey has proven its resilience, ability to recover and strength in the course of last year. It has proven its resilience, ability to recover and strength in the course of last year. It has been a year since we thwarted the putschists. Our television channels were linked to bank accounts.

First of all, we should remember what we have been through. What happened that night was an attack on the Turkish state by traitors, who infiltrated the Turkish military, who were loyal to a deranged man who sees himself as the “imam of the universe.” We were confronted with murderers, who bombed their own national helicopters. We have never before been faced with such a deranged individual. That night, we were confronted with murderers, who bombed their own national helicopters. We have never before been faced with such a deranged individual.

The first one is the courage and determination of the Turkish people. Our citizens from all backgrounds and political views took to the streets against the putschists. Our television channels continued broadcasting despite the threats and raids by coup plotters. The Turkish nation became one.

Second, the Turkish nation showed the entire world that it defended democracy and will continue to do so. My people demonstrated that only the governments taking office through democratic processes and the will of the people would rule Turkey, not the armed groups. The strongest legitimacy is the democratic one. We passed this tough democracy test as a country.

But the question that my grandchild asked me with all her naivety that night will never fade away from my mind or anyone else’s. “Grandpa, aren’t these our soldiers?” Indeed, what kind of mindset would drive a person to attack his own people, institutions, symbols and leaders in such a brutal manner?

The answer underlies the nature of the treachery network we are facing. That night, we were confronted with a crime network, blindly following the orders of ringleader Fethullah Gülen via a professor of theology. We are talking about a treacherous gang that failed to grasp the notion of the glorious millennial history of Turkish soldiers, saluting the mayor of a city that failed to grasp the notion of the glorious millennial history of Turkish soldiers, saluting the mayor of a city.

Regulatory innovations elsewhere are solving another key challenge: the lack of personal identification for new account holders. This is a common problem in many developing countries, and has prevented hundreds of millions of people from signing up for financial services. To overcome this hurdle, Tanzania and Mexico implemented systems that require nothing more than a phone number to sign up for the most basic accounts. Programs in both countries have been successful; in Mexico, for example, more than nine million new accounts were opened in the first two years.
The first anniversary
exposed. FETÖ members, following the orders of Fethullah Gülen, had acted unnoticed inside the capillaries of the system and reached almost all power centers like an infection caused by a virus that gradually takes over the vital organs of a body. Comprehensive administrative, criminal and legal investigations have been conducted throughout the year since July 15, 2016. Extensive evidence has been reached on this structure that masterminded and implemented the coup attempt.

The evidence has demonstrated that we are facing a heretical, esoteric belief system built by Fethullah Gülen. The schools and dorms of the organization operated as brainwashing and recruitment centers. Members of the organization indoctrinated in these intuitions and loyal to their mastermind, whom they believe to be “the Messiah,” were enabled to infiltrate the state apparatus. This way, the followers, ready to resort to all sorts of illegal and immoral acts without any questioning, were promoted to key positions. These people hatched plots such as cheating in public service entrance tests, illegal wiretappings, blackmailing and sham trials. The organization had been financed through so-called charities and foundations. Billion dollars’ worth of money transactions have been laundered via large companies and banks. The organization’s media branch functioned as a propaganda tool. Is it conceivable for an “education movement” to operate in cell structures, recognize members with code names, develop encrypted applications to communicate among themselves, teach its members techniques of counter-intelligence and tactics to mask their affiliation? This new generation of terrorist organization has resorted to every possible method to eliminate those who are not with them and tried to control not only the political power but also the state of the Republic of Turkey in line with their own heretical ambitions. It is this heretical and unreserved mission of the Turkish nation thwarted on July 15.

I can say that we have destroyed the backbone of the organization in Turkey with the measures we have taken. However, the threat is not limited to Turkey. The organization has similar structures in many countries. Currently, they continue to plant treacherous seeds in other states. This time, they are more actively seeking global economic and political influence for their survival. I hereby would like to alert our friends once again.

The Turkish nation proved to the world that democracy is not a cheap victory but is precious enough to die for its sake. Our primary duty is to take necessary measures to prevent it from happening again. We are making efforts to manage this challenging process within the constitutional order. Eventually, Turkish democracy was targeted and our democracy won. So our aim and endeavors will be to take the necessary steps in time to crown our democracy.

Ed’s Note: Binaiyl Yildirim Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey. The article was exclusively provided to The Reporter by the Embassy of Turkey in Addis Ababa. The views expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the views of The Reporter.

How healthy is...

Second, certain segments of the non-bank system are now in the grips of a “liquidity delusion,” in which some products risk over-promising the liquidity they can provide for clients transacting in some areas — such as high-yield and emerging market corporate bonds — that are particularly vulnerable to market volatility. And at the same time, exchange-traded funds have proliferated, while financial intermediaries have shrunk relative to bigger and more complex end users.

Third, the financial system has yet to feel the full impact of technological disruptions fueled by advances in big data, artificial intelligence, and mobility, which already are in the process of upending a growing number of other established sectors. And the financial-technology (fintech) activities that have expanded in inadequately regulated, and have yet to be tested by a full market cycle. To be sure, another systemic financial crisis that threatens growth and economic prosperity worldwide likely won’t originate in the banking system. But it would be premature to assert that we have put all the risks confronting the financial system behind us.

Because risks have morphed — and migrated out of the banking system — regulators and supervisors will have to step up their efforts and widen their focus to see beyond the banks. After all, as Greg Ip of the Wall Street Journal pointed out in 2015, “Squeezing risk out of the economy can be like pressing on a water bed: the risk often re-emerges elsewhere. So it goes with efforts to make the financial system safer since the financial crisis.”

Ed’s Note: Mohamed A. El-Erian, Chief Economic Adviser at Allianz, was Chairman of US President Barack Obama’s Global Development Council and is the author of The Only Game in Town: Central Banks, Instability, and Avoiding the Next Collapse.

Unlocking girls’...

Girls’ advocates – in governments, non-governmental organizations, and development and funding agencies – struggle daily with meeting these needs. And, despite recognizing the multifaceted and interconnected nature of girls’ needs, we often struggle in silos, working on the same problems without communicating with one another. This lack of effective coordination, collaboration, or knowledge sharing carries through to investments, which often end up narrowly focused on a single project, sector, or geographic area – often weakening their effectiveness.

That’s why the Population Foundation of India created the Girls Innovation, Research, and Learning (GIRL) Center, a kind of global knowledge hub for girl-centered research and programming. The GIRL Center, which I direct, aims to make the most of the world’s investments in girls, both by supporting evidence-based policies and by aligning the goals and priorities of various stakeholders.

To that end, we are building the world’s largest open data repository on adolescents, curating the Population Foundation of India’s records on more than 120,000 individuals of adolescent age, as well as data from other organizations working on girl-centered research and programs. The repository will enable rigorous analyses that provide policymakers with a deeper understanding of how girls’ lives and needs evolve during adolescence and which interventions are most effective for which groups (and under which conditions). It will also connect people from different disciplines and sectors united by the goal of promoting systemic changes that give adolescents, especially girls, the opportunity to fulfill their potential.

Empowering girls to use their energies and talents to transform their societies will not be easy. The key is to pursue a comprehensive approach – one that recognizes the fundamental linkages among programs and objectives, takes advantage of proven solutions, and adopts a long-term perspective.

