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THE PAPER THAT PROMOTES FREE ENTERPRISE

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Gemstone trade to be regulated through ECX to combat smuggling

By Eyasu Zekarias

Ethiopia is preparing to channel its lucrative gemstone trade, including opals, sapphires, and emeralds, through the Ethiopian Commodity Exchange (ECX) as part of a strategic initiative to curb rampant smuggling and boost foreign exchange earnings. The Ministry of Mines is spearheading efforts to normalize and regulate gemstone transactions by adopting the successful ECX model, already established for major export commodities such as coffee and sesame.

Minister of Mines, Habtamu Tegegne, detailed the sector reform agenda to the House of Peoples' Representatives, acknowledging the long-standing challenges of illegal sales and smuggling in the precious stone market, which have hindered the sector's contribution to the national economy. Unlike gold—which

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EIH to launch $85 Million digital tax stamp project

By Eyasu Zekarias

Ethiopian Investment Holdings (EIH) has announced the launch of a groundbreaking $85 million digital and fiscal stamp project set to be operational within this fiscal year. Implemented through a partnership with Toppan Ethiopia, the project aims to modernize tax collection, reduce illicit trade, and boost domestic revenue through the introduction of excise stamps featuring unique identifiers on locally manufactured and imported goods.

Meleket Sahlu, Deputy CEO of EIH, highlighted that this initiative is one of five new high-impact projects planned by the institution for the year, focusing on joint ventures and strategic investments that promise high returns. The project collaborates with the Ministry of Revenues and involves Toppan Gravity—a global security printing firm holding a 51% stake—with EIH investing through the Berhanena Selam printing enterprise and the Educational Equipment Manufacturing and Distribution enterprise.

Among other major developments, EIH has suspended the privatization of eight sugar factories after a prolonged, ineffective sale process dating back to 2019. The privatization, initially managed by the Ministry of Finance and later by EIH since 2022, faced repeated hurdles including buyers offering prices below reserve values and expiration of statutory validity periods for assets. The Holding's board approved a new direction allowing assets to be either transferred to new investors or retained under state management, depending on viability.

In the 2024/25 fiscal year, EIH subsidiaries generated 2.05 trillion birr in revenue, with a target of 2.75 trillion birr for the current year. The Ethiopian Sugar Industry Group operates 13 sugar and related factories, four actively producing sugar. Several sugar projects remain under construction but have yet to progress beyond project stages.

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The Culture of Impunity

The issue of traffic violations in Ethiopia profoundly undermines road safety and public trust. Despite numerous traffic regulations, the persistence of violations—especially by those entrusted with enforcing these laws—signals systemic challenges that demand urgent attention and reform. Among the most troubling facets is the widespread impunity afforded to vehicles with military plates and heavily tinted windows, which frequently disregard traffic signals and rules with virtual immunity. Even traffic police often turn a blind eye to such violations, seemingly prioritizing their job security over law enforcement. This culture of selective enforcement fosters a dangerous environment where rule-breaking becomes normalized.

Ethiopia's traffic violation problem is multi-dimensional. Beyond the privileged vehicles, there is a general lack of discipline among all road users who commonly ignore fundamental rules such as stopping at red lights, observing correct turning, maintaining lane discipline, and respecting right-of-way. This widespread disrespect for the law directly contributes to the country's alarming rate of road traffic accidents (RTAs). According to research, driver error is responsible for over 80% of road accidents nationwide. Ethiopia is known internationally for having one of the highest road traffic fatality rates per 100,000 vehicles, reflecting a severe public health crisis.

The problem stretches beyond individual driver behavior to systemic gaps in enforcement. Traffic police enforcement is often inconsistent and weak, partly due to fears of retaliation or losing employment if they challenge powerful violators. This lack of consistent enforcement fails to deter offenders and results in chaotic, unsafe traffic environments. The habitual violations include speeding—where about 44% of vehicles in cities like Addis Ababa exceed speed limits—running red lights, failure to yield right of way, distracted driving, illegal parking, overloading of vehicles, and driving under the influence of alcohol or substances. Vulnerable road users, especially pedestrians, bear the brunt of this poor road discipline, accounting for up to 80% of traffic fatalities in urban areas.

The condition of roads and traffic infrastructure further exacerbates these dangers. Ethiopia's road design often does not adequately accommodate non-motorized users, while poor maintenance and lack of traffic calming measures lead to unpredictable and hazardous driving conditions. Moreover, the mixed traffic involving motor vehicles, pedestrians, motorcycles, and sometimes animals, combined with poor lighting and inadequate signage, creates a complex environment where accidents can easily occur.

This pattern, while severe in Ethiopia, is not unique. Countries like India, Malaysia, and the Philippines also grapple with high traffic-related death rates and widespread rule violations. However, examples from countries like Norway show that strict, consistent enforcement of traffic laws correlates strongly with reduced fatalities.

Reframing the legal and cultural approach to traffic violations is imperative. Violations should no longer be treated as minor infractions, but rather as serious offenses with consequences proportionate to their potential harm. Everyone on the road—private citizens, government officials, and even military personnel—must be held accountable without exception.

Effective reform must start with enhancing the capacity and independence of the traffic police, ensuring they can enforce laws impartially and without fear of reprisals. Training, resources, and public support for law enforcement are crucial. Additionally, public awareness campaigns need to reinforce the connection between traffic discipline and saving lives, emphasizing shared responsibility.

One possible strategy is adopting a "zero tolerance" policy on violations, particularly red-light running and speeding, supported by technologies like automated traffic cameras to reduce discretionary enforcement. Furthermore, improving road infrastructure—such as pedestrian crossings, clearer signage, and better lighting—can help mitigate risks.

The traffic safety crisis in Ethiopia reflects a wider systemic failure marked by institutional weaknesses and cultural attitudes that tolerate or even encourage rule-breaking. Changing this will require coordinated government action, empowered and supported traffic enforcement, infrastructure improvements, and a shift in public attitudes to respect the law. Only then can Ethiopia begin to reduce its traffic death toll and build safer roads for all users, without exceptions for the privileged or powerful.

By Robert Bridge **COMMENT**

Will we the people tolerate a brave new world of trillionaires?

Tech mogul Elon Musk is on course to become the world's first trillionaire while billions struggle to survive at the poverty line

Welcome to the '4 comma club,' where South African native Elon Musk is slated to be the first human being of the modern age to have accumulated $1 trillion dollars.

To put that mindboggling number into some perspective, that is more than the Gross Domestic Product of 170 countries, including Belgium, Finland, Sweden, Switzerland, Denmark, Norway, Hong Kong and New Zealand.

Musk will not be alone for long in this ultra-privileged, ultra-exclusive club. Since billionaire wealth has risen three times faster in 2024 than in 2023, within the next decade, five people will hold the title of trillionaire, according to a recent study from the anti-poverty watchdog Oxfam.

Meanwhile, due to an assortment of external factors, like climate change and conflict, the number of people living in abject poverty has hardly changed since 1990. Almost 700 million people, 8.5 percent of the global population, now live on less than $2.15 per day.

The report goes on to show that the election of Donald Trump as US President in November 2024 has translated into a massive increase in billionaire wealth, while his aggressive pro-rich policies are predicted to exasperate inequality further. In its latest report on poverty, the World Bank calculates that if present growth rates continue and inequality does not reverse, it will take more than a century to defeat poverty. It seems safe to say we have already lost that battle.

Before continuing, it's important to mention the primary source of wealth today. Currently, there exists a strong belief – supported in the media and by Hollywood - that wealth accumulation is simply the reward for raw talent. But this perception is incorrect.

"Most billionaire wealth is taken, not earned, 60% comes from either inheritance, cronyism and corruption or monopoly power," Oxfam writes in a shocking finding. Rich families are passing down trillions of dollars in wealth per year, creating "a new aristocratic oligarchy" that has achieved tremendous power in our politics and our economy, the advocacy group warns.

In the next few decades, wealth worth over an estimated $5 trillion is anticipated to be passed from one generation to another, while little of the fortune will be taxed since the rich have numerous means for protecting their wealth from the taxman.

Today, the wealthiest 10 percent of the people worldwide possess more than 85 percent of global riches.

Perhaps it's no coincidence that just days before Tesla shareholders agreed to a $1 trillion dollar payday for their CEO, New York City residents voted a socialist as their mayor. Zohran Mamdani, a member of the Democratic Socialists of America, grabbed the top position in the Big Apple by promising New Yorkers a raft of enticements, including the freezing of rent payments, making buses free, and making child care accessible to all city residents.

A common chant heard at political rallies for Mr. Mamdani was "Tax the Rich!" Indeed, taxing the rich doesn't sound like a very radical idea when considering Musk's brand-new pay package.

Meanwhile, even the Vatican was sounding the alarm on excessive wealth creation.

In September, Pope Leo XIV said the one major factor contributing to global tensions was the "continuously wider gap between the income levels of the working class and the money that the wealthiest receive."

"CEOs that 60 years ago might have been making four to six times more than what the workers are receiving … 600 times more [now]," the pontiff said in excerpts of an interview conducted by the Catholic newspaper Crux.

Yesterday [there was] the news that Elon Musk is going to be the first trillionaire in the world. What does that mean and what's that about? If that is the only thing that has value any more, then we're in big trouble…"

The elephant in the room amid this obscene wealth creation is the patience of the millions of people who are being crushed in this brave new economy, which requires a lot of special technical skills in order to survive. Meanwhile, millions of high-paying jobs are disappearing thanks to AI. Will the underprivileged eventually take to the streets as billionaires become trillionaires overnight? Will we soon witness another left-wing 'Occupy Wall Street' event (September 17 to November 15, 2011) coming on the heels of another Great Recession or, heaven forbid, Great Depression?

While protests along the road to riches seem inevitable, it seems unlikely that the super wealthy have much cause for concern, at least in the nearest frame of time. A quick glance at history shows that the 'have nots' have shown tremendous patience with the excessively rich – particularly in 1916 with the announcement that John D. Rockefeller had become the world's first billionaire - with the great exceptions stemming from violent union uprisings, which have largely become a relic of the distant past.

All things considered, Elon Musk probably has little to worry about as his paycheck surpasses the trillionaire-dollar mark, but it would be at least refreshing to see more advances being made on the tax and charitable front. A hefty new tax code for the world's trillionaires would be the decent and right thing to do.

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◀ **Managing Editor**
Teguest Yilma
teguest@capitalethiopia.com

◀ **Editor-in-chief**
Groum Abate
groum@capitalethiopia.com
Addis Ababa, Yeka sub-city, Wereda: 06 H. No. 514, 011 618 3253/011 661 0976

◀ **Deputy Editor-in-chief**
Muluken Yewondwossen
muluken@capitalethiopia.com

◀ **Reporters**
◀ Eyasu Zekarias
Eyasu@capitalethiopia.com

◀ **Senior Graphics Designer**
◀ Abrham Wuletaw
Abrham@capitalethiopia.com

◀ **Photographer**
◀ Anteneh Aklilu
antenehak@capitalethiopia.com

◀ **Cartoonist**
Roman Tadesse
roman@capitalethiopia.com

◀ **Sales Account Executive**
Meseret Tsegaw
Meseret@capitalethiopia.com

◀ **Columnists**
◀ Alazar K.
alazark@capitalethiopia.com
◀ Ton Haverkort
ton@capitalethiopia.com

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Address: Addis Ababa, Bole Sub City, Wereda 1, House no. New
Mob: +251 - 944 73 23 00
+251 - 911 22 69 00
Tel: +251-11 618 32 53
+251-11 661 0976
+251-11 662 6958
E.mail: info@capitalethiopia.com
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CAPITAL SUBSCRIPTION
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Half of Tigray's agricultural land left uncultivated

By Eyasu Zekarias

According to the Agriculture Bureau of the Tigray Regional Government, approximately 50 percent of the region's fertile agricultural land remains uncultivated due to incomplete implementation of the 2022 peace agreement. Alembrhan Harifeyo, Head of the Tigray Agriculture Bureau, revealed that half of the critical farmland is currently inaccessible, severely impacting food production and worsening the economic crisis.

"The remaining half of the land is under the control of various armed groups and cannot be accessed by local communities and displaced populations," Alembrhan told Capital newspaper. "This situation has led to increased hunger and deaths. It is a serious test for us."

The failure to fully implement the Pretoria Peace Agreement means the region has not returned to pre-war normalcy. Alembrhan stressed that Tigray is divided in name only, with its land and people split between areas under different controls, severely limiting agricultural activities and humanitarian access.

Recent reports from international organizations like ACAPS confirm these grim realities, highlighting that conflict has devastated farms, destroyed livestock, and forced many to depend on humanitarian aid. Specifically, the presence of Eritrean troops in certain border zones has kept nearly half of Tigray's arable land out of use.

A December 2024 harvest assessment predicts that 2.5 million people in the region will require food assistance in 2025, with around 500,000 facing severe food insecurity.

Alembrhan criticized both the federal government and the international community for insufficient attention to the full peace agreement implementation and the restoration of normal conditions in Tigray. He pointed out that western and southern zones, which were not war epicenters, should have returned to stability by now.

For fiscal year 2024/25 (2017 Ethiopian calendar), the Bureau of Agriculture initially planned to cultivate 1.3 million hectares and harvest 26 million quintals of crops, assuming full peace and recovery. However, access to only about 763,000 hectares is currently possible, leading to estimates that the harvest will be less than 50 percent of the original target.

Additionally, adverse weather conditions including unusual rainfall, crop pests, and diseases damaged approximately 328,000 hectares of farmland in some zones last October, further reducing expected yields by at least 25 percent.

Fear of losing trust hampers cyberattack reporting in financial sector

PHOTO: Anteneh Aklilu

By Eyasu Zekarias

In Ethiopia's fast-growing digital financial sector, the biggest challenge to cybersecurity is not just the complexity of cyberattacks, but the reluctance of financial institutions to report such attacks due to fears of losing customer trust and reputational damage. This hesitancy, highlighted by the Information Network Security Administration (INSA), creates significant security gaps that obstruct regulators and law enforcement agencies from mounting an effective collective defense.

At a recent cybersecurity forum organized by the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) under the theme "Zero Trust Security for Trusted Banking Services," experts underscored the rising cyber risks and stressed the urgent need for cross-sector cooperation. Representatives from INSA, Ethio Telecom (which operates the Telebirr mobile money platform), and the Federal Police participated, warning that the lack of transparency and limited threat intelligence sharing endanger the nation's critical infrastructure amid ongoing digital transformation.

INSA's Deputy Director General, Hanibal Lemma, noted that while national cybersecurity has improved, there remains a major obstacle: financial institutions are reluctant to disclose when attacked, fearing negative impacts on their reputation and customer trust. This low reporting culture allows cybercriminals to replicate successful attack methods across institutions, increasing vulnerabilities.

Tsegaye Emmanuel, Chief Information Security Officer at Ethio Telecom, described the increasing volume of cyberattacks targeting both individual customers and critical infrastructure systems like Telebirr, which faces over 220 attacks daily—a 20% yearly increase since launch. He emphasized that cybersecurity efforts must keep pace with Ethiopia's rapid digital transformation to maintain digital trust.

At the opening of the second Cyber Security Month, Ephrem Mekuria, Presidential Representative of CBE, reaffirmed the bank's commitment to operating on a "Zero Trust" model to combat evolving global cyber threats. Mekuria highlighted that CBE now processes over 90% of its transactions digitally, a sharp rise from 13% the previous year, contributing over 73% of the country's total digital transactions in the 2024/25 fiscal year.

Highlighting the new challenges posed by artificial intelligence, Mekuria cautioned that AI-enabled cyberattacks now take just 39 seconds to execute, with 56% of attacks leveraging AI capabilities. Global cybercrime spending has surpassed $10 trillion and is projected to rise to $13 trillion by 2028.

To address these threats, a trusted third-party entity is being established to facilitate secure information sharing among financial institutions and regulators without compromising business confidentiality or customer trust. This initiative aligns with CBE's strategy, which now includes elevating its Cybersecurity Administration to a vice-presidential level, signaling a proactive stance in securing Ethiopia's digital economy.

The forum reiterated that cybersecurity is a shared responsibility requiring collaboration across financial institutions and stakeholders to safeguard Ethiopia's growing digital financial ecosystem and national priorities.

This highlights Ethiopia's urgent need to strengthen cyber defenses and encourage transparent reporting to close security gaps amidst its rapid digital growth and vulnerability to sophisticated cyber threats targeting critical infrastructure and financial services.

