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EIAR ADVANCES APPROVAL OF BTGT COTTON FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RELEASE

By Muluken Yewondwossen

The environmental release of BtGt cotton is shortly to be approved by the National Variety Release Council (NVRC), a council made up of many stakeholders in the agricultural and related areas.

Through the Ethiopian Institute of Agriculture Research (EIAR), Ethiopian researchers have been processing and testing genetically modified

organism (GMO) cotton for around 15 years.

Four seed variants with characteristics for herbicide and bollworm pest resistance have been evaluated in confined field trials (CFT) on BtGt cotton before being tabled for environmental release.

At the CFT test locations in Gewane, Weyto, Metema, Omorate, and Melka Werer, four types have been engaged.

According to Dereje Girma, Director of the

EIAR's Agri-biotechnology Directorate, Sudan, Pakistan, India, and Uzbekistan all utilize these seed varieties.

One of the senior researchers, Dejene, said that the test at CFT had positive findings.

In order to obtain input before releasing the varieties, the Ethiopia Environmental Authority recently called a public hearing as the last phase in the procedure.

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Shareholder sues BGI claiming illegal transfer of 27% ownership

By Eyasu Zekarias

BGI Ethiopia has been sued for more than 8 million birr. The individual claiming that their 27% ownership share of BGI Ethiopia Plc. Was illegally taken from them is demanding the return of their share ownership. They are also seeking payment of the unpaid dividend.

On May 31, 2024, Zewdnesch Getahun Asrat filed her case with the Federal First Instance Court, a special court for trade and investment cases. The lawsuit includes Jean-Paul Blavier, the former CEO of BGI who passed away last month, the representative of the other defendant Brasseries International Holding Limited (B.I.H), and Hebu Properties Limited.

Zewdnesch Getahun asserts that the court should order the payment of the estimated Birr 8,283,000 representing BGI Ethiopia's 27% share and undistributed dividend. Her lawyers argue that despite her proven 27% ownership in BGI, a company that has experienced significant growth since its establishment, her ownership was illegally transferred based on a forged document falsely claiming that she had "completely transferred" her share in the company.

Zewdnesch Getahun claims that she founded BGI Ethiopia Plc. Together with Mr. Castle, the main shareholder of Castle Group, after being introduced to Castle Group investors through her daughter, Lydia Mekonnen.

The plaintiff contends that when BGI, the Castel Group company, sold its entire share in BGI Ethiopia Plc., Her share and ownership were fully preserved. However, she alleges that BIH purchased a share from BGI and, through capital changes, her 27% ownership share was illegally taken away and given to the 3rd and 4th defendants.

The plaintiff is seeking a court ruling affirming Zewdnesch Getahun as the owner of 27% of the shares of BGI Ethiopia Plc. Additionally, she is requesting an official verification of the company's undistributed profits since April 2001 and payment with interest.

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MODERNIZING ETHIOPIA'S FINANCIAL SECTOR THROUGH DATA-DRIVEN INNOVATION
Kinfemichel Yibkaw, an expert on Ethiopia's financial sector, discusses the importance of comprehensive data for modernizing financial service delivery in the country.

INTERVIEW

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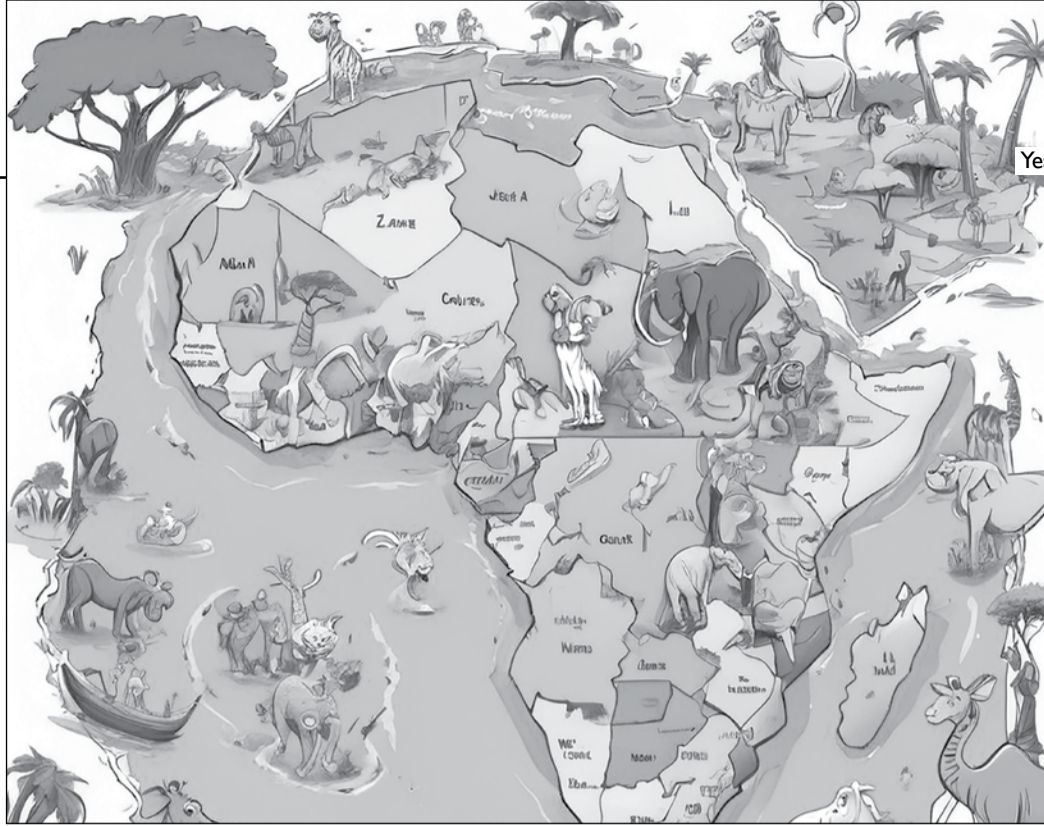
AFRICA NEEDS ITS OWN IDEOLOGY

Ideology is nothing more than a set of principles (considered or not) internalized by individuals or communities, explicitly stated or not. The current negative connotation associated with the word 'ideology' is (to a large extent) a legacy of rigid political, religious, etc., doctrines of the recent past, like Marxism, Nazism, Fundamentalism, etc. Acknowledged or not, the reigning global ideology is neoliberalism or unfettered capitalism, more to the point. Under (almost) half a century of its rule, a lot has changed globally. Its neglect or outright violence against nature stands out as its major crime. Inequality within countries and polarization between nation-states is another hallmark of its legacy, to say nothing about perennial wars on which it voraciously feeds. As a result, the world is now in a state of chaos, threatening to become unmanageable. Many have no clue as to what to do, including the putative African states!

Africa needs a new ideology, perforce! Those of us residing in the periphery of the prevailing world system still have a fighting chance to redefine what social existence ought to be, based on the natural tendency of all creatures, which is, the sustenance/reproduction of God-given lives. In this regard, the core countries of the world system, i.e., the materially rich nations of the OECD are, (probably) in a more difficult position than us, as they have been wholly incorporated within the inhumane logic of capital; physically, intellectually, emotionally, materially, culturally, spiritually, etc. The alienation capital has bestowed on them has left them atomized and powerless, especially when it comes to challenging the 'unnaturalness' of their social being. It has been and still is a taboo to question the merit of many of the diktats of capital, monopoly or otherwise. Consequently, a good portion of the Western sheeple has decided to forgo some of the key prerogatives of its natural existence. For instance, procreation, which is the defining characteristic of all life forms, is becoming anathema (almost) to the average sheeple in the OECD, because of non-conducive socio-economic reality on the ground. When such an insensitive social system of superficial contraptions denies the sheeple the very life force of existence, the whole charade must be severely interrogated! The sheeple's failure or put another way, the stifling characteristic of the system, particularly when it comes to asserting the fundamentals of life, has become increasingly disturbing. Encouraging the sheeple to passionately engage in useless/frivolous activities, while forcing it to negate the basics of life says a lot about the system's capacity to completely subjugate the population's psyches. This system is inherently vile and evil!

The real question for Africans remains; do we have what it takes (the C's) to eject ourselves from this dominant global ideology that systemically enslaves humanity for the sole benefit of accumulation/profit. We believe our new ideology should come about via; Commitment, Confidence, Competence, Compassion, Cooperation... These are amongst the basic ingredients needed to foster a more democratic, a more egalitarian, a more peaceful and a more resiliently sustainable existence. Commitment to have the fortitude to propagate life; Confidence not to be swayed by detractors, and to hold on to our Commitment with tenacity; Competence to achieve the task at hand by forging all round capability built on formidable foresight; Compassion to accept the inherent fallibility of humanity, in all its forms; and Cooperation to solidify harmony within diversity. We agree these are not easy to come by, but since we've got nothing to lose we might as well give it a go! Once such initiatives are seriously initiated, Africa can earnestly tackle the challenges of survival based on a different and more humane ideology, with a view to create livable societies, not only to ourselves! Granted, there will be immense obstacles along this difficult journey, but the high level of internalized Commitment should see us through, hopefully! As it stands, our blind submission to crass consumerism will only lead to more unmet desires (not needs) and to even more unmet satisfactions. Fulfillment remains a chimera to many a sheeple in our fast collapsing world system, despite increased nihilistic gluttony across the globe! Again and to be sure, the whole project will not be easy to pull off, as the gatekeepers of inhumanly derived capital, the psychopaths/sociopaths, will be up in arms to frustrate the humane initiative.

A good portion of the challenge to the above project will come from our learned experts, deployed as useful operators by the bosses of the world system. On its own, this will be a formidable challenge, as majority of our leading elites (not only the political ones) are fully assimilated into the numbed and non-thinking existence of blindly worshipping material affluence. In other words, outside of their gadgets and phony conveniences, our elites have become consuming zombies!



■ By Westen K. Shilaho

COMMENT

Here is the reason Africa can't really be free

Africa Day came into being on May 25, 1963, under the aegis of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), as a recognition of Africa's diverse cultures, history, and collective struggles against colonialism, imperialism, and slavery. It is celebrated by Africans in Africa and the diaspora. In effect, this day is an occasion to reflect on Africa's gains, challenges, inadequacies, and prospects. However, this is a celebration of which the African populace is not aware owing to their exclusion from governance due to pervasive elitism. Disdain for the people is part of the colonial legacy. Africa Day is hardly recognized except by a few African Union (AU – the successor to the OAU) member states.

It is imperative that Africans affirm themselves continuously. For a couple of years, I have witnessed Africa Day celebrations in institutions of learning in some African countries being reduced to showcasing traditional dances, cuisines, and dress forms (dashiki exhibitionism). It is also accompanied by expressions of narrow nationalism through flag waving. Romanticization of Africa and its cultures this way is deeply simplistic and evokes bigotry. A flag, a symbol of nationalism and militarism, is axiomatically divisive and destructive. Flags affirm meaningless colonial borders over which Africans bicker. Thus, Africans unconsciously and deliberately denigrate themselves and advance the colonial stratagem of divide and rule. They struggle with authenticity amidst pervasive mimicry. Therefore, Africa Day, rather than being an occasion for Africa to affirm itself, foregrounds Africa's insecurities and anxieties. It is, therefore, an oddity.

In line with the spirit of Africa Day, the OAU spearheaded liberation against colonialism and white minority rule (apartheid) in South Africa. In the wake of South Africa's democratic transition in 1994, the OAU had effectively run its full course. Although a worthy cause and mandate, it later became narrow and obsolete. There was a need to rethink regional integration efforts in Africa. Hence the birth of the AU in 2002 to cure inherent failures within the OAU and as a response to the changed global order following Western triumphalism.

The OAU's enduring inefficiencies were cemented in its charter under the non-interference doctrine which rendered sovereignty absolute. It barred the OAU and individual member states from interfering in the internal affairs of other states. Consequently, tyrants committed gross human rights violations with impunity. While presiding over state repression in Uganda, Idi Amin headed the OAU in 1975 and Uganda was a member of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights from 1977 to 1979. It is illustrative of the depravity that afflicted the OAU and a continued lack of commitment to human rights by the AU and international community.

In the AU Charter, the retrogressive doctrine of non-interference has been replaced with the one of non-indifference that allows for intervention in the face of gross human rights violations such as war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. It means that sovereignty has been redefined as responsibility, but African rulers are still reluctant to call out peers committing atrocities against their people. The redefinition of sovereignty was informed by inaction during the genocide in Rwanda in 1994 and atrocities in the Balkans around the same time. In Rwanda, almost a million people were massacred in 100 days while Africa and the rest of the world stood by. Thus, the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) has become part of the rubric of conflict management even as its application is hamstrung by geopolitics, lack of political will and hypocrisy. Internationally, R2P evokes regime change accusations when carried out unilaterally as was the case in Iraq in 2003, when the United States invaded Iraq and toppled Saddam Hussein. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) invasion of Libya in 2011, though sanctioned by the UN Security Council and multilateral, ousted Muammar Gaddafi who was subsequently murdered.

Africa Day is also about reflecting on education in Africa. From the AU website, the 2024 theme is "Educate an African fit for the 21st Century: Building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, and relevant learning in Africa." This theme is timely but aberrant. The centrality of education to Africa's prosperity and standing cannot be overemphasized. I wonder, however, what is so special about the 21st century that could have excused lack of investment in mass education before to ensure inclusivity and social cohesion. The preparation of the so-called African fit for the 21st century should have started soon after independence. Education must be an ongoing process and not trivialized as a fad. Quality and inclusive education has been neglected while Africa's elite talk flippantly about accelerated development, and technological advancement through the agenda 2063 blueprint.

It is of concern that after 60 years of independence, for some African countries, education remains colonial thus irrelevant to Africa's peculiar needs. It thus worsens inequalities and poverty since properly equipped schools are beyond the reach of the majority of people. The irony is that education, which is supposed to reduce poverty and inequalities, accentuates these very problems, becoming a catalyst for conflicts and instability in Africa. Contempt for indigenous knowledge systems and valorization of foreign cultures is normative among Africa's elite, who regard patronizing Western education systems and upholding Eurocentricity a marker of excellence and sophistication. This alienation is self-denigrating and poverty inducing.

Africa is yet to establish empowering education. Empowerment here refers to education that restores Africans' self-confidence eroded by years of subjugation and humiliation under colonialism and imperialism. As such, Africa continues to struggle in manufacturing, trade, technology, and innovation since this borrowed education does not nurture critical thinking and most importantly is not anchored in Africa's cultures and epistemologies. Thus, education in Africa

reproduces an ontologically dislocated being only fit for mimicry.

Lack of emphasis on relevant education for Africa's social, political, economic, cultural, and technological transformation accounts for a reductive interpretation of decolonization that equates it to flag independence and the exit of colonialists. There is a tendency to conflate replacement of colonialists with black people of a similar mentality with freedom and independence. Consciousness about decoloniality whereby colonialism persists culturally, symbolically, and institutionally is nonexistent. Africa's problems stubbornly persist because Africa's elite derives validation externally. African nation states derive their legitimacy externally too, not from the extent to which they serve their people through good governance. Western institutions of learning and entrenchment of alien ideologies, as prescribed by the West, confer approval on this elite. Alienation is culturally violent and damaging.

The decolonization project stalled after independence when the political elites, for self-serving reasons, pandered to foreign interests at the expense of the wellbeing of the populace. In the Sahel, for instance, such rulers and governments increasingly got detached from the people, became illegitimate and were eventually toppled. These coups were received by a groundswell of jubilation. In Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Guinea, military juntas have effected revolutionary changes, including severing ties with the French, the colonial power, whose colonial instincts are hardly disguised. The military leaders have withdrawn from the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS), which they have dismissed as a French and Western lackey. In Senegal, elections held in 2024 ushered in a youthful government that is also opposed to longstanding French interference in the country and subregion. The resolve to detach from the cultural, economic, social, and political chokehold and build local economies for the betterment of the people is palpable within the Sahel and West African subregions. Although coups are not the panacea for the challenges bedeviling Africa, they show that democracy, to be relevant, must resonate with people's aspirations and pressing needs.