Ed’s Note: Thal Njo, the director of the Poverty, Gender, and Youth (PGY) Program at the Population Foundation of India, also leads the PGY Program at the Population Council, also directs the Centre’s new GIRL Innovation, Research and Learning (GIRL) Center.

The health costs...

This is true for even the poorest countries that pursue environmentally sound policies that promote healthy, non-destructive models of development. Shortsighted decisions, like that taken by the Trump administration to withdraw the US from the Paris climate agreement, have the potential to move the world in the other direction. We must not let that happen. The agreement’s remaining signatories must work collectively to solve the world’s environmental challenges, paying close attention to the health costs of inaction. The current trajectory must be corrected unless all countries accept that economic growth and environmental stewardship can coexist.

Global forums, like the G20 and the United Nations, can serve as key vehicles for the promotion of sustainable development. In particular, strategies to promote health and wellbeing must be better integrated into local, state, and international environmental policymaking.

Make no mistake: determined opponents will question the science and criticize those who claim that human health is being jeopardized by environmental disregard. But to these critics I pose a question of my own: “Are you willing to risk being wrong?”

Ed’s Note: Shaukat Aziz was Prime Minister of Pakistan from 2004 to 2007. The article was provided to The Reporter by Project Syndicate, the world’s pre-eminent source of original op-ed commentaries. Project Syndicate provides incisive perspectives on our changing world by those who are shaping its politics, economics, science, and culture. The views expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the views of The Reporter.
Why build financially...

Overall, the G20 reports make clear that digital financial inclusion is a powerful tool for tackling poverty. But wealthier countries can benefit as well, because digital financial inclusion, when rolled out well, increases consumer activity and trade.

The G20, under China’s presidency last year, made improving access to digital financial services a global priority, and it will remain so under Germany’s tenure. This focus will help improve access to the global economy for the billions who need it most — especially the poor, the elderly, and women in developing countries.

The world is getting better at understanding the mechanics of financial inclusion, and the ways that digital technology can accelerate it. This is great news for the unbanked. But placing the topic on a summit agenda is not enough. To keep the innovation going, global challenges need localized solutions. As leaders in China, Kenya, Mexico, and many other countries have already discovered, an economy that includes everyone benefits all.

Ed. Note: Mark Suzman is Chief Strategy Officer and President of Global Policy and Advocacy at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The article was provided to The Reporter by Project Syndicate: the world’s pre-eminent source of original op-ed commentaries. Project Syndicate provides incisive perspectives on our changing world by those who are shaping its politics, economics, science, and culture. The views expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the views of The Reporter.

ETTA taxi hailing...

The option of providing prepaid cashless services to their employees after hours.

The company is also beginning to be noticed for its corporate responsibility mantra — The ‘Don’t Drink & Drive, Take ETTA Instead’ version of their app, the company tested its services to their employees after hours.

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For further information and queries, please contact - Tsigereda Belete UNICEF - UNECA Compound, NOF Building, 2nd floor

To collect the bid document please notify the Supply Section by email: ETH-SupplyTenderBox@unicef.org or btekele@unicef.org or yzewge@unicef.org providing the name of the person who will be collecting the bid in advance or alternatively you may call telephone no +251 115 184000 or 011 518 41 44 at least one (1) hour before your arrival at the UNECA Security Gate.

Invitation for International Competitive Bid

Tender No.06/2017

1. We are seeking to import steel billet from abroad and ask all potential suppliers to participate in the Bid. For detail specification of the bid please refer below.

- Description: Prime Steel Billets, Quantity: 40,000 Metric tons, in two lots, Size (mm): 150X150 and/or 130X130, Length (meter): 6/12.
- Delivery time: Sep, 2017

2. Interested bidder can get a complete set of bid document by sending its inquiry to our email at smindustry2017@gmail.com. While sending their inquiry, bidders must indicate their manufacturer’s name and country of origin, local company or agent name, company profile, contact person name and his/her telephone and fax number and office address.

3. We have the right to cancel the bid and/or to accept or reject any or all bids without giving the reasons thereof.

Steely RMI PLC
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

TENDER NOTICE
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP):

The office of the United Nations high commissioner for refugees in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, invites interested, qualified and registered service providers for the following tender:

1. For the Establishment of a frame agreement for provision of fumigation services in Addis Ababa, Gambella, Shire, Mekele, Melkadida, and Asossa -RFP-HCR-AA-2017-018

Interested service providers may wish to collect the tender documents from the UNHCR Country office in Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, at the following address:

UNHCR Country office,
Supply Management Service,
Bole road near to Saay Pastry.
Working hours:
Monday to Thursday from 09:00 – 12:00 and 14:00 – 16:00
Friday from 09:00 – 14:00
Collection period: Effective from 15 JULY 2017 until 4 August 2017

THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS IS 17:00 HOURS LOCAL TIME ON 7 August 2017.

Company Representative(s) collecting the tender documents will be required to provide a proof of affiliation with the company and provide contact details. An official company stamp is also required.

Offers must be hand delivered in a sealed envelope and deposited in the tender box located at UNHCR Country office, Supply Management Service, Bole road near to Saay Pastry – Addis Ababa.

Late offers will not be considered.

UNHCR
SUPPLY MANAGEMENT SERVICES
ADDIS ABBABA, ETHIOPIA

www.thereporterethiopia.com
Celebrating Bastille Day

“The challenge is responding to the concrete challenges facing our states, to allow a fair representation of all the fringes of the population and to allow the state to help maintain and strengthen the social aspiration to live together,” Jean-Christophe Belliard, Ambassador of France to Ethiopia, said on Friday, July 14 as he celebrated the French National Day at his residence commemorating the anniversary of Storming of the Bastille. “Ethiopia was at the forefront for the fight for the adoption of an ambitious agreement on climate change,” he said. “Some states seem to question the irrefutable scientific finding on global warming and the urgency of collective action. France and Ethiopia will continue their advocacy hand in hand.”
WE COMMEMORATE OUR 15 JULY MARTYRS AS WE CELEBRATE THE VICTORY OF DEMOCRACY

The Turkish nation has failed a coup attempt on the night of 15 July 2016 master minded by those followers of Fetullah Gülen who sneaked in to the armed forces and public institutions as Gülen perceive himself as the “imam of the universe”. What happened was a terror is, to attack at a scale never witnessed before in the history of the Republic of Turkey. 250 of our citizens were martyred and more than 2,000 were injured during this terror is to coup attempt.

Turkish people, confronted coup plotters with one heart and great courage. Standed against the tanks. Put their bodies as shields, in order to prevent the occupation of the government institutions. Made it clear that it will not let undemocratic interventions. Proved that the future of Turkey will be shaped by the nation’s will not by the armed groups.

We commemorate our beloved martyrs who have lost their lives while protecting the democracy and the future of their country as heroes, and we do express our gratitude to our veterans.
There are other major donors, too. ECHO, the EU’s Humanitarian Aid and Civilian Protection Department, DPTD (the UK’s Department for International Development), there are other bilateral partners, the Swedes and Norwegians and others. So together, as we did during the 2015/16 hIGHLand drought, we all need to come together to work to help support the government and the regional governments in their efforts to promote and address the food security challenges posed by the Indian Ocean Dipole events that happened this past year.

But if we see in terms of the sectors, you have the very intervention areas and programs in Ethiopia. Food aid, humanitarian development, women’s empowerment, peace and security are among others where US financial assistance is allocated. Moreover, there is also military assistance, which many people think is one of the other areas US assistance to Ethiopia. Which area do you think is prioritized by the US government?