AUCTION RESULT | Thursday, October 30, 2025 — The 35th OMO auction result for Liquidity-Absorbing Open Market Operation

Auction No.	OMO-Auction No.35
Date of Auction	October 30/2025
Type of Operations	2-Weeks-Deposit Taking Operation
Total amount of bids submitted by participants (in Millions of Birr)	158,650.0
Number of bidders	6

Total allotted amount (in Millions of Birr):	158,650.0
Fixed Interest Rate	15%
Start date of the operations	October 30/2025
Maturity date of the operations	November 13, 2025
Settlement Date	October 30/2025


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Ethiopia's Industrial Independence Takes Shape with New Partnership Model

Ethiopia stands at a critical juncture in its pursuit of enduring industrial power. Centuries of development efforts across Africa have often been marred by patterns of external control, high costs, limited local expertise, and fleeting benefits. However, a novel approach championed by INTER EPCM, a German-Serbian Engineering, Procurement, and Construction Management firm, is offering Ethiopia a promising alternative—one grounded in genuine partnership, local control, and sustainable capacity building.

Facing the Familiar Development Dilemma

The challenge confronting Ethiopia is not unique. Traditional development models rely heavily on international contractors who command steep prices, placing enormous financial burdens on infrastructure projects. European construction companies bidding on Ethiopian ventures frequently propose costs double or triple those of local firms. While these companies deliver on international standards, their presence is often short-lived, with expertise and profits quickly exiting the country upon project completion.

Conversely, relying solely on local firms keeps costs manageable but risks sacrifices in quality standards, supply chain management, and complex project coordination. Consultancy firms fall short as well, offering detailed plans without tangible accountability for implementation.

Aleksandar Obradović, CEO of INTER EPCM, identifies this triad of flaws succinctly: "International companies extract value through high costs, local companies tend to cut corners on quality, and consultants hand over plans no one executes. Our model bridges these gaps by combining rigorous international standards with deep local engagement and capabilities, ensuring Ethiopia retains control and develops the expertise to lead independently."

The Partnership Model: Ethiopian Control, Global Expertise

INTER EPCM's model revolves around Ethiopia's retention of strategic control while embedding international professionalism in project execution. The firm serves as a transparent coordinator across all project phases—engineering, procurement, construction management, and quality assurance—while systematically training Ethiopian engineers to meet world-class standards.

This approach goes beyond isolated projects; it is designed to cultivate permanent industrial competence. INTER EPCM is establishing regional Engineering Hubs, with Ethiopia as the primary base, embedding Ethiopian engineers alongside international specialists. These hubs provide ongoing training and certifications, gradually enabling Ethiopians to fully assume leadership roles in managing complex industrial ventures across East Africa within 5 to 10 years.

Proven Success in Factory Modernization

One of the standout examples of this model's success is an aging Ethiopian manufacturing facility that required modernization without halting production. The plant faced critical issues: outdated equipment, energy inefficiency, and safety risks.

INTER EPCM orchestrated a phased upgrade, installing new machinery carefully during ongoing production shifts. Simultaneously, 50 local technicians underwent intensive training, gaining the skills needed not only to operate but also to maintain and optimize the new systems.

The results were compelling:

- Production capacity rose by 35%
- Energy consumption dropped by 20%
- Workplace safety incidents decreased by 80%
- Local technicians were requalified as engineers

Obradović emphasized, "Our goal is to transfer complete technical knowledge engineering methodologies, maintenance protocols, optimization procedures so Ethiopian engineers become sustainable experts running profitable factories and building authentic industrial competence."

Financing a True Partnership

Traditional development financing often recreates dependency through long-term debt and external oversight, leaving local stakeholders sidelined. INTER EPCM's innovative financial structure counters this cycle by blending different sources of capital:

- Development banks provide 50-60% through affordable, long-term credit
- Private investors contribute 25-35% risk capital
- Ethiopian partners inject 10-15%, retaining decision-making authority over strategic project elements

An independent coordinator oversees execution, ensuring professional standards without compromising Ethiopian agency. This "blended finance" model anchors profits and knowledge within Ethiopia, fostering authentic local ownership.

Managing Risks Realistically

Ethiopia's evolving industrial environment presents challenges: fluctuating supply chains, political changes, and infrastructure gaps. INTER EPCM confronts these head-on by quantifying risks upfront and developing proactive mitigation strategies.

For example, during an industrial park project, they identified significant hurdles early, including land-use permitting complexity, inexperienced local construction partners, and unstable power supply. To address these, INTER EPCM initiated land negotiations a year ahead, invested heavily in training local contractors, and designed backup power infrastructure into the project.

Such realism and preparedness are crucial to successful investment, demonstrating that obstacles in Ethiopia's industrial landscape can be managed with foresight.

Seizing a Strategic Window

Two major global trends make Ethiopia's industrialization particularly timely:

- Industrial decarbonization: As Western manufacturers strive to reduce carbon footprints cost-effectively, Ethiopia's vast hydroelectric potential and competitive labor force become highly attractive for energy-efficient production.
- Geopolitical realignment: With shifting global investment patterns—less Western dominance, more activity from Chinese, Gulf, and new development financiers—Ethiopia has a narrow window to establish itself as a trusted partner in East African industrial growth, securing influence and economic returns.

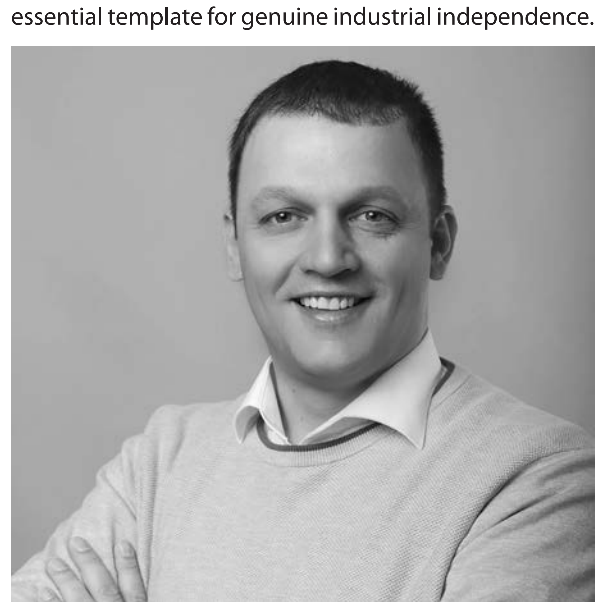
INTER EPCM highlights that this moment of opportunity may close within five years as competition intensifies.

Building Ethiopia's Industrial Future

For Ethiopian industrial leaders, this model represents the chance to be architects, not bystanders, of their nation's industrial transformation. By fostering local expertise, retaining profits, and emphasizing partnership over dependency, Ethiopia can escape the cycle of external control that has historically stunted lasting development.

Ethiopia's emerging industrial hubs and new financing structures signify the dawn of a new era where indigenous industrial competence thrives. "We don't come as outside experts telling Ethiopia what to do," says Obradović, "We come as partners. Together, we succeed or fail."

In a continent hungry for sustainable industrial progress, Ethiopia's path spelled out by INTER EPCM may be the essential template for genuine industrial independence.



BANKS ASSET IN BILLION ETB AS OF JUNE 30, 2024

Bank of Abyssinia:	222	(33%)
Berhan Bank:	46	(2%)
Bunna Bank:	54.5	(17.5%)
CBE:	1,440	(10%)
Coop Bank of Oromia:	140	(0%)

Russia pledges knowledge and technology support for African food sovereignty

By Eyasu Zekarias

The international Conference on Ensuring Food Sovereignty for African Countries concluded today in Ethiopia's capital, solidifying a new, non-commercial partnership model focused on transforming Africa's agricultural sector towards self-sufficiency and political-economic independence.

Hosted by Ethiopia and supported by the Russian Federation, the conference gathered over 250 delegates from 15 African nations, emphasizing a strategic shift from dependency on foreign aid and food security to full food sovereignty — empowering African countries to control their own food production, processing, and distribution using domestic resources, innovation, and commitment.

Yevgeny Primakov, Head of the Federal Agency for the Commonwealth of Independent States, Compatriots Living Abroad and International Humanitarian Cooperation (Rossotrudnichestvo), opened the summit with a call to end traditional aid paradigms. "We are here to discuss how Africa can grow on its own, develop and become truly sovereign," Primakov said. "It's not about the humanitarian aid that the world sends or who will lead Africa, it's about how it should manage its destiny."

Primakov highlighted Russia's role in providing knowledge support and championing youth, farmers, entrepreneurs, and scientists across Africa to implement sustainable strategies for agricultural self-reliance.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov reinforced this commitment, praising the summit as "very constructive" and aligned with Africa's long-term vision. Lavrov underscored that Russian economic actors will continue supporting Africa's efforts to strengthen food security and sovereignty, aligning with key African frameworks like the African Union's January 2025 Kampala Proclamation and Agenda 2063.

Supporting these perspectives, Russian Ambassador to Ethiopia, Evgny Terekin, framed food sovereignty as a "fundamental pillar of true and lasting national sovereignty," warning that dependence on aid or debt-backed imports often leads to perpetual vulnerability.

The conference's business-to-business sessions and thematic forums concentrated on sharing Russian agricultural technologies and expertise aimed at modernizing African agriculture. Presentations showcased Russia's experience in mechanized farming, digital agriculture, resource optimization, and securing stable supply chains for essential inputs.

Minister of Agriculture Addisu Arega pointed to Ethiopia's transformation from a wheat importer to a potential exporter as a testament to the power of innovation, climate-smart irrigation, and determination.

Bruce Biber, Head of the International Committee of the Red Cross delegation to the African Union, urged partners to commit to long-term investments that enhance the resilience of populations in conflict-affected regions and strengthen food systems.

Gemstone trade to . . .

Continued from page 1

is bought solely by the National Bank of Ethiopia—precious stones suffer from a lack of an organized trading system, fueling illicit markets.

"The biggest problem with jewelry mining is the marketing system," Habtamu stated. "We are working to have gemstones traded on the ECX platform, similar to coffee and sesame."

The ministry, collaborating with Wollo University, has designed a comprehensive marketing system encompassing business strategies, operational guidelines, and standards for stone cutting and polishing. Mapping of about 40 types of decorative minerals across the country is also underway, expected to be completed within the year.

The partnership between ECX and the Ministry of Mines dates back to a 2021 Memorandum of Understanding aimed at enabling smart trading of strategic minerals. This cooperation seeks to increase mineral supply transparency, reduce illicit trade, and facilitate international commerce for opal, emerald, sapphire, tantalum, lithium, and potash.

Recent developments indicate that the ECX is prepared to commence gemstone trading, with necessary infrastructure in place. A detailed proclamation from the Ministry of Mines to the Ministry of Justice outlines the procedures for regulated mineral trade.

This regulatory shift is anticipated to significantly enhance foreign exchange inflows from precious gem exports, supporting broader economic development goals.

Alongside gemstone reforms, the Ministry is transforming other mining sectors such as coal, which historically suffered from unorganized and opaque production. Efforts include resource mapping and operational guidelines focusing on quality improvement aligned with national needs.

Additionally, projects targeting industrial minerals like agricultural lime and clay—critical for supporting farming—are progressing in collaboration with Addis Ababa University, promising to benefit approximately 3.5 million hectares of affected agricultural land.

Recognizing the need for self-sufficiency in construction and industrial materials, Ethiopia has attracted considerable foreign investment in granite and ceramics factories, aligning with longer-term plans for domestic resource utilization.

To combat illegal mineral exports, especially via air transport, the Ministry has enforced strict regulations requiring rigorous certification processes for all airborne minerals. This unilateral move by the Department of General Security of Civil Aviation, although not pre-coordinated with the Ministry, aims to stem smuggling by controlling mineral flows.

Legal exporters must submit export applications electronically, supported by guarantees from the Ministry to aviation security authorities, ensuring legitimate trade pathways.

Despite challenges, mineral export performance remains mixed. Notably, gold exports, mainly from small and medium-scale mining, have exceeded targets by 134%, while non-gold minerals like tantalum and lithium underperformed, partly due to irregular operations since recent regulatory changes.

The Ministry of Mines is also advancing major capacity-building and infrastructure projects valued at over 4 billion birr to modernize the fragmented mining sector and strengthen data on local mineral resources.

Furthermore, deliberate government measures to halt raw material exports of high-value lithium and tantalum underscore a focus on domestic value addition.

Ethiopia imposes strict new customs rules, mandates WTO-aligned import valuation

By Eyasu Zekarias

The Ministry of Revenue has announced the implementation of a new, stringent goods valuation system fully aligned with the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements. This significant reform aims to enhance transparency, accountability, and harmonization in customs administration across the country.

Officially issued through the Ethiopian Customs Valuation Directive No. 1080/2025, the directive marks a complete overhaul of Ethiopia's customs valuation methodology, which had long been plagued by corruption and trade instability through speculative and opaque pricing practices.

Under the new system, customs valuation will strictly adhere to the WTO principles, primarily focusing on using the actual transaction value—the price genuinely paid or payable for the goods—as the basis for taxation at customs.

Debele Kebeta, Commissioner of the Customs Commission, emphasized that the directive was disseminated to all customs offices recently and highlighted the importance of rigorously implementing it with strict discipline to enforce international trade commitments and ensure valuation transparency.

The directive mandates the application of six WTO-approved pricing methods in a defined sequential order to guarantee consistency and fairness in estimating the customs value of imported goods. Should the Customs Commission question the accuracy of the declared prices based on market evaluations, it can request importers to submit "additional legal evidence" within 15 days to justify their declared values.

Import duties and taxes will now be calculated based on the CIF (Cost, Insurance, and Freight) value, covering the total expense of goods up to their first entry point into Ethiopian Customs Territory. This approach safeguards equitable taxation and aligns Ethiopia with international best practices.

To facilitate the successful enforcement of this directive, the Customs Commission is also enhancing its Valuation Details Declaration (VDD) electronic system. This system requires importers to submit comprehensive and precise information about the imported goods, transaction conditions, and any relationship between seller and buyer, thereby minimizing valuation ambiguity and promoting better regulatory compliance.

The new directive is expected to curb money laundering activities, protect the competitiveness of Ethiopian-made products, and significantly boost government revenues through improved tax collection efficiency.

EIH to launch $85 Million . . .

Continued from page 1

Other key initiatives include a joint venture addressing domestic textbook publishing to reduce imports and the forthcoming establishment of a Youth Investment Bank expected to launch soon. Additionally, landmark projects like the Dangote fertilizer plant and a $21 million Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) scheme aimed at job creation are under way.

EIH acknowledged challenges related to revenue declines in some subsidiaries and affirmed ongoing audits and institutional reforms to enhance operational effectiveness and foreign exchange generation. The organization continues to review performance across its portfolio to maximize contribution to Ethiopia's economic development.

ICO Indicator prices (US cents/lb) 19-Nov-25

I-CIP	Colombian Milds	Other Milds	Brazilian Naturals	Robusta
324.83 -2.45%	400.04 -3.00%	402.99 -2.98%	371.43 -3.13%	214.05 -0.47%

*1lb=0.45kg

Non-GMO agricultural export advantage threatened by foreign currency depreciation, GMO adoption

PHOTO: Anteneh Akilu

By Eyasu Zekarias

Ethiopia's vital grain and oilseed export sector, valued at over half a billion dollars annually, is facing significant challenges from foreign competitors adopting genetically modified organism (GMO) crops and from the currency depreciation of competing countries. This dual threat jeopardizes Ethiopia's long-standing advantage as a top supplier of high-quality, organic (non-GMO) products in the global market.

At the 14th International Pulses and Oilseeds Conference in Addis Ababa, Edao Abdi, President of the Ethiopian Pulses and Spices Processors Exporters Association (EPOSPEA), warned that major buyers such as India and Pakistan have started to use GMO products. This shift threatens Ethiopia's market competitiveness, especially as these countries boost GMO self-sufficiency, complicating demand for traditional non-GMO products Ethiopia excels in.

Adding to the challenge is the depreciation of currencies in competing exporter nations like Madagascar, Myanmar, and Australia. This depreciation has driven down the prices of their exports, creating lower-cost alternatives that exert downward pressure on Ethiopian prices.

"The adoption of GMO products by India and Pakistan is hurting our non-GMO market dominance," said Edao, emphasizing the risk posed by more affordable exports due to currency depreciation. Domestic issues such as high commodity prices, supply chain disruptions, tariffs, and logistics delays further strain exporters.

Although Ethiopia approved commercial cultivation of some GMO crops—including Bt cotton in 2018, Bt-GT cotton this year, and drought-resistant TELA maize in early 2025—the bulk of its exports still come from traditional, non-GMO agricultural products such as coffee, pulses, and oilseeds. These GMO crops are mainly aimed at ensuring domestic food security rather than export earnings.

Kassahun Gofe, Minister of Trade and Regional Integration, reaffirmed Ethiopia's commitment to becoming a global leader in exports by implementing comprehensive reforms. Initiatives include export liberalization allowing foreign buyers to purchase directly from domestic suppliers and the rollout of a rapid business registration and licensing platform that streamlines processes from up to 30 days down to a matter of hours.

Former Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, Chairperson of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), underscored the strategic importance of Ethiopia's pulse and oilseed sector. He urged the country to move beyond raw material exports toward value addition, highlighting the increasing global demand for plant protein and oils. With Ethiopia ranked as the world's second-largest bean producer and among the top ten for chickpeas and dried beans, the country is well-positioned to capitalize on the projected growth of the global cereal industry to $143 billion by 2075.