Africa Day is also about Pan-Africanism. Africa's elite wax lyrical about Pan-Africanism but propagate neocolonialism as agents of imperialism. These elites must live the ideals of Pan-Africanism – the foremost being commitment to advancing the cause of Africans on the continent and in the diaspora. Economic, political, and cultural emancipation is true liberation. Institutions of global governance such as the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are flawed but have an outsized role in African economies, thus neoliberalism has exacerbated Africa's poverty, inequalities, joblessness, and lack of investment in social welfare. Economic exclusion is a trigger of conflicts. In Kenya, for instance, President William Ruto's government has abandoned its pro-poor manifesto on which he campaigned for election. He has embraced the Bretton Woods' template and imposed numerous punitive taxes without commensurate public goods, and disinvested in education, healthcare, and social welfare generally. These taxes and high electricity tariffs have raised the cost of doing business. Ruto's supporters in the poor and working class have been hard hit.

Under the AU, African rulers devised initiatives such as New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) by which African countries could attract investment if they upheld good governance. NEPAD is embedded in paternalism, and it is curious that its architects missed its center-periphery framework. Moreover, NEPAD is built on antecedent development initiatives such as the Lagos Plan of Action (1980) and Abuja Treaty (1991). These initiatives have, however, not transformed Africa's economies and people's lives because they were stuck in the neoliberal template.

As an intergovernmental body, the AU precariously relies on external funding which places Africa's destiny and security in the hands of external actors. Unsurprisingly, since the Rwandan genocide, similar horrors have occurred in Sudan's Darfur region, and Tigray region in Ethiopia (incidentally the seat of the AU), to name but two cases.

Currently, a civil war is raging in Cameroon over differences in colonial heritage which is illustrative of the destruction of the lingering colonial legacy. Pitting the Anglophone and Francophone regions, this civil war was triggered when Francophone Cameroonians elite insisted on imposing the French culture on their compatriots who adopted the British heritage institutionally at independence. The AU has downplayed this conflict and so has the international community.

Sudan and eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are theatres of violence too. Congo has been unstable since the 1990s and continues in bloodletting without an end in sight. The West and some of Congo's neighbors such as Rwanda and Uganda are implicated in resource looting and related atrocities in one of the world's enormously mineral-rich countries. Years of dictatorship and impunity in Sudan tipped over into civil war following the ouster of Omar al-Bashir in 2019. The AU pledged to silence guns in Africa by the year 2020 but the reality is that this aspiration is bound to remain a pipedream.

Africa is forging alternative partnerships with China in trade, investment, cultural exchanges and skills and knowledge sharing to counter Western hegemony. But without Africans, especially their elite, being clear about Africa's interests, the shift towards China and other emerging powers will not change much regarding Africa's status and fortunes.

Africa Day evokes much that Africa should reflect on. The questions of identity and leadership, however, must be resolved as a prerequisite to emancipation. Unless Africans take pride in themselves, mimicry will continue to be their default approach in multilateral relationships to their detriment. This will further undercut Africa's agency and quest for true liberation.

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Threats against contractors fail to slow GERD Project



PHOTO: Anteneh Akilu

By Eyasu Zekarias

Despite ongoing threats and intimidation tactics from opponents, construction of the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) project remains on schedule to be completed by January 2025, according to the project's leadership.

Kifle Horo, the general manager of the GERD, reported that contractors involved in the 13-year construction effort have faced continued threats, with some parties trying to lure them away from the project. However, Horo stated that the construction is progressing as planned.

"The opposition has tried various tactics, including intimidation and accusations, to try to stop this project," said Horo. "But the work continues, and we remain confident we will finish on schedule."

Some of the recent challenges cited include the burning of the Derba cement factory, which supplies cement for the dam, as well as attempts to block roads and disrupt the delivery of raw materials to the construction site.

"There were no major obstacles when construction was halted years ago, but now that the project is nearing completion, we are seeing increased pressure from those who oppose it," Horo explained.

Despite these threats, the GERD project has reached 96% completion, with the remaining work expected to be finished by the target date early next year. Dr. Aregawi Berhe, head of the National Coordination Office for the GERD, noted that Ethiopians both at home and abroad have contributed over 19.4 billion birr (approximately \$340 million) to support the dam's construction.

However, Belayneh Aknaw, Deputy Director General of the Ethiopian Diaspora Service, acknowledged that the diaspora's financial support has been less than 1% of what was hoped for, citing a lack of alternative donation methods and coordination challenges.

To address this, the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia has updated its "It's My Dam" crowdfunding app to make it easier for the diaspora community to contribute. Bank President Abie Sano reported that the bank has provided over 136.7 billion birr (roughly \$2.4 billion) in financing for the GERD project so far, with a total of 241 billion birr expected to be spent by the time it is completed.

Despite the threats and funding challenges, the Ethiopian government remains committed to finishing the ambitious GERD project, which is slated to become the largest hydroelectric dam in Africa upon completion.

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Ethiopia's gold exports reach 75% of annual target in first 9 months

By our staff reporter

Ministry of Mines (MoM) has reported that the country's gold exports have reached 75% of the annual target during the first nine months of the 2023/24 budget year.

According to Minister Habtamu Tegegn, over three tons of the precious metal were exported during this period, which is 12.6% more than the same time in the previous budget year. Out of the total quantity, 2.4 tons were exported by companies, while the remaining 0.4 tons came from artisanal miners.

"The revenue target from gold export has reduced in the nine months of the budget year, even though it is higher than compared with the previous year," Habtamu told the parliament. He attributed this reduction to factors such as delays in production by certain investors and the ongoing issue of gold smuggling. Despite the revenue target reduction, the Minister noted that the overall



performance of the mining industry has been positive. Gold exports during the specified period generated \$274 million, an 83% increase compared to the previous year.

In addition to gold, Ethiopia also

exported 9.9 tons of processed and rough opal, 11,176 tons of lithium, 69.8 tons of tantalum ore, and 79.5 tons of jewelry. The total export value of industrial minerals reached \$13.3 million.

"Overall, the mining industry has

generated \$289 million in exports during the stated period, which represents a 68% increase over the same period last year," Habtamu said.

The Minister also highlighted progress in import substitution, with the cement industry meeting 64% of its coal demand from domestic sources. Two new factories are expected to begin producing washed coal in the upcoming year, while one facility is currently providing this service.

However, the steel industry faced a 22% decrease in production during the nine-month period, as players struggled to secure foreign currency for imported inputs. The industry also continues to struggle with the import and illegal trade of finished steel goods.

Overall, the data presented by the Ministry of Mines suggests that Ethiopia's mining sector is making strides, with gold exports leading the way, but challenges related to logistics, investment, and competition from illicit trade persist.

National Bank of Ethiopia Results of Treasury Bills Auction

	28 DAYS	91 DAYS	182 DAYS	364 DAYS	TOTAL
Maturity Date (DD/MM/YYYY)	45273	45336	45427	45609	0
Amount Offered (ETB Millions)	7190.25	17010	26315	5432.54	55947.79
Bids Received (ETB Millions)	3860	6000	8790	8237.54	26887.54
Total Amount Accepted (ETB Millions)	3860	6000	8790	8237.54	26887.54
Competitive Bids	3860	6000	8790	5485	24135

Auction No: 938th/23 Held on November 15th, 2023

Source: National Bank of Ethiopia

	28 DAYS	91 DAYS	182 DAYS	364 DAYS	TOTAL
Non Competitive Bids	0	0	0	2752.54	2752.54
Cut Off Price (Per Birr 100)	99.25	97.65	95.1	90.6	382.6
Cut Off Yield (Annual in %)	9.851	9.653	10.333	10.404	40.241
Weighted Average Price (Per Birr 100)	99.309	97.7	95.605	91.636	384.25
Weighted Average Yield (Annual in %)	9.066	9.442	9.219	9.153	36.88



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Big 5 Construct 2024; Highlighting growth in the construction sector

By our staff reporter

The second edition of the Big 5 Construct Ethiopia trade show opened today at the Millennium Hall in Addis Ababa, showcasing the rapid growth and development of Ethiopia's construction industry.

The event was officially inaugurated by Temesgen Tirunch, Deputy Prime Minister of Ethiopia, and Chaltu Sani, Minister of Urban and Infrastructure Development. In his remarks, Temesgen noted that the construction sector has become a crucial driver of Ethiopia's economic progress, contributing 21% to the country's GDP.

The opening ceremony was also attended by other high-level officials, including Tagesse Chaffo, Speaker of the House of Peoples' Representatives, and Adanech Abiebie, Mayor of Addis Ababa.

The two-day event has brought together over 160 exhibitors from 22 countries, showcasing the latest products, services and technologies in the construction industry. A key highlight was the Ministerial Forum, which featured in-depth discussions on the role of infrastructure development, tax incentives, and policy reforms in supporting the growth of the sector.

"Big 5 Construct Ethiopia has become a prestigious international event, providing a platform for the public and private sectors to collaborate and drive transformative change," said Mehtap Gürsoy, Portfolio Director of Construction at dmg events, the organizers of the trade show.

One of the new features at this year's event is the Construction VR Experience Hub, which allows visitors to immerse themselves in virtual reality simulations of construction sites and safety training scenarios.

Exhibitors at the event showcased a wide range of innovative solutions, from advanced construction materials to power transmission products and steel products for industrial applications. Yared Debebe, CEO of Grace Construction Chemicals, a gold sponsor of the event, highlighted the company's commitment to sustainable building practices through its cutting-edge DARMA products.



PHOTO: Anteneh Akilu

Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission holds crucial consultation phase

By our staff reporter

The ongoing consultation phase being led by the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) is a crucial step towards addressing the country's pressing challenges in a sustainable manner.

Held at the Adwa Victory Memorial Museum Hall, the ENDC is currently advising the regional advisory chapter, which includes more than 2,000 delegates from across the country.

"It is the responsibility of the Commission to ensure that the agenda identified in this

consultation phase is included during the formulation of the agenda for the upcoming National Conference," said Mesfin Araya, Professor and Chief Commissioner of the ENDC, as he addressed the long-term issues facing Ethiopia.

The agenda gathering phase is taking place over seven consecutive days, from May 29th to June 4th, 2024. More than 2,000 participants from diverse communities across the country have come together to provide their input.

"This forum is a demonstration of the progress the community has made in exercising its right to consult equally with

other stakeholders on matters of national importance - a process that has not gone far enough in the past," the Commission stated in a press release.

"This program is a critical chapter in the Commission's efforts to gather public discussions on the most fundamental national issues that need to be addressed by all stakeholders," the statement concluded.

The ENDC's inclusive approach to the consultation phase underscores the importance of community engagement and collective problem-solving as Ethiopia works towards a more sustainable and equitable future.





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INSURANCE: GROSS PROFIT IN MILLION ETB AS OF JUNE 30, 2023

Nyala Insurance: 304 (15.4%)	Oromia Insurance: 395 (64.6%)	The United Insurance: 391 (89%)	Zemen Insurance: 46 (1707%)	Nile Insurance: 330 (45.3%)
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GITEX Africa tech show concludes successful debut in Marrakech

By our staff reporter

The second edition of the GITEX Africa tech show has concluded in Marrakech, drawing over 1,500 exhibitors, companies, entrepreneurs, innovators and startups from more than 130 countries around the world.

The exhibition showcased the latest advancements in various technological fields, from AI and robotics to healthcare innovations, and highlighted the growing tech ecosystem in Africa.

One of the standout exhibitors was Morocco's ABA Technology, which presented a cutting-edge spraying drone. The aircraft, designed to help farmers in a country grappling with a sixth year of drought, offers precise management of water and chemicals.

"Faced with climatic challenges such as drought and thanks to technological advances, our spraying drone offers an efficient and optimal solution allowing precise management of water and chemicals," said engineer Jihane Metrani. "Thanks to GITEX, we have had a lot of visitors who really want to know more information about this drone."

Other international companies, such as the Egyptian robotics firm MARSSES, also made a strong impression with their interactive solutions. MARSSES showcased a robot that can play ball games, aiming to "break the barriers between people and technology and robotics."

European exhibitors, including the Belgian company I3 Technologies, used the platform to gain a foothold in the African market, a customer base they had previously found difficult to access.

"It makes it easier for us to have contact, and everything, so we have direct contact without having to travel throughout Africa which is a travel problem and today travel is expensive," explained Patrick Rius, representing I3 Technologies.

The exhibition also highlighted the growing number of homegrown African businesses and startups, proving that

a new generation is determined to put the continent on the map for tech development.

"The African market is evolving, the proof is that young people have become aware of this, it's why we young people

are taking the trouble to ensure that the solutions we develop can really be solutions that Africans will use, because we have noticed that Africans are consumers instead of being developers or bearers of ideas," said Massouta Fahol

from Almaxyra & Company.

Overall, the successful conclusion of the GITEX Africa tech show underscores the continent's rising prominence in the global technology landscape and the promising future of African innovation.

Ethiopians Recognized with Prestigious EU Schuman Awards



By our staff reporter

In a historic first, the European Union (EU) has awarded its prestigious Schuman EU Award to more than six Ethiopians for their outstanding contributions in various fields.

The awards ceremony, held at the EU compound on Thursday, May 30th, was attended by Daniel Bekele, Chief Commissioner of the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC).

The Schuman EU Award recognizes individuals who have made significant strides in promoting democracy, the rule of law, human rights, tolerance and equality. This year's Ethiopian recipients include the founder of the Horn of Africa Human Rights League, the founder of the Fendika Cultural Center, the chairman of Stand

for the Environment, and a representative from the Ethiopian Association of Women Lawyers.

"This is a tremendous honor for these Ethiopian leaders, and a testament to the important work they have done to advance critical causes within their communities and beyond," said Bekele. "It is a proud moment for Ethiopia to be so well-represented among the recipients of this prestigious EU award."

The Schuman EU Award was first presented in 2017 in Myanmar, coinciding with the 60th anniversary of the European Union's founding. The award aims to empower individuals and strengthen diplomatic ties by fostering greater communication and understanding.

The award is named after Robert Schuman,

a French politician, scholar and activist who lived from 1886 to 1963. Schuman was one of the founding fathers of the European Union, as well as instrumental in establishing other vital European and transatlantic institutions in the aftermath of World War II.

"These Ethiopian honorees have demonstrated the same spirit of leadership and vision that Robert Schuman embodied," Bekele commented. "Their contributions have helped to advance democratic principles and human rights, and this recognition by the EU is well-deserved."

The award ceremony in Addis Ababa marks the first time the Schuman EU Award has been presented to multiple Ethiopians, highlighting the growing influence and impact of the country's civil society leaders on the global stage.

EIAR advances approval . . .

Continued from page 1

Based on the information that Capital was able to obtain, the public hearing concluded over a week ago.

Dejene claims that two of the four seed varieties that were evaluated throughout the trials have been chosen for the environmental release application.

Bollworms are a severe insect problem in cotton cultivation that may reduce output by up to 50%.

In a similar vein, pesticides and disease are other problems facing the industry. To avoid the threat, major cotton-producing nations like Brazil are turning to genetically modified seeds.

The goals in Ethiopia were to evaluate the effectiveness of the Bt trait in the lab, as well as the performance of the BtGt hybrid cotton in resisting glyphosate herbicides and bollworms.

Additionally, the goal was to ascertain the adaptability, yield response, and fiber quality of the crop.

A sustained supply of the product is also necessary for the nation that sought to

lead Africa's textile and apparel sector.

The fact that GMO seed varieties that were illegally imported are already in use is one of the grounds for doing intensive study in this field.

According to the test conducted at the CFT, the productivity of GMO cottons ranges from 48 to 57 quintal per hectare, or around 32 quintal more than the yields of local types.

In 2022, EIAR and Black Stone Ethiopia Private Limited inked a public-private partnership until whereby the latter will import the technology and the institute would be responsible for scientific research.

"Black Stone will carry out the activity locally starting from the upcoming year, while for this season it may import and disperse the seeds since it does not have ample time for multiplication," Dejene says, "As per the agreement, the company will multiply the seed locally, which is vital to tackle the hard currency issues and release for farmers." The NVRC's approval of the environmental

release request would be a significant development for individuals who have been involved in the industry for a while, as well as the cotton agricultural sector, which is regarded as one of the key areas for the expansion of the national economy in general, according to sector experts.

Ethiopian cotton farmers are now able to use the illicitly imported genetically modified cotton that was smuggled out of Sudan.