There’s a misperception that a lot of our assistance is to security areas, and we do support Ethiopia’s involvement in peacekeeping missions in South Sudan, the counterterrorism and peace support operations in Somalia. But that is fairly limited. In the past year it was only around USD 10 million to all of those efforts. Now in the UN operations in the two Sudans (Sudan and South Sudan), we as a member of the United Nations pay dues for peacekeeping. So we do significantly support the deployments, including those of Ethiopian troops, in UN operations. So there’s a significant contribution that remains in that area as well. And a significant shared interest in promoting an end to conflict and end to famine in South Sudan and some sort of political reconciliation.

So we as a member of the troika, and Ethiopia as the leader of IGAD, as a key member of the UN Security Council with us, and in the African Union, is working on that issue. You mentioned in the other areas where developmental assistance as you said, to just the humanitarian sector. Undoubtedly, the US plays a huge role in bolstering many of those sectors that you just mentioned. And I think we will continue to play an important role.

Now we’re going to have to do so efficiently, with cost-effectiveness and prove through our metrics that what we’re doing works, and if we’re doing things that don’t work, then we don’t do it anymore. So there will be a burden on all of us in the embassy, among our partners and with the host government, to make sure that the things that we’re engaged in, really do deliver a bang for the buck, for the American taxpayer, and to the Ethiopian citizen and to the Ethiopian government.

In that regard, I think, for example, the things that we’re doing in global health; my sense is, from my interaction with members of the new administration, that they share part, or at least a large measure of what other administrations have done forward with. George Bush promoting PEFPAR (President’s Emergency Plan for AIDs Relief) and the Malaria initiative continued by President Obama. Officials of the new administration that I’ve spoken to when we had our annual conference on PEFPAR were supportive and are at the table on how we’re doing with the same level of budget.

Hence, the challenge for Ethiopia is that the prevalence of HIV is lower. It’s still a huge country in terms of population, right? Different geographies. So how do we make sure we test the right people? We don’t waste money testing people just because they come to the clinic or the outpatient counseling service area. We want to test the right people who are at risk and put them on treatment, as efficiently as possible. And that’s harder to do cheaply than in a country where the prevalence of HIV may be much higher, 10 to 11 percent. Here it is just over one percent. But one percent of 100 million is still a lot of people, maybe a million people. That’s the challenge here – even though the country has made great strides in public health, how do you wipe out malaria in certain areas, which was the hope of the previous minister and the current minister of health. How do you wipe out HIV – a disease that doesn’t have a cure or a vaccine? So those are still huge challenges, even though we’ve been engaged very closely for 15 years in the issue.

But what I can tell the American taxpayer is by fighting epidemics, fighting infectious diseases in countries like Ethiopia, other parts of Africa or India or anywhere in the world, these are challenges that are posed by what we saw two years ago with Ebola, are costly when they come to America too. So if we were able to prevent Ebola where it started, working with partners, as your country did, contributing epidemiologists and health workers to West Africa, just as we contributed troops and tents and things, and MSF (Medecins Sans Frontieres) contributed their expertise. If we can deal with those outbreaks of disease overseas, that will make it cheaper to deal with in the US too.

There is still support for global health in particular. Other areas, we’re going to have to demonstrate how it helps advance American interests as well as how it advances Ethiopia’s agendas.

One shared interest the US has with Ethiopia and the Horn countries is peace and security in this volatile region. How do you see the recent military confrontation between Eritrea and Djibouti? Do you expect any major escalation? Still with this security matter, how do you see the recent political deadlock in the Gulf, what many regional observers fear might have repercussions for the Horn region as well?

I don’t think so. I have talked to a lot of officials, and I think that, obviously the withdrawal of the Qatari troops is unfortunate because they played a moderating effect or role in that tension between Djibouti and Eritrea, and we’re trying to promote resolution. So, that withdrawal was concerning.

I think Ethiopia and Djibouti did the responsible thing by referring the matter to the UN Security Council. So it is on their docket. They have had a briefing. So that raises the focus of that challenge between those two countries, which does affect Ethiopia’s interests. And I think by bringing it to the council, they did the responsible thing.

Now similarly, in the current Gulf state of affairs, between Gulf countries and other partners, Ethiopia supported the AU position, as did Somalia. Not taking sides, but trying to support efforts at mediation, which include those by Kuwait. Our own administration, the president and the secretary of state, have been calling the leaders involved, encouraging dialogue, and encouraging tamping down some of the rhetoric. And even the president in one of his first calls said, “a united Gulf Cooperation Council and a strong US Gulf Cooperation Council partnership are critical to defeating terrorism and promoting regional stability.”

So we are working, I think, in the same direction in that regard. I am not as alarmed even though that is a change and any change could have that potential of provocation, but I think that the very public and measured response by the parties has been good.

But that said, Eritrea has been provocative before and often mistreats its own people and many of them leave as refugees. So it is still a worry. But at this point I think Ethiopia and Djibouti have done the responsible thing so far.

But what is the position of the new administration in the fight against Al-Shabaab? In fact, in the earlier days of the new administration, it was against Somalia’s Al-Qaeda affiliated Islamist group that Pentagon has ever taken the first air bombing attack under the new president’s commandment. Does it indicate that the new administration’s action is not only maintaining a similar military operation as his predecessors?

There is still value in the efforts that AMISOM (African Union Mission in Somalia) has engaged in against Al-Shabaab in Somalia. There is also a new administration in Somalia, what do you think? And at the AU summit, Prime Minister Hassan Ali Khayre was here, and he had discussions with his Ethiopian colleagues. And I think they both share the same concern about Al-Shabaab that we have. So, I am impressed by the level of dialogue that is taking place between the Ethiopian and Somali leaders. The Somali leaders are the ones that have to take the steps against Al-Shabaab by building up governance as well as challenging Al-Shabaab where it may have some authority. Challenging that and replacing it with government authority.

We have also invited Ethiopia at their request to join the anti ISIS coalition, so Ethiopia will be participating later this month, next week, in those discussions. As you have heard probably, there are splits within Al-Shabaab, some of whom support ISIS and some that support Al-Qaeda, both of them are in the Horn, but that shows that there is potentially a challenge there. So I think that is a new element and the new administration in the US welcoming of Ethiopia to be a part of that coalition is important.

What can Ethiopia concretely contribute to that coalition against ISIS?

I think it’s in fact a fair question. But look, with Al-Shabaab, if there are some who are flirting with ISIS and some that are remaining dedicated to Al-Qaeda, they share some similarities, which is that they oppose the traditional governments of the countries in the Horn of Africa, in Africa, and they pose similar, if slightly different, challenges.

So the fact that Ethiopia has been battling Al-Shabaab and assisting Somali governments in so doing, I think provides them, Ethiopia, some insight that the coalition would benefit from. It does not mean that any country has the answer on how to defeat or at least hamper the spread of ISIS. That is why I think collaboration on the challenges that security questions are important.

A few years ago, Wendy Sherman, a senior State Department official, addressed Ethiopian senior government officials here in Addis Ababa, she gave an unprecedented remark regarding the US government’s position towards opposition groups like Ginbot 7, and others that are based in the US. Does the current administration reflect the same position against such groups?

Well, I can’t be hypothetical, but I do think that she [Wendy Sherman] came here in the spring of 2015, at the request of the Ethiopian government, she was very clear that the US government does not support the armed overthrow of an existing partner government such as that of Ethiopia. I am paraphrasing what she said. But that is, by picking up a rifle and trying to fight a government is not something that we support. And she said that here in Ethiopia, which was significant, I think.