At the conference, awards were presented to outstanding exporters contributing significantly to Ethiopia's foreign exchange in 2024/25. MSA Trading led grain exporters with an export value exceeding $33 million, while Alliance Star Business Group topped oilseed exporters with nearly $18 million in exports. Collectively, Ethiopia exported more than 323,976 tons of pulses and 21,125 tons of oilseeds during the year.

EU-Africa Summit to drive €250 billion investment

By Eyasu Zekarias

At the upcoming 7th African Union (AU) and European Union (EU) summit in Luanda, Angola, scheduled for November 24-25, leaders from 49 African and 27 European countries will gather to strengthen cooperation on green energy development and digital grid modernization, with a particular focus on Ethiopia and the broader African continent.

Celebrating 25 years of the AU-EU partnership and the EU's 50-year relationship with Ethiopia, the summit will emphasize effective multilateralism, African integration, and social justice aimed at addressing poverty and climate change. EU Ambassador to the African Union, Javier Nino-Pérez, highlighted the EU's significant economic role in Africa, underscoring a €250 billion investment share—six times larger than that of any other international partner.

Africa's exports to the EU have grown substantially, particularly in finished goods sectors like plastics and automotive, reflecting development progress. Cooperation under the EU's Global Gateway initiative has enabled large-scale investments in infrastructure, clean energy, and digital transformation, including solar and wind energy projects and electric grid modernization in Ethiopia.

Ambassador Sofie from-Emmesberger outlined how these collaborations support Ethiopia's transition to a green economy and digital future. The Global Gateway projects in Ethiopia feature Danish-backed solar and wind farms alongside efforts to strengthen and digitize the national power grid, install advanced automation, and build a cyber-secure cargo center.

The summit theme, "Promoting Peace and Prosperity through Effective Mass Communication," stresses the importance of inclusive dialogue among youth, women, and civil society organizations in shaping joint actions. The EU remains Africa's largest trading partner, accounting for 32% of African trade, and contributes 70% of the African Union's peace and security budget, reflecting a mature and egalitarian partnership.

Educational ties are also strong, with Ethiopian students ranking among the top globally in the Erasmus Plus program. The summit is expected to culminate in the Luanda Declaration, which will serve as a benchmark for continued implementation of AU-EU commitments and set the future trajectory of this enduring alliance.


PHOTO: Anteneh Akilu

Experts call for shift in seed sector focus to private, cooperative roles

By Eyasu Zekarias

Experts engaged in Ethiopia's seed sector development are urging the government to move away from its traditional focus on state-owned enterprises in seed production and supply. They emphasize strengthening private sector and cooperative associations to better address agricultural needs and market realities.

Mohammed Hassena, PhD and project manager of the Ethiopian Seed Partnership (ESP), explained that although policy documents advocate for a participatory approach involving government, private, and cooperative actors, implementation has largely centered on state-run seed production. He noted this approach creates significant challenges, citing the diverse nature of crops—for instance, potatoes cannot be produced centrally and distributed nationwide, making regional private and cooperative involvement essential.

Mohammed urged the government to fully implement the recently issued Startup Proclamation, highlighting the need for financial and training support—especially paper-based mechanisms—to empower young and female entrepreneurs entering the seed sector.

These remarks were made at the closing ceremony of the Ethiopian Interracial Partnership Women and Youth-Led Business Incubator in Addis Ababa. The incubator, part of the ESP, focuses on enabling private sector provision of high-quality improved seeds to farmers, with support from the Dutch consultancy Resilience Consultancy PLC. The 10-month program offered participants vital business knowledge, innovation exposure, and networking opportunities to boost seed value chain enterprises.

Mekdes Tamrat, Agribusiness Consultant at Resilience Consultancy, praised the growth seen among participants, noting that recent incubator rounds have increasingly included young entrepreneurs alongside women business owners.

At the event, winners of the third annual Business Incubator Bidding Competition were announced: Eleni G/Senbet won the women's category as a seedling producer; Nibretenesh Ali secured second place. In the youth category, Emmanuel Yazew placed first, with Dagmawi Amha second. Zerubabel Zeleke received third place overall.

Sector experts recommended eliminating bureaucratic hurdles in seed marketing to facilitate private and cooperative involvement, which they deem crucial for overcoming current challenges and advancing the seed sector sustainably.

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.

Fragile states at the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30): We are being 'locked out' of climate finance

COP30 President André Corrêa do Lago has said this year's conference must put "people at the centre" of climate action. But a network of fragile states says more than one billion of the world's most at-risk people are still being left out of the conversation.

In a statement released on Tuesday, the Improved and Equitable Access to Climate Finance Network said that countries affected by conflict and fragility are being "locked out" of funding to adapt to climate impacts.

The Network – which is made up of 10 countries affected by fragile governance and conflict, including Burundi, Mauritania, Somalia and Papua New Guinea – is calling for climate funds and COP30 to do more to address "this urgent blind spot at the heart of climate finance."

More than one billion people live in countries affected by conflict, violence and fragile governance. Yet in 2022 these countries received just 10% of global climate finance, despite being some of the most vulnerable to climate impacts.

Stakeholders chart path for land justice and reparations in historic Addis Ababa Call-to-Action

The 2025 Conference on Land Policy in Africa (CLPA) concluded Thursday, with a unified "Call to Action," which symbolised a continent-wide commitment to transform land governance from a legacy of dispossession into a foundation for justice, reparations, and sovereignty.

Building on the opening day's calls for addressing historical injustices, side events and technical sessions, the conference's final declaration was aimed at moving from diagnosis to prescription, outlining actionable actions for governments, traditional leaders, development partners, civil society, and academia.

The Call-to-Action urges African governments to take the lead by developing comprehensive national frameworks that merge land restitution, cultural heritage recovery, and reparations into a single policy structure. This includes restoring indigenous place names and sacred sites, and establishing dedicated national restitution funds.

A key directive is the formal recognition and safeguarding of customary land tenure systems, which govern over 80% of Africa's land. The call demands the harmonization of customary and statutory laws, closing gaps left by colonial legacies, and ensuring equitable access for women, youth, and marginalized groups. Governments are also tasked with infusing technology into land governance for transparency and improving management of peri-urban areas facing rapid

Google to Pay Millions to South African News Outlets: Watchdog

Google will pay more than $40 million to support South African news media, many of them floundering in a digital age, the country's competition authority said Thursday. Tech giants, including TikTok, X and Facebook, have come under fire for anti-trust practices that the watchdog says hurt local media by limiting their ability to distribute and profit from their digital content. In February, the Competition Commission had recommended that Google pay up to $27 million a year for five years, following a 16-month investigation that found Google searches favoured international news over local outlets. ... Under the agreement, $4 million will go to national publishers and broadcasters over five years for content on Google News, while $2.6 million will be allocated annually to support AI innovation. Community and small media outlets will receive $2.2 million over three years to support digital transformation. "Google will also introduce new user tools to prioritise local news sources, provide technical assistance to improve website performance, share enhanced audience data," the commission said, adding that YouTube had also agreed to support monetisation. ... The platforms also committed to removing algorithmic bias favouring foreign outlets, it said. AFP

FIVE STRONG MEN AND ONE STUBBORN VEHICLE

PHOTO: Anteneh Akililu

ARCHITECTURAL MARVEL BUILT ENTIRELY OF KNOWLEDGE

PHOTO: Anteneh Akililu

JUICY, CRIMSON-HEARTED WATERMELONS

PHOTO: Anteneh Akililu

ECA and partners to strengthen digital trade capacity for governments and the private sector, including women-led MSMEs under the AfCFTA

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), through its African Trade Policy Centre (ATPC) and the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP), with the financial support of the Government of Japan, and in collaboration with TradeMark Africa (TMA) and in partnership with Google and other partners, is launching a capacity-building initiative aimed at empowering government stakeholders and private sector actors , including women-led micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), to effectively leverage digital technologies to participate in intra-African trade.

The initiative comes at a pivotal moment in the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the largest free trade area in the world in terms of membership, covering a market of over 1.4 billion people and a combined GDP of nearly USD 3 trillion. Despite the transformative potential of digital technologies, the continent continues to face structural challenges that limit the ability of businesses to fully benefit from emerging trade opportunities, including gaps in digital infrastructure, regulatory harmonization, digital skills, and access to finance. These constraints are particularly pronounced among women-led businesses, who face persistent barriers to digital inclusion.

IATA and Industry Partners Call for Strengthened Global Cooperation on Aviation Climate Action

The International Air Transport Association (IATA), together with the governments of Japan, Malaysia and leading industry stakeholders, have issued a joint statement at COP30, urging governments and the international community to reaffirm the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)'s leadership and accelerate coordinated climate action for aviation to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Specifically, the signatories highlight the need for global solutions, emphasizing that ICAO remains the exclusive forum for addressing international aviation emissions. The signatories caution against fragmented or unilateral measures, stressing that only a unified approach can deliver effective climate results for the sector. The signatories also stress the role of robust global carbon markets in scaling up climate finance opportunities, which is high on the COP agenda and central to the Baku to Belem Roadmap.

China to unveil major multi-million USD funding to support South Africa's HIV response

In a show of solidarity and international cooperation and assistance, the People's Republic of China will announce major funding to support South Africa's HIV response and efforts to end AIDS as a public health threat in the country through a two-year funding initiative through UNAIDS. The multimillion US Dollar funding agreement, supported by the China Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund, is expected to expand HIV prevention services across South Africa, targeting young people and people who inject drugs. The agreement follows the signing of a memorandum of understanding between UNAIDS and China's International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) in July 2024, to increase south to south collaboration on HIV, pandemics, and health. This agreement reflects China's growing leadership in global health policy and financing. Through knowledge exchange, local production of medicines, and strategic investments, China is helping shape a more equitable global health architecture. UNAIDS is proud to support this vision—one rooted in solidarity, sustainability, and shared responsibility.

Capital NEWS IN BRIEF

UAE Faces Growing Outrage over Support for Paramilitary in Sudan

The United Arab Emirates is facing growing international outrage over its involvement in Sudan's civil war after paramilitary fighters backed by the gulf state went on a rampage in the city of El Fashir late last month, slaughtering families, doctors and other civilians. Advocacy groups, members of the U.S. Congress and regional experts have condemned the Rapid Support Forces' actions in El Fashir as a genocide, and blamed the UAE for backing the fighters and fueling the violence that has wreaked havoc across Sudan's western Darfur region for more than two years. The Emiratis have denied backing the RSF, despite evidence showing the gulf state has provided munitions, drones and other military support to the paramilitary group. ... The gulf state's involvement in the Sudanese civil war stems from its interests in the Red Sea, which sees about 12 percent of world shipping, experts have said. That shipping lane is crucial for trade at Emirati ports. The oil-rich nation also has interests in Sudan's gold and agriculture sectors, part of a broader effort to diversify its economy.

(The Washington Post)

Somalia at Risk of Becoming a Jihadist State

Somalia is embroiled in a deepening crisis involving an ascendant jihadist insurgency, a faltering peace support operation, domestic political polarization, and regional geopolitical competition. The federal government's de facto sphere of control is confined to Mogadishu and a few satellite towns: essentially a metropolis with a diplomatic corps and a demoralized, ineffectual army. Absent a dramatic change in direction, likely near-term scenarios include collapse of the federal government and an al Shabaab takeover of the national capital, with profound consequences for regional stability and security. ... Pulling Somalia back from the abyss and on course to recovery may still be possible, but it is primarily a political challenge rather than a military one. Al Shabaab can only be defeated through simultaneous military action on multiple fronts, with the strategic objective of dismantling their strongholds in the Juba River Valley and southwest Somalia. This, in turn, can only be achieved by coordinated deployment of Federal Member States' security forces, with select federal units in a supporting role. This demands a level of trust between the Federal Government and Federal Member States' political leaders that currently is lacking.

(Africa Center for Strategic Studies)

South Sudan Oil Production Halted after Drone Attack on Key Facility

Oil production and exports have been suspended in parts of Sudan and South Sudan following a drone strike on a critical oil field in Sudan, according to company statements and a local source. The attack by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) targeted the Heglig Oil Field's central processing facility on Thursday, killing a number of oil workers and prompting emergency shutdowns. Petrolines for Crude Oil Co. Ltd (PETCO) confirmed the attack in a formal notice, stating an "Unmanned Aircraft UAV Drone" launched three missiles at the facility's maintenance workshop and laboratory. The company declared force majeure, a clause used when extraordinary events prevent a company from fulfilling its contracts. The Heglig facility is a key transit hub for oil pumped from landlocked South Sudan, which relies on pipelines through Sudan to export its crude via Port Sudan on the Red Sea.

(Radio Tamazuj)

AU Insists on Leading Sudan Peace Process, Coordinates with UN

The African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, Bankole Adeoye, stressed that the African Union must be the locomotive leading the peace process in Sudan, affirming that sustainable solutions to the crisis must stem from the principle of "African solutions to African problems." In the context of bolstering the legitimacy of its moves, the Commissioner revealed high-level and continuous coordination between the African Union and the United Nations, represented by the Personal Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Sudan, Ramtane Lamamra, to unify platforms and initiatives and avoid a multiplicity of tracks. ... These moves are based on decisions issued by the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC), which drew a roadmap for ending the conflict, including the formation of high-level mechanisms to engage with the warring parties and civilian forces to ensure a comprehensive political process.

(Sudan Tribune)

Term of the Day

BOLLINGER BANDS

Definition

Bollinger Bands, a popular tool among investors and traders, help gauge the volatility of stocks and other securities to determine if they are over- or undervalued. Developed in the 1980s by financial analyst John Bollinger, the bands appear on stock charts as three lines that move with the price. The center line is the stock price's 20-day simple moving average (SMA). The upper and lower bands are set at a certain number of standard deviations, usually two, above and below the middle line.

The bands widen when a stock's price becomes more volatile and contract when it is more stable. Many traders see stocks as overbought as their price nears the upper band and oversold as they approach the lower band, signaling an opportune time to trade.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The Quiet Revolution: How the Rise of Single-hood Is Reshaping Economic Development

Alazar Kebede

Across the world, an unmistakable demographic shift is underway: more people are staying single longer, and more people are choosing to remain single permanently. This trend, once dismissed as a cultural oddity confined to cosmopolitan capitals, has become a structural feature of modern societies. Far from being a niche lifestyle choice, single-hood is now a macroeconomic force whose ripple effects reach housing markets, labor mobility, consumer spending, and long-term fiscal planning.

The rise of single-hood is not merely a social phenomenon - it is an economic revolution hiding in plain sight. Single adults, particularly those who are unmarried and living alone, often shoulder higher per-capita costs for housing, transportation, and daily living. But they also tend to have greater discretion over their spending. Without the financial constraints, or the shared decision-making, of family life, single consumers direct their income toward lifestyle-driven markets: travel, dining, wellness, hobbies, luxury goods, and personal technology.

Businesses have taken notice. The growth of single-serving meal kits, micro-apartments, co-living spaces, boutique travel packages for solo adventurers, and even tailored financial products illustrate the emerging power of the single consumer. The global economy is beginning to orient itself toward the individual rather than the household and this shift is profound.

Cities thrive on density, diversity, and mobility, three features that align closely with single lifestyles. As more people choose to remain unattached and geographically flexible, urban centers are benefiting from a mobile, career-driven workforce willing to relocate for opportunity.

But there is a tension: single-hood increases demand for small, affordable units in cities already struggling with housing shortages. Urban planners accustomed to optimizing for families now face a pressing need to restructure public transit, community spaces, and housing inventories around residents who live alone and value proximity, convenience, and flexibility.

At the same time, the rise of remote work has given singles unprecedented freedom to choose where to live, not based on family constraints but on lifestyle preference. This shift is already redistributing economic dynamism from megapolises to mid-sized cities and, in some regions, to rural towns reinvigorated by digital nomads.

The economic consequences of single-hood are not entirely celebratory. Declining marriage rates often coincide with lower fertility rates, which eventually mean aging populations, shrinking workforces, and mounting fiscal pressure on social welfare systems. Countries like Japan and South Korea provide early case studies of how prolonged single-hood, combined with economic precarity, can exacerbate demographic decline.

For governments, the challenge is two-fold: how do you support the economic independence of single adults while also fostering environments where partnerships and family formation are genuinely attainable, not financially prohibitive? And ow can social support systems evolve to accommodate individuals who age without spouses or children?

These questions are no longer theoretical. As singles become a dominant demographic category, policies built around mid-20th-century household structures look increasingly anachronistic.

Employers are also being forced to adapt. Single workers often demonstrate higher mobility and schedule flexibility, which companies value. But they also risk being quietly over-relied upon expected to work late shifts, travel more frequently, or cover for colleagues with family responsibilities. Addressing this imbalance requires a cultural shift that recognizes fairness not just between parents and non-parents but between all workers with diverse forms of caregiving, community involvement, or personal obligations.