According to Samson Assefa, Lead Executive for Cotton Development at the Ministry of Agriculture, farmers are very interested in GMO cotton that is being imported illegally since they know it has a big productivity boost.

"GMO cotton shall tackle bollworms and glyphosate herbicides problem, which is why big investors and farmers prefer it. The most recent action, if accepted by the committee, will make the usage of GMOs lawful," he continued.

Samson states, "I can say it is 100 percent illegal Bt cotton adoption". Currently, 84,000 hectares of land are covered in cotton plantations. "Therefore, in order to replace the illegal seed, which does not come with the whole package, such

as a water need and other specifications, we must use the fast track approach to the legal system."

"Bt cotton is our priority," he strongly stated.

"We anticipate receiving approval from the committee in the upcoming weeks," Dejene told Capital.

The government intended for Ethiopia to become the center of Africa's textile and garment industry and a major engine of economic expansion.

The goal of the fifteen-year National Cotton Development Strategy was to produce 1.1 million metric tons of cotton from cultivation on one million hectares of land.

"In order to increase local capacity, we are thinking about introducing BtGt traits into local varieties," Dereje stated at the stakeholders and researchers consultative meeting that was conducted a week ago.

The country now produces around 50,000 metric tons of cotton annually, but in the next two years, the textile sector expects its need to reach 200,000 metric tons.

According to the 15-year plan, the nation would export around 50,000 metric tons of cotton, bringing in up to USD 125 million a year.

ICO Indicator prices (US cents/lb) 29/05/24

I-CIP 227.09 -0.14%	Colombian Milds 252.59 -0.53%	Other Milds 251.46 -0.53%	Brazilian Naturals 229.51 -0.53%	Robusta 202.29 0.7%
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*1lb=0.45kg

Africa's air travel soars, passenger, cargo demand soars as continent taps into global trade

By our staff reporter

The African aviation industry is experiencing a remarkable resurgence, with the latest data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) revealing a remarkable 15.5% year-on-year increase in passenger demand for the continent in April 2024.

This robust growth outpaced the global average, which saw a total demand increase of 11.0% compared to the same period in 2023. Capacity on African routes also rose by 10.4% year-on-year, with the region's load factor climbing to a healthy 73.0%, up 3.2 percentage points from April 2023.

"The strong performance of the African aviation market is a testament to the

resilience and growing confidence in air travel across the continent," said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General. "As we look ahead to the peak summer travel season, Africa's airlines are well-positioned to capitalize on the surging demand and provide passengers with a wide range of connectivity options."

The impressive growth in African passenger demand was driven by a combination of factors, including the continent's economic recovery, increased business travel, and growing middle class. The easing of COVID-19 restrictions in many African countries has also contributed to the upswing in air travel.

With the summer travel season now in full swing, industry experts are optimistic that the positive trend in African passenger demand will continue, providing a much-

needed boost to the region's aviation sector and the broader economy.

In a related development, the African air cargo industry has witnessed a remarkable surge in demand, mirroring the continent's growing integration into the global trade and economic landscape.

According to the latest data released by IATA, African airlines saw a 10.6% year-on-year increase in air cargo demand in April 2024, outpacing the global average of 11.1%.

"The strong performance of African air cargo is a testament to the continent's rapidly evolving economic dynamics and its ability to tap into the burgeoning global trade opportunities," said Raphael Kuuchi, IATA's Vice President for Africa.

One of the standout trends was the 25.8% surge in demand on the Africa-Asia trade lane, reflecting the deepening economic ties between the two regions. This growth was particularly notable given the 18.7% year-on-year increase in capacity, indicating a healthy balance between supply and demand.

"African countries are increasingly positioning themselves as strategic hubs for trade and logistics, leveraging their strategic geographical location and abundant natural resources," Kuuchi added.

The growth in air cargo demand has been driven by a range of factors, including the continent's rising middle class, the diversification of export markets, and the expansion of intra-African trade. Furthermore, the development of infrastructure, such as airports and cargo handling facilities, has played a crucial role in facilitating the movement of goods.

"We are seeing a transformation in Africa's air cargo industry, with countries investing heavily in modernizing their aviation infrastructure and streamlining logistics operations," said Amina Benkhadra, the Director-General of the African Civil Aviation Commission.

This momentum is expected to continue, as African nations work to capitalize on their renewable energy potential and develop high-value export industries. The recent Global South-South Energy Summit in Addis Ababa highlighted the continent's efforts to harness its abundant solar and wind resources to power sustainable economic growth.

"The future of African air cargo is bright, and we are committed to working with our partners to further enhance connectivity, promote trade, and drive the continent's economic transformation," Kuuchi concluded.



Landmark report finds massive health impact from investing in R&D for Neglected Diseases

By our staff reporter

A major new report released has revealed the staggering health benefits that have resulted, and will continue to result, from investments in research and development (R&D) for poverty-related neglected diseases over the past two decades.

According to the report by Policy Cures Research, between 2000 and 2040, at least 40.7 million lives will be saved and 2.83 billion DALYs (Disability-Adjusted Life Years) will be averted due to new biomedical products developed to tackle neglected diseases that primarily affect populations in low- and middle-income countries.

"These findings make an iron-clad case for the tremendous health impact that can be achieved by investing in R&D for global health," said Dr. Nick Chapman, CEO of Policy Cures Research. "The scale of lives saved and years of healthy life restored is absolutely staggering."

The report, titled "The Impact of Global Health R&D," is the result of over two years of comprehensive research, data collection, and analysis conducted by Policy Cures Research and its partners. It examines the health, economic, and wider societal benefits generated by global investments in neglected disease


R&D since the turn of the century.

Beyond the immense human toll, the report also calculates that these health gains will translate into \$49.7 trillion in net economic benefit globally by 2040. Additionally, the societal return on investment (ROI) is estimated at \$405 for every \$1 spent on neglected disease R&D.


"Decision-makers will always face competing priorities, but this report makes clear that investing in global health innovation is one of the most impactful things we can do," added Dr. Chapman. "The data shows these investments yield tremendous returns, not just in improved health outcomes, but in broader social and economic benefits as well."


Crucially, the report notes that over 70% of the projected health and economic gains are expected to occur between now and 2040. Realizing this potential, however, will require sustained and expanded commitments to funding R&D for neglected diseases in the years ahead.

"Recent years have underscored the increasing burden of proof we face to keep global health R&D on the agenda," said Dr. Chapman. "This landmark report serves as a powerful piece of evidence to support the continued prioritization and scaling up of investments in this vital area."





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OUTSTANDING DEPOSIT IN BILLION ETB AS OF JUNE 30, 2023

Awash Bank: 187.4	 (23%)	Bank of Abyssinia: 158.5	 (30%)	Berhan Bank: 34	 (30%)	Bunna Bank: 36.6	 (34.6%)
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CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM FOR SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

By our staff reporter

The latest Chief Economists Outlook from the World Economic Forum paints a cautiously optimistic picture for the economic prospects of Sub-Saharan Africa in the coming years.

According to the survey of leading chief economists, growth expectations for the Sub-Saharan Africa region have improved compared to the previous outlook. While growth remains relatively modest, over three-quarters of respondents now expect at least moderate growth in the region in 2024, up from just two-thirds in the January 2024 survey.

"There are signs that the economic fortunes of Sub-Saharan Africa are starting to turn a corner, albeit slowly," said the WEF's Chief Economist. "Policymakers in the region will need to navigate a complex global landscape, but there is cautious optimism that the pieces are starting to fall into place for a period of more robust and sustained growth."

The improved growth outlook reflects a number of factors. Across the region, business and consumer confidence appears to be gradually recovering, supported by easing inflationary



pressures and a stabilization of global supply chains. Additionally, the survey highlights that the region is expected to benefit from the ongoing technological transformation and green energy transition, which are seen as growth drivers in the medium-term.

However, the economists note that significant challenges and risks remain. Geopolitical tensions, domestic political volatility, high debt levels, and the growing impacts of climate change all

cloud the longer-term prospects for the region. "Sub-Saharan Africa is not out of the woods yet," cautioned one respondent. "Policymakers will need to redouble efforts to build economic resilience and promote sustainable development in the face of these headwinds."

The WEF survey points to a range of policy priorities that could help bolster growth in Sub-Saharan Africa, including investments in infrastructure, education and skills development, as well as

measures to improve access to finance and strengthen institutional capacity. Striking the right balance between economic, social and environmental objectives will be crucial.

Overall, the latest Chief Economists Outlook suggests cautious optimism is warranted for the economic trajectory of Sub-Saharan Africa, but significant work remains to translate this into a period of inclusive and durable prosperity for the region.

AHRE condemns grave human rights violations detailed in EHRC report

By our staff reporter

The Association for Human Rights in Ethiopia (AHRE) has expressed grave concern over the recent statement issued by the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) detailing severe human rights violations in conflict-

affected areas of the country.

The EHRC report has highlighted disturbing incidents of direct attacks on civilians, arbitrary arrests, property destruction, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, and other egregious abuses of international human rights and humanitarian law.

AHRE has vehemently condemned these atrocities, emphasizing that civilians should never be targets of violence. The organization has stressed that all parties involved in the conflict must prioritize the protection of civilians.

"We are deeply disturbed by the harrowing details contained in the EHRC report,"

said the AHRE spokesperson. "Civilians caught in the crossfire of this conflict must be safeguarded, and those responsible for these abuses must be held accountable."

AHRE has urged the government to promptly act to protect civilians from further harm and to uphold its obligations under international law by conducting fair and impartial investigations into the alleged violations. The organization has called for those found responsible to be held accountable through due judicial processes.

Furthermore, AHRE has expressed solidarity with the Ethiopian Human Rights Council (EHRCO), which has reported serious violations, such as threats, unlawful arrests, violence, restrictions on human rights activities, information limitations, office intrusions, property theft, and defamatory actions against its staff. According to EHRCO, these actions are part of a broader attempt to suppress civil society organizations operating in the human rights sector.

AHRE has called on the government to uphold and safeguard civic spaces, ensuring that human rights defenders can carry out their important work without fear of retaliation or intimidation.

"We urge all relevant stakeholders to take significant measures to restore peace and justice," the AHRE spokesperson said. "The protection of human rights and the pursuit of accountability must be the top priorities in addressing this critical situation."

RENEWABLE ENERGY POTENTIAL UNTAPPED IN DEVELOPING NATIONS

By our staff reporter

The 2nd Global South-South Energy Summit, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from May 22-23, 2024, has shone a spotlight on the challenges faced by developing nations in harnessing their abundant renewable energy resources.

Despite countries like Ethiopia possessing huge potential for renewable energy generation, they are often forced to purchase expensive technology from developed nations, unable to fully utilize these resources to power their own growth and development.

"Developing countries, including Ethiopia, are facing significant challenges due to a lack of capacity to use electricity, but are unable to develop the sector more

efficiently and effectively," said one summit participant.

The conference, attended by over 500 policymakers, entrepreneurs, technologists, investors, academics, and environmentalists from Africa, Asia, and Latin America, aimed to explore solutions to this pressing issue.

"Africa, Asia, and Latin America are the regions cited as examples, all of which together are focused on how to access electricity and use technology using renewable energy," the organizers stated.

At the summit, new renewable solar energy technologies were introduced, featuring over 30 speakers, 20 exhibitors from Africa and India, and 10 field visits showcasing modern solar discoveries.

The event highlighted the potential of

decentralized renewable energy solutions to promote inclusive growth, empower marginalized communities, and build climate resilience.

"The focus was on creating new economic opportunities supported by clean energy and building climate resilience," the organizers said. "Enhancing knowledge sharing has been consulted on what they call impact program design and developing off-grid solar solutions for agriculture, livelihoods, and health."

Participants stressed the need for developed nations to provide greater support and technology transfer to enable developing countries to harness their renewable energy potential more effectively, ultimately driving sustainable economic and social development.

Capital NEWS IN BRIEF

Djibouti fights deadly malaria wave with GMO Mosquitoes

Genetically engineered mosquitoes have been released in the tiny East African country of Djibouti to combat a surge in malaria infections caused by an invasive vector. This initiative started on Thursday, comes as Djibouti, one of Africa's smallest nations with just over a million residents, grapples with a dramatic increase in malaria cases, skyrocketing from just 27 in 2012 to more than 70,000 in recent years, according to the WHO. The health body attributes the spike to the arrival of *Anopheles stephensi*, an invasive Asian mosquito species that transmit the deadly disease.

(Garowe)

Open Budget Survey finds countries are not transparent enough on debt and social spending

Amid historic levels of crippling global debt, the Open Budget Survey finds that countries are not sufficiently transparent and accountable about how they are managing their debt or spending on important social sectors, like health, sanitation and other services.

"Despite modest gains in this latest Open Budget Survey round, governments are not providing enough information and opportunities for engagement on how they are managing debt and executing budgets in later stages of the budget process. These are two key areas that impact whether governments can effectively deliver reliable, quality healthcare, sanitation, and other public services," said Austin Ndiokwelu, Director of Policy and Global Advocacy at the International Budget Partnership.

This latest round of the survey found a modest one-point increase in global budget transparency scores compared to the previous round. Nevertheless, regional trends show two stories—one of sustained progress and one of downward peril.

(Press Release)

Beyond GDP measurements, carefully designed nature-based solutions could accelerate development and social equity – ECA's Antonio Pedro

Nature-based solutions present a unique way for Africa to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 while contributing to the conservation of continent's rich biodiversity, promoting ecological connectivity, and enhancing climate resilience, said Antonio Pedro, Deputy Executive Secretary, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), today at the African Natural Capital Alliance Annual Summit held in Nairobi, Kenya.

Speaking leaders in the financial markets sector, Mr. Pedro said, "With careful design of its development pathway, Africa can harness the value of its natural resources through responsible management practices that recognize planetary boundaries and balance economic growth with environmental conservation and social equity, beyond GDP metrics."

Referencing a study by the ECA and Dalberg, Mr. Pedro said Africa could mobilize \$82 billion per annum if the price of carbon reached \$120 per tonne of CO2. However, there is a need to eliminate market fragmentation and invest in building high integrity carbon credit markets.

(Press Release)

IMF executive board concludes the first review of the extended credit facility for Somalia

The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) completed the first review of the Extended Credit Facility (ECF) arrangement for Somalia. The Board's decision enables the immediate disbursement of SDR 7.5 million (about US\$ 10 million), which will be channeled for budget support, bringing Somalia's total disbursement under the Extended Credit Facility (ECF) to SDR 37.5 million (about US\$ 50 million).

Somalia's ECF arrangement was originally approved by the Executive Board on December 19, 2023. The program supports the authorities' reform strategy, after achieving the completion point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative, to further strengthen key economic institutions and promote macroeconomic stability and growth. This is in line with Somalia's national development plan and the government's long-term vision to maintain economic stability, strengthen revenues and public financial management, promote financial deepening, improve governance, and enhance statistics.

(Press Release)

UN expresses concern for stranded Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia

The United Nations has voiced renewed concerns about the dire situation facing a large group of Sudanese refugees who fled their camp in a volatile region of northern Ethiopia nearly a month ago and are still living on the side of the road.

Approximately 1,000 individuals left the Awlala

refugee settlement in the Amhara region on May 1st due to fears for their safety, prompted by reports of armed robberies, shootings, and alleged abductions in the area. According to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), some of the displaced refugees have now begun a hunger strike as their precarious situation drags on.

The UN has expressed growing alarm over the plight of these vulnerable Sudanese refugees, who were forced to abandon their camp and are now stranded without proper shelter, food, or access to essential services. Humanitarian agencies are urging the Ethiopian government to intervene and provide assistance to these refugees who find themselves in an increasingly desperate predicament.

(UN Ne)


Term of the Day

GOVERNMENT BOND


» Definition

A government bond is a debt security issued by a government to support government spending and obligations. Government bonds can pay periodic interest payments called coupon payments. Government bonds issued by national governments are often considered low-risk investments since the issuing government backs them.


Government bonds issued by a federal government may also be known as sovereign debt.




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GLOBALIZATION and IDEOLOGIES

■ Alazar Kebede

The subjective framework of globalization primarily includes knowledge and ideology. Indeed, the power of globalization orients the development of dominant knowledge. And knowledge about globalization is, in turn, represented as ideology which is a way of interpreting the world and for contemplating strategies of action. As many contemporary scholars suggested, there are ways in which some exemplar ideological works frame agendas for globalization and alter globalization.