I cannot imagine that the new administration would give any sort of room to that sort of a policy, and I would argue for that type of activity.

One of the recent developments
The power of appreciation

This week I had the opportunity to meet and have an eye opening conversation with one of the readers of my articles. The topic of our conversation was the power that appreciation of others has in bringing positive change in society. Although one needs both (constructive) criticisms and appreciations to grow as a person, I believe that the average person is likely to be a better achiever when constantly appreciated than when constantly criticized. But unfortunately, it is easier for most of us to utter words of criticisms than those of appreciation. As my reader pointed out, even if we manage to say words of appreciation, these are usually shadowed by the word ‘but’. Statements like ‘They serve good food in this restaurant but the price is too expensive’, ‘Your report is well written but it is a bit long’ or ‘You made a good presentation but you could have added more illustrative pictures on your PowerPoint slides’ are examples that can illustrate his point. Wouldn’t a full sentence of appreciation better motivate you to be a better version of yourself than one with the word ‘but’?

Growing up in Ethiopia, most of us learn things the hard way. Our mistakes are better noticed by our families than our achievements. We are constantly reminded of what is missing in us than what we have. Although we may manage to fulfill the least of what is expected from us, we are restricted from reaching our full potentials. I believe that constant criticism results in self-doubt, which in turn results in under-achievement. As the saying goes, ‘when you doubt your power, you give power to your doubt’. And one is unlikely to appreciate others without appreciating him or herself. In my opinion, criticizing and pointing out flaws in others is in a way a strategy that many of us use to fill the void within ourselves. In a way, the thought that others may also have flaws makes us feel better about ourselves.

In my opinion, each and every one of us is worthy of appreciation. And each and every situation or incident has a positive side to it. I believe that every situation and person can be compared to the glass of water that is half full and half empty. The empty portion of the glass represents the flaws in all of us while the full portion symbolizes our strengths. Not only do we benefit from the feeling of positivity that comes with openly recognizing the strengths in others, but in doing so, we also allow others to build on those strengths. But to be honest, I believe it takes determination and a strong personality to openly appreciate the strengths in others. First of all, it takes a fight with own ego to accept and be convinced that others perform much better than we do. Second, it takes another round of ego fight to express our appreciation openly. In the Ethiopian culture, the dead is more celebrated than the living. But what good does it do to pour words and words of appreciation to a person who is no longer there to receive them? Those words would have been a great source of motivation and drive if directed at the living.

Have you ever noticed how the smallest appreciation that we receive makes a positive difference in our day? My reader called ‘detoxification’ the conscious effort of freeing yourself from feelings of negativity towards others and concentrating on the half-fullness of the half-empty and half full glass of water. Maybe ‘detoxification’ is what each of us need as we go by each day.

Ed.’s Note: Tsion Taye is a researcher in the field of Agricultural Economics. She is a graduate of Wageningen university from which she obtained her Masters and PhD degrees. Her passions include reading books and reflecting on life experiences with whomever shares this passion. She can be reached for comments at tsmoate@gmail.com.
Have you tried to sign up to anything lately, especially online? The first thing that comes up is “terms and conditions.” I’ve found a time where these terms and conditions listed were short enough for me to read and really know what I was signing up for. But as the internet grew so did the list of terms and conditions. At the moment if you try and sign up to anything online, you will be asked to “sign and agree” to a list of terms that are so long that, if you really tried reading them, will most likely take longer than a week to fully understand what they mean. You will most likely need to consult a lawyer because some of the words in there will be very “legalese” and tough to understand for a lay person.

I came across an article about how a Wi-Fi provider sneaked in a clause on the terms and conditions stating that all users agree “to provide 1000 hours of free community service, and clean toilets, hug stray cats and dogs, clean blocked sewerage by hand and scrap chewing gum off streets” among other things. Out of the 22 thousand users that signed up to these terms and conditions within a week, only one person noticed this clause and complained. This is clearly an excellent lesson on how almost none of us read the terms and conditions we are entering into. We could be signing our lives away and do not even know it!

But then, I thought to myself, everything we do in real life (“IRL”, as the cool kids call it on the internet) also comes with terms and conditions. Sometimes they are clearly stated and on paper, such as a leasing contract when you rent a place. Other times they are “implied”, and often these terms are the most dangerous ones. Andy Golding political situation reminded me of the “implied” terms and conditions our countries sign up to on a regular basis. I am referring to the East African Community’s contemplation on banning the import of second hand clothes from the United States by 2019. This has caused uproar in the United States where a lobbying group has petitioned the US government to review the benefits these countries get from the African Growth and Opportunity Act, an act allowing certain African countries the possibility of exporting certain commodities duty free to the United States.

Rwanda, one of the EAC countries, has stuck to its guns and decided to go forward with the ban despite the threat of getting its AGOA benefits decreased or even taken away. Kenya was the next country to forward with the ban citing that the lobbying groups had some very strong arguments, while some of the other EAC countries are looking for the previous one. In 2016, US imports from Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda totalled USD 41 million while exports were USD 281 million.

The argument presented by Rwanda and the rest of the EAC bloc is that in order to develop their internal textile industries, they would have to limit the import of second hand clothing as it floods the local market at a reduced fee making it hard for local manufacturers to sell their products. They believe that this “excessive” import of second hand clothing “dumping”, but don’t quote me on that. I am not sure that part of the written terms and conditions stated that countries cannot “develop their own local markets by limiting access in certain sectors”, but it certainly a factor now. The question then becomes, now that the EAC countries have discovered it, is it their turn to see whether the benefit outweighs the cost and decide accordingly. In my opinion, the numbers speak clearly and developing ones local industry should be an important goal, but what do I know?

The point is everything comes with terms and conditions, be it online or offline, but the question remains do you know which ones you have agreed to? It is always the right time to re-evaluate relationships, political, business or even personal.

Ethiopia, a long-term...

strategies the US introduced in Africa is Power Africa Initiative. President Obama is credited with. However, there is a concern that such initiatives will die in infancy as President Trump is not likely to continue anything which he considers as Obama’s legacy. What is your view on the fate of those projects in Ethiopia like the Corbetti geothermal mega project financed by the US government under the Power Africa Initiative?

Actually, I am hopeful that you mentioned geothermal, and one of my final farewell calls was with Minister Sileshi Bekele (Eng.) [minister of water, irrigation and electricity] who has a huge portfolio of water and energy, electricity. And he has been helpful in moving ahead with the Corbetti project and I think it is a two-phased project, but up to one gigawatt of geothermal electricity. So that would add to the mix of wind and sun or solar, and hydropower being the largest here. There are also a number of American companies that are very active in hydropow as well.

So, I think that Ethiopia is uniquely placed to have a diverse set of renewable energy sources that can help protect the environment and be sustainable over the long term. And it’s a good mix. I went down to the Hawassa Industrial Zone, and that is not far away. But you can’t power an industrial zone just on wind. You might be able to do it on hyrdo. But wind and solar are always on. I think it is an important base of renewable.

But if you could tie into a geothermal project, then you have a base load that’s provided, that’s regular, it’s unchanging, and it’s guaranteed. So once that geothermal comes operational, that will be terrific for Ethiopia’s industrial development, particularly in Hawassa but other places around the country as well.