Moreover, the mental-health dimension of single-hood cannot be ignored. Living alone does not automatically mean loneliness, but the lack of built-in social support can affect well-being especially in aging populations. Economies grow when citizens thrive, and thriving requires more than purchasing power; it requires connection.

The rise of single-hood should not be treated as a "problem" to be solved but as a structural shift demanding thoughtful adaptation. Economic development strategies must expand beyond the outdated assumption of nuclear-family households and instead foster environments where individuals, married or not, can live secure, connected, and economically productive lives.

That means housing models that account for the growing population of one-person households, social policies that decouple dignity and stability from marital status, workplace norms that treat all workers, single, partnered, or parents, with equal respect, urban planning that supports both autonomy and community, retirement and eldercare frameworks built for people who age alone

The demographic future belongs not to the household of four but to the household of one. And the societies that recognize, respect, and invest in this new reality will be the ones best prepared for the economic transformations of the 21st century.

Single-hood is no longer a footnote in socioeconomic analysis; it is one of its central chapters. The world is redefining what adulthood, community, and prosperity look like. The question is not whether the rise of single-hood will reshape economic development, but whether we will adapt intelligently enough to harness its potential.

Rethinking Language-Based Ethnicity in Ethiopia

By Tesfatsion Dominiko

As Ethiopia's National Dialogue moves forward, a fundamental but largely unspoken question hangs over the process: Can a conversation organised through state-defined ethnic categories genuinely address the divisions those very categories helped intensify?

The Dialogue is tasked with healing a fractured nation. Yet, it risks reproducing the bureaucratic imagination that fractured Ethiopia in the first place. If the process accepts the current political grammar—where identity is treated as a rigid, exclusive box—it will only reinforce the conflict it seeks to resolve. To be meaningful, the Dialogue must confront the administrative foundations of Ethiopia's identity politics. We must understand how what began as an effort to modernize governance gradually hardened into a politics of bounded identity—where language, territory, and ethnicity have been fused into a single administrative logic.

The Imperial Roots of Rigid Language

To understand the present, we must look honestly at the past. The relationship between language and authority in Ethiopia was not forged in a vacuum; it has deep roots in imperial centralization. Long before the modern state, Amharic was tied to the expansionist projects of rulers like Tewodros II and Menelik II. Its spread was not merely cultural; it reflected the centralizing ambitions of an empire and the uneven incorporation of diverse regions.

We must admit this history clearly: Amharic was never a neutral medium. It carried the symbolic weight of conquest, literacy, and political power. However, the decisive transformation occurred after 1941. The post-Italian state sought to rebuild itself through a new mode of centralization—one that was linguistic rather than religious or regional.

The state made Amharic the sole language of administration—a deliberate move to define membership in the modern nation. This was not simply a technical decision; it was a shift toward "official nationalism." In doing so, language became a form of social currency. As Pierre Bourdieu would describe it, Amharic became "symbolic capital": a prerequisite for jobs, education, and power. This created a durable hierarchy where those outside the linguistic center were structurally disadvantaged.

The Bureaucratic Trap: Freezing Identity

If imperial history laid the foundation, the 1984 census under the Derg regime built the walls. What appeared to be a neutral act of enumeration was, in fact, a political project of classification.

This was the moment of "groupism"—a term sociologist Rogers Brubaker uses to describe the tendency to treat fluid social groups as fixed, bounded entities. The census did not merely record Ethiopia's peoples; it organized them into officially recognized "nations, nationalities, and peoples." The most damaging legacy of this era was the administrative fiction of a one-to-one correspondence between ethnicity and language.

In reality, Ethiopians have always been multilingual. A trader might speak Oromiffa at home, Amharic in the market, and Guragigna with neighbors. Yet, the state's data processing had no room for such fluidity. It classified citizens into singular categories, ignoring their complex linguistic repertoires. The data itself exposed the inconsistency: 91 ethnic groups were recorded alongside only 84 languages. Such gaps revealed that Ethiopia's diversity could not be neatly measured.

Despite this, the census codified these categories, transforming flexible social borders into hard political lines. Amharic—long a shared lingua franca—was bureaucratically redefined as the exclusive property of the newly demarcated "Amhara" ethnic group.

From Categories to Conflict

The 1995 Constitution took these census-defined categories and mapped them onto the earth. Under ethnic federalism, the "groupism" of the census became the logic of the state. Bureaucracy became destiny. Each region (kilil) was designated for a specific group, transforming identity from a cultural attribute into a prerequisite for territory, resources, and political representation.

This institutional rigidity is a primary driver of our current conflicts. Access to resources, education, and political participation became mediated by ethnic belonging, compelling citizens to compete as members of census-defined blocs rather than as individuals with multiple affiliations. We see this in the violent contests over administrative boundaries and the the demand for new regional states.

Even under the Prosperity Party, which came to power promising to transcend ethnic politics, the logic of administrative ethnic self-determination persists. What endures is not just ethnic mobilization but the bureaucratic form enabling it—the state's role as a "classifier" that converts social difference into administrative fact. The establishment of new regional states, such as Sidama in 2020, exemplifies this ongoing dynamic: the state's classificatory imagination continues to shape political realities, demonstrating that Ethiopia's ethnicized federalism is self-reinforcing, shaping even the terms of its own reform.

The tragedy is that these categories, though historically constructed, have become materially real. We cannot simply wish them away. Like buildings or infrastructures, they can be dismantled only with difficulty and at great cost. However, we must recognize that this rigidity is a practice that actively generates conflict.

The Solution: Embracing Repertoires Over Rivals

How do we move forward? Ethiopia's linguistic landscape is not a binary of Amharic versus "mother tongue," but a dynamic repertoire of overlapping languages, each carrying distinct historical, cultural, and functional roles. A repertoire-based approach reframes multilingualism not as a problem to be tolerated, but as a resource to be managed strategically and equitably.

This approach begins by recognizing and validating mother tongues as the primary vehicles of cultural identity, local governance, and everyday life. Simultaneously, it addresses the dual legacy of Amharic: historically linked to imperial administration, it functions both as a practical bridge connecting diverse regions and as a structural source of social hierarchy. Importantly, this duality reflects long-standing institutional patterns, not the communities who speak it. By acknowledging both facets, policymakers and citizens alike can navigate Amharic's role without framing it as either wholly oppressive or unconditionally neutral.

English must also be incorporated into this framework. Already central to secondary and higher education, professional sectors, and interregional communication, English offers a relatively neutral bridge that does not belong to any single ethnic group. While access to quality English education remains unequal, its strategic use can stabilize interactions in multiethnic urban centers, professional environments, and emerging digital spaces.

The novelty of a repertoire approach lies in formalizing what Ethiopians already practice informally: fluid, context-dependent language use. Instead of imposing rigid hierarchies—mother tongue for local, Amharic for federal, English for education—this framework legitimizes flexibility across sectors, guiding policy, administration, and civic life. It also introduces an equity lens, actively managing how language proficiency shapes opportunity, access, and social mobility, and mitigating the structural advantages embedded in historical linguistic hierarchies.

In practice, a repertoire-oriented strategy could influence multiple domains. Education curricula might integrate mother tongues, Amharic, and English to reflect situational use rather than privileging one language. Administrative and governmental communication could adopt flexible multilingual protocols depending on local and national contexts. Civic engagement platforms could use repertoire thinking to ensure inclusivity and reduce conflicts framed around linguistic ownership.

By recognizing Ethiopia's linguistic diversity as a shared toolkit rather than a zero-sum contest, this approach provides a framework for building cohesion, reducing competition over language, and supporting inclusive participation. It moves beyond symbolic recognition to a practical, historically informed, and politically safe strategy for managing language in a plural society.

The rigidity of our current system forces Ethiopians to choose one part of themselves at the expense of the others. It frames diversity as a zero-sum game. The National Dialogue has the opportunity to break this cycle, but only if it dares to look "outside the box"—literally. The task is not to "abolish" invented categories overnight but to historicize them—to make visible how they came to be and how they can be reimagined. By validating the full, fluid linguistic repertoires of its people, the current government can begin to dismantle the rigid structures that drive conflict. This approach allows space for a civic nationalism that is grounded not in ethnic belonging alone but in shared rights, responsibilities, and values. Ethiopia's future depends less on erasing its invented boundaries than on reimagining them through policies that value the flexible ways people actually live, speak, and belong.

Tesfatsion Dominiko, recently completed a PhD in Sociology and Social Anthropology at Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Entrepreneur PROFILE:

RESUME

Name: Amanuel Yazew

Education: BSC in Mechanical engineering

Company name: Lush Farms

Title: Co-founder and CEO

Founded in: 2023

What it does: Seed production and distribution

Hq: Addis Ababa

Number of Employees: 6 permanent 2300 seasonal/year

STARTUP CAPITAL

Two million birr

CURRENT CAPITAL

4.5 Million birr

BIG PICTURE

Reason for starting the Business: To supply improved seeds at affordable prices

Biggest perk of ownership: Building a scalable, impactful seed system with your own hands

Biggest strength: Resilient

Biggest challenge: Limited availability of verified early generation seeds ready for multiplication

Plan: Becoming the leading source of improved seeds that transform farms and futures

First career: Analyst, at Ethiopian Agriculture Transformation Institute

PERSONAL

Most interested in meeting: *Khalid Bomba*

Most admired person: *Peter Thiel*

Stress reducer: Exercise

Favorite pastime: Enjoying good moments and good company with friends

Favorite book: Zero to One

Favorite destination: Rhine Falls, Schaffhausen, Switzerland

Favorite automobile: Land Rover, Defender

DAILY EXCHANGE RATE

Nov. 21, 2025

EUR (€)	177.40	179.17	± 1.77
AED (د.إ)	41.95	42.37	± 0.41
SAR (ر.س)	41.08	41.49	± 0.41
AUD ($)	99.75	100.75	± 0.99
CAD ($)	109.51	110.61	± 1.09
USD ($)	154.08	155.63	± 1.54
KES (KSh)	1.18	1.21	± 0.03
INR (₹)	1.73	1.75	± 0.01
DJF (Fdj)	0.86	0.88	± 0.02
DKK (kr)	23.75	23.98	± 0.23
NOK (kr)	15.11	15.26	± 0.15

EFBF

Ethiopian Family Business Forum 2025

Ethiopia's leading family enterprises will convene for the 3rd Ethiopian Family Business Forum (EFBF) on November 25, 2025, at the Hilton Addis Ababa. Centered on the theme "Embracing Change for Growth & Innovation," the forum unites leading family businesses, policy makers, experts, financial institutions, and thought leaders to explore sustainable growth, governance, and innovation in Ethiopia's evolving market. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from generation-rich traditions and shape the future of family enterprises.

Register now at: tinyurl.com/EFBF2025

November 25, 2025 | Hilton Hotel, Addis Ababa

Our line-up of Speakers, Panelists & Moderators


Shaleqa Haile Gebresellasie, Chairman Haile and Alem International PLC


Tilahun Esmael (PhD), CEO, Ethiopian Securities Exchange


Asfaw Alemu, CEO, Dashen Bank


Hikmet Abdella, Chair, EFBF Advisory Council and CEO, FSD Ethiopia


Professor Emeritus Ahmad Rahnema Alavi, IESE Business School


Tihitina Legesse, Managing Director, WARYT MULUTILA International PLC


Ermias Mebrate, Director, Africa initiative IESE Business School


Moez Miaoui, Acting Head, ESG Advisory Lead, Africa Family Offices Initiative, International Finance Corporation


Berhane Demissie, Managing Partner, Cepheus Growth Capital Partners


Melaku Kebede, Project Manager, FSD Ethiopia


Hanna Tilahun, Bezalel Construction Material Manufacturing, and Hebron Resort


Million Kibret, Managing Partner, BDO Ethiopia


Adam Abate, Principal-Investment Manager, Renew Capital


Bethlehem Bekele, CEO, Managing Directress, Lalibela Travel & Tours


Fitsum Nigusse, Senior Executive Director, East African Holding


Beza Hailu, Operations Officer, International Finance Corporation


Yonaiel Tadiwos, Operations Director, Boston Partners PLC (Kuriftu Resorts)


Solomon Gizaw, Chairman and CEO, HST

Organizer

Co-organizer

Partner

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Platinum Sponsor

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I N T E R V I E W

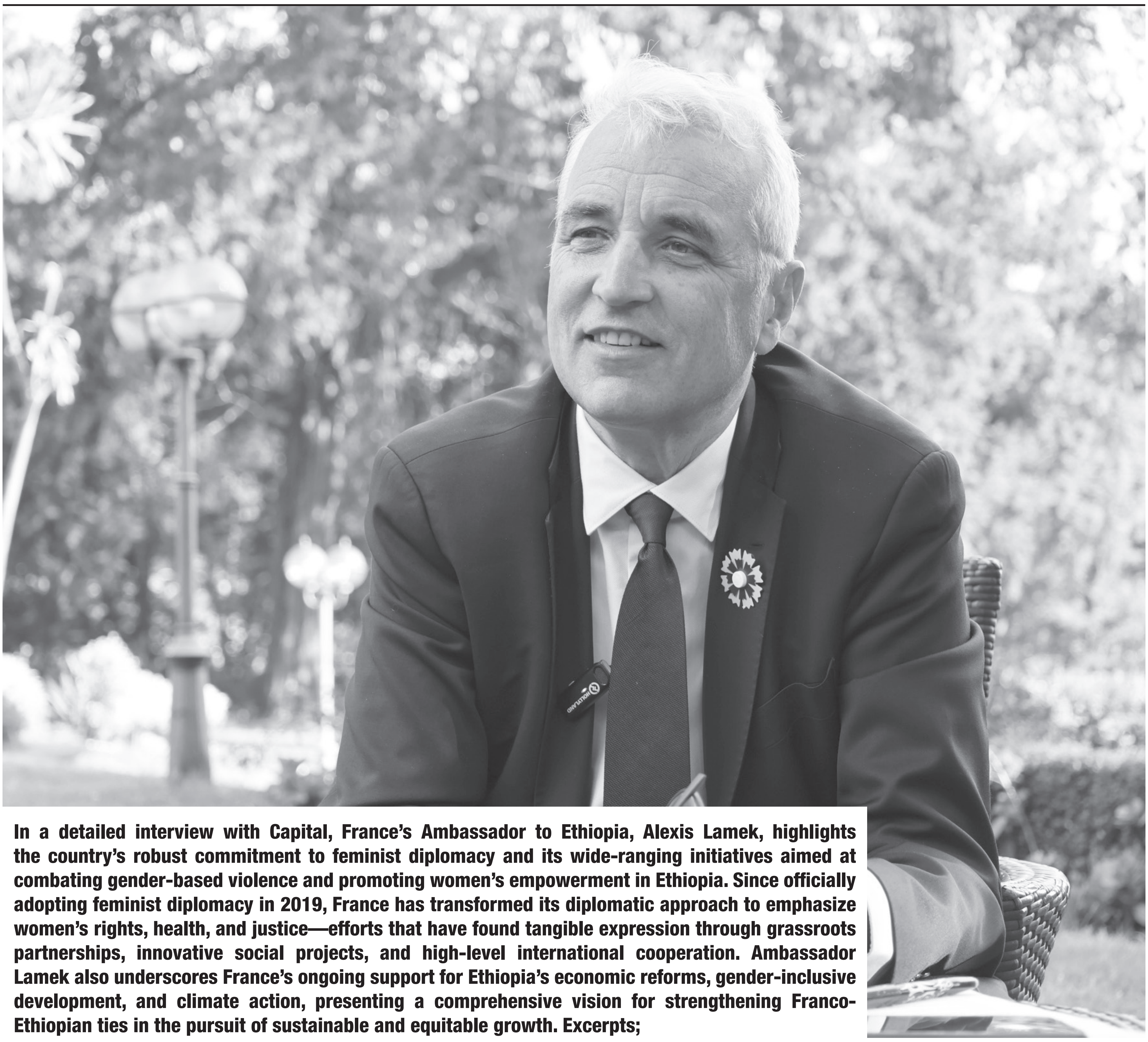

PHOTO: Anteneh Akilu

In a detailed interview with Capital, France's Ambassador to Ethiopia, Alexis Lamek, highlights the country's robust commitment to feminist diplomacy and its wide-ranging initiatives aimed at combating gender-based violence and promoting women's empowerment in Ethiopia. Since officially adopting feminist diplomacy in 2019, France has transformed its diplomatic approach to emphasize women's rights, health, and justice—efforts that have found tangible expression through grassroots partnerships, innovative social projects, and high-level international cooperation. Ambassador Lamek also underscores France's ongoing support for Ethiopia's economic reforms, gender-inclusive development, and climate action, presenting a comprehensive vision for strengthening Franco-Ethiopian ties in the pursuit of sustainable and equitable growth. Excerpts;

FRANCE'S FEMINIST DIPLOMACY *in* ETHIOPIA

Capital: Could you elaborate on France's recent initiatives in Ethiopia aimed at combating gender-based violence and advancing women's empowerment?