The first one is the centrist neoliberal thinking which is first reflected in the World Bank Policy Research Report titled “Globalization, Growth, and Poverty: Building an Inclusive World Economy”, and Nicholas Stern, Chief Economist and Senior Vice President at the bank was known as its chief proponent. In this study, the point of departure is that globalization corresponds to increasing integration of economies and societies throughout the world. The main contention is that in most cases, globalization reduces poverty and lessens inequality among countries though, on average, not necessarily within countries. The report emphasizes that globalization produces winners and losers within each society.

The report notes that there is no single model of success, thereby recognizing that the policy agendas must be custom-fitted. Disavowing nationalism and protectionism, the World Bank forthrightly states that, “there are no anti-global victories to report for the postwar Third World. We infer that this is because freer trade stimulates growth in Third World economies”.

On balance, this study signals a shift from the old orthodoxy. Among the important revisions in neoliberal thinking is a frank recognition of persistent marginalization concomitant to globalization, though, for the bank, marginalization is a descriptive statistical category, not a dynamic concept that turns on competing social forces. There is also acknowledgment that the state can provide elements of social protection; it may play an enabling role, as in the world’s two most populous countries, China and India, both of which, in different ways, have sustained large-scale economic growth.

The “Reformist neoliberals” group takes issue with centrist ideas and powerful institutions that convey them. These policy intellectuals participate in multiple networks: the lecture circuit, which goes along with quasi-celebrity status; the media industry; venues such as the World Economic Forum (WEF), where they interact with the top members of the corporate and political establishment; and research institutes at some of the world’s highly endowed universities, which afford material support and are largely United States based.

Noteworthy, however, is that a handful of leading economists, technically sophisticated masters of the neoclassical trade though not uniform in their views, such as Joseph Stiglitz, Dani Rodrik, Paul Krugman, and Jeffrey Sachs, have dissented from aspects of orthodox neoliberal globalization. Some of them collaborate in Stiglitz’s Initiative for Policy Dialogue, a global network of social scientists established in 2000. Drawing together select experts from around the world, its mission is to explore economic policy alternatives for developing and

transition countries and to improve official decision making on economic issues.

They also published scholarly articles and books by like minded economic experts and leaders. This institution reportedly published in a book entitled “Good Growth in Africa: Rethinking Development Strategies” in which our late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi wrote a scholarly article under the title “States and Markets: Neoliberal Limitations and the case for a Developmental State”. As one of the proponent of this group, Meles presented a theoretical criticism of the neo-liberal paradigm prescriptions regarding the role of the state in the economy.

The late Prime Minister Meles argued that the political and economic renaissance of Africa is an issue that continues to preoccupy Africans and non-Africans alike. For this effect, various methods of achieving such a renaissance have been proposed, mostly variations of the dominant neoliberal paradigm of development. For Meles, the neo-liberal paradigm is a dead end incapable of bringing about the African renaissance, and that a fundamental shift in paradigm is required to effect a revival.

Joseph Stiglitz, the former Senior Vice President and Chief Economist at the World Bank, winner of the 2001 Nobel Prize in economics, and now a professor at Columbia University, offers an insider’s view into core institutions and ideas that drive the globalization agenda. In explaining why globalization does not work for a multitude of people, particularly in the developing world, Stiglitz in his book entitled “Globalization and Its Discontents”, constructs a multilevel analysis of globalization that focuses on economic integration, international economic institutions, the interests of the financial and corporate community, state structures, social stratification, values, and the system of capitalism itself.

The “Historical-materialist transformers” ideological group, in marked contrast, has sought to reinterpret the ideas of capitalism and to restructure this globalizing system. The most prominent in this group is William K. Tabb, a professor at the City University of New York who has sought to extend Marxist understanding.

Pointing out that the media shape consciousness and provide ‘an ideological context’ for globalizing dynamics, his analysis nevertheless, and surprisingly, subscribes to some key representations in the public discourse, such as the notions of a ‘global village’ and an ‘anti-globalization campaign’. However, William Tabb, unlike the exemplar authors cited above, offers a vigorous critique of globalizing capitalism, and probes the very parameters within which national and international institutions operate. He holds that neoliberal globalization is chiefly a political phenomenon.

The “Development transformism” group is spearheaded by Martin Khor, who directs the Third World Network, a Malaysian-based NGO that works to understand and influence policy. His book “Rethinking Globalization” focuses on the developing countries, many of them small and fragile actors that have experienced a reduction in policy latitude and an erosion of sovereignty and of local ownership in the national economy.

For Khor, globalization is not a totally new process, but one that has accelerated rapidly in the last few decades. He holds that a hallmark of this period is increasing inequalities among

and within countries, and these divides are associated with globalizing forces. According to Khor, globalization and the whole complex of ideas associated with the neoliberal framework have contributed powerfully to the vulnerabilities of the South. The mechanisms include loan conditionalities, fluctuations in commodity prices and terms of trade, and the volatility of shortterm capital flows.

In sum, neoliberal globalization may be grasped in terms of its inter-subjective dimensions and transnational networks as they relate to political and material interests. Today, ideological consensus is increasingly contested and weakening. The fissures are widening. For diverse stakeholders, the challenge is to remake globalization into an ideology of emancipation for the many, not the few. Requisite to this task are not only new ideas but also countervailing power. Indeed, as demonstrated above, there is a substantial emergence of alternative sets of ideas which are very different perspectives on a desirable globalization agenda. Ultimately, this contestation is a question of whose agenda will win out in the political strife. It comes down to a matter of reconciling core ideas and control of the globalization agenda.

Among the competing agendas, common ground exists, at least on one point. The contemporary era is marked by a bundling of neoliberalism and globalization. However, there is disagreement about what inference to draw from this convergence. Some ideologists clearly favor tightening the bundle, whereas others advocate an unbundling of neoliberalism and globalization. Rethinking the debate over ideas thus shifts the globalization discourse from linking to delinking globalization and the neoliberal framework. Sequentially, delinking would be tied to relinking economic reform and social policy.

But this dimension of alter globalization is partial. The goal worth pursuing is to search for new philosophical principles that could help imagine options, guide policy, and inform strategies tailor-made for distinctive contexts. Even if there is no one best way to harness globalization so that it provides for both economic gains and social equity, surely much greater overall vision is still required. The vision would come from not only ideological leaders at the top but also from the base, where civil society is mounting pressure for alter globalization.



UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

UNHCR Representation in Ethiopia Tel.: +251 11 6612822 P. O. Box 1076 Email: ETHADSMS@unhcr.org

TENDER NOTICE

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Representation Office in Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, invites qualified and registered Contractors / Suppliers to participate in the following tenders:

SN	TENDER SUBJECT	CLOSING DATE
1	Request for Proposal No. RFP/HCR/ETHDA/2024/001 - For the Establishment of a Frame Agreement for the Provision of Generators Overhaul, Electromechanical Maintenance and Repair Services, Supply of Spare Parts, and Training of Technicians for One Year, with the Possibility of a One-Year Extension (1+1), to the UNHCR Office in Melkdadida	28 June 2024 23:59hrs

Tender documents can be requested for by sending an email to: ETHMKSMS@unhcr.org specifying the tender reference number in the subject. Working hours: Monday to Thursday from 08:30-13:00 and 14:00-17:30, Friday from 08:30-14:00.

Optionally, all the above- mentioned tender documents can be downloaded from the UNGM website: <https://www.ungm.org/>

The tender submission must comply with the requirements specified in the tender documents, and it must be in a computer-typed PDF file. Bidders are required to submit their financial and technical documents separately, clearly labelling the tender reference number and distinguishing between the technical and financial documents.

**SUPPLY MANAGEMENT SERVICES,
UNHCR ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

Deal or no deal

Cultural habits influence the way people observe rules and regulations. In so called universalist societies, the rules apply to everybody, no exceptions. Exceptions are resisted because allowing for exceptions might weaken the rule and there is a concern that once you begin allowing for exceptions, the system will collapse.

In a particularist society, much like Ethiopia, there is room to allow for the exceptional nature of circumstances and for personal relationships to influence the application of the rules.

Interestingly enough, people from both different cultures tend to think that the other cannot be trusted. A universalist will say of particularists that they cannot be trusted because they will always allow for the exceptions and help people they know. A particularist on the other hand will say of universalists that they cannot be trusted because they would not even help a friend. It would be interesting to consider where you stand as an individual and whether your cultural background matches common practice in society at large. Your cultural positioning would explain whether or not you feel comfortable in daily matters and your business dealings.

Now, contracts serve to record an agreement on principle and codifies what the respective parties have promised to do. It also implies consent to the agreement and provides recourse if the parties do not keep their side of the deal. In other words, a contract describes the deal between two parties as well as what repercussions there will be in case the deal is not respected by any of the two parties.

Much as it is common in Ethiopia to regard a contract as an intention to be renegotiated the moment circumstances change, as is to be expected in a particularist culture, the actual legal implications are more of a universalist nature. This contradiction is observed more often in countries where constitutions are derived from foreign models and it is no wonder that the implementation of rules and regulations is subject to different interpretations. In other words, if a dispute over a contract is taken to court, the contents of the contract will be taken more literally than the signing party had perhaps intended.

It is therefore wise to take contracts more serious than is often done and to make sure that your interests are included in it. More often than not a contract is drawn up by the party, who has more experience in dealing with third parties and contracts are usually derived from models used earlier. The language used is often complicated and intimidating, and there is a chance that the weaker party will sign without fully understanding what the implications are or making sure that his/her interests are well described.

Examples are found in employment contracts, housing contracts and sales. And while the employee, tenant and client are eager to sign and get the deal they so long looked for, they may end up in a weaker position than was necessary. What to do? Here follow some suggestions.

In the first place it is important to sit down and try and define what you want out of the deal you are about to make. Easy as it sounds, it is surprising how difficult it often is to describe exactly what you want. It is helpful to ask yourself some questions like:

- What are you actually looking for? What product or service will improve the quality of your life or your business? When you are looking to rent a house or office space for example, what are the minimum requirements in terms of space, location, facilities, quality and maintenance? Once you

know what you are looking for, your search will be focused and it becomes easy to say "no" to what doesn't meet your minimum requirements.

- What can you afford? While prices follow market trends, this is not to say that you need to follow suit. There is a limit to anybody's budget and it is important to set that limit. Defining the range that you are willing and able to pay for the services or product you are looking for provides you with a framework within which to negotiate. Again, it becomes easy to say "no" once the costs are beyond the limits that you set for yourself.
- For how long do you require the services or product you are looking for? It is important to set a timeframe and include a minimum period for example when renting premises. One year contracts are common but are not in your interest. Try and negotiate for longer periods as this will allow for less stress and uncertainty.
- What are the advantages and the disadvantages of the deal that is being offered? It is interesting to note that while somebody eagerly wants something, the disadvantages are easily brushed aside. Often, the client ends up with less value for money than was necessary.

Secondly, get a second opinion. Ask around and be informed. Find people in your social circles whom you can trust and who are able to advise you. And if you can afford it, personally or in your business, hire the services of a lawyer or consultant, and get expert advice on matters you are not an expert in yourself.

Thirdly, include conditions in the contract that will protect your interests. Write them down, put them on the table and have them included in the contract. Don't accept the excuse that the standard contract normally doesn't include your issues. You should not sign until you are confident that your interests are represented.

As mentioned earlier, contracts are often drawn up in complicated language. Ask yourself whether you understand the rest of the contract. If not, ask for an explanation, negotiate if necessary and have the issue written down in a way that is understood by both parties.

Finally, know what the consequences are for not sticking to the deal. You need to understand for yourself and accept what the consequences will be in case you or the other party want out. Don't take this lightly. If the consequences are too light, the chance for the contract to be broken is higher, putting you at more risk than necessary, which is what you want to avoid in the first place.

Remember, a contract is an agreement between two parties and you are responsible yourself for making sure that your own interests are protected. Don't expect the other party to do that for you.

Ton Haverkort



Entrepreneur PROFILE:

RESUME

Name: Hanan Ahmed

Education: AAU School of Commerce graduate

Company name: Han's Care Reusable Sanitary Manufacturing

Title: Founder

Founded in: 2021

What it does: Reusable Sanitary Products for women/girls and the elderly

Hq: Addis Ababa

Number of Employees: 14



STARTUP CAPITAL
450,000 Birr

CURRENT CAPITAL
10,000,000 Birr

BIG PICTURE

PERSONAL

Reason for starting the Business: Lack of awareness and personal experiences with miscarriages and ectopic pregnancy

Biggest perk of ownership: Becoming my own boss, and learning new things every day to grow and serve more people

Biggest strength: Resilient to things I believe in, and I finish what I start

Biggest challenge: As a woman, the road to start a business was not easy, starting from licensing and getting the product known

Plan: Set up a big manufacturing place and ensure every girl that goes to school has access to sanitary products

First career: A modest fashion wear designer

Most interested in meeting: Oprah Winfrey

Most admired person: My mom and Oprah Winfrey

Stress reducer: Dua/Prayer

Favorite past time: Me time with nature and time with my daughter

Favorite book: The Wisdom of Sundays by Oprah & Worthy by Jamie Kern

Favorite destination: BALI/BORA BORA

Favorite automobile: TMERCEDES BENZ & AUDI

EXCHANGE RATE

May 30, 2024

CURRENCY	BUYING	SELLING
US DOLLAR	57.0424	58.1832
POUND STERLING	69.4344	70.8231
SWISS FRANC	59.7647	60.96
SWIDISH KNORER	4.8596	4.9568
NORWEGIAN KRONE	4.9016	4.9996
DANISH KNORER	7.5088	7.659
DJIBOUTI FRANC	0.3195	0.3259
INDIAN RUPEE	0.6841	0.6978
KENYAN SHILLING	0.4321	0.4407
JAPANESE YEN	0.3284	0.335
CANADIAN DOLLAR	37.7502	38.5052



የፍላጎት መግለጫ ጊዜ መረዘመን ስለመግለፅ

1. መግቢያ

ቢ.ጂ.አይ-ኢትዮጵያ በኢትዮጵያ ውስጥ ካሉ የክልልና ክልል ነፃ የሆኑ መጠጥ አምራቶች ውስጥ ግንባር ቀደም ከ53 የዓለማዊነት ሐገራት ውስጥ በምርቶቹ የሚታወቀው የካሳቱ ግሩፕ ከካል ነው። ቢ.ጂ.አይ. ኢትዮጵያ ከፍተኛ ጥራትና ተወዳጅነት ያሳቸውን ምርቶቹን ማሰታጠፍ ቅዱስ ጊዮርጊስ ቢራ ፣ ካሳቱ ቢራ ፣ ሜታ ቢራ እና ሰንቅ ማጠቃለያ በሚመረቱ እና ሰገባዎች በሚቀረብ ይታወቃል።

ቢ.ጂ.አይ. ኢትዮጵያ እያደገ የመጣውን የደንበኞቹን ፍላጎት ለማርካትና የበለጠ ተደራሽ ሰሚሆን የሚያስችሉትን ስራዎች እያከናወነ ይገኛል። በዚህ መሰረት ቢ.ጂ.አይ. ኢትዮጵያ ምርቶቹን ለማክፈል ፍላጎት ያሳቸውን ግለሰብ እና ድርጅቶች ከዚህ በታች የተጠቀሱት ሁኔታዎች የሚያሟሉ ከሆነ ክብሮ ለመስራት ያሳቸውን ፍላጎት እንዲገልፁ ጥሪ ያቀርባል።

2. የሰራው ሃላፊነት

ክብሮን የሚሰራ አክፋይ የሚከተሉትን ሃላፊነቶች መከወን ይኖርበታል፡

- ሰነድ እና አዳዲስ ደንበኞች ያልተቋረጠ የምርት ክፍፍል እና ደረጃውን የጠበቀ የደንበኞች አገልግሎት መስጠት።
- የድርጅቱን የሽያጭ እና የማስታወቂያ ስልቶች በአጥጋቢ ሁኔታ መከወን።
- የሽያጭ እና ሴሎች የግብይት መረጃዎችን እና ሰነዶችን በትክክል ሁኔታ መዘግብ መያዝ።
- የሽያጭ አፈጻጸም እና የገበያውን ግብረ መልስ በየጊዜው ሪፖርት ማቅረብ።