So there is a commitment to move forward between Corbetti and the government, ironing out the peculiarities of this new sector, which is not, you know, there is a new geothermal law, getting the implementing regulations in place. It came after the Corbetti project was first agreed. So getting those issues, legal issues ironed out, the new minister has been instrumental in helping move that forward, working with the company, working with parliament, working with the administration here.

So I think that will show a real benefit for the country and to the investor, we have an independent power purchase agreement which is consistent with GTP-II and the country in bringing more megawatts.

Again I think showing that success will be important for Ethiopians, consumers as well as the government, and for Americans who are evaluating policies by previous administrations, and each administration will review policies undertaken by the previous one, continue some, start its own, what have you.

So we are early on to find out whether what will continue and what will change. But I think success is something that sells itself pretty well.

Maybe, did you discuss with the minister or other government officials particularly on Independent Power Purchase Agreement? As Ethiopia has not enacted the legislation yet, don’t you think it affects investments like Corbetti?

It does. But again, this is an agreement, so the “heads of terms” and things that were agreed several years ago when I first came here. So what actually, so the broader, you are right, and I read recent articles on it. The goal of broader terms for how these things should go forward.

So it is a pioneering effort, the Corbetti project, in showing how this can be done. It doesn’t mean that, it has not all been done, but if I think one of the things that I have really appreciated in my three years here is that even when things take time, if you set a goal, you have a roadmap for understanding between our countries, between companies and the country, with civil society, the more stakeholders embrace the idea, even if it takes additional time, I think is better than a rush job.

So I do think, though it has been painful at times to see things happen slowly, ultimately if they are agreed and people are satisfied with the agreements that are reached, then they will be more sustainable in the future.

Now you have almost concluded your tour of duty to Ethiopia and about to leave for the home country. How do you summarize US efforts regarding women, youth as well as trade and investment?

I would say there are three categories of citizen that are particularly vulnerable. Maybe that is too broad, but certainly the younger generation was before coming here, and things that I believe quite passionately in, is promoting education and equality for women and girls. And young women and girls in particular, kids who are in the school system. And often there is discrimination. This can be globally; it is a challenge. Many countries, particularly in Africa, are seeing this.

I think it can be done and so some of the things I think that I have felt very proud of here, is promoting the inclusion of people with disabilities into the mainstream. From the margins to the mainstream, is sort of the mantra. And I was enlightened by the visit of Judy [Ileum] who was our envoy for disability rights internationally. She helped disabuse me of the idea that a developing country does not need to take on this as a priority.

She played a lead role in helping shift the plans of the municipality in building the light rail here so that it could accommodate people with disabilities.

What I found from her example here, and from Ethiopia’s leadership here, is that it can be very powerful to be inclusive early on. Even as a developing country with many priorities. People with disabilities face that much more in terms of challenges, right? If you are blind, if you are deaf, if you have a physical disability, moving and being able to avail yourself of educational opportunities becomes a challenge.

Ethiopia has taken a lot of steps to include people from mental disabilities as well as physical disabilities and blindness into universities and into the schools and that is all great. That’s good.

Where I think there is room for improvement is to allow civil society groups to talk to the government, for those rights, whether they are mass associations or smaller local groups, that are seeking the empowerment of women, youth, and people with disabilities or constellations that are mixtures thereof, in different regions, different parts of the country, different cities. I think that does so much to address and help address the needs, and bring them to light. And then with judicious public policy such as the Addis Ababa Transport Authority being able to make escalators and elevators available, change can happen. And it’s change that will be meaningful for so many people. I mean if you add women, youth, and people of disabilities, that is the majority of your population.

So I think it can be done and so some of the restrictions that are imposed on advocacy broadly, if those were rolled back somewhat and allow women’s groups, organizations for the youth, and people with disabilities and so on to have a bit more space and room to advocate for their rights according to the Ethiopian Constitution, I think that would be tremendously liberating and enhance Ethiopia’s civil society space to terrific ends. I do not see any downside.

So that would be an area of improvement which I think could be done and it could really unleash a lot of the potential and talent that is here and that I see in Ethiopia.
Ethiopian government in October 2013 that enables it to develop a 1000 MW of electricity from geothermal energy sources in Corbetti and Tulu Moye localities. Reykjavik Geothermal with its local partner Rift Valley Geothermal established Corbetti Geothermal Pte and brought along two major investors, viz; Berkley Energy and Iceland Drilling.

Power Africa was initiated by the Obama administration to support Africa with renewable energy that was also taken as America’s commitment in the fight against climate change by promoting non-nuclear or hydrocarbon energy sources with a view to mitigating the effects of global warming.

In an exclusive interview with The Reporter, the outgoing Charge d’Affaires of the US embassy to Ethiopia, Peter Vrooman, expressed hope that the project would come to fruition.

Noting that one of his last farewell meetings before leaving for Washington was a discussion with MoWIE Minister Sileshi (Eng.), Vrooman told The Reporter that there is an agreement reached with the Ethiopian government to take the Corbetti project moving forward along with additional plans to add to the mix of wind and solar sources as well.

He further said that, “There is a commitment to move forward between Corbetti and the government, ironing out the peculiarities of this new sector, and there is a new geothermal law, getting the implementing regulations in place.” He explained that the regulation came after the Corbetti project was first agreed.

“So we’re getting those issues, legal issues ironed out,” he said adding the new minister has been instrumental in helping move that forward, working with the company, the parliament, and the government administration in the country.

He also believes that the current progress will bring a real benefit for the country and show that the country can have an independent power production agreement.

He, however, underlined that the two governments, Ethiopia, and the US, may also need to review their policy to renew their commitments.

“Again I think showing that success will be important for Ethiopians, consumers, as well as the government, and for Americans who are evaluating policies by previous administrations, and each administration will review policies undertaken by the previous one. Continue some, start its own, what have you,” he noted.

“So we are early on to find out whether what will continue and what will change. But I think success is something that sells itself pretty well,” the departing envoy added.

New Zealand... Security Council.

New Zealand is one of the lowest foreign aid donors in the world and has minimal diplomatic or cultural relations with Ethiopia. However, it is historically noted to be one of the few noted countries to support the sovereignty of Ethiopia during the Italian occupation in 1937.

Ethiopian, Airports...
Chinese actors have proved willing to take economic and political risks. Consider South Africa, which has a “comprehensive strategic partnership” with China. Since at least 2003, South Africa has regularly ranked in the top five outward direct investment from China, with Chinese ODI continuing to rise, even as South Africa’s economic growth has declined. Similarly, Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Zimbabwe—countries with notoriously difficult political environments that typically feature at the bottom of global competitiveness indices—have all been key destinations not just for loans, but also for significant non-financial Chinese investment over the last decade.

While China is no colonizer, African and other governments do have a responsibility to ensure that their relationships with China meet their own development interests and objectives. Given China’s growing global footprint, an ad hoc approach is no longer appropriate. I would suggest four critical steps.

First, each government should prepare an in-depth “China plan” that sets out explicitly what its citizens want from China, in Africa and elsewhere. Such plans can help to reduce that number, but only if African countries work to manage their relationships with China strategically, protecting their own interests as they create mutually beneficial arrangements with the Asian giant. Though China is no colonizer, it would be a mistake to assume that its growing global footprint is purely benign.

Second, each country should seek out Chinese actors that might help them carry out their China plan. Organizations such as the China Africa Business Council and others can help facilitate such searches and introductory meetings.