Alexis Lamek: Six years ago, we made the pivotal decision to transform our diplomacy into a feminist diplomacy. While we were not the first—Sweden, Germany, and a few other countries had already taken this step—we officially joined the movement in 2019. This commitment means that we have focused our diplomatic efforts on women's rights, combating violence against women, and addressing women's health issues. This shift has significantly transformed our ministry, influencing how we operate and how we engage with these critical topics. Notably, just a few weeks ago, in October, we organized a summit on feminist diplomacy. However, this initiative did not arise out of nowhere; we have been actively working on these issues in various countries, including Ethiopia.

In Ethiopia, our efforts have been ongoing for years. From 2021 to 2023, we supported numerous grassroots initiatives led by Ethiopian civil society organizations aimed at protecting survivors of gender-based violence, raising awareness, and promoting women's rights. We have collaborated closely with dynamic and capable civil society organizations in the country. Our goal has been to improve access to care and encourage women's participation in local governance, particularly in conflict-affected areas where gender-based violence is most prevalent. We have focused on preventing violence and addressing its repercussions, ensuring access to an independent and effective justice system.

For instance, we launched the Judge Program, running from 2023 to 2025, to enhance the capacity of one-stop centers in hospitals.

These centers provide survivors of gender-based violence with crucial support, including medical care, psychological assistance, while also facilitating criminal investigations into their cases. We have been committed to this program for several years and continued our efforts this year by establishing a support fund called "Supporting Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations in the Fight Against Gender-Based Violence." This fund enables 12 civil society organizations to implement initiatives across the country.

In summary, we have been actively engaged in addressing these issues in Ethiopia for many years, working effectively with local authorities and civil society organizations.

Finally, I would like to emphasize that like every year, we will celebrate on the 25th of November the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, which will launch the 16 days of Activism against Gender-based Violence. It is an important initiative to raise awareness on this issue all around the world.

Capital: How does the French Embassy perceive its role in supporting civil society organizations that work on gender equality and women's rights in Ethiopia?

Alexis Lamek: First, civil society organizations are the most efficient because they are closest to the people. They are often the first to identify needs and frequently develop innovative solutions to specific problems. We work extensively with these organizations, not only providing funding but also creating an enabling environment for Ethiopian civil society. For example, we help them strengthen their capacity, build networks, and share best practices. In short, we aim to empower them.

However, it's important to note that addressing gender-based violence cannot rely solely on civil society organizations.

These efforts must be complemented by strong government engagement, particularly in areas such as education, women's empowerment, and access to justice. Therefore, our work extends beyond civil society; all relevant stakeholders, including the government, are our partners, underscoring the vital role of civil society organizations.

Capital: What concrete projects or partnerships have emerged from the 4th Ministerial Conference on Feminist Foreign Policies held in Paris?

Alexis Lamek: Regarding the recent conference, it was the first feminist diplomacy summit held in France but marked the fourth in a series that began with a summit in Germany, followed by events in the Netherlands and Mexico. This event was significant, attracting 500 participants and over 50 official delegations from various countries across all continents, including representatives from the private sector and philanthropic organizations. The conference had two primary objectives.

The first was to unite those committed to combating the backlash against women's rights. Currently, several countries and entities are pushing back against the progress made since the Beijing Declaration 25 years ago. A coalition of conservative nations is attempting to weaken these advancements. However, the majority of the world's countries remain united in their commitment to advancing women's rights, and organizing such a summit provided an opportunity to mobilize support and ensure continued solidarity.

The second objective was to convey that feminist diplomacy is not solely a European or Western concept; it is an approach embraced by many countries from various regions.

Participants from Asia, Africa, and South America were present, highlighting that the commitment to women's rights is widely shared.

The conference culminated in the signing of the Joint Paris Declaration by 31 countries from across the globe, reaffirming our collective commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, the Beijing Platform for Action on Women's Rights, and the Security Council Resolution on Women's Participation in Peace Processes. Through this statement, we aimed to demonstrate our strong determination to advance gender equality worldwide.

Capital: Could you highlight the impact of France's support in Ethiopia's efforts to improve menstrual health management and access to reproductive rights?

Alexis Lamek: Yes, this issue has been a priority for us in Ethiopia. We are currently implementing two innovative projects that support Ethiopia's focus on menstrual health management, which have become key initiatives in our cooperation.

The first project is a development impact bond launched in 2022 in the city of Adama, in partnership with BNP Paribas, a French bank that serves as a social impact investor. This project takes a holistic approach, addressing three main areas: raising awareness and advocacy, ensuring access to affordable hygiene products, and improving school facilities, such as providing suitable toilets for girls and resting rooms equipped with hygiene products and medication. This initiative has significantly improved school attendance for girls and enhanced their empowerment and well-being, and we are committed to supporting the government in scaling it up.

The second project focuses on creating a sustainable local value chain for the production and distribution of biodegradable and affordable sanitary pads. This initiative aims to generate jobs in Ethiopia, particularly for women. It is based on a public-private dialogue platform designed to identify and eliminate regulatory, tax, and customs hurdles that currently hinder the development of this local industry.

Capital: How does France intend to deepen its diplomatic and economic partnership with Ethiopia in the context of ongoing national reforms and regional development efforts?

Alexis Lamek: We are deeply committed to supporting Ethiopia's economic reform agenda. Six years ago, during the first Homegrown Economic Reform Program, we collaborated with the IMF and the World Bank to support its implementation. Now, we are engaged in the second Homegrown Economic Reform Program, providing budget support to the Ethiopian government to ensure it has the capacity to implement these reforms. We strongly support Ethiopia's ambition to transform its economy into a more open one, believing that this will make the country more attractive for investors and improve the quality of life for its citizens.

While it is the government's responsibility to make the necessary efforts, we aim to accompany them in this process. Our support for the Homegrown Economic Reform is central to our efforts. Additionally, we have been working closely with our Chinese partners on restructuring Ethiopia's debt. This is crucial, as Ethiopia's default on its debt limited its access to loans. Addressing the debt issue through restructuring will enable Ethiopia to regain access to international funding necessary for implementing its policies.

We have made significant progress, with a memorandum of understanding adopted a few months ago, and we are now close to completing the debt restructuring process.

Capital: Will it be completed soon?

Alexis Lamek: Yes, the memorandum of understanding is finalized. Several agreements now need to be signed with the relevant countries. We have already signed ours, and a significant part of the process is complete. There has been substantial progress, and I must say that we, together with the Chinese, are very proud of what we have achieved.

There are two additional aspects regarding the deepening of our diplomatic and economic partnership with Ethiopia. Firstly, alongside our European partners, we have been supporting Ethiopia's energy sector, which is crucial for development. Ethiopia has remarkable energy potential that must be harnessed. Last December, we approved an 80 million euros loan to modernize the power grid, enhance vocational training in the electrical field, and expand optical fiber coverage. This initiative is important as it aligns with the Global Gateway flagship program for Ethiopia.

The Global Gateway is an ambitious European initiative aimed at developing infrastructure in various countries, particularly in Africa. We are proud to play a central role in this effort concerning Ethiopia.

Secondly, we are working to encourage French and European investors to consider Ethiopia for investment opportunities. Last week, a European-Ethiopian investment forum was held in Paris, attended by two Ethiopian ministers. The event aimed to promote Ethiopia's potential and encourage French and European companies to explore new opportunities here.

Of course, there is much work to be done to ensure Ethiopia remains an attractive destination for business, particularly in terms of the investment climate and conditions. However, there is strong political will on the Ethiopian side to address potential challenges. I was pleased to see significant interest from companies in France and Europe. We aim to continue this momentum.

Capital: What contribution do French companies and investments make toward advancing gender equality and social inclusion in Ethiopia?

Alexis Lamek: Approximately 40 French companies operate in Ethiopia, investing in various sectors such as energy, agro-food, and manufacturing. For example, BGI Castel is a prominent player, employing over 7,000 people directly and creating many more indirect jobs. Some companies are playing an instrumental role in shaping new value chains while contributing to social inclusion.

One example is Soufflet, a malt-producing company that works with over 70,000 smallholder farmers and trains 7,300 women in malt barley production, thereby empowering them.

Another example is TotalEnergies , which supports social inclusion and gender equality through initiatives like scholarships for women, internships for young women with disabilities, donations of sanitary pads and educational materials, employee volunteering, and community development projects. These French companies are integral to the corporate social responsibility efforts in the region.

Capital: In what ways is France helping Ethiopia address social challenges such as gender-based violence through cultural and educational cooperation?

Alexis Lamek: We have approached these social challenges in various ways. Firstly, we aim to encourage the training and capacity building of women to ensure they can fully participate. For instance, we have a scholarship program specifically for women, which strengthens the capabilities of female teachers pursuing master's degrees.

Over the past few years, female scholarship recipients have explored a wide range of subjects, including mathematics, robotics, agricultural economics, and microbial biology. We also support skills development for women in policymaking.

An example of this is our French language training program for female Ethiopian diplomats at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Additionally, we work to integrate gender equality into educational materials, ensuring that French language content is free from stereotypes and inclusive. All our educational cooperation projects include a gender equality component, in line with our feminist diplomacy.

On January 26 of next year, a group of female creators and entrepreneurs will participate in an incubation program focused on cultural and creative industries. We emphasize education and capacity building because we believe that education is crucial in the fight against gender-based violence and for the empowerment of women. Importantly, this education is not only necessary for women but also for men and boys, as they play a vital role in combating gender-based violence and supporting women's empowerment. Therefore, our programs also include training sessions for them.

Capital: How does the French Embassy plan to strengthen and expand its support for women entrepreneurs and local civil society initiatives?

Alexis Lamek: We support young and emerging civil society organizations in Ethiopia through a dedicated fund called the Civil Society Innovation Fund. This fund helps them implement projects focused on human rights, justice, media reliability, and gender equality, while also enhancing their professionalism and sustainability. This initiative strengthens civil society organizations overall. Furthermore, we are launching a joint initiative with the European Union aimed at bolstering the ecosystem of startups and small to medium-sized enterprises in Ethiopia, with a particular focus on supporting women and youth entrepreneurs.

Capital: What lessons from France's own experience with feminist diplomacy are being shared with Ethiopian stakeholders to promote lasting social change?

Alexis Lamek: In our view, ensuring the achievement of sustainable development goals hinges on the implementation of feminist diplomacy priorities. This is a crucial lesson we have learned: if we want to influence any aspect of development, we must prioritize these initiatives.

That's why we approach feminist diplomacy in the broadest sense. Our approach is structured around several key pillars. The first pillar focuses on defending rights and freedoms. The second emphasizes fostering women's participation in decision-making processes. The third addresses rights issues, including combating inequalities and gender-based violence. Lastly, the fourth pillar ensures equal access to resources.

In Ethiopia, we concentrate primarily on the second and third pillars: encouraging women's political and economic participation and combating gender-based inequality and violence. Through these initiatives, we share insights drawn from our experiences, supporting local actors through capacity building, fostering peer-to-peer cooperation, and promoting sustainable social change.

Our goal is to empower Ethiopian stakeholders to drive long-term transformative changes that advance gender equality throughout society.

However, the most critical element is local ownership. There is no one-size-fits-all model of feminist diplomacy, and we hope our approach can inspire Ethiopia to develop its own tailored strategy that addresses its specific challenges and contexts.

Capital: From your perspective, what are the main challenges and opportunities in further strengthening France–Ethiopia cooperation on gender equality and sustainable development?

Alexis Lamek: Our aim, as previously stated, is to promote sustainable development, and we believe that gender equality is essential for success in this area. We want this focus to be central to our cooperation with Ethiopia.

To achieve this goal, we work with civil society in Ethiopia, which is dynamic and includes a growing network of women-led organizations. We also collaborate with the government, which has demonstrated strong political will to address gender equality. Both in France and Ethiopia, we recognize that a major challenge is ensuring that progress on women's rights aligns with strong institutional ownership, adequate resources, and profound societal change. We need to advance all these areas simultaneously.

One pressing issue today is gender-based violence, along with early marriage and ensuring equal access to education and employment. Addressing these challenges requires a coordinated response from the government, civil society organizations, and international partners to tackle the various facets of these difficulties, including ensuring victim-centered justice.

Another significant challenge is ensuring that women are fully represented and actively participating in decision-making processes—not just as beneficiaries but as leaders and agents of change.

This shift in mindset is crucial, and since you mentioned sustainable development, I also want to take this opportunity to highlight some aspects of climate action.

It's very timely to discuss this as COP 30 has begun in Belém, Brazil, during a particularly challenging moment in our global fight against climate change. COP 30 presents a significant opportunity to energize climate action, promote inclusivity, and acknowledge the vital role of local communities and indigenous knowledge in developing climate solutions.

Next month, we will also celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement, to which Ethiopia is a signatory. Together with Ethiopia, we aim to advance sustainable and inclusive policies that focus on green growth, climate resilience, and community-based adaptation, demonstrating that sustainability and gender equality can go hand in hand.

Additionally, Ethiopia is a candidate to host COP 32 in 2027, reflecting its growing commitment to global climate action. In a time marked by rising climate skepticism and a backlash against women's rights, it is more crucial than ever for France and Ethiopia to collaborate in reaffirming our shared ambitions for climate action and gender equality.

Capital: What is your assessment of the macroeconomic reform?

Alexis Lamek: Regarding Ethiopia, I touched upon this earlier. We seek to support the country's ambitious project to transform its economy into a more open and attractive one. While there are many challenges and difficulties ahead, we are committed to being part of this process. We are impressed by the political will demonstrated by the Ethiopian authorities, and we want to maximize the chances of success. Transforming an economy into an attractive one is not a sudden change; it requires significant effort. We are working together to identify the necessary steps, alongside French companies that have been investing here.

I must emphasize that we work closely and efficiently with the Ethiopian authorities. The most crucial factor is the political will, which I see present. That is why I choose to believe in this endeavor, and we are eager to support it.

Capital: What is your assessment of the security situation in northern Ethiopia?

Alexis Lamek: This is a concern for everyone in the country—Ethiopians and non-Ethiopians alike. No one wants to see war, and it must be avoided at all costs. Wars can always be prevented; they occur when people give up. There are always ways to avert conflict. France, as a partner, and I believe I can speak for many other allies and friends of Ethiopia, is ready and willing to collaborate with Ethiopia to prevent any outbreak of war. Such conflict would be catastrophic for the country and its people, making it imperative to avoid it. As a friend of Ethiopia, France will stand by the nation in this effort.

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It is with great pleasure that our company, MOENCO, announces the opening of its fourth Toyota and Suzuki vehicle spare parts retail center in Addis Ababa. The new center is located on the 1st floor of the Selassie Building at Gofa Gabriel Square.

Location

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Nib Insurance Company (S.Co.)

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Nib Insurance Company (S.Co) invites competent and qualified applicants for the following vacant posts.

SN	Positions	Grade	Minimum qualification and experience		Place of work
			Education	Experience	
1	Claims Division Head	X	BA/BSC Degree in Banking & Insurance or Management or Accounting & Finance or Economics or Statistics or Mathematics or in related fields	7 years relevant experience, of which 3 years in Senior Underwriting Officer or Senior Claims Officer or 4 years in Underwriting Officer II or Claims Officer II or in a similar position	Head Office, Addis Ababa
2	Research and Product Development Division Head	X	Banking and Insurance or Management or Marketing or Economics or in related fields	7 years relevant experience, of which 3 years in Senior Officer or 4 years in Officer II or in a similar position	
3	Senior Public Relation and Communication Officer	VII	Marketing or Journalism or Public Relation or Management or in related fields	4 years relevant experience	
4	Senior Salvage and Recovery Handling Officer	VII	BA Degree in Banking and Insurance or Management or Accounting and Finance or Economics or related fields or Diploma (Level IV) in Automotive or Law or in related fields	4 year relevant experience for BA Degree holders, of which 2 years in Underwriting /Claims Officer or Salvage and Recovery Handling Officer or in a similar position or 7 years & above relevant experience for Diploma holders, of which 4 years as Salvage and Recovery Handling Officer or Underwriting Officer or Claims Officer or in a similar position	
5	Senior Ethics, Risk and Compliance Officer	VII	BA Degree in Banking and Insurance or Management or Accounting or Economics or in related fields	4 years experience in risk management & compliance or auditing or finance or underwriting or claims management	
6	Senior Claims Officer	VII	BA/BSC Degree in Banking & insurance or Management or Accounting & Finance or Economics or Statistics or Mathematics or in related fields	4 years relevant experience, of which 2 years as Claims/Underwriting Officer II or in a similar position	
7	Senior Underwriting Officer	VII	BA/BSC Degree in Banking & Insurance or Management or Accounting & Finance or Economics or Statistics or Mathematics or in related fields	4 years relevant experience, of which 2 years as Claims/Underwriting Officer II or in a similar position	
8	Customer Compliant Handling Officer II	VI	Banking and Insurance or Management or Marketing or Economics or in related fields	2 years relevant experience	
9	Research and Product Development Officer II	VI	BA Degree in Banking and Insurance or Management or Marketing or Economics or in related fields	2 years relevant experience as Research and Product Development Officer I or in a similar position	
10	Ethics, Risk and Compliance Officer II	VI	BA Degree in Banking and Insurance or Management or Accounting or Economics or in related fields	2 years experience in risk management & compliance or auditing or finance or underwriting or claims management	
11	Nurse or Pharmacist or Pharmacy Technician	V	BSc Degree or Level IV (Diploma with COC) in Nursing/Pharmacy	0 years after Degree or 4 years relevant experience after Diploma	
12	Junior Procurement Officer	IV	Level IV (Diploma) with COC in Supply Chain Management or Procurement or Logistics or Management or Accounting or in related fields	2 years relevant experience	

Terms of employment– Permanent, after successful completion of the probation period.