3. የፍላጎት ማሳወቂያው የካተተው የሽያጭ ዘዎች

አመልካቾች የፍላጎት ማሳወቂያውን ለማክተት የሽያጭ ዘዎች ብቻ ማቅረብ ይጠበቅባቸዋል።

1. ወልደደ	11. ሰውሳ	21. ፍናተ ሰላም	31. ኮርጅ	41. ሸዋ ቤንት
2. ቆቦ	12. ሞያሴ	22. ቻግኒ	32. ጭቱ ካሪ	42. ጋምቤሳ
3. ሱጊያ	13. ዳራሜ/ ሐሳብ	23. በቆጂ	33. ጉተን	43. ጭሮ
4. ደቡብ	14. ከንሳ	24. ዓዳግራት	34. ደምቢ ዶቡ	44. ሐረር
5. ጎሮ	15. ቋራ	25. መሆኒ	35. በደሴ	45. ጅግጅጋ
6. ገንር	16. ጭጋ	26. ሐሙራ	36. ቦንጋ	46. አዋሽ አርባ
7. ጃንካ	17. ሰንጃ	27. ዳንሻ	37. መቱ	47. ሐርና
8. ዳሳ	18. ወረታ	28. አሰሳ	38. ሚዛን	48. አሰማያ
9. ያቤሱ	19. ባህር ዳር	29. ነጆ	39. ቴፕ	
10. ነገሴ ቦረና	20. ደብረ ማርቆስ	30. ገምቢ	40. ዳማ	

4. አክፋይ እንዲያሟላ የሚጠበቁ መሰረቶች

ውጤታማ የቢ.ጂ.አይ. ኢትዮጵያ ምርቶች አክፋይ ሰሚሆን ቢያንስ የሚከተሉትን መሰረቶች ማሟላት ይኖርበታል።

1. ከዚህ በታች የተዘረዘሩትን የጥራት መሰሪያዎች የሚያሟላ እና ቢያንስ የ5 ቀናት ሽያጭ ማስተናገድ የሚችል 400 ካሬ ሳይ ያረፈ መጋዘን ያሰው፡
 - በብሎኬት የተሰራ መሆን አለበት፤
 - በቂ አየር እና ብርሃን ሲኖረው ይገባል፤
 - እጹህ ወሰን ፤ እንዲሁም ከወሰሱ አስክ ጣሪያው ቢያንስ 6 ሜትር ርዝመት ያሰው፤
 - ከዋና ገበያ በቅርብ ርቀት የሚገኝ እና ሰከባድ የሆነ መኪናዎች አንቀስቃሴ በቂ ግቢ ያሰው ሲሆን ይገባል።
2. ከፋብሪካ ምርት ለማመሳሰል የሚያስችሉ የከባድ ጭነት መኪናዎች እና ለደንበኞች በየቦራቸው ለማድረስ የሚያስችሉ መካከለኛ የጭነት መኪናዎች (ሰምሳሴ፡ ISUZUs NPR) ያሳቸው።
3. የአክፋይን የሽያጭ እና የአስተዳደራዊ ስራዎችን ለመከወን የሚያስችል የሰው ሀይል መመደብ የሚችል።
4. የተደራጀ ቢሮ እና ፈጣን አንተርኔት ያሰው፤
5. ለሚያመሰክቱት የገበያ ቦታዎች የጠቀሰ ዕውቀትና ስራ ቢ.ጂ.አይ. ኢትዮጵያ ምርቶች የተሰየ ፍላጎት ያሰው፤
6. ከዚህ ቀደም በአሳቂ ዕቃዎች ጅምሳ ሽያጭ ከፍተኛ ልምድ ያሰው፤



5. የፍላጎት ማሳወቂያ ውን ለማሰረክብ የሚያስፈልጉ መሰፈርቶች

ፍቃደኝነቱ እና ብቃቱ ያሳያል ለመጠየቅ አብሮ የመሰራት ማመልከቻችሁን እና ክታች የተዘረዘሩትን ሰነዶች በግልጽ በሚታይ ኮፒ አካል በቢ.ጂ.አይ ዋና መስሪያ ቤት በመቅረብ ወይም <http://bgieoi.unaux.com/?i=1> አንባቢዎን ፎርም ላይ በመሙላት ይህ ማስታወቂያ ክወግቡት ቀን ጀምሮ አስከፊ ዓርብ, ሰኔ 7 2016 ዓ.ም ከቀኑ 11:00 ሰዓት በፊት ማመልከት ይችላሉ።

5.1. ተከላካይ ፕሮግራም ቢያንስ እነዚህን ማካተት አለበት፡

- የታደሰ የንግድ ፈቃድ፡
- የተጨማሪ አሴት ታክስ ምዘገባ ምስክር ወረቀት
- የግብር መሰያ ቁጥር ምስክር ወረቀት
- የሁለት አመት የሂሳብ መዘገብ ሪፖርት እና የ2015 ዓም የታክስ ኪሳራን ሰርተፍኬት
- የስራ ማስኬጃ በቂ ካፒታል ያለው መሆኑን የሚያሳይ የሁለት አመት የባንክ አስቱትመንት ማቅረብ
- አክፋፋዩ የኃ.የተ.የግ.ሚ ወይም የአክሲዮን መሣሪያ ከሆነ ስራ አስኪያጁ ድርጅቱን መወከል የሚያስችል የውክልና ወረቀት ማቅረብ ይኖርበታል
- የድርጅቱ የምስረታ ሰነዶች (ሰ የኃ.የተ.የግ.ሚ እና አ/ሚ)
- የድርጅቱ አጭር መግባቢያ፤ የንግድዎን ባህሪ ፤ ታሪክ ፤ የአገልግሎት ጥራት እና ብቃት የሚያሳይ የድርጅቱ መግባቢያ።
- አመልካቹ መሰማራት የሚፈልግበትን የሚከፋፈል የገበያ ቦታዎችን የሚገልጽ ደብዳቤ
- ዋናው የስራ ቦታ፡ የሲዝ ማረጋገጫ ወል ወይም የንብረት ካርታ ኮፒ፤
- በአካባቢው ሰረጅም ጊዜ ነዋሪ የሆነና በአካባቢው ማህበረሰብ መልካም ስም ያሳቸው ሲሆኑ ይገባል፤
- ማህበራዊ እና ህጋዊ ግዴታዎችን በአግባቡ አየተወጣ ያሰና ማሰረጃ ማቅረብ የሚችሉ፤
- ሰጭነት መኪናዎቹ እና ሰመጋዘኑ የባሰቡትን/ ሕጋዊ ውክልና ወይም የኪራይ ማረጋገጫ
- የስራ አስኪያጁ የታደሰ የቀበሌ መታወቂያ / መንጃ ፍቃድ/
- የመጠጥ ወይም ሰነድ መጠጥ/ምርቶችን የሚከፋፈል ልምድ ያለው ይበረታታል።

- በአካል የሚገቡ ማመልከቻዎች በሰም በታሸገ ፖስታ መቅረብ ያለበት ሲሆን ፖስታው ላይ የአመልካቹ ድርጅት ስምና ጉዳዩ በገልጸው ሲጻፍ ይገባል።
- በአንባቢዎን ፎርም የሚገቡ ማመልከቻዎች የሰነድ አይነት በሚገልጹት መዘርዘሮች ውስጥ በትክክል ሲጫኑ ይገባል።

6. የቢጂአይ ኢትዮጵያ ሃላ ፊንት

- ቢ.ጂ.አይ. ኢትዮጵያ የምርቶችንን ተደራሽነት ለማሳደግ እና ለማስፋፋት የውድድር ምህዳሮችን ፤ ሽያጮችን እና የንግድ ግብዓትን በተመሰከተ አስፈላጊውን ድጋፍ ይሰጣል።

7. ተጠያቂነትን በተመለከተ

- ይህ ማስታወቂያም ሆነ በውስጡ የያዘው ሐሳቦች ምንም አይነት ወል ወይም የሕግ ተጠያቂነትን በቢ.ጂ.አይ. ኢትዮጵያ ላይ አይፈጥሩም።
- ቢ.ጂ.አይ. ኢትዮጵያ ይህንን ማመልከቻ በሙሉም ሆነ በክፍል የመቀየር ወይም የመሰረዝ መብቱ የተጠበቀ ነው ። ማመልከቻው የሚዘጋበትን ቀን ተመልክቶ ካልቀረበ ማመልከቻው ባዶ እንደሆነ ይቆጠራል ።
- ቢ.ጂ.አይ. ኢትዮጵያ ማንኛውንም ማመልከቻ ሰመቀበል ወይም መሰፈርቱን ለማያሟሉ የፍላጎት ገሳጮች ስራውን ለመስጠት አይገደድም ።
- መሰፈርቱን የሚያሟሉ አመ?ካቶች ያቀረቡትን ማሰረጃ ትክክለኛነት ቦታው ላይ ተገኝቶ ለማረጋገጥ በሰጠው የምናገኛቸው ይሆናል።
- ይህ ጥሪ ለሁሉም ፍላጎቱ ሳላቸው አመልካቾች ክፍት መሆኑን ልብ ይበሉ።
- ቢ.ጂ.አይ. ኢትዮጵያ የተሻለ መንገድ ካገኘ የንግድ መሰፈርቶቹን የሚያሟላ ማንኛውንም አመልካች የመምረጥ መብቱ የተጠበቀ ነው።
- አብሮ ለመሰራት ያለዎትን ተነሳሽነት እና አቅም በመጠቀም አብረን እንደምንሰራ ተስፋ እናደርጋለን።

I N T E R V I E W



PHOTO: Anteneh Akilu

In this interview, Kinfe Michel Yibkaw, an expert on Ethiopia's financial sector, discusses the importance of comprehensive data for modernizing financial service delivery in the country. He highlights the challenges Ethiopia faces in organizing and utilizing data effectively to improve banking, lending, and other vital financial services.

Kinfe Michel emphasizes how access to accurate, focused data can provide crucial insights that enable financial institutions to better understand and serve their customers. He also addresses the barriers to digital transformation in Ethiopia's financial system, including uneven technological capabilities across institutions and the need for collaborative approaches between banks and specialized technology providers.

Kinfe Michel Yibkaw Abraha is a financial services and financial inclusion expert based in Ethiopia. For over seven years, Kinfe has been working

in the development sector with local and international NGOs, including projects funded by USAID and DFID. He currently works to develop and assesses financial inclusion interventions. Kinfe has worked in the microfinance sector, supporting projects that support women's financial inclusion and also supporting agriculture value chains.

Kinfe worked in banking for many years, doing domestic retail, trade service, corporate lending and credit banking. In this capacity, he developed a deep understanding of the regulatory environment.

Kinfe holds a Bachelors in Economics from Unity University College in Addis Ababa, and an MSC from the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance at the University of Maastricht. He also obtained diplomas in accounting from Addis Ababa University Commercial College and microfinance from Uganda Martyrs University in Kampala. Excerpts;

MODERNIZING ETHIOPIA'S FINANCIAL SECTOR THROUGH DATA-DRIVEN INNOVATION

Capital: Comprehensive data is becoming increasingly important for the financial sector to modernize service delivery. What is the status of Ethiopia?

Kinfe Michel Yibkaw: If we look at finance and other services, there are situations where data limitations as a

country arise as a major problem. Data is generated in various forms on a daily basis because it is something that is generated on a daily basis. But the big question is how that information can be used for profit or for the benefit of others. It can be very difficult to quickly access information when the service is provided manually. This is one of the things that can make information useful.

We can't easily find the information in the manual. Therefore, capturing this information in a digitally relevant format is crucial. The other side of the equation is important. It gives us the opportunity to see, compare, and conduct in-depth research from many angles when the information comes from different sources and has different seas. The country faces this problem. There's a

lot of work to be done on organizing data.

Capital: What kind of information can be used for financial services?

Kinfemichel: Financial services are often referred to as well-known services, such as loans and savings. Not only do they have access to these common services, but they can also meet their needs by providing better services based on the day-to-day activities of the community. The financial system and the system must also come into this. There are other bank or microfinance users. What kind of services do you suggest? What is their response to the services? It gives them an opportunity to come up with a better service based on what they think needs to be improved, whether it's their opinions about the service or the information they have with the bank.

Capital: What is the impact of unprecedented data on the financial sector in the industry?

Kinfemichel: All kinds of information on the financial sector should be made clear in such a way that it is accurate, not speculative. They need to focus on information that can't be found anywhere else. There is a widespread trend of mis information, especially in the context of financial services. Data should be in the most focused form and give us insight that we can't find. As a result, the decentralized information system of the industry can gradually have an impact on the industry.

Capital: How to adapt the country's data and technology?

Kinfemichel: This process has been new to the

institutions that provide services when we talk about digital financing 10 or more years ago. But now that they're done with the new technology, it's becoming more and more apparent that they're doing it. He is now investing in technology as well as banking services. But what's important is that we organize all the information we have in a way that we can use. It is often the case that the financial services are not connected to the financial institutions. The reason for this is that the system is very complicated and there is a service that does not like any risk and that the risk is fully covered by bonds, and the majority of the population is not able to provide a mortgage. But what is the role of each other in the development of the economy and what is happening in other countries as well as what is happening in the world? It's important to get out of the usual way of collecting data using data in a variety of ways to determine what the ability to return when taking out a loan. There are starts, but it needs to be worked on.

Capital: What is the reason for the lack of access to digital banking services? What is the difference between the two systems?

Kinfemichel: When it comes to digital modernization, it requires a lot more than just investment. Various financial institutions have disproportionate capacity. In terms of access to adequate resources and investing in technology, especially small institutions, they may have difficulty with this. Beyond that, we need technology that understands this new modern system. There's always a need for that technology to be combined with core business. There is a challenge here.

However, there is something to be said for the fact that when we get to the point where we have achieved both,

and with the help of technology. In this case, cyber security as well as networking becomes an issue. At this time, service and technology are constantly updated, and that goes hand in hand with the changes that come and needs to be constantly improving things. I personally believe that banks invest in a variety of things, but the environment in which they invest is far from core business for the banks. There are other institutions that do this properly on a day-to-day basis. Therefore, it is difficult to work collaboratively in some areas, and it is difficult to re-establish all of them in one institution, so it is important to consider whether it is possible to collaborate and coordinate with different institutions.

Capital: Do you think it's necessary to make the system mandatory in order to allow the end users of the service to enter the digital system?

Kinfemichel: Perhaps the angle determines that what we are doing is the process of streamlining the transaction process between the service provider and the merchant as well as the consumer. In countries such as Ethiopia, the majority of the population has little understanding of the services. In this case, it may be necessary for the community to make decisions that are sometimes necessary to make decisions about how to use the services. However, I agree that the way it is implemented should be studied. For example, there was a lot of confusion, confusion and confusion until it took its own time to get to the bottom of the problem. The more we study these things and apply them in a way that can be avoided better.

Sometimes, however, they can be compelling. However, we need to think about how we can reduce the abuse I mentioned above.

All kinds of information on the financial sector should be made clear in such a way that it is accurate, not speculative. They need to focus on information that can't be found anywhere else





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United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

This notice is placed on behalf of UNECA. You are therefore requested to direct all your queries to United Nations Economic Commission for Africa using the fax number provided below.

Title of the EOI: Provision for supply of water proofing/joint sealing materials and maintenance/application services for south car park roof slab leakage project

Date of this EOI: 30 May 2024

Closing Date for Receipt of EOI: 15 June 2024

EOI Number: EOIUNECA22700

E-mail address: yosephd@un.org;

Address EOI response by fax for the Attention of:
Daniel Y. Woldeyesus

UNSPSC Code: 31200000 and 72100000

DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENTS

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), is seeking for expressions of Interest (EOIs) from qualified companies who can supply water proofing/joint sealing materials and maintenance/application services for South Car park Slab Leakage Project in the Compound of UNECA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The objective of this bid is to engage a vendor and/or service provider to supply water proofing/joint sealing materials and maintenance/application services for south car park roof slab leakage project.

The successful bidder(s) will be contracted to supply material and provide the services as specified under the Scope of Work to be provided along with the bid document.

Bidder should be authorized supplier/dealer by the manufacturer/wholesaler.

Companies expressing interest should note that this Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) serves as pre-qualification of the companies that will be invited to participate in the tender process. Interested firms will be invited to the tender by "Request for Proposal-RFP" at later stage and the detail requirement will be further specified in the RFP document.