Third, countries should negotiate memorandum of understanding contracts on the basis of established best practices. In pursuing such negotiations, African countries should be aware that they actually have a great deal of bargaining power over China, even more than many other developing countries.

Finally, governments should enlist the help of domestic entities, such as NGOs, in monitoring and reviewing the outcomes of China’s activities, as well as those concerning labor standards or environmental performance.

There are still an estimated 389 million Africans living below the poverty line—over half the world’s total. China’s engagement in Africa can help to reduce that number, but only if African countries work to manage their relationships with China strategically, protecting their own interests as they create mutually beneficial arrangements with the Asian giant. Though China is no colonizer, it would be a mistake to assume that its growing global footprint is purely benign.

Ed.’s Note: Hannah Ryder, a former director of the Environmental Defense Fund, is founder and CEO of The Climate Group. The article was provided to The Reporter by Project Syndicate: the world’s pre-eminent source of original op-ed commentaries. Project Syndicate provides incisive perspectives on our changing world by those who are shaping its politics, economics, science, and culture. The views expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the views of The Reporter.

Currently, various payments systems are being integrated and tested, Abraham Belay, director of the Cyber Technology Engineering Institute with UNISA, said. “However, the National Payment Platform has already been realized. It has been tested and is ready for deployment,” Abraham told The Reporter.

UNISA is currently working with the Ethiopian Revenue and Customs Authority (ERCA) on the integration of the costumes duties payment system with the new national payment platform. And Abraham expects the duty payment system to go live in the coming budget and for all other government billing systems to follow suit as soon as the platform is operational.

According to Abraham during the first phase of the deployment the main focus will be on the billing systems catering for recurrent bills payable to the government.

Utility billing systems like Lehulu, developed by Kifta Technologies, will be just one of the payment systems which will be orchestrated by the national payment system leaving the option open to other payment systems to emerge and integrate with this platform, the director told The Reporter.

“There needs to be more convenient options and systems for the public to pay their bills. It is unfair for the public to spend time and energy trying to settle its bills and hence the payment platform will provide the basis for many other payment systems to be built on top of it,” Abraham said.

Nevertheless, the national payment platform is just one in the long line of ambitious projects INSA is undertaking with the view to reduce technological dependency of country on foreign technological outputs. Perhaps the so-called Enterprises Resource Planning (ERP) is another platform which INSA has closely been realizing, according to director.

An integrated management of core business processes, often in real-time, is facilitated by software and technology. ERP is critical to coordinate basic business processes in an organization such as inventory and procurement management, accounting, human resources, customer relationship management (CRM), and beyond. Suite of modular applications that collect and integrate data from different aspects of the business, the ERP is said to be one of the basic requirements with up and coming migration to the International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) in Ethiopia.

INSA’s ERP platform will also be merely an interface which will allow for various modules to be built on it according to the special needs of various organizations. “Currently, the ERP platform and different top up applications are being developed for Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP) and the Ethiopian Petroleum Supply Enterprise (EPSE) and they will be deployed soon,” according to Abraham.

At moment, the majority of world’s ERP Suite is developed and marketed by the titans of the software industry such as SAP, Oracle and Microsoft. In Ethiopia as well, most organizations procure ERP solutions from these vendors covering the country millions of dollars in the software purchase and licensing fees, the director said.

Yet again, apart from the ERP, Abraham’s institute is also busy developing a local computer operating system (OS). Currently, the OS in the world is supplied by Microsoft. “We are making progress in the OS aspect as well,” Abraham said in The Reporter. Furthermore, INSA’s sheer ambition extends to substituting another very critical financial and banking platform: Core Banking Suite—banking service provided by a group of networked bank branches where customers may access their bank account and perform basic transactions from any of the member branch offices.

Abraham admits that his institute is yet on concept development phase when it comes to the core banking platform; however, he is determined to eliminate the local banking and financial sector in foreign owned technological suites and save the country tens of financial resources.

However, this move of the institute and of INSA’s is not without risk, comments an Information Technology (IT) manager in one of the organization in Addis Ababa, who prefers to remain anonymous. Although patriotic and noble, what INSA is doing is basically “reinvesting the wheels.”

“I am rather worried about the risk associated with developing one’s own version of what appears to be a well-crafted platform,” he said. Unless it is done perfectly, it will rather increase country’s exposure to cyber exploitation. “We are replacing products controlled by specialized organizations with another one developed obliviously by less experienced programmers. This might opens us up for vulnerability,” he said.

As far as Abraham is concerned, there is no true security until a country eliminates its dependency on others‘ technologies and assumes ownership of its critical technological infrastructure. We have been reliant on foreign made software and platforms for some many years. “INSA is here just to ensure that the country would no longer rely on foreign knowledge but developed its own local capacity,” he said.

This is where the role if INSA and its activities in the market is questioned by members of the private IT industry players; they said that INSA is increasingly evading their market positions. Abraham does not agree with this. For one, the fact that we are focusing on core operating platforms as indicator to what we stand for. We still work with local private sector players on various outsourced and contracted contracts, the director argued.

For one, we could not do it all by ourselves. Even focused in the core platform development we still depend on the private sector to implement it. Also, in the area of subcontracting private IT companies are part of the reason why we can help us in assisting as by executing parts of these critical projects.

Nevertheless, one of the major concerns for the INSA is the entities and individuals who are behind the local IT companies. “Most of our IT startups have some big companies in the back and the moment we gave them access they could open ourselves up for attack.”
Your Zodiacs

Aries

When out on a certain planet, your potential is limited. It is an excellent time to plan, think, and act. You can work on yourself or your relationships. You can also work on your own ideas or projects. You will need to be careful not to let your ego or pride get in the way.

Taurus

You can work on your ideas or projects. You will need to be careful not to let your ego or pride get in the way. You can also work on your own ideas or projects. You will need to be careful not to let your ego or pride get in the way.

Gemini

You can work on your ideas or projects. You will need to be careful not to let your ego or pride get in the way. You can also work on your own ideas or projects. You will need to be careful not to let your ego or pride get in the way.

Scorpio

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Sagittarius

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Aquarius

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Leo

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Virgo

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Libra

You can work on your ideas or projects. You will need to be careful not to let your ego or pride get in the way. You can also work on your own ideas or projects. You will need to be careful not to let your ego or pride get in the way.

Cancer

You can work on your ideas or projects. You will need to be careful not to let your ego or pride get in the way. You can also work on your own ideas or projects. You will need to be careful not to let your ego or pride get in the way.

Pisces

You can work on your ideas or projects. You will need to be careful not to let your ego or pride get in the way. You can also work on your own ideas or projects. You will need to be careful not to let your ego or pride get in the way.

Can you spot the 12 differences between the two pictures?

Solution

Vol. XLI No. 1088

The Reporter, Saturday, July 15, 2017

www.thereporterethiopia.com
Coffee fetches...

from the export of 10.46Mts. The export of tea has seen a tiny progress, raising a USD 2.2 million from the export of 1.86Mts. The targeted export figures were to receive USD 5.4 million from 3.06Mts. The overall export proceeds and figures are yet to be disclosed as the Ministry of Trade is working on tallying total export data for this fiscal year. Coffee still remains being the single most dominant receiver of hard currency from agricultural commodities exported and has sustained a significant amount of setbacks. The complexities of the value and supply chain along with the central trading and warehousing systems have been funded to be restructured. Moreover, the government in an effort to reduce the widening gap of trade deficit, it has amended laws that regulate the marketing structure that govern coffee.