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Interested applicants who fulfill the above requirements are invited to submit their CV and copies of non-returnable credentials along with application letter within seven working days from the date of this announcement to the following address:-

Human Resource Management Department
Nib Insurance Company (S.Co.)
Dembel City Center, 11th floor
(Please use lift No. 2 or 3)
Addis Ababa

GERMANY HANDS BACK ROYAL-ERA ARTEFACTS TO ETHIOPIA

Germany has returned 12 royal-era cultural artefacts to Ethiopia in a ceremony in Addis Ababa, marking a formal step in ongoing cultural cooperation between the two countries.

Germany has handed over 12 cultural artefacts to Ethiopia at a ceremony in Addis Ababa, bringing home items that had remained in Germany for almost a century. The objects were laid out on tables inside Ras Makonnen Hall where officials, guests and staff walked around to look at the pieces before the formal handover began.

The collection was originally gathered by Franz Weiss, a German diplomat who lived in Ethiopia with his wife Hedwig during the 1920s. Their grandson, Professor Ramon Wyss, travelled to Addis Ababa to return the items himself, presenting them to Dr. Yohannes Adigeh, Director of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies. Some of the objects had stayed in private family possession for decades.

Minister of Tourism, Selamawit Kassa, said the returned pieces include gifts presented by Regent Tafari Makonnen, who later became Emperor Haile Selassie, along with items bought or commissioned by the Weiss family. Two crowns were among the most notable objects, along with decorated shields, a sword with its belt, traditional headgear, paintings and an old manuscript.

During her remarks, Selamawit thanked Wyss and his wife Alice for facilitating the return and said the cooperation between the Institute of Ethiopian Studies and the German Embassy had helped make the process possible. At the event, several guests paused to take a closer look at a set of swords displayed inside a glass case, while others examined paintings showing scenes from Ethiopia's royal past.

Wyss said that his grandparents had taken the collection with them when they left Ethiopia nearly one hundred years ago and explained that the family believed the pieces should now be preserved and studied in the country they came from. He added that this had been discussed within the family for some time before the decision was made.

The return comes as the repatriation of African cultural property continues to draw wider international discussion. Officials did not go into detail about how each individual item was acquired in the 1920s, but both sides described the handover as part of a broader effort to support cultural heritage and ensure important works are kept where they hold the greatest historical value.

An exhibition titled "Ethiopia in the 1920s through the eyes of a German diplomat" will open at the Goethe Institut on 20 November. It will show 51 photographs from the private archive of Fritz and Hedwig Weiss, offering a wider look at the period in which the artefacts were taken to Germany and the setting in which the couple lived during their time in the country.

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

NOVEMBER 13 - NOVEMBER 19, 2025

HOTTEST ARTISTS

RANK	ARTIST	RADIO	TV	TOTAL PLAY
1	Hana Girma	62	76	138
2	Dawit Mellesse	103	15	118
3	Dawit Tsige	50	37	87
4	Veronica Adane	25	48	73
5	Neway Debebe	41	25	66
6	Fikeraddis Nekatibeb	15	42	57
7	Michael Belayneh	35	19	54
7	Addis Legesse	31	23	54
8	Mastewal Eyayu	32	19	51
9	Bisrat Surafel	18	31	49
10	Melat Kelemework	9	36	45

THIS DATA IS GATHERED BY A 24/7 AUTOMATED RECORDING & ANALYZING AII SYSTEM FROM 35 TV & RADIO STATIONS. THERE WERE MORETHAN 5,308 TOTAL MUSIC PLAYS ACROSS THE BROADCAST MEDIUM FOR THIS WEEK.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY - OMNIMEDIA ETHIOPIA

HOTTEST TRACKS

RANK	TRACK	ARTIST	RADIO	TV	TOTAL PLAY
1	Hayyee	Hana Girma	57	75	132
2	Yamegnal	Fikeraddis Nekatibeb	10	33	43
3	Dejazmach	Kuku Sebsibe	12	28	40
4	Kololeemp4	Aadam Mohaammad	1	37	38
5	Kante Lela	Veronica Adane	10	21	31
6	Ende Amele	Lemlem Hailemichael	19	11	30
6	Lanchi	Henok Getachew	6	24	30
7	Wolaalo Ayssi Gayi	Nina Girma	6	23	29
7	Andeko	Haymanot Girma Ft. Zerabruk Semaw	3	26	29
7	YeArada Lij	Tarekegn Mulu	12	17	29
8	Tewedaj	Ahmed Manjus	7	20	27
8	Dar Dar	Dawit Tsige	9	18	27
9	GALAANOO	Kemer Yousuf and Yosan Getahun	1	25	26
9	Jomoree	Yosan Getahun	3	23	26
10	Kome Limerkish	Tilahun Gessesse	12	13	25


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Restorative leadership during times of institutional uncertainty: from breakdown to breakthrough

By Aboubakri Diaw and Stephen Chundama

It is widely accepted that the success and failure of any organization is contingent on the motivation, skill and welfare of its human resources, among others. According to Adetipe (2020), the lack of growth opportunities, the absence of results from work done, and a lack of cooperation from colleagues are the leading factors contributing to staff demotivation.

During my humble service in numerous organizations, I have often been appointed to lead teams that were characterized by low morale, eroded trust, and virtual collapse of cross-sectional collaboration. These teams had been paralyzed by personal tensions among all categories of staff, such as between managers, supervisors and supervisees, researchers and "others". A common feature among them is a lack of strategic clarity and deep disengagement among junior staff.

The teams I inherited were often scarred by years of dysfunction, fractured communication between units and sections, overlapping mandates, personality-driven conflicts at senior levels, and a culture in which younger or junior staff felt invisible. These situations often occurred alongside observable stagnation or retrogression of performance indicators.

My correction of such situations, through sustainable internal transformations, was neither accidental nor driven by top-down directives. From my personal experience, it was achieved through Restorative Leadership[1] (RL) – a leadership approach that combines listening, humility, structure, and inclusivity.

Therefore, this piece proposes RL as a replicable leadership model for organizational turnarounds using insights from my adaptation of a leadership approach that has evolved through practice and experience; proven to work using the organizations I have worked for, as case studies; and is strongly grounded in a growing body of evidence on psychological safety, humble inquiry, and adaptive leadership.

Step-by-step approach to restorative leadership

1. Listening as an entry point

Schein (2014) provides evidence that listening—not auditing or instructing, is the most strategic form of inquiry a leader can deploy. I adapted this approach by undertaking deep listening through one-on-one informal sessions with staff[2], which revealed recurring patterns of exclusion, unresolved personality-driven conflicts, and distrust—insights that are invisible in formal reporting lines.

2. Creating safety and trust

Secondly, it is important to acknowledge the failures of past leadership in a general way, then invite everyone to co-develop behavioral norms, including civility in meetings, transparency in communication, and respectful disagreement. Reinforcement and progress in adherence to norms were tracked daily through a literal open-door policy. These and other small, symbolic practices helped to restore psychological safety and provide reassurance that direct and indirect victimization[3] of staff who openly express their honest opinions will not occur.

3. Co-creating vision and purpose

Rather than drafting new strategies behind closed doors, I utilized the Appreciative Inquiry method, developed by Cooperrider & Srivastva (1987), by facilitating joint planning sessions involving cross-sectional teams, including early-career professionals. The Deci & Ryan's (2000) self-determination theory argues that developing such autonomy and ownership is crucial for intrinsic motivation.

4. Structural realignment and transparency

To reinforce alignment and efficiency, I often undertook a light-touch reorganization, where: overlapping roles were merged; specific and rare expertise was shared; and decision-making authority was clarified using a RACI matrix. This transparent and systematic realignment of workflows reduced ambiguity and enhanced shared accountability, in line with the transparency principles developed by Lencioni (2002).

5. Mediation and valuing diverse contributions

One of the more difficult aspects of adapting the RL process involves mediating deep personal conflicts among senior managers and/or between them and their teams. To effectively resolve these conflicts, I often introduced short, interest-based mediation sessions inspired by Fisher and Ury's (1991) model of principled negotiation. These sessions created a safe environment for sharing deeply rooted grievances and identifying shared goals. Simultaneously, I introduced a regular "kudos round" where staff publicly acknowledged each other's contributions. Unsurprisingly, junior staff—once sidelined—were increasingly recognized for their insights and commitment, as predicted by Cameron (2012).

6. Fusion squads and cross-sectional work

To disrupt siloed working habits, I launched small, time-bound "fusion squads[4]" of cross-sectional staff, with assigned tasks such as clearing backlogs, improving reporting, disrupting thinking or solving practical process issues. In accordance with Hackman's (2002) criteria for real teams, these structures or taskforces created interdependence, learning opportunities, and visible markers of staff engagement.

7. Feedback and adaptation

During periodic meetings, I conducted short, pulse surveys to assess trust, workload fairness, clarity of purpose, and perceptions of inclusivity. Results were openly shared during plenary sessions and used to inform adjustments. This iterative practice[5] echoes Heifetz's (1994) adaptive leadership model that proposes three broad steps, namely: observe, interpret, then intervene.

8. Embedding Culture and Sustaining Change

To ensure that progress was sustainable, we institutionalized key routines, such as: open-door access, kudos rounds, squad structures, feedback loops, and transparent workflows. A rotating "culture steward" was appointed to sustain the behavioral norms we had built. As Ahn et al. (2004) observed, many turnarounds collapse due to a lack of cultural embedding—so this intervention helped to mitigate this risk.

Conclusion: towards a replicable model

RL integrates emotional intelligence with structural reform. Trust was not built by slogans, but by daily acts of transparency, recognition, and collaborative work.

Following my detailed exposition of my experience in the use of RL over the years, and the success I have achieved by using it, particularly the restoration of teams into vibrant, motivated, efficient, and collaborative groups, four insights stand out. Firstly, distrust is as much an information deficit as an ethical one. When decision rationales and resource flows become transparent, suspicion dissipates. Secondly, humility is not performative self-effacement[6] but a gateway to richer information. By admitting gaps, leaders obtain uncensored realities that enable better decisions. Thirdly, enfranchising junior voices is not merely unselfish, but diversifies the cognitive toolkit with frontline intelligence that senior leaders often lack. Fourthly, structural redesign must accompany emotional repair. Without fusion squads, mediation protocols and visible workflows, renewed goodwill would have remained rhetorical.

A growing body of evidence suggests that "soft" interventions proposed by RL (e.g. appreciative inquiry and open-door access), reach full potency when married to "hard" mechanisms that lock new behaviours into the fabric of daily work.

RL is not only replicable, but urgently needed in times of institutional uncertainty.

Aboubakri Diaw is the Chief of Staff at the ECA

Stephen Chundama is an Economist in the office of the Executive Secretary, ECA.

From Decolonizing to Liberating Land in Africa's Changing Climate

By Emmanuel Sulle

At the Sixth Conference on Land Policy in Africa (CLPA), the call was clear: Africa must break free from colonial land systems and boldly reimagine its relationship with land. From Supreme Court justices to ministers and scholars, speakers insisted on moving beyond lamentation toward liberation. The call was not simply to decolonize land laws, but to transform them – creatively, unapologetically, and with the future in mind.

This urgent shift is intensified by the climate crisis, where outdated and exclusionary land systems only deepen vulnerabilities. African institutions, especially universities, must redesign curricula and research agendas to integrate climate literacy across all disciplines, ensuring graduates are equipped to navigate climate, justice, and sustainability.

Why This Moment Matters

The conference theme "Land Governance, Justice and Reparations for Africans and Descendants of People of the African Diaspora" drew on a painful yet necessary truth that African land and people for centuries been targeted by other nations for raw materials and labour. The legacies of enslavement, colonial plunder, and economic extraction remain deeply embedded in current land systems. Understanding these histories is not optional—it is foundational, because in a changing climate, this weight becomes heavier, demanding just and innovative land governance.

Voices from the Plenary and Technical Sessions

The United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Mr Claver Gatete, urged African countries to strengthen land administration systems and ensure land is productively used. He challenged the longstanding dependence on exporting raw materials, and emphasized harnessing diaspora capital and technology for resilience.

Ambassador Amr Aljowaily of the African Union Commission spoke of land as a mirror reflecting Africa's broader struggles—identity, ownership, justice, and survival. He stressed that "the African decade of justice must be grounded in truth," arguing that revisiting colonial history is key to understanding inequitable systems and crafting meaningful reforms. The challenge, he stated, is to translate reparative justice into forward-looking institutional reform.

Kenyan artist Scar of 'Scar Poetry,' used her powerful performance to remind delegates that justice and reparation are not abstract ideas—they are emotional, spiritual, and historical necessities. As one line declared, "We have been here before. But this time, may we stay long enough for the land to heal."

South Africa's Minister of Land Reform emphasized that land remains the foundation of food security, social stability, and cultural identity. He called for stronger collaboration between government, universities, and research institutions. "We need new finance models and better policy research," he urged.

Justice Smokin Wanjala of Kenya's Supreme Court delivered a sharp critique of Africa's inherited land systems, describing three colonial harms: the loss of land rights, displacement and identity loss, and the destruction of African land tenure systems. "Colonialism's objective was to plunder—often by force," he said. He reminded us that while African liberation movements sought to restore land and dignity, many post-colonial regimes ironically dismissed customary tenure as "backward", reproducing colonial attitudes. His was warning was to avoid "perpetuating old continuities."

Dr Dozwa from Zimbabwe outlined her country's deliberate move to break from colonial land structures, after the "willing buyer, willing seller" model failed. Fast-track land reform redistributing land and, she stated, has led to self-sufficiency in key crops. Her firm conclusion: "Colonial continuity is a choice of leadership."

Technical sessions highlighted chronic underinvestment in land governance. Speakers noted that technology, such as digital land data and AI, offers opportunity but risks enabling elite capture if safeguards are absent.

Onyekachi Wambu reminded the audience that Africa has thousands of years of experience solving its own problems. Reclaiming trust in African institutions, leadership, and knowledge systems is therefore central to breaking colonial continuities.

Toward Liberated Land and Liberated Futures

The CLPA conversations made one truth undeniable: Africa's land question is not technical—it is historical, political, cultural, economic, and spiritual. Land reform must reclaim identity, restore dignity, and prepare societies for climate-driven futures. It must be inclusive, innovative, and grounded in justice.

Liberating land means liberating the systems, ideas, and people tied to it.

It means speaking boldly, without apology.

It means trusting African solutions and African futures.

Professor Emmanuel Sulle is an Assistant Professor, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Karachi and Director of Arusha Climate and Environmental Research Centre (AKU-ACER). He is a leading scholar on agrarian studies in Africa and a contributor to the Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa. He is a member of the CLPA 2025 Scientific Committee.

Society

The unemployment-inflation double whammy: Can the NBE rise to the occasion?

By Matias Assefa

So the National Bank of Ethiopia has got a new – in a way, a not-so-new – governor: Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) has appointed Eyob Tekalign (PhD), formerly State Minister of Finance, as a successor to Mamo E. Mihretu. One can debate about the merits and demerits of this appointment, but what is certain is that the new governor has a fairly full in-tray. The NBE's Strategic Plan for 2023-26 and the ongoing IMF-financed reform program will presumably be on the top of his agenda but they are not the only pressing issues. In fact, his unenviable and potentially thankless task is to adopt optimal and potent monetary policy at a time when the economic state does not give clear guidance. On the one hand, we have mass unemployment; on the other, high inflation. This creates a policy dilemma for any central banker: Should monetary policy be tightened to fight inflation or loosened to fight unemployment?

The answer turns out to depend on two things: the NBE's mandate and its evaluation of the severity of the two problems. And it is now proclaimed that the NBE's mandated mission is first and foremost the pursuit of price stability. This, however, does not imply that it can or should ignore employment objectives. As to how bad unemployment and inflation truly are, there is no doubt that both are unacceptably high, notwithstanding disagreements on specific estimates.

The Ethiopian economy appears to have been stuck with excessive unemployment, despite registering generally solid growth rates for over two decades. Granted, monitoring developments in our labor market is tricky for many reasons. One reason is that our society is predominantly agrarian and 45% of the workforce is employed in the informal sector; another is lack of sufficiently detailed and high-frequency data. Still, the Ethiopian Economics Association calculations show that about one-fifth of the labor force is unemployed in urban areas, where the formal sector claims 75% of jobs. In rural areas, where 60% of jobs are informal, disguised unemployment is prevalent.