UNECA reserves the right to change or cancel the requirements at any time during the EOI/ or solicitation process. Thus, submitting a reply to this EOI does

not automatically guarantee that your company will be considered for receipt of the solicitation when issued. The ITB and any subsequent commitment to contract will be issued in accordance with UN rules and regulations.

UNECA is precluded from entering into contract with a vendor that is not registered with United Nations Global Market Place (UNGM). Thus, only those vendors who are registered or provisionally registered or have started their registration process in UNGM will be eligible to receive the solicitation document ITB.

UNECA reserves the right to change or cancel the requirements at any time during the EOI/ or solicitation process. Thus, submitting a reply to this EOI does not automatically guarantee that your company will be considered for receipt of the solicitation when issued. The ITB and any subsequent commitment to contract will be issued in accordance with UN rules and regulations.

UNECA is precluded from entering into contract with a vendor that is not registered with United Nations Global Market Place (UNGM). Thus, only those vendors who are registered or provisionally registered or have started their registration process in UNGM will be eligible to receive the solicitation document ITB.

Those interested in responding to this EOI but not currently registered as vendors with UNGM, are encouraged to register before submission date for closing of the EOI in the United Nations Global Market Place (UNGM). Further details may be obtained by visiting <https://www.ungm.org/Vendor/Registration>. In order to be eligible for UN Registration, please make sure to declare in writing the Prerequisite for Eligibility criteria itemized from A-F as contained in EOI instruction attached.

Those interested vendors who fulfill the above requirements are required to express your interest to this EOI electronically. In case you have difficulties submitting your interest electronically, please contact: yosephd@un.org (copy to assaad@un.org.) On or before the closing date of **15 June 2024**.

Vendors interested in participating in the planned solicitation process should complete the Vendor Response Form (<https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/236104>) of this EOI and fax it or email it to UNECA before the closing date set forth above.



THE MCCLELLAN SADDLE: FROM AMERICAN CIVIL WAR TO ETHIOPIAN IMPERIAL CAVALRY

By Yves-Marie Stranger

"I am unsure of the date at which the McClellan saddle was adopted by the Ethiopian Cavalry (or Imperial Cavalry), but the saddle on display here is probably from a batch issued shortly after the liberation of Ethiopia from the Italians—perhaps in the early 50s. Many people find the rustic McClellan a little rough to

sit in for many hours—but personally, having used it since I was a child ridding in the south of France, I have always admired it for its simplicity.

The story of the McClellan saddle starts back in America, just before the Civil War—but like many good American things, the McClellan also has European roots. For it was with an eye to the saddles of the Hussars, that he had admired while

on a military study tour in Europe, that Captain George B. McClellan from the US Army, created the McClellan, a new cavalry saddle which was then adopted by the U.S. War Department in 1859—on the eve of the American civil war.

The McClellan, named after the captain himself, remained the saddle of choice of the US cavalry up until World War II. The saddle was both strong and light, and proved handy to affix saddlebags and other tack—as I have myself experienced while taking long treks, first in the south of France, then in Ethiopia where I ran horse riding tours with Equus Ethiopia over the highlands to the north of Addis Ababa, towards Ankober and Goha Sion.

The saddle on display here was bought from Ato Edgetu, a saddle maker from 'koretcha terra,' in the merkato. Ato Edgetu telephoned me one morning, insisting that I come and see some 'a mountain of saddles,' not in his Merkato shop, but at his residence, as 'they were too numerous to be transported...' I took Ato Edgetu's exaggerations with a whole tub of greasy saddle soap, but, as the saying goes—never look a gift horse in the mouth—for, arriving at Edgetu's home compound, I was ceremoniously taken to a backyard where, sure enough, stood a towering heap of saddles, stirrups and buckles some 2 metres high—all in all, there were 84 saddles in the pile.

I ended up buying this leathery mess, for a good price too (although I should point out that Ato Edgetu was the one who thought he'd made a monumental deal: he'd bought

the whole lot for a handful of birr at auction from the Ethiopian Army—let's just call it a win-win situation, with a Guragué saddle merchant no less... and leave it at that).

I then fixed, sowed up and greased this mountain of leather over the next ten years—and you can find many of these saddles to this day, being used in the rolling hills of the Rift Valley and on the plateaux of Shoa—The versatile McClellan was not only robust, but with its curious central opening it proved to be the perfect fit for the local horse breed, as they often have roach backs.

Curiously, one day in Holeta, while we were presenting some of our ponies at a local fair, an American diplomat walked up to me, and before even having introduced himself, exclaimed: 'My great granddaddy designed that saddle—And what a thing it is to see it here, in Ethiopia!' The American then pumped my hand, imparting, by way of explanation: 'the name's McClellan, by the way.'

And he was right, this McClellan. That was quite some mileage, for a standard US cavalry saddle, from the battlegrounds of the Civil War to the Ethiopian Imperial cavalry, and quite a sight to behold, as it sat with a perfect fit on the back of an Abyssinian pony.

Yves-Marie Stranger is a translator, writer and broadcaster. He is the author of the book Ethiopia through Writers's Eyes, and one of the makers of the film documentary The Oranges of Prester John. You can find him at Uthiopia.com.

RENOWNED PORTUGUESE SINGER VIVIANA PARRA GUERREIRO PERFORMS AT CELEBRATION OF PORTUGAL'S NATIONAL DAY

The Embassy of Portugal in Addis Ababa hosted a special musical concert to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Carnation Revolution, Portugal's National Day celebrated annually on June 10.

The concert featured a performance by acclaimed Portuguese singer-songwriter Viviana Parra Guerreiro, who presented over 8 of her musical works to an audience that included Portugal's Ambassador to Ethiopia, Lusía Fagosa, as well as the European Union's Ambassador to Ethiopia, Roland Kobia.

Portugal's National Day honors the legacy of Luis de Camões, one of the country's most famous poets and the author of the epic poem Os Lusíadas, first published in 1572. The holiday pays

tribute to Portugal, the Portuguese people, Lusophone culture, and Portugal's global presence.

In her performance, Viviana Parra Guerreiro captivated the audience with her soulful interpretations of both traditional Portuguese music and her own original compositions. The concert was a celebration of the rich cultural heritage and artistic talents that Portugal has contributed to the world stage.

"This event was a wonderful opportunity to bring together representatives from various countries to commemorate the proud history and vibrant culture of Portugal," said Ambassador Fagosa. "We were honored to host such a talented artist as Viviana Parra Guerreiro to help us mark this special occasion."

H O T M U S I C T A B L E

HOTTEST ARTISTS

MAY 23 - 29, 2024

HOTTEST TRACKS

RANK	ARTIST	RADIO	TV	TOTAL PLAY
1	Lemelem Hailemichael	141	32	173
2	Dawit Tsige	93	18	111
3	Neway Debebe	96	8	104
4	Rophnan	61	18	79
5	Michael Belayneh	68	3	71
5	Abinet Agonafir	53	18	71
6	Mastewal Eyayu	55	15	70
7	Esubalew Yetayew (Yeshe)	50	19	69
8	Tewodros "Teddy Afro" Kassahun	56	8	64
9	Veronica Adane	48	15	63
10	Fikeraddis Nekatebeb	51	11	62

RANK	TRACK	ARTIST	RADIO	TV	TOTAL PLAY
1	Yileyal	Lemelem Hailemichael	29	22	51
2	Bilillee	Andualem Gossa	23	21	44
3	Keftogn	Lemelem Hailemichael	30	3	33
4	Tikur Engdaye	Dibe Kulu	17	10	27
4	Demama	Dawit Tsige	23	4	27
5	Amsaya	Sami Dan	16	9	25
6	Twist Ena Fiker	Kassahun Eshetu Kasseye	14	7	21
6	Yene Amel	Leul Sisay	12	9	21
6	Bantelay	Hana Girma	16	5	21
7	SHEGIYE	Rophnan	14	5	19
7	Mayaye	Lemelem Hailemichael	15	4	19
7	Jegna	Mastewal Eyayu	10	9	19
7	Eyut	Rahel Getu	9	10	19
8	Lijinet	Lemelem Hailemichael	18	0	18
8	Koyen Kayen	Mikiyas Nigussie (Miki lala)	12	6	18
8	Ayi Edil	Jacky Gosee	9	9	18
9	Abebaye	Veronica Adane	15	2	17
10	Erefi	Bisrat Surafel	15	1	16
10	Gelagay	Yohana	15	1	16
10	Enaney	Veronica Adane	12	4	16

THIS DATA IS GATHERED BY A 24/7 AUTOMATED RECORDING & ANALYZING AII SYSTEM FROM 35 TV & RADIO STATIONS. THERE WERE MORETHAN 4,270 TOTAL MUSIC PLAYS ACROSS THE BROADCAST MEDIUM FOR THIS WEEK. BROUGHT TO YOU BY - OMNIMEDIA ETHIOPIA

Society

The Shenanigans of small town justice in Ethiopia

By Samuel Estefanous

I intended to write this piece under the benign title “The Beauty of Small Town Justice in Ethiopia,” but I couldn’t dwell on the beauty for long, as it would oversimplify a serious threat to the country’s justice administration system—hence the shenanigans!

Ideally, the case flow chart of any judicial system is pyramidal, with the assumption that the original jurisdiction of courts is wider at the lower courts and narrows to a point of near nonexistence at the apex. Thus, the absence of any original jurisdiction (first instance) for Federal Supreme Courts isn’t implied but expressly noted, if not for the elusive qualifier ‘provided by other laws.’ Note also that the civil material jurisdiction of Federal Higher Courts is limited to amounts exceeding one million birr.

FIRST INSTANCE JUSTICE

I wonder if folks are aware that the Federal Supreme Court delivers, or rather is expected to deliver, an annual State of the Judiciary Report. Along with the accessibility of Cassation decisions establishing what the initiated call ‘ratio decidendi,’ the State of the Judiciary Report is a commendable effort, though I have zero clue if the post-2022 report has been released. There are attempts by regional courts to adopt the practice as well, but I would prefer the State of the Judiciary Report be released independently of the ‘Performance Report.’

Never mind, that is beside the point. The thing is, if you find yourself in any one of the first instance courts in the country, chances are you will be taught a lesson or two you will never forget. The beauty of it is the level of informality that makes one feel at ease, if not at home. You wouldn’t believe the significance of this welcoming gesture to a party seeking justice from the blindfolded, sword-wielding, and scale-balancing courts of law. In a way, the fundamental right to ‘access justice’ is better guaranteed at lower courts, with their closer affinity to the community, than the ‘supercilious’ and extremely dignified higher courts.

That is, in a way, the beauty of first instance justice. The downside is that, in most instances, rights and obligations defined by law and juridical acts take secondary importance. First and foremost, justice is rendered by a sense of empathy and on grounds of other less lofty causes. Once the verdict is framed in this way, the ‘pertinent law’ is sought to justify it. “You will always find one, if you seek it,” it is said.

Another painful downside is the inability to bridge the local language barrier. If you don’t speak the local language, you are made to feel guilty. Invariably and instinctively, petitioners sometimes

choose to hold their tongues, perhaps fearing anything they say will be held against them.

Even in this regard, that sense of familiarity occasionally comes to the rescue. I remember an incident where the lawyer of the other party protested the judge’s inadvertent slip into the local language after learning the representative of his adversary was tone deaf to the Gedeo tongue.

Thus, maximum resources should be allocated to lower first instance courts, which are by far more widely accessed by the multitude. Once you are denied justice at the first instance, your further journey to have the verdict quashed is costly both emotionally and financially.

Do you know what I would like to find in the State of the Judiciary Reports more than the usual increased rates and reduced ratios (you know, the customary reports of increased clearance rates, decreased congestion, and backlog ratios)? Hands-on findings on the questions of credibility, accessibility, and independence of the judiciary!

APPEAL IS PREFERRED AS A MATTER OF STANDARD PROCEDURE

Until recently, the Federal Supreme Court resembled the notorious long-distance transport hub in the heart of the city. The tendency to take a case from a Woreda first instance court all the way to the federal cassation bench must have clogged the arteries of the higher courts.

The supposed pyramidal flow of cases has virtually become rectangular. It is nothing less than a miracle to survive this flush flood on a regular basis with a decreased number of judges at higher levels. I haven’t come across any systematically computed figures, but as High Courts have concurrent first instance and appellate jurisdiction, it is natural that they are overwhelmed by cases.

Here is a simple example: the number of judges at the Federal Supreme Court is set at eleven. These eleven justices are expected to handle cases originating in eleven regions and two chartered city administrations, with a combined population of more than 120 million people.

In the United States, the formidable and insufferable nine old men (Justices of the Federal Supreme Court) are public figures with rock star notoriety among the American public and beyond. For obvious reasons, to this day, most African lawyers are awed and inspired by Justice Clarence Thomas—singled out and chosen by the color of his skin and his conservative demeanor. I know the days of the nine old men are gone, and the bench has gone a little more politically correct since.

What I am trying to say is, however

The number of judges at the Federal Supreme Court is set at eleven. These eleven justices are expected to handle cases originating in eleven regions and two chartered city administrations, with a combined population of more than 120 million people

much judges are bereft of the power to write laws under the Continental system, justices of the Federal Supreme Court are the ultimate judicial voice of the land. As such, we should be able to know them, their credentials and publications, their respective takes on definitive legal issues and questions.

They mustn’t be primarily preoccupied with the routine task of handling and rectifying the shenanigans of lower first instance courts.

DONATIONS-ENTAILING THE FOREIGN AGENT CLAUSE

By way of disclaimer, this is not a reference to the laws pertaining to NGOs

and the media made notorious in Russia and Georgia, nor the government of the EPRDF.

A couple of years ago, the Federal Supreme Court’s Strategic Plan came out reading like any one of the corresponding plans of the line ministries. It was founded and aligned with the GTP adopted by the existing government of the FDRE. A few pages down, it talked about the independence of the judiciary in the customary noble terms. It wasn’t a good read, nah, it wasn’t.

At any rate, judicial independence shouldn’t be construed to imply independence from the executive branch of government alone. Independence from the invisible long arms of the benevolent ‘donor community’ should also be ensured. Almost all judicial reform programs are sponsored by donor agencies that make no pretense of their ulterior motives.

In almost all small-town justice halls, one comes across a freshly whitewashed adjacent building bearing the logos and colors of USAID, the Open Society Foundation, or the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Their declared purpose? Sponsoring and running pro bono legal aid clinics. I have no problem with that, though I didn’t know ‘pro bono’ could be financially sponsored as such.

What makes one uneasy is the tendency of the donor agencies becoming sine qua non to undertake any kind of justice administration reform. I wouldn’t feel the judiciary is indeed independent if more than 20% of its budget or programs are underwritten by donor agencies.

God bless.

You can reach the writer via (estefanoussamuel@yahoo.com)



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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR THE PROVISION OF VEHICLE HIRE SERVICES

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Safaricom Ethiopia offers Vehicle Hire Services to staff on a need basis across the country. The vendor will be expected to offer Vehicle Hire Services to Safaricom staff across the country. Furthermore, the vendor will be required to provide services for day and nighttime works, including late night as well as provide service for airport transfers as well as staff events countrywide as and when required.

This Expression of Interest (EOI) document is intended to lead to the identification of suppliers that can demonstrate that they have sufficient capacity to provide these services in the best possible way and in a manner that enables Safaricom to meet its expectations.

EOI REQUIREMENTS

Safaricom is therefore soliciting interested and capable service providers may submit their Expression of Interest by providing the information and documents listed below:

- A. Provide the company's documents – Business License, Business Registration, TIN certification, and Memorandum of Association.
- B. Years of experience as a provider of Vehicle Hire Services and the principal place of business.
- C. Provide number of fleets held and exact the type of vehicles within the fleet.
- D. Provide a current list of corporate clients where similar services have been carried out and copies of client recommendations or references with their contact details.
- E. Provide evidence of tracking and status updates – provide 24/7 access to information on location the of hired vehicles.
- F. Provide data on vehicle tenancy, insurance documents and driver's license, and training documents.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE	
#	Item Description
A	Commitment to providing consistently-quality services 24/7 from the very first contact.
B	Licensed by relevant authorities to deliver the vehicle hire service.
C	To Facilitate efficient service delivery in consultation with the Fleet and Transport Management Team.
D	Demonstrable capacity to offer roadworthy vehicles with no exceptions and provide licensed and well-trained drivers.
E	Adherence to the Safaricom Absolute Safety Rules and all other statutory Traffic laws as stipulated by the law.
F	Able to track all hired vehicles and can provide the data whenever requested.