Last week, members of the House of People’s Representatives have amended the existing Proclamation of Coffee Quality Control and Marketing and the Establishment Proclamation of the Ethiopia Commodity Exchange (ECX). Both laws were amended to seek improvement in the coffee trade that initiates from farms to export markets, playing competitively. “If he did decide to come it would make me very happy, I have high hopes for him and have even kept up with his basketball from online videos and have seen a vast improvement. I have never seen someone score five pointers in a row until I saw Danny,” he said. The love and passion Danny has for basketball is blinding, so much so that he has vowed to make sure he does everything in his power to make sure for future generations, no child from Ethiopia goes through what he had gone through for the love of sport. When asked what he wants for the future, he says, “The end goal will be to open up an academy where any child can come and play basketball, somewhere with both an outdoor and indoor court so no rain can affect a game or a training session.” He would also like to see scouts coming to Ethiopia, as he believes the country oozes talent in all sports “not just running”.

Ed’s Note: Mary Mulugeta Asserate is on an internship at The Reporter.

Circular clarifies...

changes to bank statements unless and otherwise provided with evidence. For the coming tax assessment, unless it’s backed by evidence, the difference in bank statement will be considered as taxable income, circular stated.

The circular has also listed a number of points that has to be considered in using bank statements while assessing incomes.

Corruption vs. Housing...

source close to the case.

“It was taken an offense where a group of people in the senior government administration position are working against the commission and what it stands for,” the same source said.

This act has discredited the commission and it shows the poor commitment given to fight corruption, he said.

This move came after the restructure of the power and responsibility of the commission as a result of the establishment proclamation of the Attorney General. This proclamation has stripped off a significant portion of the powers and responsibilities of the Commission mainly its prosecutorial power.

These responsibilities were transferred to the Office of the Attorney General and the Federal Police.

Following this, the number of employees of the Commission, which was around 400 then, has been slashed by half to 240 and the Commission was left with the responsibility of teaching and conducting research.

Following the decline of the number of staff of the Commission, the Corporation requested for the transfer of the headquarter building to it which was accepted by the PM’s office. In return, the Commission was told to switch its headquarters with to Corporation’s old office.

However, the commission did not seem to be convinced with the justification.

“I don’t think this justification is sound,” senior official at Commission told The Reporter.

Even though the commission is left with the responsibilities to teach and research as well as corruption prevention, it is allowed to maintain the same staff size, they argue. Its current structure will allow the commission to hire up to 420 employees.

Currently, the commission is hiring new staff to accommodate the gap in the number of the staffs. The request made by the new Corporation does not go in line with the serious attention given by the government to combat corruption through learning, research development as well as trainings.

The request as well as the decision to transfer our headquarters seems to be made by few individuals, said the official.

The Corporation which is now to take over the Commission’s HQ is overseen by a board chaired by Alemayehu himself. It was first established during the Derg era as Agency for the Administration of Rented Houses. Back then, its prime responsibility was to administer houses which were confiscated by the government as part of government’s socialist ideology.

The new Corporation currently administers some 17,900 housing. In accordance to the new mandate, the Corporation now has the power to rent, renovate as well as build new houses. It was also said that it will build apartments.

Upon the permission of the PM’s office, the Corporation is expected to re-locate its headquarters from Kasaianich to the Commission’s current office.

To facilitate the transfer a committee made up of the two agencies is now established. This committed is expected to finalize the transfer within one month.

Investors yet...

Park has been considered as a showcase to the success of government’s effort in masterminding the development of an eco-friendly manufacturing sector in the country. For the construction of 20 manufacturing sheds and for the building of zero liquid discharge and waste treatment plants, the park has seen an outlay of USD 350 million. The park is laid out on a 136-hectare plot of land and 37 manufacturing sheds have been built to fully occupied by foreign and local firms. The likes of Philips Van Heusen Corporation (PVH Corp), one of the largest global apparel brands, have already been housed in Hawassa Industrial Park.

The newly completed Kombolcha Industrial Park, which stretches for 75 hectares in its phase one, has seen an investment of USD 90 million, and still awaits to lure bigwigs of the textile and apparel industry.

Less than 24 hours after the Kombolcha Park that hosts 13 factory sheds was officially launched, the Mekele Industrial Park was inaugurated on Sunday, cheering up the PM and his aides that they did not hesitate to take to the dance floor. The USD 100 million Mekele Industrial Park has 15 factories sheds.

Both Kombolcha and Mekele Parks have the potential of creating job opportunities for 20,000 people each at their first phase. So far, companies from Italy, the Netherlands and the US have shown interest in investing in the parks. According to Arkebe Okubay (PhD), coordinator for economic planning, monitoring and support at the Office of the Prime Minister and board chair of IPDC, there are companies that are interested to be hosted in both PHIR and PHIR1. Caloedzenia and Velocity are companies expected to arrive from the Netherlands, Italy and Dubai respectively at Mekelle Park. Kombolcha is looking for firms such as Carvico S.p.A from Italy, Trybus from the US and Pungbokho Corporation from Korea that specialize in textile and apparel.

That said, the number of arriving firms and expectations are yet to be matched in the foreseeable future. Both the PM and Arkebe highlighted that convincing major companies to come and invest has been a challenge.

The government is taking the bold initiative of building a number of industrial parks across the major corridors identified as potential sources of import. According to the Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC), which oversees IPDC, two more parks are expected to go operational this September.

Walias to play...

Unlike the African Cup of Nations, the competing national teams must be composed of players playing in their domestic leagues. For example, a Kenyan player is only eligible to play for the Kenya national team if he is playing for a Kenyan club.

DR Congo are the defending champions. Kenya will for the first time host the African Nations Championship football tournament in 2018. The announcement was made by the Confederation of African Football following an executive council meeting in Cairo last Friday.

Kenya’s Harambee Stars will get an automatic ticket to participate. Kenya last qualified in 2004 under coach Jacob Ghost Mulee.

Ethiopian national team full squad:

Goal Keeper: Semal Tassew (Jimma Aba Bunna), Samson Assefia (Dire Dawa City), Lealem Birhanu (Sidama Coffee)

Defense: Abdulkarimkam Mahamed (Ethiopia Coffee), Antonesh Tesfaye (Sidama Coffee), Mujib Kasim, Tesfaye Bekele (Adama City), Desta Yohannes (Hawassa City), Amsalu Tilahun (Fasil City)

Midfielders: Shimekot Gugis (Debedit), Mualesem Mesfin(Dedeit), Gaddissa Mehate (Hawassa City), Biruk Kalbore (Adama City)

Strikers: Getaneh Kebede (Debedit), Addis Gidey (Sidama Coffee), Abdulkarim Mubarek (Fasil City), Ame Mohammed (Jimma Aba Bunna)
INVITATION TO TENDER (RE-ADVERTISEMENT)

Tender Ref. No. HBSC/BB/03/2017

Heineken Breweries S.C is looking for a qualified and eligible Suppliers who are engaged in the:

- LOT 1: Supply and delivery of casual apparels (khaki & jeans trousers, sweaters....)
- LOT 2: Production and supply of company uniform (jacket, trousers and T-shirt)
- LOT 3: Production and Supply of branded Promotional Items

The present tender invitation has been issued with the objective to guide tenderers in preparing a competitive offer through understanding of responsibilities, obligations and expected performance in providing the services in this scope. The full detail of the tender is found on the Terms of Reference (TOR).