Note, however, that overall unemployment rate, measuring the number of people being out of work and looking, does not tell the whole story. For example, not only do we have demand-deficient unemployment, but long-term unemployment, especially the number of prime-working-age people not in the labor force (neither working, nor actively seeking jobs), is observationally quite high. This is not surprising since extended periods without jobs cause more unemployed people to become alienated from the labor market.

The second part of the double blow – and one that has received a lot of attention in the news media over the last few years – is inflation. The annual inflation rate averaged 15% in the final thirteen years of the EPRDF regime and more than 24% in the last seven years. This is most plausibly explained by a combination of domestic factors and external shocks. Incidentally, some have put forward the narrative that the cause is "man-made" and thus the price hikes are unacceptable. Huh? Since when is inflation supposed to be caused by natural factors? Sophisticated though it may sound, the claim that the inflation surge is entirely a monetary phenomenon also does not hold water. Anyway, the official reading shows that inflation slowed rapidly in the last fiscal year. But this seems greatly at odds with what we see in everyday life. Even if inflation actually slowed, renewed cost-push inflation might be in the pipeline due to an inflationary fiscal action (phasing out fuel and other subsidies, levying new taxes like a VAT on fuel, etc.). Besides, what is the point of even hitting the single-digit inflation goal if the public continues to be preoccupied with a price surge?

Even more worrying from the NBE's standpoint – and what is missing or ignored in inflation discourse far too often – is the serious danger that inflation has stayed high long enough to have become entrenched in public expectations. If so, the inflation process gets self-perpetuating. Yet our central bank cannot even accurately measure inflation expectations, let alone anchor them.

Clearly then, both unemployment and inflation are matters of great concern, with their well-known socio-economic and political costs. But the NBE can't have its cake and eat it. At any one time, monetary policy action is designed to tackle one of the problems by risking invigoration of the other. It aims to effect a change initially in aggregate demand and output, which often means in employment, and then in the price level. So there are tradeoffs: monetary tightening is likely to involve job losses at least in the short term, and it can leave a permanent scar on the economy by increasing long-term unemployment. And it can get worse. The modern view on the unemployment-inflation tradeoff is that it depends on how hot the economy is running. This means that, in the Ethiopian economy that is most probably operating well below capacity, tight money would need to impose a costly loss of employment by contracting aggregate demand before achieving acceptable level of inflation, other things equal. It is also a good guess that the tradeoff has further tilted against us due to a rise in expected inflation.

This being the case, at this juncture the NBE is pursuing an anti-inflation policy, and has announced its intention to do so until single-digit inflation goal is achieved. Credibility issues notwithstanding, the central bank has indeed imposed a lending cap on commercial banks since August 2023. To be sure, the NBE has good reason to be trying to tame inflation, not least because of the palpable public discontent over the rising cost of living. Still, unemployment is an equally major worry, and actions meant to bring inflation down could only worsen it. Furthermore, there are scholars who point out that the economic harm from unemployment is measurably higher than that from inflation. So can the NBE tell whether the cost of more unemployment is worth the benefits of reduced inflation?

Suppose instead that the central bank is actually afraid of unemployment and thus decides to accommodate the inflationary pressure through a higher money growth. In that case there could be less unemployment but prices could also rise even more. Furthermore, if the central bank develops the habit of accommodating, an inflationary bias may take root in the economy. Alas, this policy decision too cannot be made free of risks.

But of course, making a policy choice is one thing; producing the desired outcomes is another. The NBE in fact faces a more basic, yet serious problem than balancing unemployment and inflation risks – namely, it lacks tools that can meaningfully and predictably affect real economic variables. The Ethiopian monetary policy has long been hobbled by weak transmission mechanisms (for reasons that we need not belabor here). Yes, if the policy could affect domestic credit, it is at least arguable that it could also affect output and price level. The trouble in practice is that there is no systematic link between the NBE's primary policy indicator – the national bank rate (NBR), adopted in July 2024 – and the goal variables.

How, after all, is the interest rate-based policy supposed to work? First, changes in the NBR would alter real short- and longer-term rates, such as mortgage rates, thereby affecting housing construction, business investment and consumer durable spending. But no such transmission process exists in our economy. Second, the policy rate would also affect the foreign exchange value of the birr and thus exports. Here again, the link between the first two variables is virtually absent thanks to Ethiopia's capital controls and exchange-rate policy; that between the last two variables is weakened by the exchange rate-unresponsive nature of the foreign prices of our main exports and by the sluggish response of export supply. Under these conditions, expecting the interest rate-based monetary policy regime to deliver price stability is like expecting a blindfolded man to ferry you across the river. In short, direct or statutory monetary controls remain the monetary authority's best hope for influencing the level of economic activity.

Now here arises an interesting question: How much substance is there to the claim that the NBE has caused disinflation in the last fiscal year? Well, as noted above, adoption of tight monetary stance is necessary but not sufficient for containing inflation. Unless substantiated by visible slowdown in the economy and, with it, a rise in unemployment, that claim remains nothing more than speculative. This should not be misinterpreted to mean that output-inflation tradeoffs are eternal, however. To the NBE, the tradeoffs may be relevant only in the course of implementing the IMF-backed reforms. But even in the applicable time period, it is not too difficult to imagine a scenario in which our economy can make its escape from the harsh medicine. For example, improved productivity and aggregate supply may come to the rescue – except the credit belongs not to demand management policies, but rather in the supply side of the economy (e.g. spending on public infrastructure, relaxation in supply-chain constraints).

One last point: It is widely believed that independence of a central bank is of great importance when dealing with policy dilemmas, weighing the risks and assessing the public's real interests. And while the NBE is recognized by the reformed NBE Proclamation as an "autonomous institution," it does report to the Prime Minister. More to the point, the final arbiter on monetary policy is the Board of Directors, composed entirely of members appointed by the premier. But this should not be surprising: the current constitution – the supreme law of the land – grants the federal government statutory authority over the NBE as well as monetary policy. Needless to say, there is much room for the NBE to become an independent, technocratic institution.

To sum up, the Ethiopian economy is experiencing the twin problems of inflation and unemployment. And if the NBE walks the talk on its single-digit inflation objective and pursues a vigorous anti-inflation policy, the policy could inflict substantial unemployment. But this probably does not matter very much. For our economy is not blessed with powerful transmission mechanisms of monetary policy anyway. Even if it were, the supply side of it may render the NBE's restrictive actions irrelevant tradeoff-wise.

So for now, keeping the economy on an even keel is too ambitious a task for the NBE. And this has more to do with the nature of our economy than with the central bank.

Matias Assefa is an Economic and Business Analyst based in Addis Ababa. He can be reached at matias.assefa@gmail.com

United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Title of the EOI: The Provision of Asphalt Roads and Parking Areas Rehabilitation at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Date of this EOI: 03 November 2025
Closing Date for Receipt of EOI: 01 December 2025
EOI Number: EOIUNECA23936
E-mail Address: gebreegziabhers@un.org;
Address EOI response by fax for the Attention of: Solomon Gebreegziabher
UNSPSC Code: 72103301;

DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENTS

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (**UNECA**) seeks a qualified contractor, either a single firm or joint venture, to design, construct, and deliver high-quality hot mix bituminous asphalt works at its Addis Ababa, Ethiopia headquarters. The project includes engineering and construction services, ensuring compliance with international, UN, and Ethiopian construction standards.

The objective of the requirement is to rehabilitate and upgrade the asphalt roadways and parking areas within the **UNECA** compound to ensure safe, durable, and functional internal transportation infrastructure that meets international, UN, and Ethiopian standards.

Please note that the **UNECA** is precluded from entering into a contract with a firm that is not fully registered with **UNGM**. Firms interested in responding to this invitation but not currently fully registered as vendors with **UNGM** are encouraged to register before submission of the bid. Further details may be obtained by visiting ***https://www.ungm.org/Vendor/Registration.***

Please use the link for the details and descriptions below.

Firms should submit their "expression of interest" electronically through the link before the deadline of **01 December 2025.**

https://www.un.org/Depts/ptd/sites/www.un.org.Depts.ptd/files/pdf/eoi23936.pdf

PLEASE NOTE: You should express your interest in this EOI electronically at: *https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/283246*

In case you have difficulties submitting your interest electronically, please contact ***gebreegziabhers@un.orgdirectly*** for instructions.

COOPI
COOPERAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE

TENDER ADVERTISEMENT FOR SUPPLY OF DIFFERENT CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, WASH TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT FOR COOPI'S PROGRAMMES IN ETHIOPIA WITH FRAMEWORK LONG-TERM CONTRACT

Publication Reference: **PTN - 036/ 2025**

Specific Location: **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

1. **Description of the Contract:** supply of construction materials, tools and equipment for WaSH project activities for COOPI's Emergency & Development Programmes in different regions with framework agreement.
2. **Programme** - COOPI – Cooperazione Internazionale Ethiopia receive funds from different donors for humanitarian and development projects and is seeking to enter in to a framework contract/ Long Term Agreement (LTA) for the supply of construction materials for different regions as a strategic approach with successful and reliable suppliers initially for one year and with possible additional years based on performance.
3. **Contracting Authority**- Cooperazione Internazionale - COOPI is an independent non-governmental humanitarian and development organization with its Head Quarter based in Italy, Milan. COOPI is committed to fight poverty globally and build a future that guarantees everyone has adequate living condition and equal opportunities.
4. **How to obtain the Tender Dossier**
   - The tender dossier is available from the Contracting Authority by ONLY contacting the following Email addresses: **log.ethiopia@coopi.org and logistic.eth@coopi.org**
   - Tender proposals can be submitted from **23 November 2025 to 22 December 2025 from Monday to Friday 08:30 AM to 05:00 PM at** COOPI Coordination Office in Addis Ababa, Bole Sub city, Woreda 06, House Number: 088.
5. **Deadline for Submission of the Tenders:**
   - The deadline for the submission of the proposals is by **22 December 2025, 04:00 PM (Afternoon)** in COOPI Coordination Office, Addis Ababa, around Megenagna behind Mama's Kitchen Restaurant.
   - Tender opening date: **23 December 2025 at 10:00 AM (Morning);**
   - Any proposal received after this deadline will NOT be considered.

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 tender:

SN	TENDER SUBJECT	CLOSING DATE
1	**INVITATION TO BID: ETH-UNHCR -ITB-004/2025** - Managed Print Services For The Establishment of a Frame Agreement for The Supply of Managed Print Services (MPS), Including Provision of Printers, Software, Maintenance, Consumables, And Spare Parts **UNHCR ITB: 2078**	01 December 2025, 11:59 PM

Interested suppliers can Visit the following portal:

How to become a supplier | UNHCR: please read on this link **https://www.unhcr.org/get-involved/work-us/become-supplier/how-become-supplier**

UNHCR encourages companies to also register on the online **United Nations Global Marketplace (UNGM)** to receive announcements only. This portal may not be used by vendors for submitting offers.

Announcement for this ITB is available on UNGM on this link **https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/284300,**

Companies interested in engaging with UNHCR for business opportunities and tender processes are invited to register on the **UNHCR Supplier registration portal**, please use this link to access the portal **(https://bit.ly/482Fqam).**

After registering on the UNHCR Supplier Portal, please look for **UNHCR ITB: 2078** to submit your technical and financial offer electronically on the system.

ChildFund International

ChildFund Empowering Youth for Climate Action

Youth celebrates her paintings with Lilly Omondi, Country Director of ChildFund Ethiopia.

ChildFund Ethiopia is a non-governmental organization dedicated to the welfare of youth and children in Ethiopia. ChildFund recognizes that young people are central to addressing the climate crisis. As the generation most affected by climate change, youth also possess the creativity, energy, and innovation necessary to drive sustainable solutions for the impact of climate-induced disasters that affect the lives and livelihood of millions of people.

Among the recent challenges more vulnerable communities faced are the disastrous consequences of climate change like floods, erratic rainfall, drought, loss of biodiversity, environmental degradation, reduced agricultural productivity, food insecurity, water scarcity, and conflicts over natural resources that adversely affect vulnerable members of the communities, specially the youth and children.

Side by side with its commitments to improve the lives of most affected members of communities, ChildFund Ethiopia is also engaged in the arduous task of addressing emergency needs as well as implementing long-term livelihood improvement programs, targeting the youth and children in the context of unpleasant climate events in many localities of the country. ChildFund Ethiopia works on building knowledge, skills, and leadership among youth to take proactive roles in climate resilience, advocacy, and sustainable development.

ChildFund Ethiopia's action plan focuses on climate education and awareness among communities, strengthening school-based environmental protection programs, capacity-building training on renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, environmentally friendly-entrepreneurship, tree planting, recycling, climate-friendly farming practices. ChildFund Ethiopia also supports the communities in natural resource manage, formation of child/youth climate & environment clubs and advocacy platforms that engage in local and national policy dialogues. Moreover, its action plan emphasizes on enhancing sustainable livelihood programs that have already proved effective strategies against adverse climatic conditions.

Based on ChildFund's experience, this approach needs to consider at least 3 core elements

under its Livelihood Program. The 3 core elements include improving child and youth centric information and skills development, improving household livelihoods for economic and environmental resilience and taking a systems approach across communities to strengthen structure's ability to support children and youth among the compounding crises.

There are practical examples that can be mentioned in this context. These are the integration of Environment and Climate Change Education (CCE) into school curricula and supporting the formation of school clubs. These clubs serve as platforms for children to learn, lead and disseminate climate knowledge within their communities.

These tasks are implemented through advocacy networks and training in natural resource management and climate-smart agriculture. In this process, the youth have become confident leaders, actively influencing policy and community practices by conducting training in green skills for youth.

These green skills include technical vocational, business and environmental awareness skills. These skills prepare the youth for eco-friendly job opportunities and promote self-employment because of which youth are now more proactive in seeking innovative and sustainable livelihoods in their communities. Speaking at the recent forum on 2nd Africa Climate Summit, the representative of the Child and Youth Forum from Ethiopia has emphasized the importance of climate solutions that focus on children and youth as well as on community initiative.

It is relevant here to highlight the practical experiences of some of the youth who witnessed the consequences of a recent flooding and the actions taken by the youth of a rural locality in Ethiopia in a recently held summit the Africa Children Climate Summit 2 (ACS2) hosted by the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) in collaboration with the African Union (AU), that marked a pivotal moment for Africa to reshape its role in the global climate finance landscape. In the summit both are committed to advancing Africa's climate agenda and sustainable development priorities representative Children and Youth presented their voices. Abdulkehar Sule, a17-year-old youth from Siliti Aynage Child and Family Development Organization, ChildFund's Local Partner says, "When the flood struck, we lost not only people and animals, but also the land that gave us food. Our crops were ruined, the soil washed away.

Abdulkehar recalled walking through the fields where they had once harvested maize and teff. After the flood, there was nothing left—only mud and broken soil. Families who had depended on farming were left without food, and children like the speaker often went to bed hungry. Even at school, concentration had been difficult because everyone was worried about survival at home.

He explained that climate change was not just something people heard about on the news—it was something they experienced every single day. However, they had not given up. Together, they had chosen to act. The Environmental Protection Committee in their Wereda and Kebele had encouraged them to act. Families had begun planting trees in their compounds and on bare land. At school, students planted seedlings, watered them, and learned how to care for the environment. Farmers had also started practicing smart agriculture, using compost and vermicompost to restore the soil and enhance soil fertility.

Abdulkehar said that slowly, hope had begun to return. He had seen young trees growing, the soil becoming healthier, and people beginning to believe that change was possible.

Tariku Dechu, a youth participant from Dugda Children and Family Charitable Organization, ChildFund Local Partner, expressed the desire for a clean, safe environment where children could grow up without fear of floods, droughts, or pollution. According to him this could not be achieved alone and urged leaders to listen to young people and engage them in climate action. He asked to be given the chance to plant more trees, share their ideas, and protect their future. He added that if children and farmers in one small village could take such steps, governments and world leaders could achieve even more with greater resources and commitment.

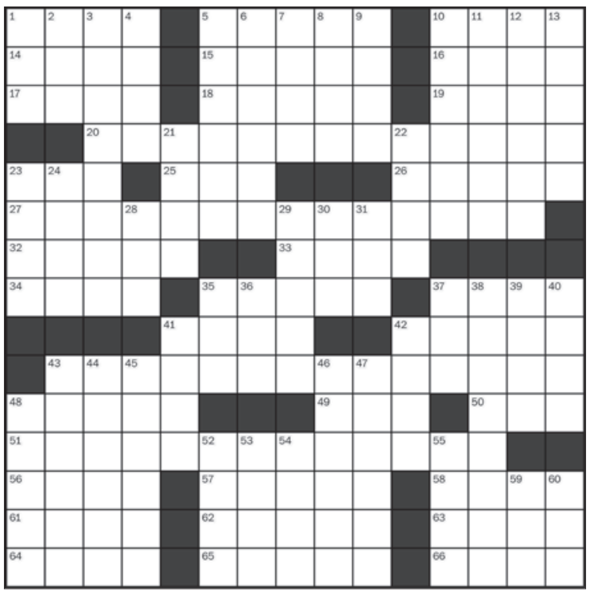
Rediet Behailu, the representative for the Child and Youth Forum from the Future Hopes Integrated Development Organization (FHIDO) the other ChildFund Ethiopia's local partner actively participating in the 2nd Africa Climate Summit. She impressed attendees by emphasizing the importance of climate solutions that focus on children and youth, as well as community-led initiatives. Rediet conveyed these pressing climate-friendly issues through her innovative painting that showcased a change from climate affected land to green that in turn contributed to the Children's Climate Declaration.