SUBMISSION OF RESPONSES

Interested suppliers should submit their response, comprising the documents listed above and the statement of compliance to the following email address, **bids@safaricom.et no later than Friday, June 7, 2024 at 5:00 pm (GMT+3).**

- All submissions to email should be less than 20MB in size, and if larger should be shared on a google drive link. Please indicate the mail title as **Outsourced Vehicle Hire Service.**

NEXT STEPS

Once the responses are received the further process will follow the steps below:

- Review of submitted Expressions of Interest qualification of shortlisted suppliers
- Issuing of tender to prequalified suppliers

NOTE:

- Only the suppliers who meet our minimum requirements will be considered for further discussions.
- No prices should be provided with this EOI.
- The receipt of a response shall not bind Safaricom to any contractual agreements with the prospective bidder. Such arrangements shall only come in place once an award has been issued to a successful bidder after a tender process.
- Any costs associated with the preparation and submission of the response to the EOI shall be borne by the EOI respondent.

NOTE:

Safaricom reserves, at its sole discretion, the right to select or reject, either in totality or partially, any or all proposals made in the context of this EOI. Any such decisions made will be final and no correspondence will be engaged in, other than to inform the bidders of the outcome of the process. Safaricom and its authorized representatives are hereby authorized to conduct any inquiries or investigations to verify the documents and information submitted in connection with this application.

Spotlight

Ever catch the perfect picture with your digital camera or camera phone and wish you could find a way for others to experience it? Here is your chance. If you find yourself at the right place at the right time and happen to catch an amazing scene you believe someone else should see, send us your news pictures with no more than 30 words to spotlight@capitalethiopia.com and we will publish it.

Building resilient urban fiscal space as part of national building

ECA and partners have launched an initiative aimed at strengthening the capacities of city governments in Africa to develop and implement policy reforms and strategies to expand and build resilient urban fiscal space.

Referred to as Expanded and resilient urban fiscal space for an inclusive and resilient COVID-19 recovery in Africa-DA-15 Project, the initiative was launched in Nairobi on 22 May, 2024 and is being spearheaded by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in collaboration with implementing partners, UN-Habitat and UNCDF, and the Nairobi City County.

According to Atkeyelsh Persson, Chief Urbanization and Development Section at the ECA, the project will be implemented in four cities in 2024- Addis, Nairobi, Kigali, and Lusaka. Two more cities -Dar es Salaam and Yaoundé will benefit from the project over the coming three years.

She noted that the project will support the selected cities through a chain of interventions, ranging from generating evidence to the design of actual interventions for improved fiscal space. Emphasis will be placed on the capacity of city authorities to carry out these functions whilst promoting fiscal transparency and accountability.

UNFPA, Canada launch project on protecting the dignity and rights of women and girls

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Embassy of Canada launched the project entitled "Protecting the Dignity and Rights of Women and Girls in Ethiopia" in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Health.

This 7 year project spanning the years from 2024 to 2030 has a total budget of CAD \$65 million (ETB 2,706,898,454). The project will be implemented in 55 woredas across eight regions: Afar, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Gambella, Oromia, Sidama, Somali, and Tigray. It aims to reach more than 1.5 million people with integrated services on gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health, indirectly benefiting a total of more than 4 million people in the targeted areas.

Joshua Tabah, Ambassador of Canada to Ethiopia, expressed, "This partnership with UNFPA underscores Canada's steadfast commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in Ethiopia. We need to work together to break the cycle of sexual and gender-based violence."

SITA boards the maritime sector by launching SmartSea

SITA, the global leader in technology for the air transport industry, launches SmartSea through an initial agreement with Columbia Shipmanagement (CSM), the world-class ship manager and maritime service provider. SmartSea is the industry's first company with the power to reshape the maritime sector by facilitating access to the same advanced technology that has already transformed the air transport industry. At the same time, CSM becomes the first SmartSea client to exponentially upscale its operations through this cutting-edge technology.

With this strategic step, SITA is embedding its transformative footprint into the maritime industry, breaking boundaries and simplifying processes for more efficient and profitable operations across the entire value chain.

With 75 years of experience, SITA serves 95% of international destinations in the air travel industry, and over 2,500 airlines, airports, ground handlers and governments all working closely with the company. More than 70 governments and all G20 nations trust SITA solutions, and 85% of international air passengers globally benefit from SITA digital border solutions. SITA's undeniable role in transforming the air industry and shaping it into what it is now is the strongest proof of the value SITA can provide to the maritime sector.

ADDIS' TAXI QUOTES I



ADDIS' TAXI QUOTES II



ADDIS' TAXI QUOTES III



Africa CDC, CEPI deepen partnership to fortify African preparedness against disease outbreaks

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the sidelines of the 77th World Health Assembly to expand their partnership to strengthen epidemic and pandemic prevention, preparedness and response in Africa.

United by a shared mission, the organisations will collaborate to boost regional vaccine research, development, and sustainable manufacturing leadership and capabilities in Africa, fostering a faster and more equitable response to emerging infectious diseases.

"The New Public Health Order calls to action to build resilient health systems capable of managing recurrent, high-impact infectious disease and outbreaks; an action-oriented partnership such as this is at the core," said Dr. Jean Kaseya, Africa CDC's Director General. "This collaboration with CEPI in research, clinical trials, and local manufacturing of medical countermeasures will elevate Africa's readiness against outbreaks, epidemics, and pandemics, thus consolidating the continent's preparedness far beyond where we were prior to the COVID-19 pandemic."

Czech Ambassador inaugurates Borana Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Project

On May 30, 2024, Miroslav Kosek, the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Ethiopia, inaugurated the continuation of the Borana Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience (BDRRR) Project. This project is a significant initiative aimed at alleviating the suffering and enhancing the resilience of the pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in the Borana zone of the Oromia Regional State.

The Czech government has demonstrated its commitment to global humanitarian efforts by allocating a total of 165 million Czech korunas this year to save lives, alleviate human suffering, reduce vulnerability, and swiftly stabilize and strengthen the resilience of populations affected by disasters and conflicts worldwide. A portion of these funds is directed to Ethiopia, specifically to support the BDRRR project.

The Borana zone, home to approximately 1.7 million people, predominantly pastoralists, has been severely impacted by recurrent droughts, exacerbated by climate change. Over the past four years, five consecutive failed rainy seasons have led to the death of over 3.3 million livestock, severely disrupting livelihoods and forcing thousands to abandon their homes.

Ethiopian Cargo, Liege Airport celebrate 17 years of successful partnership

Ethiopian Cargo and Logistics Services and Liege Airport, the Ethiopian cargo hub in Europe, have marked 17 years of a thriving partnership that has played a pivotal role in connecting Africa to the rest of the world.

Over the past 17 years, the strategic alliance between the two organizations has been mutually beneficial, contributing to the growth and development of both Ethiopian Cargo and Liege Airport. In 2023, Ethiopian Cargo uplifted around 160,000 tons of cargo from Liege Airport, cementing its position as a leading global air cargo provider.

"This partnership has been instrumental in Ethiopian Cargo's success as one of the global leaders in the air cargo industry," said Mesfin Tasew, Ethiopian Airlines Group CEO. "Liege Airport provides us with a strategic location and world-class infrastructure, enabling us to offer our customers seamless and efficient cargo solutions."

Laurent Jossart, CEO of Liege Airport, expressed his delight at the long-term partnership, stating, "Ethiopian is a magnificent success story and continues to grow here. The company links different continents with a fleet of state-of-the-art aircraft that are among the most efficient in terms of noise and environmental performance."

Accelerating women’s leadership in Africa’s clean energy sector

What can be done to advance and retain women in Africa’s cutting-edge renewables companies?

By Makena Ireri and Ciara Remerscheid

Climate change is a growing threat, and it is poised to affect Africa - and specifically African women - the hardest. From extreme weather events to diminishing water resources and agricultural disruptions, the impacts of climate change on the continent are far-reaching and severe. Despite contributing minimally to global greenhouse gas emissions, African countries bear a disproportionate burden of the consequences. Furthering the inequality, African women experience the greatest repercussions of climate change due to the unequal burden of food production, water collection and other responsibilities.

Given this disparity, the importance of prioritizing women in Africa’s green energy transition cannot be overstated. While they bear the brunt of energy poverty, African women simultaneously play crucial roles in sustainable development. Women’s active involvement in the green energy transition is critical for its success and sustainability. Research emphasizes that women’s participation in decision-making processes and leadership roles within the energy sector leads to more inclusive solutions. Gender-inclusive approaches lead to more effective

products by ensuring that the unique needs and priorities of women are adequately addressed.

Despite this, women remain severely under-represented across levels of management across the clean energy sector in Africa. Research from the IFC shows that women hold only a quarter of leadership and manager roles at renewable energy companies in sub-Saharan Africa. Not only are women missing out on the responsibilities, salaries and fulfillment of management positions, but this disparity hurts the sector as well. If more women were empowered to lead in the renewable energy industry, companies could harness their diverse perspectives and innovative ideas to drive a faster transition towards clean and sustainable energy systems improving energy access and climate goals – all while improving company’s bottom lines.

So what are the barriers that women face in accessing and advancing in clean energy careers? A report by Shortlist and the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP) into the issue found that social norms and cultural biases, both within companies and in wider communities and families, play a critical role in shaping the structural barriers observed in hiring, advancement and

workplace dynamics. For example, clean energy companies struggle with hiring and retaining women in field-based sales and technician roles due to perceptions about safety and physical labor. While relocation can provide professionals valued opportunities for growth, it is often experienced as disruptive for women who are married or have children because it often pulls them away from social networks that provide help with childcare and domestic support.

Luckily, there are many actions that companies can take to improve gender equity both in hiring and retention. Overtly encouraging women to apply in job advertisements remains one of the lowest-cost and easiest ways for companies to attract women to roles. For example, in our programs we’ve seen that simply including language like “Women are encouraged to apply” can increase female application rates. Throughout the hiring process, companies should ensure they have female representation in terms of interviewers, so that women can see themselves at the company, and use unbiased, skills-based assessment to evaluate applicants.

It is critical to not just pay attention to the pipeline of women entering the field, but also the factors leading to retention

and advancement. Research shows that to support women employees, companies will need to continue improving workplace features, including structured training, mentorship and coaching programs, transparent pathways to promotion, flexible maternity leave policies and access to female role models. A recent gender pay equity analysis of clean energy professionals in Sub-Saharan Africa finds that third-party training and placement programs also play a crucial role in boosting compensation parity between male and female employees, further demonstrating the need for structured support. Several African clean energy companies, including Husk Power, Nuru, Sistema.bio and Sun King, have already made great strides in improving gender equity among their workforces.

In conclusion, the green energy transition presents a unique opportunity to advance gender equality and sustainable development in Africa. By promoting women’s leadership in clean energy companies, projects and decision-making processes, Africa can unlock their full potential as agents of change and accelerate progress towards a more inclusive and resilient energy future. It’s time to harness the power of women to drive the continent’s clean energy revolution forward.

Makena Ireri is the Director of Demand Jobs and Livelihoods at the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP) and Ciara Remerscheid is the Director of Shortlist Futures. Together with support from Value for Women, Shortlist and GEAPP launched the Women for Green Jobs program in 2022. Women for Green Jobs helps women access and succeed in clean energy careers in Africa, specifically targeting job placements, career support and employer-level interventions across the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Uganda.



INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE, INC. Ethiopia Country Programme

BID NOTICE

The International Rescue Committee, Inc. (IRC) is a private international, nonsectarian, voluntary organization providing relief, protection and resettlement services for refugees and victims of oppression or violent conflict.

In partnership with various DONORS, IRC has requirements for the following materials for Hawassa Field Office.

REFERENCE NUMBER	REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL TITLE /DESCRIPTION	IRC TENDER BOX -ADDRESS LOCATION
IRC /2ETH / H06/2024	Local construction Materials(Sand, Stone, Coarse Aggregate and River Gravel)	Hawassa Office

Interested and suitably qualified suppliers may download complete tender information and RFP documents (specifications) from the IRC Website: <http://www.rescue.org/about/procurement> or collect them from IRC Hawassa office located at the address below.

For any clarification regarding tender documents please write to us through: ET-TenderProcurement@rescue.org by **11/06/ 2024 GC, by 5.00pm.**

Bidders’ proposal shall be submitted Physically as per the tender instructions. Bidder’s proposal shall comprise of technical proposal and financial proposal together with all the required documents as per clause 7 in the Request for Proposal.

Bid documents shall be placed in the IRC Tender Box at the

reception desk at:

IRC Hawassa Office,

Located around Mobile Sefer, Adjacent to Equatorial Business Group, Near to Dshen Bank Filadilfia Branch

Tel.: 046-2214515 Fax: 046-2214513 Hawassa, Ethiopia

In sealed envelopes as per the below schedule. Bids submitted after this deadline will not be accepted.

Bids will be opened in the presence of interested bidders or their representative as per the date and time mentioned below.

No	REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL TITLE / DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE NUMBER	Tender closing date & time	Tender opening	
				Date	Time
1	Local construction Materials(Sand, Stone, Coarse Aggregate and River Gravel)	IRC /2ETH / H06/2024	10:00am June 19, 2024	June 19,2024	10:30am

IRC shall not be bound to accept the lowest priced bid, or any bid submitted, and any form of canvassing will lead to automatic disqualification.

The International Rescue Committee reserves the right to reject the whole or part of any or all bids.



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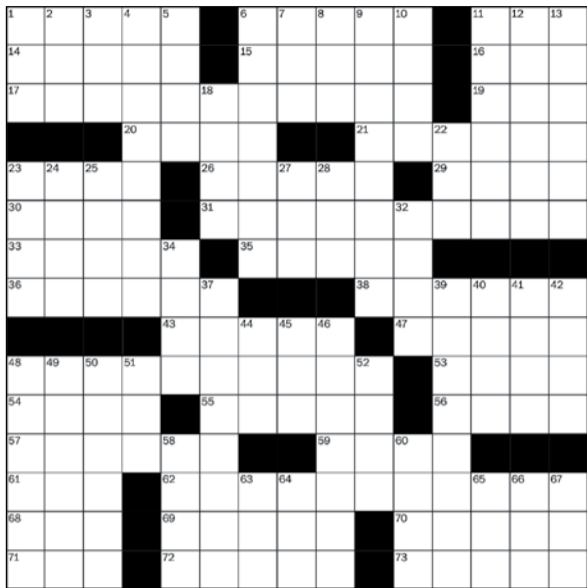
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ACROSS

- 1 Birthstones for some Scorpios
- 6 Consumes, in a way
- 11 Revenue sources for freemium apps
- 14 Jubilant cry
- 15 "Dominicana" novelist Cruz
- 16 Matcha, e.g.
- 17 Ingest lather while getting one's mouth washed out with soap?
- 19 Clever one
- 20 Show the way
- 21 Cry at the end of a performance
- 23 Tourney game
- 26 French beans?
- 29 Seed coating
- 30 TikTok upload
- 31 Loudly promote trips to Istanbul?
- 33 Sterling silver, e.g.
- 35 Theater boxes

- 36 Virtual animal in an early 2000s fad
- 38 Insist
- 43 Luster
- 47 Proportion
- 48 Successfully elude director Scorsese?
- 53 Sound off
- 54 Sufficient, in texts
- 55 Tiniest amount
- 56 Kerfuffles
- 57 Late sign
- 59 Crossed (out)
- 61 Brainpower nos.
- 62 Say "Holy nightmare, Batman!"?
- 68 Pool need
- 69 Omar of Congress
- 70 Accustom (to)
- 71 Apple TV+ role for Jason
- 72 "Jurassic Park" dinosaur, e.g.
- 73 Double birdie, which can also be found at 17-, 31-, 48-, and 62-Across?