Tender Starting Date: July 17, 2017

Tender Closing Date: July 31, 2017, at 5:00 PM

- Tenderers shall submit their tender in a sealed envelope;
- Tenderers shall submit Tax Identification Number (TIN) during submittal of tender documents;
- The tender security bond to the unsuccessful tenderers shall be released within 15 working days after closing of the tender;
- The tender security bond shall be released to successful tenderers upon signing of the contract;
- The successful tenderers shall sign the contract within 10 working days after award notification, and failure to comply with this shall result in forfeiting of the tender bond;
- Tenderers shall collect the tender document (TOR) by paying 100.00 ETB non-refundable up on receiving the documents from the below address:

  Reception desks at Head Office of Heineken Breweries SC, Yezellalem Building (2nd floor), In front of Africa Union

- Heineken Breweries SC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders at any time.
- It is possible to obtain further information from procurement unit of Heineken Breweries SC by Mob: +251 (0) 911 300 888
the ministry, told Assefa, communications director with the court proceedings,” Wondafrashe up to its promise, we will re-institute “Now since the company failed to live outstanding payments owed to the outstanding payments owed to the enterprises for a total of 2.03 billion birr. The arrangement was for Horizon to make a 35-percent down payment upfront, and pay off the balance within five years. The company failed to settle payments that were supposed to be effected during the first year. In this respect, it did not pay with interest 376 million birr. The arrangement was for Horizon’s properties from the auction was later restructured as Privatization Agency was first established in 1994, and Board. As part of the country’s transformation from a command to a free-market economy, the Ethiopian Privatizing Agency was first established in 1994, and was later restructured as Privatization and Public Enterprises Supervising Agency (PPESA). Two years ago, the agency was again restructured to assume a ministerial portfolio. Since its establishment, the office has managed to temporarily ease its court case with the former. In return, Horizon agreed to make all outstanding payments owed to the Ministry by July 7, 2017.

“Now since the company failed to live up to its promise, we will re-institute the court proceedings,” Wondafrashe Assefa, communications director with the ministry, told The Reporter. A couple of years ago, the agency took the case before the Federal High Court, accusing Horizon of breach of contract. Then last year, the eighth bench of the High Court ordered Horizon to pay up the money. Upon the execution of the decision by the court, two options were on the table to collect the money.

One was for Horizon to pay the money in cash; and failing that, to auction off its property. At that time, Horizon was in financial difficulties and went with the auctioning option. Later, the two parties reached an agreement that saved Horizon’s properties from the auction board. The same proclamation gives the mandate of reviewing and deciding on merger requests to the Ethiopian Trade Practices and Consumers Protection Authority.

Ambo Mineral Water has been operating in Ethiopia since the 1930s and is considered to be a leader in the market. The company was nationalized by the Derg regime. In 2008, Ambo was partially privatized when SABMiller (a South African brewery) and Tewodros Ashenafi, a notable local businessman, acquired a chunk of it. At the time, SABMiller owned 51 percent of the company while Tewodros owned 16 percent.

Tewodros is known for his investment in gas exploration under his company, South West Development. Moreover, he was behind a USD 510 million deal to transfer 40 percent of the Ethiopian National Tobacco Enterprise to Japan Tobacco Enterprise. Tewodros is also a board chairman of Ambo Mineral Water S.C., a subsidiary of Coca Cola Beverages Africa, according to his LinkedIn account.

Last year, the Ethiopian government fully privatized the company, and sold its 33 percent stake to Ambo International Holding PLC for USD 19.7 million. On the other hand, Coca Cola first started its bottling business here in 1959. By the time it was owned by Ethiopian Bottling Share Company. The two plants were nationalized in 1975 and ran as public companies and continued to do so until the coming of the EPRDF-led government in 1991. In 1996, the company was privatized.

According to foodbusinessafrica.com, Coca-Cola has bought SABMiller’s 54.5 percent stake in Coca-Cola Beverages Africa from AB InBev for USD 3.15 billion in 2016.
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Call 0911226904 for more information.
Walias to play against Djibouti in CHAN qualifier

By Dawit Tolesa

The Ethiopian national football team (the Walias) are to play against Djibouti in the Total African Nations Championship qualifier today. Walias coach Ashenafi Bekele has announced an 18-player lineup to play against the Djiboutian national team, a.k.a “Shoremen of the Red Sea”.

After the Walias were humiliated by the Ugandan Cranes in a 2018 AFCON qualifier match a week ago, they returned to focus on getting a spot at the 2018 CHAN matches slated to take place between January 11 and February 2, 2018 in Kenya. The Walias were in Dire Dawa for a warm-up before travelling on to Djibouti.

Five St. George players are excluded from the squad because of their participation in CAF champion’s league match against Tunisian side Esperance. Saladain Adane, Nathanael Zeleke, Bahallu Assessa, Aschalew Tamene and Mintesenot Adane are the excluded players. After sustaining defeat by Ghana, Walia’s coach has brought new faces to the squad. Dire Dawa goalie Samson Assefa, Desta Yohannes (Hawasa City), Amesalu Tilahun (Fasil City) are the new faces in the squad.

The Walias are widely expected to easily win the match. The winning team will play against Burundi to qualify for the 2018 African Nations Championship. The return match will be played July 23, 2017 at Hawassa Stadium.

St. George goalie set for S. Africa move

By Dawit Tolesa

Ugandan national St. George goal-keeper Robert Odongkara is set to move to a club with the South African Premier League during this transfer window. The 25-year-old shot stopper, who was part of the Ugandan national team squad for the 2017 AFCON finals in Gabon, has spent 5 seasons with Ethiopian side St. George. During his five-year stay in Ethiopia, he won five best goalie-of-the-season accolades, four league titles and three league cups.

According to Kansiime Sports, Odongkara has been linked to two clubs in South Africa. Bloemfontein Celtic and Ajax Cape Town have for a long time been interested in signing up Odongkara, and the two clubs are reported to be in talks with St. George since he is still bound contractually with the Addis Ababa-based club.

Odongkara is one of the top goalkeepers in the Ethiopian Premier League (EPL), and he is the first choice for every coach of the club. His future with St. George will be decided in the coming weeks.

Coffee fullback signs for Dire Dawa City

By Dawit Tolesa

Ethiopian Coffee fullback Ahmed Rashid this week completed his move to Dire Dawa City. Ahmed Rashid agreed to sign up for Dire Dawa City for a reported club record signing fee of 1.2 million birr.

After finishing last season in a somewhat lackluster mode, Dire Dawa has been making preparations in a bid to come back in a better shape for the next season. Towards that end, coach Zelalem Shiferaw has been engaged in a tough recruitment drive.

Since signing in the 2013/14 season with Ethiopian Coffee, Ahmed Rashid has played on the left and right sides as well as on defense. However, the possibility of staying in the contest for the club during the final round of the league cup games recently has been doubtful, and the club has confirmed on its Facebook page that it has plans to ditch the player. Biruk Kalbere and Mujih Kasim of Adama City are two players currently rumored to be joining Dire Dawa City. Top defensive midfielder Anteneh Tesfaye of Sidama Coffee will also be signing up for Dire Dawa City.

Dire Dawa City finished the latest EPL season with 35 points: win 8, draw 11 and lose 11. In the 2017/18 EPL season, Dire Dawa hopes to recruit many players.

The Ethiopian national football team (the Walias) play against Burundi to qualify for the 2018 African Nations Championship.