ChildFund Ethiopia shares the visions expressed by these youth Tariku and Rediate not only because they form their eyewitness account but also because they come from the place where they endured the devastating effects of climate change and its aftermath, including the struggle to reclaim the land and allow life to continue once again in that remote locality where sheer human endurance has produced amazing results.

ChildFund Ethiopia believes that these efforts will have to continue in a sustainable way so that climate action would not remain only an emergency concern but also a permanent fixture in the rural communities' permanent efforts to overcome the vicissitudes of nature and their impacts on community livelihoods. We also share the vision of the youth and call on governments and leaders to get actively involved with greater resources and commitment.

Entertainment

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

1 Pet rescue org.
6 Titled lady
10 "Dark Angel" actress Jessica
14 Diamond weight
15 Longtime "Jeopardy!" host Trebek
16 "La vie en rose" singer Édith
17 Justice Kagan of the Supreme Court
18 Trace of smoke
19 Landlord's income
20 Get down to brass tacks
23 Sponsored spots
24 Motor homes, for short
25 Marina __ Rey, California
26 Debtor's letters
27 Norse god of war
29 Film studio with a roaring lion
32 Exhortation to someone building up to a tantrum
36 Podcast host Maron
37 Cooking spray brand
38 Actor Alda
39 "Get it together!"
44 Ray Bradbury's "__ for Space"
45 Colony insects
46 Frying vessel
47 "And so on" abbr.
48 Knock the socks off
49 German "Drat!"
52 "Join us for some fun!"
57 Tool most people are willing to part with?
58 TiVo forerunners
59 Devour
60 Wine and __
61 Panache
62 Cropped up
63 Reached base feet- first
64 Deeply absorbed
65 Surgical beam

DOWN

1 Amtrak express train between Washington, D.C., and Boston
2 Waldorf __
3 Hunts, with "on"
4 "Pleeease?"
5 With some speed, to equestrians
6 Daybreaks
7 Settled on a perch
8 Breathable fabric
9 Travel-booking website
10 First full month of spring
11 Property claim
12 __ of one's existence
13 Toward the stern
21 Egg cell
22 Telescope glass
26 Quechua speaker
27 Signs off on
28 Expo presentation
29 Sporty Spice of the Spice Girls
30 Pesky insect
31 Fellows
32 Surrealist Salvador
33 Miner's quarry
34 Date with a doc
35 "Misery" co-star James
36 Show hosts, informally
40 Kid-lit boy detective __ the Great
41 Remove a lid from
42 Second word of many a fairy tale
43 Short end of the stick
47 Add to an email, as a GIF
48 "I __ born yesterday!"
49 Voices above tenors
50 __ and effect
51 All keyed up
52 Slinky's shape
53 Bygone Dodge subcompact
54 Home of the NCAA's Bruins
55 Lint collector
56 Prefix with legal or normal
57 Fixed-term bank accts.

Solution: see below

WEEKLY HOROSCOPES

Aries

This is a very busy time that encourages good communication. Do your best to be accountable for any changes in what others expect from you. This period is especially powerful for anyone working as an advocate for children, the elderly, or the disabled. Events support team building, especially with things as simple as bringing in snacks or allowing people to share a meal and talk in a more relaxed atmosphere.

Cancer

This is a lucky time to shine with superiors or make a good impression in a job interview. Events bring powerful forces to the surface. You would be smart to keep your head down and avoid making cutting or caustic remarks. Patience and a willingness to do a thorough job are necessary. Some situations will require compromise. You'll have to search for outside resources for any plan or project. Do your best to be a team player.

Libra

This is a lucky time for finding a new job or improving your current position. Dress your best and speak with confidence! You can be a source of encouragement in a stressful situation. There is the potential for a breakthrough in a stubborn problem now. Get as much done as you can before an anticipated slowdown. Hidden tensions could come to the surface, especially if you're in a management position. This period is lucky for a new start.

Capricorn

These are busy days. It may be that you'll need assistance in order to field questions and find all the information that needs to be exchanged. This period encourages good working relationships. Do what you can to identify customer needs. You could be especially concerned about material security or improving your salary. You naturally feel better making money. You mustn't beat yourself up if your resources are limited. Be hopeful and generous to co-workers.

Taurus

This is a powerful time to start a partnership or apply for a new position. A casual conversation can have unexpected results. It's possible that an unclear or unfair situation at the management level could influence everyone's attitude. Expect things to be more settled later. This is a good time for any work that takes you outside. This is a lucky time for any grand opening or start of a project. You have much to offer.

Leo

This period could bring you to a crossroads in your work life. If you want to see change, you need to take steps and then be patient. You may not see the results of your efforts or requests right away. Events bring powerful forces to the surface. Don't blame others for your disappointments. This is a time when unique approaches can work out for the best. This is a powerful period for teamwork and training on the job.

Scorpio

It's important to believe in yourself now. This is a very lucky time to apply for a new job or ask for what you want in your current job. Part of this period could be a stressful, as the actions of larger corporate forces could mean unwelcome changes. The secret is to be brave even if you feel afraid. These days are positive for training or teaching to improve your skills. This is also a positive time to upgrade any technology you use regularly.

Aquarius

This is likely to be an extremely busy period. It can see you running short errands and getting easily distracted by multiple demands. These are great days for team building. Anything that lets you feel smart or supports more education, training, or technology will be especially enjoyable. Don't try to manipulate others with fast talk. There might be a conflict between corporate goals and your personal interests.

Gemini

This is a lucky time for an interview in order to improve your position or find something new. This can be a stressful period, as forces that seem beyond your control may be determining your future. Network as much as possible now. You can move in constructive new directions. These days are positive for legal matters and developing good working partnerships. Share your enthusiasm with confidence.

Virgo

This is a lucky time to apply for a new or better position. Legal issues and questions of fair play can be very distracting. Expect some issues with people in positions of authority. You'd be wise to do your best to avoid making critical comments. Not everyone is as sensible as you. Be patient in any emotionally charged situation on the job. Your ability to focus on problem solving will be appreciated. Events could demand a career choice.

Sagittarius

This is a powerful time for sharing ideas. Stay focused on what is most important. It can be easy to become distracted. Events are likely to bring a slowdown that requires additional patience. It might be necessary to speak to a difficult employee about his or her behavior. You'll be happiest if you're allowed to be self-sufficient and you feel respected by others. It's possible to feel dominated or pushed into taking action before you're prepared.

Pisces

This can be a very busy period. Focus on building good customer relationships. Events will challenge your ability to be the master of your emotions. If you're in a supervisory position, it's important to not micromanage employees. Let people work independently. You must at least appear confident, because appearing needy or emotionally dependent can cripple good working relationships.

				6			1	
	1					7	8	
6		3		9				
7	6							
							6	
				8		9	7	4
8		1	9	2		5		
	5			7	3			
	4				1			

3				4	9			
			6			5		1
7	5	2			1			
		1				7		
5			3	9	6			
		8	1	5			9	6
		3		1			6	
		4				1		
				2	8			

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

N	U	M	R	V	S	U	R	Y	M	A	R	S	N
W	O	W	C	O	R	I	N	U	S	R	T	N	A
H	M	A	I	O	A	N	R	A	A	E	I	O	S
I	S	B	E	D	M	H	I	E	E	N	R	I	T
T	A	L	F	F	N	E	B	U	L	A	G	R	E
E	T	A	P	C	L	E	T	C	O	E	O	O	R
D	U	C	E	M	E	R	C	U	R	Y	R	R	O
W	R	K	T	N	A	I	G	R	E	P	U	S	I
A	N	D	E	N	U	T	P	E	N	C	T	E	D
R	S	W	E	X	O	P	L	A	N	E	T	N	N
F	X	A	O	T	U	L	P	R	O	B	L	T	A
D	R	R	H	T	R	A	E	N	O	U	O	E	E
P	P	F	R	O	E	T	E	M	M	U	N	W	O
O	L	U	H	T	A	V	O	N	R	E	P	U	S

MOON
PLUTO
COMET
ERIS
MERCURY

METEOR
ASTEROID
LEO
SATURN
MARS

WHITE DWARF
SUPERGIANT
SUPERNOVA
NEPTUNE
BLACK DWARF

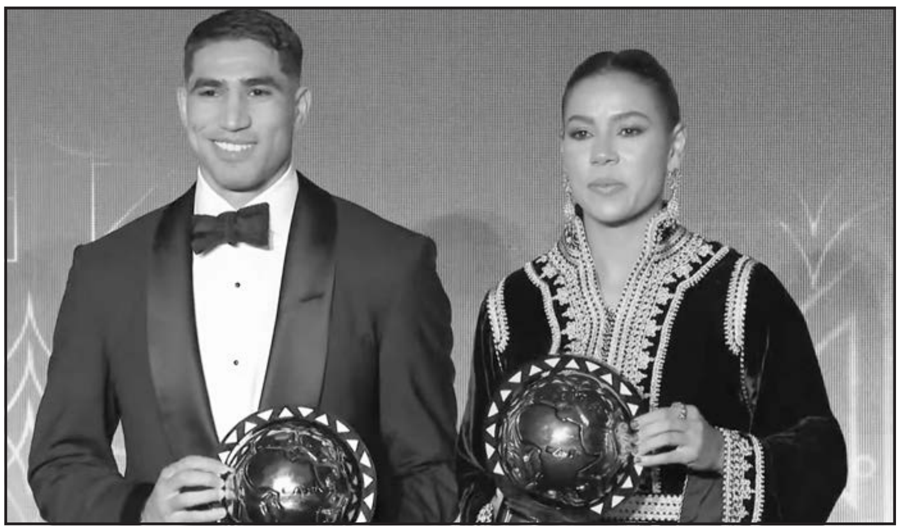
SUN
EXOPLANET
NEBULA
ORION
EARTH

Crossword Solution

Capital SPORT

Hakimi and Chebbak named African players of the year

Morocco right-back Achraf Hakimi has been crowned the 2025 African Footballer of the Year at the Confederation of African Football (Caf) Awards in Rabat on a successful night for the host nation.



The 27-year-old beat Egypt captain Mohamed Salah and Nigeria striker Victor Osimhen after helping club side Paris St-Germain to the French title and a maiden Champions League trophy.

Hakimi, who missed out on the top spot in 2023 and 2024, became the first Moroccan to win the award since Mustapha Hadji in 1998.

Meanwhile, Morocco captain Ghizlane Chebbak won the women's prize, surprisingly seeing off Nigeria captain Rasheedat Ajibade and Atlas Lionesses team-mate Sanaa Mssoudy.

The winners are voted for by a panel of experts which includes members of Caf's technical committee plus African media professionals, players and coaches.

Hakimi targets Afcon glory

Hakimi is a deserved winner of the award after his fine performances for both his national side and PSG, including scoring the opener as the French club beat Inter Milan 5-0 in the Champions League final.

His side also won the Uefa Super Cup, Coupe de France and the French Super Cup last term, but were beaten in the Fifa Club World Cup final by Chelsea.

"It's really an honour for me to win this prestigious trophy," he said. "This trophy is not just for me - it is for all the Africans that have dreams."

However, the defender is now facing a race to be fit for the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (Afcon) on home soil after damaging ankle ligaments earlier this month in the Champions League tie with Bayern Munich.

Hakimi hopped up the steps on to the stage before accepting his award from Caf president Patrice Motsepe and Fifa counterpart Gianni Infantino, making sure not to put weight on his injured left foot.

He has been front and centre in promoting this year's finals as Morocco aim to claim the continental title for the first time since 1976.

"We will do our best to win the Afcon trophy," added Hakimi. "I'd like to thank my physiotherapists and those that support me in this difficult period."

Chebbak makes it Moroccan double

Chebbak made history as the first Moroccan to win the women's award since it was first established in 2001.

The 35-year-old midfielder finished as the top scorer at this year's delayed 2024 Women's Africa Cup of Nations, including netting a stunning goal in the final.

Yet the Atlas Lionesses were beaten 3-2 by Nigeria, and Ajibade had been heavily tipped to take the prize after being named player of the tournament as the Super Falcons won a record-extending 10th continental title.

"I am extremely delighted to receive this award," said Chebbak. "This is the fruit of a lot of hard work over the years."

However, there was success for the West Africans as Brighton's Chiamaka Nnadozie was named best goalkeeper for the third year in a row.

Cape Verde coach rewarded

Earlier in the ceremony in the Moroccan capital, Bubista was named men's coach of the year after guiding Cape Verde to a historic qualification for the 2026 Fifa World Cup.

"This is amazing," said the 55-year-old. "We are a small country but we have a big heart."

Meanwhile, Watford's Othmane Maamma scooped the men's young player of the year prize - having won the golden ball during Morocco's successful Under-20 World Cup campaign.

"We built a team which was able to win the World Cup and it is a thing of immense pride for me," added the 20-year-old midfielder.

"I have a lot of people to thank and am very emotional."

Kenyan President William Ruto, Tanzania President Samia Suluhu Hassan and Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni were all handed outstanding achievement awards after their nations co-hosted the 2024 African Nations Championship in August.

The East African trio are set to stage the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations.

2025 Caf Awards winners

Men's Player of the Year: Achraf Hakimi (Paris St-Germain & Morocco)

Women's Player of the Year: Ghizlaine Chebbak (Al-Hilal & Morocco)

Men's Coach of the Year: Bubista: (Cape Verde)

Men's Goalkeeper of the Year: Yassine Bonou (Al-Hilal & Morocco)

Women's Goalkeeper of the Year: Chiamaka Nnadozie (Brighton & Hove Albion & Nigeria)

Men's National Team of the Year: Morocco Under-20

Women's National Team of the Year: Nigeria

Men's Club of the Year: Pyramids (Egypt)

Men's Interclub Player of the Year: Fiston Mayele (Pyramids & DR Congo)

Men's Young Player of the Year: Othmane Maamma (Watford & Morocco)

Women's Young Player of the Year: Doha El Madani (AS FAR & Morocco)

Goal of the Year (voted for by fans): Clement Mzize for Young Africans vs TP Mazembe.

The women's coach of the year, interclub player of the year and club of the year will be announced after the culmination of the ongoing 2025 Women's African Champions League.

Bank of America Partners with Great Ethiopian Run to Expand Access to Endurance Sports

In a major development announced on November 20, Bank of America revealed a multi-year partnership with Great Ethiopian Run to become the presenting partner of the iconic running event starting in 2026. The partnership aims to elevate the global profile of the flagship Great Ethiopian Run International 10km race, significantly expand participation in children's races, and introduce a women's 5km race in 2027, all presented by Bank of America.

This collaboration extends Bank of America's global endurance sports portfolio into one of Africa's most dynamic and rapidly growing running communities. Together, both organizations will promote the growth of major running events that celebrate Ethiopia's vibrant running culture, while driving local economic benefits through sports, tourism, and enterprise.

Dagmawit Amare, General Manager of Great Ethiopian Run, expressed enthusiasm for the partnership, emphasizing a shared commitment to the community and the next generation. "We will work together to broaden our reach and increase access to running opportunities for children and young people," she said.

A key goal is to boost participation in the 25th anniversary Great Ethiopian Run International 10km race, expected to draw around 50,000 participants, while also increasing involvement in children's and women's events. Brad Ross, Head of Global Marketing Partnerships at Bank of America, highlighted the event's role in empowering youth and women through sport, saying, "Bank of America is proud to team up with Great Ethiopian Run to grow participation in youth and women's races."

The Great Ethiopian Run significantly contributes to Addis Ababa's tourism and infrastructure development, attracting thousands of international visitors annually and stimulating local businesses. Bank of America's partnership aims to amplify these benefits by creating jobs, supporting enterprises, and delivering economic advantages across communities.

Building on its long-standing sponsorship of major global endurance events such as the Boston and Chicago Marathons, Bank of America brings extensive global resources and expertise to modernize race operations with advanced technology. This will enhance the runner experience, streamline management, and support the event's expanding footprint.

This partnership underscores Bank of America's commitment to fostering community progress and reinforcing its role as a global sports partner, aligning with its broader business strategy across EMEA and Sub-Saharan Africa. Together, Bank of America and Great Ethiopian Run are set to make running a lifestyle for everyone and ensure the event's long-term sustainability as a vibrant cultural celebration.