DOWN

- 1 Pained cries
- 2 Print maker
- 3 "I've got it!"
- 4 Sticky treat, in more ways than one
- 5 Only
- 6 Unfair treatment
- 7 Word with tight or loose
- 8 Long __
- 9 Sold off
- 10 Observed
- 11 On the job
- 12 Sweetie pie
- 13 With wisdom
- 18 Solemn recitation
- 22 Sonata, for one
- 23 Create a PDF, perhaps
- 24 "Legally Blonde" blonde
- 25 Actor Ventimiglia
- 27 Number of hearts for a Time Lord
- 28 ER graph
- 32 Touchpad toucher

- 34 Reply with an apostrophe
- 37 "We're done here"
- 39 Argentine soccer legend dubbed "El Pibe de Oro"
- 40 Not much
- 41 Spanish boy
- 42 ...
- 44 Goof
- 45 Airport info
- 46 "Good going!"
- 48 Portray
- 49 Singular
- 50 Used colorful language
- 51 Crispy Colonel sandwich seller
- 52 Coming right up
- 58 Way awesome
- 60 Buffalo's lake
- 63 Density symbol, in physics
- 64 Oversaw
- 65 Flu or fly
- 66 Not online, for short
- 67 Word with a maiden name

Solution: see below



WEEKLY HOROSCOPES

Aries
You may have strong feelings about your career or work situation now. This is a lucky time for recognition from superiors. A positive attitude can help advance your standing with co-workers. Women will need to do their best but not hide their femininity trying to fit in. Be yourself. Frustrating situations can start to move forward. If you need a new or better job, this period is ideal for preparing to make an application.

Cancer
Stress and worry don't have to ruin your workweek. You do have the strength and clarity of mind to deal with whatever comes your way. High-pressure situations require a calm and careful approach. You can shine in any situation where you're serving the public. This is a powerful time for using your natural charm to get ahead. It's especially positive for speech therapy, public speaking, political writing, and sharing knowledge.

Libra
Expect to be busy now. Legal matters and stubborn employee/employer issues can be stressful. Do your best to stay out of interoffice conflicts. If you've been sitting on intense feelings, there can be a personal or even public meltdown. Do your best to keep things simple. Talk about what's happening with someone you trust. It's especially important not to be thin-skinned in the face of criticism or disappointment on the job.

Capricorn
This is an important time in which you should do your best to finish any outstanding commitment on the job. Take time to get your work area better organized. If you've been frustrated by the pace of things, this time may finally bring a welcome breakthrough. Your patience and persistence will finally begin to show results. This is a powerful time to prepare to find or apply for a new job.

Taurus
This can be a very exciting week! It encourages new ideas. Teamwork and group meetings can spark a more progressive and effective attitude. This period brings an opportunity to shine. Proposals that may have met with resistance can at last find needed support. Unions and other forms of collective bargaining can support your interests now. You may find yourself in the middle of office politics.

Leo
Casual conversations at this time can lead to important breakthroughs as you brainstorm any plan or project. Don't be afraid to stand up for what you believe in. This is a positive time to develop skills using color, texture, art, music, or natural products. If you're looking for something new, this is an especially favorable period for farming, food markets, and agricultural interests. Street smarts can serve you well now. Trust your intuition if you're making a decision.

Scorpio
Now it's important to build a good foundation for the future. Careful planning in any area supports your work later. This is a positive time for architectural, drafting, or sculptural interests. You may have a sense that you can be at the right place at the right time. Events bring out your management talent. You may also be a passionate defender of law and order. These are great days for training on the job.

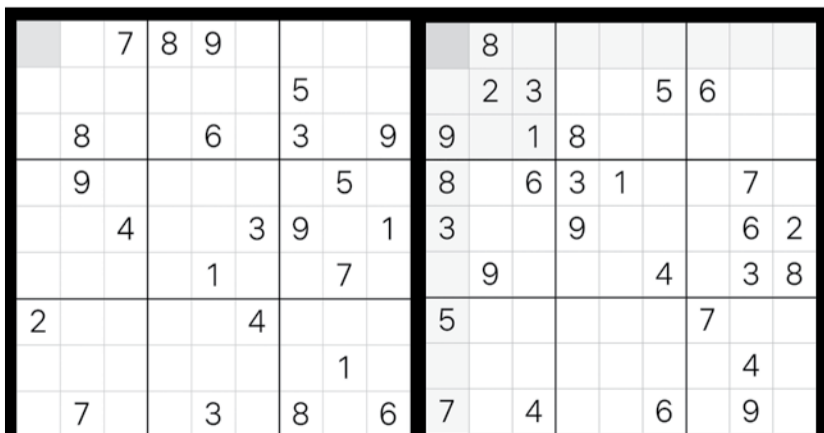
Aquarius
Those in service positions will find greater support and appreciation for their work now. Efforts that benefit more than one business at a time can be very successful. It's important to pay attention to accounting and cash-flow concerns. It's possible that there could be an unexpected flirtation that works to your advantage. Realize that there is something valuable that you need to learn from them so listen carefully.

Gemini
Your sense of fair play should be strong now. Don't let a sense of injury color your thinking. This is a positive time for health careers. If you have benefits on the job, it may be time to talk to human resources to make sure you understand your situation. These are positive days to gather all your resources to achieve a specific goal. People around you will keep you energized, and they can bring important contacts.

Virgo
Your analytical ability can simplify complicated situations. This is a high-energy time and is especially positive for finding a new job or better securing your current position. You can win recognition for detailed craftsmanship or practical solutions. This time is excellent for upgrading any tools or technology you use every day. Don't cut corners. You'll be most successful insisting on quality work and high standards of public service.

Sagittarius
You'll be especially aware of other people's needs and desires. This can help you as a manager or in seeking to do your best on the job. Events can bring recognition and personal satisfaction if you find more effective ways to meet basic needs. Something as simple as bringing in home-cooked food to share can improve everyone's mood. Networking with people you may not know well can help you discover a new or better position.

Pisces
Your mind will be very active, and you can shine at marketing or in any work that allows you to share your philosophy or the basic mission of your organization. Situations that have been delayed will begin to see progress. Educational and training opportunities can make a huge difference on the job. You can participate in team meetings that help everyone feel more empowered. This time is lucky for preparation that could lead to a better position.



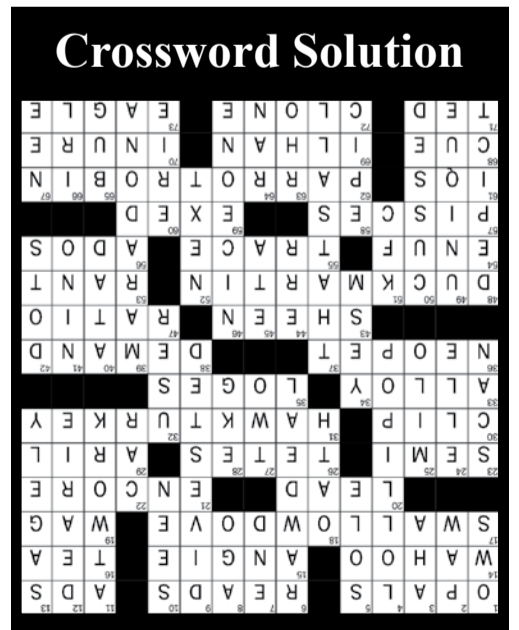
Sudoku

The game is easy, the rules are simple. All you have to do is make sure you fill every 3x3 box every row and every column, without repetition, using the number 1-9.

Word search

L	D	O	C	H	C	E	E	P	S	C	T	S	E
P	S	T	D	F	P	T	T	E	T	M	S	O	S
A	A	L	K	U	L	O	R	A	U	E	D	N	T
A	A	I	I	N	P	H	A	T	H	T	L	S	I
R	I	A	N	E	O	S	B	S	S	E	A	O	N
R	D	J	G	R	L	E	A	T	N	A	L	T	A
E	T	E	O	A	I	N	R	S	R	A	E	Y	S
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YEARS BOMBED KING CORETTA SCOTT DAUGHTER	DAUGHTER SHOT ATLANTA SPEECH KILLED	STATUE JAIL LUTHER MEMPHIS ARRESTED	POLICE MARTIN QUOTES SONS FUNERAL
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Capital SPORT

By Michael Samson
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Ethiopia NegedBank close to historic championship title

Four matches to go to the Ethiopian premiere league season climax, the championship title turned out to be a two horse race between top tier new comers Ethiopia NegedBank and the veteran side Mechal. The Purple Shirts are leading the league roster five points clear of second place Mechal.

Though it is a bit bizarre to understand how come a newly promoted team could claim the coveted championship trophy, these days it became a common trait to Ethiopian football for in less than ten years two clubs namely Jimma Abajifar and Mekele SebaEnderta won the title in the very first season of their respective promotion and an irony there for the national team and Medin FC head Coach Gebremedin Haile was the boss in both teams.

If NegedBank won the title against all odds, it becomes the third team to share the history shelf and all credit to Head Coach Beselot Lulseged who managed the storm to guide the team to a miraculous success.

On the other side the second oldest team in the country that go along many success stories Mechal appears ready for its first ever premier league title. Five points behind the league leaders and four wins and one draw in the last five matches, Machal is the only side that could deny



the new comers their first ever premier league championship title. Shadow man Abraham Mebratu from behind and Coach Gebrekristos Birara in the front, Machal have its own destiny in its hand that is winning all the remaining four matches while waiting cross handed praying for NegedBank's slip down. Baherdar is third in the table but since it is 11 points behind with four matches remaining, it already appears out of title contention.

Attacking midfielder Kenan Markneh, play maker Shimeles Bekele and target man Menyelu Wondemu in their best

form, Mechal could win all the remaining fixtures against Fasil, Adama, Wolayta and Diredawa.

Unbeaten in the past five consecutive matches and leading the table with five points clear, NegedBank's remaining

adversaries are Kidus Giorgis, Baherdar, Shashemene and Ethiopia Medin. Could any one of them manage a major upsets is the million Birr question. The 2024 EPL coveted trophy appears to be already in NegedBank's bag.

TIGIST ASSEFA'S World Marathon Record ratified



2:14:04 that had been set by Kenya's Brigid Kosgei in Chicago on 13 October 2019.

During Assefa's record-breaking run, a large pack of the leading contenders ran together through the early stages, passing through 5km in 15:58. 13 women were still in contact with the lead as they reached 10km in 31:45. By 15km, reached in 47:26, Assefa and compatriot Workenesh Edesa had managed to open up a slight gap.

Less than two kilometres later, Assefa was alone out in front and she went on to reach the half-way stage in 1:06:20, comfortably inside the world record pace.

Assefa, still looking incredibly relaxed and composed, covered the 25-35km section in a remarkable 31:02. Spurred on by the Knowledge that the world record was in the bag, Assefa picked up her pace in the closing kilometres and charged through the finish line in 2:11:53.

"I hope that my performance will be motivation for young women athletes in Ethiopia and that the world record one year before

the Olympic Games give our country a boost for Paris," said Assefa.

Tigist Assefa's world marathon record of 2:11:53 set in Berlin last year has been ratified by World Athletics. The Ethiopian smashed the previous mark by more than two minutes at the BMW Berlin Marathon on 24 September, becoming the first woman to run inside 2:13 and 2:12, and erasing the world record of



EDR
ETHIO-DJIBOUTI RAILWAY

Ethio-Djibouti Standard Gauge Railway Share Company EDR

EXTENSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) SUBMISSION DATE

Project Title: Consultancy Service for Strategic Plan Development

EDR/EOI-1/2024

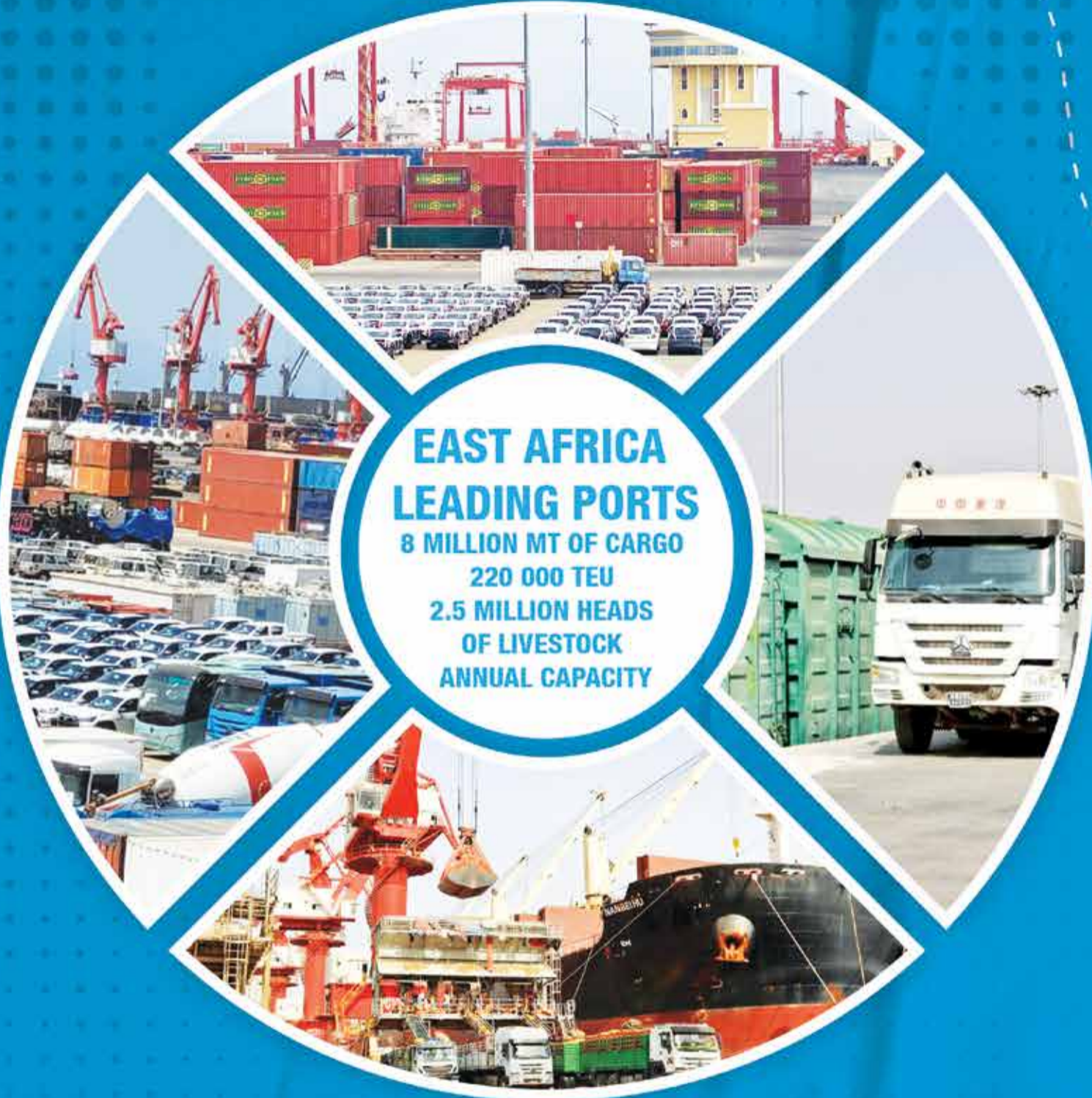
The Ethio-Djibouti Standard Gauge Railway Share Company (EDR) is seeking a consultancy firm to assist in the development of a ten-year strategic plan (2025-2034). EDR was established in April 2017 to operate and maintain the Addis Ababa – Djibouti Standard Gauge Railway Line. As EDR transitions to managing its operations independently, the need for a new strategic plan has arisen to ensure sustainability and profitability. Therefore, Ethio-Djibouti Standard Gauge Railway Share Company would like to invite interested and qualified consultancy firms for the consultancy service in strategic plan preparation of our Railway, and we invite eligible companies to submit sealed per-qualification application for Expression of interest.

Deadline for submission

Ethio-Djibouti standard gauge railway share company EDR would like to inform for eligible and interested consultancy firms that the deadline to submit the Expression of Interest is extended as follows.

1. A deadline for submission of the expression of interest is **June 20, 2024 at 2:30 PM.**
2. Interested applicants can get further information from the Expression of interest announcement on newspapers (On the **Sunday May 5, 2024** edition of Capital and Fortune Newspaper), or at address below.

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Furi Lebu Railway Station, office Building, Corporate Planning and Program Management or Procurement and Logistics Departments
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